

BEE INFORMED

BAYSIDE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION INC.
REDLANDS RESEARCH FACILITY, DELANCEY STREET, CLEVELAND

MAY 2022 • ISSUE 87



MONTHLY DATES

FIELD DAY:

Gates open from **8:30am**
for a **9:00am** start.



SATURDAY 7 May 2022

CLUB MEETING:

Main gates open **7:00pm**
for a **7:30pm** start.



19 MAY 2022

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FIELD DAY CHANGE

Reminder that this month's field day will take place on **Saturday the 7th of May** to avoid clashes with Mothers Day

Hope to see you there!

Why Do Bees Have Sticky Hair?



-They use honeycombs.



PRESIDENTS REPORT

FROM SHONA MCKENZIE

Dear Members,

April was a very intense month with Easter and a string of public holidays. The weather has continued to be fickle for humans and bees alike.

The relaxing of Covid restrictions has been a welcome relief, however there still continue to be cases in the community, so please take care and remember if you are unwell stay home.

The April meeting saw two guest speakers presenting on very interesting topics. Dave Schlipalius's presentation on the importance of good beekeeping practices is a timely reminder of how fragile our bio security system is and the role each beekeeper has in monitoring bee health and maintaining vigilance against disease and pests.

The presentation from Nadine Chapman, from Sydney University, on Plan B focused on aspects of beekeeping that I have never given a lot of thought to. The need to improve the efficiency of beekeeping, by focusing on improving the genetics of the bees and improving traits such as honey production. Certainly bee breeders have been doing this for years but in the face of pressures on pollinators and the changing climate it is vital to quantify this information to give bees and beekeepers the best chance in the future. Ray Goldsworthy and Jeff Owen attended the one day session on the Friday after our meeting so I am looking forward to their feedback.

Our next meeting is the day before international bee day so come to the meeting in your best bee themed outfits.

Shona

USEFUL LINKS FROM THE MARCH MEETING

Register your Hive:

[https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/niche-industries/beekeeping/hive-registration#:~:text=The%20first%20HIN%20on%20a,hand%20corner%20\(position%20202\).](https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/niche-industries/beekeeping/hive-registration#:~:text=The%20first%20HIN%20on%20a,hand%20corner%20(position%20202).)

Registerable pests and diseases:

https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/377818/RBE-01-Registerable-biosecurity-entity-application-bees.pdf

Plan Bee Breeding Manual:

<https://www.agrifutures.com.au/wp-content/uploads/PlanBeeBreedingManual-002.pdf>

FIELD DAY REPORT

APRIL 10 2022

FROM ANDREW WILSON

On Sunday we had 15 members and 1 visitor attend the April field day. A total of 43 frames were taken out on the day with a total of 84kg of honey extracted.

Thanks to Shona for organising the apithor traps, we were able to insert and use the traps in hives where appropriate on the day. Thanks also goes to Ron and Barry for reminding us of the appropriate method of installation of these traps.

During the morning briefing we observed one of the nucleus hives swarm into one of the trees in the area only for them to return towards the end of the day. (obviously they didn't like the briefing).

It is reminded to all individuals attending the field days that appropriate clothing is essential. Enclosed shoes, thick socks, long sleeve shirts without openings that allow bees in, preferably use of an appropriate bee suit.

The next field day will be **Saturday 7th of May** as to avoid clashes with mothers day, we are moving to winter times so the gates open from **8:30am – 9:00am**, we would love to see you all there.

Hive manager,

Andrew Wilson

Swarm in tree



THE COMPOST HIVE

FROM ANDREW WILSON

On the 16th of April I responded to a request that was made through our club by a lady in Birkdale about a beehive in her compost bin. On initial questioning the family had been away for five years and when they had returned they noticed that bees had taken up residence in their compost bin. As they were not causing a problem she left them there, since then she had decided to sell her property and had asked for the bees to be removed.

With this information I dropped by to see what I was up against. On initial inspection the bees were accessing a tiny gap just under the lid and there was a small hole in the back of the compost bin. The big indicator of the hives size was the fact that the top of the bin was concave under the weight of comb that was attached to the lid. Confirming that this was an established hive I arranged to come over the next morning to remove the hive.

Having the afternoon to prepare my battle plan and prepare my equipment for a big day, I arrived early in the morning to set up and I began. The first job was to remove the lid. After using my hive tool to lever part of the lid open I could see the mass of comb inside. After much effort I was able to lift the lid off revealing the full extent of what was inside. Unfortunately some of the comb broke off and fell however it was discovered that the compost was completely full.

I spent the next few hours cutting out comb and spooning handfuls of bees into a preprepared langstroth box that I had setup with foundation and a couple of frames of honey. When I finally reached the brood section on the back wall (indicated on the photo) I found the queen who I promptly captured and placed her into their new home.

After a while cleaning out the last of the comb from the bin and doing another trip home to fetch another box (super) to add to the hive I was able to transfer the colony successfully. I completely finished at about 3:00pm that afternoon and was absolutely tired, but glad to be able to help the bees and the homeowner.



