

BEE NEWS

October 2024
Issue 152

Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast
BeeKeepers Inc.

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepers.com.au



Photograph of Secretary Lynne Hulm receiving a Certificate of Appreciation for providing a presentation on bees to the Loud and Clear Conference for Disability

President's Report

Happy October team!

I was sad to have been unwell at our September

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, 26 October 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.

Guest speaker - Barry Wedrot

Queen bee breeding and grafting

meeting, but thankfully our ever hard-working Vice-President Grant Eisenmenger stepped in at the last minute. He called me afterwards to tell me two things, one that the meeting was well attended and that there were lots of important discussions, and the second thing he told me was that everyone told him he runs a much better meeting than I do and no-one noticed me missing! I choose to believe only one of his points! A huge thank you to Grant and everyone who contributed to our meeting.

Thank you to everyone who brings in produce and goods for the raffle. A loving request to bring in items you yourself would want. We are grateful for all items, but sometimes are left with items that are not always wanted. Your mindfulness is appreciated.

A couple of exciting meetings coming up. This

Know someone interested in bees? Why not forward this newsletter to them!

Saturday we welcome an expert on Queen breeding. For those community members who have been asking for the next step in their learning, this is a meeting not to be missed! We are all learning together, and this sounds like an amazing opportunity to learn.

Speaking of amazing opportunities to learn, keep an eye on your emails from the Club with some important varroa learning opportunities. Once again a huge thanks to John Baker, our biosecurity champion, for his invaluable efforts in keeping our community informed and ahead of the game. Our Christmas meeting will have a guest varroa development officer in attendance - another opportunity from the team! Please take this as an invitation to all beekeepers, please encourage anyone you know who is not a member to join. I hope you can see how valuable it is to be a part of a community when change is on the horizon.

Another thank you goes to our secretary Lynne Hulm. Lynne spoke at the Loud and Clear Conference for Disability, and she looked as cute as a button in my queen bee suit! Thank you for educating and connecting with community Lynne. We really do have the best team!

Some homework for everyone:

- check your hive and test for varroa
- register your check at [bee123](#)
- check your hive for signs of a swarm and put in place measure to prevent it
- invite a beekeeper to a meeting and encourage them to join a community of care

Thank you everyone, looking forward to seeing you soon!

Have a bee-utiful week!

Katie Livock

President

Biosecurity Update

1 November - 11:30 to 1:30 - Tonia Johnson and Keith Barton Qld Varroa Development Officers have been invited to the Club to answer any member questions and, if there is time, to demonstrate how to do an alcohol wash.

2 November - Biosecurity Workshop Update, to be held at the Maroochy RSL, has sold out and there is a waiting list for tickets.

The topics to be discussed at the Workshop are:

- Understanding varroa mite and its impacts

Workshops for New Beekeepers

Our first Beekeeper's Course for 2025 will be held on **8 February 2025**.

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

- The importance of monitoring and treatment thresholds
- Integrated pest management and varroa mite
- Chemical treatment options including organic options
- Brood location, frame rotation and management
- Best practice record keeping.

John attended a Varroa Champions meeting in Brisbane - consensus was from everyone that not enough people are checking their hives for Varroa and registering their results on Bee123. We need to Test - Test -Test and Register - Register -Register.

Testing should be done every 16 weeks with an alcohol wash. We need to know the results for all areas. Varroa.org.au is an excellent website for information. If your hive becomes infested, call DAF and they will come and help manage your hive at no cost. Main point is to check regularly and detect the mites early or it may be too late and you will lose your hives - it is treatable if detected early.

If you cannot attend the Maroochydore Workshop, there will be workshops in other locations in due course. We will keep you updated./

Scan this QR code to report your hive surveillance tests.



Feel free to contact me with any questions or advice on biosecurity matters - mail@johnbaker.com.au

Remember it is important to check your hives for varroa so that the true Qld situation is known.

John Baker

Biosecurity Champion

Fence securing member parking

Evan's great star picket fence was "stolen". Paul reported it to the police. The culprit was the Council itself as they thought that the clearing out of the site was incomplete so ordered the fence to be taken away. Once returned the pickets will be cemented into place. Life goes on!!

Dates to Remember

2 November - the Club will not be open for members as many of our members will be at the Varroa Management Training Workshop

23 November - Christmas Party and guest Tonia Johnson- Varroa Development Officer

Could you please let us know if you are coming to the Christmas Party for numbers to assist catering- contact Lynne: secretariscbees@gmail.com

12 December 2024 to 4 January 2025 - Clubhouse will be closed

Raffles

The raffle is one of our main fund raising events at each monthly meeting. We are most grateful for everyone's contribution. We have noticed some items are not always wanted. We would like to suggest that everyone bring along a prize that you would like to win yourself.

