

THE WAGGLE

Newsletter of the Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers Inc.

'Furthering knowledge in Beekeeping by assisted learning and practical experience'

www.gcrb.org.au

Edition: April 2021

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| <p>President: <i>Greg Foster</i> Mob: 0409 279 164 ~~~~~</p> <p>Secretary: <i>Drew Maywald</i> Mob: 0414 717 716 ~~~~~</p> <p>Treasurer: <i>Peter Handy</i> Mob: 0448 195 020</p> | <p>Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers Inc. E: gcrb.president@beekeepers.asn.au E: gcrb.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au E: gcrb.treasurer@beekeepers.asn.au E: gcrb.membership@beekeepers.asn.au E: gcrb.editor@beekeepers.asn.au</p> | <p>Your voice in local beekeeping PO Box 389, Nerang, Qld, 4214</p> <p>Next Meeting: Sat 17 Apr 21 08:30am - Hive Inspection 10:30am – Preparing Honey for Showing by John Polley</p> |
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President's Chat

What's Flowering in the region

Hive Report

How not to collect a swarm

ELECTRONIC BEEKEEPING RECORDS

For Sale



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The Waggle is the journal of the Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers Inc. It is distributed to members monthly. The editor will consider adverts from businesses relevant to beekeepers to run free of charge where they contain a discount or special offer to GCRB members. Please email gcrb.editor@beekeepers.asn.au

From the Editor

Well Easter is now behind us and so hopefully is the latest lockdown. Surprisingly, there was a swarm in Oxenford in late March, which finished up in my apiary as it was located only a couple of kilometres from home.

At the last meeting we had Kevin Finn come in and present on Hive Keeping records which was very interesting. Drew Maywald has gone away, with Kevin's blessing, and modified the electronic format for keeping records. Drew has written an article on this which can be found on page 6.

With the Mudgeeraba show coming up in late June, COVID dependent, the next meeting will have John Polley coming in to discuss how to prepare our honey for showing. Hopefully someone from the club can take out gold at the upcoming show with John's handy hints.

Despite the recent inclement weather, it appears that the regions hives are continuing to produce sufficient honey to keep us all busy. On a personal note, I took out four frames from my no. 1 hive, replacing the frames with foundation and the girls have already drawn the frames and pretty much filled them within two weeks.

As per the email from the Secretary just prior to Easter I am always looking for articles for YOUR newsletter. I am happy to receive hand written articles at the meetings, which I will type up for the next edition, so those that are not IT savvy have a venue to submit articles. The articles do not have to be of a serious nature as we all like a laugh occasionally.

Yours Aye

Windy

President's Chat

Nothing in nature is constant, it's always changing and evolving. My frangipanis are telling me that currently as they are starting to shed their brown shrivelled remnants of what were once large glossy green leaves. The garden is transforming in preparation for winter, my bees are starting to prepare themselves as well with the shorter days and current wet weather they are playing catchup and have gone into overdrive running the gauntlet between and even during showers to forage for the benefit of the hive. Some sneaky ones even venture inside of a night-time and buzz around what they must think is the sun or moon instinctively flying to forage continuously banging themselves into the light until some merciful hooman comes along and returns them to their home. As we all know their work ethic is second to none.

I'm sure you have noticed of recent months that your club is changing as well, for which I hope you think is for the better. As with nature we need to be constantly changing and evolving, the committee who are volunteers are giving up their time because they see it as a worthwhile cause and without their efforts the club wouldn't exist. Personally, I embrace change, comfort zones thwart progress so expect change to continue whilst the committee attempt to grow our great little club for the benefit of all members.

Thank you to the Vietnam Veterans Association/Mens Shed for allowing and assisting us with the planned and soon to be completed extension of the hive decking platform at no cost to our club. This will allow more space for viewing club day robs and a handrail to the front of the hives will provide a safer environment when in that location.

Thank you also to the volunteers who helped place the supports under our club hives and placed the weed control matting around the decking area last Friday.

I will be absent from our next club day on the 17th (stop cheering), but everything will continue as normal. I encourage you to get involved where you can and most importantly enjoy the morning. Feel free to drop myself or Drew our Secretary an email (our addresses are on this newsletter) if you require anything further.

Until next time, keep changing.

