

# Bee Flight

Ipswich & West Moreton Beekeepers Association



## President's Report

We have had what appears to be an early start to the season in many areas. I know that some members robbed hives much earlier than normal, with some good yields of honey.



Consequently I would also encourage you to consider bringing forward your spring management to avoid swarming taking place over the next few weeks.

This month was our last agricultural show attendance for 2018 at Beaudesert. I would like to thank all the volunteers who turned up over the weekend. The turn out for the show was a little disappointing due to the albeit welcome rain for the area. On the Saturday numbers were significantly down which resulted in our takings being reduced. Whilst this was our last show for the 2018 season, members should be looking for good honey samples to save and enter in shows in 2019.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> October we will be holding a practical day at Pine Mountain. This day will focus on re-queening and hive maintenance. More information is in this newsletter.

I would ask that all members wear their name badges at meetings and field days. As our membership is drawing close to 300 name badges are an easy way to identify all members.

On a final note, our Club has members keeping bees in many varied hives, from Langstroth, Top Bar and Flow Hives. Most members have their own favourite hive type. Irrespective of how members keep their bees I encourage all members to offer advice and support to newer members in the Club. Particularly in terms of hive maintenance and hygiene. Our club was established to help fellow beekeepers regardless of their chosen hive.

**Happy Beekeeping**  
**Phil Geeves**  
**Club President**

## October 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 & 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 - 2<sup>nd</sup> October  
Club Practical Day - 7<sup>th</sup> October  
Committee Meeting - 8<sup>th</sup> October  
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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- Club Practical Day at Pine Mountain, Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October at Wayne Rossister's property, Pine Mountain Road, just across from the Pine Mountain Hall.
- Guest Speaker for October – Colin Stringer will give a presentation on mead. Colin was the mead judge at the EKKA.
- Telling his story of how he started in bees this month will be Mike Trott.
- New members list now available
- **Message from the Club Secretary. There are a few Library Books outstanding. Please look on your coffee tables and bookcases and return them.**

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## Beaudesert Show

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The show this year was a little disappointing due to heavy rain on the Saturday with numbers well down on previous years. The show closed early. I suspect that most of the local growers and farmers would be happy with the rain regardless.

Peter Anderson worked so hard (see picture) that he had to have a nap in between customers.



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## October Practical Day

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The Committee has organised a Practical Day for Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October at Wayne Rossister's property Pine Mountain Road at Pine Mountain – just across from the Pine Mountain Hall. If anyone is not sure where to go ask someone on the Committee.

The day will commence with morning tea at 10.00 am and then the hands on practise will commence. You will need to bring your bee suits, a chair and drinking water. The hives will be opened and spring management will be conducted. This is a great learning day especially for the newer members. After all the work is done there will be a BBQ lunch. If any new members require help with making frames or boxes to bring them along to the practical day and Noel Scholz will be on hand to help. Please write this day in your diary and come along. By just talking to another beekeeper you may pick up some hints on beekeeping. For catering purposes numbers will be called for at the October Meeting. If you are not going to the Meeting but wish to attend the Practical Day please either phone, email or text Noela in advance.

Noela's contact details are: 0416 171 247 [email beelady61@hotmail.com](mailto:beelady61@hotmail.com)

For directions to the site go to the: <https://goo.gl/maps/8q3GVyR8g6v>

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## Membership

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Each year in September we reproduce our club members list with the details of financial members for the year. An updated list is attached to this newsletter. Please check your contact details and let us know of any errors or omissions.

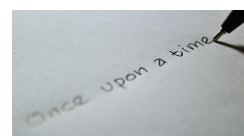
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## How I started in Bees.

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

- **October - Mike Trott.**
- **November - Ken Bannister**




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## October Meeting

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- Our Guest Speaker for October will be Colin Stringer giving a presentation about mead.
- Lucky door prize this month will be a new smoker.

