

# The Waggle

**Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers Inc.**

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

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## ***Next Information and Training Meeting***

**Date:** 22nd of April

**Time:** 9:00am start for committee. 10:30am start for Information and Training meeting.

**Where:** Vietnam Veterans, 18 Leagues Club Drive, Nerang

A BBQ will be held on site at the end of the meeting so it would be appreciated if members could bring along a salad to share on the day. If you plan on attending could you please RSVP to Roslyn de Boer, for catering purposes, no later than 15 April (Mob: 0417 142 072 or [roslyn@rojotrading.com](mailto:roslyn@rojotrading.com)).

## ***Regional Report***

***The Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers would like to thank Graham Beech of NT Bees for allowing us to hold our March meeting at his apiary at Biddaddaba.***

What a great meeting it was, learning how to “bank” queen bees so that if your situation or the weather turns against you after you have collected your new queen and she cannot be placed into the new hive immediately, you can keep her in good health until you can re-queen your hive or split.

Graham emphasised the importance of having pollen in brood frames, and that different coloured pollens in a frame indicated the types of trees that the bees were collecting pollen from, as the more varied pollens in a frame the better it was.



Seeing the various stages of queen breeding was an eye opener for many of our newer members who attended, to see Graham handling his bees showed his professional and relaxed manner.



It was interesting for members to see the different colouring between the lighter coloured Italian bees and the black Carniolan bees and to hear the differences between both species and benefits of keeping each species.



**Image above:** Italian bees



**Image above:** Carniolan bees

Members who attended the day had the opportunity to purchase Nuc's and Queens directly from Graham. The club took the chance to purchase a nuc that Mike and Peter installed at the Vietnam Veterans Nerang apiary during the week whilst checking the Vets two on-site hives. At the same time we took the opportunity to split the Vets' native bee hive that has not been touched for many years.



**Image above:** Mike and Peter hard at work.



Note the part filled frame from the hive shown above. When filled it will be a show prize winner



After the NT Bees meeting I helped one of our new members, George Pels at Mt. Tambourine, to re-queen his two of hives. During the re-queening George moved away from the hives to remove a bee from inside his veil. Whilst this was happening I noticed that he also had a bee on his back, the question that bothered me was.....do you tell him or not? My conscious got the better of me so I did tell him after we had finished re-queening.

There was one situation recently where we could not help out - residents from Upper Coomera had tree loppers in to fall a driveway tree that was at least 1200mm (4') across the base.

The tree came down precisely where the loppers had planned but as soon as they started to cut the trunk into sections they were greeted by bees from a hive who had evidently been happily living there for many years. This resulted in the demise of many bees due to losing their stingers. Needless to say there were no tree loppers on site when I arrived and spoke to the land owners. Unfortunately the hive had to be destroyed so that the work could continue.

We welcome back Dave Perkins from his 12 month scholarship working with the Israeli Botanical Gardens at the original "Garden of Eden", he also spent time with a couple of major Israeli beekeepers while he was there.

Due to Commonwealth Games restrictions our next meeting will now be held on Sunday 22nd April at the Vietnam Veterans' Mens Shed (18 Leagues Club Drive Nerang) from 10:30am, and will finish up with a BBQ on completion which is a good chance to mix with other members to learn more about beekeeping. Unfortunately, I will be in Sydney due to previous commitments, so I will ask Kevin Finn to run the meeting where

Plenty of parking is available on site just minutes from the M1

Registration is open for members to attend the Australian Bee Congress to be held at the Pines Resort here on the Gold Coast from the 27th to the 30th of June 2018, for information and registration [www.australianbeecongress.com.au](http://www.australianbeecongress.com.au), the Congress will be followed on Saturday 1st July 2018 the Australian Native Bee Conference being held at the same venue, for information visit [www.australiannativebeeconference.com.au](http://www.australiannativebeeconference.com.au).

These events provided beekeepers of both varieties with an array of information on many aspects of beekeeping and allows you to mix with beekeepers from around Australia and the rest of the world.

For those members who don't attend our meetings, you are missing a vital chance to expand your knowledge by listening to other people's mistakes, after all, ***History is only the victories, defeats, ideas and mistakes that other people have made in the past that were recorded.***

***Cheers***

***JP***

## ***How Bees, Elephants, And Farmers Are Keeping Each Other Safe***

Being a farmer is hard work — but being a farmer in places like Kenya, Botswana, and Sri Lanka has a unique challenge that other areas of the world don't: elephants!

