The ins and outs of running a hobby bee club

Kathy Knox, PhD
President Gold Coast Amateur Beekeepers Society inc.

About GCABS

- Established 1979 after a TAFE course
- Gold Coast’s largest and longest running recreational beekeeper group
- Registered charity and NFP-TDG status, Friend of AHBIC
- Incorporated with a formal Constitution and structure
- Operated entirely by volunteers
- N = 335 Members as at 29.6.2018
- Over 650 followers on social media
Background

Outline for presentation

1. keeping up with the wants and needs of the membership
2. catering to a diverse membership of old hands and newbies
3. balancing the practical and theoretical, while changing with the season
4. growing with the group and building a future vision
1. Keeping up with the wants and needs of the membership

- Non commercial sector holds big responsibility!
- Non-accredited training: over 150 trained since Sept 2016
- Intake for Beginners, introductory courses 2018
- Field days
- Talks and presentations
- Honey Month
- World Bee Day
- Monthly meetings
- Equipment and construction
- Balance social, theoretical and practical

The Brood Box

- The Flow Hive Classic comes with standard foundation-less frames for the Brood box to allow for natural comb formation.

- Check your brood box with an experienced beekeeper regularly for health, pests and diseases.
2. Catering to a diverse membership of old hands and newbies

• The fist rule of beekeeping is ...
3. Balancing the practical and theoretical, while changing with the season
4. Growing with the group and building a future vision

- Affiliation with QBA, AHBIC: a seat at the table
- BOLT online training course
- Cert 3 Beekeeping TOCAL college
- BQUAL
- Labelling and packaging requirements
- Code of Practice
- Specialised training to serve members’ needs

*Education has the greatest potential for impact re biosecurity compliance*
Previous presidents

- A. Betts - up to 2014
- J. Polley 17th August, 2014
- L. Thomson 21st August, 2016
- K. Knox 20th August 2017
Thanks

- AHBIC Organising Committee
- East Coast Conferences
- Delegates from GCABS:
  - Lyle
  - Leonie
  - Kate
  - Tom