
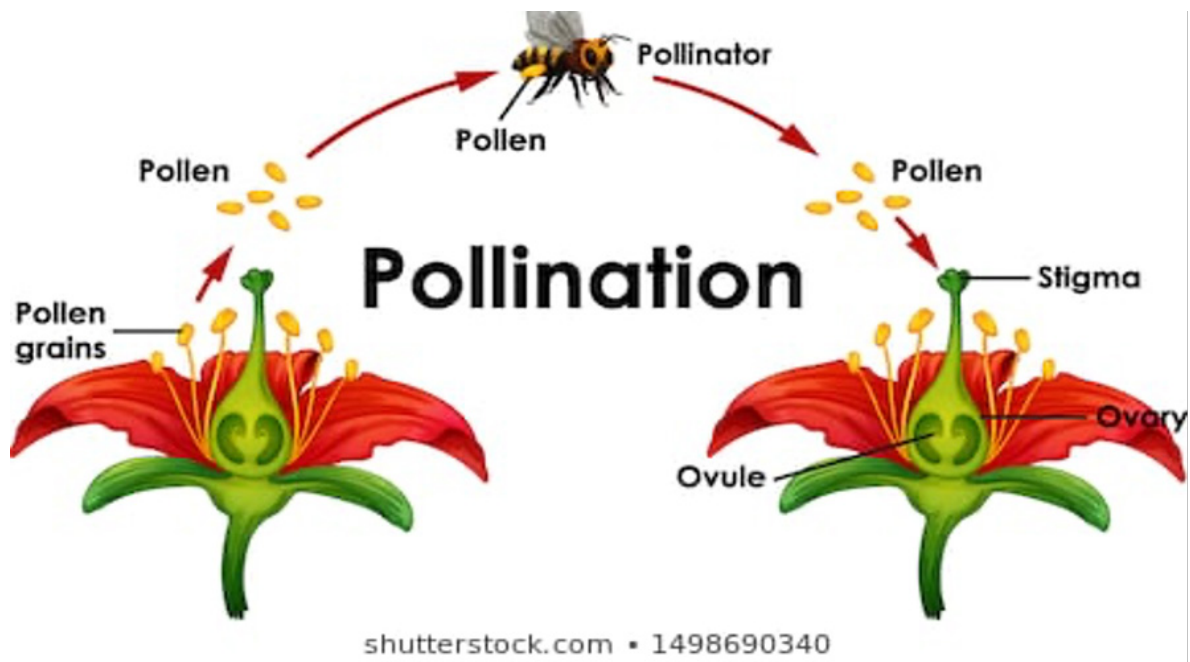


THE BUZZ



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)



It's Australian Pollinator Week 8-15 November 2020!

DATE SAVERS

Please note that as COVID regulations change, our planned events sometimes change also. If so, you will be notified via our Facebook pages & email.

- **Sun 15th Nov. From 9am** - General Meeting. Field trip to NT Bees with Queen Bee breeders Graham Beech & Jo Read 3139 Beaudesert-Nerang Rd Biddaddaba, Qld. 4275. Bring: Chair, hat, sunscreen and PPE - full cover protective clothing. If you have a severe allergy response to beestings please bring your own epipen. As this is the last meeting of 2020, this will be our Christmas celebration also. RAFFLE with great prizes. \$2 ticket or \$5 for 3, drawn on the day. Bring your pocket money! Registration in advance required for Covid Safe rules. Click here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/gcabs-general-meeting-tickets-127946199527>
- **Sat/Sun Nov 15/16th** - Beginning In Beekeeping Course. This course is FULL.
- **Sun 17 Jan** - General Meeting at Nerang Country Paradise Parklands, 231 Beaudesert-Nerang Rd, Nerang. Registration in advance required for Covid Safe rules. Click here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/gcabs-general-meeting-tickets-128060322873>

From GCABS President



A warm welcome to all new members and salutations to our existing club members. The chorus of nature is truly a beautiful melody, birds tweeting, crickets chirping, leaves rustling, bees buzzing and Queen bees piping. The Queen Bee can be an elusive character who boasts many talents, including an acoustic prowess - her repertoire includes quacking, tooting and piping.

