



BEE FLIGHT

President's Report



Hi everyone, not a great deal to report on this month. We did get a little rain and a couple of storms, however, probably not enough to stimulate the flora to produce bud for flowers to follow. We desperately need more rain in the coming weeks to get us out of this terrible drought we are in at the moment. The general public are not aware that beekeeping is affected by the drought so it is in our interest as beekeepers to inform the general public if we get asked the question why beekeepers are not getting much honey at this time of the season.

Remember that we are conducting a practical day on November the 10th at Pine Mountain. These days take a bit of organising and work for us so we hope you can support it and come along. Further details are included in this newsletter.

The Club will also be hosting our biennial Field Day on 8th March at Peak Crossing State School so save the date now. All hands on deck for this one please. The Committee has already commenced gathering ideas for guest speakers etc; but if you have any ideas for the day please let one of the Committee know.

One final note on the ordering of queens. Due to the current drought conditions a decision was made to cancel the bulk order of queens for the end of October and early November. If the conditions in your area are favourable for re-queening I suggest you contact one of the queen breeders on the list in the Club's website and order your Queens direct with them. Hopefully by my next report we will have a little more good news to share.

Phil Geeves - Club President

*Our club meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month (except January)
at the W.G. Hayden Humanities Centre
Cnr. South and Nicholas Streets, Ipswich 7.30pm.
Visitors Welcome*

This Month

HOW I STARTED IN BEES.

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

NOVEMBER
PHIL DUNLOP

SUPPER ROSTER

NOVEMBER
GREG O'ROURKE, LEAH MOORE, STEPHEN PACE AND CHARLES PISANI.

DECEMBER
ANDREW PLINT, NEVILLE RIECK, NEIL ROBINSON AND MARK ROOK

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
ADAM BLAIR
DECEMBER
NOEL STANDFAST

There are now only a few days left to place entries in our PHOTO competition for **“Bee Pictures.”**

Entries will be accepted up until the 3rd of November. At the December meeting the Committee award the top 3 pictures prizes. **Remember the rules are the picture must have a bee in it, you must take it, you need to be a financial member of our Club at the time of judging and attend the December meeting to collect your prize.**

Just email or text them to me. First prize will be \$100, second \$50 and third \$25.

*Cheers Phil Corbett Editor - Text 0419 196 330
Email: dragun@abclass.com.au*

Club Registration

Before club meetings all members are required to pay a \$2.00 registration fee.

Club events and show dates are on our website calendar

www.honey.org.au

Dates to Remember

Next Club Meeting - 5th November

Practical Day - 10th Nov

Committee Meeting - 11th November

Club Christmas Event 3rd December

I&WMBA Field Day - 8th March 2020

CLUB EVENT

Practical Day (Hands on learning Experience)

Not long now until our Practical Day, on Sunday 10th November at Wayne Rossiter's property at Pine Mountain commencing at 10.00am. . It will be an experience - based learning day and will be of particular benefit to new beekeepers. We will be carrying out maintenance and health checks on the Club Hives. The day will start at 10.00am with morning tea followed by the hive work. There will be an opportunity to chat with other members and enjoy a sausage sizzle lunch. This is a huge learning day for new beekeepers. Write this day in your diaries. Numbers will be called for at the November Meeting for catering purposes. If you will not be at the November Meeting and wish to attend the Practical Day please contact Secretary Noela before Thursday 7th November.

REMEMBER YOU WILL NEED TO BRING YOUR BEE GEAR.

2020 Field Day 8th March at Peak Crossing

Calling all members we - need you! Help us keep I&WMBA great. Our biennial field-day is when we showcase our club to the community and help make people “Bee Aware”. The field-day is our most significant undertaking and happens every second year. Please book it in your diary and come along to help out on the day.

Members Door Prize

This year we have decided to do something a little bit different with our door prize. Every month the door prize will be a **full hive kit (a bottom board, a lid, brood box, super and a Queen excluder)**.

