Our Last Meeting... Sat 27th Aug.

Thank you to the hosts of our last meeting, Charles & Coleen Dutoit. It was pleasing to see so many new faces sprinkled amongst the “usual suspects”. Sadly the weather conspired to keep us away from the hives as rain was very much the order of the day. BHTW presentations were made, Biosecurity Legislation was discussed, an AFB experienced was shared and we even had a demonstration of a new adrenaline auto injector (Anapen) for the emergency treatment of acute allergic anaphylaxis. Fellowship, tips & tricks and general discussions rounded out the day.

Threat to Honey Spreads
SMH September 13, 2011

Bee-keepers from around Australia are paying their own way to live in hostels in Cairns so they can track swarms of the insidious Asian bee, an unwanted immigrant that came ashore on board a yacht in Cairns in 2007. When the federal government pulled the pin on an eradication program earlier this year, the honey industry swung into action, calling on its members to go north and protect the nation.

If nothing is done, the Asian bee could spread across mainland Australia within 10 to 20 years, says a scientist at the CSIRO, Denis Anderson. "Unaided, it travels 100 kilometres a year," Anderson says. "It's already been discovered in Innisfail. It's a bee that is known to hitch rides. That's how it got here. It's been found swarming in the toolboxes of trucks."
The main problem with Asian honey bees is they don't store a lot of honey and so when the nectar runs out in nearby flowers, they fly up to 10 kilometres to find a new source. When Asian bees meet populations of European honey bees, they compete with them for nectar and come out on top.

A 2010 federal government report says about "65 per cent of agricultural production in Australia depends on pollination by European honey bees". Crops such as almonds, apples, cucumbers and blueberries are almost entirely dependent on European honey bees for pollination. They also pollinate canola, onions, carrots and even the clover and lucerne eaten by sheep and cattle.

The average age of Australian bee-keepers is 54. They have an annual income of less than $16,000 from honey. There are fewer of them every year.

These are the volunteers protecting us against the Asian honey bee.

Our Next Meeting...
The Northern Great Barrier Reef, October 29th 2011

Our next meeting will be at Rob Goodwin’s 52 Whites Rd. Landsborough and the demonstration on the day (weather permitting) will be “Establishing a Nucleus Hive”...for Nambour State High School. Some queen cells will also be available.

One of the founding aims of the SCBG is to share knowledge of beekeeping and assist others getting started in the craft. This meeting will provide the opportunity for those starting off with bees to look inside a couple of hives and get elbow deep in bees. Remember to bring your bee veils.

Meeting time: 9.30am for a 10.00am start

Agenda Items:
- Participation at Open Garden 22nd & 23rd October
- Guest Speaker for Xmas Meeting?
- AFB testing containers and Absorbacide, an insecticide grade diatomite, will be available at this meeting. Your club encourages AFB tests for the purpose of disease investigation.

Dates to Remember:

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<tr>
<th>Meeting</th>
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<tr>
<td>September Meeting</td>
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<td>October Meeting</td>
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<td>November Meeting</td>
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<td>(Xmas Meeting)</td>
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<td>(Landsborough Hotel)</td>
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<td>There is no December Meeting</td>
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<td>January Meeting</td>
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He who deals with honey, will surely lick his fingers” (Turkish Proverb)
Bee Sting Cake

Bienenstich or “Bee sting cake” is a German dessert made of a sweet yeast dough with a baked-on topping of caramelized almonds and filled with a vanilla custard, butter cream or cream. The cake may have earned its name from its honey topping: according to one legend, a bee was attracted to it, and the baker who invented the cake was stung. But I prefer this version of the naming legend…German bakers from the 15th century lobbed beehives at raiders from a neighboring village, successfully repelling them, and celebrated later by baking a version of this cake named after their efforts.

Recipes can be found at…..

http://germanfood.about.com/od/baking/r/Bienenstich_Cake.htm

Do a dance for me, RoboBee

New Scientist
19 August 2011  Michael Marshall

IT SMELLS, it buzzes, it even dances like a honeybee. in a field in Germany, RoboBee is making its first attempts at speaking to the insects in their own language.

