



Bee Flight

President's Report



I trust you are all enjoying the warmer weather and that your bees are finding some flora to produce honey.

This month, the final agricultural show for 2017 was held at Beaudesert. Again our

club was in attendance. The show was a great success and it appears attendance numbers and our sales were a little up on last year. I would like to thank all the volunteers that turned up over the weekend. About 13 members turned up over the course of the event.

Whilst that was our last show for the year we are already well into planning for 2018.

The annual field day will be on the 11th March 2018 so be sure to put the date in your diary and plan to come along, as always many hands make light work.

We would also like to hear from members regarding ideas for presentations and activities at the field day. It's quite a challenge to keep the day interesting and relevant so if you have any ideas please contact one of the committee members.

On the 12th November we will be holding our final practical day of the year at Pine Mountain. This day will focus on re-queening and hive maintenance and more information is in this newsletter.

As the club continues to grow and attract new members and in order to help members identify each other, we have decided to upgrade the membership badges members receive. They are being ordered in the next few weeks once this years' membership is finalised. All current financial members will receive a new badge at no cost. I would ask that all members wear their name badges at meetings and events.

Phil Geeves
Club President

Oct 2017 Edition

Club Meetings

Our club meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month (except January)

Venue

W.G. Hayden Humanities Centre
Cnr. South and Nicholas Streets,
Ipswich 7.30pm.

All welcome.

Club Registration

Before Club meetings all members are required to pay a \$2.00 registration fee.

Dates to Remember

Club Meeting - 3rd Oct

Committee Meeting - 9th Oct

Gold Coast Amateur Beekeepers

Field Day 15th Oct

Next Club Meeting 7th Nov

Club Practical Day - 12th November

Club events are on the website

<http://www.honey.org.au>

Questions ?

Don't forget you can submit written questions on beekeeping at each club meeting. Just pop them in the container near the entrance on your way in.

Noela Geeves
Club Secretary



Show Results

Beaudesert	
Ken Freiberg:	9 Firsts, 6 Seconds & 7 Thirds. & Most successful exhibitor
Phil & Noela Geeves	2 Firsts, 3 Seconds & 2 Thirds
Albert Payne	3 Firsts, 5 Seconds 1 Third & Champion honey of the Show
Peter Waldron	2 Firsts 1Second & 3 Thirds
Beau Rush	1 First & 2 Seconds

Gold Coast Open Day

Gold Coast Amateur Beekeeping Society and I&WMBA have a long history of friendship and knowledge sharing. Make sure you come along to their Open Day this year. A great day out as always with an array of informative guest speakers and trade stands

I&WMBA currently hold the Inter Club Trophy so don't forget to enter into the Honey, wax & Cake Competition to help us hold onto it for another year. We will ask for numbers attending at our next meeting so that we can determine if we should hire a bus.

15th October, all-day Mudgeeraba Showgrounds, Mudgeeraba QLD 4213

Recipes for the cooking competition are in this newsletter.
Visit their website for more details
www.gcabs.net.au

Honey Competition for The Inter-Club Trophy Gold Coast Field Day

Entrants may enter once only in each class. Family members entering the same class should enter products from different apiaries or different sources. All entries to be presented in standard 500g glass bottles with white lids only. All entries must be from the exhibitor's own apiary and must be no more than 6 months old.

The following classes are

1. Light Honey
2. Golden Honey
3. Dark Honey
4. Comb Section in Honey
5. Creamed Honey
6. Granulated Honey - Fine
7. Granulated Honey - Coarse
8. Beeswax - block of beeswax - min 500g White
9. Beeswax - block of beeswax - min 500g Yellow
10. Frame of Honey
11. Heaviest Frame of honey available
12. Biscuit Recipe
13. Cake Recipe

Practical Day (Members only)

Our next practical day is on Sunday the 12th November. The venue will be Wayne Rossiter's property which is adjacent to Pine Mountain Hall. The day will be a hands on learning day directed at new beekeepers. The focus will be on re-queening and hive maintenance. The day will commence with Morning tea at 10.00am and finish up with a sausage sizzle lunch. Please bring your bee suits, veils, closed in shoes and gloves or protective clothing if you intend to help or watch with the re-queening. Please also bring a chair and water for yourselves. Numbers will be called for at the October Meeting for catering purposes. If you are not coming to the October Meeting but will be attending the Practical Day please ring or email our Club Secretary Noela.

