

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)



GCABS Life Member Alan Betts judges the honey competition at the 2023 Murwillumbah Show

Landcare groups, community organisations, schools, gardening clubs and local councils are all encouraged to register their events at the Australian Pollinator Week website: <https://www.australianpollinatorweek.org.au/>

- **Thursday 30 Nov 2023. 5.30pm – 7.30 Nerang Country Parklands' Tenants & General members meeting followed by the NCP 2023 AGM.** GCABS members are welcome to attend the meeting which will be held in the reception building (with the clock tower above it) at the Parklands.
- **Saturday 2 & Sunday 3 Dec 2023 Beginners Beekeeping Course** register [HERE](#).

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All welcome to attend our monthly online Committee meetings. Email the secretary and ask for the link.

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

Please bring a plate to share at our member meetings.

- **Sunday 19 Nov 2023 10am - noon**
 Last GCABS meeting for 2023. Hive IQ demonstration and Presentation with Ken Bannister; Queensland Beekeepers Association talk and Q&A session with Jo Martin; BBQ lunch and end of year celebration
- **Sunday 21 Jan 2024 10am – noon**
 First GCABS meeting for 2024.

OTHER EVENTS

- **11-19 Nov 2023 Australian Pollinator Week.** Australian Pollinator Week aims to increase the general public's understanding of Australia's diverse pollinators.

From GCABS President



Hope you are all well and keeping up with your colonies. I have certainly struggled to do so this year. Despite the delays and distractions the bees have been very busy and november honey harvests are huge right now. Many members and local beekeepers have surplus equipment and bee colonies for sale it seems, so if you are wanting anything just take a look on the members forum on facebook or see the Trading Post listing in the buzz below.

Happy harvesting and see you at the final meeting for 2023 on Nov 19th.
Kind regards... Kathy



WELCOME TO OUR HIVE!

GCABS is the Gold Coast's longest standing beekeeping club, offering a friendly environment and training for new to senior beekeepers. To all new members who have joined GCABS this month, we bid you a warm welcome.

November Honey Flora - S.E. Queensland

Supplied by Jim O'Regan



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, Narrowleaved, 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 Stringy bark Mexican Poppy. *Photos: Red stringy bark and Broad-leaved Banksia*

Flowers of the Month for Your Home Garden

Submitted by Esther Bligh

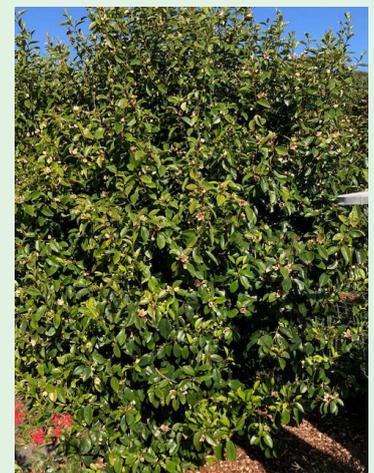
Evergreen magnolias

Evergreen magnolias aren't native to Australia but well loved by bees in backyards across the country.

They usually grow to 2-4 meters tall but are happy to be pruned back if desired. They love sun but are also happy in part shade. They form dense large shrubs and are great for hedging.

Evergreen magnolias flower

mainly in spring and are very robust. Examples are 'port wine' magnolias and magnolia 'little gem'.



October Meeting Review

Thanks to all who attended the AGM and beeswax wrap-making activity that followed. GCABS committee have been refreshed and we extend gratitude to Leonie, Ann and Colin for their dedication over the past 5 years. We acknowledged the contribution of Jim O'Regan with Life Membership. New committee members Amanda Murphy, David Corkhill, and Michael Wilson were



appointed. Keith, Catherine, Esther, Rod and Kathy remain in committee roles. Attendees enjoyed creating sustainable food wraps from cotton cloth dipped in beeswax mixed with resin and oil.

Introducing Rod Luke- Treasurer

It is great to be back on the management team again as Treasurer. I started keeping bees in 2020 when I was working as an agricultural consultant on developing a specialised honey production business. Reviewing the practice of keeping bees for a business model piqued my interest, so I enrolled in the GCABS's Introduction to beekeeping course and, soon after, purchased my first nuc of bees.

My 34 year career has largely been in agriculture. I have been involved in farm management extension and training work, farm business consulting, plant breeding, farm development and management and water trading. Today I work for an Israeli AgTech business that provides crop monitoring for horticultural growers to help management crop stress and irrigation scheduling. I spend a lot of time in plantations where bees are very important for pollination.



When I am not working or tending bees, I enjoy fly fishing and mountain bike riding.

It is great to be part of a fabulous club that has so many members with a passion for beekeeping. The monthly meetings and the Buzz have been fabulous resources that have helped me develop my appreciation

HALL HIRE

The GCABS hall is available for community groups to hire at reasonable hourly rates. To inquire please contact the secretary

Murwillumbah Show Honey Comp

Thanks to Leonie S

Murwillumbah show honey competition received 45 jars of honey entries in contrast to the lower numbers at the Gold Coast and Mudgeeraba shows this year. I promoted the competition on community Facebook pages around the district. Our very own GCABS life member Alan Betts judged the competition. He was great.



