


THE BUZZ



The official newsletter of the Gold Coast Amateur Beekeepers Society Inc. Est. 1979
 Website: gcabs.net.au  [Gold Coast Amateur Beekeeping Society](https://www.facebook.com/GoldCoastAmateurBeekeepingSociety)



**Congratulations to GCABS member, Angus Turner.
 Champion (Apiculture), Mudgeeraba Show 2023
 See page 6**

DATE SAVERS

The Gold Coast Amateur Beekeeper's Society inc. welcomes new members, existing members and visitors to attend our meetings. Non-members attending will be asked to make a gold coin donation.

MEMBER MEETINGS

- **Sun 16 July 10-12 noon**
GCABS Clubhouse Topic: 1. Swarm prevention and spring preparation. 2. NPQ speaker– Native Plants Queensland
- **Sun 20 Aug 10am** Field trip to 'Mariefields', Tyalgum - Dr John Quayle: Alcohol wash for Varroa check; Splitting hives using divider boards. (NOTE This excursion is subject to meeting DPI varroa response regulations). *You will soon receive an email to register to attend this meeting.*
- **Sun 17 Sept.** GCABS Clubhouse: Topic - TBA

UPCOMING SHOWS

- **Sat/Sun 5-6 Aug** – Botanical Bazaar, Nerang Country Paradise Parklands. VOLUNTEERS please. See pg 4.
- **Fri/Sat/Sun 1st - 3rd Sep** – Gold Coast Show, Broadwater Parklands, Marine Parade, Southport. ~~ADD~~ VOLUNTEERS needed. Contact Leonie ph 0428177450 or gcabs.editor@beekeepers.asn.au. Show entries must be registered by August 4th. See pg 7 for details.

OTHER EVENTS

- **Beginner Beekeeping class:** 22-23 July Apply [HERE](#)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All welcome to attend our online Committee meetings. Email the secretary and ask for the link. Gcabs.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au

From GCABS President



At the Mudgeeraba show I was chatting away to someone and heard myself saying that I started beekeeping in my mid 30s but I wish I had begun sooner. How apt: I do wish I had started sooner, and also I should have started sooner in making frames and wiring them for the productive season about to kick off here!! Between April and July the days are not long enough and the weekends are over before they begin.

A big thank you Leonie, Syd, Tim & Tanya, Greg Keith, Debbie, Peter, Amanda, Brad, Stuart, Sue & Paul, Corinne, Kevin, Barry & Sue for your help on the stall at the Mudgeeraba Show. [ed pls add any names I forgot]. Thank you Greg also for the supply of extra honey which kept our stall full & Emily who had the chalk on hand. Thanks TAFE QLD for donating the generous raffle prize won by Jasmine Powell.

Thanks to everyone who came by to say G'day or put an entry in the comps. It was a cracker of a weekend and a good time all round.

July tasks for us as beekeepers: well, my list includes membership and insurance renewals, getting those frames done and foundation embedded, lifting some brood, painting and repairing boxes, and oh my !! I hear there is a large rain system coming our way. The July Beginner's class will run on the 22nd and 23rd and helpers are welcome to come along on either or both days to lend a hand and listen in. Contact anyone on committee to express interest.

Earlier in the year we collected and sent honey samples for analysis and to support research. I heard back from the researchers that our samples are being shared to another scientific initiative and could be of use there too. No results just yet but I will let you know.

Our friends and neighbours at Native Plants expressed concerns over the gum at the front corner of the shed, by the water tanks. Council investigated and agreed to do some corrective pruning maintenance and trimming of the canopy, and the Eucalyptus tereticornis tree will remain in place.

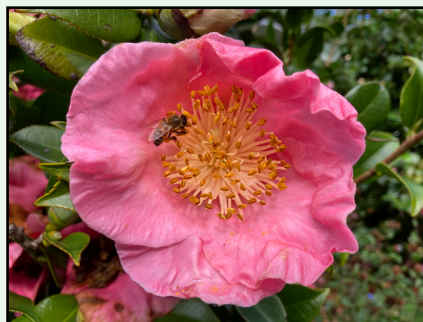
That's a wrap from me, its EOFY so wish your bookkeepers and beekeepers a happy new year (both operate on about the same cycle?) and as always keep an eye on your local conditions.

Kind regards... Kathy

Flower of the Month for Your Home Garden

Submitted by Esther Bligh

Camellias come from south Asia and are a much loved garden plant. The shrubs can grow to 3 metres but are quite slow growing. They do well in more shady spots of the garden and flower profusely through winter & early spring, providing both beautiful winter colour & food for our bees. There are many varieties to choose from, with white, pink or red flowers which can be single or double. Although it is definitely easier for bees to access the centre in single flowers, I have seen them bury their heads into more dense flower heads. It is important to know that camellias are acid-loving plants.; if you have alkaline soils, unfortunately they won't grow.



