


# THE BUZZ



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



**Winter Solstice – an auspicious day for the bees and for GCABS! See pg 3**

## DATE SAVERS

*COVID regulations have eased, but our planned events may still need to change if restrictions are reinstated. If so, you will be notified via our Facebook pages & email. The Gold Coast Amateur Beekeeper's Society inc. welcomes new members, existing members and visitors to attend and volunteer at all events. Non-members attending member meetings will be asked to make a gold coin donation.*

- **Sun 18th July 2021 10-12 noon: Members' Meeting** at Country Paradise Parklands, Nerang. Guest Speaker Jason Roebig, co-owner Bee All Natural. Topics: Product marketing and branding, product labelling, sustainable bee products.
- **Sat 31 July – Sun 1 August – Botanical Bazaar**, Country Paradise Parklands. **Red Alert!** We need volunteers to help us on either of these days. If you are available to help for any amount of time, please contact our VP Rachael Kubinski – 0415192662 or [gcabs.vp@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:gcabs.vp@beekeepers.asn.au)
- **Sun 15th August 2021 - Annual General Meeting** at Country Paradise Parklands, Nerang. **Come along to farewell the outgoing committee & vote in the 2021-22 committee. There will be a Lucky Door Raffle to win 2 tickets for a Bee Painting Workshop at The Hive Art Gallery (Shop 5 / 3 Park Avenue, Burleigh Heads), kindly donated by GCABS member Jo Ellings**
- **Fri 27-Sun 29 Aug 2021- Gold Coast Show-** Southport Broadwater Parklands. See below for Entry cards and [click here for the Schedule](#). **Another Red Alert!** We need volunteers to help man our stall over the 3 days. If you are available to help for any amount of time, please contact our VP Rachael Kubinski – 0415192662 or [gcabs.vp@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:gcabs.vp@beekeepers.asn.au)

## From GCABS President



*A warm welcome to all new members and salutations to our existing club members. It's truly been a busy month catching up with fellow Beekeepers. On the 15th May 2021, Rachael Kubinski and I were delighted to attend on behalf of the GCABS Management Committee, the QBA Brisbane Branch AGM. The meeting included a presentation from a Romanian Beekeeper, who had us in complete awe of the beekeeping management skills required to be a Beekeeper in Romania. The location was the Bayside Beekeepers Club, so lucky for us we were treated with a guided tour of their Club Facilities, which included a functioning apiary & a fully kitted out honey extraction room. I must admit my imagination was going wild with ideas galore for the soon to be built GCABS Club House.*

*And how could we not send a club representative to the QBA Conference with it being held in our backyard, at the Southport Sharks 3-4th June 2021. I caught up with Rachael to grab her enthusiastic recount of the 2 day event, which was bursting with Beekeeping Industry Updates and knowledgeable researchers eg Completion of the Varroa Mite Eradication Program in Townsville, Agrifutures Australian Honey Bank Initiative Program, Biosecurity's soon to be released Disease Reporting Portal, BQUAL Honey Base-Line Initiative Program, Dr Jamie Ellis from the University of Florida (The effects of toxins on bees and the usability of pollen substitutes by bees), Daniel Cook from QLD University of Technology (Historical Timeline of the Langstroth Hive and Hive Thermal Temperature Control) and so much more.*

*It was fabulous to have so many cheerful members manning the club's Information Stand at the QBA Open Day 5th June 2021 at Beenleigh high school; what a happy bunch of Beekeepers we are at GCABS. A BIG thank You to Rachael Kubinski, Alex Lang, Anne Allen, Colin Allen, Christine McLachlan, Rodney Luke, Greg & Emily Hamwood and Warren & Marcia McMahon for their involvement on the day. I'd like to congratulate Kathy Knox on her exceptional MC talents, she truly excelled at capturing the audience's attention with her interactive approach.*

*With much sorrow Rachael and I farewelled one of our members, Ray Murray, who was taken from us rather suddenly; our thoughts are with Ray's Wife Joy, his family and GCABS Member Patrick Horn, who was Ray's beekeeping comrade. Even in his grief Patrick found the strength to ensure that Ray's much beloved bees were at his farewell, presented ever so lovingly in a beautifully stained Observation Hive.*

