

The Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers Inc.



Working the Hive

***What**



***When**



***How**



What to do

Everyone who own or manages a hive must be able to:

- ✓ Open and close the hive.
- ✓ Remove and/or replace frames in the hive.
- ✓ Inspect the frames for eggs, larvae or Pupa.
- ✓ Find the Queen.
- ✓ Detect a range of diseases such as Small Hive Beetle (SHB), American Foul Brood (AFB), European Foul Brood (EFB), Chalkbrood and other diseases.
- ✓ Carry out general maintenance to the hive



Opening & Closing the hive

**Approach the hive
from the rear or side**



**Stand at the side and
give a few gentle puff
of smoke**



**Using your hive tool,
gently ease the flat
surface between the
bottom of the lid and the
top of the super box to
prize them apart**



**Once the seal has been
broken remove the lid
and place to the side
upside down, while
gently smoking the hive
if necessary**



Checking for Small Hive Beetle



Small Hive Beetle

The Velcro like backing on vinyl floor sheeting catches their legs then the bees attack and kill them.



Removing a Small Hive Beetle trap



SHB in the oil filled trap



Carefully Remove the frame



Using the hive tool carefully break the propolis seal between frames then gently lift the frame



Propolis



Propolis, a bee glue made from gummy, resinous substances gathered by the bees from various plants, mixed with wax and saliva and used to seal cracks and as an anti-bacterial agent in the hive. Sought by people for its health benefits



A fully capped frame of honey



Small Hive Beetle

Removing the super and queen excluder



Removing the super to check the brood and queen beneath the queen excluder.

Finding the Queen

The Queen bee





See who else is at home

Drone bee
My, what lovely big eyes you have !!