We suggest produce from your garden, plants you have started or food or jam you have cooked something you would like to win. Thank you for your contribution.

Update of the Website

Kathleen updated the website with a direct link to register your hive. Also on the home page a direct link to register your Varroa Test at 123Bees.

Saturday Rosters 2024

We would like to thank all the members who volunteered to work at the Club over the preceding months.

OCTOBER

| | | | |
|----------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| 26/10/24 | General Meeting | Kylie Albers | |
|----------|-----------------|--------------|--|

NOVEMBER

| | | | |
|----------|---|----------------------------------|----------------|
| 02/11/24 | Clubhouse closed due to varroa workshop | | |
| 09/11/24 | Open | Tom Symons Ron Hulm | Kathleen March |
| 16/11/24 | Harvest | Damien Casserley Ken Harrison | Paul Bonner |
| 23/11/24 | Christmas Party | | |
| 30/11/24 | Open | Tony Minto | Graham Gibb |

DECEMBER

| | | | |
|----------|---------|------------------------------|------------|
| 07/12/24 | Open | Dianne Lynch Dean Adams | John Baker |
| 14/12/24 | Harvest | Keven Willis Gerry Hannan | David Lee |

Club closed from 14/12/2024 to 04/01/2025

If the rostered 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.

● 23 November

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.

Spring Swarm

Season

Anyone interested to become trained as a swarm catcher and volunteer please contact the Secretary.

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.

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: lindaeb6081@gmail.com 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.



BEES IN THE NEWS

Bees are the latest victims of plastic pollution: Earth.com **By Andrei Ionescu**

Nano- and microplastic particles (NMP) are increasingly contaminating both urban and rural landscapes, bringing bees and other beneficial insects into contact with them.

If insects ingest these plastic particles from food or the air, it can damage their organs and alter their behavior, hindering their ability to perform essential ecosystem services like pollination and pest control.

Plastic pollution thus poses considerable risks to biodiversity, agricultural production, and global food

security, according to a new review study conducted by an international team including researchers from the University of Freiburg.

While the harmful effects of NMP in water and on individual species are well documented, there has been a lack of systematic reviews on how these particles affect agricultural ecosystems.

The researchers identified different sources through which NMP end up on agricultural land, including plastic films, fertilizers, polluted water, and atmospheric depositions.

These plastic particles accumulate in the soil, and important pollinators and pest control insects ingest them from the air and food or use them to build nests.

The study established that bees' ingestion of plastic leads to damage to their digestive systems, weakening of their immune systems, and changes in their behaviour. This makes bees more susceptible to diseases, possibly causing

them to pollinate plants less effectively.

Pioneering robot system enables 24/7 monitoring of honeybee behavior: Phys Org October 24 by Durham University

Researchers at Durham University, in collaboration with international partners, have developed a robotic system that allows for continuous, long-term observation of honeybee colonies.

The robotic system collects a wide range of data, including the queen's movement patterns, egg-laying behavior, population counts, breeding success, and a continuously updated map of comb contents. This comprehensive approach allows for a deeper understanding of the social self-regulation within bee colonies.

The insights we're gaining could revolutionize our understanding of these complex social insects and potentially contribute to their conservation."

2024 Executive and Committee

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| President | Katie Livock | presidentscbees@gmail.com | 0414 843 342 |
| Vice President | Grant Eisenmenger | vicepresidentscbees@gmail.com | 0401 720 004 |
| Secretary | Lynne Hulm | secretaryscbees@gmail.com | 0421 720 628 |
| Treasurer | Paul Bonner | treasurerscbees@gmail.com | 0403 432 952 |
| Newsletter Editor | Linda Blackwell | lindaeb6081@gmail.com | 0409 848 466 |
| Facebook/website | Kathleen March | kathleenmarch00@gmail.com | 0409 449 904 |
| Biosecurity | John Baker | mail@johnbaker.com.au | 0418 791 149 |
| Committee | Graham Gibb | graham@signedbyme.com.au | 0414 288 814 |
| Committee | Tom Cowburn | tjcowburn@bigpond.com | 0418 143 206 |
| Committee | David Lee | leesbees@lisco.com.au | 0414 757 220 |
| Committee | Evan Sanders | katiemary70@yahoo.com.au | 0419 764 421 |

Club Patron: Alby Taylor

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

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepers.com.au

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

Disclaimer

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors 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 newsletter.