

# Bee Flight

Ipswich & West Moreton Beekeepers Association



## President's Report



Welcome to 2018, and, what we hope will be a great year for bees. The year seems to have started well with a reasonable amount of flora in some areas.

We have another fun year of club activities planned, including our field day (in combination with the Gold Coast Beekeeping Club) for 2018 on the 11<sup>th</sup> March. This is our first and biggest event of the year and we are now well underway with the planning and organising. It will again be held at Peak Crossing School. For anyone (new or old!) interested in submitting honey or wax, I will be delivering a presentation, "Preparation of honey and wax for shows" at our February Club meeting, so make sure you attend to get all the tips and techniques.

Ahead of our Field Day, our March Club meeting will also provide an opportunity to hone your skills at submitting honey and wax with our annual club honey competition.

Other than just being fun, submitting honey and wax into the local shows is good for ensuring community awareness in honey and bees, so I really do encourage everyone to do your bit and have a go!

I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> February.

**Phil Geeves**  
Club President

## February 2018 Edition

### Club Meetings

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.***

### Club Registration

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

### Dates to Remember

Club Meeting - 6th Feb  
Committee Meeting 12th Feb  
Club Field Day 11<sup>th</sup> March 2018  
**Club events are on the website calendar**

<http://www.honey.org.au>

### Questions ?

Don't forget you can submit written questions on beekeeping at each club meeting. Just pop them in the container near the entrance on your way in.

**Noela Geeves**  
Club Secretary

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## Club Meeting 6th February

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- Our first meeting for 2018 will include a presentation from the Club President on “Preparing Honey and Wax for Shows”.
  - Our club member Mark Meerwald will share with us “How I became a Beekeeper.”
  - 500g glass competition bottles will be available for purchase.
  - Plus all the usual items such as our Club reports, library, raffle, and importantly, supper!
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## Club Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> March

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### Honey Competition

Our March meeting will include the club's annual honey competition. If you are extracting honey, put some aside to enter the competition. If you are new to beekeeping and unsure of how to go about it, come along to our February Club meeting and hear how the experts do it! If you can't make the meeting, just chat to one of our more experienced members.

Members only need to supply 1 bottle for each entry but 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 glass bottles with white lids (see above, available to purchase at the Club meeting). All entries must be from the exhibitor's own apiaries. Remember you can also enter wax.

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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## Club Field Day 11<sup>th</sup> March 2018

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The Club's Field Day is on Sunday 11<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 a work sheet for volunteers at the February meeting Please see page 5 for more details of volunteers needed. Remember “*many hands make light work*”.

Also note that as advised at December's meeting we have merged our field day event with the Gold Coast Amateur Beekeepers Club so we will each take it in turns to host the event. This is due to the amount of work involved in organising the event each year. Accordingly we will run this years' event, then in 2019 the Gold Coast Club's field day will be the main field day event, and then we will run it again in 2020.

### Inter-club Trophy

At the field day members entering the competition 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. As indicated above, the 500g glass competition bottles will be available at the February meeting. See Entry classes on the next page.

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. Block of wax yellow – min 500g.
7. Block of wax white – min 500g
8. Frame of Honey.
9. Biscuit Recipe.
10. Cake Recipe. *(Biscuit and Cake recipes are in this newsletter)*

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### Field Day Schedule (Subject to change)

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9.00am	Welcome	Phil Geeves
9.05 am	Official Opening	John Krause MP
9.20am	Cooking with Honey demonstration	Phil & Mary Corbett
9.50am	Industry Update	Trevor Weatherhead AHBIC Executive Director
10.15am	Morning Tea	
10.45am	Swarm Collection	Paul Wood - Backyard Bees
11.30am	Native Bees as a hobby and extortion dementiation	Bob Luttrell
12.15 pm	Lunch, Time to visit the stalls and catch up with friends.	
1.15pm	Honey Competition Results Cent Auction Prizes Inter Club Trophy Presentation	Phil Geeves George Pallot
2.00pm	Close	

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### Field Day - Volunteer List

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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 bees as pollinators and food providers. The day is an educational day and again this year we are organising some great guest speakers.

Based on the success from last year we will be running a “Cent Auction”, again to help reduce the time it takes to award prizes.

We are also running a “cooking with honey” demonstration for the first time.

