


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)



**Thanks to Gold Coast Native Bee Services for these images.
 Attend the November meeting to learn more**

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

- **Sun 20th Nov 10am – noon Member meeting** Topic: Hands on Workshop: We will be splitting a native stingless bee hive or two, as well as learning about different native bee hive designs. pot luck lunch. Venue: GCABS Clubhouse
- **December:** No meeting
- **Sun 15th Jan 2023 10am-noon Member meeting** Topic: Honey Sharing Workshop. This will include a sensory analysis of honey, mock competition grading, honey classing and analysis of colour and moisture content. Bring along a small jar of your honey for sharing. Let's aim for samples from all over the SE Qld corner & Northern Rivers regions. Venue: GCABS Clubhouse

OTHER EVENTS

- **Nov 12-20 Australian Pollinator Week.** Click on the events tab on their [website](#) for a list of free online webinars about native & European honey bees. Also, how about entering the National Pollinator Photography Competition. See details below on page 3.
- **Sat 26 & Sun 27 Nov – Intro to Beekeeping Course**

From GCABS President



Since joining GCABS in October 2013 I've learned so much. The support of mentors and long standing members has been invaluable. Previous committees have worked together with amazing outcomes. Thank you everyone!

I am proud to continue volunteering with GCABS. I look forward to commencing on new projects and welcome input from all members.

Have you seen our new clubhouse signage? It's black, gold and boldly displayed at the east end of the building!

*Kathy Knox
President*

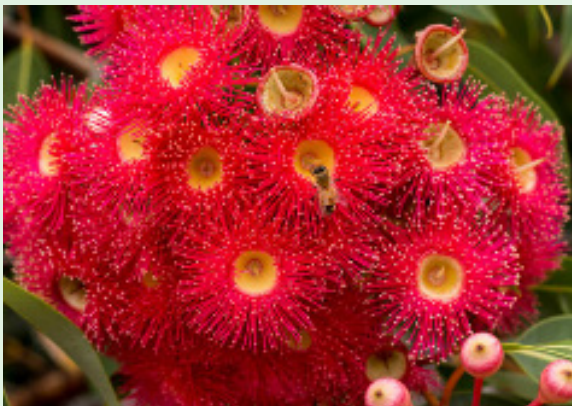
REMINDER

Don't forget to renew Your GCABS Membership.

Follow the email link that you received in your renewal invitation sent in August OR visit the ABA website and apply to join.

November Honey Flora - S.E. Queensland

Supplied by Jim O'Regan



Blue Gum, Blue Heilotrope, Broad-leaved Banksia, Flat Weed, Flax-leaved, Paperbark, Glycine, Golden Candlesticks, Grass-tree, Grey Ironbark, Maize, Mexican, Poppy, Mintweed, Moreton Bay Ash, Narrowleaved, Grey Gum, Narrow-leaved, Ironbark, Red Stringybark, River

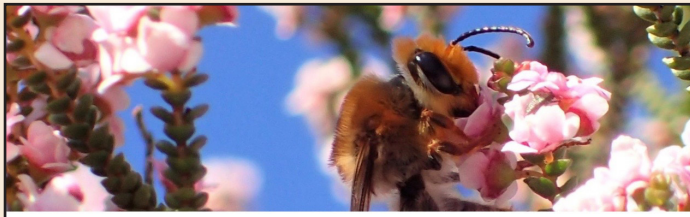
Mangrove, River Red Gum, Swamp, Mahogany, Tumble-down Gum, Tumble-down Ironbark, Turnip Weed, White Clover, White, Mahogany, Wild May (Baeckea), Wild May (Leptospermum), Yellow Box, Yellow Box- Eucalyptus Melliodor Broad-leaved Banksia Wild May (Leptospermum), Red Stringy bark Mexican Poppy.

Photos: Red stringy bark and Broad-leaved Banksia

Committee Meetings

All members are welcome to attend our online Committee meetings. Email the secretary and ask for the link. gcabs.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au.