*I guess that left just enough time to fit in the club's Monthly General Meeting and what a marvellous way to finish the month. I'm sure that all who attended the June Meeting, would agree that Willow Hankinson (GCABS Member) is one truly down to earth, friendly and knowledgeable fellow. His presentation superbly navigated us through the World of Kenyan Top Bar Hives; we thank you for the valuable insight. And if you don't already have a winning honey competition entry prepared for the upcoming Honey Show season, then you missed the inside information, straight from the many times over Honey Competition winner, GCABS' life member, Alan Betts.*

*I look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming General Meeting, 18th July 2021 at Nerang Country Paradise Parkland, for yet another tremendous guest speaker, Jason Roebig, Co-owner of Bee All Natural. Head to [gcabs.net.au](http://gcabs.net.au) to register your attendance & for more information. - Ross Krumbholz*

### **VALE - James Raymond 'Oigle' Murray**

18/1/37 ~ 5/6/21

Our thoughts are with Ray's family at this sad time of loss.

Thanks to fellow GCABS' member Patrick, who made it possible for some of Ray's bees to be present at his funeral.



## Groundbreaking Day for the GCABS' Clubhouse

Hitch up your wagons, unpack your suitcases and let's all sing as one "Home Sweet Home"! Our nomadic existence has come to an end and now is the time to dust off our beloved treasures, as we're finally home.

What an epic day the Winter Solstice, 21st June 2021 has become for the history book of GCABS. Not only did it mark the day the bees started preparing for the new season, but THE DAY that GCABS received the final puzzle piece, with approval granted by the Gold Coast City Council for our clubhouse construction to begin.



*Toasting the groundbreaking with mead!*

The long awaited Project of Our Home has come to life and the Club Shed will shortly rise from the ground, on the hillside at Nerang Country Paradise Parklands, where we'll be able to enjoy the picturesque view of our location.

To follow the journey of the shed, just visit [gcabs.net.au](http://gcabs.net.au) as progress photos will be available for all to see.

## Review: QBA Field Day June 5th

The QBA field day was a great success with lovely weather and more than 20 vendor stalls attending. GCABS had quite a presence there with Ross, Alex, Ann, Colin, Greg, Emily, Christine, Rod, Warren & Marcia manning the information stand.

Rachael Kubinski featured on the Women in Beekeeping panel and Kathy Knox was MC for the day. Thanks to all the GCABS members who generously volunteered their time to assist on our information stall. Congrats to the QBA Brisbane branch who coordinated the conference and field day.



# July Honey Flora - S.E. Queensland

Jim O'Reagan



Black Sheoak. Blue Gum. Brisbane black Wattle. Brisbane Golden wattle. Broad-leaved Banksia. Caley's Ironbark. Dusky-leaved Ironbark. Forest Boronia. Glycine. Golden Candlesticks. Grey Ironbark. Mountain Coolibah. Mugga. Paperbarked Tea-tree. River Sheoak. Scribbly Gum.

*Left: Queensland Blue Gum*

*Right: Broad leaf banksia*

## June 20th Meeting Review

*Thanks to Isobel Read for her notes*

Our meeting opened with a reminder from Rachael to renew our ABA memberships online, the AGM is to be in August, and nominations for next year's Committee are being sought.

Willow Hankinson, one of our members from Mullumbimby, gave an excellent presentation on timber TopBar/ Kenyan hives. He explained how they promote a natural form of beekeeping by allowing bees to make their own foundation, and beekeepers to collect honey with very little disturbance. The goal is to work in harmony with the bees and enjoy their fascinating and wondrous ways.



Alan Betts, a long-standing and very successful member beekeeper, spoke about entering honey competitions. He provided a helpful explanation about the different categories of honey, beeswax and frames and how best to prepare them.



Both informative talks created a lot of interest and questions from the attendees.



