

# Bee Flight

Ipswich & West Moreton Beekeepers Association



## President's Report

Welcome to our May Newsletter. The Ipswich Show is fast approaching and I ask all members to consider giving a few hours to assist with the Club's activities. This is our most significant fundraising event for the year. The proceeds from the sale of honey and other products helps maintain the club's good financial position in order to pay for our larger financial commitments such as insurance. We hope that you will spare a couple of hours to come & help setting up on Thursday night, manning the stall on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and again packing up on Monday morning.



Over the past few days I have noticed some cooler weather so just a reminder to please ensure your bees are ready for winter. If you missed the presentation at our last meeting there is information and tips on overwintering bees on our club website.

Club Memberships are now becoming due, please pay our Treasurer at the next meeting. Each year we spend considerable time chasing members for payment so I respectfully ask that you arrange to pay you dues as soon as you can.

**Phil Geeves**

*Club President*

## May 2018 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 - 1<sup>st</sup> May  
Committee Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> May  
Set up for Ipswich Show 17<sup>th</sup> May  
**Ipswich Show. 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May**  
*"Come along and help".*  
Pack up Ipswich Show 21<sup>st</sup> May  
**Bee Congress 2018**  
**27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June**

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*

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## This Month

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- Memberships are now due for payment
- Getting ready for the Ipswich Show, all hands on deck please.
- We have updated the swarm collectors list on our website check your details are correct.
- Jim Muller - Telling his story of how he started in bees.
- This months' lucky door prize will be a \$25 voucher from Burnett Beekeeping Supplies. *Thank you David & Gaye.*



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## Show Entries

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The first show for 2018 will be Marburg on the 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> May. Members who want entries to be taken on their behalf need to get them to Phil Geeves on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May before 12 noon. Remember to have your completed entry forms. If you prefer you can lodge your own entries at the show. Entries will be accepted on Thursday night the 10<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm at the Steinhardt Pavilion. Entry forms and schedule can be found at [www.marburgshow.com.au](http://www.marburgshow.com.au)

Entries for Ipswich Show will be accepted on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May from 7.30pm to 9.30pm and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May from 7.30am to 9am. Entry forms can be secured from the show website. [www.ipswichshow.com.au](http://www.ipswichshow.com.au).

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## 3rd Australian Bee Congress

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Registrations for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Bee Congress to be held at Royal Pines on the Gold Coast, from 27<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018 are now open.

Details on the Congress can be found on the congress website, simply follow the link below. The full programme is now available. Come and join with beekeepers and scientists from Australia and overseas for a great learning experience.

[www.australianbeecongress.com.au](http://www.australianbeecongress.com.au)

## Honey Show

Also in conjunction with the Congress is a Honey Show. Details are also on the website. We encourage you to put together some entries so that we have a good display. A honey show always attracts the media so we need to have a good array of entries. Please note that entries are restricted to Congress delegates only.

## Ipswich Show



The Ipswich Show is on this year from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> May. The show is an important showcase for our club. As our local show we are again taking a stall to promote our club and honey. This show is the main fund raising activity for our club and goes to help pay for the club insurance and general running costs. The show involves a great deal of work and our stall needs to be staffed throughout the event. A roster for the 3 days will be organised at the May meeting. Club members are asked to volunteer a little of their time to support the club at this event

## Join or Renew Your Membership



**Membership Fees for the 2018 - 19 year can be paid now, memberships expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> May. Please pay your membership for next year by then.**

Please see Treasurer Kellie Round at the meeting to pay your annual fees.

Membership is \$25.00 for single and \$30.00 for a family membership.

If you wish to pay by direct debit please contact Kellie for our bank account details.

Kellie's number is 0407 114 513.

## Name Badges

**New name badges for all our financial members are available for collection at our meetings. If you haven't collected yours yet please do so at the next meeting.**

Please wear your badge to all club events and meetings. We currently have nearly 300 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.

