

# THE BUZZ



Issue No 380 – June 2016

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

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## President's report for June



Welcome Members to the new month and the start of winter.

With the bees slowing down through the colder months, it is now time for our members to prepare all their equipment for the Spring and assess what will be required to maintain strong hives and a healthy honey flow, remembering the many stimulants to increase



the strength and numbers of your bees such as the wild turn of flower, the hairy bush pea, the flow of the spotted gum and other flowers blooming in the coming months.

A big thank you must go to Alan Betts for hosting our May meeting. Alan ensured the 56 attendees (I think there were more) were very well looked after variously participating in a beginners intro from Kate Miller, inspection of Alan's hives as well as instruction on the construction of supers. Thanks to all who

assisted on the day and contributed to the table of food and lucky door prizes.



Our next big event on the agenda is the gathering of all our members to the annual Mudgeeraba Show on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June 2016, where beekeeping is exposed at its best. This should express new interest within the public to help grow the bee industry and increase the population also inviting new members to our club. This would be a good time for all members to educate themselves on the knowledge of the different types of flora needed to assist the bee production.

As the Mudgeeraba show coincides with our usual Sunday meeting, there will be less activity for this month, but in July we will see a lot more activity such as the visiting of one of our sister clubs.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July at Kathy Knox's, Biggera Waters. At last a meeting to suit members and visitors at that end of the coast! It will be a lunch meeting commencing with an introductory course to all new members on beekeeping continued on to lunch and ending with an address from Dr Robyn Holland on the use of Epipens.

**John Rockley**

**Changes to Committee** Due to work commitments Josh Walker has been forced to stand down as Secretary. A big thank you to Josh as over the last few months he worked tirelessly undertaking much of the transitional administration work needed following the resignation of the old committee. Josh's place has been taken by Bernice Crisp who was elected at the last committee meeting in accord with the Society Rules.

Olive and Jim Cavanaugh have found room in their shed for the club equipment. Members requiring to buy or hire items should contact Olive or Jim. Contact details are listed further in the Buzz.

Also for personal reasons Ian Taylor has released the reins as Asst Secretary Membership handing over to Lyle Read.

**Get to know – Mark Paterson - Member returning after living in the USA** My bee keeping experience started when I attended a bee club meeting on the Gold Coast in 2004, I moved back to the US in the beginning of 2005 and attended a San Francisco beginning bee keeping workshop. Twelve months later I had 30 hives, was involved in bee education bees and bee keeping.

One of the challenges we have in the US is the Varroa Mite, it is so destructive. We also have some small hive beetle (SHB) and American Foul Brood (AFB). I look forward to continuing my bee keeping on the Gold Coast, and continue to learn more about bees.

**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.

**June 2016 – GCABS Monthly Meeting** There will be **NO** general meeting in June due to the Society having a stall at the Mudgeeraba Show.

**24 to 26 June 2016 - Mudgeeraba Show** Honey Competition. GCABS displays and honey sales. Show Ground, Mudgeeraba. I look forward to catching up with members and their news over the weekend.  
<http://www.mudgeerabashow.org.au/2016-mudgeeraba-show.html>

**13 to 14 July 2016 - Qld Beekeepers' Assn AGM & Conference** Speakers include David Westervelt from Florida USA address on American Foul Brood and controlling SHB.  
[www.qbabees.org.au/events/coming-events/](http://www.qbabees.org.au/events/coming-events/)

## 17 July 2016 – GCABS Monthly Meeting

NB - Meetings are regularly held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. 10:00am morning tea for 10:30am practical activity.

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

2/ Donations of prizes for the lucky door prizes are always appreciated.

3/ Sell your home produce, plants, beekeeping equipment, etc on the new sale table. NB Sellers must make a contribution to the raffle. GCABS takes no responsibility for the quality of items offered for sale.

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

5/ Please bring a plate to share for morning tea and BYO chair to sit on.

Agenda : Bee-ginners talk + hive inspection/general meeting/; lunch; presentation by Dr Robyn Holland

Venue : **4 Cabarita Street, Biggera Waters.** A sign will be displayed at the property entrance. Please contact the Secretary at [secretary@gcabs.net.au](mailto:secretary@gcabs.net.au) should you have queries.

**26 to 28 August 2016 - Gold Coast Show** Honey Competition. GCABS displays and honey sales. Gold Coast Turf Club, Bundall.  
<http://www.goldcoastshow.com.au/>

**25 September 2016 - GCABS Open Day** GCABS annual Open Day. Show Ground, Mudgeeraba. Principal speaker Des Cannon, Editor, Australasian Beekeeper Journal (ABK). Honey judging, cooking competitions, trade displays and sales, introductory talk and demonstration for interested and potential beekeepers.

