


THE BUZZ



The official newsletter of the Gold Coast Amateur Beekeepers Society Inc. Est. 1979
 Website: gcabs.net.au  [Gold Coast Amateur Beekeeping Society](https://www.facebook.com/GoldCoastAmateurBeekeepingSociety)



**Varroa Management Workshop Feb 3
 over 20 people attended**

DATE SAVERS

The Gold Coast Amateur Beekeeper's Society inc. welcomes new members, existing members and visitors to attend our meetings. Non-members attending will be asked to make a gold coin donation.

MEMBER MEETINGS

Please bring a plate to share at our member meetings.

- **Sunday 18 Feb 2024 10am – noon.** Field Trip to NTBees Australia @ Biddababa. ALL WELCOME. NT Bees (Aust) Pty Ltd is a Honey Bee facility located at 3139 Beaudesert-Nerang Rd Biddaddaba, Qld 4275. BYO chair!
- **Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th:** March Beginners Course. [CLICK HERE](#) for bookings.
- **Sunday 17 Mar 2024 10am – noon.** The Bee Lady Corinne Jordan on Varroa resistant Queen Bee breeding program @ GCABS Shed. ALL WELCOME. Corinne is a long term member of GCABS and a regular contributor to our educational meetings.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All welcome to attend our monthly online Committee meetings. [Email](#) the secretary and ask for the link. Seeking casual committee members to share the responsibilities on a rotating roster, no experience required.



WELCOME TO OUR HIVE!

GCABS is the Gold Coast's longest standing beekeeping club, offering a friendly environment and training for new to senior beekeepers. To all new members who have joined GCABS this month, we bid you a warm welcome.

From GCABS President



Welcome to the humid Gold Coast February weather, and welcome to swarming. The return to school / work and routines might get in the way but as a wise beekeeper once said to me, time and bees wait for no man. I have caught swarms in late January and early February each year since I started beekeeping and this year has been no exception.

Thanks to the generous donation of a friendly beekeeper from Lower Beechmont GCABS now have a honey warmer, electric extractor and range of buckets and items for members. Please contact Michael Wilson (phone number on back page) for extractor hire and come to the shed when a meeting is there to pick up buckets.

Orders for nucs and new queens for those swarms are still open so contact any committee member to log your request and be prepared to collect Feb 18 at the field trip. Prep your colonies accordingly if you are re-queening on Feb 19 !! I will be too. Nucs \$240 each Queens \$36 each.

Mentor program will be up and running again this year so if you are interested as a MENTOR or as a new member wanting to connect with a mentor, please contact your committee members. Tony Herbetko will be helping as mentor coordinator so please join me in thanking Tony for volunteering.

Kind regards... Kathy

February Honey Flora - S.E. Queensland

Submitted by Jim O'Reagan

Blackbutt. Blue Heliotrope. Broad-leaved Banksia. Broad-leaved Ironbark. Brown Bloodwood. Brown Box. Coolibah. Grasstree. Grey Mangrove. Gum-topped Box. Hickory Wattle. Mallee box. Mexican Poppy. Moreton-bay Ash. Paper-barked Tea-tree. Pink Bloodwood. Red Stringybark. Silver-leaved Ironbark. Small fruited Grey Gum. White Stringybark.



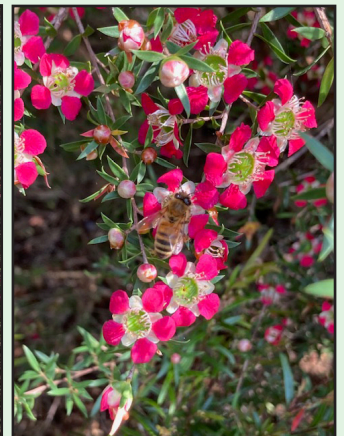
Moreton Bay Ash flower & trunk

Flowers of the Month for Your Home Garden Leptospermum (tea tree)

Submitted by Esther Bligh

There are over 80 species of leptospermum native to Australia, with lots of different cultivars that can be bought in nurseries. Tea trees vary in size from small shrubs to small trees, with some varieties having an elegant weeping habit. They vary in colour from white to all shades of pink.

Tea trees respond well to pruning and like to be positioned in the sun or part shade. They are very hardy and drought tolerant. The worst and most common pest is the webbing caterpillar.



Bees visit leptospermum mainly for its nectar.

January Meeting Review

A good meeting with many familiar faces. Lovely to have space to chat and socialise. Some members took a tour around the grounds at the Parklands and others stayed put. A flurry of activity at the sales tables as members picked up books, signs, PPE, buckets, foundation, supers, frames and other gear. Bargains galore and wait there is still more stock available. Brian Jenkins generously donated a rolling uncapper device which looks intriguing.



