

# The Waggle

## Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers Inc.

*“Furthering knowledge in Beekeeping by assisted learning and practical experience”*

*P.O. Box 319 Ashmore City Qld 4217      [www.gcrb.org.au](http://www.gcrb.org.au)      Tel: 0421 992 208*

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### The Regional Report

**Thought that this month I would start my report with something different, JP's Joke**

*A lawyer boarded an airplane in Brisbane with a box of frozen crabs and asked a blonde flight attendant to take care of them for him.*

*She took the box and promised to put it in the crew's refrigerator.*

*He advised her that he was holding her personally responsible for them staying frozen, mentioning in a very haughty manner that he was a lawyer, and proceeded to rant at her about what would happen if she let them thaw out.*

*Needless to say, she was annoyed by his behaviour.*

*Shortly before landing in New York, she used the intercom to announce to the entire cabin, "Would the lawyer who gave me the crabs in Brisbane please raise your hand?"*

*Not one hand went up, so she took them home and ate them.*

*There are two lessons here:*

- 1. Lawyers aren't as smart as they think they are.*
- 2. Blondes aren't as dumb as most folk think :-))*

**Well, it's that time again, **time to RENEW your membership**, \$30 for a single membership, \$40 for family membership, *due on 30th June 2017*. Subs can be paid by cash, cheque - Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers Inc. or EFT ( BSB 484 799 Account No. 123519066) so get in early to beat the rush.**

This month we will have Dr. Diana Leemon as our guest speaker for our monthly Information & Training meeting being held at the Currumbin Community Special School, 5 Hammersford Drive Currumbin on Saturday June 17th from 9:30am to 12:30pm when we will finish with a BBQ for lunch.

Dr Leemon is in the final stages of researching out of hive attractants for the dreaded Small Hive Beetle (SHB) that will provide a great bonus for beekeepers if you can trap the SHB before it enters your hive. This event will be followed by the Mudgeeraba Show being held over the weekend of the 24th and 25th of June, setup will be on Friday so remember, the more helpers we have the easier the job is for all.

Members helping to man the stand over the weekend are asked to wear their club shirts. (John de Boer has them on special at the moment at \$20.00 each.) We are hoping to have enough passes to allow members manning the display to get free access to the grounds. (Please reply to the email sent "GCRB - Mudgeeraba Show Volunteers required!" sent on June 5.)

The Mudgeeraba Show has become the best community show held on the Gold Coast with something to interest everybody.....*and we are still looking for someone to wear the big bee suit.*

The Queensland Beekeepers Association will be holding their AGM, Annual Conference and field day from Thursday 29th June to Saturday 1st of July at the “The Pavilion”, Gympie Showgrounds, 77 Exhibition Road, Gympie. – Two International Speakers have been invited as the Conference Guest Speakers, **Professor Stephen Martin**, Chair in Animal Ecology at University in Salford, Manchester, England, and **Dr Mark Goodwin**, Principal Honeybee Scientist at Plant and Food Research, New Zealand.

**The Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers Inaugural Field Day** will be held at the Currumbin Community Special School on Sunday 20th of August 2017 from 8:00am to 3:00pm, Guest speakers for the Day will be

*Doug Sommerville NSW DPI “The Essentials of Successful beekeeping,”*  
and

*“Research Project Members of the MEDICINAL AUSTRALIAN LEPTOSPERMUM HONEY PROJECT,” Dr Shona Blair and Dr Nural Cokcetin (ithree institute, University of Technology Sydney), as well as Dr Peter Brooks and Simon Williams (University of Sunshine Coast) who will bring attendees up to date with their research currently underway.*

After the devastation of “Debbie” here on the coast one of our members has suffered another setback with what appears to be a chemical poisoning of 2 of his hives in suburban Palm Beach. As can be seen by the adjoining photo’s most of the foraging bees from the early morning flight appear to have been in an area that had been sprayed with chemicals as many were dying as they returned to the hive. Upon opening the hive the devastation of the hive evident as can be seen.

Later in the day, bees returning from forging were showing no effects from the poisoning, and the queen and brood showed no effect from the poison. So now it will be touch and go to see if these hives make it through winter.



