
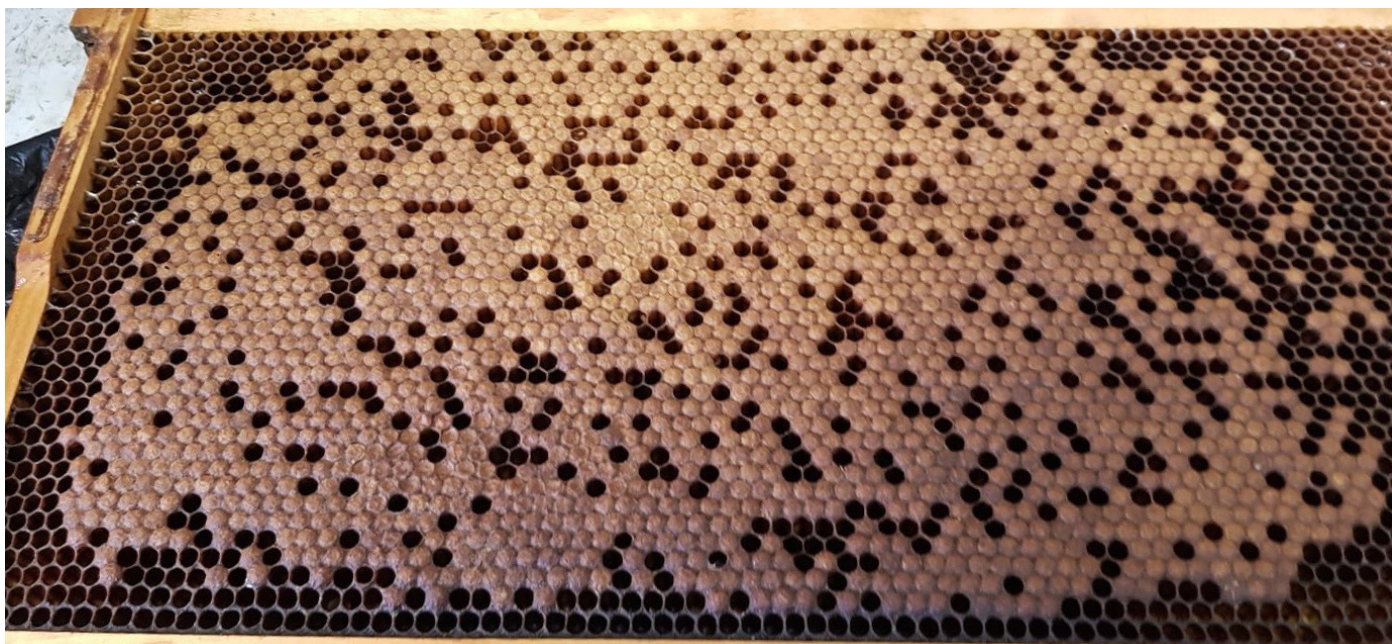


THE BUZZ



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/gcabs)



This brood frame carries a deadly secret. What is it? Answer pg 5

Thanks to Frana Nicholson, Townsville & District Beekeepers Assoc. for permission to use her photo

