

# Bee Flight

**Ipswich & West Moreton Beekeepers Association**



## Christmas 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 & Christmas Event  
4<sup>th</sup> December

**No Meeting January**

**Next meeting 5<sup>th</sup> February**

Committee Meeting - 21<sup>st</sup> January  
Gold Coast Amateur Beekeeping Club's  
Field Day - 10<sup>th</sup> March 2019

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*

## President's Report

Welcome to the 2018  
Christmas edition of our  
newsletter. I can't believe  
we are about to enter the  
Christmas season once  
again. The end of another  
great year for the Club  
with an increasing number  
of new members and good  
attendance by members at  
our monthly meetings. I hope  
that you will all be able to  
attend the Christmas meeting  
on December 4<sup>th</sup>. The  
committee's Christmas gift to all  
members attending will be no registration  
fee of \$2.00 at the door for this meeting!  
If you are doing any extracting over the  
Christmas period remember to keep some  
honey aside for the Inter Club Trophy at the  
Gold Coast Field Day in March.



Also just as a reminder, as summer is upon  
us, and in particular when the days are hot,  
please ensure your bees have access to  
water. If access to water is limited your  
bees may become a nuisance around stock  
troughs, the neighbour's swimming pool or  
even the dog bowl. For more ventilation on  
the really hot days you may consider lifting  
the lid a few millimetres to increase air flow  
in the hive. This will reduce the number of  
bees bearding outside the hive.

For those who are unable to attend our  
Christmas meeting, I would like to take this  
opportunity to wish you all a very Merry  
Christmas, have a safe and happy holiday  
and look forward to catching up with you at  
the February meeting. Remember there is  
no meeting in January.

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

## This Month

- Donations for a Christmas raffle are always much appreciated. Please just bring them along on the night and see George at the door.
- Barbara Cush has organised a speaker for February who will be talking about the Helping Hands project.
- The Club Hives have recently been robbed and there are several pails of honey for sale at \$135.00 per pail. There is a limit of 1 pail per member. If interested please ring Noela or see her at the December meeting.
- Another trip to Steritech is planned at the end of November. So if any member has boxes to go please contact Grahame Yates as soon as possible, this will be the last opportunity until next year.



## Christmas Meeting- *Bees on earth and goodwill to all!*



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 Christmas goodies on behalf of the club for the raffle.

## What not to do this Christmas - How Not to Get Rid of a Bee Swarm

Mr Joshua Mullen from Mobile, Alabama, USA is this month's candidate for "Not a Good Idea" award. Finding that his shed had a swarm of bees living in it you will find it hard to believe how he attempted to get rid of them.

Mr Mullen soaked some towels in petrol and placed them carefully in the shed in order to remove the bees. However, the shed erupted in flames with a loud 'whoosh'. It appears that the fire started when the pilot light of a hot-water heater in the shed ignited fumes from the petrol.

The fire caused some \$80,000 worth of damage but luckily nobody was hurt in the conflagration. It was reported that Mr Mullen told reporters, 'Looking at all this, there might have been a better way. It was a mistake. I wish I hadn't done it, but I did.'

However, we can report that it did rid the shed of the bees!



## Gold Coast Amateur Beekeeping Club Field Day 2019

The Gold Coast Amateur Beekeeping Club will be hosting the Field Day and Inter Club Trophy on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at the Currumbin Special School, 5 Hammersford Drive Currumbin Waters.

Remember both clubs now take turns to host the annual field day.

More details when they come to hand but please write this date in your diary for 2019.

Our Club will then host the Field Day in 2020.

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## Ron Smith Trophy

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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.

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## Bees for sale (Willem Den Otter - Club Member)

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I have been successful in splitting some of my hives. So at present I have four that are ready to go elsewhere. The splits came from my "coffin box hives" which are horizontal permanently placed 23 framed arrangements

The splits I made are in normal 10 framed Langstroth hive boxes (matching brood and super) .