After the insurgence of the swarm activity that we Beekeepers have endured recently, Re-Queening could be on your hive maintenance schedule. Many factors signal the need to Re-Queen a hive, such as hive strength, brood pattern, colony temperament, honey productivity, pest and disease resistance to name a few.

Enter our Photo Competition NOW

For the month of November, the club is searching for Miss GCABS, so grab your camera all you Beekeepers and snap the perfect pose of your Queen. To enter, email your photo to gcabs.editor@beekeepers.asn.au to win a Mann Lake Queen Transporter Box, Queen Clip and Queen Marking Pen & Tube (see photo). Competition closes 7/12/2020 – the winner will be contacted via phone to collect their prize at the January 2021 General Meeting.



Ross Krumbholz

GCABS Education The October Beginners' class

This was a great success and the 11 new beekeepers were treated to a fabulous two days of activities hosted by the training team. Special thanks to Syd and Pam Richards for opening their home to us. Appreciation to Peter Corbett and Peter Quirk for supporting the class and the GCABS mentors for providing the 'lifeline' to newbees.

GCABS coordinated mentoring program

All GCABS members are welcome to participate in the coordinated mentoring program. We now have about 60 learners connected to more experienced GCABS' mentors for friendly support and tips in time of need.

Would you like to become a mentor?

Mentoring can take the form of a phone call, a short chat, a shared beekeeping experience, or a site visit. There is no hard and fast way to be a mentor. So if you have been keeping bees for a few years and have got the swing of it now, please pay it forward and lend support to a new learner. Contact goldcoast.education@beekeepers.asn.au. A mentor who knows local conditions around the Gilston/Maudsland area is needed. For our current mentors: a scheduled zoom catchup will be held in November, please check your emails for an invite. Thank you heaps!



Sometimes bees get tired from flying and fall asleep inside flowers with pollen on their bee butts

October GCABS General Meeting - Sun 18th October

Submitted by Peter Quirk

Despite having to comply with all COVID requirements, it was pleasing to see 69 members at our October meeting at Nerang Country Paradise Parklands. Additional to the usual committee reports, Vice President and Membership Officer Rachael Kubinski requested all members update their membership details. This can be done through the membership section of the GCABS website paying particular attention to ensuring your HIN is recorded and correct. For Queensland members your HIN will be the first letter of your surname followed by a series of numbers eg Q41.



Special guest speaker was Loretta Taylor from Native Plants QLD. Loretta outlined the purpose, aims and activities of the Group. There is certainly a lot of crossover/common interest between our two groups. In addition they had a range of native plants loved by pollinators for sale at extremely cheap prices.



Members Olive & Jim Cavenagh, Kathy and Rachael demonstrated a variety of methods for melting and cleaning wax. This was very practical and useful.

Winner of the HIN Raffle was Alex Lang. Congratulations to Alex!



Various types of wax melter were demonstrated and on show



Research and In the News

Read about current bee-related research. Partly sponsored by Capilano Honey:

- Cooper Schouten (the effects of various pesticides on hives and honey bees) (aiding poor and marginalised beekeepers in SE Asia and the Pacific). <https://www.capilano-honey.com/au-en/news/capilano-honey-back-promising-young-phd-student>
- Simon Williams USC is testing nectar of the *Leptospermum* species across Australia re production of Manuka style medical honey. <https://www.capilano-honey.com/au-en/news/capilano-supports-usc-ph-d-student>

Native Stingless bee honey hits sweet spot

Stuart Layt, Sydney Morning Herald, 25-26 July 2020

Submitted by Tony Nathan

Health benefits of native honey have long been claimed by Indigenous people, and now this is being backed up by scientific research. According to recent research conducted at University of Qld, native stingless bee honey has been found to contain a rare form of sugar called Trehalulose. This particular sugar has a lower GI than standard honey which mostly contains glucose and fructose. Having a lower GI means it can be absorbed into the bloodstream more slowly, thus avoiding a spike in blood sugar caused by more common sugars. It also is 'acariogenic', meaning it does not cause tooth decay.