**Dead bees from the Palm Beach site.**



**Gotta luv a 7 year olds grandchild's impression of Cheryl and Mike Hynes**

### **Honey Bee Biosecurity**

Visit the <https://honeybee.canopihr.com.au> site for some great information regarding honeybee biosecurity, you can enrol at this site and undertake the **“Biosecurity for Beekeepers”** online course run by PHA/AHBIC for a cost of only \$20. All up the course takes about 90minutes and if you pass you can print out a certificate. I would recommend all club members undertake this course when they have the time, as it would ensure that members are up to date with their Bee Biosecurity skills. Payment can be by PayPal or Credit Card.

Having mentioned bee biosecurity, at the clubs May meeting held at the Vietnam Veterans Nerang site, we carried out a pre winter inspection of their 2 hives, unfortunately, it was discovered that one of their hives had been infected with AFB and therefor had to be destroyed. All equipment used has been sealed and will be sent to Steritech with the next consignment.

What you need to look for...

1. Small perforations in the wax lid of the capped cell.
2. Sunken capping on capped cells
3. Use a matchstick or small twig to insert it through the capping of these cells, twist gently them remove slowly.
4. If the result is a slimy mess that draws out in a string fashion - You Have AFB.
5. If in doubt send me or any committee member a close up photo from your phone or call me and I will come and look at it.

See you at our next meeting  
Cheers and happy beekeeping

JP



## Hemp could be the saviour of bees and good for people at the same time



Bees pollinating on hemp could help prevent diseases and protect bee populations. (Supplied)

**The medicinal benefits of Manuka honey are well known, and it has turned into big business for Australian and New Zealand producers.**

But could there be others types of medicinal honey produced from tea trees, or even medicinal cannabis?

Researcher David Rudd, of Southern Cross University, is working with a north coast New South Wales farmer to test that theory.

Dr Rudd has been testing the honey from the Jenbrook tea tree plantation in Alstonville, the second oldest in the country.

The results look promising.

**"The chemical profiles for the tea tree honey reveal relative quantities of flavonoids and phenolic compounds," Dr Rudd said.**

Flavonoids are antioxidants with anti-inflammatory and immune system benefits.

Dr Rudd said the benefits may also stem from the nectar in the trees.

"Nectar often contains bioactive metabolites that sometimes impart anti-microbial activity to the plant itself," he said.

"The process of converting nectar to honey, and honey storage, causes fermentation of simple carbohydrates, which also results in fermentation products that have well known anti-microbial activity."

Dr Rudd is confident honey from Jenbrook's tea tree plants, called Meluka honey, will be beneficial.

"I have seen some of these products in chemical profiles of tea tree honey," he said.

### **Tech investment firm backs Jenbrook**

A WA investor has put \$1.49m into Jenbrook Pty Ltd.

Eve Investments has bought 50 per cent of the company that currently supplies raw tea tree oil, extracts and honey products to the US.

Demand is strong and Jenbrook expects to double revenue this financial year.

The money from the deal will be used to speed up the development process for Melaleuca (or Meluka) honey, and finance other work that has just commenced into honey produced from bees pollinating on cannabis plants.

Ben Rohr, investment director at Eve Investments, said there was a lot of interest in medicinal honey since the evidence around Manuka honey was published, and honey from tea trees could be the next big thing.

"The success that Manuka honey has had in China is phenomenal," he said.



The health benefits of honey produced from bees pollinating on Manuka trees has been proven. (Supplied)

**"If we can produce a honey that shows more identifiable medicinal compounds, and validate that with scientific evidence, then we're really excited about the opportunity up into Asia as well."**

The results from Southern Cross University are being eagerly awaited but Mr Rohr said the indications were positive.

"The Meluka honey has been produced and we are very encouraged by those results," he said.

"However, we'll wait until Southern Cross University completes those results before releasing anything."

Jenbrook principal Bryan Eason confirmed the early results of the Meluka testing were "more than favourable".

"We've taken samples of the honey produced and had the compounds identified," he said.

"You've got to know the true source, identify them in the plant material, and then see what is produced in the honey, and that's basically the stage we're at."



Tea tree plantations like this one at Robynda Farm, owned by Jenbrook in the Bungawalbyn Valley Basin in northern NSW, could soon be producing medicinal honey. (Supplied)

## Bee health could be improved

Mr Easson is passionate about the potential health benefits for bees in the research.

Bees are threatened worldwide with diseases, and allowing them to feed on tea trees in native environments and in hemp plantations could help prevent some of those diseases.

"Bee health is the critical part of it," Mr Easson said.

"That's what prompted us to become involved in the research, with the knowledge that there are a lot of serious diseases devastating the production of honey, and the loss of bees in pollinating crops throughout the world.