July Honey Flora - S.E. Queensland

Submitted by Jim O'Regan



Black Sheoak. Blue Gum. Brisbane black Wattle. Brisbane Golden wattle. Broad-leaved Banksia. Caley's Ironbark. Dusky-leaved Ironbark. Forest Boronia. Glycine. Golden Candlesticks. Grey Ironbark. Mountain Coolibah. Mugga. Paperbarked Tea-tree. River Sheoak. Scribbly Gum



Left: Hairpin Banksia - Taken at Binna Burra by Colin Allen, Centre: Qld Blue Gum, Right: Brisbane Golden Wattle

It's Membership Renewal Time

You recently received an email from the Amateur Beekeepers' Australia inviting you to renew your annual GCABS & ABA membership. With our fee remaining unchanged for the fourth year in a row, your membership offers good value. You also have the option for public liability insurance cover.

We urge you to renew promptly for another year of sharing & caring with our marvellous GCABS community.

The ABA have identified a couple of issues that may arise in the renewal process. All are easily addressed:

- **Double Payments:** Some members (thus far around 20 identified) were charged twice. In most cases this was the result of members using the back button on the checkout page when processing the payment. This is a common issue across various websites and not unique to our membership system. The ABA are now assessing how to best refund these members without creating issues with reconciliation further down the track.
- **Login Issues:** Some members were unable to login. Most of them were easily fixed by resetting the password on the Membership Portal's "Forgot Password" function. It's important for members to remember to use the email they use to sign-up with the ABA. It's the same address we sent them the renewal notice.
- **Missing DPI Registration:** members who take out the optional Public Liability Insurance are required to provide their DPI / Department of Agriculture registration as it's a legal requirement for all beekeepers to be registered with the relevant state authority. Members without a DPI registration recorded on their membership record will not be issued a Certificate of Currency.





Botanical Bazaar – Can you please help at our GCABS stall?

Once again, we need volunteers for our GCABS stall at this annual event.

When? Sat 5 & Sun 6 August

Where? Nerang Country Paradise Parklands (just below our GCABS clubhouse)

What? Chat to people about bees in general, our GCABS club, and any questions they may have. You don't have to know a lot... just be friendly.

Who? Contact Ann on 0402 996 101 if you can lend a hand and support your club. We'd really appreciate it and I bet you'll be happy you did!

Judging by last year's bazaar, it'll be highly worthwhile with loads of interesting stalls, heaps of speakers including Phil Dudman, Jerry Coleby, Sophie Thomson and our very own Dr John Quayle. The topics vary but all relate to gardening, sustainable living and taking care of our precious environment. For more details go to: <https://www.botanicalbazaargc.com>.



GCABS Life Membership Policy ratified

At the GCABS committee meeting on 7th June 2023, the Life Membership Policy & Procedure was approved.

Life Membership is the most prestigious award bestowed by an association to a member. The award is given in recognition that the candidate has demonstrated exceptional contribution & provided demonstrable benefit to the organisation, by way of service over an extended time. Over many years, GCABS has proudly bestowed Life Membership on 11 occasions to worthy candidates.

Interestingly, while 'Life Membership' has been included in our constitution since its inception, there was no selection criteria or procedure ever specified. Therefore, to set the standard for future nominations & bestowal, the GCABS committee developed a draft Life Membership Policy & Procedure. After discussion, consideration & amendment, the Life Policy & Procedure was accepted on June 7th, 2023 to be included in the GCABS Policy & Procedures manual. The full Life Membership document is at the back of this newsletter.

June Meeting Review: Wax Cleaning & Creamed Honey

President Kathy gave a clear demonstration of cleaning beeswax: from sticky combs & uncappings to pure, pristine wax. Main points included:

1. Remove the honey from the wax FIRST before processing. Strain overnight & recover the honey, then rinse the wax to remove more.
2. Use water in the pot during the melting stage/s. The melted wax will re-harden in a layer above the water making it easy to remove from the pot.
3. Allow the wax to harden until cold before decanting to remove water & slum gum (the debris).
4. Use the 'slum gum' in your garden.

You might like to use or even make for yourself a solar wax melter such as the one demonstrated that was made by Peter Quirk, (see photos) to render the wax in the sun on our long, summer days.



Kathy filtered the melted wax, using a nylon stocking over a stainless steel sieve, after its first melting to remove most of the debris, then reheated it (with water again) in her modified deep fry vessel with a tap. This vessel was bought at Best Candle Supplies, West Burleigh, in case you are in the market for one.

