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From the President

Hello everyone and thanks again to Guy and Sandra for the big day at their place last meeting. That's the biggest attendance I've witnessed so far I'm sure. It was like being inside a beehive I reckon - plenty of chatter and lots of information flowing backwards and forwards as a matter of urgency so it seemed.

The flowering has exploded in my neck of the woods at the moment and although each year is never the same, this one is exceptional so far. Try as I do to organise spare boxes and frames to ease the overflow, the bees are one step ahead of me trying to swarm so life gets tedious. I hope everybody else is experiencing the same.

I've organised the bus for the trip to Mudgeeraba show on 25th September in lieu of a meeting at my place, so I hope everyone becomes aware of that. Looking forward to the trip and a day away from it all? So am I. Catch up with you all then.

Tony. 12/9/16

Last Meeting

The last meeting was held at Guy and Sandra Small's, at Caniaba, with a large number of people in attendance.

The day included a demonstration of honey extraction at Guy's plant and a flow hive meeting led by Stuart Anderson. The usual general business meeting was deferred until the next meeting day.



Honey Extraction Demonstration in Guy's Extraction Shed



Flow Hive Meeting

Brian Window's contributions to *The Amateur Beekeeper* (the NSWABA newsletter) were recognised at the meeting. Brian recently received the Best Article Award for 2015/2016. Tony Lamont presented Brian with an engraved hive tool from the NSWABA.



Tony Presenting Brian with his Award

Thank you to all the members who brought along items for the raffle and morning tea/lunch.

Stolen Hives

It is sad to report that with the high demand for bees at this time of year, someone felt the need to resort to theft.

Two hives were stolen from a Macadamia property on Rocky Creek Dam Road, Dunoon on the evening of 31 August, between 7.30 pm and 9.30 am the following morning.

The hives were marked with the registration number NF28, as were most of the frames. The theft was reported to the Lismore Police and the local DPI Inspector.

Anyone with information that may assist in locating the hives and/or those responsible are asked to contact Lismore Police.

New Equipment

Stephen and Janet Fowler carry most common beekeeping equipment, including a range of extractors, both manual and electric. They also carry a range of jars and pots for honey sales.

Since the September meeting will be a field trip to Mudgeeraba, the equipment ute will not be in attendance until the October meeting. Please contact Stephen or Janet for equipment before then (see the Equipment Officer contact details above).

Hives and Nuclei

Please contact Stephen Fowler if you are able to supply hives and nuclei to other club members.

Steritech

Please contact Brian Window or Stephen Fowler regarding your Steritech requirements. Since loads are organised to be sent away based on demand, please let Brian or Stephen know as soon as you have gear that requires irradiation.

Update - Townsville Varroa Mite Incursion

The most recent find of Asian honey bee (*Apis cerana*) in Townsville in early September brought the total number of colonies found to five. Foraging bees in the area are an indicator that other nest(s) are yet to be discovered.

The bee-lining technique was used to locate the latest colony.

The most recent update on the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council website can be found at the link below. The website also includes links to earlier updates.

<http://honeybee.org.au/apis-cerana-varroa-jacobsoni-in-townsville-update-no-9/>

In The Hive - September

Thank you to Brian Window for this article.

The hives are still going flat out on the Macadamias, and this beekeeper is going flat out extracting the thick honey. For some reason, the bees dry the honey to well below the 19% water level. Also some of my hives are also very aggressive, far more so than in previous years.

But it is a good year so far. The flowers on some Macadamia varieties have not started to open yet, and the Crows Ash (*Guoia*) is just starting to bud.

There was a scare this month. At 8pm one evening, the owner of the Macadamia farm frequented by my bees rang to say he had contractors coming next morning to spray his trees with orthene, an organophosphate, to control a

weevil. He always sprayed at night before, but had had an operation on his shoulder and could not work the machinery. Could I move my bees or take some other protective measure!

The answer was no, and I rushed out there next morning to see this big misting machine arrive. I explained to the farmer that if he killed my bees, he would not get any pollination, AND I will not be bringing bees in the future. He spoke to the contractor, and he agreed to spray after 4pm. Whew!

I put a tarpaulin down on the ground in front of two hives. Next morning, there were 30 dead bees in front of each hive, the next day there were eight dead bees in front, and thereafter about three dead bees. There were also quite a few chalk brood mummies in front of one hive. I was expecting quite a lot of dead bees to be there every morning due to natural causes, but apparently not. Probably they fly or walk away from the hive to avoid attracting predators. The bees on the tarp died in the hive and were carried out and dropped.

So the kill was not catastrophic- I hate to think what would have occurred if he had sprayed in the morning.

September Flowering

Thank you to Geoff Manning for this article.

Upcoming melliferous flowering will be similar to the last few months. Red Gum is still flowering, as is Ironbark. White Mahogany will start soon I suspect, giving some good pollen and with luck nectar.

Some additional ground flora has been showing, Mist Flower, and Fireweed has put on a spurt. Neither is fantastic, but do add to the mix. Privet will be putting on a show, particularly on the red soil country. Normally Guioa (erroneously sometimes called Crows Ash) flowers in October. However, as most plants are somewhat forward this year, it might also follow the trend.

Depending on location Clover will start to yield pollen. It is a khaki colour and top quality. It needs hot weather to yield nectar, the north coast

not really being its natural habitat. It is from a winter rainfall environment. Here the grass tends to beat it.

After the White Mahogany there is nothing definite on the horizon, all the possibilities are short budders. Bloodwood, Grey Box, etc., unless one wants to get adventurous, and go looking further afield.

Swarms

Swarm season is upon us. The swarm shown below was recovered recently by Tony Lamont. It settled right in the middle of a thistle.



