



honey elements

The FLOW



***The Official Newsletter of
The Southern Beekeepers Association
(Qld) Incorporated***

The Editor:

Peter Salomon

email salomonp@bigpond.com ph.46987489

The meetings of the Southern Beekeepers Association are held on the Third Wednesday of each Month (except December) in the Dr. Price Room, No 6 Little Street commencing at 7.00 pm.

All welcome

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 15 June 2016

Welcome to the May newsletter. The warm weather is still with us (that was last week at the time of starting this letter) and bees have been swarming up till 2 weeks ago. Coolibah and narrow leaf iron-bark are flowering and giving off a bit of pollen and a lick of honey. Bees with honey stores should be ok. Mallee box was still flowering and giving off a bit of honey, but the bees were pulled off as it is notorious for flattening bees from lack of pollen. If the weather stays warm, it's not too late to do a brood inspection and place brood mats on. Not everyone agrees with using mats, but bees can overwinter extremely well on a cold site unprotected from winds. The mat is a sheet of black plastic that normally sits under the lid with a 25 mm gap all around and discourages the bees from building burr comb under the lid. It is moved to the top of the brood nest and under the excluder. The only down side is that it can sometimes collect moisture. In mid august, if it's warm enough, it goes back under the lid. In spring, a shallow super of drawn comb can be placed under the excluder to make 2 brood boxes to try and stop the bees from swarming, an alternative to splitting hives. Foundation doesn't do much because the queen needs somewhere to lay immediately. The excluder is replaced back on the single brood box and the queen shaken down once the swarming frenzy is over. The second box is full of brood and nurse bees and can be simply pulled off and placed on a bottom board with a lid and you have a new hive that can rear its own queen or a new queen introduced. If it fails, it's just a matter of reuniting the hive again. The down side of having 2 brood boxes is that you have a gummy mess of brood comb sticking the 2 boxes together and a four week cycle for all the brood to hatch out. A lot of bees get killed manipulating 2 brood boxes. Also it can take a long time to get out of having a shallow depth single hive.

Club news

- John Pollock gave a talk on winter feeding of pollen and sugar syrup. He is trialing an American idea of solid feeding dry sugar. The theory is to place a riser frame 50 mm deep under the lid. The bottom of the frame is sheeted with metal mesh sufficient for the bees to pass through. On top of this is placed tissue paper and on that is spread 3 kg's white sugar mixed with 1 ½ cups of water to make a crusty cake for the bees to chew on for the winter. John will let us know how it works. Pollen can be fed inside the hive or outside in an open feeder. The latter has the advantage that the bees won't take it if they don't need it, whereas it will go mouldy inside the hive if untouched. Disease spread in an open feeder is a question, but I have been led to believe it is not really an issue as it is with sugar syrup. Bees should not be fed more sugar syrup than they consume in 3 days. At present, 4 frame nuc's are consuming 1.25 litres of syrup in 3 days and a total of 8 nuc's are consuming 2 handfuls of Dewars pollen supplement per day. Apiaries out on the coolibah are not touching the supplement. Even though it is so dry, pollen is still coming in.

Points of interest

- Here's a prime example of the dangers of taking advice off the internet. A new beekeeper who bought a "flow" hive asked one of our members to wire up the brood box frames for wax foundation. The frames arrived at his shed, assembled with a thin piece of ply glued full length into the groove of the top bar where the top of the foundation is supposed to fit and protruding 10 mm below. I still haven't worked out the theory on that one!

- One of our members was concerned that his bees were hungry and he should be feeding his hives as bees were hanging around his stacks of bee proof stickies in the shed. There will always be bees looking for an easy pickings if they smell a bit of honey.
- Drop down entrance closers are great for shifting bees locked up, but there is always the risk of some “low life” closing them up and suffocating them just for a thrill. A way to avoid that is to have removable pieces of wood 22 mm x 10 mm (the depth of the entrance and a snug fit) at whatever length you want to close the entrance up to. They hang out about 10 mm so the shutter, if it drops down, can't trap the bees. When moving hives, they can be removed completely or pushed in flush in cool weather and the shutter dropped down. Because the bees quickly glue them in place, it takes a bit of work to free the blocks with a hive tool. I can't imagine a vandal carrying a hive tool and he will quickly be stung trying to pull the blocks out.

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER from Glen

May has been a mixed month for Southern Beekeepers.

The administration of the club is progressing well thanks to Nev (Secretary) and Trish (Treasurer). Thanks also to Peter Newman for his efforts in developing a website as it appears we are almost there.

