

# THE WAGGLE

Newsletter of the Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers Inc.

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

[www.gcrb.org.au](http://www.gcrb.org.au)

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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](mailto:gcrb.editor@beekeepers.asn.au)

**From the Editor**

July, the days are getting colder but at least the days are getting longer. At the speed the year seems to be going the flow will begin next week and I feel my preparations for the year are still stuck in March.

This issue has a couple of pertinent articles for all of us. Following on from our last Club meeting discussing the use of an EpiPen, there is the tragic account of the death of a beekeeper in Tasmania following a stinging episode. As explained by Sue at our meeting, most of us will not experience an anaphylactic reaction, however there is always that chance of becoming anaphylactic at any stage.

The second pertinent article concerns our members who transport bees interstate and the requirement to now pay fees to obtain a health certificate. Playing Devil’s Advocate, I can understand that Biosecurity Qld needs to charge a fee to ensure they can continue to do the work they do, but at the same time I can see some of the smaller operators leaving the industry as they will not be able to absorb the fees into their business.

I would like to offer my congratulations to our Secretary, Drew Maywald, on getting the Native Bee program up and running. Anyone with an interest in the program is asked to contact Drew.

Hopefully the weather will be a little warmer for our next meeting to allow us to get into the hives early and give the hives a good check in preparation for the upcoming season.

See you at the next meeting

Yours Aye

Windy

## President's Chat

"Happy New Year", pardon my silliness. It's a good reminder though of how quickly we reach the halfway mark and proves as a prompt to the fast approaching beginning of the new season. I hope you are ahead of the game with your preparations.

Our Secretary Drew has been invited to be a part of a think tank that has been formed by Agrifutures. They are a corporation setup by the Government to help fund research and development in Australian rural industries. Drew is a member of their Native Bee Industry Reference Group who have been tasked to develop a strategic research, development and extension plan on native bees. The group has input from many parts of the native bee industry throughout Australia. Once the document is completed in October it will be available on the Agrifutures website for all interested parties to utilise as a tool when considering native bees in all possible applications. No doubt Drew will have more to share in the coming weeks in his club updates.

Our club has been approached by Enterprise and Training Company (ETC) of Southport to provide a four-hour information session on Beekeeping to a small group of their students. The committee has decided that this would be a worthwhile venture and that it fits well with our club mission statement to, "Further knowledge in Beekeeping by Assisted Learning and Practical Experience". We are finalising the details now with ETC, I look forward to sharing more information with you as it becomes available.

The club is now in advance stages of installing its second native beehive to a local kindy/early learning centre. Thank you must go to Drew for his enthusiasm on this club initiative and coordinating each installation from start to finish. I must also mention that we also have several others patiently waiting to have a hive of their own installed.

Do you have leftover items from a recent garage sale, or have some old tools/furniture

or unwanted items around the house/garage and intend to take them to the tip? If they have some worth and aren't rubbish, please consider donating them to the Veterans Men's Shed. The shed is a great organisation that does a lot of good in the community and is also a good friend to our club. If you think you may have something to donate, please contact our Secretary Drew and he will put you in contact with Roger May, who is the Men's Shed liaison on our committee.

Two more final items. Firstly, the club is still buying members honey at \$8 per kg, one 20kg bucket limit per member per meeting, only purchased on club Saturdays, as you know our next is the 17th. Secondly, the club coupon code for certain purchases of Flow hive equipment is still valid. This entitles you to a discount off the normal purchase price of a Flow hive. Once again contact Drew if you would like to have access to that.

Phew, a bit to get through this month. Which only means that the club is active and involved. Some exciting new directions for us all to learn and grow from, I encourage you to join us on the 17th for our club day where some more great learning will occur.

Greg

"The Appy Apiarist"



## Hive Report

The hives were inspected a bit later in the day than normal due to the cold weather on the day. Our #1 hive had a couple of frames that could have been robbed but due to the weather the decision to leave them in the hive was made. The rest of the hives still have good stores levels to get them through these colder months.

The Chalkbrood issue with #5 hive has been managed by the girls; however, the queen was sighted above the excluder again. She is either following the Jenny Craig diet allowing her slender frame to pass through the excluder or she is an escape artist.

With not much else to do the hives were closed up to maintain the heat in the brood boxes.

See you at the next inspection

## June Meeting

While the meeting started at 8:30 am, it was too cold and windy to open our hives for the June inspection, so we started the meeting inside with a warm cup of tea or coffee.

Fiona gave an excellent presentation on Wax Moth and what to do about it. With input from other experienced members, it was very informative, and is something that should not be a problem in a strong hive as the bees will deal with it. However, there is a concern that the moth can get into stickies stored over winter if precautions are not taken.

Fiona then went onto talk about feeding your bees. This was a general discussion with input from several members. Fiona also showed those members present a range of feeders, kindly loaned by V's Bees in Nerang, and talked about the pros and cons of each one as well as how they should be used. There was much discussion about whether you should feed or not and the best way to do that.

