

THE BUZZ



The official newsletter of the Gold Coast Amateur Beekeepers Society Inc. Est. 1979
 Website: gcabs.net.au [Gold Coast Amateur Beekeeping Society](#)



GCABS member Trav Green's apiary on Tamborine Mountain narrowly escaped damage in the 25/12/2023 fierce storms with 200kph + winds. IF YOU HAVE LOST HIVES in the storm please let GCABS support you. Contact committee.

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 21 Jan 2024 10am – noon.** First GCABS meeting for 2024 @GCABS Shed. ALL WELCOME.
- **Saturday 3 Feb 1pm.** Varroa Management Practical course @GCABS Shed. Tickets [CLICK HERE](#)
- **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!
- **Sunday 17 Mar 2024 10am – noon.** The Bee Lady Corinne Jordan on Varroa resistant Queen Bee breeding program @GCABS Shed. ALL WELCOME.

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.

From GCABS President



I hope you are all safe and well, I do know many of us were negatively impacted by felled trees and other fallout after the storms. A good reminder to strap your colonies down!! In light of recent reports of AFB please prioritise inspections of your brood, swarm prevention and management, and VD mite checks.

Much to do but as always, GCABS support is here with a PRACTICAL hands on lesson Feb 3rd with varroa testing, see links below. All welcome and membership is not required for that practical but you do need to buy a ticket. More good news in Feb our traditional field trip will be held out to NTBees Australia in Biddaddaba QLD on the 18th (sunday) from 10am. NTBees Australia are a commercial pollination and queen bee supplier and have fulltime and part time jobs available throughout the year for competent beekeepers. The Feb 18th trip is Not to be missed. Pre-order your nucleus bees or Queens for collection on the day. Please email a committee member to pre-order. I look forward to seeing you there and also in January for our first meeting of the year at the lovely Parklands in Nerang.

Kind regards... Kathy

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.

January Honey Flora - S.E. Queensland

Supplied by Jim O'Regan



Blue Heliotrope



Small fruited grey gum

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.

Flowers of the Month for Your Home Garden

Submitted by Esther Bligh

I ended up inspecting my bees late Monday afternoon just before the storm. I will never do that again. They were so aggressive, they stung me 4 times through my suit (on my lower leg, where the material is only a single layer of thick cotton)! I will have to get the sewing machine out and attach another layer of material in those spots.

Plant of the month Lavender

Lavender is a perennial herb that flowers in spring in stunning shades of purple. It is a hardy plant that likes a sunny spot in the garden. Lavender is much loved by bees and, if only pruned lightly after flowers, will last many years.



November Meeting Review

Thanks to Esther

Our last member meeting of the year on 19th November was a huge success. We had very interesting guests and about 50 attendees joining in a lively discussion and enjoying the barbecue.

Jo Martin from the QBA talked about the current state of the varroa infestation and the development of a national management plan. Her most important take-home message was to do alcohol washes on every single one of your hives every 6 weeks, if possible. Report the results online to 'Bee123' [CLICK HERE](#).

If you have detected varroa mites in your hive, call 13 25 23 immediately, 24 h/day, 7 days/week. If you aren't sure call them anyway. Keep the sample and upload a photo. If you want to get current information on varroa in Qld go to the QBA varroa mite portal online; and if you have the financial means please support the QBA with your membership (\$50/ year).

Our second speaker of the day was Dr. David SCHLIPALIUS who gave a historical perspective on the varroa incursion and confirmed that varroa did not enter through the port of Newcastle but came in through Kempsey approximately 2.5 years ago. He asked for volunteers who live within 10 km of the NSW border to become sentinel hives for varroa mite. If you are interested in this please contact GCABS' biosecurity officer Keith Barton.

Lastly, Ken Bannister presented the new Hive IQ bee hive which is being produced in Canberra (Ken is the Qld distributor). The styrofoam and plastic boxes looked very sturdy and I am sure a lot of thought has gone into their development. The insulation is 6 times better than timber, and the hives are very durable reasonably priced. For more information check out <https://www.hiveiq.com.au/> and <https://bannosbeesandhoney.com.au/shop/hive-equipment/hiveiq-3-stack-hive/>.



