

# Bee Flight



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## President's Report

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Hi Everyone, firstly let me welcome all our new members this month. We hope you enjoy being part of our club. We now have a total of 276 members! I would like

encourage all new members to attend our meetings as regularly as possible if only to receive your members kit and say hello. I hope to see you soon. March is a big month for the club with our honey competition at the next club meeting. Even if you don't enter it is well worth coming along to watch and learn about presenting honey for competition. Remember one of the main aims of our club is to promote an awareness of honey bees in the community and honey competitions are a great way of doing that... ***So do it for the Bees!***

Our biggest and most challenging day to organise is our annual Field-day which is on this month. We really need as many people as possible to help out on the day, even if you can't stay all day an hour or so helps. Please let us know at the meeting if you are able to come along. Or give Noela a call to let her add you to the list of volunteers. Full details of the day are in this newsletter.

Starting this month we are going to have a box at the entry of the meeting room in which members can place written questions about bees or bee issues. This is intended to make the Q&A section of the meeting work a little better. Look out for it when you arrive.

Also this month Darryl Ryan has created a presence for the club on Facebook. It is still in it's early stages but it can be viewed by following the link on page 3 of this newsletter or via the links on our website. Thank to Darryl for his work so far.

*Phil Geeves  
Club President*

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## March 2017 Edition

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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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Next Club Meeting - 7<sup>th</sup> March  
Club Field Day 2017 - 12<sup>th</sup> March  
Committee Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> March  
Club events are on the website  
<http://www.honey.org.au>

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### Show Dates

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The show dates have now been published on our website and in this newsletter.

*Editor Phil Corbett*

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## March Honey Competition

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This meeting will include the club's annual honey competition. If you are extracting honey put some aside and enter the competition. If you are new to beekeeping and unsure of how to go about it, just chat to one of our more experienced members.

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 honey 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. Creamed Honey.
5. Beeswax – block of beeswax – min 500g up to 1Kg.

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## Queens

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We hope to once again have Queens available for members in March.

Proposed pick up dates are Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March and Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March.

There is no guarantee of availability as yet but if you require Queens you need to place your order with Kellie at the March meeting. More details on cost etc; as they become available. All Queens must be paid for before collection.

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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 [Redone360@hotmail.com](mailto:Redone360@hotmail.com) or you can call him on 0405133 360.

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

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The Club's next Field Day is on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> 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. Noela will have the work sheet for volunteers at the March meeting Please see page 5 for more details of volunteers needed.

**Remember**  
**"Many hands make light work".**

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## Inter-club Trophy

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### Field Day – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 500g glass competition bottles will be available at the March meeting.**

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. Block of wax yellow – min 500g.
9. Block of wax white – min 500g.
10. Frame of Honey.
11. Heaviest Frame of honey.
12. Biscuit Recipe.
13. Cake Recipe.

Recipes are in this newsletter on page 4

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## Flora - January - February

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We should be seeing Blue Heliotrope, Paper Barked Tea Tree, Molly Red Box, Pumpkin, Red Stringybark, Silver Leafed Ironbark, Brown Bloodwood, Gumtop Box, Grey Gum, Pink Bloodwood, Turnip Weed and Blackbutt.

