

The Buzz



Re-Issue No 378 – April 2016

The official newsletter of the Gold Coast Amateur Beekeeper Society Inc.

Special General Meeting Sunday 17th April 2016

It appears the original copy of the April 2016 Buzz was prematurely published using a draft prepared prior to the committee meeting held on 31 March 2016.

The next meeting is a special general meeting featuring **guest speaker** Dave Elson, professional beekeeper. This is your notice of the meeting. It is to be held to elect a new management committee in accordance with the motion passed at the general meeting held on 19 March 2016.

The state legislation requires the Secretary call the meeting, provide suitable notice to members and issue reasons for the meeting to members. The GCABS secretary will circulate Nomination forms and Proxy forms for members unable to attend the special general meeting. A list of nominations will be published on the GCABS website for your reference.

Thank you John Rockley – President Josh Walker - Secretary

Special General Meeting - Sunday 17 April 2016

Venue: Home of Jim and Olive Cavanaugh, **16A Country Crescent, Nerang.**

Program: Meet and great over a cuppa: 10:00a.m.
Meeting Starts: **10:30 am.** Main agenda item: election of all committee positions
12:00 noon BBQ Lunch
1:00p.m. Guest Speaker's Presentation

Guest Speaker Dave Elson, professional beekeeper and past keynote speaker 2013 Field Day.

Please bring a chair, small salad to share and raffle prizes gratefully accepted.
Parking onsite is limited, please find parking on the street.

New members and visitors always welcome.

Thank you to Kate Miller for letting the club inspect her hives onsite at the Currumbin Special School at the March meeting. It was great to see some of our new members getting hands on with some of our senior members including Kate Miller and Tim Clarke who offered their invaluable knowledge. Thanks also to Kevin Tracy for bringing his observation frames for us to have a look at.

Col Payne's Beekeeping Stories

A New Renewal.

In September 1979 Society I was one of 9 adults who formed the Gold Coast Amateur Beekeepers Society. We had very little experience, no money, and some Bees but we also had Beekeeping as the one common cause between us. We had **no Committee, No Money, and No Newsletter, No Experience** and not many Bees but we had a lot determination to succeed.

At our **First Meeting**, we decided by Majority Voting, the day, the starting time, the frequency and venue of our meetings. By necessity the Meetings were usually held at Member's homes all around the Gold Coast and Hinterland.

We elected a **President, Secretary and Treasurer** by a show of hands majority. We conducted our meetings using the correct procedure with the Secretary taking Minutes. Motions were moved with Seconders and a Vote of Members. Only minor decisions were taken by using "**The Captains Pick**" and all went well.

We all agreed at that first Meeting that the Elected Treasurer needed something to count so we each contributed 50 cents at this and every subsequent meeting. **Because of this, at our Second Meeting the Treasurer had a suitable book for the Ledger along with a New Bank Account. The Secretary had a Minute Book** which also served as a book for the List of **Members Details and Attendance Register**. So we had a **New Beginning** and there a lot of details to decide immediately and because we had **No Assets** many things developed as we went along.

A few years later after the Society became incorporated we stuck to the rules of the Constitution. We all agreed that our common aim was to keep Bees and we all helped each other. There were very few honey extractors among us but we helped each other rob and shared Honey Strainers, Smokers, Hive Tools and Brains and Muscle and gradually we all succeeded to achieve our aim. As the Society progressed financially we purchased hire equipment which was hired at minimal cost to members. The philosophy was always to plough any revenue made back towards the benefits of the Membership.

Now in 2016 the GCABS has the Assets but we still require a new beginning.

NEW - Members Forum

Log onto and sign up to the new club forum which will in time become an excellent online resource where we can all share knowledge and learn....

This is where you'll find it - www.gcabs.net.au/forum

Sign up now and make your very first post in our clubs valuable online resource.

Extracting Tips!