Field Day Volunteer Roster		
Saturday 10th March		
Role	Numbers needed	Names so far
Hall Setup <b>Saturday</b> , 10 <sup>th</sup> March, 2.00pm	10	Phil Geeves, Kellie Round, George Pallot, Phil Corbett, Mary Corbett. Noela Geeves.
Sunday the 11th March		
Hall Setup 7.30 - 9.00am	10	Phil Corbett, Mary Corbett, Grahame Yates, George Pallot, Mike Trott, Eunice Trott.
Organise Suppliers stall setup 7.30am - 9.00am	1	<b>Nil</b>
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, Noela Geeves
Front Gate - Entry Fees Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> , 8.00am - 12.00 noon	6	<b>Nil so far.</b>
Kitchen Supervisor	1	Noela Geeves
Kitchen Hands	4	Mat Cooper
Soft Drink Sales	2	Mike Trott, Eunice Trott
MC	1	George Pallot
BBQ	4	Peter Anderson, James Linklater Steele, Ian Workman
Clean up 2.00 - 3.00pm	10	<b>Nil so far</b>

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## Field Day Recipes

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### AUSTRALIAN HONEY CAKE

#### Ingredients

2 eggs  
1 cup sugar  
3/4 cup oil  
3/4 cup honey  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon cloves  
2 tablespoons cocoa  
1 cup self raising flour  
1 cup flour  
1 cup boiling water

#### VARIATIONS -

1/2 teaspoons mixed spices  
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

Preheat oven to 190°C (375°F), or for convection oven 180°C (350°F)

#### Method

Mix eggs with sugar.  
Add remaining ingredients in following order: oil, honey, soda, cloves, cocoa and flours.  
Lastly, add boiling water  
Bake for 1 - 1-1/4h in a 9 inch tin  
After 1/2h lower heat to 180°C (350°F)  
For last 10-15mins lower heat to 160°C (325°F)

Cooks note - This is a wonderfully aromatic and deliciously moist cake, and keeps very well stored in an airtight cake container.

### HONEY BISCUITS

#### Ingredients

175g unsalted butter, chopped  
1 cup caster sugar  
1/4 cup honey  
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1 egg, lightly beaten  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
2 1/4 cups self-raising flour

#### Method

Stir butter, sugar, honey and cinnamon in a medium saucepan over low heat until butter has dissolved and mixture is smooth.  
Remove from heat and transfer mixture to a large bowl. Cool to room temperature.  
Stir in the egg, vanilla and flour.  
Roll teaspoons of mixture into balls.  
Place balls 4cm apart on two oven trays lined with baking paper and gently flatten with a fork.  
Cook in two batches at 180°C (350°F) for 12 minutes or until golden brown. Allow to cool on trays.

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## In other news....

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### Apiary Site Available

We have a request for any member willing to put 2 or 3 hives on a farm at Kerry, south of Beaudesert. Please talk to Phil or Noela if interested.

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## Show Dates 2017

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<u>Marburg</u>	<u>11th &amp; 12th May 2018</u>	<u><a href="http://www.marburgshow.com.au">www.marburgshow.com.au</a></u>
<u>Ipswich</u>	<u>18th - 20th May 2018</u>	<u><a href="http://www.ipswichshow.com.au">www.ipswichshow.com.au</a></u>
<u>Esk</u>	<u>25th &amp; 26th May 2018</u>	<u><a href="http://www.eskshow.com.au">www.eskshow.com.au</a></u>
<u>Boonah</u>	<u>1st &amp; 2nd June 2018</u>	<u><a href="http://www.boonahshowsociety.org.au">www.boonahshowsociety.org.au</a></u>
<u>Toogoolawah</u>	<u>8th &amp; 9th June 2018</u>	<u><a href="http://www.toogoolawahshowsociety.org.au">www.toogoolawahshowsociety.org.au</a></u>
<u>Lowood</u>	<u>15th &amp; 16th June 2018</u>	<u><a href="http://www.lowwoodshowsociety.com.au">www.lowwoodshowsociety.com.au</a></u>
<u>Kalbar</u>	<u>22nd &amp; 23rd June 2018</u>	<u><a href="http://www.kalbarshow.net.au">www.kalbarshow.net.au</a></u>
<u>Rosewood</u>	<u>29th &amp; 30th June 2018</u>	<u><a href="http://www.rosewoodshow.com">www.rosewoodshow.com</a></u>
<u>Redcliffe</u>	<u>29th June to 1st July 2018</u>	<u><a href="http://www.redcliffeshow.org.au">www.redcliffeshow.org.au</a></u>
<u>EKKA</u>	<u>10th - 19th August 2018</u>	<u><a href="http://www.ekka.com.au">www.ekka.com.au</a></u>
<u>Beaudesert</u>	<u>7th &amp; 8th September 2018</u>	<u><a href="http://www.beaudesertshow.org.au">www.beaudesertshow.org.au</a></u>