Brood Frame

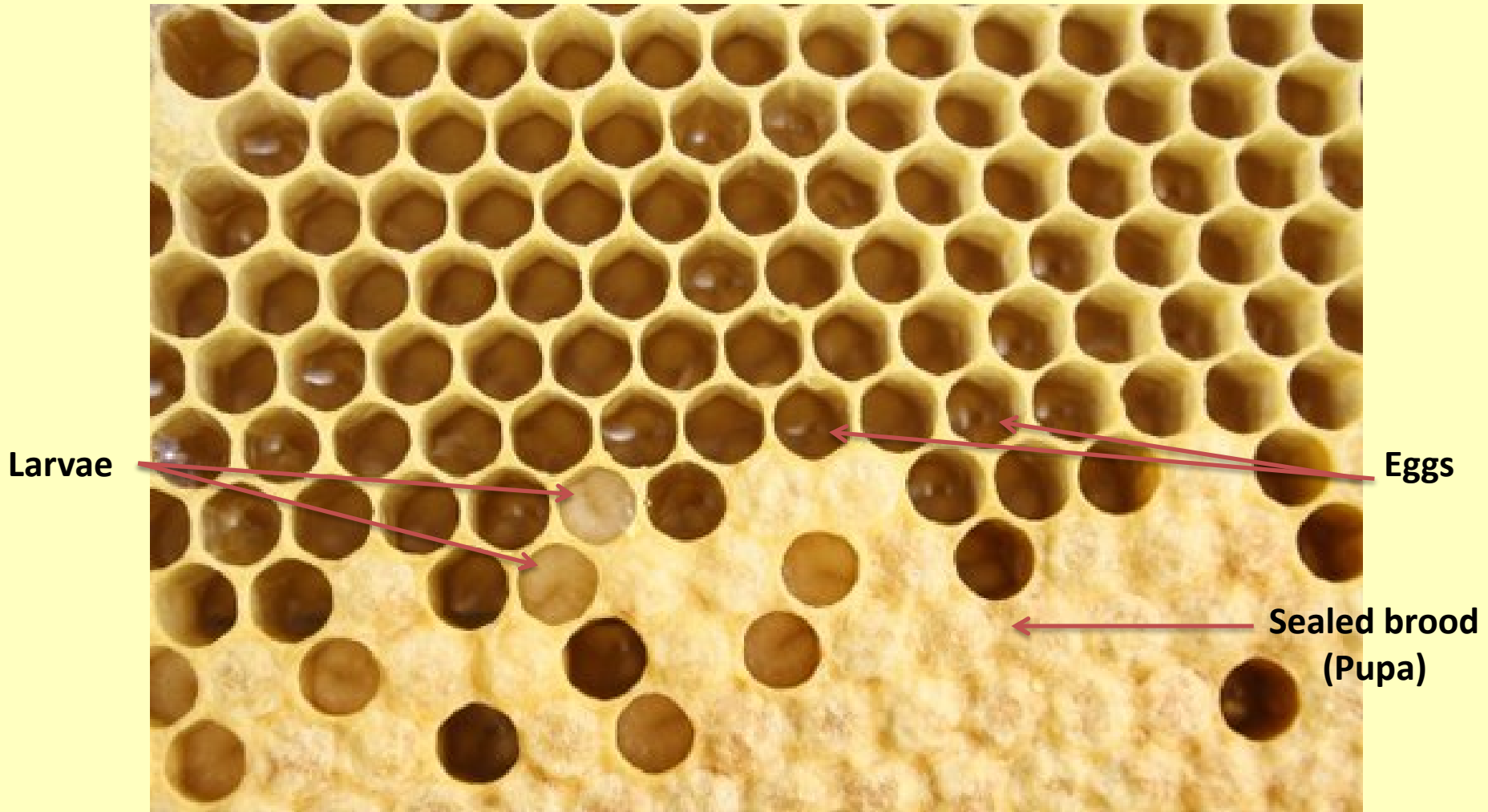
Sealed brood



Stored honey



Brood Frame



The various stages of brood

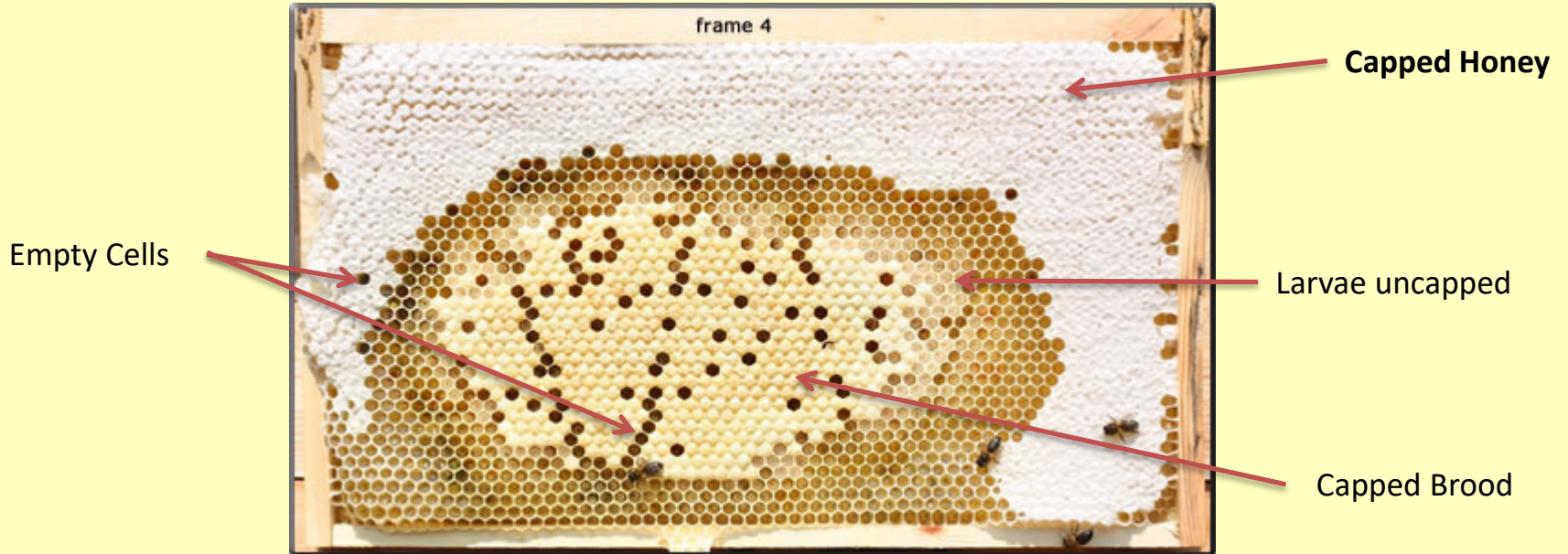


Worker bees



**Typical of the female species
They do all the work while all the
Drones do is mate with the queen**

Brood Pattern on a new frame with a newly mated queen



The frames above show the pattern of brood produced by a new colony with a newly mated queen. The small colony was given a new brood box with all new frames containing foundation. The first 10 days were spent by the bees drawing out the first frames and storing some honey. The first eggs were seen after 10 days.