"Without bees we don't have a world."

He said the results of those trials were also encouraging.

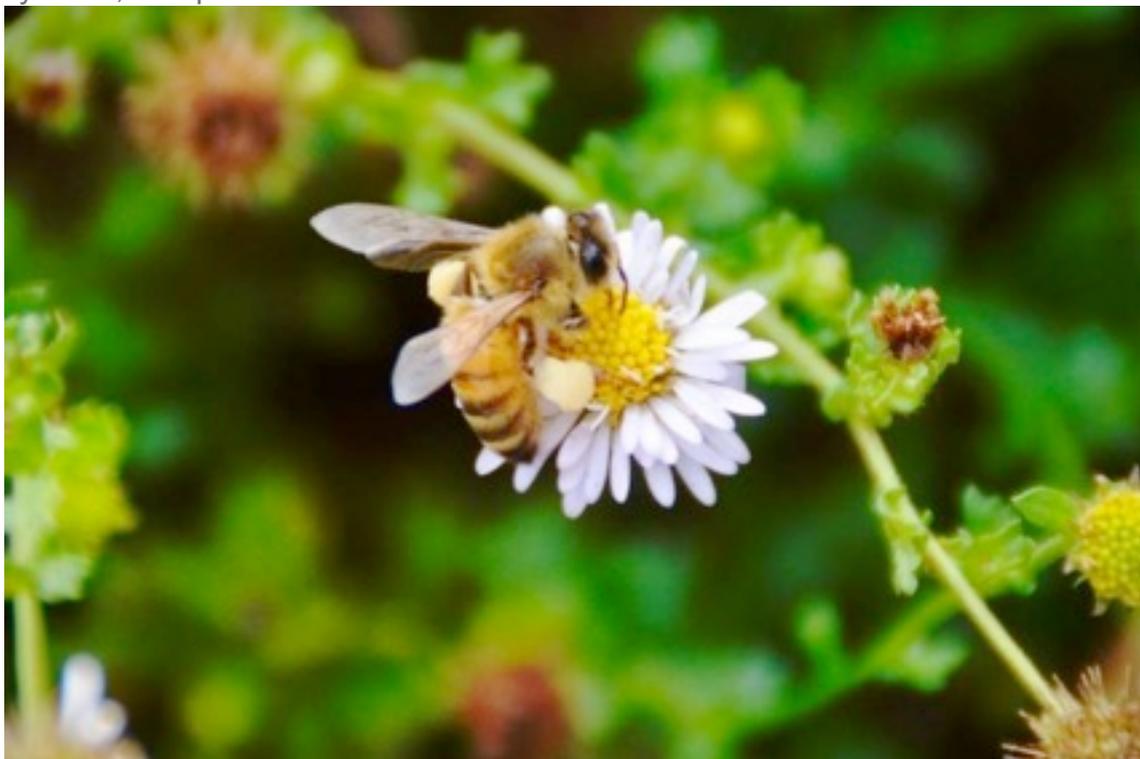
"We believe there are benefits to bee hives with some of the compounds that are in the flowering stages of low TCH cannabis," he said.

Mr Easson said research work was being done in conjunction with another beehive producer, while the analytic work and scientific evidence was being conducted in laboratory situations by industry specialists.

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## Colony collapse: 10 years after the crisis began, what is happening to the world's bees?

Mon 8 May 2017, 4:02pm



**PHOTO:** Bees have been living with the mysterious colony collapse disorder for a decade. (Supplied: Simon Klein)

Ten years ago, beekeepers in the United States raised the alarm that thousands of their hives were mysteriously empty of bees.

What followed was global concern over a new phenomenon: [colony collapse disorder](#).

Since then we have realised that it was not just the US that was losing its honey bees; [similar problems](#) have manifested all over the world.

To make things worse, we are also losing many of our populations of wild bees.

Losing bees can have tragic consequences, for us as well as them.

Bees are pollinators for about one-third of the plants we eat, a service that has been valued at [\\$US168 billion per year](#) worldwide.

Ten years after the initial alarm, what is the current status of the world's bee populations, and how far have we come towards understanding what has happened?

## **The current status of bees worldwide**

Since the alarm was first raised, many countries have created new monitoring methods to judge the status of their bee stocks.

As a result we have much more data on bee populations, although coverage is still patchy and differences in survey methods make it hard to compare between continents.

