

Bee Flight

Ipswich & West Moreton Beekeepers Association



November 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 - 6th November
Committee Meeting - 12th November
Club Christmas Event 4th December
Gold Coast Amateur Beekeeping Club's
Field Day - 10th 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 our November
Newsletter, I trust you are all
reaping the benefits of the
recent rain.

As you may be aware we held
a practical day during October
and had a fantastic turnout at

Pine Mountain with over 60 attendees.

I hope all those who were there found it
informative and learnt something from the
day. Even if it was only one small tip it will
help you achieve your goal of being a
proficient beekeeper.

I would like to thank those members who
helped with the organisation and running of
the event. I will be asking members for
feedback at the next meeting.

There are some fantastic displays of flora
around at the moment so your hives should
be filling with nectar for the next few weeks.
When the flow is as it has been the last few
weeks, it pays to keep close eye on your
hives and ensure the bees have room to
store fresh nectar.

For those members who receive their
newsletters by email I hope that you took
note that our Editor Phil Corbett attached a
copy of the this year's members list. I
would suggest that you print out a copy for
future reference when contacting other
members of the Club. Those members who
receive their newsletter by mail will have
received a hard copy of the members list
with their newsletter

Happy Beekeeping
Phil Geeves
Club President

This Month

- Guest Speaker for November - Diana Leemon, talking about Hive beetle and Beetle Traps.
- Telling his story of how he started in bees this month will be Ken Bannister.
- 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 November Meeting.
- A hive site is available at Tivoli. Please contact Noela for more details.

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 10th 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.

The Ipswich Club will then host the Field Day in 2020.

Steritech

Another trip is planned at the end of November to go to Steritech. So if any member has boxes to be Gamma Irridiated please contact Grahame Yates.

Christmas Celebrations & Raffle - Can you believe its only 60 days to Christmas?

Tickets for this year's huge Christmas raffle will be available at the November meeting. The raffle will be drawn at the December meeting (Tuesday 4th December). The tickets are \$1.00 each and there are 5 tickets in a book.

Members, you may wish to take a book or two and sell them to workmates, family or friends. The Committee will also be grateful if any members wish to donate something toward the Christmas raffle .

Christmas Meeting 4th December

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.

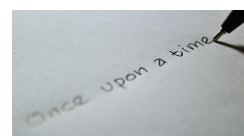
Ron Smith Trophy

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.

How I started in Bees.

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

- **November - Ken Bannister**
- **December - No presenter as it is our Christmas Event**



Supper Roster

November - Noel & Glenda Bowers, Robert Bumstead and Bradley Charlwood
December - Wayne & Kristy Clark, Dennis & Tom Cole

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

- **November - Glen Sutherland**
- **December - Peter Waldron & Beau Rush**

Flora - November

Blue Heliotrope, Carpet Weed, Flat Weed, Grey Ironbark, Mugga Iron Bark, Narrow Leaf Ironbark & Narrow Leaf Grey Gum. You may also see some Tumbledown Gum, White Clover, and Yellow Box. In the Veggie patch look out for Pumpkins & Tomatoes.

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.

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

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.

Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on the 12th November

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.

Articles

Have bees, will travel.

Urban beekeeper Benedict Hughes has just 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>



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

Thank you Phil Corbett
Bee Flight Editor and Website Manager

I&WMBA Committee 2018- 2019

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