Greg

"The Appy Apiarist"



Hive Report

After requests from some members to see and take part in some extraction at the club meeting on Saturday the 23rd March we went through the full process.

We took 4 frames from hive one, hive 2 was in very good condition but didn't need any frames removed. Hive 4 had 5 frames removed and hive 5 had 4 frames removed. We were able to reduce hive 5 from 2 to 1 super ready for winter.

All the other hives we moved frames that were partially full to the second supers to try and fill them out for next month so we can reduce those hives down to two supers as well. We took 3 frames from the flow hive and also discovered a large amount of wax moth lare in the bottom trap. John cleaned this out and disposed of it.

The following Wednesdays Mike carried out a broad inspection on the flow hive to make sure no wax moth was present. Everything was clear but it's worth noting that there have been 3 cases of wax moth we

know off in the last 2 weeks so keep a look out for it in your hives.

In the club house Mike and some of our members removed the capping from the frames and extracted the honey. The new electric capping knife performed well and we ended up with between 40 and 45 KGs of honey.

Thanks to all the members that helped on the day. We hope you learnt something or at least are feeling more comfortable with the bees and the various processes required to keep them happy and healthy.

See you next meeting.



World Bee Day

World Bee Day is an official United Nations observance held on May 20 each year. Its main goal is to raise awareness of the importance of bees for pollination and their contribution to sustainable development.

Bees and other pollinators, such as butterflies, hummingbirds and some bat species, play a very important part in agriculture because without them many plants, including many food crops, wouldn't be able to reproduce. Bees make an invaluable contribution to food security and conserving biodiversity. Besides, bee populations help to evaluate the health of local ecosystems and emergent environmental risks.

Unfortunately, the number of bees has declined dramatically over the past few decades, mainly due to the so-called colony collapse disorder (CCD). Alongside CCD, bee decline has been attributed to factors including pesticides and insecticides,

monocropping practices, land-use change and invasive insects.

World Bee Day was established to raise awareness of pollinator decline and the importance of bee conservation. Honey bees are essential for pollinating crops such as passion fruit, macadamia, squash, pumpkin, zucchini, watermelon, Brazil nut and kiwifruit, and extremely important for pollinating many other crops, from apples to mango to buckwheat, so bee extinction would be a heavy blow to agriculture and food security.

World Bee Day is observed on May 20 because it is the birthday of Anton Janša, a famous Slovenian apiarist who is known as a pioneer of modern apiculture and a great expert in beekeeping.

Joke of the Month

The world's foremost authority on wasps is walking down the street when he sees an old vinyl record in the window of an antique shop, "Wasp noises from around the world".

Intrigued, he goes into the shop and asks if he can listen to it. "Certainly," says the shop assistant and pops it onto an ancient turntable. After listening to the first track for a while, the world's foremost authority on wasps is a bit confused.

"I don't recognise any of these noises, and I'm the world's foremost authority on wasps! Can you play the next track please?"

The assistant obliges and skips the needle onto the next track after a while, the world's foremost authority on wasps is still confused "No, I still don't recognise any of these wasps. Can you try the next track?" The assistant skips the needle on, and the world's foremost authority on wasps listens for a little while longer before shaking his head. "It's no good. I just don't recognise any of these wasps"

The assistant peers at the label of the record and says...

"Oh, I'm terribly sorry. I had it on the bee side"

What's Flowering in the Region

During April there are numerous plants flowering throughout the region. These include, but not limited to, the following:

Banksia – This tree provides ample nectar and pollen for bees, and often flowers in association with paperbark trees. Honey colour is dark amber.



Black Sheoak – This tree provides a useful supply of pollen. It is not a honey source.



Broad-leaved Ironbark – The honey from this tree has a medium density and mild sweet flavour, while useful quantities of pollen can be obtained to assist in maintaining colony strength.



Brown Bloodwood – Bloodwoods provide a somewhat inferior honey which should not be removed from the hive until fully capped otherwise it may ferment when extracted. Bloodwoods are a medium source of pollen.



Gordonia (Fried Egg Plant) – small rounded tree with glossy dark green leaves. Large white blooms with golden centres appear in autumn and early winter. While only a minor honey source it is a medium pollen source



Groundsel Bush – This bush provides a valuable pollen source during autumn and is worked heavily by bees. The bush is only a minor source of honey for the bees.