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## Supper Roster

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**October - Ken Bannister, Stephen Baxendale, Chris Billing and Philip Booth.**

**November - Noel & Glenda Bowers, Robert Bumstead and Bradley Charlwood**

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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- **October - Neil Summerson**
- **November - Glen Sutherland**

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## Show Results

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Beaudesert	
Peter Waldron	2 Firsts, 1 Second & 1 Third
Bec Hendry:	1 First
Ken Freiberg	8 Firsts, 5 Seconds & 1 Third. Most successful exhibitor
Beau Rush	2 Firsts, 3 Seconds & 2 Thirds. Champion Honey
Phil & Noela Geeves	3 Firsts, 1 Second & 3 Thirds
Mary Corbett	2 Thirds

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## Queens (members only)

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Phil Geeves has now spoken to breeders regarding supply of Queens this Year. As a result of the dry conditions we cannot guarantee Queens for the Club in October. Therefore members should source their own Queens. We recommend that if you need Queens you order now to avoid missing out.

A list of Queen breeders is available on our website. [Go to: http://www.honey.org.au/queens/](http://www.honey.org.au/queens/)

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## Flora - October

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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

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## Name Badges

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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.

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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.

**Message from the Club Secretary. There are a few Library Books outstanding. Please look on your coffee tables and bookcases and return them.**

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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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## Committee Meeting

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The next committee meeting will be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> October

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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 Noel Hutchinson of Quality Beekeeping Supplies (3376 5404), Rod Palmer at C.B. Palmer and Co (0417 796 257) and Burnett Beekeeping Supplies (0429 130 167). Please remember these very good friends when you require Apiary supplies.

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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 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.



## Articles

Below are some pictures of a hive Phil Geeves managed to recover after it had been in the citrus tree since about March. It's amazing that they seemed to survive winter outside. Just goes to show how effective a ball of bees can be at retaining the heat.



## Costa behind honey uproar 'to save bees'

### Source

<https://geelongindy.com.au/news/06-09-2018/costa-behind-honey-uproar-to-save-bees/>

Bees are vital for the future of the food chain, so Robert Costa is championing the cause of beekeepers across the region and nation. Mr Costa's efforts to highlight the perilous state of the beekeeping and pollination industries launched him into the spotlight this week amid national reports about allegedly adulterated honey.



The Geelong horticulturist warned that the beekeeping industry must be protected or Australia would face food security issues due to direct impacts on fruit and vegetable supplies. Australian consumer watchdog the ACCC has labelled the chairman of Costa Asset Management, who helped build his family's fruit and vegetable empire with brothers Frank, Anthony and Kevin, as "a credible source". Mr Costa and legal team King & Wood Mallesons will meet with ACCC representatives in Melbourne early next week to brief investigators on evidence to support claims of "honey fraud". They will supply the ACCC and the federal Agriculture Minister with results of tests on 28 jars of Australian and imported honey. Mr Costa paid a state-of-the-art German laboratory to conduct two sets of testing. One used NMR screening and the other used an official C4 sugar test to meet existing Australian standards. The NMR results indicated that 12 of the 28 samples tested were not pure honey. Experts say adulterated honey is generally bulked up with rice or beet syrup and other unidentified substances, which official Australian tests fail to detect.

"I've been working on this issue for some time, talking to different people and getting plenty of sympathetic nods but no action," Mr Costa told the Indy.

"Something had to be done. My primary interest is in ensuring the survival of our beekeepers."

"I commissioned the tests because the issue with adulterated honey has been getting worse and worse year by year. What that's doing is putting a downward pressure on the prices and returns to

Australian beekeepers. "You are looking at something like a 25 per cent decline in beekeepers over the past five to 10 years, which is massive considering our plantings are going up by more than that amount over the same period.

"We're heading to a real watershed point where we're just not going to be able to pollinate crops." "It's important there's transparency in labelling. Most people assume their honey is 100 per cent natural product but it's not the case. "The average consumer will make a choice on what they buy but you've got to tell them what's in a product. Don't mislead them." Mr Costa said the testing and legal campaign would likely cost "into six figures by the time we're done".