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## Name Badges (Important please)

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Our new name badges for all our financial members were handed out at the last meeting. We hope you like the upgrade. If you weren't there please collect yours at the door as you come in to the December meeting. Please wear your badge to all club events and meetings. We currently have 217 paid up members and it's almost impossible to remember everyone's name, it also shows that you are a member and it helps with introductions. We would ask that you try not to lose your badge. We can order replacements but the cost of \$13 will need to be paid by the member for any replacements.

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## Flora - Jan, Feb

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We should be seeing Blue Heliotrope, Brush Box, Carpet Weed, Flat Weed, River Coolibah, Molly Red Box, Pumpkin, Red, Stringy-bark, Silver-Leafed Ironbark, Brown Bloodwood, Brown Box, Gum-top Box, Grey Gum, River Red, Gum, Pink Bloodwood, Swamp Mahogany, Turnip Weed and Blackbutt and Narrow leaf Ironbark.

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## Library

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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.

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## Honey Buckets, Bottles and Jars (Members only)

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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.**

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## Apithor Beetle Traps (Members only)

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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.

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## February Meeting

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Our guest speaker this month will be Phil Geeves Club president talking on “ The preparation of Honey and Wax for showing”.

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## How I started in Bees.

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

- Feb - Mark Meerwald
- March - Frank Moeller

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## Committee Meeting

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The next committee meeting will be held on the 12th February.

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## Supper Roster

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- Feb - Brian Little, Terry McAllister, Frank Moeller and Jim Muller
- March - Bill Mahon, Trevor Nardi, Jill Nelson and Shane O'Reilly

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## Room Set up

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- February – Denis Manning
- March - Dimitri Markotsis

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.

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## Facebook

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Our club's official Facebook page is at: [www.facebook.com/groups/1430687710358660/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1430687710358660/)  
You can also follow the links from our website.

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## Club shirts, badges and caps

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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.

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## Beeswax Wanted

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

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## Support those who support you.

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

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## Wiring Board (Members only)

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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.

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## Extracting Van Hire (Members only)

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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

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## Club Hand Extractor (Members only)

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The club has two hand extractors for hire by 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. The cost is \$10.00 per day for a max of 7 days. The extractor must be returned clean. An electric uncapping knife will go out with each extractor.

**Depending upon your location**

**Peter Anderson at Forestdale has one of them. Phone: 3800 3562**

**Phil Geeves at Blackstone has the other one. Phone: 0409 485 447**

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## Wax Melter (members only)

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The club now has a wax melter available for hire. Please Contact Peter Anderson if you would like to access this club equipment. Phone: 3800 3562.



## Articles

### Growing California almonds takes more than half of US honeybees

*Mary found this article for me, well worth visiting the site to watch the video.*

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/growing-california-almonds-takes-half-us-honeybees/story?id=52265334>

It can be hard to see how important honeybees are to daily life. Just by looking at fully grown oranges, apples and almonds, the honeybee wouldn't necessarily get marquee credit for their growth. But, bees pollinate around 70 percent of the world's crops, according to Cornell University, and without them, there's no easy way to pollinate the fresh foods that need to be grown and harvested.

The vast farming operations around the country keep bees in high demand almost year-round and it's up to commercial bee keepers to make sure farmers have their pollinators.

One of those beekeepers, Chuck Kutik, rents his bees out across the country, throughout the year. He said there's one crop that demands more bees than any other — almonds. In the winter, Kutik, and commercial beekeepers throughout the country, send the majority of the nation's (USA) commercial bees to pollinate almonds blossoms. Kutik loads his bees on flatbed trucks that hold 112 palates of beehives and sends them on a multi-day, cross-country journey. Truck drivers have to continue moving throughout the day, only stopping at night, in order to maintain cool temperatures for the bees. If it's too warm they will be tempted to fly out of their hives.

The bees will spend several weeks pollinating the bright white almond blooms. When they are done, they will be taken to the next farm, to a new crop on the east coast.

