

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 Tel: 0421 992 208

Edition: August 2017

The Regional Report

July.....the start of our financial year, have you paid your 2017-2018 subscription yet, if not, do it straight away.

It's August already, nearly the end of Winter, have you got your new season boxes ready?, are you prepared for swarms from your hives, and most of all have you volunteered to help out on our busy August schedule of events that the club is participating in.

By now, you should ALL have at least 1 spare hive setup, ready to house a swarm if one of your hives swarm. Or to split a hive if the boxes are getting too crowded. If one of your hives swarm, between 40% to 60% of the bees and the old Queen, called a “prime swarm” will leave the box, leaving you with a much weakened hive. This will leave your hive at risk to being taken over by Small Hive Beetle. So after a swarm always keep a close watch of the swarmed hive. Besides it is always better to catch your own swarms and build up your apiary. It is an incredible experience to stand amongst a swarm of bees. Hearing the sound of thousands of bees buzzing about and bumping into you without causing you any harm. When you place the swarm ball into a box on the ground, it is amazing to watch all the other bees either fly straight into the box or land on the ground then form a procession to walk up to the hive entrance and go straight into the box. That is when you know you have the queen in the box. **For those of you who are interested in collecting swarms, send me your details in an email (president@gcrb.org.au) and on what days you would be available to help collect swarms.**

Swarming bees are normally very docile, having gorged themselves (whilst starving the Queen so that she can fly), with nectar and pollen prior to swarming. On exiting the hive, thousands of bees will mass in the air close to the front of the hive until the Queen exits, then settle on a branch/fence/shrub or other object that takes their fancy, whilst scout bees search out a new home. Once they have decided on a new home, they will fly en mass to the new location and commence building their new home. It is often a good idea to locate a “swarm box”, a box to attract the bees that is basically any watertight wooden or plywood box with a volume of 40 to 70 litres and a 25 - 30mm entrance towards the bottom of one wall. I have seen poly styrene “Broccoli” boxes placed about 2 metres up in a tree fork that have well served this purpose.

Saturday 12th of August we will have 2 events to cover, the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens located at 230 Ashmore Rd, Benowa QLD 4217 will be holding their DIG (Discovery In the Gardens) Day from 10:00am to 2:00pm, where the big yellow marquee with the bees on the roof will stand out again, call JP on 0421 992 208 to let me know what time you can help out.

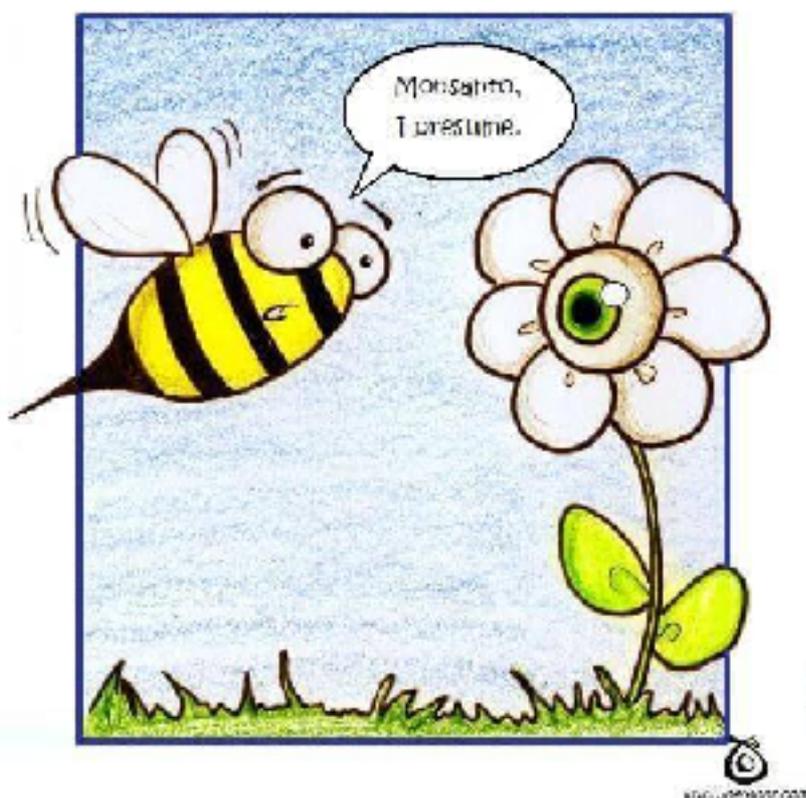
Also on Saturday 12th August Kevin Finn and John de Boer will be manning a stand at the Emmanuel College, 17 Birmingham Rd, Carrara QLD, to promote our club for those attending their fete.

