

## Unique Learning opportunity for Ballarat Regional Beekeepers Members!

Education about honeybee pests and biosecurity is becoming a vital aspect of keeping bee hives. The example of other countries with the invasion of varroa mite leaves us in a unique position here in Australia - while we are varroa-free at present, our bees face similar threats which could decimate our recreational and commercial apiaries.

In short, there is no room for complacency. Anyone who has beehives needs to be aware of bee diseases and pests, and also how to detect and manage any infestations in their own hives.

Sharing this knowledge across all our members is also crucial. The best way of stopping transfer of bee diseases is for us to transfer knowledge between each other. It is not only the commercial Beekeepers who have to be aware of these issues.

A unique opportunity exists for one of our members to undertake, for free, an online training course in bee biosecurity and pests. The course costs \$425 and anyone is eligible, however we have been fortunate as an incorporated beekeeper association to receive funding for one fully funded position in this course.

The condition for granting the free place in the course is, of course, that the successful applicant commits to arranging teaching sessions for passing on their new knowledge to the other members of Ballarat Regional Beekeepers.

Please read the attached documents about the course.

Other members of BRB are welcome to undertake the course at their own expense. We may be in a position to offer a small cost subsidy to these paying applicants.

The BRB Committee will select the best applicant, based on their demonstrated commitment to passing on their learning from the course, who will then be fully funded for the \$425 course cost.

The selection panel will comprise Andrew Dean (Chair), Amanda Collins and Jurgen Rochelmeyer.

The deadlines for indicating your interest are the end of January, 2016.

As your Committee, we strongly urge BRB members to take advantage of this unique educational opportunity, as the one fully-funded applicant, or alternatively as self-paying applicants.

Please note that the timeframe is tight.

Applications, together with a brief written submission about why you would be suitable for selection for the fully-funded position, are to be emailed to the Committee, at our email: [ballaratregionalbeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:ballaratregionalbeekeepers@gmail.com) ASAP.

Andrew Dean, on behalf of the BRB Committee

January 2nd, 2016