

# Bee Flight

Christmas Edition



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## President's Report

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Welcome to the Christmas edition of Bee Flight. Where has the year gone? Cannot believe we are about to enter the Christmas season once again.

This month has been a busy one in the Apiary for us, and I trust your bees are working well. When speaking with others it appears honey production has been a little patchy and slow to start in some areas. I hope they are all doing well by now.

We are having some very hot weather at the moment so keep an eye on your hives. If you are new to beekeeping and you see large groups of bees hanging out the front door (bearding) don't get alarmed. The conditions that lead to bearding are high temperatures, high humidity, possible overcrowding or lack of ventilation or some combination of those factors.

Ensure your bees have access to water as a hive can use over 2 litres a day in hot weather. In really hot conditions a colony will often devote all of the available field bees to the collection of water. If access to water is limited your bees may become a nuisance around stock troughs, swimming pools and dog bowls. You may want to consider cracking the lid of your hives a couple of millimetres to increase air flow on hot days.

I hope that you will all be able to attend the Christmas meeting on December the 6<sup>th</sup>. Our Christmas gift to all members attending will be no registration fee of \$2.00 at the door for this meeting!!

The committee has now agreed that the date for next year's field day will be the 12<sup>th</sup> March. Whilst it may seem a long way away we do need to start organising the event. If you have any requests, ideas or thoughts on guest speakers or topics please let the committee know.

For those who are unable to attend our December meeting, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, have a safe and happy holiday and we'll catch up with you at the February meeting. Remember there is no meeting in January.



*Phil Geeves  
Club President*

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## Club Meetings

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Our club meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month (except January)  
Venue  
W.G. Hayden Humanities Centre  
Cnr. South and Nicholas Streets,  
Ipswich 7.30pm.  
All welcome.

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## Club Registration

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

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## Dates to Remember

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Christmas Meeting - 6<sup>th</sup> December  
Next meeting - 7<sup>th</sup> February  
**No Meeting January.**  
Committee Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> January  
Club Field Day 2017 - 12<sup>th</sup> March  
Club events are on the website  
<http://www.honey.org.au>

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## Christmas Meeting

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Remember as always that husbands, wives and partners are welcome at the Christmas gathering.



We will have a short meeting and then Christmas supper and our Christmas raffle. As is customary in recent years there will be no registration fee for the Christmas meeting.

Tickets for the raffle will be available at the meeting. The tickets are \$1.00 each or 5 in a book. Prize donations for the raffle will be appreciated by the committee. The raffle will include Christmas Goodies & beekeeping equipment for prize winners to choose from.




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## Message from the editor

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*Just a quick thank you to all the members that sent me well wishes over the past month since my run in with a tractor and a fence, particularly Phil Geeves for his help and company. I am now being told I will be in plaster until after Christmas but I am optimistic of no long term issues. So, hope to be able to hobble into the December meeting...*

*Regards Phil Corbett*

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## Club Field Day 12<sup>th</sup> March 2017

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The date for our 2017 field day is Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> March. Once again we will be going to Peak Crossing School. So it's now full steam ahead to organise the event and speakers. If you have any ideas or thoughts on how to make this year's event even bigger & better than last year let us know. Finally, remember we need all hands on deck to make the day work, so volunteers will be needed for set up, manning the tables and packing away. Please put the date in your diary and keep it free. More information will be distributed as it come to hand.

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## Ron Smith Trophy

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Each year at the December meeting we award the Ron Smith Memorial Trophy to the club's most successful exhibitor. Many members will not have had the opportunity to have met Ron, or indeed know his history with the club. We respectfully acknowledge his contribution to the establishment of I&WMBA. Ron joined the Ipswich & West Moreton Beekeepers Association in October 1992 and was President of the Club for the 1996-1997 year. He helped

Noel Scholz build the demonstration cage which is still used at the local shows. During his presidency, field days were organised for the first time for the members. Ron also rewrote the Club's Constitution. Due to illness, Ron had to give up beekeeping in the late 1990s and he passed away in September 1998.

Join us at the December meeting to see who is this year's most successful exhibitor. Who knows it might be you next year.