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## Show Dates 2017

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<u>Marburg</u>	<u>12th &amp; 13th May 2017</u>	<u><a href="http://www.marburgshow.com.au">www.marburgshow.com.au</a></u>
<u>Boonah</u>	<u>2nd &amp; 3rd June 2017</u>	<u><a href="http://www.boonahshowsociety.org.au">www.boonahshowsociety.org.au</a></u>
<u>Ipswich</u>	<u>19th - 21st May 2017</u>	<u><a href="http://www.ipswichshow.com.au">www.ipswichshow.com.au</a></u>
<u>Esk</u>	<u>26th &amp; 27th May 2017</u>	<u><a href="http://www.eskshow.com.au">www.eskshow.com.au</a></u>
<u>Toogoolawah</u>	<u>9th &amp; 10th June 2017</u>	<u><a href="http://www.toogoolawahshowsociety.org.au">www.toogoolawahshowsociety.org.au</a></u>
<u>Lowood</u>	<u>16th &amp; 17th June 2017</u>	<u><a href="http://www.lowwoodshowsociety.com.au">www.lowwoodshowsociety.com.au</a></u>
<u>Kalbar</u>	<u>23rd &amp; 24th June 2017</u>	<u><a href="http://www.kalbarshow.net.au">www.kalbarshow.net.au</a></u>
<u>Rosewood</u>	<u>30th June &amp; 1st July 2017</u>	<u><a href="http://www.rosewoodshow.com">www.rosewoodshow.com</a></u>
<u>Redcliffe</u>	<u>30th June to 2nd July 2017</u>	<u><a href="http://www.redcliffeshow.org.au">www.redcliffeshow.org.au</a></u>
<u>EKKA</u>	<u>11th - 20th August 2017</u>	<u><a href="http://www.ekka.com.au">www.ekka.com.au</a></u>
<u>Beautesert</u>	<u>8th &amp; 9th September 2017</u>	<u><a href="http://www.beautesertshow.org.au">www.beautesertshow.org.au</a></u>

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## Facebook

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Following feedback from our club member survey last year we have now established a presence on Facebook for the club. The site has a code of conduct and guidelines for use which we encourage you to read if you intend to participate in the discussion. Thanks again to Darryl for getting this set up.

Follow us at:

<https://m.facebook.com/Ipswich-West-Moreton-Beekeeping-Association-Inc-1420217761343830/?ref=bookmarks>

You can also follow the links from our website.

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## Missing Club Equipment

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One of the Club's nuc boxes has not been returned to Phil Geeves. If the person who is still holding the box can contact Phil Geeves he will personally come around and collect it.

Also the wax embedder has not been returned back to Noela and has been out on loan for several months. Could the person please contact Noela.

We respectfully request that all Club equipment is returned promptly. At this point we operate on trust and members do not need to sign for loan equipment or Nucs. We would like to continue as is, but we do need members to play by the rules.

Phil & Noela's contact details are on the last page of this newsletter.

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## Field Day Recipes

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### Honey Sour Cream Tea Cake

- 125g butter
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup honey
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups Self Raising flour
- Pinch salt
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 300 ml sour cream



#### **Topping:-**

- 1/3 cup brown sugar, ½ cup chopped walnut, 2 teaspoons cinnamon, mix together.

Line a 23cm square tin with baking paper. Pre-heat oven to 180°C.

Cream butter and brown sugar, blend in honey. Beat in eggs.

Mix in flour sifted with salt alternately with lemon juice and sour cream.

Pour batter into prepared tin. Sprinkle topping over batter.

Bake 180° for 40-45 minutes.

Present whole cake for judging.

### Peanut Butter and Honey Biscuits

- 125g butter or margarine
- 1/3 cup peanut butter (smooth or chunky it does not matter)
- ½ cup sugar
- 1/3 cup honey
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1¾ cups plain flour
- 1 teaspoon soda

Heat oven to 180°C. Place baking paper onto 3 baking trays.

Cream butter or margarine and peanut butter, gradually beat in sugar and honey.

Beat in vanilla and egg then flour sifted with soda.

Place teaspoons of mixture onto the baking paper and flatten with a fork dipped in flour.

Bake 8-10 minutes. ( the mixture makes approx. 40 biscuits)

Present 8 biscuits on a plate for judging.



## Field Day - Volunteer List - *We need lots more....*

We need as many people as possible to help with the set up and running of the field day, as based on last years numbers we can expect 300 + people to turn up. This day is our biggest event in the year and promotes the importance of the bees as pollinators and food providers. The day is organised as an educational day and again this year we are organising some great guest speakers. Based on requests from last year we will, for the first time, be selling Club Honey on the day. We will also be changing our raffle structure to a "Cent Auction", to help reduce the time it takes to award prizes.