What's on the Website

Under the heading of Education there are the six sub-headings.

- **Attracting Bees** – there is a very detailed article under this heading of planting and creating a habitat for bees.
- **Bees for Kids** – a presentation for young people about the importance of bees in the production of our food.
- **Code of Practice** – a copy of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice 2016.
- **Common pests to bees and beehives** – a series of 15 fact sheets on common pests and diseases beekeepers are likely to encounter.
- **Educational Beekeeping Videos** – a series of 21 videos grouped under the following headings;
 - Best management practices for beekeepers
 - Elimination of AFB
 - Working safely with bees, and
 - Surveillance for exotic pests.
- **Honey Bee Facts**
 - How honeybees suck and store honey
 - Weather affects bees' flight
 - Bee dies after stinging
 - The dramatic sexual suicide
 - One Queen bee – mother of all
 - The Dancing bees
- **Information sites**
 - Australian honey bee industry council (www.honeybee.org.au)
 - NSW Apiarists' Association Inc. (www.nswaa.com.au)
 - ABA – Amateur Beekeepers' Association of NSW (www.beekeepers.asn.au)
 - Australian native bee research centre (www.aussiebee.com.au)
 - Bee Alert: tool to prevent chemical injury to bees (www.cottoncrc.org.au)
 - Honey bee research program – Rural Industries Research and Development Council (www.rirdc.gov.au)
- Pollination Australia – Rural Industries Research and development Council (www.rirdc.gov.au)
- Plant Health Australia (PHA) honey bee web site
- Levies associated with honeybees – Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (www.agriculture.gov.au)
- Department of Agriculture and Food (Western Australia)
- Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Victoria (www.dep.vic.gov.au)
- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Queensland (www.Daff.qld.gov.au)
- Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries (DPIF), Northern Territory (www.nt.gov.au)
- Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania (www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au)
- Primary Industries and Resources, South Australia (www.pir.sa.gov.au)
- **Power Point Presentations** – a series of informative PowerPoint presentations including;
 - Flowers & Bees – A Symbiotic Relationship
 - Pests & Diseases
 - Introduction to Beekeeping
 - Working the Hive
 - The Queen
 - Preparing the Hives for Winter, and
 - Small Hive Beetle
- **Starting out in Beekeeping** – a series of dot points for people interested in beekeeping.

Hopefully this introduction to the Education section of the Website helps you find the information you are looking for. The web address is <https://gcrb.org.au>

Biosecurity basics

Six easy ways beekeepers can protect their honeybees

Beekeepers have an important role to play in protecting their honey bees and the entire honey bee industry from biosecurity threats. Here are six easy ways beekeepers can reduce the threat of exotic and established pests affecting their bees. Each of these practices should be embedded in the everyday management of an apiary as it makes good business sense to reduce the risk of spreading pests.

Be aware of biosecurity threats

Beekeepers and their workers should be familiar with the most important exotic and established honey bee pest threats. Conduct a biosecurity induction session to explain required hygiene practices for people, equipment and vehicles in an apiary.

Use pest-free honey bee stock and apiary equipment

Ensure all queen bees and package bees are from trusted sources, pest-free and preferably certified. Keep good records of the apiary inputs.

Keep it clean

Practicing good sanitation and hygiene will help prevent the entry, establishment and movement of pests within and between apiaries. Workers, visitors, vehicles and equipment can spread pests, so make sure they are clean before entering and leaving the apiary.

Check your apiary

Monitor hives and the health of the honey bee brood frequently. Knowing the usual performance of the hives and honey bees will help beekeepers recognise new or unusual events and pests. Keep written and photographic records of all unusual observations. As pest numbers can increase rapidly, constant vigilance is essential for the

early detection of honey bee pests and pest honey bees.

Abide by the law

Respect and be aware of laws and regulations established to protect the honey bee industry, Australian agriculture and the local region.

Report anything unusual

If you suspect a new pest, report it immediately to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on **1800 084 881**.