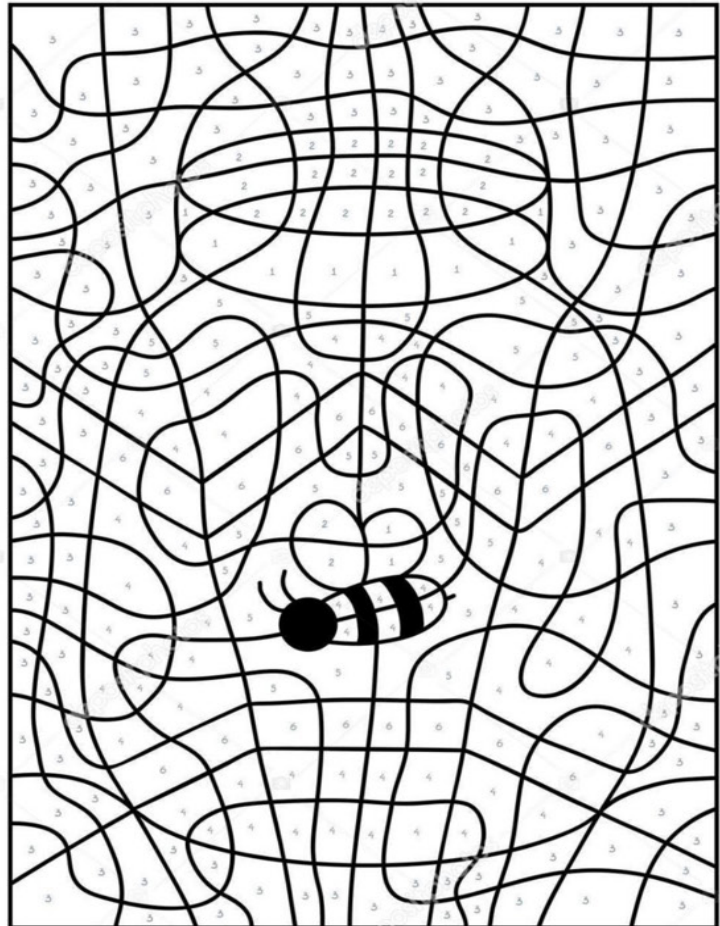
# July Puzzle Page

Beekeepers are a fun bunch, so let's put on our observation & creative caps & prep our pens & pencils for action. Share your answers with us: Email: [gcabs.editor@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:gcabs.editor@beekeepers.asn.au). Post: PO Box 30 Nerang QLD 4209 or bring them along to the General Meeting: 18th July. A Lucky Dip Gift will be awaiting for ALL those who attempt & forward the puzzle page; fill in just one or complete all four! (Gift Collection will be available at the AGM 15th August 2021.)

## Cold Winter's Day Fun Bee Puzzles

Email Entries : [gcabs.editor@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:gcabs.editor@beekeepers.asn.au) by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021

I S R A T C E N N B W U I W C H Y  
 S S Z G S U E H K E J D S A O O Y  
 S O R N V L W N X K L L I D L N E  
 C G G I V L Z F O N P L B L O E N  
 H F B M I M R G O R V D O M N Y O  
 G U A R D B E E S R D M L P Y C H  
 L A T A K J F V B B A W X G T O S  
 M P D W U S I E N K E G T M X M Y  
 S I Z S Z B E E B O D V E N F B E  
 C A D I O S E C E M M P I R N X L  
 O R T U W U B C E F L H C H S J L  
 U Y J A Q M Y U K U I Y J P E O E  
 T G X D Q S E W E V V F F P Y E K  
 B K Z Z K T N V E D C N O D O V B  
 E N Z R R Z O O P D Y B V N M B U  
 E V Y R B C H U E E B R E K R O W  
 S C J X I K J G R L U P F G Y O A



### Word Search

- |          |            |           |               |
|----------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| apiary   | beehive    | beekeeper | beeswax       |
| colony   | drone      | foragers  | guard bees    |
| hive     | honeybee   | honeycomb | kelleys honey |
| nectar   | pollen     | queen     | scout bees    |
| swarming | worker bee |           |               |

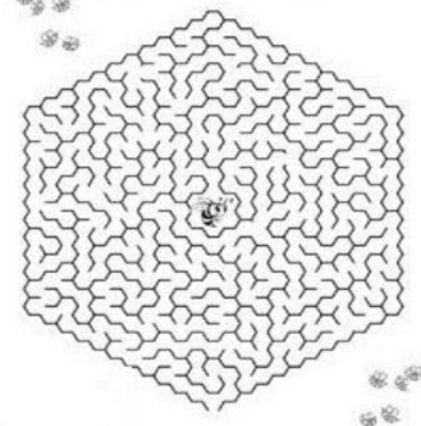
### How Many Bees can you find?

