

THE BUZZ



Issue No 384 – October 2016

The official newsletter of the Gold Coast Amateur Beekeepers Society Inc. est 1979

Dates for the Diary

Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 October
BEGINNERS COURSE Currumbin
Community Special School

Sunday 16 October MONTHLY MEETING
10:00am Currumbin Community Special School

Saturday 22 October Society stall - Eat Your
Back Yard - Country Paradise Parklands

Tuesday 1 November Committee meeting

Sunday 9 November Tallebudgera State School

Sunday 20 November MONTHLY MEETING
and CHRISTMAS BREAKUP

Sunday 19 February 2017 MONTHLY
MEETING including HIVE INSPECTION

President's report for September Les Thomson, GCABS President

Open Day

Des Cannon, Trevor Weatherhead, Hamish Lamb and Stuart Anderson . . . what a coming together of minds in support of the Gold Coast Amateur Beekeepers Society. If ever we needed an indicator that GCABS remains the pre-eminent community voice of the *hobbyist* beekeeper on the GC we need look no further than our recent Open Day.

Close to four hundred through the door during the day. Each and every one of them looking for an authentic honey-bee experience that our members can so readily provide. Whether enlisting *Newbees* who'll participate

in the next beginners' program or ensuring each of the guest speakers has all they need as well as an appreciation of our local GC setting – it all comes



together on the day.

The support shown for our honey and bee products' competition was the best yet. Our own Society members together with those of Bayside, Northern Rivers and Ipswich & West Moreton clubs kept the judges busy until the very end. Competition was close as quality was high. Just one point allowed Ipswich & West Moreton to retain the perpetual trophy.



Whether on a broom at the day's end, toiling on the BBQ throughout the day, taking entry and lunch orders or supplying the delicious pikelets, jam and cream, I thank you for your efforts. The range of prizes across the cent sale got everyone in and it all takes your time and your effort – thank you.

GOLD COAST AMATEUR BEEKEEPERS SOCIETY INC.

OPEN DAY 2016

MUDGEERABA SHOWGROUNDS
115 MUDGEERABA RD, MUDGEERABA





A Wonderful Success

Thank You Everyone

www.gcabs.net.au

Like Us On facebook www.facebook.com/GCABS.official DESIGN by frogster

Beginners, old and new

-  12 hrs **hands-on** instruction with experienced Society members
-  Take home your own copy of *the Australian Beekeeping Manual*
-  Visit multiple apiaries: both hobbyist and commercial
-  A real chance to take home your own *split* hive to get you started*

Additional individual cost



And all for a very reasonable \$80.00. I believe we'll find people coming back, joining the Society and benefiting from the mentoring of experienced members. Our next adventure with *Newbees* is set for the weekend of 15 – 16 October at

the Currumbin Community Special School. Please keep an eye out for the call for instructor.

There are a number of *Newbees* who have been able to procure nucs or splits and are looking to apply their learnings. We have, as part of the broader sustainability argument, committed to supporting these people through their first season. If you hear of calls for assistance, please let someone on the Management Committee know. There are legitimate reasons as to why members can and can't assist but between us all we should be able to muster some level of support. While many of the *Newbees* saw frames extracted this was not a focus of the beginners' program and can be a daunting prospect.

A big thank you to the tireless **Jim Cavanaugh** (and others) after running the previous beginners course have collected 11 hives from Dave Elson, these having been split earlier, for club use as training tools and honey sales. Assistance is urgently needed to make up honey suppers and frames for all hives. As well, anyone with space to 'host' a club hive and maintain it please let Jim know.

All new registered beekeepers receive a Biosecurity Manual from the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation or it can be downloaded for free from the honey bee section of the Plant Health Australia web site: www.phau.com.au.

You must have a Certificate of Registration as a Beekeeper to own a bee hive; this is arranged through Warwick DPI&F, Locked Bag 17, Warwick Q4370. It's all about controlling disease and pests in your hive. It is a good idea to carry the Biosecurity Manual with you to aid with disease identification.

Mocktail Party held on the 24 September 2016

Many thanks to Jim and Olive Cavanaugh for opening their home to us for this event. Des Cannon, principal speaker at our Open Day the following morning was welcomed and introduced to members. Des also presented an entertaining talk on his visit to European apiarists.