Associate Professor in Organic chemistry at UQ, Prof Mary Fletcher, said they hoped to use their findings to help develop an Australian standard for stingless bee honey. It has not been recognised in the past as it contains more water (26%) than regular honey (20%). Once a standard has been created, this honey highly prized by chefs for its taste, can be regulated in its production to avoid cheaper honey being substituted. Two species of Australian bees were used for the research: two from Malaysia and one from Brazil.

A checklist of the top ways to manage your hives in this busy spring/summer season.

The October 2020 issue of the ABK features a helpful article, summarised below...

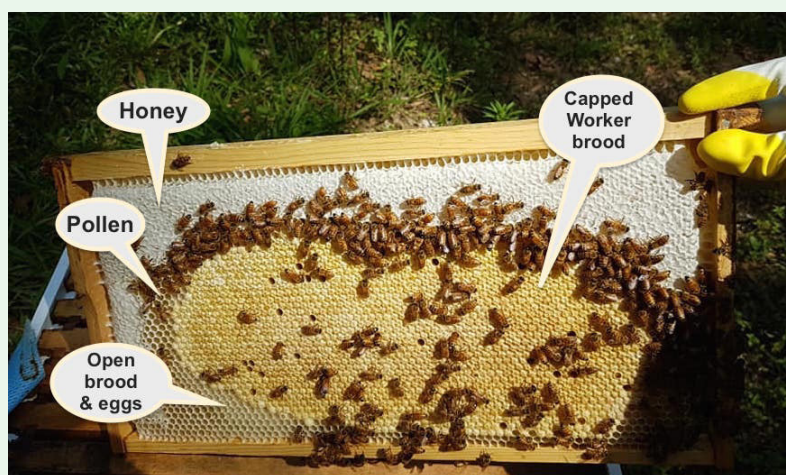
1. **Disease inspection – Brood inspection is crucial. Key things to look for are Chalkbrood mummies, spotty or sunken brood (possibly Sacbrood, EFB or AFB) diarrhoea on/around the hive entrance or dead bees at the front of the colony. Beware: Small hive beetle must be kept in check using a trap of oil, diatomaceous earth or chemical or it can destroy your colony with a slime out- see picture below.**
2. **Managing swarming – Swarming is a natural way of reproducing, but it is not always to your advantage. The old queen will leave with half of your workforce thus reducing colony productivity and losing any good genetics you purchased with your original queen. Killing any queen cells that appear can help with swarm reduction, but once queen cells appear, the colony has already decided to swarm. Other ways to prevent swarms include splitting off nucs, re-queening with young queens, practicing brood manipulation, removing honey and /or increasing space for nectar.**