Syd Richards then demonstrated the easy process of making creamed honey (See June Buzz 2023 edition for "How to Make Creamed Honey"). Being winter, this is the ideal time to whip some up and keep a jar in your fridge ready to enter in the Gold Coast Show.



Another point of interest was Elise's Vanilla Bean Honey. A lovely jar & label with a whole vanilla bean immersed in the honey for a month gave a delicate enhancement to the flavour.



Editor's warning - if you add any product to your honey that you sell, you will void your product insurance under the ABA insurance scheme.

Emily Hamwood headed up the refreshments team as she has done for many years. We love your service, smile & ongoing commitment Emily. Thank you.

All the Fun of the Fair - Mudgeeraba Show

Mudgeeraba Show was a cracker of an event for GCABS!

As sponsor of the Apiculture competition, we were very proud of the bee-autiful display that many of our members and other local beekeepers achieved with their range of quality entries. Hearty thanks to Kellie Round for judging. Many of you placed in individual classes; well done.

The Apiculture champion, with multiple awards was GCABS member Angus Turner. Congratulations Angus. Angus entered almost every class, even native bee honey. He also entered a bottle of mead, even though it was still fermenting, "I was hoping it wouldn't explode and break the display case", commented Angus with relief & good humour.



GCABS also had an information & honey stand that was very well managed by our wonderful team of volunteers. THANK YOU all for generously sharing your time, knowledge & enthusiasm.

GCABS acknowledge the generosity of TAFE Qld & Corinne Jordan as our major sources for fundraising at this event. For our show raffle, TAFE Qld, for whom Kevin Tracy works as an educator in beekeeping, very generously donated a complete beekeeping bundle TAFE course, valued at \$460.

The raffle was enthusiastically received and subscribed. Corinne Jordan of the Bee Lady Apiaries donated 30kg of honey which we packaged and sold under the GCABS label.

In addition, several of our show volunteers were able to sell their honey & donate a small amount from each transaction to GCABS. Thank you all.



**DEADLINE to register your entries for the Gold Coast Show
Apiculture (Honey & Hive) Competition is
Friday 4th August 2023 at 11.59pm.**

Your entry form can be posted, emailed or you can enter online. You'll find the full schedule & entry details at <https://goldcoastshow.com.au/show/competitions/homecrafts/>



**Register your entries by
Aug 4th, 2023**

Homecrafts

Schedule 2023

Join in the fun!



- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Apiculture | Machine Sewing |
| Baking and Cooking | Miscellaneous crafts |
| Cake Decorating | Papercraft |
| Crochet | Scrapbooking |
| Hand Embroidery | Seniors |
| Hand Knitting | Spinning & Weaving |
| Horticulture | Toys |
| Lace | Woodwork |



In this and the August editions of the Buzz, we'll bring you a 2 part feature article on the importance of recycling comb from your hives. Our thanks go to Kevin Tracy, owner Bee Zone Apiaries & educator in Beekeeping, Robina TAFE.

PART 1: "Out With the Old!" brood frame rotation why, when, and how

Kevin Tracy BeeZone Apiaries

Let me start by being very clear – sometimes "Oldies ARE Goodies" but not when it's Honey bee brood comb!

At one time, even now, there could be boasting as to how old brood comb is: "I've got comb in my brood box that is over ten years old, maybe older, and I've been beekeeping for years."



Reasons "Why Old Brood Comb Must Go":

- Bees spin cocoons.
- The emerging bee defecates prior to leaving the cell.
- **The cell diameter in old brood comb diminishes from an accumulation of fecal matter and cocoon silk.** Smaller bees.
- Bees then cover this sticky mess with a thin layer of propolis to "clean and sanitise" the cell ready for another egg.
- Brood cells can be polished and reused every 21 or 22 days during the busier Season/s.

Now, a couple of comments someone might make -

1. "So what? Smaller bees ..."
Colonies full of old, dark, heavy comb will have smaller bees and fewer of them.
2. "Small cell size is good". (Save this one for a conversation, thanks.)