Old brood frame with capped cells, drone cells and queen cell

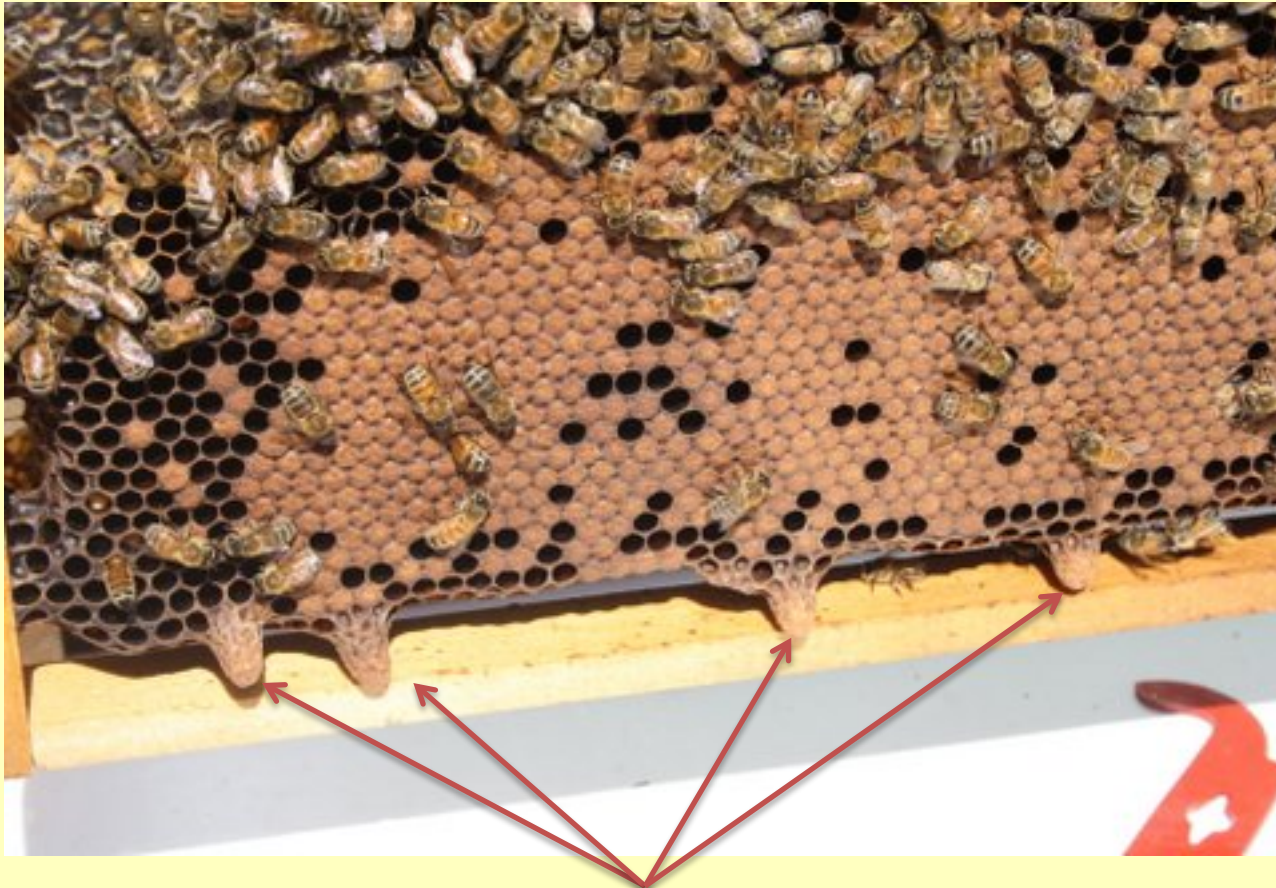


Drone cell

Swarm Queen cell

Brood cells

**Signs that the queen is not strong,
has swarmed or is about to**



Swarm Queen cells



New Frame with cells being built

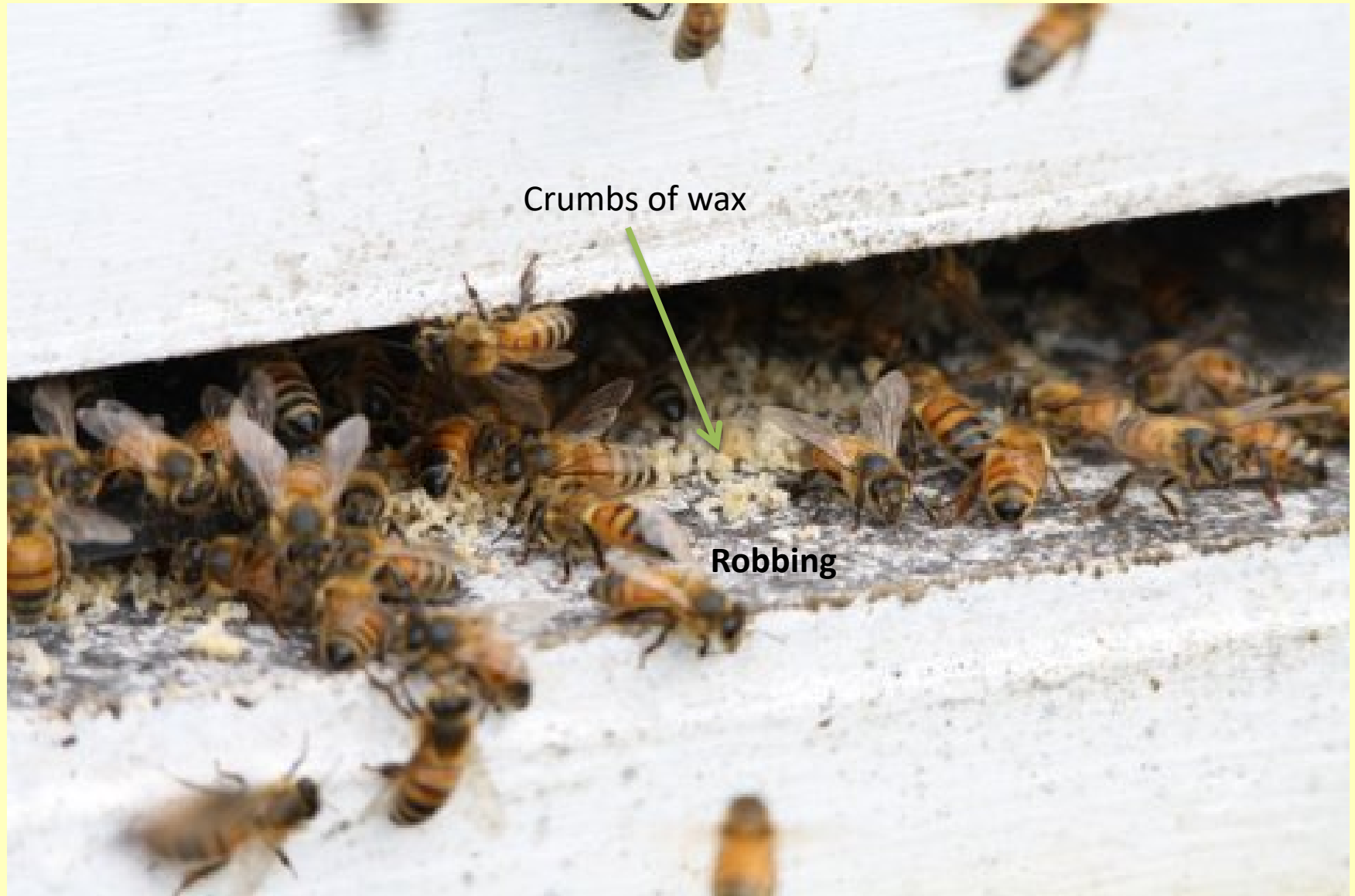


New cells being built out



ROBBER BEES

