

Bee Flight

Ipswich & West Moreton Beekeepers Association



President's Report

Welcome to our 2017 Christmas Newsletter, the end of another great year for the Club.

We had a fantastic turnout for the Practical day with over 50 attendees. I trust all those who were there found it informative and fun.

I hope that you will all be able to attend the Christmas meeting on December the 5th.

Our Christmas gift to all members attending will be no registration fee of \$2.00 at the door for this meeting!!

Our next major and most significant event of the year is our field-day which will be on the 11th March. I know it seems a long way off but it will be here before we know it. So please make a note of the date and keep it free. We need all our members to help out and attend to make the day a success.

Also remember to keep some of your honey for the Inter Club Trophy and honey competition.

Just a reminder, as summer is upon us, and in particular if you are heading off over the holidays, please ensure your bees have access to water. A hive can use over 2 litres a day in hot weather. In really hot conditions a colony will often devote all of the available field bees to the collection of water. If access to water is limited your bees may become a nuisance around stock troughs, swimming pools and dog bowls.

Finally a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday to all our members. Travel safe & bee safe I look forward to seeing you all in 2018.



*Phil Geeves
Club President*

Christmas 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 7.30^{pm}.

All welcome.

Club Registration

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

Dates to Remember

Club Meeting - 5th Dec
No Club Meeting January
Next Club Meeting 6th Feb 2018
Club Field Day 11th March 2018
Club events are on the website calendar
<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*

Bee Site

There is a site available in a backyard at Chuwar. If interested contact Gavin on [0412 830 538](tel:0412830538).

Christmas Message



It's the holiday season. Let the overeating begin!

Don't you just love Christmas? It's the only excuse you need for all kinds of indulgences from overeating to over spending - two of my favourite pastimes. Remember our Christmas meeting is an opportunity to catch up with people you haven't seen for 20 minutes, bring along all your partners even if they don't want to come!

Whatever your plans are for this holiday the Committee of the I&WMBA wish you all the best for the remainder of the year and a brilliant 2018.

Hope you enjoy some of my favourite Christmas funnies.

- Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year.
- Why is Christmas like a day at the office? Because you do all the work, and the fat guy in the suit gets all the credit.
- Christmas is a baby shower that went totally overboard.
- Once again, we come to the Holiday Season, a deeply religious time that each of us observes, in our own way, by going to the mall of our choice.
- Christmas is a state of mind and that special feeling that only comes with an empty bank account.
- I've never really understood why people go out for Chinese food on Christmas Eve, but I think it's because so many Chinese restaurants have the word "temple" in their names.
- The main reason Santa is so jolly is he knows where all the bad girls live,
- Three phrases that sum up Christmas are: Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men, and Batteries not included.
- I once got a set of batteries for Christmas with a note on it saying "Toys not included."

Phil Corbett Editor

Christmas Meeting

Remember as always that husbands, wives and partners are welcome at the Christmas gathering. We will have a short meeting and then Christmas supper and our Christmas raffle. As is customary in recent years there will be no registration fee for the Christmas meeting. Tickets for the raffle will be available at the meeting. The tickets are \$1.00 each or 5 in a book. Prize donations for the raffle will be appreciated by the committee. Club Secretary Noela has bought 20 Christmas goodies on behalf of the club for the raffle.



Practical Day (Members only)

What a fantastic day and an incredible turn-out. We trust that you all had a great day. Here are a few pictures, there are more pictures on our facebook page. Thank-you to Rhiana Pearce for the photos.



Name Badges (Important please)

Our new name badges for all our financial members were handed out at the last meeting. We hope you like the upgrade. If you weren't there please collect yours at the door as you come in to the December meeting. Please wear your badge to all club events and meetings. We currently have 217 paid up members and it's almost impossible to remember everyone's name, it also shows that you are a member and it helps with introductions. We would ask that you try not to lose your badge. We can order replacements but the cost of \$13 will need to be paid by the member for any replacements.

Flora - Dec

In the run up to Christmas and early in the new year we should be seeing Blue Heliotrope, Carpet Weed, Flat Weed, Coolibah, Grey Ironbark, Pumpkin, Red Stringy-bark, Silver Leafed Ironbark, Narrow Leaved Grey Gum, Rusty Gum, River Red Gum, Tumbledown Gum, Yellow Box, White Clover, Hill Gum, Swamp Mahogany and White Mahogany and maybe some Brush Box. In the last few weeks out in the Scenic Rim we have had a good showing of Iron Bark and I had my best ever robbing here, hoping the next few months do as well.

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/>

Ron Smith Trophy

Each year at the December meeting we award the Ron Smith Memorial Trophy to the club's most successful exhibitor. Many members will not have had the opportunity to have met Ron, or indeed know his history with the club. We respectfully acknowledge his contribution to the establishment of I&WMBA. Ron joined the Ipswich & West Moreton Beekeepers Association in October 1992 and was President of the Club for the 1996-1997 year. He helped Noel Scholz build the demonstration cage which is still used at the local shows. During his presidency, field days were organised for the first time for the members. Ron also rewrote the Club's Constitution. Due to illness, Ron had to give up beekeeping in the late 1990s and he passed away in September 1998. Join us at the December meeting to see who is this year's most successful exhibitor. Who knows, it might be you next year.