Andrew Wilson



WAX WORKS PART 2

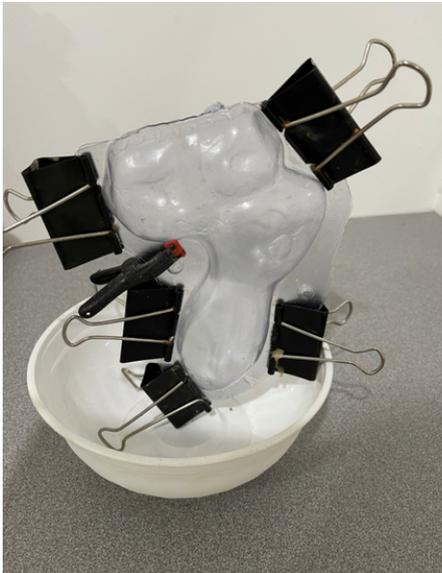
FROM BRIDGET BARBER

Continued from last months installment...

Once you have filtered your wax, what do you do with it? The first thing perhaps that people think of is to make beeswax candles. Beeswax candles purify the air by producing negative ions that reduce dust and mould in the air so what could go wrong? They also have a golden glow and a long burn time. Pure beeswax candles are not easy to make but do not be tempted to mix your beeswax with other oils like coconut oil it destroys the whole natural essence of your candle. You can also colour your wax or scent it with essential oils like cinnamon but I prefer to retain the natural character of the beeswax and the faint scent of honey.

Wax

For a candle to burn well the wax must be really pure and clean. Even so wax that looks clean can still contain minute bits of debris. When the candle burns debris or remaining honey will cause the candle to burn unevenly.



Plastic Mould



Wicks and Silicone Moulds that have been adapted

Moulds and containers

There are different ways to shape your candle by using the dipping process, moulds or containers. I started using plastic moulds that come in two parts which have to be joined together (see photo). This is difficult and will always leave a line around the joins. The mould will have to be supported in a container of either sand or pebbles to keep it upright. It's messy and does not give good results.

So I changed to silicone moulds. These are more expensive but give a much better result. Even so there are different qualities of silicone moulds. The best are made of a fairly robust silicone and keep their shape and are usually beige in colour. Less strong and moulds are have thinner softer walls and are often blue or pink in colour. They are good but do not last as long but usually cheaper. Etsy has a huge range of moulds but you need to be careful when you buy as you can pay the more from some suppliers for the same mould and be careful to get the right size. Quality Bee Supplies in Sumner Park, Rod and Karen Palmer in Ipswich and All Australian Candlemaking all have smaller ranges of Silicone moulds.

It can be difficult to extract the candle from the mould so in the end I cut a slit part way down the side of the mould. The silicone clings to itself when put together again so does not leave an unsightly mark. I also put elastic bands round the outside so the wax does not leak. You need a needle to pull the wick through the tiny hole at the bottom of the mould and then you need to suspend with a rod across the top of the mould to hold it in place in the centre of the candle.

(continued on next page...)

BEE NEWS

Law allowing honey bees to stay in Queensland's national parks set to pass

From Kallee Buchanan and Jennifer Nichols, ABC News

Beekeepers and farmers are relieved a bill extending honey bee access to national parks is set to pass, but conservationists say they are a "threat to wildlife"

Read the full article here:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2022-04-14/queensland-bee-bill-for-national-parks-use-to-pass-parliament/100987402>

Beekeepers now face cane toad invasion in wake of Northern Rivers floods

From Kim Honan, ABC News

Cane toads are invading damaged sites across the NSW Northern Rivers in search of the destructive small hive bee

Read the full article here:

https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2022-04-22/cane-toad-invasion-of-bee-hives-flooded-nsw-northern-rivers/100992110?utm_campaign=abc_news_web&utm_content=link&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_source=abc_news_web

AUGUST MEETING

Ray is organising a presentation on Swarming for the August meeting and would like to invite others to join in with providing their experiences, slides etc.

NOTICES

4TH AUSTRALIAN BEE CONGRESS

8-11 June 2022, Sydney

More information:

<https://australianbeecongress.com.au>

Queensland Beekeepers' Association Inc.

OPEN DAY

Saturday 25th June 2022

Warwick QLD
Location: Condamine Apiaries, Wheatvale via Warwick

Entry gates open 8.30am

Beekeeping Trade suppliers are onsite for the day, offering demonstrations and product sales.

Expert Panels and Specialist Presentations are offered throughout the day.

Food & Drinks available for purchase at the event.

Check out our Facebook page for more information:
<https://www.facebook.com/qldbeekeepersassociation>

For trade exhibit information contact Paul Reid via email: skyscreamer17@gmail.com

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Please feel free to contact me with anything you'd like to see in future issues :)

**CLUB EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE
FOR HIRE:**

- 2 Frame Honey Extractor
- Wax Melter
- Frame Display Unit hire
- Electric DeCapping Knife
- Ten Frame Jig
 - (holds frames in place for faster nailing)



ALSO FOR SALE:

- Honey containers