



Official Newsletter of the Ipswich & West Moreton Beekeepers Association Inc

President's Report Feb 2016

The committee and myself welcome you all back to another year of beekeeping. We hope it will be a rewarding and fulfilling one for you. We have a busy schedule to start the year off with our monthly meeting and packing of honey bottles in February. March will see our Annual Club Honey Competition and our Annual Field Day. All dates are in this newsletter. I would like to take the opportunity to encourage all members to enter our Club honey competition-it's a great way to support the club and also to gain an experience of entering these types of competitions with your honey. Our field day at Peak Crossing State School last year was well attended however it was a little disappointing to see how few of our newer members attended. So please I do urge our newer members to come along and it's such an interesting and informative day. There is always so much to learn about keeping bees. Lastly I would ask all new members to please ensure we have your email address to send out the newsletter to you. We also ask that new members attend the meetings to ensure that they collect their membership kit. This will ensure that postage costs are kept to a minimum.

*Cheers for now.
Benita Ironside*

I&WMBA Committee 2015

Patron	Norm Hinton	
President	Benita Ironside	07 3201 0397
Vice President	George Pallot	07 3202 8332
Secretary	Noela Geeves	07 3281 4165
Treasurer	Mark Meerwald	0410 658 603
Committee	Phil Geeves	07 3282 3989
Committee	Beryl Salmond	07 3281 7613
Committee	Grahame Yates	07 3288 8238
Committee	Kellie Round	0407 114 513

Dates to Remember

Club meeting 2nd February
 Committee meeting 8th February
 Next Club meeting 1st March
 2016 Club Field Day 6th March



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Club Meetings

The meetings of the Ipswich and West Moreton Beekeepers Association are held on the first Tuesday of each month (**except January**) at the W.G. Hayden Humanities Centre, Cnr. South and Nicholas Streets, Ipswich commencing at 7.30pm. **All welcome.**

Club Registration

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

Club events are on the website calendar at <http://www.honey.org.au>

Club Meeting – 1st March

This meeting will include the club's annual honey competition. If you are extracting honey put some aside and enter the competition. The 500g glass competition bottles will be available at the February meeting. If you are new to beekeeping and unsure of how to go about it just chat to one of our more experienced members.

Honey Competition schedule for March meeting

- Members only need to supply 1 bottle for each entry.
- Members can enter as many bottles in each class as they like as long as they come from different flora/apiaries.
- All entries to be presented in standard 500g bottles with white lids.
- All entries must be from the exhibitor's own apiaries.

The following are the Classes that members can enter:-

1. Light Honey.
2. Golden Honey.
3. Dark Honey.
4. Beeswax – block of beeswax – min 500g up to 1Kg.

Queens

Queens will be available for members in March - pick up dates are Saturday 5th March and Saturday 27th March. Please see Kellie at the February Meeting and order your Queens. More details on cost etc; at the February meeting. All Queens must be paid for at the March meeting.

Show Dates for 2016

The show schedule is now on our website notice board and in the website calendar.

Goto; <http://www.honey.org.au/index.php/upcoming-events>

Entry forms and schedules are available from each shows website. I noticed when setting up this list a couple of them are not yet up to date with their information for 2016. The Marburg site was down altogether at the time of printing this.

Marburg	6th to 7th May	www.marburgshow.com.au
Boonah	27th to 28th May	www.boonahshowsociety.org.au
Ipswich	13th to 15th May	www.ipswichshow.com.au
Esk	20th to 21st May	www.eskshow.com.au
Toogoolawah	3rd to 4th June	www.toogoolawahshowsociety.org.au
Lowood	10th to 11th June	www.lowoodshowsociety.com.au
Kalbar	17th to 18th June	www.kalbarshow.net.au
Rosewood	24th to 26th June	www.rosewoodshow.com
Redcliffe	24th to 26th June	www.redcliffeshow.org.au
Ekka	5th to 14th August	www.ekka.com.au
Beaudesert	2nd to 3rd September	www.beaudesertshow.org.au

Packing Bottles

Another packing day is planned for Friday 5th February from 9.00 am at Rod and Karen Palmer's. Morning tea supplied afterwards.

Late Result

In our last newsletter we omitted the results for Alan Dunbar at the Gold Coast Field Day. Alan won 2 firsts. Well done, and apologies for omitting your results.

Club Field Day 2016

The Club's next Field Day is on Sunday 6th March at Peak Crossing State School. Please write this date in your diary and keep the day free. As always there is a lot of work in setting up for the day as well as cleaning up at the end of the day so remember "many hands make light work".

Honey competition schedule for the inter-club trophy - Field day – Sunday 6th March

Members only need to supply 1 bottle for each entry. One entry per Member for each class. All entries to be presented in standard 500g bottles with white lids. All entries must be from the exhibitor's own apiary.