Field Day Roster - Please see Noela to add your name		
Saturday 11th March		
Role	Still Needed	Names so far
Hall Setup <b>Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2.00pm</b>	4	Phil Geeves, Noela Geeves, Tom Cole, Mike Trott, Kellie Round, George Pallot, Phil Corbett
Sunday the 12th March		
Hall Setup 7.30 - 9.00am	6 more	Phil Corbett, Grahame Yates, George Pallot, Bob Bumstead
Organise Suppliers stall setup 7.30am - 9.00am	0	Jason Pearce
Honey Judge	1	Peter Warhurst
Cake Judge	1	Ronda Warhurst
Honey Comp - Steward 7.30am - 2.00pm	1	Phil Geeves
Cent Auction	1	Kellie Round, Lyn Cooper and Stacy Krzewina
Front Gate - Entry Fees Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> , 8.00am - 12.00 noon	3 more	Mike Brady, Adrienne Pryor and Jill Nelson
Kitchen Supervisor	1	Noela Geeves
Kitchen Helpers	4 more	Mat Cooper, Grahame Yates, Barbara Cush, Karen Sippel and Geraldene Fitzpatrick
Honey Sales Stall	1 more	Mary Corbett
Soft Drink Sales	0	Mike Trott- Eunice Trott
MC	0	George Pallot
BBQ and Support	2 more	Peter Anderson, James Linklater Steele, Ian Workman
Clean up 2.00 - 3.00pm	6 more	Geoff James, Roo Friend, Neil Summerson and Brad Charwood



## Field Day Programme

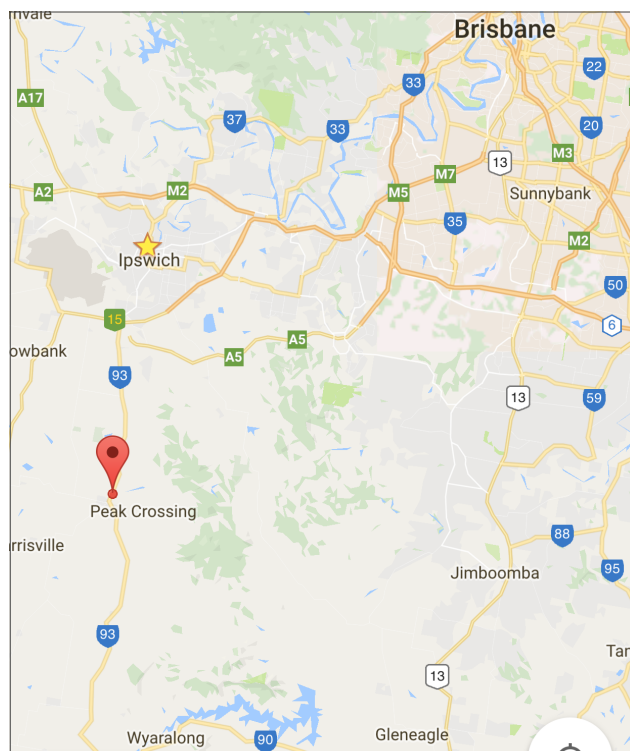
We have a fabulous line-up of speakers so it will be an exciting and informative day. Please bring along some protective clothing if you are going to go out to look at the hive demonstrations.

Morning tea, lunch and soft drinks available for purchase. Please bring some extra coins, as there will be cent auction tickets to purchase in the main hall with great prizes.

Burnett Beekeeping Supplies will be there on the day. If you wish you can pre-order items. That way you are assured of receiving the bee equipment that you require.

Phone 0427946614 or 0429130167.  
Their web site is  
[www.burnettbeekeepingsupplies.com.au](http://www.burnettbeekeepingsupplies.com.au)

Moore Bee-J Products will also be attending as well as craft and plant stalls. There will be honey and baking competitions.