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.

2018 Field Day - 11th March 2018

Calling on all members we need you! Help us keep I&WMBA great. Our field day is when we showcase our club to the community and help make people "Bee Aware". The field day is our most significant undertaking in the year so please book it in your diary and come along to help out.

Show dates for 2018

Show dates for 2018 are now on our website calendar.

December Meeting

No guest speaker at this meeting, as it is our Christmas celebration. Also remember no meeting in January.

How I started in Bees.

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

- Dec - No presenter as it is our Christmas meeting
 - Feb - Mark Meerwald
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Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on the 22nd January 2018

Supper Roster

- Dec - Bill Mahon, Denis Manning, Glen Woodford and Dimitri Markotsis
 - Feb - Brian Little, Terry McAllister, Frank Moeller and Jim Muller
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Room Set up

- Dec - Peter Meehan
- February – Denis Manning

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. 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 one. 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.

Articles

Push on bee biosecurity

Healthy bees are vitally important to a wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops, plus they contribute more than \$30 million to the state's economy each year producing honey and other products. But the humble bees face a number of disease threats that need to be managed.



Kootingal apiarist Raymond Hull supports the code of practice designed to minimise the impact diseases like American Foulbrood have on beekeeping.

"It's a brood disease that affects bees and nothing else," he said. "Bees have no resistance to American Foulbrood and it can't be treated, unlike European Foulbrood that can be treated with chemicals.

"It kills the hive completely and the spores that cause the disease can survive for more than 100 years."

The only way to kill the spore is irradiation.

The good news is experienced beekeepers, with effective management practices, rarely have issues with American Foulbrood.

Mr Hull said the disease was found in the wider Tamworth area, often in wild bees or bees that haven't been looked after properly.

He fully supports the NSW Department of Primary Industries biosecurity measures and the code of practice.

"It's what 90 percent of commercial beekeepers are doing anyway," he said. "It makes sense to keep a record of bee movements."

Mr Hull said problems often occur when recreational beekeepers don't look after their hives and, sometimes, when apiarists lose interest or are on the cusp of retirement and can't care for the hives properly. According to the NSW Government, the number of recreational beekeepers in NSW has doubled over the past five years, prompting a need for emphasis on bee biosecurity and hive health.

There are more than 6000 registered beekeepers, with hundreds more likely to be operating unregistered.

NSW Department of Primary Industries declared October as American Foulbrood Awareness Month and all registered beekeepers should receive detailed information about AFB and were encouraged to check their hives.

Primary Industries Minister Niall Blair – a hobby beekeeper himself – said the wider apiculture industry contributed \$36 million to the economy and provides essential pollination for horticulture and crops.

"Honey bees play a vital role in cropping and without them, it's unlikely that many of our important crops would be economically viable," Mr Blair said. "The largest adopter of pollination services is the almond industry, with 79 per cent of NSW pollinating businesses supplying services to almond producers."

Source: <http://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/4997803/push-on-bee-biosecurity/>

Pesticide residue detected in 75 percent of honey sold worldwide

A survey of honey from around the world has found that 75 percent of samples tested contain at least one or more types of pesticide.

Swiss scientists tested 198 honey samples sourced from every continent except Antarctica for the presence of five neonicotinoid pesticides, which are commonly used in agriculture.

Honey from North America, Asia and Europe contained the highest levels of pesticides, they reported in the journal *Science*.

The researchers stressed that the levels of contamination found in the honey were "below the maximum-residue level authorised for human consumption" by the European Union.

But they said that exposure to these pesticides, which target the nervous system, may harm bees and other pollinators.

"There are increasing concerns about the impact of these systemic pesticides [on] honey bees and wild bees," they wrote. Colony collapse was first recognised 10 years ago, when beekeepers in the United States noticed that thousands of hives were completely empty of bees.

A number of factors have since been discovered to contribute to colony collapse, including pesticides ingested by bees at sub-lethal levels. Study co-author Professor Edward Mitchell from the University of Neuchatel in Switzerland, said even at low levels neonicotinoids were cause for concern.

"These pesticides are so incredibly toxic that they have a considerable effect at concentrations that are barely measurable," he said.

While 30 percent of samples contained a single pesticide, 45 per cent contained a minimum of two, and up to five different types of neonicotinoid.

Thiamethoxam, which was the most commonly detected pesticide in honey from Oceania, was put on a temporary ban by the EU in 2013 following concerns over colony collapse.

Of the 198 samples, six were taken from Australia. According to the study authors, none of the samples reached levels known to have "marked detrimental effects" on bees.

A French law passed in 2016 will see the banning of neonicotinoids by 2018.

Although colony collapse is yet to be detected in Australia, North America and Europe have still been experiencing high bee mortality over the winter months.

In the US 2015-16 winter, a national beekeeping database recorded more than 28 per cent of colonies were lost.

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2017-10-06/pesticides-found-in-75-per-cent-of-honey-sold-worldwide/9011510>

Key points:

- 45 percent of samples contained two or more pesticides
- Samples were off-the-shelf products collected by citizen scientists from around the world
- Highest concentrations in North America, Asia and Europe

I&WMBA Committee 2016 - 2017

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