The following article is as a result of concerns that new beekeepers have been talking about doing a honey extraction from hives that have yet to fill one box let alone two. It was noted that some colonies were less than a month old.

New beekeepers are reminded that no honey should be extracted from the brood box.

Honey should only be extracted from boxes that are above the brood box.

1. As your apiary grows so does the needs of your extraction operation. Honey processing is inherently messy have a clean bucket of warm water handy and a clean towel or tea towel.
3. Clean your extraction area before using, and be aware of dust.
4. Electrical power is a must – good lighting, decapping knife, extractor, maybe even a fan to keep cool.
5. An abundant source of hot water is necessary for the clean-up.
6. Firm, washable floors are necessary. Rough cement is not suitable.
7. Extraction area should be bee-proof. Keep doors closed.
8. Trolleys are handy for moving heavy honey supers. Trolleys may need to be adapted to handle the width of Supers.
9. Heed relevant health and safety and food hygiene regulations.
10. Frames of comb may hold between 2 and 3 kg of honey. Each hive can produce 50-80 kg per year. A frame is generally ready to harvest when it is two-thirds full of capped honey. If you can shake honey out of the frame, it is probably not ready. This watery honey may ferment, spoiling the rest of the harvest.
11. If you do not have an extractor, a sieve or a strainer may be used with cut chunks of comb. On a warm day the honey will flow better.
12. If you use a scratcher only, this will produce more wax particles which will eventually block the sieve on the extractor. This means mid-extraction cleaning, which can be difficult.
13. Be careful not to scorch the honey when using an electrical de-capping knife. It is best to turn it off after three frames go into the (3 frame) extractor, and then turn it back on with the next batch of frames.
14. Because comb is angled upwards take care to rotate your extractor in the right direction. For example, if the top bar is on the left, rotate anti-clockwise.
15. If you wind the extractor too fast or wind with the frame too long on one side, you will blow out the wax on the frame. If the comb does break, don't worry, just repair it a bit and put it back in the hive and the bees will sort it out.
16. If the number of frames does not match your extractor, and say you have one or two frames left over (with a three frame extractor), you can still keep the extractor balanced by leaving a spun frame in the extractor. It may be easier to only spin one side of the second last batch, then putting the odd ones in, after taking out and putting the half-spun frame or frames in or on the capping tray, and after spinning this batch then remove the fully spun frame or frames and complete the process by fully spinning the half spun frames.
17. If you do not return the 'stickies' to their hive for cleaning (1-2 days is best), then you can't store these frames, covered with honey, for they will attract bees, ants and other insects. After bees have

cleaned up the frames they can be stored. You can freeze these frames after they come off the hive and before using again.

18. Food grade stainless steel extractors are best and easier to clean.

19. Make sure 'O' rings on the gates are sound and in place before filling buckets and extractors with honey.

20. Do not allow the drum at the bottom of the extractor to fill with honey or you will soon find that the extractor is difficult or impossible to turn. Drain some honey before attempting to remove the extractor from the drum.

21. If you have a fully capped frame or two of honey and you do not wish to extract just yet, then they can be stored by first wrapping them in new garbage bags, freezing them for two days (to kill any wax moth or small hive beetle larvae), and then they can be stored in airtight plastic bins.

Sources: 'The Beekeeper's Problem Solver', by James E. Tew; 'The Australian Beekeeping Manual' by Robert Owen; and from experience.

New Members Mentoring

Any new or existing members interested in beekeeping mentoring (both gaining and providing) please contact Committee Member Kevin Bell who is acting as coordinator.

Mudgeeraba Show 25 and 26 June 2016

A roster of members to assist at our fundraising and information stall will be drawn up shortly. As always a great social and community event is expectantly looked forward to by those who have assisted in the past. New members, this is an ideal place to gain beekeeping hints and to get to know other members.

Library

The Society has an extensive range of books on all aspects of beekeeping that can be borrowed from the GCABS library. Check out the catalogue on our website gcabs.net.au

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