"There will be no more tests but our concerns have been borne out in the evidence so far," he said. "The tests were a catalyst and the ACCC is now taking on the issue. My next steps will be to follow through with the government and industry associations. "We've concentrated purely at federal government levels – that's where honey imports need to be properly regulated. "Going public helps the politicians realise people do care about what's happening." ACCC chair Rod Simms said he considered the honey allegations warranted a "high-priority investigation". "We want consumers to have faith when they buy honey that it is honey," he said. Mr Costa said international crime-fighting agency Interpol was also investigating the "world-wide problem".

Interpol was focussing on links between adulterated honey and organised crime, he said. "There are 30 shipping containers of honey from China being held in US ports right now." A joint ABC and Fairfax report this week alleged that international fraudsters, often criminal gangs in China, produced the fake honey and sold it to unsuspecting suppliers at a higher price, making a fortune along the way. "Beekeepers are not looking for any favours. We just need to get some regulation and proper testing in place to help force importers to compete on a level playing field." "This isn't just about honey," Mr Costa said. "Two thirds of Australia's food relies upon bee pollination. Citrus, avocados, berries, almonds, avocados, veggies like cauliflower and broccoli, even canola, fruits and cherries – there's so much more that require bees for pollination. "They're critical for our food supply. What people don't realise is bees are as important to horticulture and agriculture as is water." "No water, no crops. No bees, no crops. "It's as simple as that." Mr Costa said farmers were under pressure to source enough bee hives when their crops needed pollination. "It's the bees that gather the pollen and set the fruit, so that's all the different trees and plants and fruit." Mr Costa was worried about the parasitic Varroa mite entering Australia and damaging bee colonies. "When the Varroa mite comes, the first victims will be the feral bees that pollinate crops from bushland areas," he said. "And we'll all need more honey bees then. Australia can live without honey but we can't live without honey bees."

## Operation targets beekeepers, blueberry growers

Source <http://online.isentialink.com/coffscoastadvocate.com.au/2018/09/06/c0026a4f-6173-4c77-bac3-7e810969ce03.html>

BEEKEEPERS providing pollinating services to blueberry growers on the Coffs Coast are the target of a biosecurity operation by the NSW Department of Primary Industries this week.

With the North Coast producing 80 per cent of Australia's blueberries, each year the crops are provided with pollination services from both large and small commercial apiarists over the flowering period.

DPI Director of Compliance, Biosecurity and Food Safety, Peter Day said with the increasing number of blueberry varieties now being planted, bees are being placed in crops for extended periods with varying levels of management.

He said the inspections are being undertaken to ensure beekeepers are complying with the Biosecurity Act, and to look for any breaches of hive management, unregistered operators or operators who have failed to report notifiable diseases.



They have also been taking 'appropriate action' on any abandoned, neglected or diseased hives. "Weakened hives as a result of disease or poor management can become a source for infection and can also prevent the hives from providing adequate bee numbers for effective pollination," Mr Day said. "Abandoned hives can encourage the spread of notifiable diseases and pests due to the potential for them to harbour diseases such as American Foul-brood."

During the operation, which ends Saturday, DPI biosecurity officers have been inspecting hives for AFB and taking actions for failure to notify and failure to correctly identify brood boxes.

AFB is the most serious brood disease of honey bees in NSW and is a notifiable disease under the Biosecurity Act. Early and accurate diagnosis of this disease is essential if control is to be effective. For more information on requirements for beekeeping in NSW, visit the DPI website at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)

## Queen Colours

Following a couple of questions from members regarding Queen bee colours please find the rules for coding below. This year is red.

Years ending in 1 or 6	White
Years ending in 2 or 7	Yellow
Years ending in 3 or 8	Red
Years ending in 4 or 9	Green
Years ending in 5 or 0	Blue



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

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



An interesting picture I took in Montville last weekend. The sign says "Caution Bee Hive Removal in Progress"

Phil Corbett

## I&WMBA Committee 2018- 2019

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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