3. **Splitting off Nucs** – To create a split, put the following into a nuc box: a frame of fully capped brood, one or two frames of open larvae & eggs plus the nurse bees on those frames, then shake extra bees into the box, a frame of honey/pollen and a foundation frame, shake some nurse bees into the nuc box and either introduce the mated queen or leave a ripe queen cell on one of the frames.
4. **Removal of Honey** – now is a good time to remove honey if you feel confident that the bees will have a continuing nectar flow. Removing fully capped frames of honey from the honey super and replacing them with frames of foundation or clean stickies will stimulate nectar collection. Only put extra supers onto a colony if the bees are over the top bars of the top box as you don't want to stress them with too much space.
5. **Brood Manipulation** – To reduce swarming as well as increase the number of bees in your colony, you can rotate all full frames of honey and some fully capped brood from the brood chamber up to the honey super above the queen excluder. Only do this if you have warm daytime temperatures and good pollen and nectar flows.
6. **Re-queening** – You can check the health of your queen by making sure her wings are not frayed, and that she is laying eggs in an even manner, filling most cells in the comb. If you decide to re-queen, the bees will most easily accept a new queen in spring. This will help a lot if your colony has become less productive or more aggressive. A young vigorous queen can improve the colony's ability to resist disease.
7. **Replace frames** – Old, black or damaged brood comb can be replaced with fresh frames of foundation or stickies. This will also encourage the queen to lay. Foundation will be drawn most evenly if put in the second or third frame position rather than against the wall of the super.
8. **Hive position** – Check the position of your hives in relation to sun, shade, damp and wind. Ensure your colonies have a warm, sunny spot out of the prevailing winds so the bees can keep their hive dry and brood warm.
9. **Most important of all** – enjoy your bees and take time to smell the flowers!

Adapted from "In the Apiary - By Tiffane Bates – The Australasian Beekeeper", Vol 122.4, October 2020.



This is what you don't want to see on your frames - a slime-out from small hive beetle



Healthy brood pattern

Bee Education

We are indeed lucky to have a wealth of information available to us on all Bee matters, with a special focus on pollination this month. Here are some links you will find very interesting and helpful.

Tocal Beekeepers Online Field Day

If you missed the Tocal Beekeepers Online Field Day on 17 Oct, you missed some excellent and highly informative online presentations. You can however, watch them at this link: https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1267478/Tocal-Virtual-Beekeeping-Field-Day-2020-Recordings.pdf



When Bee Foundation

The When Bee Foundation is providing several fascinating free webinars on native bees over the Australian Pollinator Week and beyond. These include:

- 8 November - 'Native Bee Conservation in Action' - ABC's Costa Georgiadis and Sydney Native Bee's Dan Smailes
- 11 November - After the fires: Conserving Australia's Green Carpenter Bee on Kangaroo Island.
- 12 November - Discovering Australia's Native Bees.

Registration for each event is required. To check times and to explore all the exciting events coming up and to register, visit: <https://www.australianpollinatorweek.org.au/explore/>

November Honey Flora - S.E. Queensland

Thanks to Jim O'Reagan

Blue Gum, Blue Heilotrope, Broad-leaved Banksia, Flat Weed, Flax-leaved, Paperbark, Glycine, Golden Candlesticks, Grass-tree, Grey Ironbark, Maize, Mexican, Poppy, Mintweed, Moreton Bay Ash, Narrow-leaved Grey Gum, Narrow-leaved, Ironbark, Red Stringybark, River Mangrove, River Red Gum, Swamp Mahogany, Tumble-down Gum, Tumble-down Ironbark, Turnip Weed, White Clover, White, Mahogany, Wild May (Baeckea), Wild May (Leptospermum), Yellow Box.



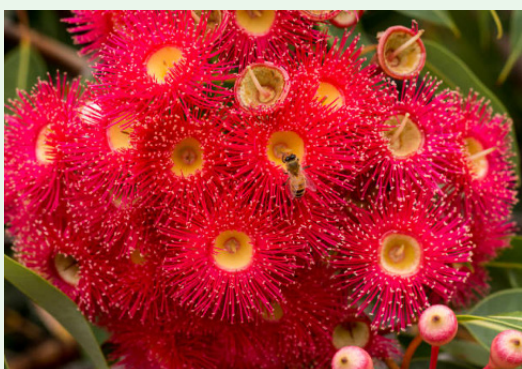
Yellow Box- *Eucalyptus Melliodor*



Broad-leaved Banksia



Wild May (*Leptospermum*)



Red Stringybark



Mexican Poppy

Pertinent Points on Pollination

Bees, both honey and native, are our most important pollinators and are responsible for pollinating up to 70% of the world's horticultural and agricultural crops. They therefore play a critically vital role in our food security. Australian bees and our honey and pollination industries have had a tough time in recent years due to a prolonged drought, devastating bushfires and now COVID_19. This is on top of ongoing challenges: destruction of natural habitat, intensive farming practices and the use of agricultural chemicals, and pests and diseases. There has been a decline in commercial beekeeping generally. Our bees and the pollination industry need us to increase awareness that the threat to their sustainability is about far more than just honey.