A highlight of the evening was the simply amazing menu served up by the caterers on the evening. All in attendance extend high recommendations should members be requiring catering services.

<http://www.allstylescatering.com.au/about-us.html>

Open Day Competition Results

Open Classes

White Honey 1st Albert Payne 2nd Noela Geeves 3rd Phil Geeves

Light Honey 1st Ken Freiberg 2nd Olive Cavanaugh 3rd George Pallot

Golden Honey 1st Alan Betts 2nd Ken Freiberg 3rd George Pallot

Dark Honey 1st Ken Freiberg 2nd Phil Geeves 3rd Alan Betts

Creamed Honey 1st Alan Betts 2nd Noela Geeves 3rd Phil Geeves

Fine Granulated 1st Ken Freiberg 2nd Kevin Bell 3rd Albert Payne

Course Granulated 1st Ken Freiberg 2nd Kevin Bell 3rd Albert Payne

Honey with Comb 1st Albert Payne 2nd Kevin Bell 3rd Alan Betts



Frame of Honey 1st Albert Payne 2nd Kevin Bell 3rd Alan Betts

Block of Wax 1st Mary Corbett 2nd Phil Geeves 3rd Paul Corbett

Decorative Wax 1st Alan Betts 2nd Bert Morris
Slice 1st Gerard Aherns 2nd Lyn Bell 3rd Margaret Freiberg

Biscuits 1st Gerard Aherns 2nd Lyn Bell 3rd Christine McLachlan

Novice - M & M Bugden
Most Successful Entrant - Ken Freiberg
Club Trophy - Ipswich and West Moreton
Beekeepers Association Inc.

Equipment Availability – Sales and hire

Times for members to collect equipment have been altered to:-

Mon, Wed, Fri open from 7am TO 6pm

Saturday 7am to 1230 PM

[CLOSED SUNDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY
and SAT AFTERNOONS]

NB beekeeping equipment is available to financial members only. Kindly ring Olive (0438 643 482) prior to calling around to ensure her availability and that items are in stock.

Colin Payne Beekeeping Stories Chinese Bees

The council received a Swarm Complaint and gave out my phone number and I received the subsequent call. The Chinese Lady called me to her home in Ashmore Road at Benowa.

I knocked on the door of the low set brick home and was greeted by an upset lady of Chinese descent. She said, "*Bees around back.*" She led me around the back and showed me a wasp nest hanging from the house overhang which at that point was around one and a half metres from the ground.

I said, "*They aren't bees, they are wasps.*"

She replied, "*No, they Bees.*"

After further discussion she said, "*I show you.*" She opened a Chinese – English Dictionary and showed me the spot beside a Chinese Symbol which read BEES.

I replied again to her that they were wasps and they didn't give any honey. I asked for some newspaper and rolled some up, lit the end then let the flames burn the 'wasp-bees' to the ground. I then knocked the nest off house. I then explained that some of the wasps who were out foraging at the time might return and reconstruct the nest.

A week later I received another phone call. A Chinese Lady's voice boomed from the phone, "*Missa Payne, Those bees come back!*"

I replied that she should get her husband to do what I did again, but burn the wasps nest down after dark and he would get all the wasps. She said that he was too busy at the Chinese restaurant and didn't have the time. I told her sorry, "I am a Bee Keeper and not a Wasp Keeper. Your husband will have to make the time when he comes home from the restaurant.

I refused her request to return and she never called again to ask me to return to remove her *BEES*.

Get to know

Committee member Syd Richards

In the mid 1960s in the south west suburbs of Sydney NSW a 10 yr old boy and his father bought their first hive from a farmer. The honey wasn't that good and the winters were long. 50 years later and I'm still keeping European honey bees (*Apis Melifera*).

The climate in S.E. Qld is perfect for bee keeping with good quality honey all year round, my two hives are in a fenced of area of my Mermaid Beach home. I have now added five stingless native bee O.A.T.H. hives (*Trigona carbonaria*) to my collection, producing sugarbag honey.

Joining G.C.A.B.S. has increased my knowledge of bee keeping and I have made lots of new friends, always willing for a chat and to share the most recent beekeeping news.

