

THE WAGGLE

Newsletter of the Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers Inc.

'Furthering knowledge in Beekeeping by assisted learning and practical experience'

www.gcrb.org.au

Edition: August 2021

<p>President: <i>Greg Foster</i> Mob: 0409 279 164 ~~~~~</p> <p>Secretary: <i>Drew Maywald</i> Mob: 0400 959 043 ~~~~~</p> <p>Treasurer: <i>Peter Handy</i> Mob: 0448 195 020</p>	<p>Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers Inc. E: gcrb.president@beekeepers.asn.au E: gcrb.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au E: gcrb.treasurer@beekeepers.asn.au E: gcrb.membership@beekeepers.asn.au E: gcrb.editor@beekeepers.asn.au</p>	<p>Your voice in local beekeeping PO Box 389, Nerang, Qld, 4214</p> <p>Next Meeting: Sat 21 August 21 8:30 am Hive Inspection and Rob</p> <p>10:30 am - Splitting the Hive without Looking for the Queen by Kevin Finn</p>
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President's Chat

***What's Flowering
in the region***

Hive Report

**Community
Grant**

For Sale

***Meeting
Report***

***Rotating Frames in
a Flow Hive***

**Tips and
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From the Editor

Here it is, August already and the days are thankfully starting to get longer and warmer. Now all that has to happen to make it a great time of the year is to remain out of Lockdown, but unfortunately, I don't think that will happen for some time yet. To help fight the pandemic please remember to wear your mask to the club and please sign in on arrival.

Like most beekeepers, I have spent the winter months building hives and making frames. Admittedly, my Slovenian hives and frames are quite different from the majority of beekeepers equipment, and that is my choice, but I have to admit I am just about all framed out! At least I am finally prepared for the season and I hope you are as well.

This edition has a rather large For Sale section as the Vietnam Veterans Men's Shed has been kind enough to commence construction of Solar Wax Melters for sale to club members.

I am always looking for articles to include in this, YOUR, newsletter. I would like to thank Drew for his tip on preventing rain getting into his Flow Hives. If you have any tips, funny stories or a bee in your bonnet please either email me, phone me or see me at our meetings.

See you at the next meeting

Yours Aye

Windy

The Waggle is the journal of the Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers Inc. It is distributed to members monthly. The editor will consider adverts from businesses relevant to beekeepers to run free of charge where they contain a discount or special offer to GCRB members. Please email gcrb.editor@beekeepers.asn.au

President's Chat

It gives me great pleasure to announce that our club has been successful with our Gambling Community Benefit Fund grant application. Our local state member of parliament, Meaghan Scanlon, presented the cheque to our club last Friday. The granted funds will allow us to upgrade some of our club equipment, install a hard floor to the main shed that we share with the Vietnam Veterans Federation, expand our educational component to members, purchase a Smart TV for meetings and training course computer hook up, along with several other very beneficial items that will be implemented in the coming months. I would like to make special mention to our Secretary Drew for his time and effort in submitting the application on behalf of the club.

There are some interesting items listed further in this edition of the Waggle which I won't go into too much detail on now, but I'd like to commend the Mens Shed crew for their assistance in the solar melter project, they look great, you will see them further in this Waggle no doubt.

I hope your preparations for the coming flow are progressing well, if you have any questions, I encourage you to reach out to a committee member who will be able to assist, their contact details are at the back of the Waggle. The other option is to come along to our next club day on the 21st and have a chat over a cuppa with some of our senior beekeepers who are always willing to help. I hope to see you then.

Greg

"The Appy Apiarist"



Hive Report

The hives are continuing to do well and, hopefully, the issue of the Queen above the excluder in hive #5 has been resolved. Also, the Chalkbrood issue in the same hive appears to have been resolved.

During the monthly hive inspection 12 frames were robbed from the hives indicating the season is starting to change for the better.

See you at the next inspection



July Meeting

President Greg opened our July meeting by introducing Rebecca Laws, Queensland Biosecurity Officer. Rebecca gave a detailed and very valuable presentation on the importance of biosecurity and disease control in beehives. If members need any information on bee diseases, the go to web site is Bee Aware at this link [Bee Aware](#)

Bee Aware also offers an excellent free Biosecurity course for beekeepers.

Rebecca recommended a manual called Honeybee Pesticide Poisoning – A Risk Management Tool for Australian Farmers and Beekeepers. This excellent manual describes how to manage the risk of bees being affected by pesticide spray, and also lists all the pesticide sprays that are harmful to bees in alphabetical order of the active constituent. Here is a link to it which you can refer to or download the manual -

<https://www.agrifutures.com.au/wp-content/uploads/publications/12-043.pdf>

Rebecca also recommended downloading an app called Bee Connected, available at this link [Bee Connect App](#). This app will connect beekeepers with farmers near their hives or enable beekeepers to be informed of crop protection activities near their hives.