Each of the splits were 2 honey frames 4 brood /eggs frames with an extra foundation frame into a ten frame box . After a month I checked these boxes and found new brood , plenty of bees and I filled the box out to nine frames. A month later I checked again and found one box going so well that I place a queen excluder and an other box with empty frames on top.

They are all doing well, three are made up of very quiet bees, while one is a more active bunch.

So I am selling each hive (2 matched boxes) Bottom board , brood box 'full' honey and bees, the lid and cover and in most cases. The hive can be inspected at my place in Riverview

**Please call Willem Den Otter directly if interested. Phone 07 3282 6883 Mob 0424 139 917**

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## How I started in Bees.

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

- **December - No presenter as it is our Christmas Event**
  - **January - No meeting**
  - **February - Philip Booth**
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## Supper Roster

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- **December - Wayne & Kristy Clark, Dennis & Tom Cole**
- **January - No meeting**
- **February 2019 - Terry Cumner, Tony Currie, Barbara Cush and Lyal Daniell**

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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- **December - Peter Waldron & Beau Rush**
- **January - No meeting**
- **February 2019 - Alan Waters**

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## Flora - December

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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.

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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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## December Meeting

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

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## Committee Meeting

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The next committee meeting will be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> January.



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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

### Have bees, will travel.

Urban beekeeper Benedict Hughes spent five hours in his 4WD driving from Brunswick to Robinvale, in Victoria's north-west, to collect his bees. For the past month, they've been on a kind of working holiday. Like many beekeepers each August, Mr Hughes has taken part in the nation's largest movement of livestock, when 4.2 billion bees are transported from all over the East Coast to pollinate blossoming almond trees.

"They are 100 per cent reliant on pollination," Mr Hughes says. "They need the bees or we don't get the almonds."

For a fee, about \$100 a hive, the bees are hauled aboard trucks and trailers at night before they are stacked near the almond plantations and let free to do their thing. Smaller beekeepers such as Mr Hughes might take a few dozen hives to help with the pollination, while the bigger honey producers will rent out thousands.

It's a nice little earner, he says, at a time of the year when honey production tends to be a bit slower. "You get some income but also the bees get a really good feed of pollen, so they come away from almonds quite strong," he says.

He describes it as like a holiday for the bees: "because it's warmer compared to Melbourne and they get a good spring start".

Australia is the second largest almond producer in the world behind the US, which grows about 80 per cent of the global crop.

Demand is continuing to increase for almonds, with the number of trees expanding each year. In Australia, the average yearly consumption is more than a kilogram per person.

In Victoria, where most of the country's almond farms are based, the industry is worth around \$381 million a year, with almonds making up more than 30 per cent of the value of the state's horticulture exports.

The mass movement of hives highlights the agriculture industry's reliance on bees, with an estimated one in three bites of food coming as a result of pollination. But bringing them all together in one place carries a biosecurity risk.

"There's a lot of bees in close proximity to each other so if they have a particular disease then there's an increased chance of that being spread," says Peter McDonald, chair of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council.

Most of the attention in the beekeeping industry has been focused on the Varroa mite, which has decimated hives overseas. The recent discovery of a bee colony infested with Varroa on a ship at Port Melbourne raised alarm bells.

"So far it's been proven that we're free of Varroa in Australia, which is really good. It will kill the bees, it's a threat in the future if it did arrive," Mr Hughes says.

It's not just almond plantations that need bees. After the hives are collected, many beekeepers will move them to help pollinate other crops such as canola, plums and apples.

"Still generally beekeeping is about honey," says Mr McDonald. "But some are now focusing mostly on pollination, to bring in that regular income and do things differently."



**Source: The Sydney Morning Herald**

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/victoria/beekeepers-are-renting-out-their-hives-to-help-pollinate-almond-trees-20180831-p50129.html>

## "Vegan honey" manufacturer dodges prosecution

THE nation's competition watchdog will not prosecute a "vegan honey" manufacturer whose apple juice concentrate product was accused of being deliberately misleading.

In August, the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council referred Byron Bay company The Golden Ratio's "bee-free" vegan "honey" to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and the NSW Food Council for potential breaches of Australian Consumer Law, including false description of a product.