This year for the first time we will be selling club honey at \$5.00 a jar or 2 for \$9.00.

**Entry is \$2.00 per person.**

8.50am – Honey and Cake entries to be submitted.

9.00am – Official Opening – Kylie Stoneman – Councillor – Ipswich City Council

9.30am – Trevor Weatherhead – Industry Update

10.00am – Morning Tea

10.30am – Patricia Swift – Biosecurity Queensland

11.15am – Howard Kirby Queen Bee Breeder

Noon Lunch, BBQ Steak Burgers and Sausages and soft drinks available for purchase

12.15pm Flow Hive Demonstration

1.00pm Flow Hive Talk

2.00pm Lucky Door Prize & Results of Inter Club Trophy

Cent Auction tickets available in the main hall, fabulous prizes to be won.

Peter Warhurst Honey Competition Judge.

Ronda Warhurst Judge cake and biscuits.



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## Articles

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### Can tech keep the world's bees buzzing?

The plight of the honey bee is a major cause of concern for the world's scientists, environmentalists and the food industry, not to mention beekeepers.

Bees play a crucial role in the survival of many of the crops in our food chain - one in three mouthfuls of food depends on the pollinating insects, according to the British Beekeeping Association - but their numbers are significantly declining.

A recent US report said that American beekeepers lost 44.1% of their hives between March 2015 - April 2016 - the highest rate of decline since the annual study began six years ago.

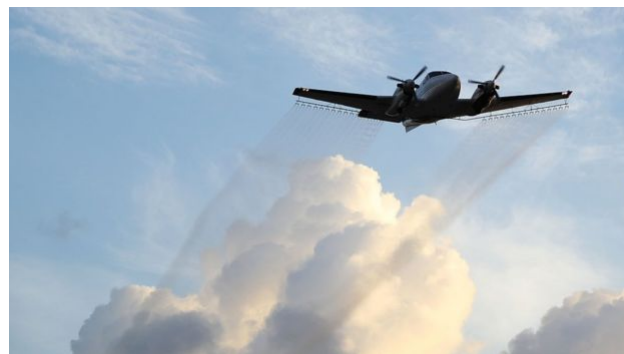
There are a number of reasons for this dramatic fall. One is the deadly varroa destructor, a parasitic mite that feeds on bees, and can kill off a whole hive.

At present, varroa infestations can be controlled, but not removed completely. Bee populations have also been killed by disease, and the use of certain pesticides and fungicides on crops.

Together with the impact of varroa mites, this has also led to a big increase in colony collapse disorder - when worker bees abandon their hives. In the US the precarious situation has been made much worse since the summer, due to aerial spraying of insecticides to target mosquitoes that could carry the Zika virus.

As the insecticides also kill bees, millions have died, wiping out whole honey farms. One report from South Carolina earlier this month said it looked as if the bees had been "nuked".

But despite the continuing woes faced by beekeepers, a number of technology firms are trying to help.



**Bee Smart Technology** aims to allow beekeepers to remotely monitor their hives, so that they can more quickly, and more easily, check whether there is a problem.

Ivan Kanev, co-founder and chief executive, says: "We figured beekeepers don't really rely on modern technology.

"The last meaningful innovation was the invention of the motorised vehicle so they could transport hives... so we decided to do something about it."

**Bee Smart**, which has a research and development division in Mr Kanev's native Bulgaria, and a marketing team in California, has developed a small box of sensors that attaches to the frames in a hive.

The system monitors a number of metrics including temperature, humidity, the colony's levels of activity, whether the Queen is mating, and even the sound of the bees.

**Bee Smart** also claims that its sensors can predict when a swarm is imminent.

The box is battery operated and needs charging every three months. Data is sent via the cloud's data centres to Bee Smart, where it is processed, analysed and then sent to the beekeeper.

Mr Kanev adds that in the US the beekeeping industry is big business, but is not predominantly about harvesting honey.

"Here honey is a secondary thing for bee keepers, [instead] they rent out their bees for pollination services," he says.