Greg then introduced Sue MacDonald and Deb. Sue gave an excellent presentation on anaphylaxis and what to do if someone is having an anaphylactic shock. Sue demonstrated how to use an EpiPen and we all got to handle and use an EpiPen which is the best first aid treatment for anaphylactic episodes. Anaphylaxis is treated as a Code One Emergency by the ambulance service.

Sue also suggested we all download a free app on our phones called **Emergency Plus**. This app will give the latitude and longitude of where you are at any point in time and will allow people to pinpoint your exact position in an emergency, even in the bush.

We all enjoyed the sausage sizzle cooked by Peter, and 4 members went away with raffle prizes which included a smoker (kindly donated by Kevin Finn), a voucher to Dan Murphy's, a sugar shake test kit and a club cap.

Thanks to all members for their participation and special thanks to Fiona for yet another outstanding presentation, and to Sue MacDonald for her excellent presentation on anaphylaxis and the use of the EpiPen.

Unfortunately, we have received news of the death of a Tasmanian Beekeeper who died from an anaphylactic shock after being stung by a bee. The full article relating to this is reproduced on page 6.

See you next meeting.



## Joke of the Month

I don't mean to "drone" on but I think you'll love this bee joke!

**Why did the bees go on strike?** Because they wanted more honey and shorter working flowers.

## For Sale

**Polystyrene Containers.** Containers with lids. Most of them have had cryovac seafood in them on ice. They are 200 mm deep and 575 x 385 mm, and make ideal storage containers or simple solar wax melters.



Selling for \$0.50 cents each. Contact Drew Maywald on 0400 959 043 or email at [drewmaywald@gmail.com](mailto:drewmaywald@gmail.com)

## Tasks for June-July

The cooler months continue to be the perfect time to get into the shed to make up and paint new boxes as well as making and wiring new frames for the upcoming season.

Remember, if you are making up foundation frames to ask your wax supplier if the wax is sourced here in Australia. Why you ask? Australian wax is mostly free from chemicals and diseases that are found in wax products from other sources.

## Native Bee Hive Project

Thanks to Tony Perkins, Rick Croker, the Vietnam Veterans Men's Shed Members (particularly Kevin and Greg), Bunnings and Stratco who have offered to help with this project to install native bee hives in a small group of Early Learning Centres.

If you are interested in lending a hand to make or paint hives, or helping to bud hives into wild hives, please contact Drew Maywald on 0400 959 043.

## Biosecurity QLD Health Certificate Fees

In 2018 the QBA was made aware of an intention by Biosecurity Queensland to introduce fees for the issuing of Health Certificates for the transport of honey bees and related products to interstate and international jurisdictions that required a certification.

Over the last two years the QBA was successful in seeing the introduction of fees delayed due to the ongoing nature of the drought as a direct result of proposals and consultation with Biosecurity Queensland.

As of 1st of July 2021 the department has now commenced the roll out of health certificate fees for the honey bee industry in Queensland. Apiarists will now be charged a minimum of \$54.70 for the issue of a biosecurity health certificate. Please note, there are now also additional charges for apiarists who require inspection by a biosecurity officer along with travel charges from your nearest DAF office. For those members requiring health certificates, the 2021/22 fee schedule, as provided by DAF is as per the following link.

[Fee schedule plant health certification accreditation services 2021-22.pdf](#)

Over the last two years the QBA has continued to advocate for industry, highlighting the important harmonisation work that is being carried out by the National Bee Biosecurity Program (NBBP) and the impacts the fee roll out will have on our Queen Bee Breeding industry.

Despite the recognition of the work being undertaken on a national level, and the increased cost specifically on Queen Breeders, the Department has advised that they can no longer delay the roll out of the charges for issuing of health certificates.

All members transporting honey bees to Victoria for the upcoming Almond pollination are encouraged to ensure they have all 'honey bee' related paper work (health certificates) completed as a matter of priority.

Alternative options for an independent industry-based certification program have been explored in the past and will continued to be considered into the future. It must be mentioned that an independent program would come at a significant cost to the QBA.

For the meantime, the QBA Management team through our President/Biosecurity Chairman Jacob Stevens, will continue to push for harmonisation across specifically across the eastern seaboard of Australia, which in turn will hopefully remove the need for health certificates across some state jurisdictions.

## Annual Subscriptions

By now you should have received an email from the ABA about your club and ABA membership renewal for 2021/2022, and insurance if you have your hives insured through the ABA. It is very easy to renew your membership online by following the steps in the email.

Please note that the optional hive insurance covers you for Public and Products Liability Insurance, not Hive Insurance. The \$15 premium will cover you for up to 100 hives.

