

BEE NEWS

April 2024

Issue 147

Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast
BeeKeepers Inc.

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepers.com.au



President's Report

In our monthly meeting for March, we were lucky enough to have Linda and John share with us information from the recent QBA conference at Sandstone Point. Some really

interesting points came out of the discussion and some great tips for inspecting and testing for varroa. Who knew we were suppose to swirl the alcohol wash?? In all, we learnt that we will be well guided through this challenge when it hits us.

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, 27 April 2024 at the Club House, 43 Farrell Street Yandina.

Morning tea and catch up starts 9.30am, BYO plate of food to share. Meeting to start at 10.00am.

Paul presented the club with our new defibrillator which has been sponsored by the Bendigo Bank. We take the health and wellness of our community very seriously and we are so pleased to have this measure in place to ensure everyone has access to this vital piece of equipment - which we hope we will never need! Huge thanks to Paul for making this happen.

We also announced the new initiative of Junior Membership. With local schools embracing beekeeping, we have introduced

this discounted membership with the hope of supporting and nurturing young beekeepers through our club and facilities. I was very proud to welcome our first junior member at our most recent Introduction to Beekeeping course. Dane did so well and our newest community members were so welcoming and supportive!

Next month we will hear from Grant about his overseas mead adventures, in May we will be holding our annual 'Greatest Honey in the World' competition, June and July will see both the Sunshine Coast Agricultural Show and our AGM. Make sure you are prepping for these important dates in our calendar!

Have a bee-utiful day friends!

Katie Livock

President

27 April - Presentation by Grant Eisenmenger - Meadery in India

25 May - Best Honey in the World Competition

30 May - Renewal of membership and payment of membership fee due

Please ensure that you include your name when transferring the money via internet banking. BSB: 633000; Account No: 163379555

15-17 June - Nambour Show. Volunteers required to man the show stall, assist with the set-up, and the bottling of honey.

27 July - AGM

Feedback from the QBA Workshop

Linda Blackwell and John Baker attended the QBA Varroa Mite Workshop in March

Introduction – Jo Davis State Secretary QBA

Workshops for New Beekeepers

Our next Beekeeper's Courses will be held on the following dates:

- 8 June 2024
- 10 August 2024
- 12 October 2024

All participants must agree to the Club's covid rules.

Booking is essential.

Book online at:

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepers.com.au/workshops.



* Freepik

The Club Online

To save our members time searching online, the Club's website has links to the best beekeeping information and websites we can find.

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepers.com.au

Also, check out our Facebook page for more Club news.

www.facebook.com/pg/sunshinecoastbeekeepersaustralia/posts/?ref=page_internal

Presenter Rob Stevens – Biosecurity Qld

Nick Taylor NZ Beeswax Ltd

Tom Nolan NOD (Natures Own Design) -Formic Pro

1. Queensland is now a Varroa Mite Biosecurity Zone

No Varroa Destructor has been identified in any Queensland hives to date.

A single Varroa Jacobsoni mite was identified in a sentinel hive at the port of Brisbane and reported in February 2024. An exotic Asian Honeybee hive was found in the vicinity of the sentinel hive - the natural host of Jacobsoni.

A movement control order was set up – 10-20km radius from the Port of Brisbane. This aims to prevent, contain or mitigate the spread of a biosecurity risk. The movement control order puts a restriction on the movement in to, out of, or within the designated area of varroa mite carriers. This includes apiary equipment, unprocessed honey, beeswax and live bees.

Biosecurity is setting up sentinel hives on the border with NSW, at Coolangatta and Stanthorpe to inform Queensland Beekeepers on any spread from existing sites in NSW.

With Commonwealth and State Government funding it is anticipated that we will have six officers to provide support and education.

It is estimated that in Australia we have 150 feral bees hives resulting from swarms per sq Km.

The goal in Queensland is not for eradication of the mite but the following:

- Slow the spread
- Education and support of all Bee keepers
- Pollination Security

2. Beekeepers' Obligations

- Must actively manage the biosecurity risks under your control
- Expected to know the associated risks
- Obligation not to spread a pest, disease or any contaminants

- Report any unusual observations- loses in bees, fall in production, scattered brood, crippled bees, reduction in population
- Display your VIN Number on all hive boxes
- Keep up to date records of your hives – hive inspections, diseases, pests, replacement of Queen, any hive movement
- It is illegal to use chemicals targeting varroa mite in Queensland at present.

3. What must you do as a responsible Beekeepers

BEE PREPARED BEE AWARE

- Must test for varroa mite every 8 - 16 weeks.
- Bees to test are nurse bees preferably from the centre of the hive. Best practice requires an alcohol wash.
- Be consistent and use ½ a cup of bees each time
- Uncapping of drone cells
- Shaking does not dislodge the mite swirling is a better technique.
- Once you have tested contact Biosecurity with your results immediately 132523
- VIN – Beekeeping Registration Number – Must be on every hive on the brood box
- Keep records – this is required by law. The booklet handed out at the meeting can be back dated to provide 2-3 years records. Provides a framework to monitor and manage pests, record honey, movement of hive equipment and age and state of queen. Enter alcohol washes and drone uncapping.
- Once varroa has been discovered in Queensland if within 25 kms of your property you will receive a letter from biosecurity who will want to review your records. They need negative surveillance results.