However an ACCC spokesman said it had decided not to take action.

"Whether labelling is misleading under Australian Consumer Law depends on the overall impression given to consumers, not necessarily the use of a particular word," the spokesman said. "In assessing allegations of misleading or deceptive conduct, the ACCC considers a range of factors ... (including) the overall impression given to reasonable consumers, whether there is sufficient information available to consumers to enable them to make an informed decision, what steps a business has taken to address any potential consumer concerns and whether the words or images used by a business can create a misleading impression."

AHBIC executive director Trevor Weatherhead said beekeepers were disappointed the ACCC had decided not to act.

"We haven't been given an explanation, they have just said they won't act on it," Mr Weatherhead said.

He said the industry took issue with the product's use of the word honey on its labelling despite the fact it didn't contain any, and the hypocrisy that it was made from apple juice concentrate, a likely by-product of bee pollination. The NSW Food Council's investigation into potential breaches of the Food Act or Food Standards Code is still underway.

Meanwhile, in the wake of "fake" honey allegations in September after 28 blended and imported honeys were tested to check for adulteration with sweet syrups, beekeepers will meet to try to mitigate the damage to sales.

"Some honey producers have been badly affected, I know of one who hasn't had any orders for four weeks," Mr Weatherhead said.

The testing used the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance method, which has been criticised as deficient and is not the official test of honey purity by Australian or European authorities. Mr Weatherhead said beekeepers would meet scientists on November 22 to agree on an "enforceable" test the packer and public could have confidence in.

Source: the Weekly Times

[www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/2018/11/13/50210897-b34c-4c0a-996f-2725cf004db7.html](http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/2018/11/13/50210897-b34c-4c0a-996f-2725cf004db7.html)

## Bees in South African plane's delay flights

A swarm of bees flew into the engine of a Mango Airlines plane, forcing a delay in flights at the main airport in South Africa's coastal city of Durban.

Bee experts were called in and they safely removed the estimated 20,000 bees from the engine, the low-budget airline said.

The incident was extremely unusual, and the bees were probably resting before planning to fly on, one expert said. It was unlikely they intended to make a "smelly" engine their home, he added.

The bees populated the engine in less than 25 minutes, and delayed three passenger flights at King Shaka International Airport, Mango Airlines spokesman Sergio dos Santos said. "I have certainly never seen anything like this in my eight years in the aviation industry," he told [South Africa's News24 website](#).



***Thanks to Lloyd Hancock for this one.***

## An Australian study is helping beekeepers decide where to place their hives to collect valuable healing honey.



The research has found that Australian shrubs and trees can produce healing honey on a scale to rival New Zealand's prized Manuka medicinal honey industry. But it also reveals that not all of Australia's *Leptospermum* species of plants, which make healing honey, can equally produce large amounts with active antimicrobial properties.

New Zealand produces Manuka medicinal honey from the plant *Leptospermum scoparium*, one of 84 *Leptospermum* species that are native to Australia.

### On the hunt for liquid gold

At the University of the Sunshine Coast's honey laboratory, PhD candidate Simon Williams is testing hundreds of samples of nectar and honey produced by *Leptospermum* shrubs and trees sent by professional and amateur beekeepers around Australia.

Mr Williams has been mapping the distribution of Australia's *Leptospermum* species. He is also assessing how much nectar the plants produce and their bacteria-fighting abilities.

Beekeepers use the information to decide where to position their hives.

Mr Williams is part of the Oz Honey Project, which is examining the antibacterial potential of *Leptospermum* honey for medicine, as well as the honey's other healing and anti-inflammatory properties.

The project also involves researchers from the University of Technology Sydney and the University of Sydney, and is jointly funded by government and industry.

"For the past three years I've tested 54 of the species to determine which ones beekeepers should target," Mr Williams said.

**"We are finding that not every species produces honey each year, which is a little bit disappointing"**

Read the full story at: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2018-05-08/researchers-study-antimicrobial-properties-of-leptospermum-honey/9680528>

**Many thanks to Joan Coates for the above article.**



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

### 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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