For Directions go to: <https://goo.gl/maps/8q3GVyR8g6v>

Name Badges (Important please)



As per the presidents report we are in the process of purchasing stylish new name badges for all our financial members and we hope to have them available in late October. We ask that all members wear their **name badge** at all club events and meetings. There are nearly 300 individual members and it's almost impossible to remember everyone's name plus it also shows that you are a member and it helps with introductions.

Flora - Oct

In October we should be seeing: Dogwood, Flat-weed, Grey Ironbark, Mugga Ironbark, Narrow-leaved, Ironbark, Narrow-leaved Grey Gum, River Mangrove, Weeping Tea-tree, White Clover, Yapunyah, Yellow-box, White Mahogany, Tallowwood and Red Bottlebrush

On the subject of Flora Russell Gleeson gave me an interesting link to a site for a nursery called Green Harvest an organic nursery. Well worth a look. <http://www.greenharvest.com.au/>

Noela also gave me a copy of their magazine called "Australian Organic Resource Guide". It is full of ideas for planting bee foraging plants. It is available from their website.

Members List

Each year in September we reproduce our club members list, with the details of financial members for the year. If any of your contact details have changed since the last update please contact our club secretary regarding the changes. The Member list will be finalised this month and distributed to all members.

Queens

Unfortunately due to supply difficulties our club will **NOT** be providing Queens this year. Members that need to purchase Queens should contact Queen breeders directly. A list of Queen breeders is available on our website. Go to: <http://www.honey.org.au/queens/>

Honey Buckets, Bottles and Jars (Members only)

If you require a large number of jars (more than 100) we respectfully request that you purchase them from one of our recommended Apiary Suppliers. Should you wish to purchase jars from the club please talk to Noela 07 3281 4165.



- Plastic 1 kg jars are 70c each and are available in 50 or 100 jar cartons.
- New 20 litre honey buckets with lids are \$7.00 each.
- 500g bottles for competitions are available at 90c each.

Please keep the boxes that the 1 kg bottles come in and return them for reuse. The club does not stock or supply items other than the items mentioned.

Apithor Beetle Traps (Members only)

The club currently has stock of beetle traps. They will be available at the next meeting at the cost of \$6.00 each. If you need large numbers of these please advise Noela beforehand.

Show dates for 2018

Show dates for 2018 are now on our website calendar.

October Meeting

The guest speaker in October has not yet been confirmed. Our lucky door prize will be a new smoker.

How I started in Bees.

A five-minute talk about "How I became a Beekeeper".

- Oct - **Dimitri Markotsis**
 - Nov - **Peter Meehan**
-

Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on the 9th October 2017

Supper Roster

- Oct - **Lloyd Hancock, Graham Hanson Annette Isager and Benita Ironside**
 - Nov - **Geoff James, Brad Jeffs, Clinton Jones and Maria Kelly**
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Room Set up

- Oct - **John Isager**
- Nov - **Bill Mahon**

Please Note: If you are on the supper or room set up roster and unable to attend the meeting, please ensure you advise Secretary Noela so that a substitute member can be found.

Facebook

Our club's official Facebook page is at: www.facebook.com/groups/1430687710358660/
You can also follow the links from our website.

Library

Library books and DVDs are able to be borrowed for one month at a time. If you wish to keep the book, or DVD for another month, bring it back and it can be re-issued to you. Any books or DVDs lost or damaged will need to be paid for by the borrower.

Club shirts, badges and caps

If any members of the club are interested in having a club shirt and/or badge, please see Secretary Noela. The price of shirts is \$18.00 and the badge is now only \$4.00.

Beeswax Wanted

Both Rod Palmer at CB Palmer & Co, and Noel at Quality Beekeeping Supplies are interested in buying beeswax, any quantity, small or large. Phone Rod on 0417 796 257
Contact Noel at Quality Beekeeping Supplies on 3376 5404.

Support those who support you.

Our club has been very fortunate to benefit from the generosity of both Noel Hutchinson of Quality Beekeeping Supplies (3376 5404) and Rod Palmer at C.B. Palmer and Co (0417 796 257). Please remember these very good friends when you require Apiary supplies. Also don't forget that should you require troughs to make your own beetle trap bottom boards Lou Uljarevic (07 5465 8130) still has them available. Many thanks also to Councillor Kylie Stoneman for continuing support in photocopying our newsletter.

Wiring Board (Members only)

Just a reminder the club has available for loan to members a wiring board, a box to make frames up in and an embedder to put the wax on the frames. Our continued thanks to Noel Scholz for these items.