Biosecurity Update

Keith Barton

Biosecurity Alert for the AFB detections in 3 apiaries west of Mudgeeraba.

All members in the area (Mudgeeraba, Talai, Worongary) should inspect their hives as soon as weather permits. They should check for weak, unproductive hives, poor brood patterns, and symptoms of AFB: greasy, sunken or perforated brood cappings, ropey gooey decayed discoloured larvae. If uncertain you should send a brood sample to the Biosecurity Lab. With a knife cut out a 10cm x 10cm piece of the brood cells and put it inside a zip loc bag and then another zip loc bag.



AFB is a notifiable disease : [CLICK HERE](#)

Remember to practice good Biosecurity ... Come Clean and Go Clean. Implement a barrier system between apiary sites. <https://beeaware.org.au/archive-pest/american-foulbrood/#ad-image-0>

Meet Mandy Murphy

Submitted by Amanda Murphy

Although I have been keeping bees for a number of years, my expertise and experience is limited. I joined GCABS about ten years ago and built up my hives to the grand sum of three. After fumbling around with trying to move my hives into flow hives and failing miserably, (they all decided to swarm) I became disheartened and took a break for a number of years. But- I'm back! I only have two hives, one of which is a successful flow hive. I have joined the committee, not to share my wisdom, or lack thereof, but to assist with editing the Buzz.

I am a retired High school English and drama teacher, but still have several irons in the fire. We own, in conjunction with other family members, a virtual reality Gaming arena in Southport, called Zero Latency. I have also recently started manufacturing beekeeping suits for women. The business is called Bee Unique Style. My husband and I also keep and breed parrots and cockatoos.

I am looking forward to my bee keeping adventures and my desire is to provide enough honey to keep family and friends in honey and to maintain happy and healthy hives.



Industry Updates

Courtesy of AHBIC

AHBIC or the Australian Honeybee Industry Council are the peak body representing the honey bee industry in Australia.

Beekeeper reporting to the DPI continues across areas of NSW where we expect Varroa to be present, there is a steady increase in regions south of Sydney and extensions from Kempsey.

