


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)



The GCABS Clubhouse - The beginning of a new era! See page 3

DATE SAVERS

COVID is currently raging, so we are having to be a bit flexible in how we do things. The information below is correct as at time of publication, but keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates. The Gold Coast Amateur Beekeeper's Society inc. welcomes new members, existing members and visitors to attend. Non-members attending will be asked to make a gold coin donation.

- **Sun 16 Jan 2022 10am-11am Member Meeting.** Due to the current high number of COVID cases on the Gold Coast, it has been decided we should take a cautious approach and hold this meeting on Zoom. This is disappointing as we were excited to have our very first meeting of the year in our brand new CLUBHOUSE. However, we decided this would be a risk we should not take. There is no requirement to pre-register, you can join the meeting with this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89140134679>

The meeting will be run by our new GCABS President, Colin Allen. Our guest speaker will be John Steytler, director of East Coast Bees, Tallai, who will be talking about the transition from hobby to commercial beekeeping. It will be fascinating!

- **Sun 20th Feb, 10am - 12pm Member Meeting.** Dr. David Schlipalius, the new Queensland Biosecurity Officer, will be presenting to us. At this point, subject to Covid, we are hoping this meeting can be held in our new clubhouse at Nerang Country Paradise Parklands. Details will be in the February Buzz.
- **Sat 26th - Sun 27th Feb Beginner Course.** Our first course for the year. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/feb-2022-introduction-to-beekeeping-class-for-adults-tickets-242203275517>
- **Sun 20th March - 10am - 12pm. Member Meeting.** We will be having a very interesting presentation on the collection and use of bee venom. Details in next month's Buzz.

From GCABS President



As we enter 2022 there is much uncertainty in many aspects of our lives, however I find it comforting to know that our bees really don't care about covid lockdowns, masks and PCR tests. They go on doing their thing, working as a team, making honey and building their hives. Very little phases them, and when interruptions to their activities occur, they just work around them and overcome them. There is a lot we can learn from our bees!

In that spirit, 2022 is an exciting year for GCABS! We have a new committee, and thanks to the great work of previous committees over quite a few years our new clubhouse is finally ready! As I write, the finishing touches are still going in, but as soon as we can hold our meetings face to face in a Covid-safe way all future member meetings and training programs will be conducted at the new clubhouse. Please see the article on the following page for a detailed status update and a few photos.

I am also delighted to be able to welcome back to continue their great work The Buzz editorial team of Leonie Schwarzel (Editor) and Ann Allen (Assistant Editor). The Buzz has been one of the great institutions of GCABS over many, many years and is one of the main ways our members stay connected and advance their knowledge of bee keeping.

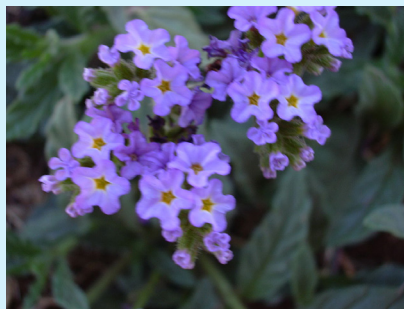
Lastly I am excited about the team we have on our Management Committee this year. Everyone is committed to the ideals of GCABS and having it be a friendly and inviting place where we can all learn from each other and share in the wonderful hobby of bee keeping. We are all looking forward to a great year ahead! I look forward to time with our members this year, and if you have any questions or suggestions, please reach out.

*Cheers,
Colin Allen - President*

January Honey Flora - S.E. Queensland

Submitted by Jim O'Reagan

Blue Heliotrope (Bluetop). Broad-leaved Apple. Broad-leaved Banksia. Broad-leaved Ironbark. Brush Box. Coolibah. Flat Weed. Grass Tree. Lucerne. Maize. Mexican Poppy. Moreton Bay Ash. Poplar Box. Red Stringybark. River Red Gum. Rough-barked Apple. Rusty Gum. Silver-leaved Ironbark. Smudgee. Swamp Mahogany. Western Teatree, Hickory Wattle. Pink Bloodwood. Small-fruited Grey Gum.



Blue Heliotrope



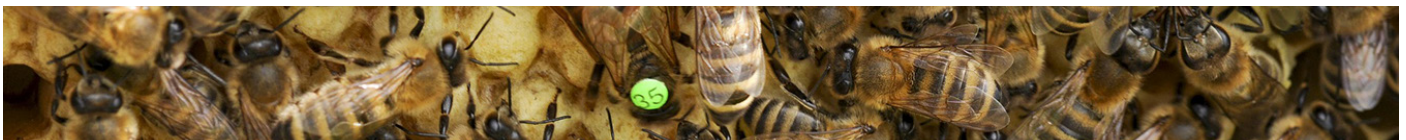
Small fruited grey gum



A warm welcome to all our newest members:

Matthew A., Alexander B., Shona M., Andrea M., Andrew Ma., Andrew Mi., Keith P., Jason S., Graeme S., Brian T., Brad W., Rob W.

GCABS currently has 442 members!



