

Bee Flight

Ipswich & West Moreton Beekeepers Association



September 2018 Edition

President's Report



"Spring is in the air", and it is only August. The Blue Gum and Ironbark are flowering well this year and I am finding that my bees have come out of winter very strong. I recommend that members

keep a close eye on their bees and commence their spring management practices early.

It can be very disappointing to lose a Queen that you replaced in autumn to a swarm.

When you are performing Spring Management in your hives I encourage you to check them for any diseases in particular AFB. If you are unsure what to look for please contact one of the committee and we will be happy to help.

With the AGM behind us, the committee is planning another full year for the Club. So if there is a particular subject that you would like to hear about please approach myself or one of my fellow committee members and we will endeavour to arrange it for you.

The last agricultural show for the year in our area is Beaudesert Show on the 7th and 8th Sept. Apart from the Ipswich show this is the only show at which we hold a stall. If you haven't already volunteered to help on the stall I call upon you to do so. Please see the Secretary Noela at the next meeting and put your name down for either the Friday or the Saturday.

For the benefit of all members we have organised a practical day on the 7th October at Pine Mountain.

This will be a hands on day where we will be opening and re-queening hives as well as other hive management practices.

I encourage all members but in particular our newer members to attend this day, it will be an opportunity to obtain experience handling bees under the supervision of experienced beekeepers. Further details are in this newsletter.

Phil Geeves
Club President

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 - 4th September
Beaudesert Show - 7th & 8th September
Committee Meeting - 10th September
Club Practical Day - 7th 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

This Month

- Its on again! The Beaudesert Show, the best country show this side of Roma. Hope to see you all there. **Volunteers are still needed.**
- I&WMBA cleans up at the Ekka
- Telling his story of how he started in bees this month is Bill Mahon.



Message from the Secretary



Please note: If you have not paid or renewed your membership by the 1st September 2017 this will be the last newsletter you will receive. If you are unsure if you are financial or not, please contact me and I will be more than happy to check. It would be a shame to miss out on our newsletter, other club benefits and events.

Cheers Noela Club Secretary

AGM 2018

The Club's AGM for 2018 was held in Ipswich at the Humanities Centre on the 7th Aug, following the General Meeting. President Phillip Geeves declared all the positions on the committee vacant and subsequently the new committee was appointed. Our committee members' contact details are on the last page of our newsletter and our website. The President would like to thank the committee members for their hard work over the past 12 months, Also many thanks to Wayne Rossiter for continuing to manage our Club Library. As there were no new nominations forthcoming for the committee and previous members were happy to stand once again, the committee will comprise of the same members as last year.

2018-19 Committee

1. President - Phillip Geeves
2. Vice President - George Pallot
3. Secretary - Noela Geeves
4. Treasurer - Kellie Round
5. Assistant Secretary - Mike Trott
6. Committee - Phil Corbett (newsletter & website)
7. Committee - Grahame Yates
8. Committee - Phil Dunlop
9. Committee - Shane O'Reilly



Nucleus Hives (Members Only)

Once again this year the club hopes to make available Nucs to members. Preference is given to newer members that do not yet have any bees. Club nucleus hives will be \$120.00 each with a marked Queen, bees and 5 frames. The Nuc boxes must be returned promptly. Please see Phil Geeves if you are interested in a Nuc, and your name will be put on our list.

Phil Geeves' email is: pwgeeves@tpg.com.au Tel 0409 485 447

Beaudesert Show

The Beaudesert Show is our last show for the year. It is on the 7th & 8th September. Members are asked to volunteer for a couple of hours on either Friday or Saturday to help man the Club's stand. If you have never been to the Beaudesert Show, you should make it a priority, as it is one of the best shows of the year. The show schedule and entry forms are available at www.beaudesertshow.org.au

Noela will have a roster sheet for volunteers at the next meeting.

Show Dates Remaining for 2018

Beaudesert

7th & 8th September 2018

www.beaudesertshow.org.au

Membership

Membership Fees for the 2018 - 19 year are now overdue.

If you haven't yet paid your membership 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.

Kellie's number is 0407 114 513.

You can pay your membership directly into the club's bank account if you prefer. Our Bank details are: Bank of Qld BSB. **124 053** Account No. **10278864**. Please use the relevant member's surname in the reference area or we will not know who paid.

Show Results

EKKA	
Mary Corbett	2 Firsts
P & N Geeves	1 Second, 1 Third & 2 Fourths
Albert Payne	1 First, 3 Seconds & 1 Third
Peter Waldron	1 First, 1 Second & 1 Third
Beau Rush	1 First, 2 Thirds
Ken Freiberg	5 Firsts, 3 Seconds & 1 Third & Most successful exhibitor
Mike Trott	(Mead) 1 Second & 1 Third

Items For Sale

Phil Dunlop has available a range of beekeeping equipment suitable for small hobby beekeepers. For more details ring Phil on 0439 955 693.

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.

Queens (member only)

Phil Geeves has now spoken to Howard Kirby regarding the supply of Queens this Year. As a result of the dry conditions he 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.

Steritech

Each year our club offers members the opportunity to have beekeeping equipment sterilised using gamma irradiation. It is extremely important that if you wish to have equipment taken for irradiation that you have it prepared correctly. If it is not a standard hive box it will be treated as a "stack" and charged directly to you. The cost of this is significantly more than the pallet rate negotiated by the club.

Please contact Phil Geeves on 0409 485 447 if you have any equipment you would like treated.

For more information go to the Steritech website at the link below.