Wild elephants, whose natural behavior is to roam, have been known to march right through fields, damaging and destroying crops. When the human farmers try to intervene, things can turn ugly, and both human and elephant injuries and even deaths can occur.



Sadly, like too many animals, elephants face many dangers at the hands of humans. It's a shame, because these creatures are intelligent, sensitive, and have complex emotional and social connections, forming strong bonds with one another, and with different animals, too.

So a solution was needed that would both keep the farmers' fields safe, but make sure the elephants were in no way harmed.

This solution was not only brilliantly simple, but also had the added bonus of helping out another species in crisis: bees.

In areas where elephants are free-roaming, humans must learn to coexist with them. Sadly, due to the loss of most of natural habitat, elephants raid farms at night, eating and flattening crops and damaging the farmers' livelihoods.

This can lead to violent confrontations where both humans and elephants are hurt and killed. Elephants usually raid fields at night, and to ward them off, people have fired guns, thrown rocks, and launched firecrackers to scare them off. Just like with humans, an injury or death in an elephant's family unit puts major emotional stress on the herd.

The devastation to fields is no small issue, either. These small farmers rely on their crops to survive, and a damaged field can mean a serious loss of income and food.

There seemed to be no simple solution, until zoologist Dr. Lucy King noticed something: Elephants really don't like bees, and will avoid them at all costs. If they hear buzzing, they'll leave an area immediately, signaling to others that bees are about. This is because the bees' stings are especially painful to the elephants' trunks, and to avoid this pain, the elephants prefer to just stay away.

***And thus, bee fences were born!***

"Beefencing," as it's known, is the use of hanging rows of beehives, each connected by a length of wire. When a nosy elephant approaches, it will knock into the wire, setting the hives swinging and disturbing the bees.



And when the elephants hear that buzzing, they'll turn around and leave. The crops are safe, the humans are safe, and the elephants are safe. The bees are safe, too. Dr. King has been working with various conservation organizations and communities in Africa and Sri Lanka, building these beefences around local farms.

She hopes that this will be the first of many steps to create sustainable solutions where humans and animals can coexist peacefully.

The project has also attracted the attention of some big names, who are chipping in to create more beehives. The bees also help pollinate fields and maintain the biodiversity needed to support an ecosystem, so the farmers get a helping hand, too

And as an added bonus, the farmers get to keep the honey and beeswax produced by their hives, which they can use or sell.



This “elephant-friendly honey” is available in local shops near the areas where the farmers live and work.

So unless you’re planning a visit to Nairobi, you won’t be able to get any. But it’s quite popular where it’s sold! Even if you can’t buy honey, you can still help elephants, bees, and people by donating through the *Wildlife Conservation Network* or *JustGiving*.

You can find out more about this amazing project through visiting the project website at <http://elephantsandbees.com/>.

Article written by Laura Caseley. Laura is a writer, illustrator, and artist living in New York City ([https://www.littlethings.com/author/laura/?utm\\_medium=Facebook](https://www.littlethings.com/author/laura/?utm_medium=Facebook)).

## Grilled Plums with Ricotta and Honey

Grilling fruit is a simple way to bring out its natural sweetness, and to create a stunning dessert with almost no effort.

This recipe is intended to serve six people. Preparation time is approximately 10 minutes.

### Ingredients

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- 1 tbsp. granulated sugar
  - 6 plums
  - 1 c. ricotta
  - 1 tsp. orange zest
  - 2 tbsp. honey
  - 1/4 c. shelled pistachios
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### Directions

1. Heat grill to medium. Sprinkle the sugar over the cut side of the plums and grill, cut-side down, until slightly charred and beginning to caramelize, 1 to 2 minutes. Turn and cook, covered, 2 minutes more.
2. Meanwhile, in a medium bowl, combine the ricotta and orange zest.
3. Transfer the plums to plates, spoon the ricotta mixture over the top, drizzle with the honey, and sprinkle with the pistachios.

Recipe by Womans Day Kitchen, May 2014.



# Notice Board

## Need new equipment?

New Equipment is available for your convenience from John and Roslyn de Boer, 0417 142 073. Please call to check on supply and arrange a convenient time for pick up. Postage can also be organised if required.

## Mark in your calendar

- ❖ Mudgeeraba Show - June 23rd and 24th.
- ❖ The Australian Bee Congress 27 - 30 June. Our President, John Polley, is one of the speakers at this event. Go to <http://australianbeecongress.com.au> for pricing and further details.

## Contacts

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