**DAFF – New Biosecurity Laws Update Beekeeper registration under the Act** The system of beekeeper registration will continue under the new legislation. Registration is an important tool for tracing investigations in the event of a pest or disease incursion. From 1 July 2016, if you keep a bee hive you must register as a biosecurity entity. This replaces the previous requirement to be a registered beekeeper. The Act allows for single or multiple people or a business to be the registered biosecurity entity, depending on who owns the hives.

A biosecurity entity is allocated a Hive Identification Number (HIN) and only one HIN will relate to each registered biosecurity entity. In most cases your current brand will become your HIN. New registrations after 1 July 2016 will be effective for three years from the date of registration.

For existing beekeepers registered under the *Apiaries Act 1982* between March 2016 and June 2016, your registration will continue until March 2017, at which time you will be required to register under the new *Biosecurity Act 2014*. Your registration will then remain in place for three years from the date of registration.

A registration fee will continue to apply for beekeepers who are commercial producers. You are considered a commercial producer if you claim primary producer status on your annual tax return. Payment will be required at the time of registration. If you keep animals only for non-commercial purposes it is proposed that you will be exempt from paying the registration fee from 1 July 2016.

### **Report on QBA Affiliate Clubs' Meeting** Yeronga Services & Community Club 3 June 2016

Periodically, the Management Committee of the QBA holds a meeting open to affiliate clubs following one of their plenary meetings. The general purposes of the meeting are for QBA Management to appraise affiliates of the Association's advocacy/ activity/ research support and offer affiliate clubs the opportunity to raise concerns. The threat of severe weather kept affiliate club delegate numbers down. Robert Dewar (President) outlined a range of meetings with different state government departments and the varying success of these interactions. On the surface much of this effort appears directed to supporting the *commercial* beekeeper.

Robert indicated that Queensland has as many registered beekeepers as New South Wales but has only about half the number of *commercial* beekeepers. Registration of *hobbyist* beekeepers in Queensland has increased by one third in the last year. Beekeepers with between 0 – 40 hives comprise greater than half Queensland's registered beekeepers. It raises interesting questions around the number of people keeping an unregistered hive; each one a potentially ticking biosecurity bomb.

While Robert put forward the *trickle-down* effect, *ie.* what's beneficial to the *commercial* sector is of benefit to the *hobbyists*. True, to a degree, but we were able to point out that *hobbyist* members of the QBA don't get much tangible for their membership fees. And members of Affiliate Clubs aren't entitled to any rights according to the QBA's dated constitution. The constitution is under review.

The Sunshine Coast delegate demonstrated how the Affiliate Clubs may further support the work of the QBA. An examination of the constitution may, through interpretation, provide a way for Affiliate Clubs to contribute and derive benefits for each and every one of the Affiliate Clubs' members. A motion is being worked up for the AGM to be held in Townsville next month.

The Gold Coast Amateur Beekeepers Society Inc initiated the coming together of Affiliate Club Presidents to address common needs and to work to make the QBA more *hobbyist* oriented. Two areas identified in the initial get-together were educational consistency and the mentoring of those new to beekeeping. Those Affiliate Club delegates present saw direct benefit in pursuing this initiative.

Les Thomson

**Keeping bees in the Tweed Shire** Tweed Shire's view of *hobby* beekeeping is seemingly dependent upon zoning, *eg.* Tweed Heads itself is zoned R3 (medium density residential) where all "*agriculture*" is prohibited. *Agriculture* is, in part, defined as *extensive activity* encompassing commercial beekeeping. The activities of hobbyist beekeepers would likely be described as "*ancillary to the use of the dwelling*" and so be permitted/ ignored. Any interaction with the Council would then be complaint driven. Further enquiry is directed to the relevant State government department by Council officers.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries – Agriculture looks after [licencing of bee-keepers](#). It can all be done on-line.

GCABS has many members successfully keeping one or two hives on a suburban block. Les Thomson

### **Potential danger when cleaning slimed out hives destroyed by SHB.** Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation August 2012

Fungal Biocontrol of Small Hive Beetle warning of a danger to health when cleaning hives that have been slimed. The slime contains a yeast called *Kodamaea ohmeri*. The article recommends that, "precautions be taken when handling 'slimed up' hives. Strains of *K. ohmeri* found in the slime and in SHB in Australia are genetically very similar to pathogenic strains which have been isolated from immune-compromised patients overseas. Studies from volatiles emanating from both *K. homeri* and the slime associated with collapsed hives confirmed their attractiveness to adult SHB and identified key chemical components in both".

- 1) Beekeepers are advised that simple precautions will minimize exposure to *K. ohmeri* in the slime associated with SHB mediated hive collapse, and
- 2) Recommended that a face shield and disposal gloves be worn when handling slimed frames and hive boxes which should be treated with a solution of household bleach (10% dilution) before hosing the slime.

The article singled out people with immunocompromised conditions as being particularly vulnerable.