The following weekend the Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers Inc., will hold our Field Day at the Currumbin Community Special School, 5 Hammersford Drive Currumbin, entry will be from 8:00am. Cost of entry this year will be \$10 per person, that will give you a ticket in the Lucky Door Prize of a complete Flat-pac hive, consisting of a Beetle trap bottom board, 2 hive supers, 20 frames and foundation sheets, queen excluder, a lid and 2 in-hive beetle traps. On paying your entry fee you will receive a programme, a Lucky Door Prize ticket and upon presentation of the programme to the Cafe, a free cup of tea/coffee and cake or muffin. **\$5.00 from each entry ticket will be donated to the Currumbin Community Special School to assist in raising funds for their “Special Needs Playground Equipment” that they are seeking for their senior pupils.** Volunteers who are assisting on the day will receive free entry and will be required to register with Roslyn de Boer (roslyn@rojotrading.com or 0417 142 072) no later than 11th August. Volunteers are required to help man the kitchen, prepping salads for the BBQ and serving, entry marquee to register all guests as they enter, to sell Raffle tickets and to assist in the session preparations. Those that volunteer earliest will have first choice on the jobs for the day.

The QBA are still looking for volunteers to help man their stand, “the Honey Court” from Friday 11th until Sunday 20th of August, contact Marion Weatherhead on 0418 881 456 if you can help out.

Make sure that you are ready for the new season. (Club equipment officer John de Boer has a stock of supers, complete hives and various tools for your convenience and to support your Club. Call John for a suitable time on 0417 142 073.)

JP



2017 Field Day Details

Entry Fee \$10

\$5 of each entry will be donated to the Currumbin Community Special School as mentioned in the Regional Report above.

Each paying attendee will receive an entry for the Lucky Door Prize.

Also 1 free tea/coffee with cake or muffin on presentation of their Program, provided by CCSS.

CCSS will also have breakfast Bacon & Egg Muffins for \$2.50

Lunch will be available for Sale:

Hamburger Rolls or Sausage Sizzle

Commercial Stalls presenting on the day are:

Peter Davenport - Native Bees

Currumbin Community Special School - morning tea

Burnett Beekeeping Supplies

Quality Beekeeping Supplies

Zenith Beekeeping Supplies

Hornsby Beekeeping Supplies

Schedule of Events

0800 Guest Registration

0840 Welcome President

0840 Opening Mrs Karen Andrews M.P. A/Minister Vocational Education & Skills

0900 Doug Sommerville NSW DPI "The Essentials of Successful beekeeping."

1000 MORNING TEA

1030 Beginners Beekeeping (Staff Room)

***1030 "Research Project Members of the
MEDICINAL AUSTRALIAN LEPTOSPERMUM HONEY PROJECT."***

Dr Shona Blair and Dr Nural Cokcetin

(ithree institute, University of Technology Sydney),

also Dr Peter Brooks and Simon Williams (University of Sunshine Coast)

1300 LUNCH

1400 Raffle Draws

1430 Q & A with Guest Speakers

1530 Close

Varroa mite vigilance crucial as eradication program turns to a colourful bee-eater

ABC OLD Country Hour

By Tom Major



The rainbow bee-eater can eat hundreds of bees a day, making its pellets a valuable resource for authorities. (Supplied: Department of Agriculture and Fisheries)

It is a common dry season visitor throughout the tropical north, and now the rainbow bee-eater could hold the key to identifying the remaining varroa mite colonies that have made their way to Australia.

The biosecurity threat of a mite infestation could **cost Australia more than \$1 billion in lost production.**

When first detected in Townsville last year the varroa mite was found living on Asian honey bees, but authorities fear the virus-carrying mites could spread to European honey bees, Australia's largest producers of honey.

The National Varroa Mite Eradication Program (NVMEP) is calling on the public's help to identify the rainbow bee-eater's roosts in a bid to find any remaining Asian honey bee nests.

Program leader Stephen Anderson said the birds leave tell-tale signs that can point biosecurity officers in the right direction as they try to exterminate remaining bee colonies.

"The rainbow bee-eaters will actually regurgitate what they can't digest throughout the day," he said.