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## Flora - December

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Blue Heliotrope, Brush Box, Carpet Weed, Flat Weed, Coolibah, Grey Ironbark, Pumpkin, Red Stringy-bark, SilverLeaved Ironbark, Narrow Leaved Grey Gum, Rusty Gum, River Red Gum, Tumbledown Gum, Yellow Box, White Clover, Hill Gum, Swamp Mahogany and White Mahogany.

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## Flow Hive

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With an ever increasing number of enquires and questions about Flow-Hive, Darryl Ryan has offered to be the contact point for flow hive in the club. Any questions or information about Flow-Hive can be sent to Darryl at [darryl.ryan@sirona.com.au](mailto:darryl.ryan@sirona.com.au) or you can call him on 0410 561 914.



## Bad weather sets back honey production in Adelaide Hills by six weeks

Honey supplies in parts of South Australia are at a low ebb after recent heavy rains delayed the emergence of blossoms.

Apiarist Crispin Boxhall, 52, who has 73 hives on his Petwood farm and neighbours' land, said the extreme rain had left many beekeepers without honey, and stocks in and around Adelaide only just recovering from the wet weather.



"We had 30 hives out on cherry trees when that weather came through. The bees didn't have many flying days because it went on so long and was so significant," he said.

"The flowers that were open during the bad rain got washed out of nectar and pollen. Bees don't have nectar to bring back to the hive so they start to consume reserves of honey they have indoors."

Little could be done, he said, apart from waiting for the flowers to return.

"We're just seeing honey on hives now, it put us back about six weeks. Without flowers, there is no nectar supply and the bees have nothing to work on."

Mr Boxhall, a former frontline soldier, who suffered from post traumatic stress disorder after serving in the war zones of Iraq and Bosnia, turned to making honey just before Christmas last year.

"There are 40-60,000 bees per hive. I want to get to about 200 within a couple of years."

Around 8200 native Australian bushes, recently planted in his paddocks, will produce Manuka honey. He said he'd already had interest in Hong Kong and Singapore.

Despite the rains, Mr Boxhall is hoping for a 3000kg honey haul this summer; mallee, bush, orange blossom and blue gum among current offerings.

A smaller output had its benefits he said. "It reinforces that the honey is fresh and real," he said. "You can't get mine on the shelves every day because seasons vary. I spin the honey and take it to the Source shops in Glenelg and Mitcham three days later. I don't store it."

Source Adelaide Advertiser <http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/>



To all the members and friends of I&WMBA  
May your Christmas Bee Merry and Bright

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## Going Organic

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There are tricks of the trade when moving any type of livestock, but shifting a group of beehives takes real finesse, and there is an art to getting all the stock on the truck.

Beekeeper Dwayne Sykes is moving a group of hives from their nest in some grasses and flowers, in the hills above Wellington in the New South Wales central.

The bees have been there for several months, fattening themselves up on native plants and the nearby canola fields.



But now it is time for them to move to an accredited organic site to produce organic honey, so they need to be loaded onto the truck for the journey.



Mr Sykes is using a forklift to load his hives, which he said had taken a lot of the backbreaking effort out of the industry.

"This makes it much less difficult. You ask any beekeeper over 50, they reckon we've got it easy," he said.

"We smoke the bees up to mask their senses, to stop them realising something unusual is happening.

"Then we just load the hives up on the truck.

"We do it right on dusk, when they're back in the hive, to make sure we leave none of them behind." Bees settle in for the night during move.

The hives are loaded with the entries pointing towards the front of the truck, which creates a stiff, cool breeze through the hive.

"They cluster up into a tight soccer ball and they stay there all night," Mr Sykes said. "This is something that has been developed over a long period of time. My father bought out Neil Peadon and he was like 'the master'.

"He was one of the first beekeepers to palletise the handling, otherwise we'd still be loading them by hand."

Mr Sykes said his father had moved to Dubbo after working with bees at Port Kembla for 25 years.

"He would do two weeks in the tugs and two weeks in the bees," he said.

"I'm a chippy [carpenter] by trade, but I just love this.

"I'd like to think my son or daughter might follow me into the business."