We depend on bees for one in every three mouthfuls of the food we eat. Foods like apples, avocados, blueberries, cucumber, pumpkin and rockmelon depend on bee pollination to produce fruit. Almond production is almost totally reliant on bee pollination, and macadamias, cherries and mangoes are 90% dependent. Pollination services are essential for around 35 of Australia's agricultural industries. Thus it is estimated that the honey bee contributes over \$14 billion per annum to the Australian economy!

Honey bees as pollinators

Honey bees are excellent pollinators for several reasons. Honey bees will easily cover a 5 km radius and even further if resources are scarce. They live in massive colonies which will forage any time if weather permits. More than other bee species, honey bees are amazingly loyal to particular flowers which is a huge boost to pollination. For example, some fruit trees such as apple and almond varieties, can have very dense flower clusters, so a honey bee can spend her entire foraging trip on one limb of one tree and just walk from flower to flower. In densely-packed hives, they rub against each other within the hive, transferring pollen from bee to bee with the greatest of ease. Read more on this link: <https://www.honeybeesuite.com/in-hive-pollen-transfer-among-honey-bees/>

Native bees as pollinators

We have around 2000 native bee species, which include Stingless Bees, Leafcutters, Blue Banded Bees and Carpenter Bees. Some native species are used for commercial crop pollination services, mainly in warmer climates. Most native bee species are solitary and not suited to commercial crop pollination, but they play a vital role in the pollination of native plant species and they underpin ecosystem health.

Carpenter Bee



Blue banded Bee



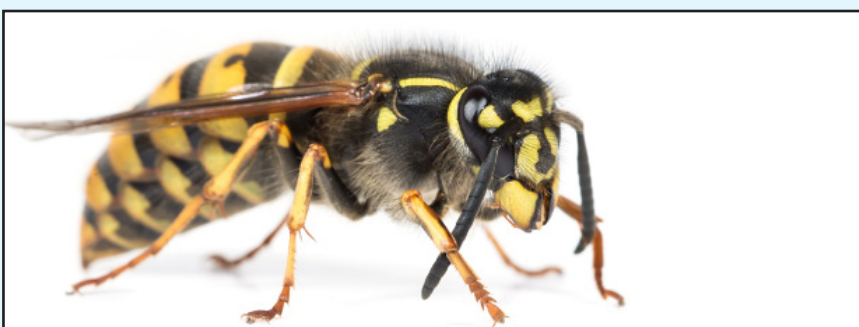


With Eucalyptus trees in bloom nearby, these native stingless bees are enthusiastically bringing large balls of yellow pollen home, into their nest in this hollow tree. The pollen is used to feed the immature bees inside the nest.

- <https://www.agrifutures.com.au/news/where-would-we-be-without-bees/>
- <https://www.wheenbeefoundation.org.au/about-bees-pollination/>
- <https://www.aussiebee.com.au/pollination.html>

Non-bee pollinators

We have many other wild pollinator insects that contribute to pollination in crops and gardens in Australia. These include a few thousand species of flies, wasps, beetles, moths and butterflies. Pollinators are also found amongst birds, bats and other small mammals. There are major research programs currently underway to learn how to make better use of our wild pollinators for crop pollination in Australia.