It is clear that bees in the United States are still struggling.

Beekeepers can tolerate up to 15 per cent losses of colonies over winter, but the US is massively above this threshold, having [lost 28.1 per cent of colonies](#) over the 2015-16 winter.

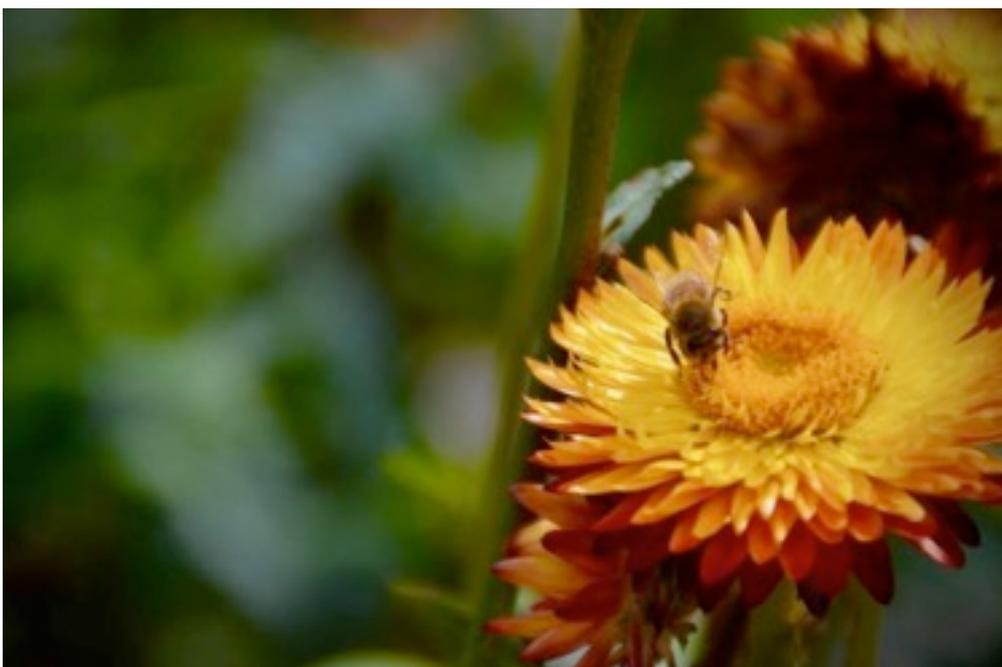
Canada, by contrast, reported [16.8 per cent losses](#).

This is better, but still above the level of losses at which beekeepers can easily restock.

Only recently have we had data from central Europe. There, honey bees seem to be doing better: [11.9 per cent losses](#) in 2015-16.

Meanwhile, in New Zealand surveys only began in the last year and have reported [winter loss of 10.7 per cent](#).

Australia does not yet have a countrywide survey of the state of bee colonies.



**PHOTO:** [Fortunes are mixed for bees around the world](#) (Supplied: Simon Klein)

Honey bees are not the only bees that we should care about: [wild bees](#) are [vital pollinators too](#).

Some plants are pollinated by only one wild bee species, such as the [macropis bees](#) that forage on the loosetrife plant.

Unsurprisingly, we have much less data on wild bees than honey bees, and those data we do have point to bigger concerns.

For our wild bees we only really have good data for populations that are endangered or that have completely disappeared.

Between 2008 and 2013, wild bee diversity in the US [dropped by 23 per cent](#), and a previously common bumblebee species was recently [listed as endangered](#).

## **Do we understand why?**

The good news is that the past decade has seen plenty of progress in understanding the mystery of colony collapse disorder.

The bad news is that we now recognise it as a [complex problem with many causes](#), although that doesn't mean it is unsolvable.

For all bees, foraging on flowers is a hard life.

It is energetically and cognitively demanding; bees have to travel large distances to collect pollen and nectar from sometimes hard-to-find flowers, and return it all to the nest.

To do this they need finely tuned senses, spatial awareness, learning and memory.

Anything that damages such skills can make bees struggle to find food, or even get lost while trying to forage.

A bee that cannot find food and make it home again is as good as dead.

Because of this, bee populations are very vulnerable to what we call "sublethal stressors" — factors that don't kill the bees directly but can hamper their behaviour.



**PHOTO:** For solitary species such as the [blue-banded bee](#), difficulty foraging can be a very serious problem.  
(Supplied: Simon Klein)

In a [recently published review](#), we argue that modern agriculture and industry have created a host of sublethal stressors that damage bees' cognition.