Members gave the following suggestions for future topics : AFB (American Foul Brood) management / SHB (Small Hive Beetle) management / methods of swarm collection : Do's and Dont's / demonstration of wax render methods / demonstrations of honey extraction tools and methods.

Meet Education Officer: David Corkhill

Submitted by David

Writing a bio is the hardest but here goes! I joined GCABS in 2016 after I purchased a flow hive and was looking for a mentor to support my budding new hobby, I started with a simple flow hive and since then have become a passionate hobbyist with a number hives at home and a second apiary which houses my growing collection of colonies.

My real work is in healthcare and I am an emergency nurse specialist and educator. I run an education business that delivers education to nurses and other health professionals around the country. I am passionate about education and have come on board to assist in the coordination and delivery of the Introduction to Beekeeping Course. Over the next year I am keen to assist new beekeepers learn (and continue to learn) skills and knowledge to safely and confidently develop as a budding beekeeper.



Education Report from GCABS training officer David

Empowering Communities: The Importance of GCABS Running Introductory Beekeeping Courses”

Beekeeping has become more than just a hobby; it's a vital practice for environmental sustainability and conservation. Bee clubs, as community hubs for bee enthusiasts, play a crucial role in fostering knowledge, skills, and a passion for beekeeping. GCABS has a long history of providing education and over the last 7 years nearly 400 people have undertaken an introductory beekeeping course with us. Running introductory beekeeping courses within our club has numerous benefits, contributing not only to the individual beekeepers but also to the broader community and the environment. Here are several compelling reasons why we feel GCABS should take the lead in offering introductory beekeeping courses:

Knowledge Transfer and Mentorship:

Bee clubs serve as a wealth of knowledge, often comprising experienced beekeepers. By running introductory courses, these clubs can facilitate the transfer of practical skills, wisdom, and best practices from seasoned beekeepers to newcomers. This mentorship fosters a supportive learning environment, enhancing the overall beekeeping experience for beginners.

Community Engagement and Networking:

Bee clubs act as social hubs, bringing together individuals with a shared interest in beekeeping. Introductory courses provide a platform for community engagement and networking, allowing participants to connect with like-minded individuals. These connections can lead to long-lasting relationships, collaborative initiatives, and the formation of a supportive local beekeeping community.



Promoting Sustainable Practices:

Bee clubs are well-positioned to advocate for and teach sustainable beekeeping practices. Introductory courses organised by these clubs can emphasise the importance of responsible hive management, organic beekeeping methods, and environmentally friendly approaches. This, in turn, contributes to the overall health of bee colonies and the surrounding ecosystems.



Addressing Beekeeping Challenges:

Bee clubs are often aware of the specific challenges faced by beekeepers in their localities. By offering introductory courses, our club can address specific issues, such as prevalent diseases, climate considerations, and unique flora that impact beekeeping.



Tailoring the content of courses to local challenges ensures that beekeepers are well-equipped to overcome obstacles.

Increasing Bee Population and Pollination Services:

Bee clubs that run introductory courses contribute to the growth of the beekeeping community. As more individuals become beekeepers, the overall bee population increases, positively impacting local pollination services. This, in turn, benefits agricultural productivity and biodiversity in the community.

Enhancing Environmental Awareness:

Bee clubs can use introductory courses as a platform to raise environmental awareness. Educating participants about the critical role of bees in pollination, the impacts on bee populations, and the broader

impact on ecosystems fosters a sense of responsibility for environmental conservation. Beekeepers who are environmentally conscious are more likely to adopt sustainable practices in their apiaries.

Supporting Local Economies:

Beekeeping can be a source of income and a boost to local economies. Many people in our community love to purchase local honey for that unique floral note. Participants may go on to establish their own hives, sell honey and bee-related products, and even offer pollination services to local farmers.



Bee clubs are instrumental in promoting the art and science of beekeeping within communities. By running introductory beekeeping courses, GCABS not only empower individuals with the knowledge and skills to become responsible beekeepers but also contribute to the larger goals of environmental sustainability, community engagement, and economic development. These courses serve as a catalyst for fostering a vibrant and informed beekeeping community that positively impacts both people and the planet.