"We can then look at that regurgitated material and find the [indigestible] forewings of the Asian honey bee."

The birds can eat several hundred bees a day, making the regurgitated pellets an excellent source of information about local bee populations according to Mr Anderson.

"It's a presence and absence test, so we can actually tell whether the Asian honey bee is in the localised area," he said.

"To date this year we've collected over 4,000 pellets and we haven't found any Asian honey bee forewings in any of those pellets. So it's all positive at this stage."

With no confirmed Asian honey bee nests found since November last year, the eradication program has transitioned to a proof of area freedom stage that will continue until August 2019.

Mr Anderson thanked the public and beekeeping clubs for their help so far in fighting the varroa mite incursion.

"Without the public and local clubs being involved it would make our work a lot harder," he said.

"The success of the NVMEP in Townsville depends heavily on community and club involvement."

Critical period ahead



Varroa mites were found at the Port of Townsville in July last year.
(Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry)



The Asian honey bee on the right is much smaller than the European species used for most Australian honey production.
(Supplied: Paul Zborowski)

The new president of the Queensland Beekeepers' Association, Bryce Jensen, said he has been happy with the hard work of the NVMEP but vigilance is needed.

The Kingaroy apiarist said the **Asian honey bee infestation in Cairns** showed that failure to manage invasive pests could cause a biosecurity headache. "There was maybe only one nest missed, the guard was taken down and off they went," he said.

"If we could find one more Asian bee in Townsville we would get full government funding again and a lot more government feet on the ground. That's why we need to really be looking now in springtime when swarming happens."

Mr Bryce said once established, the mite-carrying bees would prove impossible to eradicate.

"We know that it would have devastating effects. It would be a whole new learning field ... a real battle."

4 Wonders of Honey For Hair And Scalp

By Vineetha Reddy

(Reprinted courtesy of Ruth Tam, www.benefits-of-honey.com)

Honey is quite popular as a delicious natural sweetener that is often used in the kitchen to enhance the taste of various foods. But did you know that this sweetening ingredient can also help make your mane look gorgeous? If you have honey, you don't need to look for a fancy salon product to manage your tresses as it is loaded with health benefits for your hair. It is full of antioxidants and nutrients that can stimulate the hair follicles and promote hair growth. You might be sceptical about applying this sticky, sweet product on your hair, but it can do wonders to your hair. Honey contains all the required vitamins and minerals to make your hair shiny and acts as an antibacterial. If you have dry and dull hair, honey can replenish it with moisture and heal it from within. Honey can help stimulate the hair follicles with its moisturising elements and keep your scalp healthy. If you are still wondering what honey can do for your hair and scalp, read on to know more.



1. HONEY Conditions And Softens Hair

Honey can prevent your hair from drying out. It is very effective in retaining moisture and keeping those locks soft and bouncy. Honey acts as a natural softener and is hence an elixir for hair that helps improve its texture. You no longer need to spend a fortune on fancy conditioners to get soft and smooth hair that feels great to touch. Honey will do the job for you! Honey is known to be an emollient that helps to smoothen and soften your hair. You will love how your hair feels once you get to try it. You can find some useful masks on curlsunderstood.com that can give your hair the conditioning it requires to bring out its natural shine (National Honey Board).

2. HONEY Promotes Hair Growth

Are you longing for long and beautiful hair? Then, look no further, the solution is right on your kitchen counter. Honey is also known to promote healthy hair growth. It not only improves the overall quality of your hair, but also makes your hair grow stronger and longer. Damaged hair does not improve growth as the scalp is dull and unhealthy. But with honey, beautiful and healthy hair is not hard to achieve. Its nutrients can feed the hair follicles with the minerals they need to facilitate effective hair growth.

3. HONEY Cleans And Heals Hair

Honey is known to be a humectant, which means its hygroscopic properties can restore water molecules from the atmosphere to the hair. The biggest concern with unhealthy hair is hair loss. Honey has antibacterial properties that help to protect the scalp from infection and bacteria. If you are prone to the classic hair scalp issues, such as dandruff or an itchy scalp, honey can fix them. It cleans and strengthens the hair follicles and curbs hair fall. You can find the appropriate treatment for your hair with simple tips on Everydayroots.com.