Saturday Rosters 2024

We would also like to thank all the members who volunteered to work at the club for last year.

APRIL

27/04/24	General Meeting	Kylie Aallbers Frances Davison	
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MAY

04/05/24	Open	Jason March David Macklyn	Kathleen March
11/05/24	Open	Dominique Flannigan Griffin Pengally	John Baker
18/05/24	Honey Harvest	Ken Harrison Kevin Willis	Tom Cowburn
25/05/24	General Meeting	Sylvia and Bob Barns	

JUNE

01/06/24	Open	Ashley Frost Peter Petsch	Graham Gibb
08/06/24	Course	Dioanna Bannick Ron Button Catering - Mary Spencer	Katie Livock
15/06/24	Closed	Stall at Nambour Show	
22/06/24	Honey Harvest	Evan Sanders Katie Michel	Paul Bonner
29/06/24	General Meeting	Arlene Rutherford Dianne Lynch	

JULY

06/07/24	Open	Rob Questral Chris Strewe	David Lee
13/07/24	Open	Jason March Mel Simpson	Kathleen March
20/07/24	Honey Harvest	Evan Flower Tom Symons	Tom Cowburn

Feedback from Biosecurity Queensland Webinar – Port of Brisbane Update – Wednesday 17 April

Notes taken by Paul Bonner

As at April 2024 Varroa continues towards Queensland from NSW.

Qld Biosecurity have requested increased surveillance and reporting of findings whether positive or not to Bee123.

Lennox Head which is 65 kms from Coolangatta Jacobsoni has been confirmed.

Note not Destructor. Brisbane ports are negative of spread at the moment.

Asian Bees are endemic to north Queensland and are found from Daintree to Cardwell and West to Dimbulah.

Asian Bees swarm very differently to European. On Trailers, Utes and any equipment that is undisturbed. Much smaller swarm size.

The use of alcohol wash is the more reliable test. We were shown mapping of results reported and it was very noticeable that our area is showing very little reporting. The suggested testing system is every 16 weeks.

27/07/24	Meeting AGM	Cheryl and Gary Azsentief	
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If the dates don't suit OR you are unable to attend please email Lynne Hulm - secretarysbees@gmail.com

Honey Extraction Dates

NOTE - all members wanting to use the Club facility for extraction of honey must first book with Lynne Hulm the Secretary to make sure we are not overbooked. You must let Lynne know how many frames that you want to extract honey from.

- 20 April
- 18 May
- 22 June

Please ensure that you assist with the cleaning up following extraction of honey.

Borrowing the Clubs spinners to extract honey at home:

- The spinners have been bought for the use of all members.
- Contact the Secretary Lynne Hulm to place your name on the list to borrow a spinner.
- The Spinner must be returned to the club by 9:00am the following Saturday cleaned and ready for the next member to borrow.

Your Club and Covid Safety

Covid has become a circulating virus we will need to be prepared for from now on into the future.

Mandatory masks are not going to be recommended and will be left to personal choice.

There is a strong recommendation for regular vaccinations which will provide protection against serious disease. The latest variant that is circulating is peaking around Australia and it is recommended to have another booster if your last was 6 months ago.

Do not forget the lessons learned during the pandemic - hand hygiene and social distancing and if you are sick stay home and get better.

Sale, Purchase, Swap

A separate sheet is attached to the newsletter each month headed " Sale Purchase Swap". This will be for the information of members only and will not be downloaded onto the website with the newsletter.

If you would like to list anything could you please send an email with photograph if required to the Newsletter Editor at the following email address: lineb@internode.on.net by the Friday the week prior to the meeting each month. This will coincide with our committee meeting when any additional inserts to the Newsletter are discussed. This provides me with a deadline.

Summer / Autumn Swarm Season

There are currently so many calls for the removal of swarms we are calling for more volunteers to become trained as a swarm catcher.

Please refer to the articles found on the website for more information - [Resources for Members - Useful Articles for Members](#)

Swarms

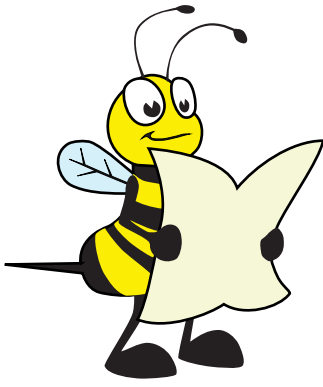
Southern: Ian Meyers, 0412 694 058.

North Coast, Sippy Downs: Grant Eisenmenger, 0401 720 004.

Buderim: Tom Cowburn, 0418 143 206.

North and central areas: Alby Taylor, 0418 882 282.

Maleny and surrounds: John Baker, 0418 791 149.