GCABS Clubhouse Update

By Colin Allen



Those who have been following our FaceBook page will be well aware that our new GCABS clubhouse, at 74 Billabirra Cres, Nerang, is nearing completion. We have now received formal approval from council to “move in” and begin using it for our club activities, even though there are a few finishing touches still in progress. Last week the internal insulation, wall lining and kitchenette were completed, and that is the last of the major works.

The gardens and landscaping around the club house are rudimentary at this stage; however the committee has been in meetings with the Native Plants Association which also meets at Country Paradise Parklands, and they will be working with us to design the landscaping and complete this over time. They will also be using our clubhouse for some of their activities. The use of the land was a joint application with the Native Plants Association and within that application they will be constructing a shade house for their native plant propagation on the west side of the building.



Internal view of the main clubhouse area. The wood panels will be painted and can be used for notice/white boards, projection screens etc. We will also have lockable glass cabinets for our library.



Street view (74 Billabirra Cres). We will have large signage to give us good visibility

As previously mentioned, we had hoped to be able to have our first member meeting of 2022 in the clubhouse; however the current Covid situation has led to what we believe is a practical decision to make this month’s meeting an online meeting only. We plan to be conducting our next Beginner Course on 26/27th Feb there, as well as our February general meeting on Feb 20.

Our new clubhouse marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter in the history of GCABS. It has been a long time in the making and I must acknowledge the hard work of GCABS committees over many years with fund raising, grant applications and working through the logistics of obtaining such a great location for us.



The beautiful outlook from the clubhouse veranda

Storage area, which will have shelving built into it



JOBS in Your Bee Yard this Month

By Kathy Knox

Here are some tips for this humid wet summer:

- Tip hive forward by just a few millimetres. Prevents water pooling on base board.
- Strap them up tight.
- If you've put tin lids on top, remove them when strong winds are due. Not the hive lids, of course!
- Trim branches overhanging hives.
- Check footings are strong. Stand legs sink in soft wet soils.
- Empty oil traps and check for extra water pooling in traps.
- Don't worry about bees in the rain as they'll take care of the housework if it's too wet to go out. But don't rob their stores either. Nectar can take longer to ripen in high humidity. Leave the honey on the hive.

Equipment Offer

We have had a kind offer from a beekeeper who is willing to donate some of her beekeeping equipment that she no longer needs. This includes a bee suit (large), hive bottom boards, lids and supers. She thinks it might help anyone who is just starting out as a beekeeper and is finding the expense of setting up a bit much. If interested, please contact Virginia Jacobsen 0415 582 753, Currumbin Valley.

Education

GCABS Beginner Beekeeping course will be held 26/27th February at our new clubhouse. You can register to attend here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/253985063508745>.

Kevin Tracy, GCABS Member and owner of BEE ZONE Apiaries, has several courses on offer in 2022.

- Beginning in Bees in collaboration with Michael Howcroft, Rescue Bees
- Beyond Beginner in collaboration with Michael Howcroft, Rescue Bees
- Pests & Diseases
- Seasonal Management
- Make your own Queens
- Native bees
- Artificial Insemination of Honey bee Queens

See his FaceBook page - <https://www.facebook.com/beezoneapiaries>.

You can email Kevin at kntracy@gmail.com

Equipment for hire

The club has for some time had popular beekeeping equipment available for member hire. We have three spinners (all manual) and 1 electric knife available.

There are now new arrangements in place for accessing the hire equipment, and anyone interested should call Peter Quirk on 0409 111 763, or email on gcabs.p.quirk@beekeepers.asn.au to make arrangements. Please give him plenty of notice as the equipment is now stored at our clubhouse.



Survey on future planning of Nerang Country Paradise Parklands

The City of Gold Coast's Parks and Recreation Services are seeking feedback on the future strategic direction of the Country Paradise Parklands. We have been asked to complete a short survey so that they can plan effectively to provide an area that we can enjoy and utilise.

This is our opportunity to have a say in the future direction of our new home, NCPP. So please participate by completing this survey. We CAN make a difference and get the sort of environment we will thrive in.



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CountryParadiseParklands>

Yapunyah

Submitted by Dr Kathy Knox

Yapunyah (*Eucalyptus ochrophloia*) and Mountain Yapunyah (*Eucalyptus thozetiana*) are Honey flora species of the Paroo district, which covers the Channel Country and Central Downlands of QLD.

The height above sea level in this region ranges between 183m to 366m. The climate can be described as hot to very hot in summer, cool to warm in winter, with low humidity and high evaporation. The soils are sandy. There are flowing artesian bores and lush flowering occurs after floods.

Yapunyah flowers between May and December, mainly from August to October. Yapunyah has been recognised as a nectar-producing tree.

Sufficient stands of yapunyah and other flowering crops along the Warrego and Paroo Rivers in the channel country produce crops of 150kg to 200kg honey per colony.

The area of yapunyah is on the eastern fringe of a large natural irrigation system. According to Honey Flora of Queensland, 3rd Edition ... "the existing alluvial channels and flood plains are remnants of great rivers of an earlier age, and the water originates from summer rains of north Queensland, carried south by the western river system. This flow is not regular. Nevertheless, in most years, supplemented by local rains, a considerable volume passes through and inundates the channels and flood plains with a temporary mass of water. The result is a rich flush of vegetation as well as regular flowerings of yapunyah" (page 192).