Swarm in a Thistle

The points below are taken from *Doug's Column* written by Doug Somerville, in the July-August 2016 edition of *Australia's Honeybee News*. The article was about Swarm Traps. Thanks to Geoff Muntelwit for finding the article:

- In nature, if given a choice, bees will occupy tree cavities with much smaller volumes than the hives in which beekeepers keep bees;
- Bait hives with scent lures are up to five times more likely to attract swarms than ones without scent lures;
- A single box placed in an elevated position with a conventional entrance and lid should be highly attractive to swarms to enter and establish;
- The presence of added scent will increase the number of swarms that are trapped and certainly old brood combs and/or old boxes have a similar impact. Brood pheromone

that still exists in old combs is extremely attractive to swarms;

- If you do collect swarms, it is a good idea to keep these colonies separate from your existing hives for three to four months to monitor any disease or pest issues that may occur with these bees, even though the chance is minimal.

O'Heart Festival - Tyalgum

Kevin Bell represented the NRABA at the O'Heart Festival on 27 August. Thank you to Kevin for providing this report of the day.



Kevin Bell at the O'Heart Festival

I recently was contacted by the organisers of the festival to present an information session to those interested in learning about beekeeping. The approach to me was as a member of the Gold Coast Society as no NRABA members were available due to the beginners course being held on the same day.

I was available on the day but of course chose to represent the NRABA of which I am also a member.

The Festival organisers provided a Flow Hive and I set up a small stall for honey sales and to provide information about the NRABA. Interest was strong and I was able to distribute quite a few membership application forms and copies of the latest NRABA newsletter. The presentation was also well patronised with a great deal of interest in the Flow Hive and how it worked.

Upcoming Events

25 September, 2016 – GCABS Field Day, Mudgeeraba (Keynote speaker, Des Cannon, Editor, Australasian Beekeeper Journal).

20-22 October, 2016 – North Coast National, Lismore.

18-19 May, 2017 – NSW Apiarists' Association Inc. Conference, Ballina

21 May, 2017 – Colonial Pulling competition and AGM of the ABA, Ballina.

Newsletter Submissions

Thank you to all members who contributed to the newsletter.

Newsletter submissions can be emailed to Newsletter.NRABA@bigpond.com by the 10th of each month. Photos are always appreciated.

Next Meeting – 25 September, 2016

The next meeting of the NRABA will take the form of a field trip to the Gold Coast Amateur Beekeepers Society open day, at Mudgeeraba, Queensland.

A program for the open day is attached below. Gates open at 7:00 am for competition registrations, coffee and conversation. Product sales start at 8:00 am followed by a welcome by the GCABS President at 8:45 am.

A bus has been booked for this trip, leaving Harold Fredericks Car Park in Dawson Street, Lismore (opposite Oakes Oval) at 6.30 am. Bookings with Tony Lamont are essential, after 6pm - first in, first served. The bus will be free.

For those travelling by car, the open day is being held at the Mudgeeraba Show Grounds. The address and freeway exit details are in the program below.

GOLD COAST AMATEUR BEEKEEPERS SOCIETY Inc. (Est. 1979)

Open Day Program

Sunday 25th September, 2016

Venue : Mudgeeraba Show Grounds

Corner Mudgeeraba Road & Worongary Rd, Worongary
(Gold Coast M1 exit 75 southbound, exit 77 north bound)

Gold coin entry which includes your ticket in the great Lucky Door Prize draw.

Cent Auction Stall - all prizes highly desirable – Drawn 11:00am

7:00am Gates open;

MAIN SHOW PAVILLION

7:00 - 8:45am Registration of competition entries – both hive products and cookery.

Steward in attendance to direct competitors to the judging area in the main show pavillion.

Hive and cooking competition entries display.

Coffee and conversation

8:45 – 9:00am Welcome by GCABS President

9:00 – 9:45am **Des Cannon** – Editor Australasian Beekeeper

Topic – TBA

9:45 – 10:15am Morning Tea

10:15 – 11:15am **Des Cannon** – Editor Australasian Beekeeper

Topic – TBA

11:15 – 12:10 **Hamish Lamb**, Inspector, Biosecurity Queensland will talk on the new Bio-security Act and requirements.

12:10 - 12:30am. **Trevor Weatherhead** AHBC

A Queensland round-up of current industry issues relevant to both amateur and commercial beekeepers.

12:30 – 1:30pm Barbeque lunch.

Collect Cent Auction Prizes

1:30 – 2:15pm **Stuart Anderson**, inventor of the Flow Hive.

2:15pm Competition Results and presentation of trophies and certificates.

Presentation to Guest Speakers.

Lucky Door Prize Drawn

2:45pm Close

VERANDAH under cover area

8:00am – 2:15pm

Beekeeping products and merchandise for sale direct from trade suppliers.

Flow Hive display

TED SHEPHERD PAVILLION

9:00 – 10:00am

Kate Miller – GCABS Home Beekeeper

Kate will provide a practical introduction to beekeeping for the beginner including how the hive goes together, how to start beekeeping & what can go wrong. She will cover all aspects of beekeeping from types of bees to where to locate your hive, maintaining the hives and extracting and bottling your honey.

10:15 – 11:00am

Come and see a working beehive up close, inside and out!

All participants will be required to wear a long-sleeved shirt and jeans (or similar), and closed shoes or boots. Clothing should be light coloured and dense. Avoid wool, felt hats, jewellery, and perfumed sprays or insect repellents. Those who have their own beekeeping suit can bring it.

A limited number of veils will be available to borrow on the day.

Those with allergies to bee stings should avoid this activity.

NB Program may be subject to minor alteration, Please confirm program timetable on arrival.