A fantastic prize especially for new beekeepers trying to build up the hive numbers. Winners will receive a voucher to collect their prize from Quality Bee Keeping Supplies. Remember you can only win it if you are at the meeting and you are a financial member of the Club.



October Door Prize Winner

Congratulations - Dale Simmons

Dale is a new member to our club and he is still waiting on his first bees! Hoping that his new hive helps him get set up!

Door prize winners should contact Noel at Quality Beekeeping to collect your prize.

Quality Beekeeping Supplies Tel : 3376 4548

Christmas Celebrations & Raffle

Can you believe its only 58* 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 3rd 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.

** At time of distribution*



Christmas Meeting... ...3rd December

Remember as always that husbands, wives and partners are welcome at the Christmas gathering. We will have a short meeting and the prizes for this years' photo competition will be awarded. This will be followed by Christmas supper and our Christmas raffle. As is customary in recent years there will be no registration fee for the Christmas meeting.

Queensland Agricultural Shows 2020

The dates for the relevant agricultural shows are now on our website calendar and a list of dates will be published in our newsletter in the new year.

To view the calendar go to : www.honey.org.au/events/

Corinda High School

The School has 4 or 5 Flow hives and needs bees to fill them to start production. If anyone is prepared to donate or sell a hive, contact either John on 0428 646 613 or Lloyd on 0498 395 352 . They require the bees and frames for the brood chamber but not the boxes.

Flora - November

As those who attend the meeting will know there is not much in the way of flora around, but let us hope it improves as we head into summer. We should be seeing in 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 Pumpkins & Tomatoes.

Name Badges

Please wear your badge to all club events and meetings. We currently have over 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. Try not to lose your badge, as we can order replacements but at a cost of \$13 for the member.

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.

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.

Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on the 11th November

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), and Burnett Beekeeping Supplies (0429 130 167). Please remember these very good friends when you require Apiary supplies.

Beeswax Wanted

Noel at Quality Beekeeping Supplies is interested in buying beeswax, any quantity, small or large. Contact Noel at Quality Beekeeping Supplies on 3376 5404.

Items for purchase or hire are only available to club members.

Queens (members only)

As Phil Geeves mentioned in his report the Club has cancelled our bulk order for Queens. The current weather conditions and hive strength is unfavourable for re-queening and there is an increased risk that the Queens would not be accepted. A further update will be given at the next meeting.

Any members who have paid for Queens will be reimbursed. If you wish to proceed with re-queening you may be able to purchase Queens directly from the breeder we were intending to purchase Queens from this year. Daniel Curless - 0402 158 951. There is a list of local Queen breeders on our website.

Queen Breeders: <http://www.honey.org.au/queens/>

Nucleus Hives (Members Only)

At the present time the club hives are not strong enough to be split. It is therefore unlikely that Nucs will be available for the foreseeable future. If the hives build up and can be split preference will be given to newer members that do not yet have any bees. If new members are keen to get bees prior to Nucs being available you may want to consider buying a full-size hive.

Club Nucs when available will be provided in corflute non-returnable hive boxes each with a marked Queen, bees and 5 frames. Club nucleus hives will be \$120.00. If you require any additional information please contact Phil Geeves' his email is: pwgeeves@tpg.com.au Tel 0409 485 447

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.

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 return all packaging to the club for reuse please

The club does not stock or supply items other than the items mentioned.

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.

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

Bee Room Equipment

Any members interested in purchasing custom made wiring boards, frame assembly jigs, embedding tools or frame show cases. Please contact Noel Scholz on: 3281 1516

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



PLEASE FORWARD ANY INTERESTING ARTICLES OR PHOTOS TO ME AT
DRAGUN@ABCLASS.COM.AU
 THANK YOU PHIL CORBETT
 BEE FLIGHT EDITOR AND WEBSITE MANAGER

Articles

**The threat of varroa mite is real.
 But these Australian beekeepers are ready to face it**



Beyond a chain link fence littered with abandoned trolleys, seagulls swoop and ships the size of small cities stacked high with containers dock at Port Melbourne. It's here that Joe Riordan performs his six-weekly ritual: peering into a sentinel bee hive for signs of danger.