Australian Pollinator Week Nov 12-22, 2022



2022 APW Pollinator Photography Competition

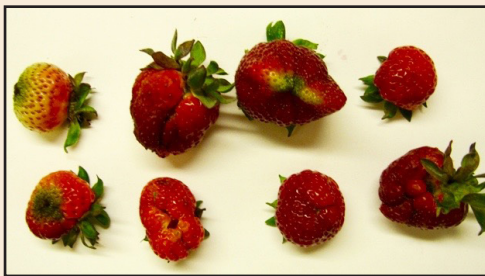
The 2022 APW Pollinator Photography Competition – Enter NOW

You or your school could be a winner. Entries close Sunday Nov. 6th. So be quick. More info & entry form [HERE](#). The winners will be announced during the...

Discover Bees Through Photography Webinar

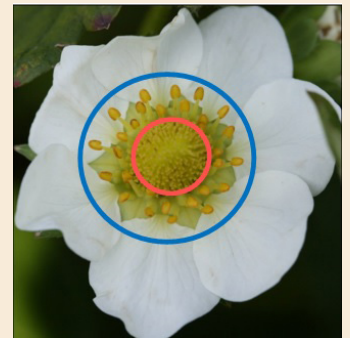
On Tuesday evening Nov.15th. This online free event will showcase 3 expert photographers showing & relating the stories behind their 3 favourite images. Register for the webinar [HERE](#).

From Flower to Fruit – Pollination in Strawberries

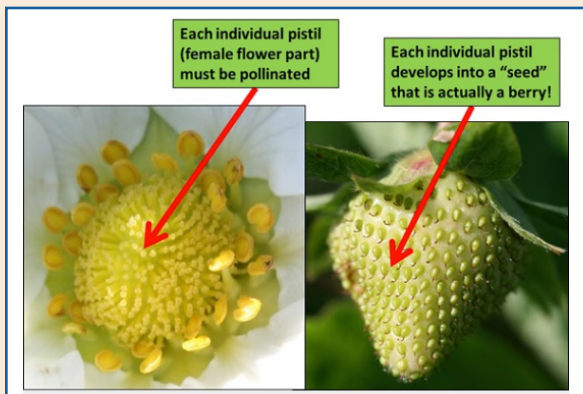


We've all seen strawberries that look rather like the odd samples to the left. They might taste fine but they don't rate well on looks. They are the result of poor or incomplete pollination.

Strawberry flowers have both male and female parts on each bloom. The male parts include the pollen carrying portion of the flower (highlighted in



blue - photo right). The pollen on these parts must come into contact with the female parts of the flower (highlighted in pink) to attain complete pollination. Lack of complete pollination in each pistil (female flower part) can result in smaller or misshapen berries & reduced yield.



There are many ways for pollen to be transferred within the flower. Look at the photo below. We suggest that you enlarge it on your screen to see the detail. Strawberries are self-fertile, meaning they can self pollinate. However, maximum yields are only possible with a combination of self-pollination (purple), wind (blue), and insects (pink). Studies have shown that self-pollination and wind-blown pollen are rarely sufficient to completely pollinate a flower. Only about 60-70% of maximum

pollination results from these methods alone, and open pollination by insects is necessary for the greatest yield. Insect pollination can also improve strawberry quality and shape, meaning that berries last longer and look fuller.

So when you next munch on a plump, sweet strawberry, thank the insect pollinator for their quality control.

Read more at: <https://entomology.ces.ncsu.edu/small-fruit-insect-biology-management/strawberry-pollination-basics/>



Celebrate Australian Pollinator Week with a POT LUCK at the November Members' Meeting

This will be our last meeting for 2022. So let's share lunch in honour of all that is provided by our perfect pollinators. (You can bring non-pollinated produced food items as well!)

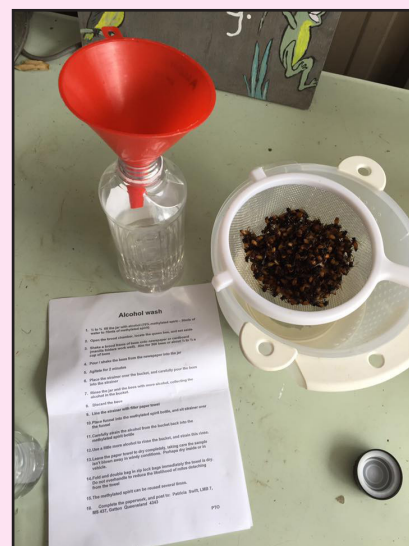
WHEN: November 20th Members Meeting (lunch from about 11:30am)

WHAT TO BRING: Something tasty to share eg a quiche, salad, plate of sandwiches, cake, fruit platter
PLUS... **BYO utensils to serve your offering.** Disposable plates & utensils are available but BYO plate if you'd prefer (We aim for minimal waste).