For Sale

3-piece uncapping system. Never been used. I have constructed a smaller system so no need for the larger shop bought system. Will sell for \$50. Contact Windy on 0414 617 716 or email windy738@hotmail.com



Hive Inspection Reports

– by Drew Maywald

At the GCRB March meeting, Kevin Finn gave a great presentation on hive inspection record keeping, which inspired me to produce my own hive inspection reports. Based on Kevin's experience and his spreadsheet, I started by producing an Excel spreadsheet to record details of every hive inspection. I simplified it by adding drop down menus from which to choose options, as illustrated below.

| Hive Record Colony 1 | | | | | | | | | | Do NOT enter any data in a shaded cell | | Frames/Box | | Hyperlink to Summary Folder | | Summary | |
|----------------------|------|--------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|---------|--|--|--|--|--|------------|--|-----------------------------|--|------------------|--|
| Type of Hive: | | Select | | Location: | | | | | | Brood | | Select | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | Super | | Select | | | | | |
| Queen | From | Breed | Introduced Date | Accepted Date | Marks/Colour | Remarks | | | | | | | | | | Date Disposed Of | |
| 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Date | Hive Appearance | | | | Queen | Type of Queen Cells | | Eggs | | Larva | | Brood Pattern | | Brood Food Stores | | No. Frames with Adult Bees | Hive Strength | Temperament of Bees | Diseases Present | Sky | No. Honey Frames Removed | Kg Honey Extracted | Small Hive Traps |
|--------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------|--------|---------------------|--------|---------|------------|---------|------------|---------------|------------|-------------------|--------|----------------------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------|--------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 2021 | Bees Entering OK | Bees with Pollen | Dead bees on ground | Odour | Select | Comment | No. | Comment | No. Frames | Comment | No. Frames | Comment | No. Frames | Pollen | Honey | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | 0.00 | Select |
| Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select |
| Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select |
| Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select |
| Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select |
| Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select |
| Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select |
| Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select |
| Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select |
| Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select | Select |

It contains quite a lot of information, including details about Queens, diseases, the amount of honey extracted and much more. Once I had finished the report, I simply copied it for each colony, and decided to set it up to cover an apiary of up to 10 colonies with records for 10 years, so that I could make it available to other GCRB beekeepers. I added a summary page so that the user can easily monitor the honey produced from each colony, as shown below.

| Summary of Bee Hive Honey Extractions | | | | | | | | | | | | HyperLinks to Colony Reports | |
|---------------------------------------|------|------|------|---------|------|------|------|--|------|------|------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Name: | | | | HIN No: | | | | Do NOT enter any data in a shaded cell | | | | | |
| Year: | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | Honey per Colony | | |
| Colony | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Colony 1 | |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Colony 2 | |
| 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Colony 3 | |
| 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Colony 4 | |
| 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Colony 5 | |
| 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Colony 6 | |
| 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Colony 7 | |
| 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Colony 8 | |
| 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Colony 9 | |
| 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Colony 10 | |

The summary workbook is populated automatically based on the information entered in each colony's report. I have also produced the spreadsheet in Google Sheets, so people who want it can have it in either format. If you would like a copy of the hive report spreadsheet, please contact me at drewmaywald@gmail.com

However, I was not completely satisfied that this was the quickest way to record details of my hive inspections, and that there had to be a simpler way to do it. Having used Google Docs many times I explored the possibility of doing a hive report using Google Forms. I designed a suitable hive report in Google Forms which predominantly uses multiple choice and short answer questions, as shown in the two illustrations below.

Colony 1 Report

Colony 1 Hive Inspection Report

Type of Hive

Langstroth
 Flow
 Slovenian
 Long
 Top Bar
 Warre

Brood Frames
 How many frames in the brood?

Super Frames
 How many frames in the super(s)

Inspection Date
 Month Day 2021

Time of Inspection
 Hr : Min

Hive Activity
 Are there bees going in and out of the hive?
 Yes
 No

Pollen
 Are there bees going into the hive laden with pollen
 Yes
 No

Hive Strength

Strong
 Good
 Okay
 Weak
 Very Weak

Bee Temperament
 Describe the temperament of the bees

Docile
 Nervous
 Agitated
 Stinging
 Vicious and following

Diseases
 Tick any of the diseases that were present

None
 Chalkbrood
 Wax Moth
 AFB
 AEB
 Mite damage
 Mould
 Nosema
 Varroa Mite
 Other:

Small Hive Beetle
 What was the presence of small hive beetle like in the hive?

High
 Medium
 Low

Once the form has been completed, you click on Submit at the bottom of the form and the completed form comes back to a response file. To view the colony report form, click on this link: [Colony 1 Report](#). I then duplicated the colony report form for each of my hives.