"They are transporting bee hives across the country to pollinate different crops."



The almond farms of California, for example, which rely on honey bee pollination, will pay around \$200 (£150) per hive for the service.

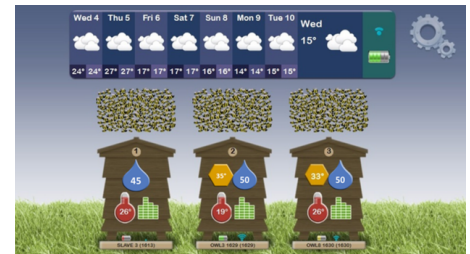
Mr Kanev adds: "When you're transporting your beehive, as a beekeeper you might think of those as your assets - being able to remotely monitor their state is becoming very important."

Bee Smart is set to launch a closed trial of its technology in the coming weeks, but Mr Kanev says that in tests so far there has been a "visible improvement" in beehive health, season after season.

"The product is based around the idea that bees are critical for us and they are in danger," he says. 'Maintenance for bees'

In the UK **Plan Bee** is hoping to go one step further with a complete one-stop-shop for potential beekeepers when it launches in the next few weeks.

Based in Motherwell, Scotland, it offers a monitoring service for the hives, complete with data analysis, powered by a credit-card sized Raspberry Pi computer.



But **Plan Bee** does not want to exclude the human touch.

"We'll provide the hives, the honey bees, and 28 visits a year to the beehive," said chief executive Warren Bader.

"It's like garden maintenance but for bees."

Fellow UK business **Tumbling Dice** is another firm looking to help beekeepers.

It has developed an active vision system called Rana, which is currently being trialled by researchers in the US state of Utah. It also uses a Raspberry Pi computer to analyse individual video frames received from monitor cameras. The system can be programmed to track a specific event, such as when individual bees leave a hive.

"This is more about looking at the foraging behaviour of the bees than the health of the hive," says Tumbling Dice founder Mark O'Neill.

What about efforts to tackle the varroa mite?

Current treatments tend to involve chemicals, but one successfully crowd-funded scheme called **Thermosolar Hives** hopes to offer a hardware solution after raising more than \$44,000.

Invented by Czech scientist Roman Linhart, the Thermosolar Hive uses solar power to heat the inside to 40C for 150 minutes. He says this doesn't harm the bees, but will destroy the mites.

The treatment then has to be repeated 10 days later to attack mites that return to the hive attached to bees who were out during the initial treatment.

Mr Linhart, who has been a beekeeper for 25 years, and spent 10 developing the product, says his technology is preferable to the uses of chemicals, to which he says mites are becoming resistant.

"Our [development] work took so long because we have tested it in different areas like high mountains, lowlands, cities, or regions with very hot summers," he told the Digital Trends website back in May.



He also said he faced hostility from rivals.

"There were some problems with company producing chemicals for varroa treatment, and some with people who are trying to breed varroa-tolerant bees," he added.

"They were not very happy to see that something like our hive can disrupt their business."

The Thermosolar Hive is due to start being delivered to buyers in January 2017.

Source BBC News By Zoe Kleinman <http://www.bbc.com/news/business-37386490>

Thanks to Lloyd Hancock for this article.



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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 Hives (members only)

As the club has limited capacity to create Nucs and demand outstrips supply, we offer them members only and preference is given 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.**

## March Meeting

No guest speaker this month due to the honey competition.

## How I started in Bees.

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

- March - Alan Dearden
- April - Doug Delaforce

## Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017

## Supper Roster

- March - Peter Waldron, Laurie Walker, Alan Waters and Long Vu.
- April - Glen Woodford, Denis Manning, Ben Aland and Peter Anderson

## Room Set up

- March - Scott Croyden
- April - Terry Cumner

**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	0409 485 447
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
Flow Hive	Darryl Ryan	0405133 360
Newsletter & website	Phil Corbett	0419 196 330

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