## Show Dates 2017

<u>Marburg</u>	<u>11th &amp; 12th May 2018</u>	<u><a href="http://www.marburgshowsociety.com.au">www.marburgshowsociety.com.au</a></u>
<u>Ipswich</u>	<u>18th - 20th May 2018</u>	<u><a href="http://www.ipswichshow.com.au">www.ipswichshow.com.au</a></u>
<u>Boonah</u>	<u>1st &amp; 2nd June 2018</u>	<u><a href="http://www.boonahshowsociety.org.au">www.boonahshowsociety.org.au</a></u>
<u>Lowood</u>	<u>15th &amp; 16th June 2018</u>	<u><a href="http://www.lowoodshowsociety.com.au">www.lowoodshowsociety.com.au</a></u>
<u>Kalbar</u>	<u>22nd &amp; 23rd June 2018</u>	<u><a href="http://www.kalbarshow.net.au">www.kalbarshow.net.au</a></u>
<u>Rosewood</u>	<u>29th &amp; 30th June 2018</u>	<u><a href="http://www.rosewoodshow.com">www.rosewoodshow.com</a></u>
<u>Redcliffe</u>	<u>29th June to 1st July 2018</u>	<u><a href="http://www.redcliffeshow.org.au">www.redcliffeshow.org.au</a></u>
<u>EKKA</u>	<u>10th - 19th August 2018</u>	<u><a href="http://www.ekka.com.au">www.ekka.com.au</a></u>
<u>Beaudesert</u>	<u>7th &amp; 8th September 2018</u>	<u><a href="http://www.beaudesertshow.org.au">www.beaudesertshow.org.au</a></u>

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## Flora - May

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In May we should be seeing: Brown Bloodwood, Broad Leaved Ironbark, Gum Topped Box, Molly Red Box, Mountain Coolibah, Pink Bloodwood, Paper Barked Tea Tree, White Box, Caley's Ironbark and Blackbutt.



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## Library

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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.

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## Honey Buckets, Bottles and Jars (Members only)

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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.**

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## Apithor Beetle Traps (Members only)

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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.

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## May Meeting

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This months' presentation will be given by Jason Pearce on the subject of Bees & Flora. The lucky door prize will be a \$25 voucher from Burnett Beekeeping Supplies. *Thank you David & Gaye.*

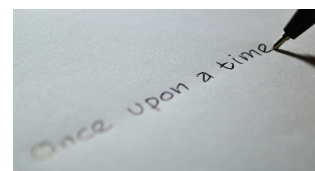
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## How I started in Bees.

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

- May - Jim Muller
- June - Trevor Nardi



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## Committee Meeting

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The next committee meeting will be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> May.



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## Supper Roster

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- May - Suzie Nicholls, Warren Hudson, Greg O'Rourke and Malcolm Reid.
- June - Neil Robinson, Erin Rutherford, Peter Ryan and Matthew Spencer.

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.



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## Room Set up

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- May - Shane O'Reilly
- June - Tibor Sederkenny

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## Facebook

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

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## Club shirts, badges and caps

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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.

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## Beeswax Wanted

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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.



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## Support those who support you.

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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.

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## Swarm list

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All members please note: The swarm list on our website has been updated to include new members that indicated they wanted to be included in the list. So if you are new and asked to be included it might be worth checking the list to ensure you are happy with the contact details.

[www.honey.org.au/swarms/](http://www.honey.org.au/swarms/)

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## **Wiring Board (Members only)**

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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.

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## **Extracting Van Hire (Members only)**

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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

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## **Club Hand Extractor (Members only)**

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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**

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## **Wax Melter (members only)**

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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.

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## **Wanted - Hive Beetles**

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Brogan Amos a PhD candidate at the University of Queensland is looking to collect hive beetles from members for use in a research project. Please contact Brogan directly if you would like to help her out. Ph: 0423456792 email: [brogan.amos@uqconnect.edu.au](mailto:brogan.amos@uqconnect.edu.au)



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## Articles

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### A new app listens to the problems of bees

You might expect to hear an angry buzzing when honeybees have been disturbed. But some apiarists reckon they can also deduce the condition of their bees from the sounds they make. A steady hum could be the sign of a contented hive; a change in tone might indicate that the bees are about to swarm. That intuition is about to be put to the test. Soon, beekeepers will be able to try to find out what is troubling a colony by listening to the buzz using a smartphone app.

The app, which is in the final stages of testing, has been developed by Jerry Bromenshenk and a group of fellow bee experts at the University of Montana. It uses a form of artificial intelligence to analyse the sound that bees are making in order to deduce whether they are suffering from a number of maladies.