That danger is the varroa mite: a tiny parasite which could threaten our beekeeping industry and the farmers that rely on them. Australia is the last inhabited continent on Earth that is free of the mite, which has crippled honey bees everywhere it has taken hold.

For apiarists like Joe, and urban and commercial beekeepers, the threat is real — but they're preparing to meet it head on.

'The risk is getting higher and higher'

It was just over a year ago that Australia's bee biosecurity program was set on red alert a ship captain arriving from the United States reported dead bees on board.

Joe and the team at Agriculture Victoria sprang into action, and found varroa mite inside a crate.

"This is the day, it's happened," Joe recalls. Fortunately, the threat was contained. Joe felt a "significant feeling of relief". "I can't believe it, it worked so well," he says.

Varroa destructor, commonly called varroa mite, spreads viruses that cripple bees' ability to fly, gather food or emerge from their cell to be born. It also significantly reduces their ability to pollinate crops.



Inside each sentinel hive is a pest strip that will kill the varroa mite.

For 60 years now, the mite has hitched its way through Asia, Europe and the US. It arrived in New Zealand in 2000. It isn't in Australia — yet.

Beekeepers on the frontline

Joe enlisted beekeepers from around Victoria to help test all the hives for Agriculture Victoria's emergency response team.

"There's a sense of, 'well look, I'm a beekeeper, what I want to do is help. I'm not going to stand back and hope it's going to work, I want to be part of the team that actually beats it'," he says.

If varroa mite gets in through the ports, it's urban beekeepers like Nic Dowse in Melbourne who might be the first to be affected.



To read the full article goto:

www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-18/the-beekeepers-ready-to-fight-varroa-mite-in-australia/11505370

Many Thanks To Lloyd for the above article

Pollination agreements with beekeepers prevent getting stung.

Trucks carrying millions of bees water supplies and forklifts move at night after all the foragers have returned to the hive, so you might not actually see them being moved.

Image: courtesy of Ian Zadow

The annual spring movement of hives has commenced, as beekeepers move hives from one area of the country to another following the flower blossoms of nut, fruit and vegetable plants that need pollination by bees to produce a crop.



The season starts with almonds, usually in August, which are almost entirely dependent on bees for pollination and seed set.

Plant Health Australia's National Manager for Surveillance, Dr Sharyn Taylor, says that many commercial beekeepers move their hives for pollination contracts and to follow honey flows as the season progresses.

"Around 200,000 bee hives are placed in orchards in north west Victoria for almond pollination alone, which takes only a month to complete," said Sharyn.

"Hiring hives is the most common way growers get the hives their crops need for pollination. Long distances are travelled by some beekeepers in the migration, often between states."

This movement of hives, as well as the drifting and robbing habits of honey bees, means that any pests or diseases can be difficult to contain.

“Events like this can be a cause for biosecurity concern,” advised Sharyn.

“Every beekeeper should be using industry best practice guidelines to provide a high standard of pollination service by making sure hives are strong and disease free,” said Sharyn.

“When hiring hives for pollination, many beekeepers and growers find it a good idea to have a pollination agreement. This approach has the advantage that the growers can specify exactly what they need and what they expect to get.”

Almond pollination and yield is highly dependent on honey bees, which can be brought into the orchard in large numbers over the flowering period. Image: courtesy of Almond Board of Australia

“Agreements, or contracts, are useful because there’s no confusion over what the grower thinks they are hiring and what the beekeeper thinks they need to supply,” said Sharyn.

They become very important if there are any problems with what’s supplied or something happens to the bees when they are working the crop. To get an idea of whether you’re getting what you pay for, growers should have a look to see if bees are moving in and out of hives.

Beekeepers providing pollination services should be particularly vigilant for pests and diseases as they prepare hives for movement, and also when hives return back home, to make sure no diseases have been picked up.

Source: Australian Food News

To read this article in full go to: <https://www.ausfoodnews.com.au/2019/09/17/pollination-agreements-with-beekeepers-prevent-getting-stung.html>

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