Extracting Van Hire (Members only)

Should any member wish to hire the club van please contact Peter Anderson on 3800 3562 to make a booking. The cost of using the van is \$20.00 per day

Club Hand Extractor (Members only)

The club has two hand extractors for hire by members who only have a small number of frames to extract. To hire one of the extractors members should book and pay at the Club meeting prior to picking it up. The cost is \$10.00 per day for a max of 7 days. The extractor must be returned clean. An electric uncapping knife will go out with each extractor.

Depending upon your location

Peter Anderson at Forestdale has one of them. Phone: 3800 3562

Phil Geeves at Blackstone has the other Phone: 0409 485 447

Wax Melter (members only)

The club now has a wax melter available for hire. Please Contact Peter Anderson if you would like to access this club equipment. Phone: 3800 3562.

Gold Coast Field Day Recipes

Cake Recipe

1.5 cups dates
1 cup honey
1 cup water
60g butter chopped
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 cups self-raising flour
1/2 cup grated carrot

Preheat oven to 160 degrees. Grease and line a 10x20 cm loaf tin. Place dates, honey and water in a medium saucepan. Stir constantly over medium heat 2-3mins until dates are softened. Stir in butter. Remove from heat. Blend in vanilla. Fold in flour and carrot. Pour into pan, smooth top. Bake for 35-40 minutes. Cool in pan for 5 minutes. Turn onto wire rack.

Biscuit Recipe

120g unsalted butter, softened
120g caster sugar
1 large tablespoon runny honey
1 egg yolk
1 level teaspoon ground cinnamon
180g self-raising flour
Extra sugar and cinnamon for rolling

Preheat the oven to 175 C. Cream butter and sugar. Beat in honey and egg yolk. Add cinnamon and flour in three batches. Mix only until the mixture comes together in a soft dough. If sticky add a little more flour. Shape a teaspoonful of dough into a ball, roll in sugar and cinnamon, place on greased baking tray. Bake 12-15 minutes until golden brown. Cool on tray. Transfer to wire rack to cool completely. Makes up to 30 biscuits Present 6 identical biscuits for judging.

Articles

Bee Disease Outbreak

A great podcast regarding an AFB outbreak in west Victoria is available for download at the link below

<http://www.2gb.com/podcast/bee-disease-outbreak/>

Thousands of bees and more than 100 hives have been destroyed, following the outbreak of American Foulbrood. The highly contagious disease was detected near Robinvale in North West Victoria, where more than 4 million bees are transported annually to help pollinate the region's almond crops.

Rural reporter Eddie Summerfield caught up with Agriculture Victoria's Senior Apiary Officer Joe Riordan to find out more. 2GB 873AM radio.

Varroa Killing Scorpions

A massive global decline in bee populations has given beekeepers and scientists cause for concern. A scientist from Hamburg says that the introduction of tiny book scorpions could keep bee populations alive.

Behind an unassuming grey door in a first-floor corridor of the Otto Hahn School in Hamburg, a student bee farm is hidden away. It's a converted classroom, complete with a transparent beehive that lets pupils observe the insects' behaviour. Assorted beekeeping equipment is stowed in every available space.

Around a dozen students come here regularly to work on research projects they're doing as part of the national German science contest, the Young Researchers Competition. But, they're not working on bees.

Instead, they examine book scorpions: small dark brown arachnids that are up to five millimetres long. They're named for their large pincers, which jut out from their bodies and make them resemble scorpions.

The students want to find out how they can encourage book scorpions to permanently settle inside beehives. The hope is that they can help fight one of the worst enemies of bees: the varroa mite.

"We have a problem with the varroa mite", explains biology teacher and hobby scientist, Torben Schiffer, who is supervising the pupils. "All the beehives are infected and more bees are dying than can be raised by the beekeepers."

Many scientists believe that the varroa mite is one of the main causes for the recent mass deaths of bee populations around the world, a phenomenon known as colony collapse disorder. The varroa is a small parasite, also known as the vampire mite. It sucks blood from bees and their larvae. In doing so, it transports bacteria, fungus and pathogens to the bees.

Watching the book scorpions at work through a microscope is like observing a gruesome battle. The animals quickly approach the varroa mites, grab them with their large pincers and paralyse them with poison. They then drain their prey with their mandibles while already creeping towards their next victim at the same time.