I can't imagine not supplying honey to friends and family and the relaxed feeling of caring for our pollinating bees.

Syd. Richards.

Upcoming Events

Members and interested persons. GCABS has a number of upcoming events. These events represent an opportunity not to be missed to get to know other beekeepers, share experiences and talk about bees and beekeeping with members of the public and visitors.

16 October 2016 – GCABS Monthly Meeting Currumbin Community Special School

5 Hammersford Dr, Currumbin Waters QLD 4223

Note altered commencement time this meeting 10:00am start 10:30 morning tea

1/ Subscription of \$2 at door includes a ticket in the lucky door prize of an item of beekeeping equipment.

2/ Sell your home produce, plants, secondhand beekeeping equipment, etc on the new sale table. GCABS takes no responsibility for the quality of items offered for sale.

3/ Members wishing to purchase equipment on the day please make sure your pre-order it with the equipment officer.

4/ Please bring a plate to share for morning tea.

Agenda :

Note the 10:00am sharp start this month. Monthly meeting, Discuss Christmas Breakup. Club hive development.

10:30am Morning tea with participants on the beginners course joining the meeting for the chance to get to know other members, followed by 11:00am GUEST SPEAKER Kevin Tracy will be talking about the Roll of the Queen.

NB – General meetings are regularly held on the 3rd Sunday of the month

Saturday 22 October Society stall - Eat Your Back Yard - Country Paradise Parklands

Tuesday 1 November Committee meeting

Sunday 9 November Society stall - Tallebudgera State School Fete

Sunday 20 November MONTHLY MEETING and CHRISTMAS BREAKUP

Tuesday 7 February 2017 Committee Meeting

Sunday 19 February 2017 MONTHLY MEETING including HIVE INSPECTION

What is flowering in September in SEQ?

Black Sheoak. Blue Gum. Broad-leaved Banksis. Caley's Ironbark. Dogwood. Flat Weed. Fizzy Box. Glycine. Golden Candlestick. Grass Tree. Grey Ironbark. Mexican Poppy. Mugga. Narrow-leaved Grey Gum. Narrow-leaved Ironbark. Prickly-leaved Paperbark. Red Bottle-brush. River Mangrove. River Sheoak. Scribbly Gum. Swamp Sheoak. Tallowwood. Tumble-down Ironbark. Turnip Wood. Turpentine. White Bottlebrush. White clover. White Mahogany Wild May (Backea). Wild May (Leptospermum). Yellow box.

Orientation Flight

New things on my radar

NT Bees Aust Our sympathies to Graeme Beech on his misfortune

Flash flood inundates hundreds of hives. Each year NT Bees put young hives and Nucs on canola for good building conditions. Unfortunately a



storm dropped 40mm on very wet ground and quickly turned the flat paddocks into a lake. Most single hives drowned in water that covered them completely. The doubles were able to move up into the top box but beetle damage is significant in the water logged frames.

The main message from this post is that Nuc orders will be affected and queen bee supply will be affected. As we sort out the hive beetle slime outs and wash the mud out we may save a few.

Sample Hive Diary A sample hive diary is available on our web site. Many thanks to Kevin Finn, past Buzz Editor, for this.

The following appeared in "Column 8" of the Sydney Morning Herald issue of 10-11 September 2016

"After the investiture ceremony of Australian honours yesterday, the Governor of NSW, H.E. David Hurley, was circulating with us on the spectacular lawns of Government House. Having heard that his excellency was an amateur apiarist, I asked him where were the hives? He pointed out in the direction of where the hives were. And, what was the varietal of honey produced? He said"": OTBK. Puzzled, I asked him to elaborate? Only The Bees Know, he said without missing a beat, totally poker-faced. Cracked us up." [Contributed by Darshak Mehta of Mossman.]

Swarm Hints

A swarm of bees in Spring Is worth a silver ring.

A swarm of bees in Summer Is worth the extra number.

A swarm of bees in autumn Is worth nothing at all. (anon.)

Usually swarming bees do not sting. Why is that? They have filled themselves with honey so cannot bend to sting. Do you know that feeling when you have overeaten? Swarming bees are ready to build new comb. Do not give sticky combs for at least three days otherwise they may desert the hive. Just give foundation or dry combs.