- 1 - blue 2 - light blue 3 - green  
 4 - yellow 5 - beige 6 - orange



### Colour By Numbers

CAN YOU HELP BUZZY FIND HIS WAY OUT OF THE HIVE?

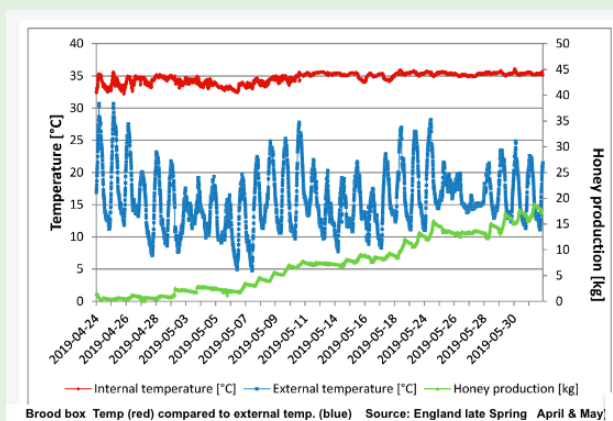


## Gold Coast Winter – Our Bees have it so easy!

Last month June 10th, was the coldest June day for 37 years across Australia’s eastern seaboard. Parts of the Gold Coast experienced overnight temps of close to zero celsius. No doubt many of us wondered how our bees would fair through the cold but brief snap. In most cases, where the population is ample for their hive space & food stores are good, the bees came through comfortably, to forage again shortly after the sun was up.

Honey bees are masters of hive temperature control. A strong hive is able to maintain the brood box at 34-35C deg regardless of external temp. The graph shows that the brood temperature (red line) remained at a nearly constant 35C deg even though the external diurnal temperature (blue line) fluctuated between 5-31C deg. However, If not raising brood, they can continue for considerable time at lower temps by clustering tightly to generate warmth.

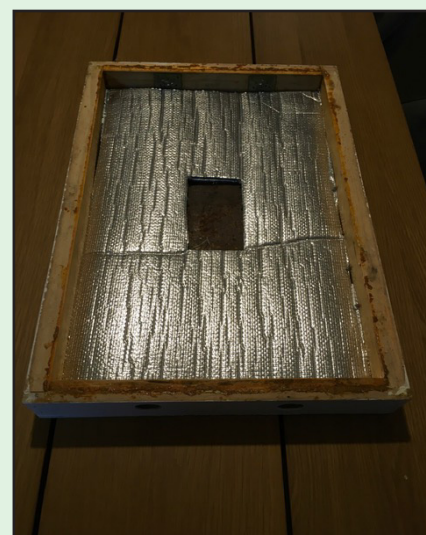
*But how do beekeepers in other parts of Australia and overseas safe-proof their bees for sub zero extreme & often prolonged cold winters?*



Nicky Moss, is a member of Orange Beekeepers Club. Orange is a city in the Central Tablelands region of NSW, 254 kms west of Sydney. Nicky shares how on that June morning she awoke to see her snow topped hives sitting in a silent, white landscape. In Nicky’s words, “Orange experienced the heaviest snowfall in 25 years on the 10th of June. The temperature during that fortnight ranged between -3.3 to 3.0C at night and 6.9 to 15.4. I visually inspected the hives to ensure the entrances were not blocked with snow. On the 12th when the sun came out, the bees were in front of their hive again doing orientation flights whilst the others were foraging”.

Nicky’s preparation for the winter had started months earlier, “When Autumn comes, we start preparing our hives for lockdown. The weather plays a big part and I started to lock down my hives 2nd week of April. I inspected each hive checking [for] brood, pollen, honey stores and diseases. I am surrounded by orchards and during Autumn there is not much flora. I had to feed my bees with sugar syrup and AgriSea to keep them healthy and build stores. I insulated the [brood box] by adding a vinyl mat from end to end with narrow opening in front and it sits on top of the queen excluder. This keeps the brood warm. Each hive has a super which is insulated using 8mm mat with a small opening in the middle for ventilation sitting under the lid”.(See photo)

While Nicky’s bees survive considerably colder temps than ours, conditions are not extreme compared to the long winter freeze endured in other parts of the world. GCABS member Keith Barton contacted Canadian beekeeper Ian Stepler for the following report.