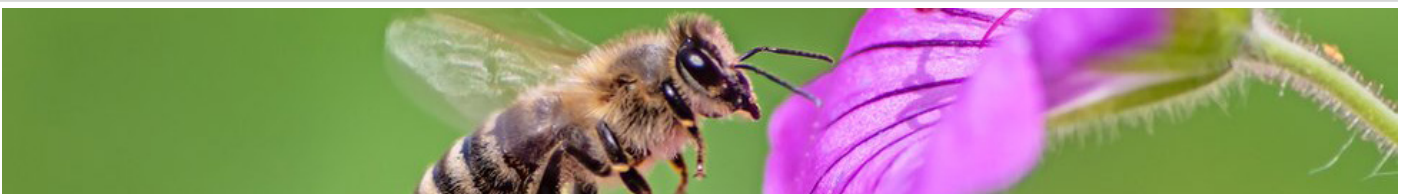
DATE SAVERS

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. 10 Oct. 3-5pm Free Information Session – Thinking about becoming a beekeeper?** Explore topics for & against keeping bees & your legal obligations. Location: Labrador Scout Den, 224 Turpin Rd, Labrador. Presenter: Kathy Knox. Please register to attend <https://www.gcabs.net.au/events/beekeepingseminar/?occurrence=2021-10-10>
- **Sat. 16 Oct. From 9am Tocal Beekeepers' Field Day Online.** See page 3 for details
- **Sat 16 Oct. 9am - 12pm. Intermediate Skills course.** 16 Nexus Way, Southport. Presented by Kevin Tracey. SOLD OUT
- **Sun. 17 Oct. 10am-12 noon Member Meeting.** Location: The Barn: Nerang Country Paradise Parklands, 231 Nerang-Beaudesert Road, Nerang. Guest Speaker: Vern Kubinski, co-owner of V's Bee Qld. Topics: Seasonal Beekeeping Hive Management: Brood Manipulation, Swarm Control, Disease Prevention, Queen & Colony Strength. What to bring: Chair, Water, Notepad & Pen. Please register to attend: <https://www.gcabs.net.au/events/member-meeting-880-657-333-653-916/>

- **Tue 19th Oct, 7-9pm. Pests & Diseases Course.** Presented by Paul Fullwood. 16 Nexus Way, Southport. Details and registration here: <https://www.gcabs.net.au/events/pest-and-disease/?occurrence=2021-10-19>
- **Sat/Sun 23-24 Oct. Introduction to Beekeeping.** Register at: <https://www.gcabs.net.au/events/introtobeekeeping102021/?occurrence=2021-10-23>
- **Fri/Sat 5-6 Nov. Introduction to Beekeeping.** Register at: <https://www.gcabs.net.au/events/introtobeekeeping112021/?occurrence=2021-11-05>
- **Sat 6th Nov. 9am - 12pm. Intermediate Beekeeping Course.** 16 Nexus Way, Southport. Presented by Kevin Tracey. Details and registration here: <https://www.gcabs.net.au/events/intermediate-skills-nov21/?occurrence=2021-11-06>
- **Sun. 21 Nov. 10am-12 noon Member Meeting.** Location: Nerang Country Paradise Parklands, 231 Nerang-Beaudesert Road, Nerang. Content: Start to Finish: Honey Extraction to Wax Cleaning demonstration - Uncapping full depth frame, tangential spinner, filtering honey, straining uncappings & wax cleaning option. What to bring: Chair, Water, Notepad & Pen. Please register to attend: <https://www.gcabs.net.au/events/member-meeting-880-657-333-653-916-439/>

GCABS Clubhouse is progressing!



In The News

Dutch honey bees resistant to varroa mite imported to Australia to help guard against the pest

These Dutch queens have special traits that give them some defence against Varroa destructor, a blood-sucking mite that has ravaged bee colonies around the globe.

Read more: https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-07-16/bee-imports-to-protect-against-varroa-mite/100289356?utm_campaign=news-article-share-next-actions-0&utm_content=link&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_source=abc_news_web

Australian native bees eligible for IUCN Red List of threatened species in the aftermath of Black Summer bushfires.

A team of scientists from universities across Australia assessed the impact of the fires on 553 native bee species. Their analysis showed at least 11 species were eligible for International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) listing as threatened. They are calling for more action to help prevent extinctions of threatened bee species & other less known insects. Read more HERE: https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2021-10-01/australias-native-bees-black-summer-bushfires/100503694?utm_campaign=abc_news_web&utm_content=mail&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_source=abc_news_web

JOB'S in Your Bee Yard this month

Do your best to manage the swarming process:

- Brood manipulation – Continue to raise brood frames to the honey super to give your queen plenty of space to lay. (See Aug. Buzz page 8 for “how to”)
- Have spare hives ready to catch a swarm or split a highly populated hive to prevent swarming. Ensure you have ready a spare hive box or two with sufficient frames & foundation, lid & base in preparation
- Do your AFB test. If you find anything suspicious, use your AFB sampling kit to help you prepare a brood sample for testing. See article on AFB page 5.
- Check for other Pests & Diseases. Not sure you could diagnose a problem? Take photos & share to the GCABS Forum page on Facebook or ask your mentor to inspect with you.
- 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 or wet weather.