The largest swarm from a hive is the first one with the old queen. Subsequent swarms from the same hive will be smaller, each with a young or unmated queen. Sometimes two swarms join together in the air and the bees destroy one queen eventually. The different swarms won't fight each other. They will join peacefully.

Don't make increases or breed from stock known to swarm readily as this increases the swarming tendency – you will always end up with a weak hive that's susceptible to disease and no honey.

Things to consider if intending to catch a swarm

- 1 How far will you have to travel? Will the swarm still be there when you arrive? If the bees have clustered only a short time ago they may move.
- 2 How far off the ground is the swarm? You may need to take a ladder.
- 3 How big is the cluster? Is it the size of a football? Smaller? Larger? A tiny swarm is not worth collecting.
- 4 What time of year is it? Spring and early Summer are best as that will allow time for the colony to build up.
- 5 Are the bees in a building? If you damage the building, the owner will not be happy.
- 6 Has anyone tried to remove or kill the bees by shaking, spraying etc? This will make your job more difficult.
- 7 Does the caller expect a reward?
- 8 Do you have a suitable ventilated swarm collecting box with strapping?
- 9 Do you have a suitable place to put them? Keep the swarm away from your hives and check them in two weeks for signs of disease.
- 10 Do you really want another hive?

If you are satisfied, go ahead and collect the swarm.
Love those bees!

An interesting story on the uses of bee venom

Link: http://www.stethnews.com/1021/what-is-bee-sting-therapy-and-unbelievable-number-of-things-it-can-cure/?utm_campaign=shareaholic&utm_medium=email&utm_source=email

IT'S WHAT ISN'T IN ROYAL JELLY THAT COUNTS If you thought queen bees are fed a something special to turn them into monarchs, you're right. But it's what the jelly lacks that makes the regal difference
<https://goo.gl/qHEuLX>

WORKER BEE WATCH Scientists in the UK tracked the entire lifetime flights of four worker bees, to fascinating effect
<https://goo.gl/ij9LaJ>

SICK PLANTS LEARN TO ATTRACT BEES – TO ENSURE THEIR SPECIES SURVIVAL

Plants infected with a particular virus release volatile compounds that lure bees to them in preference to healthier plants alongside. It's an interesting discovery for scientists trying to figure out how to increase crop yields
<https://goo.gl/Lq4F01>

VOLCANO BEES: LIVING ON THE EDGE

Masaya bees of Nicaragua live where most other creatures couldn't survive. And forage for nectar and pollen from a daisy that can deal with acid rain
<https://goo.gl/k2lyhx>

WORKERS WILL STAY WORKERS, BECAUSE THEIR QUEEN SAYS SO University of Otago researchers have discovered the molecular mechanism through which queen honeybees carefully control the fertility of worker bees
<https://goo.gl/DJPV6Q>

SAVE THE BEES? WHICH BEES?

What's good for one type of bee isn't always good for others – and simple theories about saving the planet are seldom the whole answer <https://goo.gl/Hth4WV>

HONEY'S ETERNAL SHELF LIFE

The Smithsonian explains how a slew of factors—its acidity, its lack of water and the presence of hydrogen peroxide—work in perfect harmony, allowing the sticky treat to last almost forever
<https://goo.gl/iaW7i2>

<http://www.naturalbeekeepingtrust.org/>

www.honeybeesuite.com - This is a US website, and a really good one. You can subscribe for free and join in the conversation.

www.wheenbeefoundation.org.au/ The purpose of the **Wheen Bee Foundation** is to raise awareness of the importance of bees for food security.

Sterilising equipment against AFB

https://www.google.com.au/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&url=http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/558434/managing-afb.pdf&ved=0ahUKewiKq8-799jOAhUMn5QKHTNzBDsQFggMAA&usg=AFQjCNHBtNpefRjgmCdzCSU1-A6XGAOXHw

Recognising AFB DPI NSW

<https://www.google.com.au/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&url=https://rird.c.info-services.com.au/downloads/01-051&ved=0ahUKewiKq8-799jOAhUMn5QKHTNzBDsQFggMAE&usg=AFQjCNGVi6mO9bp1wTRskulXp4ZRyvT8Q>

Flow Hive Assistance This group is coordinated by Buzz Editor Kevin Bell so if you are interested let him know. We were treated with the presence of Stuart Anderson at our Open Day on September 25th. Stuart made an announcement that GCABS members would be able to purchase Flow Hives at 15% discount for the next 3 days!