## Bees at 40 below

by GCABS member Keith Barton



Early June was a chilly start to our SE QLD winter but imagine keeping colonies alive in -40C!

Ian Stepler is a commercial beekeeper in Manitoba, Canada. He runs about 1500 production hives and several hundred nucleus colonies, producing honey off Stepler Farms' canola crop and other floral sources.

The Canadian honey season is short, starting around late March and ending in late October. In that time they build up colonies from nucleus or single brood box into hives that can produce upwards of 100kg of honey each. In addition, they breed queens using a rigorous scientific selective breeding approach and produce nucleus hives to sell.

Before the northern winter strikes, it's time to bring the hives into the winter shed. This can be a risky call as Arctic blasts can send the mercury plummeting, while breaks of fine weather can easily overheat hives in the shed. The bees remain indoors for the next five months.

Hives are "wintered down" to single brood boxes with sufficient resources to get them through the cold winter. They are stacked in the shed in rows 6 high, nucs at one end, 10 framers at the other. The bee shed is fully insulated, measuring 45x50 mtrs, with 2 huge extractor fans (and many ceiling fans) to ensure the ambient temperature and humidity are controlled. There are no heaters besides the hives themselves, each putting out approximately 20 Watts of heat. With around 1500 hives in the shed, there is effectively 20-30 kW of heating so even on the coldest days of winter, the shed doesn't drop much below 4C.

The hives in the shed are checked regularly for problems such as dysentery, colony dead-out, and so on. The hive entrances are open but reduced & the shed is kept in red light, which appears as black to the bees so they remain mostly inside their boxes.



The shed provides protection from the extreme conditions of the Canadian winter. In times gone by beekeepers in such northern latitudes would often euthanise hives at the end of the season restarting with fresh hives the next season; thinking this was cheaper than wintering hives. At Stepler Farms sustainability is a key consideration and this enables the enormous productivity of hives ready to expand after the long, cold winter.

Learn more from Ian Stepler at his YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/aCanadianBeekeeper'sBlog>

Learn more about temperature regulation and the winter cluster here:

<https://honeybeesuite.com/temperature-regulation-in-a-winter-cluster/>

*GCABS express their thanks to Nicky Moss & Ian Stepler for permission to share their stories & photos.*

## Start planning your entries for the Honey Competition Show Season



Show jars (white lid) are available at V's Bees, Nerang. \$1.25 each or box of 24 for \$27.00. Honey frame display case: white, clear perspex inlay & lock. V's Bees, Nerang \$125.00

### Due dates for show entry forms:

- 6 August 2021- Gold Coast Show - Entry form available via the Gold Coast show website. Follow this link: <https://goldcoastshow.com.au/homecrafts/> Each entry is \$2.00. NOTE You will also need to download the schedule. Pages 6 & 7 give the info you need about Apiculture (Honey Comp) classes.
- 3 - 4 Sept 2021- Beaudesert Show- normally drop off entry forms 1 or 2 days before
- Mon 13 Sept 2021- Mudgeeraba Show - \$1.50 per entry. Find schedule & entry form here: <https://www.mudgeerabashow.org.au/2021-pavilion-schedule.html>
- 5-6 Nov 2021- Murwillumbah Show – complete online up to a few days before

### Show Dates:

- Gold Coast Show 27- 29 August.
- Beaudesert Show 3 - 4 Sept.
- Mudgeeraba Show.17 -19 Sept.-
- Murwillumbah Show Fri 5 – Sat 6 Nov

## June Raffle

### *Theme: Beekeeper in Action*

Congratulations to **Christian Dyroy** whose name was drawn for the Beekeeper in Action raffle!





## Your Club Needs YOU for the 2021-22 GCABS' committee

Seeking nominations for GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS!  
Being part of the leadership team is a rewarding and empowering experience. By serving others, we all grow and benefit.