Join in the Tocal College Free Online Beekeepers' Field Day October 16th

Visit the Tocal College Facebook page for more info on each presentation. See <http://www.fb.me/TocalBees>

42nd Annual

Free event

2021 Tocal Beekeepers' Field Day





Saturday 16 October at Tocal College and online from 9am

Over 13 presenters confirmed including:

- Ashley Zamek - Hort innovation
- Jody Gerdtz - Bee Scientifics
- Dan Cook - QUT
- Mel Parker - Beekeeper
- Dr Cooper Schouten - SCU, Bees for Sustainable Livelihoods - ACIAR
- Soumi Paul Mukopadhyay - NSW DPI
- Tobias Smith - Native bee expert
- Belinda O'Rourke - EMAI Disease Diagnostics
- Fiona Chambers - Wheen Bee Foundation
- Anneliese Austin SCU - Bees for Sustainable Livelihoods - ACIAR

FREE ENTRY, Covid-19 Safe, over 18 exhibitors with both bee equipment and food stalls, and live bee demonstrations

Hear about the new publication from Tocal College, *Products of the Hive*

For more information
Follow us! 

www.fb.me/TocalBees
Email: tocal.bees@dpi.nsw.gov.au



September Member Meeting Review

Topic 1: First Aid Considerations when Beekeeping

Thanks to GCABS member Dr Elise Turner for this presentation.

1. Always BEE prepared

- water
- mobile phone
- first aid kit

2. Call for help EARLY

- it's easier to cancel a 000 request than to wish you'd phoned one 10 minutes ago!

3. Obtain an EpiPen

- available WITHOUT script from pharmacies for around \$80 each



Topic 2: Fire Safety when Beekeeping

Thanks to GCABS member Noah Rush for this presentation.

- Weather conditions – Make a safe & informed assessment whether to inspect your hives or wait. Check the fire danger rating for your area. Check temp and wind forecasts.
- Site safety – clear at least 1sq mtr so it is free of dry fuel around the hive/s. Ensure a safe clear location to place your smoker & lighter. Place smoker on a flat surface eg concrete tile, in a stable metal container that can't tip.
- Always have water on hand & also consider a fire extinguisher in hot dry conditions.
- Extinguish smoker thoroughly – eg Smother using a cork in spout or in an airtight fireproof lidded container, or immerse smoker in water before emptying. DO NOT empty embers onto the ground or bury with sand /dirt as burning can continue thus increasing fire risk.
- Have your charged mobile phone on hand.



Smoker clearance

Read more at : <https://extensionaus.com.au/professionalbeekeepers/fire-safety-for-beekeepers/>



October Honey Flora - S.E. Queensland

Supplied by Jim O'Regan

Black Sheoak, Blue Gum, Broad-leaved Banksia, Caley's Ironbark, Dogwood Flat Weed, Fuzzy Box, Glycine, Golden Candlesticks, Grass-tree, Grey Ironbark, Mexican Poppy, Mugga Narrow-leaved Grey Gum, Prickly-leaved Paperbark, Red Bottlebrush, River Mangrove River Sheoak, Scribbly Gum, Swamp Sheoak, Tallowwood, Tumble-down Ironbark, Turnip Weed, White Bottlebrush, White Clover, White Mahogany, Wild May (Baeckea), Wild May (Leptospermum), Yellow Box.