## Swarm Register

We are often contacted when someone in the community has a swarm of bees on their property that they want removed. If you would like to collect swarms, you need to be listed on our swarm register by contacting Steve (Windy) Hill at [windy738@hotmail.com](mailto:windy738@hotmail.com)

Windy will add you to the register and advise what is required. We never know when we are going to get a call about a swarm so you will need to be prepared to go when called.

## Tas bee sting death prompts EpiPen advice

By Ethan James – 18 Jun 21

A Tasmanian honey farm worker died from an anaphylactic reaction caused by a bee sting.

A coroner has urged all beekeepers to have EpiPens on hand after the death of a honey farm worker in Tasmania from an anaphylactic reaction caused by a bee sting.

Wallace Edgar Bryers, 61, was wearing appropriate protective gear while working for Tasiliquid Gold (TLG) at a property near Carrick in January 2018.

He had finished smoking beehives, blowing boxes and putting boxes on a truck when he removed his hood to adjust his hair.

Witnesses recall hearing Mr Bryers say "bloody bees, bloody bees" and saying he had the insects in his suit and was being stung.

Mr Bryers later felt dizzy and sick while travelling in the truck with TLG's owner and members of the owner's family, one of whom called triple zero.

Mr Bryers fell to the ground and lost consciousness after getting out of the truck. He died at the scene despite efforts from the family and paramedics to revive him.

In findings published on Friday, coroner Andrew McKee found TLG did not have an epinephrine injector, commonly referred to as an EpiPen, in the first aid kits in vehicles used in the field.

"I cannot make a precise finding that the administration of adrenaline to Mr Bryers via an EpiPen would have saved his life, but I am satisfied it would have increased his chances of survival if administered within 30 minutes," Mr McKee wrote.

Mr McKee recommended all people who own beehives consider being trained in first aid, in particular the administration of EpiPens. He also recommends such individuals have EpiPens on hand. Mr McKee said all TLG first aid kits now contain EpiPens.

Mr Bryers, who moved to Australia from New Zealand in his 20s, was wearing a long-sleeved beekeeping suit with a hood, as well as long gloves, while tending to the hives.

A post-mortem revealed a "suspicious" bee sting which was compatible with an allergic reaction.

The coroner noted Worksafe Tasmania investigated the death and found TLG had fulfilled its duty of care to Mr Bryers by providing personal protective equipment and through instruction, direction and supervision during on-the-job training.

The son of TLG's owner told the inquest Mr Bryers was asked whether he was allergic to bees prior to starting work and said he "definitely was not"

## What's Flowering in the Region

During July many of the flowering plants from the previous month continue to support our bees throughout the region. These include, but not limited to, the following:

**Brisbane Wattles** – Two varieties of this tree are currently in flower, the Black and the Golden wattle. Both provide a moderated source of pollen to the bees.



**Banksia** – This tree provides ample nectar and pollen for bees, and often flowers in

association with paperbark trees. Honey colour is dark amber.



**Sheoak** – A number of this species are currently flowering during June including the Black and River varieties. These trees provide a useful supply of pollen. It is not a nectar source.



**Ironbark** – At least four varieties of Ironbark are flowering during June and include the Caley's, Dusky-leaved, Grey and Tumble-down varieties. 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.



Additionally, the Red Ironbark, more commonly known as Mugga, is also flowering.

**Hickory Wattle** – Apiaries sited near Hickory Wattle may obtain a good supply of pollen; however, the light-yellow pollen is poor food and doesn't proportionally simulate brood raising.



**White Clover** – Requires good rains in order to bloom prolifically, and under these conditions it is a useful nectar and pollen supply.



**Gums** – At least three varieties of gum are now flowering including the Blue, Scribbly and Spotted gums. Valuable pollen and nectar supplies are obtained regularly from the Blue Gums during late winter and early spring but there is limited pollen and next to no nectar from either the Scribbly or Spotted Gum.



**Hairy Bush-pea** – A spreading shrub with a graceful weeping habit if given space to fully mature. In coastal districts this bush flowers annually and is worked freely by bees for large amounts of pollen.



**Pumpkin** – Widely grown as a crop and frequently found as a stray alongside roadsides, on waste ground, and in old cultivation paddocks. Pumpkins yield good pollen supplies over lengthy flowering periods but only insignificant quantities of honey.



**Others** – Some of the other species' flowering are:

- Forest Boronia
- Glycine
- Golden Candlesticks
- Mountain Coolibah
- Paperbark Tea Tree
- Swamp Messmate
- White Box

## Diary Dates

### Sat Sept 18, 2021

- 8:30am - Club Meeting Hive Inspection and Rob
- 10:30am - Swarm Control and Swarm Boxes by Fiona Fernie & Mike Hynes

### Sat Oct 16, 2021

- 8:30am - Club Meeting Hive Inspection and Rob plus Queen Assessment by Fiona Fernie & Mike Hynes
- 10:30am - **Annual General Meeting**
- 10:45am - Preparing Honey for Shows and Competitions by John Polley



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

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