Back in 1951 the Austrian zoologist, Max Beier, documented symbiotic relationships between bees and book scorpions from which both organisms would benefit. The bees are cleaned of parasites while the book scorpions have plenty to feed on. Nowadays however, few beekeepers know about the small brown animals.

Source <http://www.dw.com/en/can-mini-scorpions-save-the-dying-bee/a-17469919>

Thanks to Peter Anderson for this one.



Queensland honey production drops off as dry weather causes problems for apiarists and hives



The lack of rain throughout Queensland is causing problems for apiarists and their hives.

The dry conditions mean there has not been much nectar around for the pollinators and in turn they are producing less honey.

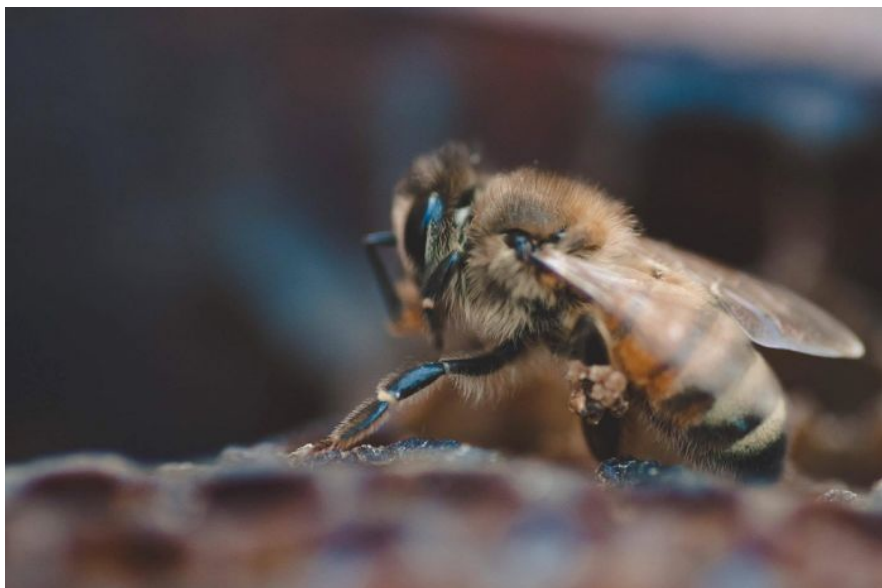
For those based around Mackay in North Queensland, the force of winds during Tropical Cyclone Debbie in March knocked many flowers and buds off plants so there was already less nectar available.

That was a blow before the dry conditions rolled in during winter, **one of the state's driest and warmest in decades.**

Paul Marsh is a commercial honey producer based at Sarina

Range south of Mackay.

He has not extracted honey for five-and-a-half months, and in a good year he would take around 100 kilos of honey from each of his hives.



Luckily Mr Marsh has a stockpile of honey but he — like other local beekeepers — has had to take up part-time work to supplement his income.

"All the beekeepers in the area thought it would have been a good year with all the rain that we had, but a lot of the trees were cleaned out with the leaves and buds," Mr Marsh said.

"There's been a few beekeeper mates who have had to go back to part-time work. One of the main retailers has actually sold up," he said.

Across the state

Queensland Beekeepers Association president Bryce Jensen has been travelling throughout the state meeting with beekeepers.

He has been as far north as Port Douglas and he has noticed there is not a great deal of pollen around anywhere.

"As I travelled north the only thing I really saw flowering was some red gum but most districts were too dry to yield nectar, that was along the coast," Mr Jensen said.

He went on to say that the western channel country would usually be a good source of winter pollen but conditions there are also too dry.

When the bees are struggling to find nectar, it is not just them and their beekeepers that suffer.

Food crops that rely on bee pollination such as pumpkins, cucumbers and macadamias also feel the pain.

"I hear that there is a shortfall of up to 500 hives in North Queensland for pollination," he said.

"They need to be strong hives to pollinate the crops and this is not happening."

I&WMBA Committee 2016 - 2017

Patron	Norm Hinton	
President	Phil Geeves	0409 485 447
Vice President	George Pallot	07 3202 8332
Secretary	Noela Geeves	07 3281 4165
Treasurer	Kellie Round	0407 114 513
Assistant Secretary	Mike Trott	07 5464 1949
Committee	Phil Dunlop	07 5465 1919
Committee	Grahame Yates	07 3288 8238
Committee	Shane O'Reilly	07 5464 6138
Newsletter & website	Phil Corbett	0419 196 330

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