<https://rirdc.infoservices.com.au/downloads/12-012>

**Orientation Flight** New things on my radar:-

### Hadzabe Tribe of Tanzania



Perhaps the last hunter gather peoples in the world. This tribesman has climbed some 15 metres up a tree by hammering timber pegs into the trunk in order to rob a wild hive. Note the use of smoke. The comb is eaten whole by the tribespeople after it has been dropped from the tree providing a valuable source of scarce nutrition. The people do not appear to be effected by the bee stings. Successful honey gatherers are keenly sought after as husbands!

**Minimising Swarming** The greater the population of a colony, the greater the proportion of workers that can be involved in nectar foraging, comb building, and converting that nectar into honey. Thus, larger colonies make proportionally more honey per bee than do weaker colonies. Unfortunately, larger colonies are also more prone to swarm in the spring. The challenge to the beekeeper is thus to manage his/her colonies to grow to reach maximum size right at the start of the main honey flow, but at the same time trying to keep them from swarming during that process by **Randy Oliver**.

<http://scientificbeekeeping.com/understanding-colony-buildup-and-decline-part-7b/>



### Flow Hive Assistance

Member Maree Smith has a flow hive and has had assistance from club mentors. As advised previously an advanced nuc was supplied to Maree in a Langstroth configuration on 12 March. On the 3 May advantage was taken of the warm weather and the strong development of the

hive to add the Flow Hive honey super. The workers are now doing their thing with the Paperbark and other urban flora and storing honey in the Flow hive super.

Note: 1) Disposable rubber gloves are being worn as a precaution to prevent potential disease transfer. 2) The stylish Organza fabric homemade protective gear.

**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](http://www.gcabs.net.au/forum)

**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. The following is about mentors' assisting with a Flow Hive.

**Library** The Society has an extensive lending library including videos of our guest speakers presentations at last year's field day. Check out the catalogue on our website <http://gcabs.net.au/education/library/>

**The Australasian Beekeeper** (held in the Library) latest news in the June Edition.

- Bee resurgence in Europe after 3 neonicotinoid pesticides banned.
- Beekeeping in Tonga.
- *The Australian Native Bee Book* by Dr Tim Heard has recently been published. As the expression says, 'what Tim doesn't know about native bees ain't worth knowing'. Order online at [www.nativebeebook.com.au](http://www.nativebeebook.com.au)
- Further article on colony buildup and decline leading into the northern winter. Optimal efficiency in the collection and storage of nectar.

### Widespread exploitation of the honeybee by early Neolithic farmers

The association of humans with *A. mellifera* predates post-industrial-revolution agriculture, as evidenced by the widespread presence of ancient Egyptian bee iconography dating to the Old Kingdom (approximately 2400 BC). There are also indications of Stone Age people harvesting bee products; for example, honey hunting is interpreted from rock art in a prehistoric Holocene context and a beeswax find in a pre-agriculturalist site. Presented are identifications of beeswax in lipid residues preserved in pottery vessels of Neolithic Old World farmers. Bee products were exploited continuously, and probably extensively in some regions, at least from the seventh millennium BC. The

geographical range of bee product exploitation is traced in Neolithic Europe, the Near East and North Africa, providing the palaeoecological range of honeybees during prehistory.

[http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v527/n7577/full/nature15757.html?WT.ec\\_id=NATURE-20151112&spMailingID=49992958&spUserID=MjA1NzcwMjE4MQS2&spJobID=801549690&spReportId=ODAxNTQ5NjkwS0](http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v527/n7577/full/nature15757.html?WT.ec_id=NATURE-20151112&spMailingID=49992958&spUserID=MjA1NzcwMjE4MQS2&spJobID=801549690&spReportId=ODAxNTQ5NjkwS0)

### For Sale

**Chest freezer \$100** - 100x61cms depth 80cm. or 39x24 inches depth 31 inches. Used it to freeze stickies for SHB for 24-48 hours. (NB Freezing will not kill AFB). The freezer is in good shape. Can deliver it to Gold Coast. Phone Graeme and Julie 0403813714

### Ventilated 3 mesh full length beekeeper suit size L. \$140



Cool yet hard wearing and very protective from stings. Worn once but found to be too small for owner. Contact Kevin 0400 794 789

### Local native honey flora flowering in June

#### Flora that finishes flowering in May.

Banksia. Flooded Gum, Hickory Wattle. Honeysuckle Oak. Rose Sheoak.

#### Flora flowering in June.

Black Sheoak. Brisbane Black Wattle. Broad-leaved Banksia. Caley's Ironbark. Dusky-leaved Ironbark. Glycene. Golden Candlesticks. Mountain Coolibah. Paper-barked Tea-tree. River Mangrove. Spotted Gum. Swamp Messmate. Tumble-down Ironbark. White Box.

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