One non-bee pollinator that is actually highly destructive to bees, is the European Wasp. They attack and kill bees and can decimate hives. This is currently more of a problem in other states than in Queensland but this could change. In your latest ABA newsletter, there is an article by Sue Carney about a campaign called Wasp Patrol to fight back against these wasps and help protect our bees. To find out more, including a recipe for a honey and vanilla mixture that safely traps wasps not bees, see *The Amateur Beekeeper*, p9, October/November 2020.

By the way, if you have trouble identifying exactly what the flying insects excitedly zipping around flowers are – is it a bee, a wasp or a fly, a moth or a butterfly, - this clearly illustrated link may help you.

<https://wildpollinatorcount.files.wordpress.com/2016/11/idbycat.pdf>

Pollination syndromes

Have you ever wondered why certain plants attract certain pollinators? If a flower is long and deep this will attract creatures with long tongues or tiny bodies that can crawl down to the nectar, whereas short-tongued animals will prefer disk-shaped flowers. The aroma, colour, landing platforms, amount and taste of nectar available, amount and size of pollen grains are other characteristics that are considered by pollinators. Knowing this information can help you decide on what plants to place in your garden or property. For more details on this topic click on:

<https://www.honeybeesuite.com/pollination-syndromes-can-predict-who-will-visit-a-flower/>
<https://www.australianpollinatorweek.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/APW-planting-for-native-bees-CC.pdf>

How to get involved in pollination week

1. Wild Pollinator Count



As part of Australian Pollinator Week, 8-15 November, we have been asked to participate in a Wild Pollinator Count. This is an opportunity for us to count wild pollinators in our local environment in order to contribute to the database on wild pollinator activity. Basically, this involves watching any flowering plant for just ten minutes. How easy is that! To find out exactly how to do this, click on the following link: <https://wildpollinatorcount.com/>

2. Global Online Waggle Dance Challenge

This is a fun activity to promote worldwide interest in honey bees and to celebrate the vital role they play in pollination and food security. The Waggle Dance mimics the extraordinary way honey bees communicate with each other. It is a way to unite people from anywhere in the world from the safety of their home to be part of this global celebration. For more information:

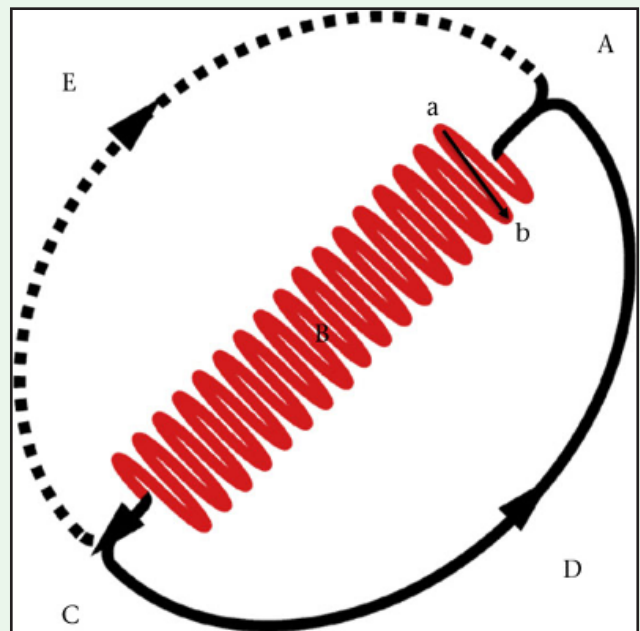
<https://www.australianpollinatorweek.org.au/about/waggle-dance-challenge/>

What is the Honey Bee's Waggle Dance?

The information contained in the dance consists of two parts: 1. The orientation of the dance which indicates what angle to travel away from the sun. 2. The duration of the middle of the dance which expresses the distance of the food source from the hive.

This is a diagrammatic representation of a waggle dance, A typical dance proceeds from A to C via B and then returns to A via either D or E. The interval during which the forager vibrates her body from side to side (B) is the waggle phase. The intervals CeDeA or CeEeA are called the return phase. A dancer normally alternates return phases via E and D. The movement from a to b is one waggle. Redrawn from Tautz (2008).