White clover

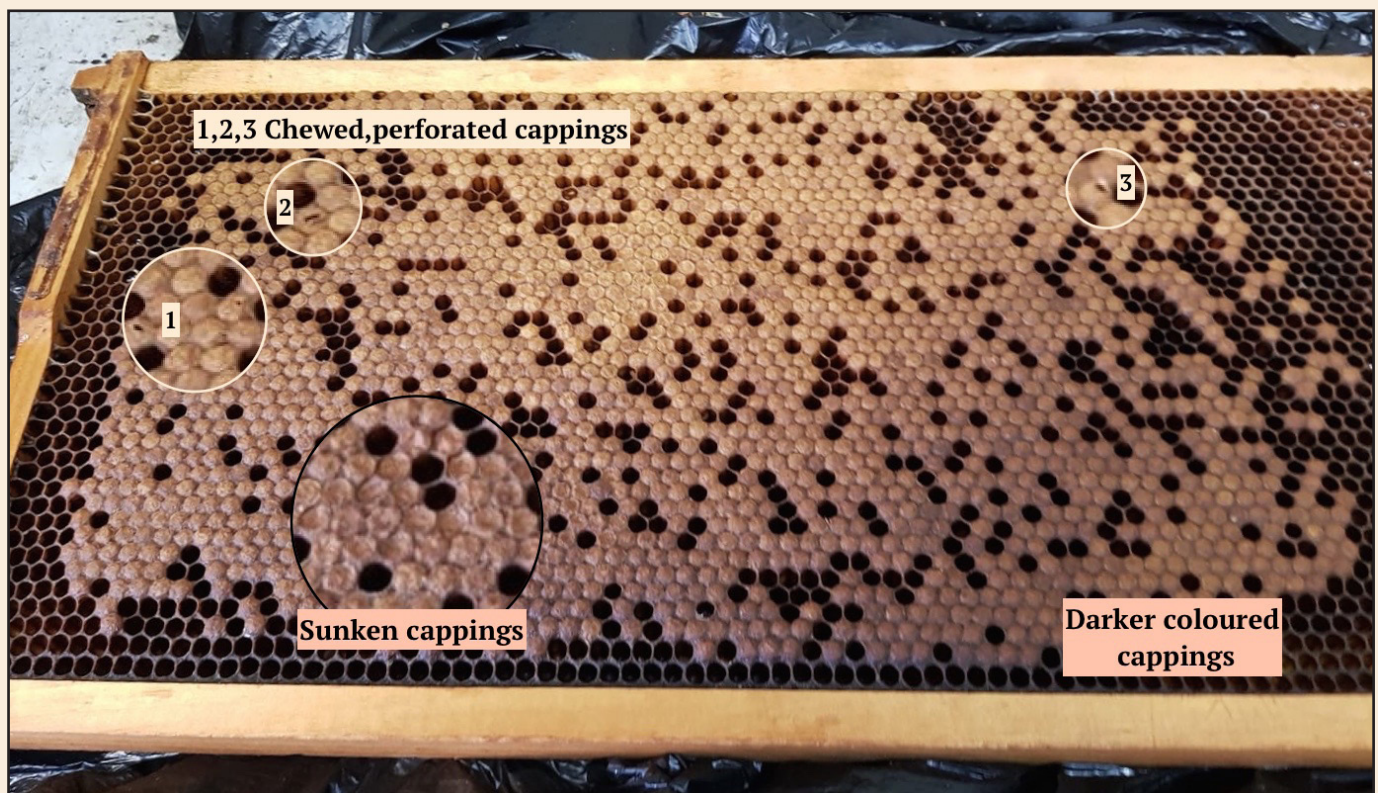
Bee Aware – The Early Signs of American Foulbrood - AFB

The brood frame in the photo on page 1 of this issue of the Buzz, might at first glance look fine: mostly covered with capped brood of fairly uniform colour & convex cappings. In fact, if you'd made an inspection of this frame without shaking off the bees, you'd likely return it to the hive thinking that nothing was amiss.

Alas, this frame is masking a deadly secret – American Foulbrood infection in its early stages.

Let's examine the frame more closely noting the following early warning signs:

- a “pepper pot” rather than mostly solid laying pattern (lots of scattered open cells)
- a few perforated or chewed cappings
- small areas of sunken cappings
- a darkening of some of the cappings



Note: As the infection worsens, these signs become more & more apparent & further symptoms appear: hive population falling, brown slimy decaying larvae in cells and a foul odour developing.

Frana Nicholson from Townsville & district Beekeepers Association, is the experienced & vigilant beekeeper who owned this hive. In Frana's own words:

“We had no reason to suspect a problem with this hive. We had just finished checking another nearby & it was fine. The first thing we noticed was that bee numbers were lower than expected on the honey frames. The brood frames were well covered with bees and eggs/larvae was present. The first red flag was the overall appearance of the brood, with numerous empty cells dotted throughout – the ‘pepper-pot’ pattern. So a closer look showed some caps with tiny perforations. On poking a twig into the cell, the typical brown stringy mucus was present. Because it was early stages, there was no odour and no greasy appearance. Even the sunken cells were minimal and could easily have been missed. If we hadn't had previous experience with AFB we would probably not have picked this up”.

What is AFB?