Bees are famous for communicating using the waggle dance - walking forward while rapidly vibrating their rear. In the 1940s, biologist Karl von Frisch realised that the length and angle of the dance correlated with the distance and direction of the food source the bee had just visited. Since then, most apiologists have held that dancers tell their fellows where to find food (New Scientist, 19 September 2009, P 40).

Now Tim Landgraf of the Free University of Berlin in Germany and colleagues have programmed their foam RoboBee, to mimic the dance. RoboBee is stuck to the end of a rod attached to a computer, which determines its "dance" moves. The rod is also connected to a belt which makes it vibrate. Like a real bee, it can spin, buzz its wings, carry scents and droplets of sugar water, and give off heat.

To program RoboBee, Landgraf took high-speed video of log real waggle dances, and put the footage through software that analysed the dances in detail (PLoS One, DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0021354). The outcome is "the most detailed description so far of the waggle dance", says Christoph Gruter of the University of Sussex in Brighton, UK, who was not involved in the study.

What do real bees think of RoboBee's skills? In a field outside Berlin, Landgraf trained groups of honeybees to use a feeder, which he then closed. The bees stopped foraging and stayed in their hives. There they met RoboBee, which had been programmed with Landgraf's best guess at a waggle dance pointing to another feeder, which the bees had never visited.

The bees responded by leaving the hive, but returned to their old feeders. For now, it looks like RoboBee persuaded them to forage, but failed to communicate where to go. The team is confident RoboBee didn't just scare away the foragers, as honeybees respond to intruders by stinging, not fleeing.

Bees don't always pay attention to the waggle dance, says Grater. He recently showed that bees become more responsive to other's waggle dances if their private food sources have dried up (Animal Behaviour, DOI: 10.1016/j.anbehav.2011.01.014). This suggests bee communication is even more sophisticated than van Frisch thought: the bees' responses depend on the circumstances.

Lars Chittka of Queen Mary, University of London says previous attempts to make waggle dancing robots have not panned out, but he is keen to see how RoboBee's more sophisticated dancing faces. Its Achilles heel, though, may be a lack of legs: some studies suggest there is a tap-dance element to the dance.

(Thanks Merv)
**CLASSIFIEDS: Wanted to Buy, Sell or Swap**

Caveat emptor...remembering that sometimes we all need a helping hand especially when starting off with bees. Please keep in mind that all equipment offered for sale should be “clean” and hives free of disease.

**For Sale:** On Behalf of Clarie Blissner Penders, 2 frame, metal, hand turned extractor with metal gears (Good Condition) $200.00

Phone Les for more detail or to make an offer

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**You know you're a beekeeper when...**

- You check out all the honey labels and prices at the local farmers market and cross check at the supermarket.
- Your friends and neighbors think you are the answer to every swarm and bees-in-the-wall problem.
- There is honey on the steering wheel of your vehicle and propolis on the bottom of your boots.
- You are called "the Bee Man," or "the Bee Lady" by a lot of people who don't know your name.
- You come home smelling like a camp fire, and you haven't been camping.
- You don't mow the lawn because the bees are working the weeds.
- The school calls to ask that you never again let your child take a drone tied with a thread to school for show and tell.
- You never stop marveling at these wonderful creatures.

You are invited to add to this list...email paul@beachaccess.com.au

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**Beekeeping Interview:**

An hysterical sketch with John Cleese as a beekeeping expert and Rowan Atkinson as a terrible television show host. Recorded live in 1981.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGFz9gt0-Fc

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**Honey Sauce** (for ice cream?)

1 cup water
half cup honey,
2 tbsp butter.
1 tsp orange, lime, mandarin or lemon zest,
1 tbsp corn flour.
Mix cornflour with water. Add other ingredients. Simmer till it’s smooth and thick, stirring all the time. Serve hot or cold.

(Thanks Jackie French)

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**Liberaly**

There is an extensive range of books on all aspects of beekeeping that can be borrowed from the SCBG library.

Please see our librarian Peter McMahon at our next meeting.

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**Left at Last Meeting:**

Are you missing....a large cake Platter or One Bee Veil (with lots of flowers on it). Coleen will bring them along to our next meeting.

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**Wanting to buy:** Hive boxes…

Ph: Gayle 040305 5774

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**Disclaimer:**

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Sunshine Coast Bee Group. The SCBG accepts no liability for the consequences of any actions taken on the basis of the information provided in this newsletter.