Signs to be wary of



Robber Bees - let the brawl begin

The fight goes on





**Casualties are heavy,
and the hive is lost**





Manual honey extractor - 4 frame

4 Frame cages





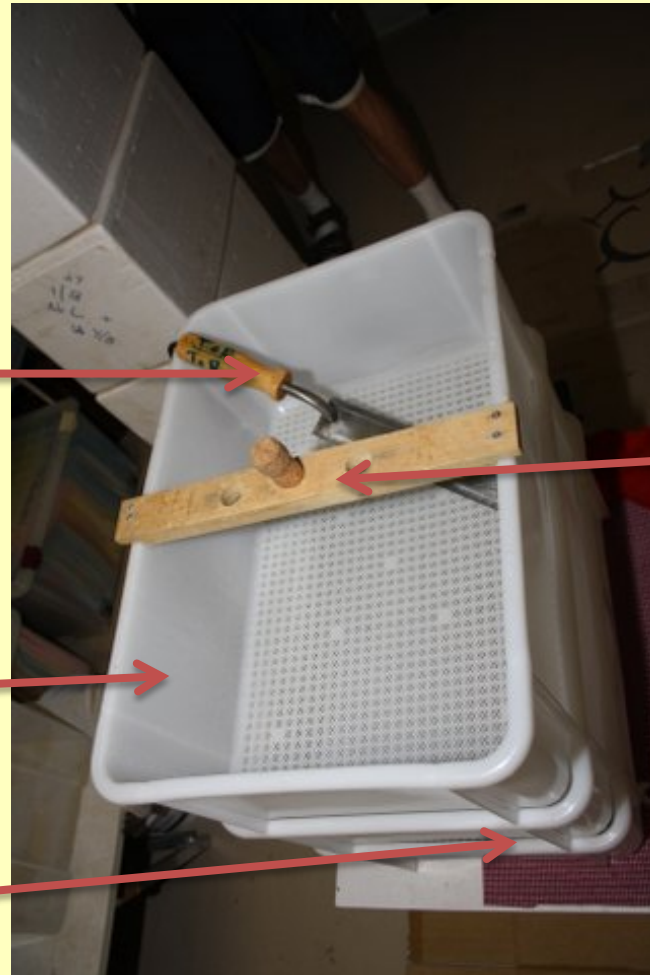
Uncapping box & electric uncapping knife

electric uncapping knife

Frame rest board with safety cork covering spike

2 layers of wax draining tubs.