Print the nomination form on page below. Complete your nomination and return the form to any current committee member, contact details are on the last page. Or email your completed form to [gcabs.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au](mailto:gcabs.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au) before 1st August. Elections will be held at the AGM Aug. 15th 2021.



### GCABS AGM NOMINATION FORM

*Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members 2021 - 2022*

#### POSITION

*[please tick desired position]*

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Member of Committee (includes Buzz Editor, Librarian and other committee positions)

NOMINATED CANDIDATE'S NAME : \_\_\_\_\_

NAMES OF PEOPLE MAKING THE NOMINATION:

We, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

[PRINT names here - must be current financial GCABS Inc members]

submit the named candidate for the above marked position in the management committee.

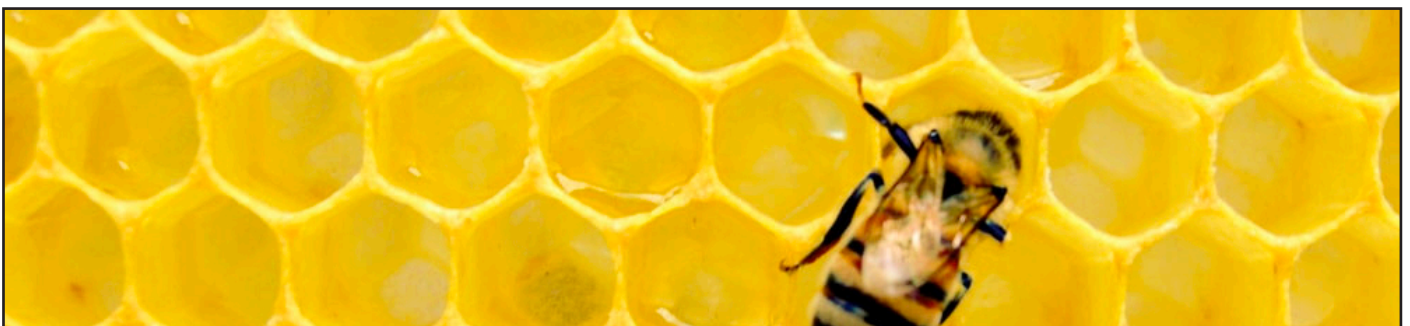
Signature of Proposer 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Proposer 2: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Consent of Candidate

I, (name of nominated candidate) \_\_\_\_\_ (please print your name)

am willing to take on this role if I am elected to this position at the Annual General Meeting of the Association.



## **JOBS in Your Bee Yard this month**

Winter is the time for maintenance & to prep for the spring build up & swarm season.

- Minimise inspections. Choose warm, sunny, windless days at this time of year and be time efficient. Overly frequent inspections can be harmful to the brood which needs to be maintained at 34-35C deg; the sooner you close up, the sooner the bees can regulate the temp again.
- Be mindful that swarm season will soon start. Swarm season in our region can start as early as late July. Watch for the signs ie drone brood, drones flying, brood laying increasing, increasing population, queen swarm cell/s being built on edges & along base of frames.
- Ready spare hives. Ensure you have ready a spare hive box or two with sufficient frames & foundation, lid & base in preparation to catch a swarm or split a highly populated hive to prevent swarming.
- Maintain current hives (stored & in use) in good condition: clean, repair, replace, paint etc as needed.
- Monitor for sufficient food stores. As your bee hive population begins to build up towards Spring, ensure your bees have sufficient stored food.

## **COMMITTEE**

President	Ross Krumbholz	0412 974 468	gcabs.president@beekeepers.asn.au
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Membership	John Vallance	0409 560 464	gcabs.membership@beekeepers.asn.au
Extractor Hire	Rachael Kubinski	0415 192 662	V's Bees, 3/90 Spencer Rd, Nerang



### **How's Your Hardware?**

**Buy now for a Spring Headstart:  
Boxes, bases, lids,  
frames**

[www.vsbees.com.au](http://www.vsbees.com.au)



Monday - Friday [ 8am - 5pm ]  
Saturday [ 8.30am - 12pm ]

**Beekeeping Supplies**

**Unit 3 / 90 Spencer Road  
Nerang  
Located Inside  
Allied Bearings & Seals**



0415 192 662  
[sales@vsbees.com.au](mailto:sales@vsbees.com.au)

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