JOBS in Your Bee Yard this October

- Do your AFB test if you haven't already this season. Not sure you could diagnose a problem? Take photos & share to the GCABS Forum page on Facebook or ask a mentor to inspect with you. Learn more: <https://beeaware.org.au/archive-pest/american-foulbrood/#ad-image-0>
- Protect against small hive beetle infestation & slime-out. SHB thrive in hot, moist weather. Have traps & controls in your hives to manage their numbers. Keep your hive crowded. Remove extra supers if necessary so that the population is strong for the space they need to protect.
- Harvest Honey or add an extra super if needed. But don't take it all. Leave a few frames for the colony in case of a dearth of nectar due to ongoing wet weather.
- Do an alcohol wash to monitor for varroa destructor. Although we are not seeing them in our region yet, in NSW it is now mandatory to perform an alcohol wash at least every 16 weeks. Vigilance is paramount. Train yourself now.



GCABS 2022-2023 Committee

At the October 16th AGM, the previous committee stepped down. The outgoing president, Colin Allen, commended & thanked retiring committee members Alex Lang, Peter Quirk & John Vallance, as well all the returning committee for stepping up for another year! The following members were instated to the 2022-23 committee for the year ahead:



*Kathy Knox
President*



*Catherine Longworth
Secretary*



*Colin Allen
Treasurer*



*Esther Bligh
Membership*



*Keith Barton
Biosecurity Liaison*



*Leonie Schwarzel
Interim Editor*



*Rod Luke
Committee*



*Ann Allen
Librarian & Asst Editor*

Other AGM Information

Finances GCABS finished the current year with a healthy bank balance as reported by outgoing treasurer, Rod Luke, and confirmed in the annual auditor's report that was tabled at the meeting. If you would like an email copy of the financial statement for the 2021-22 year, please request by emailing gcabs.treasurer@beekeepers.asn.au

Membership During the past 12 months, GCABS membership peaked at over 460 members. 239 have already renewed their membership for the 2022-23 year.

.... And after the AGM we held a

Mead Making Workshop & Tasting

Well, some say it looked like a temporary science laboratory: Bottles, buckets, funnels, liquids of various colours, coloured packets, syphons and other paraphernalia adorned the bench where Keith & Leonie demonstrated that making a basic mead can be surprisingly easy. However, we soon came to realise that making a quality mead can be complex, involving considerable trial with varying results.

Leonie slightly misquoted a common English adage, 'One man's mead is another man's poison', meaning that what appeals to one person's palate may not suit another. This was true of our two presenters. While Keith is partial to a dry drop, Leonie prefers a sweeter result.

The basic ingredients for mead are honey, water, tannin, acid & yeast. Other ingredients are often added to promote extra flavour. If fruit is added, the result is called a melomel. Flowers or herbs produce a metheglin or if apples /apple juice are included, the result is called a cyser.

The ratio of honey to fluid determines the final sweetness. In simple terms, more honey will produce a sweeter result. However, the type of yeast used and the % alcohol that yeast will achieve (known as attenuation or tolerance) will also affect the dry-sweet result.

A basic Orange Raisin mead recipe was demonstrated. Also, Keith provided the following useful links for those interested in learning more:

Doin' The Most Brewing <https://www.youtube.com/c/DointheMost>

City Steading Brews <https://www.youtube.com/c/CitySteadingyt>

Man Made Mead <https://www.youtube.com/c/ManMadeMead>

Groenfell Meadery <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCouE40gyHPratKtZ3VxOO3Q>

Traditional mead recipe: <https://saveourbees.com.au/mead-recipe-traditional/>



The session concluded with a tasting of various beverages produced by Keith & Leonie including, sparkling, still, dry, sweet & blended varieties. Thanks Keith & Leonie for a most enjoyable & informative session!

Flower of the Month for Your Home Garden

Submitted by Esther Bligh

Abutilon (Chinese Lantern)

The bees this month are buzzing about Abutilon (Chinese Lantern), a medium-sized, sun-loving shrub that flowers most of the year. The beautiful lantern-shaped flowers come in a variety of colours and are loved by both native and honey bees. Although they are hard to find at nurseries at times, they are worth seeking out.



COMMITTEE

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