Another reason: Research has shown that old brood comb, contains significant levels of contaminants including:

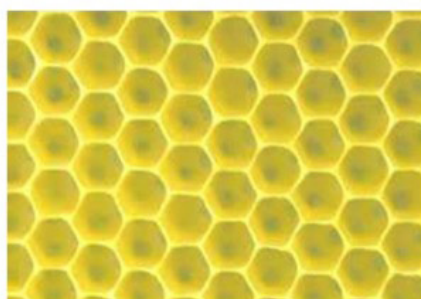
- pesticides, heavy metals, fungi, bacteria, and viruses. (this will be of even greater concern as Varroa increases the use of miticides)

Bee Product Science, www.bee-hexagon.net, April 2016

"On average, colonies with new comb produced a greater area of sealed brood, and higher weight of individual young bees." Also, "Bees reared in old comb may weigh up to 19% less than bees reared in new comb." (J. Berry, 2011)

The build-up of cocoons and propolis in brood cells is observable –

When wax is processed, you can observe how much more "slumgum" is filtered from dark



Changes in combs with increasing number (n) of bee colony generations, after²⁷

n	comb colour	cell volume cm ³	comb thickness mm	cell diameter mm	bee mass mg	% wax
0-1	yellow	0.282	0.22	5.42	123	86-100
2-5	brown	0.269	0.40	5.26	120	60
6-10	dark-brown	0.255	0.73	5.24	118	49
13-15	black	0.249	1.08	5.21	106	46

brood comb than from melted honeycomb.

Rotate old black comb out of the hive, not because of its colour, but to protect the hive from accumulations of pesticides and pathogens.

NB: It is almost impossible to imagine what the interactions of the accumulated toxins create as an unhealthy nursery environment. (We'll not go into sub-lethal affects on bees during developmental stages)

This information is shared with the intent to raise more healthy bees, improve beekeeping practices, and give you time to prepare for Spring.

(Written with respect to and for Dr Doug Somerville and his "Pillars of Beekeeping" on which this article is an elaboration of Remove Old Comb)



JOBS in Your Bee Yard this Month

- Swarm season on the Gold Coast starts in July. With mild temps & consistent food sources this winter, your bees will be building for Spring & swarming.
- Start inspecting hives for spring build up & swarm signs. Does the queen have plenty of laying room? How many frames of brood are there? More brood means an expanding population. Make sure they have space. Rotate brood frames into the honey super and replace with empty frames if space is running out.
 - Is there an increase in drone brood? Drones take longer to breed & mature. The colony will trigger the production of drones when pollen (protein) supply is abundant. New queens need a good population of drones to mate with. So more drones can be an early start to swarm preparation by the colony.
 - Look out for queen cells being built & be prepared to split a colony if the cells are maturing.
- Prepare spare hives. Ensure you make ready a spare hive box or two with sufficient frames & foundation, lid & base in preparation to catch a swarm or to split a highly populated hive to prevent swarming.
- **Complete your varroa mite surveillance (every 16 weeks) as a priority and report all results (whether positive or negative) to the Bee 123 portal accessed by clicking [HERE](#).**

COMMITTEE

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Life Membership Policy & Procedure

The Gold Coast Amateur Beekeepers Society (GCABS) recognises Life Membership as the most prestigious award bestowed by the Association to a member. These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the Constitution & Policies/Procedures of the GCABS.

Nomination

1. A current financial member can nominate another current financial member with the nomination seconded by at least one additional current financial member (see 3).
2. Nominations in writing should outline the nominators' reasons for proposing the candidate and should meet the guidelines stated in the criteria.
3. Life Membership cannot be nominated by or seconded by a family member/spouse.
4. The nomination will be reviewed by the GCABS Management Committee.
5. In the event of a candidate serving on the Committee at the time of nomination, the candidate will be ineligible to participate in any deliberation relating to the nomination.
6. A 2/3rds majority of the full GCABS Management Committee is required to endorse the nomination.
7. The GCABS Management Committee will present the nomination to the Annual General Meeting for the final ratification. This is a votable item and will be preceded by a Special Notice of Resolution.
8. The conferral of Life Membership and the candidate's service to GCABS will be published through GCABS Media and Communication tools.

Criteria

1. Awarding Life Membership will take into account the following criteria:
2. Provided exceptional, loyal and outstanding service*
3. Contribution has been over an extended period of time.
4. Has been a GCABS Member for a continuous period of not less than 8 years
5. Has demonstrated an attitude and demeanour that reflects dedication to the objects and values of GCABS.

*The candidate has demonstrated exceptional contribution by way of service to GCABS with demonstrable benefit to GCABS and membership. These roles may include: service to the management committee, fundraising, promotion, volunteering, mentoring, assistance with new members, social functions, representation of GCABS with distinction in the broader beekeeping community or governing bodies, a role model within GCABS, displayed valued leadership, etc.

Candidates should be considered individually & on their personal attributes & achievements, and not in comparison to others.

Benefits of Life Membership

1. GCABS Membership for life without fees including any applicable ABA fees.
2. Commemorative Certificate.
3. Recognition on an Honour Board.