If you want to know more, this short video (7.28min) clearly demonstrates the dance and the Austrian biologist Karl Von Frisch's fascinating experiments on the topic.



The Dance of the Honeybee <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bFDGPgXtK-U>



*A warm welcome to our newbee members
who joined GCABS in October:*

Geoffrey Scarce, Suzanne McGrath, Angus Blacklock, Owen Bain, Sue Burvill-Shaw, Karen Carson, Annelies Geissler, Jessica Krzyzaniak, Braden Lamb, Allan Lance, Ben Macht, George McGee, Simon McWhirter, Belinda Morier, Nada Pacavra, Joshua Poh, Noel Brown, Julie Gale, John Slater, Mary Spinella, Jonathan Van Kersen

Beekeeper Spotlight

If you want to meet ‘true Gold Coast locals’, you need look no further than to Peter and Bev Veivers. Married 57 years, they have lived in this area all their lives, and on their 120 -acre Tallebudgera property since 1978. Having worked hard over the past decades, this kind and friendly couple can now enjoy a slightly quieter life in their peaceful home with its sweeping views of the valleys and hills of Tallebudgera, Bonogin and Springbrook.

Bev spoke proudly of her strong connection to the pioneering beekeeping industry of the Albert Shire, through her great grandfather Fielding Chippendale who arrived in Queensland from Liverpool, England in 1865. He was 10. He later married a girl from Ipswich and they had 7 children. Fielding must have been typical of the hardy early settlers of that time, being practical, thrifty, generous and of sterling integrity. He worked in

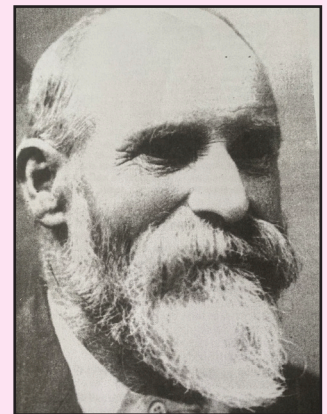
coal mines before turning to work as a carpenter and a beekeeper. He and his young family travelled on the ‘Maid-of-Sker’ paddlewheel steamship to Southport in 1888, bringing their bees with them. He purchased a block of land at Molendinar where he kept his beehives. He maintained that the quality of the honey from eucalypts on his Molendinar property was superior to that of the Southport area where the honey derived from mangrove and tea tree flowers was too strong and thus not as popular.

Fielding must have been keen to develop his honey business as he built a glass-sided hive into the wall of his kitchen so as to observe and learn about the workings of a hive. He became known as “The Honey Man” and was an expert producer and judge, being appointed judge for the Jubilee Exhibition. In an 1893 edition of “The Queenslander” newspaper, it lists F. Chippendale as winning prizes for his honey, including “Best hive of Italian bees to be shown in observatory hive so that the queen bee can be seen”. He must have left a fine personal collection of medals and prizes.

Eventually he sold his 250 hives to the Rosser family from Benowa. This is linked to the development of Capilano Honey, started by brothers Tim and Bert Smith, who kept bees in Bonogin, Mudgeeraba and learnt many beekeeping skills from the Rossers. It was the Rossers who also founded our club, GCABS.

Meanwhile, Fielding Chippendale moved to 160 acres of rainforest along Tallebudgera Creek where he took up dairying. Bev’s grandfather, George Chippendale, bought some of this property from his father, later selling it to one of his sons, Ronald Chippendale, who was Bev’s father. Pete, Bev’s husband, already had farming in his blood when he met Bev, as he had bought a 600 acre dairy farm at the tender age of 18. He and Bev purchased their current Tallebudgera property in 1978 and have worked hard on the land, farming mainly dairy and bananas.