Note: our next Beginners class is March 16-17 tickets available [HERE](#)

Field Trip For February



Members may recall in past years we have enjoyed a Field Trip in February. This year our February monthly meeting will be held at NTBees Australia on Sunday 18th February. NT Bees (Aust) Pty Ltd is a Honey Bee facility located at 3139 Beadesert-Nerang Rd Biddaddaba, Qld 4275. Operator Graham Beech (GB) has been a member and supporter of GCABS for many years. Queen Bee Breeder Joanna Read comes from a multi-generational family of GCABS members and beekeepers. NT Bees have nucleus colonies of bees and mated marked Queens available for pre-order and collection on the Field Trip visit. Contact a committee member to place your order and arrange payments. Bees will be collected at the conclusion of our visit Feb 18th, so prepare your colonies in advance to receive new queens if you need to.



GCABS will place some signage at the critical road junctions to help you navigate to the farm. Plenty of parking available, but please do BYO folding chair (and remember to take it home again with you!). As always, bring a snack to share and prepare for a fun and educational outing with bee friends. As shown last time we visited there were swarms, competitions, raffles, Q & A and lots to look at.

Industry Updates

Courtesy of QBA



QBA or the Queensland Beekeepers Association encourage you to join us to build-on your knowledge of the transition to management for varroa mite phase (T2M) in Queensland, and learn more about effective management strategies from our international guest speaker experts who will talk to the varroa mite management experiences from New Zealand, Canada and the United States. Our Varroa mite workshops will take place at the following locations:

- [Sandstone Point Hotel \(near Bribie Island\) - Monday 4th March 2024](#)
- [Warwick RSL - Tuesday 5th March 2024](#)
- [Brothers Sports Club Bundaberg - Wednesday 6th March 2024](#)
- [Rydgies Esplanade Cairns - Friday 8th March 2024](#)

(Please click on any of the locations above to complete a registration to attend). Our program for the workshops will cover:

- QBA Industry Update (15 mins)
- Biosecurity Queensland Update (20 mins)
- Varroa Management Workshop (2 hours) - conducted by Nick Taylor (NZBeeswax LTD) and Tom Nolan (Nature's Own Design/Formic Pro)

Furthermore, we're pleased to advise the workshops will be offered FREE to all QBA members (and the Beekeepers of North Queensland exclusively at the Cairns workshop) due to the generous contributions made by some of the QBA branches and the Cairns & District Beekeepers Association.



JOBS in Your Bee Yard this Month

- Mow lawns, slash under hives and apply weed and ant treatments (Keith).
- Catch and requeen swarms (Kathy).
- Check for room / honey stores. We have had a late flowering of the ivory curl in our area. Expecting to see lots of honey, I will be checking for room for the queen to lay, concerned about recent rains keeping bees in the hive - had multiple calls this last week for swarm captures (David).
- Checking for hive beetle in the hot humid weather (Esther).
- Mowing mowing mowing (Keith).
- I harvested honey last weekend and am in the process of cleaning a box of stickies through an induced in-hive robbing event. Very effective, after 4 days all 8 frames were perfectly clean. Freeze for 2 days and store in airtight container (Esther). *Note: If interested in this method see the next Buzz.

Hall Hire

The GCABS hall is available for community groups to hire at reasonable hourly rates. To inquire please email secretary@gcabs.net.au

TRADING POST

Looking to Buy? Gear to Sell? Send a clear written description and photograph to editor@gcabs.net.au for inclusion in the next buzz newsletter. Pictures say a thousand words.

Olive Cavanaugh is downsizing some of her best quality hives. Ten (10) hives for sale in Nerang Queensland.

All with 2 honey supers
Wooden boxes 9 frame
Polystyrene boxes 10 frame

All ready to pull honey. All are strong colonies, no pests or diseases. Queens replaced in last 12 months Pricing on application. *Contact Olive on 0438 643 482*



Excess honey

Keith Barton has bulk buckets of honey available \$7/kg. Suitable for bottling. 20+ buckets available. Contact Keith on 0419 668 658

COMMITTEE

President	Kathy Knox	0403 155 591	gcabs.president@beekeepers.asn.au
Secretary	Catherine Longworth	0438 607 848	gcabs.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au
Treasurer	Rod Luke	0467 777 674	gcabs.treasurer@beekeepers.asn.au
Biosecurity Officer	Keith Barton	0419 668 685	gcabs.biosecurity@beekeepers.asn.au
Membership	Esther Bligh	0490 400 125	gcabs.membership@beekeepers.asn.au
Extractor Hire	Michael Wilson	0419 745 665	mwcons@hotmail.com
Education	David Corkhill	0405 344 862	davenal@thinkasklearn.com.au
Committee	Amanda Murphy	0420 715 459	teluspoly@hotmail.com

Disclaimer – the views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the GCABS. GCABS accepts no liability for the consequences of any actions taken on the basis of the information provided in this newsletter.