After further research I discovered that the responses from each colony report form could be automatically loaded into Google Sheets (Google's equivalent to Excel), so that I would have a permanent copy of every hive inspection report, and my answers to each question. I created a Google sheets file and called it Hive Reports. I was then able to link the colony report forms to my hive reports spreadsheet in Google drive.

Now, as soon as I click on Submit at the bottom of a colony report form, it automatically uploads all of my responses into the hive reports spreadsheet, as shown on the test spreadsheet below.

| Colony 1 Report | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Timestamp | Type of Hive | Brood Frames | Super Frames | Inspection Date | Time of Inspection | Hive Activity |
| 24/03/2021 19 | Flow | 10 | 7 | 24/03/2021 | 10:30:00 | Yes |
| 25/03/2021 08 | Flow | 10 | 7 | 25/03/2021 | 09:00:00 | Yes |
| 25/03/2021 08 | Langstroth | 10 | 9 | 24/03/2021 | 09:00:00 | Yes |
| 27/03/2021 10 | Flow | 6 | 8 | 15/03/2021 | 09:00:00 | Yes |

I then linked each colony report form to the spreadsheet. Each colony has a separate tab in the hive report spreadsheet, so it can be used for as many hives as you want.

This automatically gives me a permanent record of my responses on every hive inspection I conduct should Biosecurity come knocking.

The only down side to this is that you must have a Google account or Gmail address for it to work, however, you can get a Gmail account free, even if you don't use the Gmail address. If I make changes to the form, they automatically upload into the spreadsheet without changing any previous reports or responses.

I set this system up for a friend and it took around 10 minutes to complete it for his hives. I put the colony report forms for each of his hives as shortcuts on his desktop so that all he has to do is click on the colony icon on the desktop, complete the form and submit it. Each completed colony report is now recorded in his hive inspection report spreadsheet.

If you click on the Colony 1 report link, [Colony 1 Report](#), and complete the form and then click on Submit, your responses will automatically up load to my test spreadsheet, so give it a try.

You can contact me and I will confirm that I have received your test inspection form. Once you have established the hive report spreadsheet you can then format it to suit you, just like any spreadsheet.

The benefits of this system are:

- You can include as many colonies as you want and every completed form will automatically be saved to your hive report spreadsheet.
- Each Colony has its own tab in the spreadsheet.
- It is much quicker to complete the colony report form.
- Once you have the system set up you can modify the colony report form questions and responses to suit how you do your inspections, and what you look for.
- When you enter any data into Google sheets it is automatically saved.
- If you have a Gmail account (which is free), you also get 15 Gb of data storage, not including anything you create in Google Forms and Google Sheets.

I am trying to move away from keeping paper copies of items so this system fits the bill perfectly. I am happy to make this system available to anyone who wants it, so if you are interested in setting it up, please contact me at gcrb.secretary@beekeeping.asn.au or 0400 959 043. I will help you set it up, edit the form, etc.



How not to collect a swarm!!

By Steve 'Windy' Hill

Most of you will remember the email from the Secretary informing us of a hive at Oxenford. And you may remember that it came out just after dark. Well, living in Oxenford I knew I was closest to the problem so I gave the resident a call and went over to see what was what. When I arrived there, I found the hive in a 40cm group on the ground, and after some discussion found out the swarm had been there most of the day. The resident thought they were wasps so didn't contact anyone until late in the day.

So, what to do? Not being sure if the hive would still be there in the morning, I made a decision to try and get the swarm that night. I went home to collect my gear, including a red light (because bees can't see red), and headed back to the swarm.

After getting set up I started to smoke the swarm toward the swarm box and, despite using the red light, it wasn't long before the first of the girls committed suicide. By the time I had the bulk of the girls in the box I had been 'hit' about 15 – 20 times so was feeling a little peeved. It finished up taking about 90 minutes to get the job done, and I was very glad when it was finished.

The biggest issue I had was not knowing if I had got the queen or not. I did get a call from the resident next morning to say that there was still a small swarm there so I went back just in case the queen was still there. After another half hour I had collected the remnants but still no queen.

In the end I got the girls into a hive and finished up getting a new queen so all ended well.