It was a big job. Newly minted Life Member Jim O'Regan helped by tallying the scores and writing prize cards. I was steward for three sections: apiculture, home brewing and fermentation. It came together very well. It was lovely being able to do the display. I'm never there at that time for the Mudgeeraba and Gold Coast shows.

Member Jungle

An Update from the ABA

Great news, the new membership management system Member Jungle is live! Thanks to Vince & the ABA executive for your fast work in changing over from the previous system to this streamlined one. GCABS members please keep an eye out for an email advising that we are on a new system, which will invite you to confirm your current details, and asking you to update if anything is incorrect. Didn't notice the change? This is proof of how smooth the transition has been thanks to the efforts of others in the background. A centralised agile membership management system saves the club committee hundreds of hours in admin time and presents a clean usable interface for us, the club members. The Swarm register system will be migrating soon – watch this space.

Industry Updates

Courtesy of AHBIC

AHBIC or the Australian Honeybee Industry Council are the peak body representing the honey bee industry in Australia. AHBIC held an online Industry Briefing Webinar concerning the transition to management of varroa and what that means for beekeepers. The recording of the webinar is now available at YouTube via this hyperlink: [AHBIC Webinar 4 Recording - 19 October 2023](#)

Recommended viewing to learn more about movement, treatment and management of varroa. We hope the content helps to inform beekeepers and industry stakeholders with current information.



Biosecurity Update

Submitted by Keith Barton

Australia has now moved into the “Management” phase of the varroa outbreak. This means that the authorities will be working to suppress mite spread across the country, and working on defining the national management strategy going forward. A variety of varroa mite treatments have already been approved by the APVMA and more are in the process of being approved.

So far, no reports of varroa detections have been made in Queensland as far as I am aware (6/Nov). Let’s hope it stays that way for some time. For more information on the varroa outbreak response please check various websites including AHBIC, DPI NSW, DAF QLD, and the QBA.

Every beekeeper should be testing for varroa using alcohol wash (ideally) and reporting testing results to their relevant state authority. Presence and absence of varroa is important data. The recommended testing frequency is at least every 16 weeks for every colony. Varroa mite can spread quickly due to hive movements, so it is essential that you test regularly and report results.

An alternative wash has been approved - dish detergent. The best dish detergent to use is Fairy Ultra Concentrate, which can be purchased at Woolies or Coles. Use 10-15ml per 3.5 litres of water, and follow the same method as an alcohol wash. This method is far cheaper per wash than alcohol and safer around lit smokers!

On other pests: Small Hive Beetle numbers are rapidly increasing in the hives I manage. Now is a good time to get your preferred controls in place and to maintain colony strength to give them the best chance to avoid slime-outs. Wax moth also seems to be bad this year with a number of people mentioning issues to me.

JOBS in Your Bee Yard this Month

Use clearer boards to efficiently harvest full supers of honey.

- Lift the top-most full honey super from the colony, bees and all.
- Place a box of sticky extracted frames or foundation frames in place of the full honey super. Keeping your barrier management in mind, these frames probably belong to the hive from the last harvest.
- Place a clearer board on top of the stickies. (Available from most beekeeping suppliers).
- Put the full honey super on the clearer ... Beware heavy lifting may require a helper or two.
- After a few days to a week the bees will have exited the full honey super into the stickies below.
- You can now collect the full honey box without needing to brush or blow thousands of hot bees.

GCABS have a number of manual honey extractors for hire to members at a very competitive ‘over the weekend’ rates. Contact the committee to book in your next extractor hire today! One to two weeks’ notice will be required.



TRADING POST

Looking to Buy? Gear to Sell? Send a clear written description and photograph to editor@gcabs.net.au for inclusion in the next buzz newsletter. Pictures say a thousand words.

Larsen Hives Sale

I have 6 active hives and a recently captured swarm that I would like to sell as we plan to relocate from our acreage at Beechmont to a smaller block at Westlakes.

Details:

- All hives including the swarm are fitted with Hive Doctor bottom boards and metal queen separators.
- All hives are 8 frame boxes including two supers.
- The swarm box is a ten frame box which will include a super and separator though not yet fitted.
- The second super boxes are new and were only added within the last month.
- The brood boxes and first super are all in good condition.
- Since adding the Hive Doctor bottom boards I have not seen Small Hive Beetles in the hives though I usually see dead beetles in the oil trays in the bottom board.

Prices are \$300 for each hive with two supers and \$200 for the ten-frame swarm box which will also include a empty super. I was prepared to give the swarm away but as I have had to locate it into a box with lid, frames and bottom board I will have to sell it.



Contact details: Errik Larsen, Elarsen@bigpond.net.au , 0439070120, Location Beechmont (Please contact Errik for the address, available to people genuinely interested in purchasing any or all of the hives).

Emery Hives Sale

Located in Pacific Pines

2 colonies to sell. 10 frame hardware, 3 high. Metal excluder, 4 silver bullet beetle Traps and 1 under hive trap. \$750 each. Contact John 0430 503 585



COMMITTEE

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