



# BEE FLIGHT

## *President's Report*

Welcome to our June Newsletter. Another month has passed with no sign of the Club recommencing to hold meeting due to the restrictions placed on us as a result of COVID 19.

After receiving feedback from members that were in the opinion a newsletter should continue to be produced each month I have changed my mind and the Club newsletter will continue each month. So if you have any Australian articles that you would like to be included in future newsletter or you would like to write an Article, please email them to the Newsletter editor. I would like to thank Trevor Weatherhead for his Article this month on Queen Bees and also allowing me to reproduce some of the articles that appeared in Newsletters when Trevor was the Editor back in 2005 and 2006.

It appears the bees are now slowing down and settling in for winter. I have reduced hive entrances and checked honey stores. My final inspection revealed little honey production in the past couple of months so, I'm looking to next season and hopefully a better year.

If your bees are short on honey for the winter, you will need to keep an eye on them and consider if, and when, you might need to support your hives with feeding. It is important to know the difference between stimulus feeding and substance feeding. There is information about feeding on the club website.

Winter is also a good time to spend time in preparation for the next season. Make sure you have plenty of new or freshly painted boxes to replace old ones and enough frames made up for the start of the season.

***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".

**JULY**

BARBARA, STEPHEN &  
DANIELLE ANDREWS

**AUGUST**

GEOFF BROWNE

### SUPPER ROSTER

**JULY**

PETER WALDRON, BEAU  
RUSH, ALEXANDRA WINTER &  
LYNETTE ZOCARO

**AUGUST**

EUNICE TROTT, LOU & GRACE  
ULJAREVIC & JON VERMEER.

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

**JULY**

GLEN WOODFORD

**AUGUST**

KEN WALL

## Dates to Remember

**Meeting of the Club will be advised  
when restrictions are lifted**

## 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](http://www.honey.org.au)

## Newsletter Editor



Hi All!

We hope everyone is keeping well during these hard times. As we all know the cold weather has finally set in for the winter, which means the bees won't be so active, like us humans on some days!

We have hives located on friends property, who have recently contacted us to say they think the bees are not doing so well. After a little inspection, our ladies are just cold and are doing fine.

In this months newsletter, there is some information about Bee Talks from the Biosecurity Officer, Rebecca Laws.

We would like to thank Trevor Weatherhead for allowing us to recycle a couple of his articles to help fill the newsletter.

Until next month, keep warm and stay safe, and we hope to see you all soon.

***Wayne & Kristy Clark, Editors***

**PLEASE FORWARD ANY INTERESTING ARTICLES OR PHOTOS TO OUR NEW EDITORS**

**WAYNE & KRISTY CLARK EMAIL: [iwmba.editor@gmail.com](mailto:iwmba.editor@gmail.com)**

## Members' Door Prize

As previously advised, every month our door prize for one lucky member 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.

**PLEASE NOTE:** You must be wearing your name badge to be eligible to win.

## Door Prize Winners

**NO WINNERS THIS MONTH DUE TO NO MEETING BEING HELD**

Winners should Contact Quality Beekeeping Supplies Tel : 3376 5404 to pick up their prize.

## WHAT SHOULD I BREED QUEENS FROM?

By Trevor Weatherhead AM

I am often asked is it ok to breed queens from any of my stock?

The answer is that it is ok in some cases e.g. emergency but it is best to have a queen bred from known genetic stock. Why? The breeder queens as we call them have been bred from stock of known parentage and performance, the mating is known as it is Artificially Inseminated (AI) or as some call it Instrumentally Inseminated (II).

As the drone makes up half the genetics in a queen it is important that at least half the genetics are known. The queen you buy from a queen breeder is usually what is called untested. That is it is from a known breeder but they are open mated so you do not know which drones mated with that queen. Whilst queen breeders put out selected hives with known parentage as drone stock there is no guarantee that the queen has mated with these drones hence called untested.