BEES IN THE NEWS

Honey bees are surprisingly abundant, research shows – but most are wild, not managed in hives: The Conversation, 5 March 2024

There are roughly 100 million managed western honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) colonies in hives worldwide, with about half in Europe, Africa and western Asia, where the species is native, and the rest in the Americas, Oceania and eastern Asia, where it is introduced.

Collectively, these hives produce 1.8 billion kg of honey each year. More importantly, the honey bee does as much crop pollination as all other bees (around 20,000 species) combined.

Based on a review of surveys of wild colonies published in scientific journals, we found that wild honey bee colonies are surprisingly abundant. We estimated that there are between 200 and 300 million wild honey bee colonies worldwide – two to three times as many as managed hives.

Studies on wild honey bee colonies have revealed the varroa mites, a parasite of the eastern honey bee, have

spread from Asia and now blight western honey bee colonies worldwide.

In the Arnot Forest in western New York State in the USA located wild colonies by bee-lining before and after the arrival of varroa parasites in about 1990, but fieldwork in 2002 and 2005 showed that the density of wild colonies in the forest hadn't changed, despite all being infested with varroa.

Wild honey bee colonies do not benefit from the pest and disease control efforts of beekeepers – they are subject to the full force of nature's challenges. As a result, their evolution will also be subject to stronger natural selection pressures for disease and parasite resistance than managed colonies.

Given that wild colonies outnumber managed ones, natural selection for improved disease resistance will be significant in most areas even if beekeepers use various techniques and chemicals to control pests and diseases in managed colonies.

Bees use antennae to decode hive mates' dances: Phys Org, 13 March 2024

Scientists have discovered how honeybees can decipher dances by their hive mates that relay directions to food. The findings, published in *Current Biology*, reveal how, in the complete darkness of the hive, each bee uses its antennae to interpret the information communicated through the dances.

Researchers from the School

of Informatics filmed the insects in slow motion and high resolution under infrared light. This enabled them to track the position of the antennae of the surrounding bees in fine detail during each waggle dance—which are otherwise a blur to the naked human eye.

Researchers use an edible blue-green algae to protect honey bees against viruses: Phys Org, 19 March 2024

Scientists at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Agricultural Research Service (ARS) have developed an edible antiviral treatment that can be used to protect honey bees against deformed wing virus (DWV) and other viruses, according to a recent study published in *npj Sustainable Agriculture*.

Viruses, including DWV, are linked to the deaths of millions of colonies worldwide. DWV, like other viruses, is most often spread by Varroa mites.

“We found that engineered algae diets suppressed DWV infection and improved survival in honey bees,” said Vincent Ricigliano, research scientist at the ARS Honey Bee Laboratory in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. “When mixed into bee food, the engineered algae boost the bee's immune system to fight off the targeted virus.”

“In addition to the nutritional benefits and immune-boosting effects, engineered algae strains have the potential to protect bees against a wide variety of pathogens,” said Ricigliano.

2024 Executive and Committee

President	Katie Livock	presidentscbees@gmail.com	0414 843 342
Vice President	Grant Eisenmenger	vicepresidentscbees@gmail.com	0401 720 004
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Committee	Tom Cowburn	tjcowburn@bigpond.com	0418 143 206
Committee	David Lee	leesbees@lisco.com.au	0414 757 220

Club Patron: Alby Taylor

Life members: Merv Wruck, Chris Johnson, Bill Spencer, Ken Evans

* Images and artworks are designed by Freepik www.freepik.com

Disclaimer

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SALE SWAP PURCHASE

April 2024

Issue 7

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au



If you would like to list anything could you please send an email with photograph if required to the Newsletter Editor at the following email address: lineb@internode.on.net by the middle of the month before each meeting.

Disclaimer: Any views and opinions expressed in this circular are those of the sellers/swappers and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Sunshine Coast Beekeepers Inc. The Sunshine Coast Beekeepers Inc accepts no liability for the consequences of any actions taken on the basis of the information provided in this circular.

SALE

Items	New beekeeper set up For sale as one package, in Buderim 3 Hives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 full size brood/full super with honey • 1 x 3/4 brood/ super with honey • Hive Stands x 2
	Frames: Full size 6 clean frames, 7 stickies 3/4, 7 new foundation frames, 9 stickies 1/2 size 18 sticky frames Frame assembly equipment 3 Frame Italian made spinner, 3 strainers, capping frame holder

Empty Hive Boxes: Full size brood box with lid 3/4 brood box with lid 1/2 size boxes x 2, 2 hive metal clamps 2 metal base boards 3 queen excluders 1 way barrier board
Miscellaneous: 3 large buckets 4 gated buckets 2 metal buckets 2 smokers 3 hive tools Hive brush Frame racks Wax scraper Electric knife Capping knife

	2 full cover bee suits, inbuilt hats Bee gloves
Location	Buderim
Cost	\$1900
Conditions	Contact seller for conditions
Contact	Mary ODwyer 0408 455 646