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-10-31/organic-bees-on-the-move-in-central-west-nsw/7980166>

*Thanks to Dimitri Markotsis for this story.*

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## Capilano and beekeeper Simon Mulvany honey dispute turns sticky

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A Supreme Court battle between a beekeeper and Australia's biggest honey producer Capilano over the safety and source of its products is becoming increasingly bitter, with both sides now suing the other.

For the past year, Victorian apiarist Simon Mulvany has waged a social media campaign against Capilano, accusing it of selling "toxic", imported honey and of using misleading labelling.

Capilano strongly denies the claims and applied for a Supreme Court order to curb the allegations, suing Mr Mulvany for damages and costs.



Mr Mulvany has now responded by lodging a defamation claim against Capilano and its chief executive officer Ben McKee over a social media post from July.

Mr Mulvany alleges untrue claims were made on Facebook about the case.

"I'm suing Capilano because the CEO Ben McKee on his Facebook page said court findings had already been found by a judge, and this wasn't true," Mr Mulvany alleged.

Mr McKee told the ABC, Capilano intended to defend its position and that Mr Mulvany's case was "simply a response to our legal action taken earlier this year".

But as news of legal and social media battle spreads, some beekeepers told the ABC they were concerned about loss of business.

The "Save the Bees Australia" Facebook page run by Mr Mulvany has carried claims that Capilano's motivated by greed to sell "poisonous" imported products in Australia. All claims have been denied by Capilano.

He also accused the company of marketing blends of Australian and imported products as purely Australian in overseas markets. These claims have not been proven.

Along with its namesake brand, Capilano Honey Limited also produces Allowrie, Smiths, Wescobee and Barnes brands, which carry labels stating they are "packed in Australia from quality local and imported products".

Read the full story at:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-11-15/capilano-beekeeper-suing-each-other-over-social-media-posts/8024150>

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## Regular Items

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### 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.

### 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. Many thanks also to Councillor Kylie Stoneman for continuing support in photocopying our newsletter.

### 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 continued 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 purchased a second hand extractor so we now have two for hire out to the 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. 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.

### 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.

### Nucleus (Nuc) Hives

As the club has limited capacity to create Nucs and demand outstrips supply, we offer them preferentially to newer members that do not have any bees. Club nucleus hives are \$85.00 each with a marked Queen, bees and 5 frames. The Nuc boxes must be returned promptly. Please see Kellie if you are interested in a Nuc, and your name will be put on our waiting list.



Kellie Round [email: malkelliem8@bigpond.com](mailto:malkelliem8@bigpond.com) Tel: 0407 114 513

### 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.



**Please keep the boxes that the 1 kg bottles come in and return them for reuse. The club does not stock or supply items other than the items mentioned.**

### December Meeting

No guest speaker at this meeting, as it is our Christmas celebration. Remember no meeting in January.



### How I started in Bees.

A five-minute talk about "How I became a Beekeeper". Our next speakers will be Jan & Stacey Krzewina in February 2017

### Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on the 16th January 2017

### Supper Roster

- December - Mark Meerwald, Neil Summerson, Mike and Eunice Trott.
- February - Kitty Van Vuuren, Glen Sutherland, Lou Uljarevic and Jon Vermeer

### Room Set up

- December - Tom Cole
- February - Matt Cooper

**Please 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.**

### Beeswax Wanted

Both Rod Palmer at CB Palmer & Co, and Noel at Quality Beekeeping Supplies are interested in buying beeswax, any quantity, small or large. See Rod or Karen at the Club meeting or phone Rod 0417 796 257 Contact Noel at Quality Beekeeping Supplies on 3376 5404.

I&WMBA Committee 2016 - 2017		
Patron	Norm Hinton	
President	Phil Geeves	07 3282 3989
Vice President	George Pallot	07 3202 8332
Secretary	Noela Geeves	07 3281 4165
Treasurer	Kellie Round	0407 114 513
Assistant Secretary	Mike Trott	07 5464 1949
Committee	Mark Meerwald	0410 658 603
Committee	Grahame Yates	07 3288 8238
Committee	Darryl Ryan	0410 561 914
Committee	Phil Corbett	0419 196 330

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