The GCABS 2022 Committee

Colin Allen - President



Colin has just recently stepped in as President of GCABS, having previously served as Secretary and a committee member. With a strong business organisational culture background, he brings an organized, efficient and consultative approach to this role and is keen to see the club running harmoniously in our new Clubhouse. It's been a hectic time since he took on the role in November as due to COVID affecting his work at the time, he is now running a start-up business. He is most appreciative of working with a willing and talented committee.

Alex Lang - Vice President



Professor Alex is our new Vice-President and brings a fresh perspective to our committee, hailing as he does from his home country of Germany. He enjoys living in Coomera Waters, having recently moved from Tweed Heads, and he commutes to his workplace at Bond University. At the moment his bees are being looked after by Leonie until he is able to accommodate them safely on his new property.

Kathy Knox - Secretary



Kathy has been a stalwart in our club for several years, taking on the roles of President and now Secretary. She runs our wonderful beginner courses and is a fount of knowledge on anything to do with bees. Taking care of several hives on her riverside property at Labrador, she is constantly on the go, including working as a Project manager and Quality Assurance for commercial honey producer and packer Bee One Third.

Brad Murphy - Treasurer



As our GCABS treasurer, Brad is kept busy with his 10 or so hives. He has been a beekeeper for about 3 years and finds working with bees is a great form of therapy, both mentally and physically.

Leonie Schwarzel - Editor



Leonie is continuing as Buzz editor along with Ann. She has made active contributions in training and mentoring over the past few years. Apart from taking care of 15 hives at her peaceful property near the base of Mt Warning, she also works at a commercial beekeeping business in Tyalgum. So she is very busy lady and a valued member of GCABS.

John Vallance - Membership, Biosecurity officer



As our hardworking Membership and Biosecurity Officer, John has been offering valuable help and advice to many other beekeepers. Becoming a beekeeper himself only 3 years ago, he has been on a steep learning curve since he started on his journey - attending courses, reading constantly and watching YouTube videos. He says he loves all aspects of working with bees. John works as an aircraft maintenance engineer here on the Gold Coast.

Travis Green - Committee member



Travis is back on our committee after a short break due to work commitments. He has previously served as secretary, vice-president and president on our GCABS committee in the short 4 years he has been in the club. Originally educated in wildlife biology, he currently works on environmental projects for the local government, so we greatly value his expertise as he takes charge of the landscaping around our new clubhouse. Having recently moved to a property on Mt Tamborine, he is a busy guy and would doubtless appreciate any offers of landscaping help!

Ann Allen - Assistant Editor, Librarian



Ann joined GCABS with her husband Colin about 4 years ago and has been the Librarian and Assistant Editor since first joining. They have both Langstroth and Top Bar (her favourite) hives in their garden in Robina. An English teacher, she teaches part-time, takes care of family, and enjoys learning more about her bees and how to best provide a happy, healthy environment for them.

Peter Quirk – Committee member



Peter has been an active and valued member of our club for 5 years. He initially started keeping bees to increase propagation in his garden but soon became actively involved in training and mentoring not only for the club but also for his daughters, Melissa and Jane, who are keen beekeepers and GCABS members. A hard worker, we are keeping him busy in his retirement. He's the guy to contact for equipment hire.

Stephen Huth - Committee Member



After entering the world of beekeeping about three years ago, Stephen now combines his beekeeping activities with music gigs as a keyboard player and singer. Having recently taken leave from his career in Education, he is enjoying doing a spell in home duties. He and his wife have two young children.

Any offers?

We have been asked to provide a guest speaker at the Broadbeach branch of the National Seniors to give an informal presentation on the Fascinating World of Beekeeping.

They meet on the first Wednesday of each month at the Kurrawa Surf Club. If you are interested in doing this, please contact Colin or anyone on the Committee. We would appreciate your help!

COMMITTEE

President	Colin Allen	0414 596 096	gcabs.president@beekeepers.asn.au
Vice-president	Alex Lang	0480 258 373	gcabs.vp@beekeepers.asn.au
Secretary/Education	Kathy Knox	0403 155 591	gcabs.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au
Treasurer	Bradley Murphy	0401 995 018	gcabs.treasurer@gcbeekeepers.asn.au
Editor	Leonie Schwarzel	0428 177 450	gcabs.editor@beekeepers.asn.au
Asst Editor/Librarian	Ann Allen	0402 996 101	gcabs.librarian@beekeepers.asn.au
Biosecurity Officer	John Vallance	0409 560 464	gcabs.biosecurity@beekeepers.asn.au
Membership	John Vallance	0409 560 464	gcabs.membership@beekeepers.asn.au
Committee	Stephen Huth	0429 675 944	gcabs.s.huth@beekeepers.asn.au
Committee	Travis Green	0418 450 465	travisgreen23@bigpond.com
Committee	Peter Quirk	0409 111 763	gcabs.p.quirk@beekeepers.asn.au
Extrator Hire	Peter Quirk	0409 111 763	gcabs.p.quirk@beekeepers.asn.au

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.