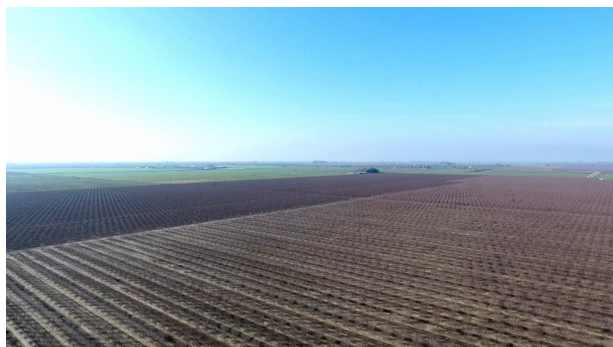


Almond farmer and beekeeper Ryan Cosyns tells us that the price of pollination rental for almonds has nearly doubled since 2005, which is directly related to the increased acreage devoted to almonds.

A single hive from Kutik's farm rented for as much as \$200 in 2017, to a California almond farmer, he has over 8000 hives. But as the demand for bees has gone up, keeping honeybees healthy has also become more and more of a challenge.

According to the USDA, Between 2015 and 2016 the nation's beekeepers lost 44 percent of their colonies. "The consensus in the scientific community now is that it's not any single factor that is driving losses of bees," said Scott McArt, an associate professor in the Department of Entomology at Cornell University. "It's multiple factors." He said those factors can include pesticides, insecticides, loss of habitat and climate change.

However, as honeybees are dying the overall population of bees has gone up.



in the spring.

"This is something that a lot of people don't necessarily understand," said Emma Mullen, an associate in the Department of Entomology at Cornell University, "because if you do track the number of colonies that are in New York or the U.S., they do tend to increase. So what they'll do is they'll split their colonies and in that way they can continue to replace the colonies that were lost and grow their operation."

In the springtime, beekeepers can take a hive that is thriving and split them, creating two from one. Kutik predicted he would create 6,000 new hives

## Sticky fingers: Beekeeper stung by hive heist

**SOUR TASTE:** Sarina Range beekeeper Paul Marsh had three of his hives stolen last month from his property and is urging the public to help find the thieves.

**THIEVES** have once again dipped their fingers in Paul Marsh's honey pot leaving the bee keeper reeling after his property was stung again.



The owner of Sarina Range-based business Bee2U arrived at his 55-hive property to check on his precious investments only to find he had been robbed for the fourth time in two years.

"Despite setting up a wildlife camera and taking precautions this wouldn't happen again, three hives were stolen," he said. The 51-year-old was first introduced to bee-keeping in primary school. In the following 40 years he has turned his passion into an international business.

Originally trading as Cadena Apiaries, Mr Marsh changed his business name more than five years ago moving his focus from producing queen bees to honey production.

Since then, he said, the continued thefts were a huge blow to his buzzing business.

The latest thefts happened only a few days after Christmas.

The single-storey hives stolen were commonly used in the first stages of honey production which Mr Marsh said would have weighed around 30kg each.

"These particular hives don't produce any honey yet but were close to the road and in view," he said. The skilled bee-keeper says the "opportunistic" crime would cost him between \$10,000 and \$20,000 in production value, not including the cost of the hives.

A single hive would normally produce Mr Marsh around 100kg of honey a year and was suited the Central Queensland climate well.

His honey is sold in numerous stores in the Mackay region, including at the popular Greater Whitsunday Farmers Market at Bluewater Quay.

But since Cyclone Debbie ripped through the region in 2016, he said the hives haven't been the same. "Last year was the worst year yet, we only just started getting honey last month," he said.

"This is my livelihood and I'm just getting so fed up with this."

Demand in bees had reportedly sky-rocketed over the last few years as Mr Marsh says people are stealing them because so few are available to buy.

The dad-of-two was hoping somebody had seen the thieves between December 24 and 30.

He said the grey and white hives would look out of place in somebody's yard and was offering a reward for any information leading to their return.

Source

<https://www.dailymercury.com.au/news/sticky-fingers-beekeeper-stung-by-hive-heist/3303211/>

### 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	Phil Dunlop	07 5465 1919
Committee	Grahame Yates	07 3288 8238
Committee	Shane O'Reilly	07 5464 6138
Newsletter & website	Phil Corbett	0419 196 330

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