The following are the Classes that Members can enter:-

1. Light Honey.
2. Golden Honey.
3. Dark Honey.
4. Comb Section in Honey.
5. Creamed Honey.
6. Granulated Honey - Fine.
7. Granulated Honey – Coarse.
8. Beeswax – block of beeswax – min 500g
9. Frame of Honey.
10. Heaviest Frame of honey.
11. Biscuit Recipe.
12. Cake (muffin) Recipe.

Flora. In January & February

We should be seeing Blue Heliotrope, Brush Box, Carpet Weed, Flat Weed, River Coolibah, Molly Red Box, Pumpkin, Red, Stringy-bark, Silver-Leafed Ironbark, Brown Bloodwood, Brown Box, Gum-top Box, Grey Gum, River Red, Gum, Pink Bloodwood, Swamp Mahogany, Turnip Weed and Black-butt.

Bee Pics

Trevor Nardi's new playroom.

Although not quite finished it's operational and going to run off an OFF GRID SOLAR SYSTEM.

Also installed is a cold room to store frames etc. Just don't ask him what it cost to do it.



Shoppers were forced to flee a branch of Topshop after a swarm of bees began nesting on the shop's front in the middle of central London.

The bees targeted a discount sign on the window of Topshop in Victoria Street, turning the fashion store display into a carpet of insects and sending shoppers running for cover.

Crowds gathered in London to take pictures of the unusual sight. Luckily, Tony Mann, a project manager at nearby John Lewis and a trained bee keeper was on hand to provide assistance and help smoke the European honeybee colony out.

Regular Items

Library Notice

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.

Support those who support you.

Our club has been very fortunate to benefit from the generosity of both Noel Hutchinson of Quality Beekeeping Supplies (3376 5404) and Rod Palmer at C.B. Palmer and Co (0417 796 257). Please remember these very good friends when you require Apiary supplies. Also don't forget that should you require troughs to make your own beetle trap bottom boards Lou Uljarevic (07 5465 8130) still has them available. As always many thanks also to Councillor Bruce Casos for photocopying our newsletter.

Wiring Board

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 continued thanks to Noel Scholz for these items.



Extracting van for hire

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 (members only)

Club Hand Extractor

The club has purchased a (3 basket) hand extractor to hire out to the members who only have a small number of frames to extract. To hire the extractor members should book and pay at the Club meeting prior to picking it up. A \$50.00 deposit is required and the cost is \$10.00 per day for a max of 7 days. Contact Peter Anderson on 3800 3562 regarding your bookings. The extractor must be returned clean. An electric knife will go out with the extractor.

February meeting

Guest speaker is Noel Scholz speaking about all the different small hive beetle traps that are around.

How I started in Bees.

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

- February - Christopher Billing.
- March - Brad Beikoff.

Committee Meeting

The next scheduled committee meeting will be held on the 8th February

Supper Roster

- February - Lloyd Hancock, Richard & Neryl Hadgraft
- March - Annette & John Isager & Geoff James

Room Set Up

- February - Glen Woodford
- March - Ian Workman



Club Notices

Honey Buckets, Bottles and Jars



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 \$6.00 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.

Apithor beetle traps

The club currently has stock of beetle traps. They will be available from Noela at the next meeting at the cost of \$6.00 each. If you need large numbers of these please advise Noela beforehand.

Please note: The club does not stock or supply items other than the items above.

Beeswax wanted

Rod Palmer is interested in buying beeswax, any quantity, small or large. See Rod or Karen at the Club meeting or phone Rod to discuss. Business hours ph. 3495 7095 or 0417 796 257 or email rod@honeybee.com.au

Also, Quality Beekeeping Supplies are in need of wax and are keen to purchase any stock you may have. Contact Quality Beekeeping Supplies on 3376 5404.

YouTube Video

Those of you who attended the practical session on the 8th November would have seen me making a video of Phil Geeves inspecting and re-queening a hive. You can now watch the video on youtube, hope you like it.

go to: <https://youtu.be/8Y0E9e1-SE0>

Cheers Phil Corbett.

Did you Know?

European honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) have been present in Australia for about 190 years, but their distribution and abundance has increased dramatically over the last 80 years. The actual number of feral colonies is unknown but they are patchily distributed being least abundant, if not absent, from alpine areas and inland areas away from water. European honey bees visit the flowers of at least 200 Australian plant genera and interact with a wide diversity of native flower-visiting animals.

Feral European honey bees may out compete native fauna for floral resources, may disrupt natural pollination processes and may displace endemic wildlife from tree hollows. However, there is insufficient research about interactions between European honey bees and Australian biota to fully describe their impacts.

Managed hives of European honey bees form the basis of an industry that provides significant crop pollination services around Australia. Pollination services and the production of honey and associated bee products were estimated by the House of Representatives Inquiry into the Future Development of the Australian Honey Bee Industry as between \$4 and \$6 billion in 2008.