So if you breed off one of these queens then you are only going to get one quarter of the known genetics or at best half for the worker bees produced. Also when that queen mates you do not know what drones she mated with so again you can get dilution of the desirable qualities. I often hear cases of the offspring of these queens becoming a little aggressive. This is not desirable in a backyard situation with neighbours nor is it pleasant if the hives are out in the field. The breeder queens used by queen breeders are bred for docility.

Queens bred by the queen breeder are bred under good conditions. When a hive decides to supersede the queen, the conditions may not be ideal and an inferior queen will be produced. If you select cells that have been produced during swarming then you are selecting for the genes of swarming which will then be passed on to the new queen and then her hive is more likely to swarm which is not what you want.

It is ok to use one of these home bred queens in an emergency but the beekeeper should look to replace that queen with a good quality one as soon as possible.

### **Winter preparations**

Have you noticed the nights getting a little colder? It would seem that winter is not far away.

What are you doing to winter your bees? Well every year is different. You cannot say because I did so and so last year, it is what I will need to do this year. What do I think needs to be done this year?

Well look around. There are some blue gums starting to break but the cooler weather will mean that they stop flowering and start again towards the end of winter. You just need to keep an eye on your hives.

So here are some general tips tempered with the fact that you need to keep an eye on your hives. Firstly, make sure they do not have more supers or boxes on their hives than the bees can look after. Nothing worse than trying to keep 3 or 4 supers warm.

If you take off supers, you need to protect them from wax moth and small hive beetle. The best way is to put them in a fridge or freezer. If that is not an option, phostoxin can be used but if it is in a home situation be very careful.

Make sure the hives have enough stores. If you happened to have taken off more honey than you should have and you need to feed, then do it now. Remember to make the sugar solution as strong as possible.

Don't split brood or try to introduce drawn combs into the brood box. Leave the brood together. If you muck around with the brood all you will do is give your bees a good dose of nosema.

*This article was produced by Trevor Weatherhead in the May 2006 newsletter.*

Did you know?

- A typical hive in summer has about 60,000 honey bees, including one bee, 250 drones, 20,000 worker bees and 40,000 house bees. One hive can produce up to 100 lb of surplus honey.
- A worker bee will live for six to eight weeks, foraging for three weeks for pollen, nectar and water.
- For each pound of honey, a bee can fly the equivalent of twice round the world, making 500 trips to 10,000 flowers within four miles of the hive.
- Bees use honey mainly to fuel their wing muscles and feed the hive. Flying at up to 22mph, fuel consumption is 7 million miles per gallon.

*This article was included in the June 2005 newsletter edited by  
Trevor Weatherhead.*

## Queensland Beekeepers Association 2020 AGM & State Conference

**When:** Queensland  
Beekeepers Association  
2020 AGM & State  
Conference 11 Jun  
2020 12 Jun 2020

**Where:** Oaks Oasis  
Resort Caloundra,  
Queensland Australia



## BEE BIOSECURITY PUBLIC TALKS SERIES

Rebecca Laws has a series of upcoming talks on Bee Biosecurity. They are open to the public and are free. The schedule of topics include –

Tuesday 26 May 7pm	Bee Brood Diseases
Tuesday 9 June 7pm	Mites & External Parasites
Tuesday 23 June 7pm	How to Submit Samples for Disease Testing
Tuesday 7 July 7pm	The Honeybee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice

Talks will be followed by a live Q and A session. You can ask questions on the night or email them to Rebecca in advance at [Rebecca.Laws@daf.qldgov.au](mailto:Rebecca.Laws@daf.qldgov.au)

For people not available on the above nights the talks will be taped and available to those who register through the registration links. For further information on Bee Biosecurity visit the Department of Agricultural and Fisheries Website.

### Varroa Jacobsoni on Asian Bees in Townsville

On 16 and 23 April the wings of Asian bees were found in the pellets from rainbow bee eaters in the port of Townsville. This was part of the routine collection under the National Varroa Mite Eradication Program.

On 28 April a nest of Asian bees was found in the port area. The nest was estimated at between 2 and 3 months old. There were 2950 bees, no drones or drone comb and Varroa Mites. Formal identification of the mites has been undertaken by CSIRO in Canberra and the Dept of Agriculture and Fisheries Plant Biosecurity Laboratory in Brisbane and varroa Jacobsoni confirmed.