Those afflictions might provide an indication of an impending Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), a mysterious syndrome that has plagued beekeepers in North America and Europe. Unlike a natural swarm, in which a large group of worker bees leave with their queen to form a new colony, CCD involves bees suddenly disappearing for no obvious reason, leaving their queen behind. Although recent reports suggest there has been a reduction in bee die-offs, according to some estimates 10m hives in America alone were wiped out by CCD from 2006 to 2013. Besides hitting honey production, this can also hinder the pollination of certain crops.

The development of the app has an unusual back story. The idea came from one of the many bee projects which Dr Bromenshenk and his colleagues are involved in. This work involves training bees to hunt for landmines. Landmines leak traces of explosive chemicals into the ground and the air. These tiny emissions can be detected by well-trained sniffer dogs. Since dogs can be heavy enough to detonate mines, some instead use rats that have been trained to do the same thing.

### Explosive reaction

Training dogs and rats to find mines is slow and expensive. However, the Montana researchers reckon they can train bees to find mines in only a few hours. They do this by spiking a syrup feed with a small sample of explosive chemicals. The bees then associate the scent of the chemicals with food. This influences them to fly towards and around any source of the chemicals when foraging for nectar. As there could be some 20,000 bees flying, some means of tracking them is required. To do that, the researchers use lidar, a form of radar, which they tune to the frequency of the bees' wing beats. This way an electronic map can be built up showing where the bees fly to, and thus where any landmines might be. In tests with the American army, the researchers found bees were more than 97% accurate in locating landmines.

This work is ongoing, but it has also led to other research. The academics came to realise that if minehunting bees are to be deployed successfully by soldiers or civilian contractors, then the operators would need to have good beekeeping skills. Such skills, of course, can be taught but it would take a long time for novices to acquire the knowledge of an experienced beekeeper, let alone be in tune with the many ailments that bees are susceptible to. This led in turn to the idea of developing a machine that could, like a seasoned beekeeper, listen to the buzz of bees to help determine their health.

For such an idea to work, it is necessary to attribute specific bee ailments to particular sounds. To do that, the university tapped into its worldwide network of beekeepers to find colonies that were known to suffer from only one problem, and to obtain sound recordings of bees in those colonies. The sounds that bees make come from their beating wings (although movements by other parts of their bodies may also be involved). Having built up a database of sounds, an artificial neural network, a form of machine learning used for pattern recognition, was employed to help build algorithms that can match bee sounds to those associated with certain hive problems.

Rather than produce a stand-alone device, the group developed a system which could be used on a smartphone. The resulting app, which is called Bee Health Guru, is being produced by Bee Alert Technology, a company spun out from the university.

To check on the health of a colony of bees it is usually necessary to open the hive, a procedure which involves using smoke to pacify the bees. That is a time-consuming process for commercial beekeeping operations, some of which may have several thousand colonies to take care of. With the app, all a beekeeper need do is to hold their smartphone near to the hive's entrance for 30 seconds while it analyses the sound of the bees. The app then lists any health problems which it detects.

Seven different disorders will at first be checked, says David Firth, a team member who is helping to bring the app to market. These include the presence of hive beetle, a serious honeybee pest, parasitic mites and "foulbrood", a bacterial infection which can destroy bee colonies.

The results might also point to early signs of CCD, which is now regarded as being caused by a combination of problems rather than one particular disease. In a 2010 paper in *PLoS One*, Dr Bromenshenk and his colleagues found that a bee virus and a fungus from a species known as *Nosema* were often prevalent in collapsed honeybee colonies, and that it was likely the two working together were more lethal to bees than either pathogen alone.

With the permission of users, data from the app can be shared with the researchers, who plan thereby to update the software to detect other diseases and problems, says Dr Firth. This could include exposure to pesticides, in particular a group called neonicotinoids which are suspected of harming honeybees (pesticide producers reject such claims). Finally, if all works to plan, bees will get to have their say about the things that cause them harm.

*Thanks to Lloyd Hancock for this article*

Source: [www.economist.com/news/science-and-technology/21739645-matching-honeybee-noises-their-ailments-new-app-listens-problems](http://www.economist.com/news/science-and-technology/21739645-matching-honeybee-noises-their-ailments-new-app-listens-problems)

Please forward any interesting articles or photos to me at [phil@abclass.com.au](mailto:phil@abclass.com.au)

*Thank you* Phil Corbett - Bee Flight Editor and Website Manager



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