Members then went outside to conduct the monthly hive inspection and rob, and Rebecca showed everyone how to do a sugar shake test and alcohol test. Mike reports that all the hives are in good condition. Members then extracted the honey in the lunchroom as Errol Harris, who usually does the extraction is not well. We hope that he makes a full recovery, and our best wishes go out to him.

We all enjoyed the sausage sizzle cooked by Peter, and 3 members went away with raffle prizes which included a \$50 voucher to Bunnings, a sugar shake test kit and a \$15 voucher to Vs Bees. Thanks to all members who attended for their participation and special thanks to Rebecca for her time and giving such an excellent presentation. We wish her well on the birth of her first child in a couple of months.

See you next meeting.



Joke of the Month

I don't mean to "drone" on but I think you'll love this bee joke!

If you have a bee in your hand, what do you have in your eye? Beauty, because beauty is in the eye of the bee-holder.

Community Grant

As Greg has already mentioned, the club has been successful in gaining a grant for \$13,000 from the Community Gaming Fund.

This money will go towards a number of projects including:

- Installing a floor in the Stratco shed near the hives.
- Purchasing new hive equipment, frames and boxes.
- Upgrading our first aid supplies.
- Conducting community workshops on beekeeping and native bees.
- Purchasing a smart TV for club presentations.
- purchasing another flow hive super
- purchasing a digital refractor.

The Committee will be providing more details as they come to hand.



MP for Nerang, Megan Scanlon presenting the cheque to the GCRB President, Greg Foster

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the GCRB will be held on October 16, 2021 at the Vietnam Veterans complex. If you would like to be more involved in the club then it is time to think about being on the committee.

There is not a lot of work for committee members and if you are unable to attend our committee meetings then you can do so through Google Meets (Google's answer to Zoom).

If you need more information please give our Secretary, Drew Maywald, a call. You will receive more information about the AGM, closer to the date.

For Sale

The club has been given three frame display boxes for competition judging, as in the photo attached. One of the painted ones has only one sheet of glass while the other two are complete and ready to go. The varnished one has not been used.

They are available for members to buy and anyone who is interested can make an offer. I was thinking they would be worth around \$30 each noting they go for well over a \$100 from suppliers.

If you are interested in purchasing any of these units please contact Drew.



Additionally, as alluded to by Greg, the Men's Shed have built two solar wax melters which are for sale. The larger of the two is 855mm long x 595mm wide x 200mm deep so would be suitable for someone with a large number of hives. The cost for this unit is \$250.



The smaller unit is 500mm x 400mm x 200mm and would ideally suit someone with

less than half a dozen hives. The cost for this unit is \$125.



Both units can be viewed at the club. If anyone is interested, please contact either Greg, Drew or Peter.

With the current lockdown restrictions, a mask is mandatory and what better way to show the world that you love bees than to wear one of these stylish masks being offered by Drew for a measly \$15. The masks are double layered and washable. If you are interested, please contact Drew.



Tasks for June-July

August is really the last month to get into the shed to make up and paint new boxes as well as making and wiring new frames for the upcoming season. If you leave it much later you will be playing catch-up for the rest of the season.

Native Beehive Project

If you are interested in lending a hand to make or paint hives, or helping to bud hives into wild hives, please contact Drew Maywald on 0400 959 043.

Annual Subscriptions

By now you should have received an email from the ABA about your club and ABA membership renewal for 2021/2022, and insurance if you have your hives insured through the ABA. It is very easy to renew your membership online by following the steps in the email.

Please note that the optional hive insurance covers you for Public and Products Liability Insurance, not Hive Insurance. The \$15 premium will cover you for up to 100 hives.

Lastly, if you do not pay your subscription by the end of September your membership will lapse, and you will have to re-apply for your membership. As a beekeeper in the Gold Coast Council area, it is a legal requirement that you must be a member of a Beekeeping Club.

Swarm Register

We are now starting to enter the period for swarming. Swarms are a great way to get FREE BEES but do require the beekeeper to be prepared to act quickly. Now is the time to ensure that you've registered your interest to collect swarms.

So, if you would like to collect swarms and get free bees, you need to be listed on our swarm register by contacting Steve (Windy) Hill at windy738@hotmail.com or on 0414 617 716.

Windy will add you to the register and advise what is required. We never know when we are going to get a call about a swarm so you will need to be prepared to go when called.

Rotating Brood Frames in a Flow Hive

Following on from the presentation by Dr Laws at our last meeting indicating we should be rotating our brood frames out on a regular basis to help combat diseases, there was a

discussion on how the frames would be rotated out of a Flow Hive. Our resourceful Secretary, Drew, contacted Stu Anderson from Flow Hive and received the following answer, which is re-printed with the kind consent of Stu.

“Here's my thinking and practice around cycling out old brood frames.