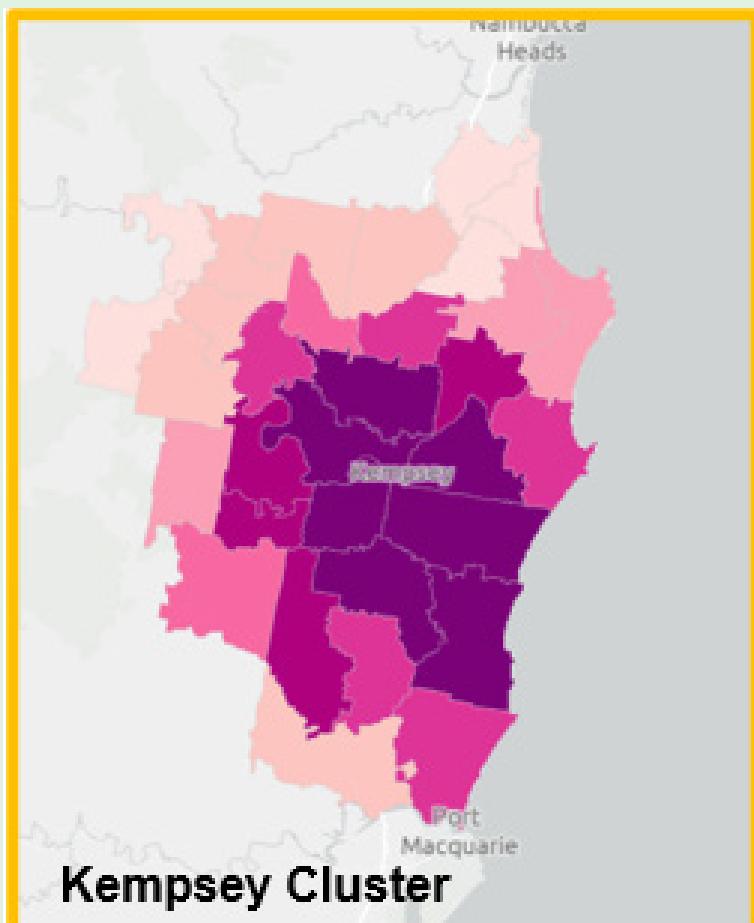
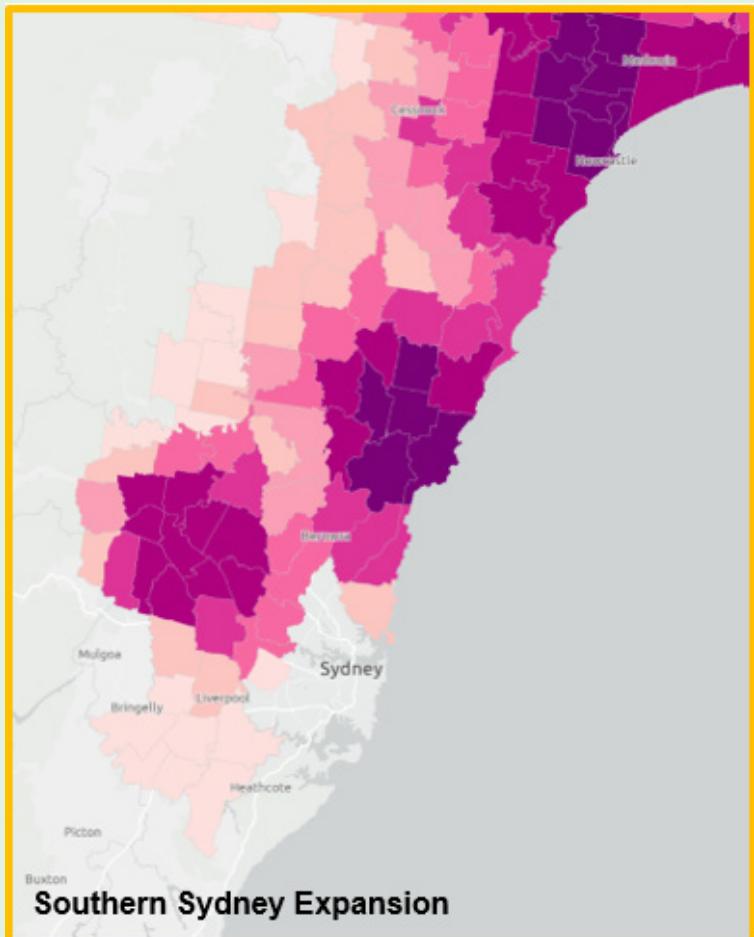
The heat map shows Varroa continues to extend its spread beyond the known Varroa management zones. AHBIC encourages beekeepers to monitor for mites in your hives and keep up to date with the risks of Varroa near you by checking the heat map.

The NSW DPI and a working group of CCEPP members incorporated feedback from the previous CCEPP meeting and re-drafted the Response Plan Version 4 – Transition to Management. This final draft was presented by NSW DPI for consideration at the CCEPP on Tuesday 19th December.

All parties understood the urgency for National agreement, CCEPP members were generally supportive of the new plan with some recommendations to be implemented and agreed in an out of session agreement, this will then be forwarded to NMG for final agreement mid January 2024.

Whilst the process to reach agreement in the CCEPP is frustratingly slow, AHBIC is determined to ensure the best possible outcomes for our honey bee industry whilst negotiating with the other 25 parties.

We will continue to represent the National interest, guided by the AHBIC executive and our 10 member bodies expectations at the CCEPP and NMG.



JOBS in Your Bee Yard this Month

- Use clearer boards to efficiently harvest full supers of honey.
- Clear the debris
- Full health checks on all brood boxes, look for evidence of AFB, VD and pests.
- Prepare 5 frames with new foundation ready for SWARM CAPTURES. Carry a bedsheets and secateurs along with your swarm catch box and new frames.
- Swarm management or prevention in all colonies.
- Look to the security and solidity of your hive stands and grounds, extended wet weather encourages colonies to sink, stands to rot, and then they go rolling down the hillside.

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.

I'm getting too old!

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

Selling \$500 per hive. Buy 2 hives and you get the stands free :)

Contact Olive on 0438 643 482



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