Recipes for Club Field Day

Honey Shortbread

225grams butter, softened
50grams honey, warmed to soften
1 cup icing sugar
2 +1/2 cups plain flour
60 grams cornflour
1 teaspoon vanilla essence.
Castor sugar to sprinkle

Preheat the oven to 150C.

Cream the butter, honey and icing sugar.

Gradually add the flour, cornflour and the vanilla and mix until well combined.

Roll out and cut into bars. Sprinkle with castor sugar for a crisp finish.

Bake for 20 to 30 minutes until only just colouring on the edges.

Cool on baking trays for 5 minutes before transferring to cooling racks.

Low fat Pear & Ginger Muffins

200 grams comb Honey
2 large Eggs
1 ½ cups SR Flour
1 ½ Pears, peeled & diced
2 tablespoons Diced Preserved Ginger
Icing Sugar to dust

This recipe uses comb honey which, when baked, produces a moist muffin without the use of fat. The wax emulsifies in the batter. Humans don't digest beeswax, so it's an inert lipid in our system.

Method: Preheat oven to 180C. Place the comb honey and eggs in a bowl and roughly mash with a fork. Combine lightly with the flour, and then fold in the pears and half the ginger.

Place in well-greased non-stick muffin tins. Top with remaining ginger pieces and bake for approx. 20 minutes until just cooked through and lightly golden. Dust with icing sugar.

Makes 12 muffins.

Reference: Maureen Maxwell 'Honey, Bees Online Recipe Collection'.

Prehistoric beekeepers



Humans have been exploiting honeybees for almost 9,000 years, according to archaeological evidence. Traces of beeswax found on ancient pottery from Europe, the Near East and North Africa suggest the first farmers kept bees. The research, published in *Nature*, shows our links with the honeybee date back to the dawn of agriculture. Prehistoric people may have domesticated wild bees or gathered honey and wax for medicines and food.

Prof Richard Evershed of Bristol University, one of the lead scientists on the study, said: "We've got the earliest evidence for man's association with the honeybee.

"Man is collecting the beeswax and the honey and perhaps even domesticating them."

The honeybee has been part of human culture for centuries, appearing in cave paintings depicting honeycombs, swarms of bees and honey collecting. However, there has been little direct evidence of when and where ancient people began harvesting honey and wax from the insects. In the past sweet foods were very hard to find and it is clear from our study that the earliest farmers in Europe had a keen interest in exploiting the valuable products of the honeybee. International scientists examined over 6,000 pottery vessels to piece together a map of the honeybee at a time when the world had just emerged from the last Ice Age about 10,000 years ago. Lifestyles were shifting from hunter-gathering towards growing the first crops and keeping animals for meat, milk and skin.

The oldest evidence for human links with the honeybee, dating back almost 9,000 years, was found in what is now Turkey. By a few thousand years later, beeswax was detected across the Balkan peninsula, including Greece, Romania, Serbia, and then at sites occupied by early farmers in Central Europe. The first evidence for the use of bees in North Africa was also found around the same time.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-34749846>

Thanks To Ann & Lloyd Hancock for this one.

The power of bee semen

Honey isn't the only powerfully anti-microbial fluid bees are capable of producing, with new research revealing the seminal fluid of male honey bees can destroy the fungal spores of one of the most wide-spread bee pathogens.

The fungal pathogen *Nosema apis* is frequently found in bee colonies, and when hives come under stress, from bad weather or hunger, it can spread, leading to complete colony collapse. While the pathogen can be transmitted among infected bees, through bodily contact or faecal matter, it was recently discovered the pathogen could be sexually transmitted as well, leading to concerns about the damage it could do to breeding programs. But in a new study, scientists at the University of Western Australia's Centre for Integrative Bee Research (CIBR) discovered the seminal fluid of male bees is capable of destroying the fungal spores in two ways.

They found both a protein that caused the *Nosema* spore to germinate prematurely preventing infection of the queen bee, and a small molecule that could kill the spore outright. Separate research by team members also identified the *Nosema* spores in the honeybee semen. "Ejaculation is fatal for the male honeybee causing major trauma and tissue damage and allowing contamination by the spores," Dr Baer said.

The new research used fluorescent dyes to distinguish between live and dead spores, which allowed the authors to quantify what effect the semen had on the spores.

"We found as soon as you present seminal fluid to these spores the spores are killed and the exciting thing is they're killed at a very high proportion," Dr Baer said.

However, he said it was unknown whether bees exposed to the fungus elsewhere in the world have the same antimicrobial molecules in their immune system as the Australian-bred bees.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-01-20/new-study-reveals-disease-fighting-properties-of-bee-semen/7100104>

Thanks to Dimitri and others for this one.