Unless you have a Hybrid Flow super you won't be able to move old brood frames up to cycle them out of the hive. However, I have seen at least one 'tinkerer' make up a cradle so that one or two standard frames can be temporarily mounted in the Flow super, this is quite achievable but a bit of a fiddle.

Personally, I tend to split my hives in spring giving me the opportunity to put new foundation or 'natural' frames in each hive. Once things have settled, I will move older brood frames to the outside and, when they're mainly honey, I will move them out and crush the wax. Of course, that method is always possible without the split - a split just gives a lot of new comb in one go.

If I don't want to muck around crushing honey and old comb, it is possible to fit a conventional frame horizontally in the roof area and I have managed sometimes to get the bees to come up through the inner cover and clean out the honey. This method needs keeping an eye on as it may promote robbing and/or the bees might just start building more comb in the roof area.

One day I'll get around to doing a 'shook'. As I understand it all the bees are tipped out onto a sheet in front of the hive, and all the old frames are replaced with new ones. Apparently, if there's a good flow on the bees quickly build new comb but of course they lose a few weeks of brood. Tempting though in terms of getting old wax and other lurgies out of the hive”.

Stu Anderson

July 2021

Stu is the co-founder of the Flow hive and lives in Northern NSW.

What's Flowering in the Region

During August many of the flowering plants from the previous month continue to support our bees throughout the region. These include, but not limited to, the following:

Brisbane Wattles – Two varieties of this tree are currently in flower, the Black and the Golden wattle. Both provide a moderated source of pollen to the bees.



Banksia – This tree provides ample nectar and pollen for bees, and often flowers in association with paperbark trees. Honey colour is dark amber.



Sheoak – A number of this species are currently flowering during June including the Black and River varieties. These trees provide a useful supply of pollen. It is not a nectar source.



Ironbark – At least four varieties of Ironbark are flowering during June and include the Caley's, Dusky-leaved, Grey and Tumble-down varieties. The honey from this

tree has a medium density and mild sweet flavour, while useful quantities of pollen can be obtained to assist in maintaining colony strength.



Additionally, the Red Ironbark, more commonly known as Mugga, is also flowering.

Hickory Wattle – Apiaries sited near Hickory Wattle may obtain a good supply of pollen; however, the light-yellow pollen is poor food and doesn't proportionally simulate brood raising.



White Clover – Requires good rains in order to bloom prolifically, and under these conditions it is a useful nectar and pollen supply.



Gums – At least three varieties of gum are now flowering including the Blue, Scribbly and Spotted gums. Valuable pollen and nectar supplies are obtained regularly from the Blue Gums during late winter and early spring but there is limited pollen and next to no nectar from either the Scribbly or Spotted Gum.



Hairy Bush-pea – A spreading shrub with a graceful weeping habit if given space to fully mature. In coastal districts this bush flowers annually and is worked freely by bees for large amounts of pollen.



Flat Weed – Flatweed is a herb to 400 mm wide with yellow daisy type flowers up to 30 mm diameter borne on simple or branched, leafless stalks at any time of the year with a flush in spring to early summer. The large quality of bright orange pollen and small amount of nectar obtained simulate brood-rearing



Macadamia – Are native to north-eastern New South Wales and central and South-eastern Queensland specifically. Other names include Queensland nut, bush nut, maroochi nut, bauple nut and Hawaii nut. In Australian Aboriginal languages, the fruit is known by names such as bauple, gyndl, jindilli and boombera. It was an important source of

bushfood for the Aboriginal peoples who are the original inhabitants of the area.



Tips and Tricks

By Drew Maywald - I made small “verandas”, illustrated, to cover the entrances of my hives to keep wet weather out. They work well particularly if you have a flow hive which needs to be sloping back so that the honey can be extracted effectively. The verandas are around 80 mm x 25mm and are made from old roofing sheets I had in the garden.



Make a swarm charm. Yes, rendering wax is messy, and if you melt brood combs you will be left with an unsettling by-product called slumgum. In spite of its appearance, slumgum makes a great swarm lure. Simply dip an old rag in melted slumgum and let it harden. In spring, throw a rope over a tree limb near your hives and hang the charm 15-20 feet from the ground. With any luck, an escaping swarm will settle on your charm while scout bees search for a new home. When it does, just untie your rope and lower the swarm into a cardboard box.

Diary Dates

Fri 27 – Sun 29 Aug

Gold Coast Show

Fri 17 – Sun 19 Sep

Mudgeeraba Show

Sat Sept 18, 2021

8:30am - Club Meeting Hive Inspection and Rob

10:30am- Swarm Control and Swarm Boxes by Fiona Fernie & Mike Hynes

Sat Oct 16, 2021

8:30am - Club Meeting Hive Inspection and Rob plus Queen Assessment by Fiona Fernie & Mike Hynes

10:30am - **Annual General Meeting**

10:45am - Preparing Honey for Shows and Competitions by John Polley

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The club would like to thank Rachael & Vern for their generous support

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Saturday [8.30am - 12pm]

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