Their pretty garden with its plants, flowers and fruit trees, is a haven for several native bee colonies buzzing in and out of old tree trunks and timber posts. A couple of honey bee hives which their son-in-law helps take care of now, are situated further down their property. It’s a beautiful setting and I can well understand why they love living there, rooted proudly in their multi-generational Chippendale family heritage. Ref: ‘Stories of the Southside’, Beryl Roberts, 1991.



Fielding Chippendale

Library Corner

November issue of The Australasian Beekeeper. Contact librarian Ann Allen if you want to borrow this or any past ABK copies:

- For New Beekeepers – Bee Swarms
- How Climate change is directly affecting bees
- Wings of bees looked at in detail
- What our lives and civilization would be like without bees
- Pheromones from Queen bees
- Sweet history of medicinal honey
- Improving pollen substitute for bees
- Apitherapy: health benefits of being stung
- Hive beetle problems
- Honey bee nutrition
- Bee biosecurity
- Why Queen bees can fail



Great beekeeping podcasts

Australia: She BEEK – A Podcast For And About Women In Australian Beekeeping.

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/000zdcuBSISvFNNz71V6ij>

USA: Two Bees in a Podcast - University of Florida's Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory

<https://open.spotify.com/show/1rIh9tQ4jh4ejxarZuPye8?si=fi2mzQWZTV-L5EMRW9ovHg>

UK: Living Beeing - Through an awe-inspiring audio journey, this podcast series brings to life the love of bees. <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/living-beeing/id1516468366>

Lemon Honey Iced Tea

With summer clearly on its way, here's something tasty to cool you and quench your thirst:

INGREDIENTS

- 6 cups water
- 7 bags black tea, green tea (or any tea of your choice)
- 1/4 cup honey
- Lemon, sliced

METHOD

STEP 1

- Bring 1 cup of water to a boil. In a mug, add your ice tea bags and honey. Pour your boiling water into the mug and gently stir to help loosen up the honey making it easier for it to dissolve.

STEP 2

- Let your iced tea bags steep on the counter for about 30 minutes.

STEP 3

- Pour your tea mixture into your pitcher and add 5 cups of cold water. I keep my tea bags in my pitcher and continue to let them steep. Place it in the refrigerator to let it cool completely, about 30 more minutes.

STEP 4

- Once cool, serve over ice with a couple of lemon slices.

<https://thefeedfeed.com/nictastingspoon/lemon-honey-iced-tea>

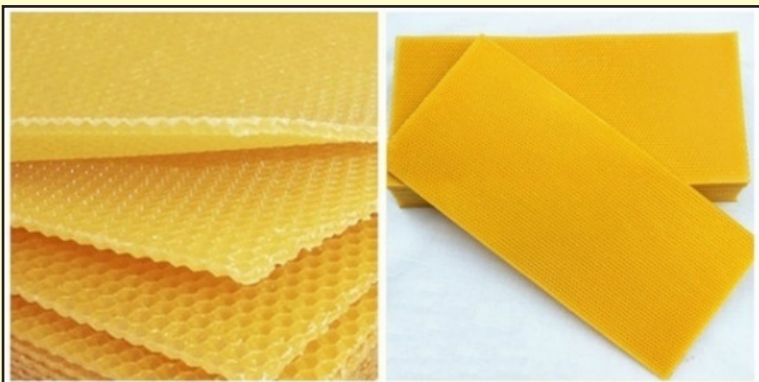


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Extractor Hire	Rachael Kubinski	0415 192 662	V's Bees, 3/90 Spencer Rd, Nerang



V's Bee's are seeking to buy your clean beeswax to ensure foundation is available on the Gold Coast for Beekeepers to purchase.



www.vsbees.com.au



Monday - Friday [8am - 5pm]
Saturday [8.30am - 12pm]

Beekeeping Supplies

**Unit 3 / 90 Spencer Road
Nerang
Located Inside
Allied Bearings & Seals**



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vsbeesqld@yahoo.com

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