For example, [diesel fumes](#) and [neonicotinoid pesticides](#) both reduce bees' foraging efficiency by disturbing chemical communications in their brains.

Modern intensive agriculture [disturbs bee nutrition](#), which impairs their brain.

[Climate change](#) interferes with the relationship between bees and the plants on which they feed.

In addition, managed honey bees are afflicted by a range of pests, viruses and predators that have been spread around the world as a side-effect of international trade.

The worst is the ominously named [Varroa destructor mite](#), which causes brain development disorders.

## **What can we do?**

At the global level, to preserve our bees we have to improve the environments in which they collect food. Every small action can make a difference.

Planting flower borders with [bee-friendly flowers](#) in your garden can provide food for both wild and domestic bees.

You can reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides or pesticides when gardening.

Even [mowing the lawn less often](#) can help bees out.

You could install a [native bee hive](#) or [insect hotel](#).

Another tempting option is to buy local honey, which often has a more distinctive flavour than mass-produced versions.

In Australia, we are fortunate in that our bees seem to be doing better than many other parts of the world.

The Varroa mite has not yet invaded our shores, and in many areas bees can access pesticide-free bushland (although unlike Europe, Australia has [not yet banned use of neonicotinoids in agriculture](#)).

Australia also has an incredibly rich diversity of wild native bees — [up to 1,600 different species](#), including our emblematic stingless bees.

Even so, to protect this diversity we need better surveys of how these species are doing.

Ten years on from the alarm over disappearing bees, it is fair to say we now know the nature of the problem and what can be done to fix it.

It's up to us to take the steps needed to sustain these precious pollinators of our food for the future.

*Simon Klein is a PhD student studying bee cognition and behaviour at Université Toulouse III — Paul Sabatier and Macquarie University.*

*Andrew Barron is an associate professor in the department of biological sciences at Macquarie University.*

*Originally published in [The Conversation](#)*



# Honey Label Requirements

Basic Label Requirements, labels on containers must contain the following information:

## The “Common” Name of the Product

The word “**honey**” must be visible on the label.

The name of a plant or blossom may be used if it is the primary floral source for the honey. Honey must be labeled with its common or usual name on the front of your package. (i.e. “Honey” “Yellow Box” or “Clover Honey”)

## Net Weight

The net weight of your product (excluding packaging) e.g. **Net 500g** or **Net 1Kg**

## Ingredients

Single ingredient products (such as honey) do not have to name that single ingredient when already used in the common or usual name on the front panel. However, if there are ingredients other than honey, you must list them in an ingredient statement.

## Nutrition

As per the Nutrition label available from the club.

## Contact Information

The label must let consumers know who put the product on the market and how to contact that person.

*The name and the address of the manufacturer, packer or distributor of a packaged food product are required to appear on the label of the packaged food.*

This information, must appear on the front label panel or the information panel.

If space permits, include full address and telephone number. (great for getting return customers)



## ***Club Contacts***

|                  |                |                   |                                                                  |
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|                  | Wayne Mole     | Mob: 0409 511 560 |                                                                  |

## **Notice Board**

### ***Upcoming Events***

|                             |                                                                                        |      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Sunday 18 June 2017         | I & T Meeting 9:30am - 12:30pm<br><b>Guest Speaker: Diana Leemon</b>                   | CCSS |
| Fri 23 June 2017            | Mudgeeraba Show setup                                                                  |      |
| Sat Sun 24 - 25 June 2017   | Mudgeeraba Show, Mudgeeraba                                                            |      |
| Thurs/Fri 29 - 30 June 2017 | QBA State Conference, Gympie                                                           |      |
| Sat 1 July 2017             | QBA Field Day                                                                          |      |
| Sunday 16 July 2017         | GCRB I&T meeting - CCSS<br>(speaker to be advised)                                     |      |
| Sat 12 August 2017          | "Discovery in the Gardens" 10am - 2pm<br>Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens - Ashmore |      |
| Sat 19 August 2017          | GCRB set up for Inaugural Field Day - CCSS                                             |      |
| Sun 20 August 2017          | GCRB Field Day 8am - 3pm                                                               |      |

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### ***WARNING ON WAX MELTING***

Wax can explode if not handled in the proper manner and with great care, when melting. PLEASE contact one of the Committee members for tried and tested safe methods and cautions.

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