Members' Facebook Page Be 'social' and visit this excellent online resource where we can all share knowledge and learn....This is where you'll find it - <https://www.facebook.com/GCABS.official/>

Library A large range of books and DVDs is maintained by the Society. See the librarian at the next general meeting or give him a call. Past editions of the Australasian Beekeeper Journal are held. They contain much news and items of interest.

APIS CERANA AND VARROA JACOBSONI IN TOWNSVILLE

Trevor Weatherhead Executive Director AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC latest advice is that while actively searching for further Asian Honeybee hives authorities discovered a further hive 4kms from the original find. The restricted movement area has now been extended to cover the whole of Townsville.

Visit the web Site: www.honeybee.org.au for an update on the latest news.

NB Members should report anything they suspect as unusual, in the first instance to the Society President or Secretary for further identification. E.G. Small Hive Beetle is acknowledged to have been very limited in distribution in Australia for 12 months prior to its spreading. Unfortunately, those involved did not recognise the SHB until too late.

For Sale

Catering Services A highlight of the recent GCABS mocktail party was the simply amazing food and drinks served up by the caterers on the evening. All in attendance extend high recommendations

should members be requiring catering services.
<http://www.allstylescatering.com.au/about-us.html>

High quality beeswax product business for sale by Peter & Bev Moore.



Ken BANNISTER of Beerwah is **seeking 2 nucs** to be housed at Esk. Please email ken@banno.com.au

Free hive site Natural Bridge contact Siran 0438 443 372

Free hive site Mt Tamborine contact Carl 0414 736 839

Working hives for sale Biggera Waters. Beekeeper overworked! Phone Kathy 0403 155 591

Hot dipped wax treated full depth 10 frame supers. Contact Josh Walker 0449 106 306

Stainless Steel mesh for hive bottom board insertion. '8' mesh for use to assist ventilation as

well as the expulsion of small hive beetle (and varroa mite if introduced to Australia). \$13 = 10 box size, 1.5m X 1m = \$95 or mesh cut to suite your requirements. Contact Josh Walker 0449 106 306

Job Lot of used equipment 1 working hive, top and bottom boards and supers to make up 2 hives, nuc box, male suit & gloves, pink ladies suit & gloves, smoker, electric uncapping knife. \$800 non-negotiable, Jamie 0408 071 341 Willow Vale

Assorted used boxes and frames. Contact Sab Masci, 139 Scrub Rd, Carindale. Phone : 07 3395 3929.

Found after Mudgeeraba Show and not claimed to date. Please contact Kevin Bell to claim ownership.



Kate Miller conducting the Introduction to Beekeeping talk at the Open Day **Some of the audience in the main pavilion**



COMMITTEE Postal Address ; GCABS, P O Box 123, Nathan 4111

Committee members elected at the Annual General meeting 21 August 2016

President	Les Thomson	0403 461 939	president@gcabs.net.au
Vice President	Alan Betts	0414 823 819	07 5533 0792
Secretary	Kathy Knox	0403 155 591	secretary@gcabs.net.au
Treasurer & Membership	Greg Hamwood	0447 755 792	treasurer@gcabs.net.au membership@gcabs.net.au
Equipment	James & Olive Cavanaugh	0438 643 482 0429 043 482	jim.cavanaugh1@bigpond.com
Buzz Editor & Librarian	Kevin Bell	0400 794 789	editor@gcabs.net.au
First Aid and Welfare	Olive Cavanaugh	0438 643 482	jim.cavanaugh1@bigpond.com
Committee	Ian Taylor	0409 640 411	
	Kate Miller	0412 883 949	katemiller@ozemail.com.au
	John Rockley	0427 078 221	rockleyjohn@gmail.com
	Shemeran Pireh	0401 371 986	shemeran@livecom
	Sydney Richards	0405 287 608	vmrsyd@live.com.au