4. HONEY Adds Shine And Lustre

Did you ever look at hair commercials and yearn for that gorgeous, shiny hair? Well, it's not that difficult. You can get those lustrous, gorgeous locks in no time with honey. Honey will rejuvenate your hair and add shine to it as it conditions your hair from within. It hydrates dull and lifeless strands. And since honey is an emollient, your strands will feel soft, nourished, and bouncy. So, if you are looking to get shiny, lustrous hair, a hydrating honey mask for your hair will get you the hair of your dreams.

Your hair goes through so much every day, and it needs the right care and protection. Honey works brilliantly in improving the quality of your hair. By combining natural ingredients with honey, you can clarify your hair and scalp. Now that you know everything that honey can do for your hair, what are you waiting for? Dealing with damaged and unhealthy hair can be a mess, but honey will make all the difference. Start using honey as part of your daily hair care regimen, and you will see its benefits. Try it to see for yourself.

P.S. The good Lord made few PERFECT HEADS, on the rest he put hair.



Bee brain formula for seeing colours more effectively could be used in drones, robots

By David Sparkes

Scientists investigating how bees see colours say the insect's highly efficient visual system could revolutionise the way robots and drones view the world.

The way humans see colour is heavily affected by the changing light around them, such as during a sunset or in the middle of the night, but bees see the same colour regardless.

The Melbourne-based team has studied how bees solve this problem, by using three special eyes on top of their head, in addition to two main eyes at the front.

"The three eyes point skyward, and they directly sample the colour of the light above us," Dr Adrian Dyer of RMIT University said.

"If it's a sunny day or a cloudy day, [those three eyes] can detect that.

"It means their brain knows what kind of lighting conditions they are in and then, when they are looking directly at a flower, they can say, 'Ah, it's a blue sky day, so the correct colour should appear like this, or if it's a cloudy day it should appear like something else.'"



PHOTO: The bee has special eyes that allow them to see colour the same regardless of the ambient light.
(Supplied: Luis Mata, RMIT)

This ability is vital to bees, as it allows them to find the best flowers to collect food to take back to their hive.

The team discovered that the three eyes on top of the bee's head, called ocelli, contain two colour receptors that are perfectly tuned for sensing the colour of ambient light.

The information from the ocelli is integrated with the colours seen by the two front eyes.

To prove this was happening, the researchers mapped "neural tracings" sent from the ocelli, showing they feed into the areas of the bee's brain that processes colours.



PHOTO: Researchers Dr Jair Garcia (left), Professor Marcello Rosa and Dr Adrian Dyer (right) investigated how bees process information about colours. (Supplied: Monash University)

The project was completed by a joint team from RMIT University, Monash University, University of Melbourne and Deakin University and their findings will be published today in the scientific journal, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America.

Technology to copy the bees

Just as humans cannot see colours reliably, because the light around us changes, cameras, robots and drones have the same problem.

Dr Dyer said this long-running conundrum has held back the advance of technology to perform a range of tasks.

"This is a very big problem for machine vision — how to make reliable decisions when the colour of the light changes," he said.

"So our study looked at how bees solve the problem."

The team discovered the mathematical principles used within a bee's brain to process data collected by the three top eyes about the surrounding light and make an adjustment for what the two main eyes are seeing in front of the bee.

The mathematical formula can be easily programmed into a computer.

One example of how the technology could be used is in horticulture.

Drones could fly around an orchard, possibly at night, and accurately detect the colour of different fruits to determine whether they are ready for picking.

The manager can then make accurate decisions about how to deploy his workforce.

This more accurate ability to analyse colour could also be used by drones to inspect infrastructure, such as bridges, or to analyse mineral sands.

"These ideas have been around for a while, but the problem has been how to judge colour accurately," Dr Dyer said.

The project was supported by an grant from the Australian Research Council.



Club Contacts

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Notice Board

Upcoming Events

Sat 12 August 2017	“Discovery in the Gardens” Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens - Ashmore	10am - 2pm
Sat 12 August 2017	Emmanuel College Fair Emmanuel College - Carrara	11am - 6pm
Sat 19 August 2017	GCRB set up for Inaugural Field Day - CCSS	
Sun 20 August 2017	GCRB Field Day	8am - 3pm
Tue 29 August 2017	Griffith University Sustainability Fair	10am - 2pm

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.

URGENT REMINDER

All Beekeepers MUST be registered with DAF / DPI in order to keep bees. This IS LAW!

QLD: www.daf.qld.gov.au Animals > Bees > Register as a beekeeper

NSW: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au Animals & livestock > Honey Bees > Beekeeper registration