On the beekeeping front we have had some further setbacks (as often happens with beehives). Ron Kuhn has done some valuable work in relocating the club hives at Preston to a more favourable position at that location. Unfortunately, 2 more hives were diagnosed with AFB so we are now down to just 4 hives that are not suspect at this stage. Also the 2 hives at Jondaryan have been collapsed into one due to the very weak state of one hive. Thanks to Denise Watson and Ron for this operation.

The irradiation sterilisation of the boxes and associated lids and bottoms from the previous 3 AFB infections at Preston has been completed, thanks to David Curless with assistance from Brad Coleman. These are temporarily stored at Brad's place awaiting a more permanent home along with the other club boxes at John Krause's place. It is one of my aspirations to find a more permanent home for this and other club equipment associated with managing hives close to the Preston site. I will be suggesting a possible solution at the next meeting in June.

On the financial and community interaction front, we are having some success in our participation at the Farmer's Market, which are now in the TAFE grounds near Cobb & Co. At the last 2 markets in May we have achieved total sales of about \$1,200 and about one third of this will be profit to Southern Beekeepers. I thank those (Trish and Cal McNaughton, Nev Hunt, John Krause, Andrew Turnbull and Barry Chappell) who have given up one of their Saturday mornings at these markets. I also thank those members who continue to provide products to sell at these markets. We will be looking for more honey for the next market on the 11th June, so I would welcome offers from any member who has surplus stock that they wish to sell.

These markets are not only providing a constant source of revenue to the association but they also give us and our products good public exposure.

Last Saturday (thanks to Nev and John who looked after the Market), Lois and I were able to travel up to Bell to attend and participate in the field meeting held by the Dalby sub-branch at Keith and Sarah Woodward's place. There were about 12 interested prospective beekeepers who attended and they were well tutored by Dave Hinz and Keith on the morning. I would encourage other members of the Southern Beekeepers to support the Dalby sub-branch by attending some of their meetings.

Glen

SPOTTED GUM (*Corymbia citriodora*) is one of these species that used be classed a one of the Eucalypts (*Eucalyptus maculata*). It was reclassified along with some other closely related species into the *Corymbia* genus a few years ago and as you might expect it has a number of features that closely resemble Eucalypts.

This tree is medium to large up to 40m high, with a fairly compact dark green crown, usually with a straight trunk, which make it a valuable source of hardwood timber for poles and other building uses.

The most distinguishing feature is smooth pinkish to greyish dimpled bark almost to the base, that peels in patches giving the characteristic “spotted” look. Leaves are green, fairly long (23cm) and when crushed give off a strong Eucalyptus aroma. There is a subspecies (var. *citrodora*) that has a strong lemon scented smell (lemon scented gum). Cream flowers are produced in winter in most areas from buds with short rounded caps, which lead to egg (with top cut off) shaped gum nuts.

Spotted gum is most common on stony ridges or forest country growing in association with narrow leaf or grey ironbark. It is not usually seen on the Downs proper but is quite common in other parts of south east Queensland. One local example where it is common, is west of Goombungee on the Goombungee-Kulpi Road. Flowering normally occurs between June and September, although I have seen it flowering this year in May.

Value for Beekeeping

Because of the “winter” flowering it can be a very useful species for beekeepers.

According to Blake and Roff, (1988) spotted gum “flowers early in the season and produces good quality pollen valuable for building up colonies in preparation for spring and summer honey flows”. Honey produced has a fair flavour and density, extra light to light amber in colour and granulates slowly with a coarse, brown grain.



Plate 1. Spotted Gum



Plate 2. Buds and leaves of Spotted Gum



Popular home-made entrance feeder



Custom-made pollen feeder – It has a ramp inside but the bees don't use it.

President: Glen Tucker 46155619 **Treasurer** Trish McNaughton Phone 0408 140 070
Past President: Tom Morgan Phone 46155023 **Vice President:** John Pollock Phone 46308687
Secretary: Nev Hunt Phone 46152345

Committee

Glen Bartowski - Phone: 46356007 Errol Siebuhr - Phone: 4630878

Could everyone please check if their name and phone no. is correct and email me if you want it changed?