AFB American Foulbrood is a deadly, infectious disease that affects brood of honey bees in the pre-pupal (uncapped) and pupal (capped) stage of development. It is a notifiable disease, meaning that when beekeepers find AFB in a hive, they must report it to the biosecurity body in their state (Dept. of Ag & Fisheries in Qld, Dept. of Primary Industries in NSW)

Your Bi-annual Biosecurity Obligations: INSPECT, TEST, NOTIFY, ACT

You can and MUST test for AFB in your hives; it is a biannual Biosecurity Obligation. **A simple field test, The Rope Test, must be done twice yearly by all beekeepers.** Once in Autumn and again in Spring (NOW!), testing 3-4 cells on each frame of brood.

The Rope Test for AFB involves piercing the suspected cappings with a stick. Stir it around in the cell, then slowly



lift. If you observe a dark brownish liquid, adhering to the stick, you are almost certain to have AFB. Leave the infected stick in the



Rope test

hive. You may choose to take a smear sample of the larvae and send it to the Qld DAF lab at Coopers Plains for testing ([click here for info](#)). If you have no ropiness, then the worst you have done is kill 20-30 larvae. A small price to pay for protecting your colony and the bees in our environment.

Every GCABS' member has or will receive (for new members) an AFB sampling kit in the mail. Use your kit. It has slides, instructions and a DAF submission form.

Treatment

This notifiable disease has only one course of treatment. Euthanise the bees, then burn & bury the hive components (frames, wax, honey, brood). Hive boxes, bases and lids can be irradiated with Gamma radiation to kill the disease. [See Steritech link here](#). However, for the amateur beekeeper, with one or two hives, this may not be cost effective.

Minimise the risk of spreading AFB at your hives

- Never feed honey to your bees except if it is from that hive (it can carry AFB spores)
- Avoid using 2nd hand equipment as AFB spores can survive in the timbers for 50 years
- Avoid or minimise sharing hive tools & equipment between hives (Run a Barrier system)
- Bees robbing from others is a high risk activity. If it happens, attempt to stop it asap.
- Cycle out old dark combs

Check the Bee Aware website for information and "how to" videos for detection / preparing a slide for testing / euthanasing the colony etc. <https://beeaware.org.au/archive-pest/american-foulbrood/#ad-image-0>

At the end of the day, AFB can strike even if all your practices are spot on. Be vigilant in monitoring & managing your hives.

Bees & Flowers: Their Relationship is Electric!

Biologists have known for a long time that bees build up a static electric charge as they fly. Wings beating at 200 plus times per second pick up electrons from the air, producing more than a 100-volt positively-charged insect. Plants, in their turn, have negative or neutral charged flowers. Since opposite charges attract, this helps the hairs on the pollinator bodies to “stand on end” and pull pollen from flowers while distributing the discharge like thousands of tiny lightning rods.



Bee's wings beat so fast they pick up static electricity as they fly. This female American bumblebee has not only collected nectar and milkweed pollen that can be seen on her legs; she has also added an invisible positive static charge to the flowers she is leaving. That charge can be detected by other browsing bees. To them, it means there is no useable food here, pick an uncharged flower head. As the charge gradually wears off, the flower produces more nectar. Sensing no charge, bees will come to feed, deposit pollen, and cross-pollinate the flower to make seeds.

By Paul and Mary Meredith

https://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/local/bees-build-up-a-static-charge/article_9a4f5ed7-abbe-5f86-a9ab-520ae9cd6588.html



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Library Corner

October's issue of The Australasian Beekeeper is jam-packed with articles. Learn about drone biology and behaviour, requeening for beginners and old hands, and the life of bees while staying informed with Part 2 of the US comparative trial of pollen subs, research into Australian Manuka, and what modern genetics can do for the honey bee and pollination industry.

October rounds out your reading with The Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association (AQBBA) and their love of queens, Of Wilderness explores whether bees remain wild or are considered 'tame' when kept, and be introduced to Ross – is he Australia's oldest beekeeper? (No, not GCABS Club President!)



Wax foundation is in critically short supply. Exchange or sell your clean beeswax to V's Bees to ensure you have foundation when you need it.

Note: V's Bees do Not profit by purchasing your wax. They supply it directly to the foundation manufacturer at Yatala.



www.vsbees.com.au



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

Beekeeping Supplies

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