Testing for slow paralysis virus and deformed wing virus by CSIRO in Canberra gave negative results.

Continuing surveillance has not shown any more bee wings in bee eater pellets or Asian bees. It was good it was found so soon. There is no evidence that it swarmed.

Thanks to the Staff at Townsville for their swift actions in detecting the nest.

## Queensland Agricultural Shows 2020

<u>Marburg</u>	<u>CANCELLED</u>	<u><a href="http://www.marburgshow.com.au">www.marburgshow.com.au</a></u>
<u>Ipswich</u>	<u>CANCELLED</u>	<u><a href="http://www.ipswichshow.com.au">www.ipswichshow.com.au</a></u>
<u>Esk</u>	<u>CANCELLED</u>	<u><a href="http://www.eskshow.com.au">www.eskshow.com.au</a></u>
<u>Boonah</u>	<u>CANCELLED</u>	<u><a href="http://www.boonahshowsociety.org.au">www.boonahshowsociety.org.au</a></u>
<u>Toogoolawah</u>	<u>CANCELLED</u>	<u><a href="http://www.toogoolawahshowsociety.org.au">www.toogoolawahshowsociety.org.au</a></u>
<u>Lowood</u>	<u>CANCELLED</u>	<u><a href="http://www.lowwoodshowsociety.com.au">www.lowwoodshowsociety.com.au</a></u>
<u>Kalbar</u>	<u>CANCELLED</u>	<u><a href="http://www.kalbarshow.net.au">www.kalbarshow.net.au</a></u>
<u>Rosewood</u>	<u>CANCELLED</u>	<u><a href="http://www.rosewoodshow.com">www.rosewoodshow.com</a></u>
<u>Redcliffe</u>	<u>CANCELLED</u>	<u><a href="http://www.redcliffeshow.org.au">www.redcliffeshow.org.au</a></u>
<u>EKKA</u>	<u>CANCELLED</u>	<u><a href="http://www.ekka.com.au">www.ekka.com.au</a></u>

### Flora - JUNE

In June we should be seeing Broad Leaved Ironbark, Mountain Coolibah, Dogwood, Paper Barked Tea Tree, White Box, Yapunyah, Blue Gum, Spotted Gum and Swamp Messmate.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### Committee Meeting

**CANCELLED** – New date TBA

### 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.

Items for purchase or hire are only available to club members

### **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.

Club Nucs will be 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](mailto: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.



**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

### **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. Peter Anderson at Forestdale has one of them. Phone: 3800 3562. Phil Geeves at Blackstone has the other one. Phone: 0409 485 447

## Join or Renew Your Membership



**Membership Fees for the 2020 - 21 year can be paid now.**

Please see **Bec Hendry** at the next meeting to pay your annual fees.

Membership is \$25.00 for single and \$30.00 for a family membership.

If you wish to pay by direct deposit, please deposit the fee into the Club's bank account.

Bank of Qld

BSB: 124053

Account No: 10278864

Please put your surname in the reference area.

I&WMBA COMMITTEE 2019-2020			
Patron	Norm Hinton		
President	Phil Geeves	0409 485 447	pwgeeves@tpg.com.au
Vice President	George Pallot	07 3202 8332	riverbee@bigpond.net.au
Secretary	Noela Geeves	07 3281 4165	beelady61@hotmail.com
Assistant Secretary	Mike Trott	07 5464 1949	sentosabee@gmail.com
Committee	Phil Dunlop	07 5465 1919	phildunlop59@outlook.com
Treasurer	Bec Hendry	0408 878 103	bec@hendryfamily.net
Committee	Grahame Yates	07 3288 8238	NONE
Committee	Shane O'Reilly	07 5464 6138	lessshane@skymesh.com.au
Committee	Phil Corbett	0419 196 330	dragun@abclass.com.au
Newsletter & Website	Wayne & Kristy Clark	0400 401 675	iwmba.editor@gmail.com

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