Solid bottom tub with honey gate for draining honey





Full capped frame of honey



A fully capped frame of honey can weigh between 3kg to 5kg



Uncapping a frame using a electric uncapping knife





Using
uncapping comb

Wax
capping's





4 uncapped frames in extractor



Honey being spun from the frame using the centrifugal force



Honey being spun out

Pool of extracted honey forming in the base of the extractor

**Honey gate open, draining
honey from the extractor**





Using a frame support bracket



This bracket hold frames during hive inspection



Burr combe in the hive lid

Burr comb built under a lid



Burcomb



Burr comb cells full of honey

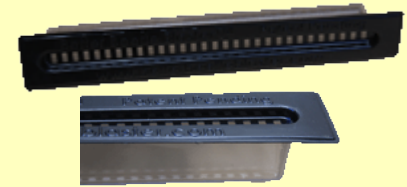


New wax cells

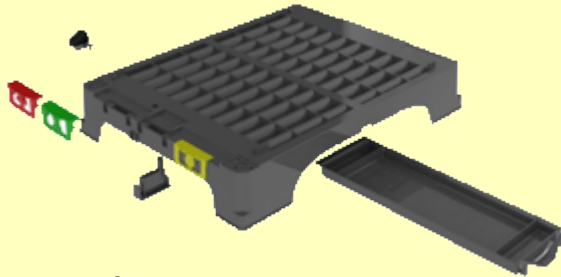
Types of SHB traps



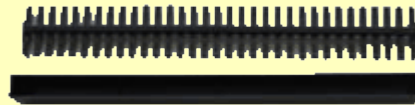
Beetle Jail



Beetle Blaster



Hive Doctor Base



AJ's Beetle Eater



DE Beetle Trap



**Bluebees Brood Box Bottom Board
(frame needs to be made to fit)**



DE beetle trap filled with Diatomaceous Earth



Underside of Vinyl Sheeting

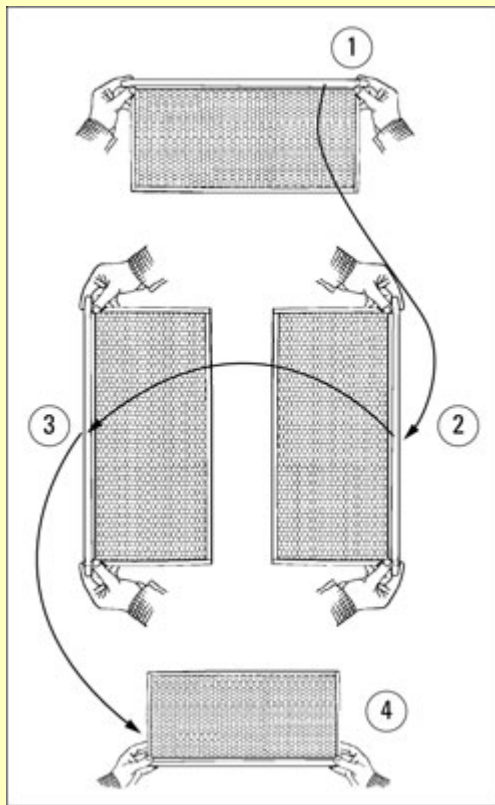


The good old Chux cloth

Hive Records

Hive record 2009			Hive no.	4												History: Nuc from hive 2, Oct 2013,	Queen marked: White
Home apiary		P772														35kg honey 2013.	
Date	Weather	Queen	Q' cells	Eggs	Larvae	Stores	Decks	Temper	SHB	AFB	EFB	C/Brood	Varroa	Wmoth	Notes		
3-Sep	Fine	Y	No	Y	Y	Y	2	Good	Y	N	N	N	N	N	May need new super next week.		
12-Sep	Fine	N	N	Y	Y	Y	2	Good	Few	N	N	N	N	N	Took 6 Frames Honey (16kg) no insp Brood		
1-Oct	Fine	Y	1 (X)	Y	Y	Y	2	Good	N	N	N	N	N	N	Hive very busy - ready to split		
21-Oct	Fine	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	2	Good	N	N	N	N	N	N	Split Hive 4- 3 frames brood- left split box above H4 for 4 days seperated		
"															introduced new queen New Hive No.9		
29-Oct	Fine	N	N	Y	Y	Y	2	Good	N	N	N	N	N	N	Checked SHB traps Hive very busy		
15-Nov	Fine/Hot	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	2	Good	Few	N	N	N	N	N	Took 7 Frames Honey (17kg) Q+Brood good		

An important aspect of successful [beekeeping](#) is that of keeping accurate records.



**Here's an easy way to inspect both sides of the frame:
Hold the frame firmly by the tabs at either end of the top bar.
Turn the frame vertically.**

Then turn the frame like a page of a book.

Now smoothly return it to the horizontal position, and you'll be viewing the opposite side of the frame.

Summary



- ✓ **Knowing when it's time for more smoke**
- ✓ **Understanding what to always look for in your hive**
 - ✓ **Checking for your queen bee**
 - ✓ **Storing food and raising the bee brood**
 - ✓ **Inspecting the brood pattern**
 - ✓ **Recognizing foodstuffs in your beehive**

**This presentation has been prepared by the
Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers Inc.
with information from:**

- **Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC)**
 - **When Bee Foundation**
- **Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF Apiary Unit)**
 - **Queensland Beekeepers Association (QBA)**
 - **Be Aware**
- **Department of Primary Industries NSW (DPI)**
 - **Plant Health Australia (PHA)**