List of Financial Members 2014

Name	Phone No
Alan and Bet Campbell	0419 671 433
Andrew Clarke	0412 993 902
Andrew Turnbull	0437878592
Ann and Tom Elliott	0421 023 293
Barb Weller	46909500
Ben and Karen Howland	0417 770 458
Bill King	4696 6449
Bradley Coleman	46155001
Brett Johnson	0418 709 306
Bruce Newton	
Brian Madeley	0429 134 490
Candy Norriss	

Chris Mc Rae	0438 173 958
Christine & Peter Cary	4666 3709
Colin McAuliffe	0412 779 289
Damian Arthur	0448 180 362
Dave Armstrong	0452 491 765
David Curless	0421 860 235
David Leddington-Hill	0409 475 715
Deborah Jones	0408 717517
Denise Watson	4632 9251
Dick Smith	0417 722313
Emma Stewart	
Errol & Doreen Siebuhr	4630 8780
Gary Hanlon	4693 7187
Gavin Vince	0437 267 472
Gilbert Bailey	0438 307 282
Glen Bartkowski	4635 6007
Gilbert Bailey	
Gerrard Arthur	
Glen Tucker	4615 5619
Guy D'mellow	0413 700 286
Hugo Labrie	46685852
Ian Hall	4696 2770
Jeremy Smith	0419 744497
Jim Reimers	46370408
Jim Shipway	0417 411 682
John Creedon	4635 2969
John James	0417 617 572
John Krause	4696 8758
John Parkin	0419 445082
Joe Galea	
John Pollock	46308687
Kym Stewart	
Keith and Rhonda Hampson	4630 5848
Lance Garcia	0449 575 615
Len Wilson	46305117
Lear Parker	
Lorraine Forman	0419 741916
Lynne Smith	
Margaret Simmons	0414 254 315
Maria Quinlan	4696 8591
Mathew Walter	
Max Day	
Mark Schulz	0429 539 207
Michael Williams	0400 980531
Nev Hunt	4615 2345
Patricia McNaughton	0408 140070

Paul Mann	0412 795 356
Peter and Sandra Simpson	0401 930 259
Peter Loch	0428 855107
Peter Newman	0448795076
Phillip Williams	4698 7489
Rachael Cameron	
Ray Andrew Clarke	
Ray Moor	4635 4558
Reg Moor	4635 4850
Rick Harper	07 4696 6176
Rob McMaster	46327395
Robert Ward	0428 614 264
Robert Rigg	46365589
Ron Kuhn	4635 8969
Ronna Sheppard	46915168
Roy Munks	0415 334 940
Russel Draper	46365765
Russell Hansen	
Sarah Gilbert	0432 146 166
Simon Joanknecht	
Stan Edwards	0407 979 252
Steve Rasmussen	4615 5080
Stewart Dorman	0419 766872
Sue Gay	
Susan Mouflih	4630 5679
Tom Morgan	0412783453
Tony Dunn	
Tony Duff	0411 095 086
Trish Mcnaughton	
Upul and Sue Wasala	041 2762273
Ursula O'Brien	0407 862 605
Vicki Sunderland	46305710
Wallina Todd	4626 8147
Wayne Hintz	0419 655938

For New Members

The Southern Beekeepers Association is a non-profit amateur beekeeping club where our members share a common interest in bees. We endeavour to help people starting out in bees and we share information from experienced hobbyist and professionals beekeepers. Members partake in outings such as trips to other clubs field days, demonstration nights in someone's shed, and trips to apiaries for hands on experience. We now have our own apiary and have planned on monthly field days for new members.

All new registered beekeepers receive a Biosecurity Manual from the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation or it can be downloaded for free from the honey bee section of the Plant Health Australia web site: www.phau.com.au.

You must have a Certificate of Registration as a Beekeeper to own a bee hive; this is arranged through Warwick DPI&F, Locked Bag 17, Warwick Q4370. It's all about controlling disease and pests in your hive. It is a good idea to carry the Biosecurity Manual with you to aid with disease identification.

The Club has demonstration enclosures at the Pioneer Museum, Highfields and also the Jondaryan Woolshed, where we have old equipment on display and conduct live bee demonstrations, as well as selling honey on event days.

Club Contacts

1. Librarian Glen Bartkowski phone 4635 6007. We have books and dvd available
2. Honey Extractor custodian John Pollock 4630 8687. The club loans it out to members who don't have their own extractor.
3. Honey court Committee, Tom (0412 783 453) and Reg Moor (4635 4850) are involved if you are thinking of entering the competition at the Honey Court, competitors get free admission to the Show. Entries are required to be presented in a standard 500g bottle with a white lid.
4. Buying of queen bees, contact Reg. We buy a couple of hundred queens every year for members to purchase. The first batch will arrive in the first week of October and weekly thereafter. Please advise Reg if you require queen bees.
5. We will no longer be stocking any more equipment except honey buckets, foundation and apithor. Denise will give us an update on prices etc.

Reference Material Members please check out the information attached to the following links:

www.beeaware.org.au

www.croplife.org.au/beeconnected

www.planthealthaustraila.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Biosecurity-Manual-for-the-Honey-Bee-Industry.pdf

These are also on the QBA website: www.qbabees.org.au