<http://steritech.com.au/industries/beekeeping/>

October practical Day

The Committee has organised a Practical Day for Sunday 7th 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 one of our committee. The day will commence with morning tea at 10.00 am and then the hands on day will commence. You will need to bring your bee suits, chair and water. The hives will be opened and spring management will be done. This is a great learning day especially for the newer members. After all the work is done there will be a BBQ lunch. Please write this day in your diary and come along. By just talking to another beekeeper you may pick up some great hints on beekeeping.

Flora - September

In September look out for Dogwood Flat Weed, Grey Ironbark, Mugga Ironbark, Narrow-Leafed Ironbark, Narrow - Leaved Grey Gum, River Mangrove, Weeping Tea Tree, White Clover, Yapunyah, Yellow Box, White Mahogany, Tallowood, Red Bottlebrush and Lavender.

Name Badges

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.

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.

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.

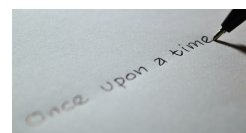
September Meeting

- Our Guest Speaker for September will be Noel Scholz giving an overview of wax processing.
 - Lucky door prize this month a new ear smoker. (*just to see if you are reading your newsletter*).
-

How I started in Bees.

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

- September - Bill Mahon.
- October - Mike Trott.



Committee Meeting



The next committee meeting will be held on the 10th September.

Supper Roster



**September - Colin & Susan Newham, Glen Woodford and Denis Manning.
October - Ken Bannister, Stephen Baxendale, Chris Billing and Philip Booth.**

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.

Room Set up

- September - Jason Stanton.
 - October - Neil Summerson
-

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 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.

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 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.ticles

Articles

Spring Management

As we enter the spring season there are a few jobs that need attention in the Apiary.

Remember spring is one of the most important times of the year in the Apiary. If you want to have healthy strong colonies, spring is the time to start work. On a warm sunny day with a light wind and enough day left to let your bees warm up again before sundown, open your hives.

To Do List

- 1) Check the health of your hives, in particular check for AFB (see link below).
- 2) Check to see if you have a Queen by finding her or evidence she is laying eggs.
- 3) Consider replacing your old or failing Queens (more that 3 years old)
- 4) Check to see if there is honey (food) for your bees. More hives are lost to starvation at this time than any other reason.
- 5) Consider if, and when, you need to rob them as part of your swarm management.
- 6) Look for signs of swarming. ie Queen cells mostly along the lower parts of the frames.
- 7) Make space for your bees to allow the colony to grow. Consider raising brood to the super or adding supers.
- 8) Replace beetle traps if required
- 9) Remove and replace old frames
- 10) Check hive condition and replace boxes if required.
- 11) Check stability and safety of hive stands.

Below are a couple of links to videos by Doug Somerville that are worth looking at in relation to Spring Management. There is also additional information on the club website.

Club Website:

www.honey.org.au

Inspecting a hive for disease:

<https://youtu.be/xrMfOWhnlOo>

Re-Queening a hive:

<https://youtu.be/HXq4tYohqO8>

Honey bee industry calls for greater forage access in conservation parks amid almond boom

The Australian honey bee industry is pushing for greater access to forage in national parks, as a growing demand for crop pollinators sparks concern about food availability. It comes amid a boom in almond plantations across southern Australia, which is estimated to require 100,000 more beehives in coming years.



Australian Honey Bee Industry Council executive director Trevor Weatherhead said more bees would bring the need for better access to nectar and pollen. "At the present time there is probably just enough to go around," he said. "The biggest issue facing beekeepers in Australia today is that resource access and security of that access."

No plans to change access in South Australia

South Australia Riverland region honey producer Naomi Vanderwoude said tweaking legislation to open up more areas to forage would be welcomed.

"It is great to be able to have your bees go on to almonds for August, but then you need to provide forage for the other 11 months of the year," she said. "We really need a joint effort to work out a bit of a strategic plan. Perhaps we can have some access to more public areas."

According to South Australia's Department of Environment and Water (DEW), there are 14 national parks and reserves licensed for bees in South Australia. DEW Mallee and Coorong district manager Paul Gillen said it had no plans to change the situation in South Australia.

"The department views that it will maintain the current number of bee site licences across the state," he said. "More bee sites may get added to the reserve system if they are already existing on land that we then acquire and add. "We are still able to consider requests for new bee sites, as long as they are supported by relevant research."

Going nuts for almonds

Bees play a crucial role in pollinating fruit and nut crops such as almonds.

(ABC Rural: Lara Webster)

Growing consumer demand for almonds has resulted in a spike in almond-tree plantings in southern Australia, with estimates the overall production could hit 120,000 tonnes by 2025. Almond Board of Australia chief executive Ross Skinner said the boom since 2016 had resulted in an extra 10,000 hectares of almond trees being planted. "The almond industry is totally dependent on the honey bee industry for pollination, as our varieties need to be cross-pollinated," Mr Skinner said. "Currently we are sitting at around 40,000 hectares. With what we believe will be planted in future, we actually think the hive numbers that we will require going forward will be increased by another 100,000 hives. "Access to floral resources to build up hive numbers is something the almond industry is very supportive of."

Mr Weatherhead said sufficient food access was important to preserve bee health.

"If they do not have good pollen supplies, then the bees will drop the strength of their bodies and the fat contents in their bodies will drop," he said. "Overall, if they do not have sufficient food supplies, then they will become weaker and the hive will not produce as effectively as it can."



To read the full story got to:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2018-07-19/beekeepers-call-for-more-forage-as-almond-boom-continues/10008254>

Please forward any interesting articles or photos to me at phil@abclass.com.au

Thank you Phil Corbett - Bee Flight Editor and Website Manager



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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