Once again, I have learnt a number of things out of this experience, first being do not collect a swarm after dark!! Second being that bees can find you at night even though you are using a red light. Luckily, I am becoming more immune to stings as time goes by. I also realised I need to find a more

efficient way to transfer a swarm from my collection box into their new hive. Having Slovenian hives, the process is not a straight forward as it is in a Langstroth hive.

However, the biggest thing I learnt is that I do not need to collect anymore swarms for myself as I am nearing capacity in my beehouse, but will be happy to help others when swarming season starts again later in the year.

This segway's nicely into my next article...

Swarm Register

In preparation for the next swarming season, I am starting a swarm register for anyone interested. If you wish to register you must be prepared to head out to collect a swarm at short notice. This includes being contactable and have your gear ready to go.

I will be the initial contact for anyone who contacts the club with a swarm issue and depending where the swarm is located, I will contact the nearest registered club member to go and collect the swarm.

To register I will need the following information:

Full name, mobile number, address and whether you are willing to collect swarms out of walls. Please email your details to windy738@hotmail.com.

Additionally, you can also register on the ABA website at <https://www.beekeepers.asn.au/swarms> if you wish to collect swarms.

A Method for finding the Queen

- By Dr Roger Burgess

I have been associated with beekeeping here in Currumbin Waters for many, many years, initially with the legendary beekeeper (now departed) Jack CORMACK and now his nephew Barry CORMACK.

I would like to describe a reliable way of finding that elusive queen bee when you open a hive. Two professional beekeepers in Brisbane taught me their way of finding her.

I am assuming everyone knows the relatively subtle anatomical differences between the queen and her attendant workers (all of the female sex) and the drones (males). I am also assuming that the queen's thorax has been previously painted e.g., with white correcting fluid 'tippex' for easier identification.

Approach the hive from the back to avoid the flightpath of the bees to and from the hive. Lean over and give a couple of puffs of smoke towards the hive entrance, and then WAIT for the smoke to make maximum effect on the bees. The smoke alarms the bees to take up wax and honey making them less aggressive. However, DO NOT smoke straight into the hive entrance since the heat might damage the wings of the bees. Later direct smoke down between the frames.

Put a sheet of ply or corflute on the ground in front the hive, just touching the 2 front hive supports. Put a stick or small length of thin wooden dowel from the hive entrance/bee landing board down onto the sheet of ply/corflute at an angle of about 39 to 45 degrees (not critical). Gently open the hive with your hive tool after extracting the tool from its large bottle of thinners. (To reduce the chance of spreading disease such as AFB (American foul brood), at all times they keep their hive tools in a very large bottle of thinners such as shellite!)

Gently break any propolis bonding the frames together and remove the SECOND frame from the left very slowly and carefully

so as to cause minimal damage to any of the bees including the queen, which could easily be located on the outer aspect this frame or any of the other frames of course. We like to use the second frame from the left since removing the first frame could grind any bees on the outer aspect of this frame, against the adjacent hive box wall. The queen could be lost!

Shake the removed frame sharply downwards depositing all the bees onto the ply/corflute in front of the hive beside the stick. Remove the other frames and shake them onto the ply in the same way. The bees immediately climb up the stick to get back into the hive, including, of course, the queen. She is easily identified by the large bunch/corona of attendants clustered around her on the stick.

It takes practice. Be very patient (as with ALL phases of beekeeping).

GCRB IS PROUDLY AFFILIATED WITH THE



**Amateur
Beekeepers
Association**
NSW

The club would like to thank Rachael & Vern for their generous support

www.vsbees.com.au

V's Bee's
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Monday - Friday [8am - 5pm]
Saturday [8.30am - 12pm]

Beekeeping Supplies

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0415 192 662
vsbeesqld@yahoo.com



2021 GCRB Committee

| Position | Incumbent | Phone No | Email |
|------------|----------------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| President | Greg Foster | | Gcrb.president@beekeepers.asn.au |
| Treasurer | Peter Handy | | Gcrb.treasurer@beekeepers.asn.au |
| Secretary | Drew Maywald | | Gcrb.secretary@beekeepers.asn.au |
| Membership | Julie Hewetson | | Gcrb.membership@beekeepers.asn.au |
| Committee | Mike Hynes | | m.j.hynes043@gmail.com |
| | Fiona Fernie | | ferniefiona@gmail.com |
| | Roger May | | Rogmay45@gmail.com |