

BEE NEWS

November 2023
Issue 144



Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast
BeeKeepers Inc.

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au



Photo by Kathy Lynch, flying bee and gum blossom



FINAL MEETING 2023

Christmas Party 25 November 2023

Don't forget... our Christmas Party
at our meeting on Saturday 25th
November at our Clubrooms.

The Committee would like to invite
you all to come along and enjoy some
Free Food and Drinks to celebrate the
coming Festivities and a Great Year of
Beekeeping.

Don't forget we have our HUGE
RAFFLE with some Fantastic Prizes-
all donated by our Suppliers plus 2
of our members in total there are 33
prizes worth \$1500.

We will be serving some delicious
food from the local Bakery and Café

Meeting from 10 am, followed by the
Raffle and luncheon.

If you haven't already please RSVP to
secretarysbees@gmail.com - as soon
as possible as we need to know the
numbers for catering purposes.



President's Report



Happ-bee Christmas everyone!

We have made it to the end of another exciting
year of contributing to our environment and
caring for the bees. Thank you so much for
every member and for all that you do.

Reports of lots of activity happening in hives
arll a round the coast have been coming into the
committee. It seems like there is a lot of honey
around. I know that, as a club, we have more
than we need. Let us know if you are short and
need to buy some bulk.

Please read all of the information in this
newsletter - there are details about the
Christmas party, as well as the dates we will...



... be closed for the Christmas period. Of course, someone will always be around should you need something in an emergency - just give us a call.

I want to finish the year off with some gratitude. I have been very lucky to have learnt about beekeeping from some excellent mentors and I am thankful to one of them in Alby - who stepped in for me at the last minute for our last 'Introduction to Beekeeping' course after an unforeseen emergency. Thank you for always making yourself available to our club, and to me, Alby. Thank you to our committee who keep the club and our website going. A huge thanks to Linda for all of the incredible work she does to produce this newsletter each month for us all, and for not getting too mad at me for always being late with my report. Thank you to Grant who is beyond helpful to us all, and can seem to rescue a hive from any area. To Tom for doing so much to look after our bees, for being available to our members, and for rescuing so many hives. And my biggest personal thanks goes to Lynne, our Secretary, and to Paul our Treasurer. Lynne and Paul keep our ship afloat. These two extraordinary friends of mine are our go to leaders who keep one step ahead of every problem that arises. I do not take them for granted and, on behalf of our club, I am so thankful that we have you on our team.

My Christmas wish is that everyone has a safe and happy break. I very much look forward to seeing you on Saturday at the party (make sure you RSVP to Lynne if you haven't already!).

Merry Christmas team, and a Happ-bee New Year!

Katie



Meeting 28 October 2023

- Show 2024 -It is time to start your mead now so that we can have more entries next year.
- Members are invited to become trained and join our Swarm Catcher Team.
- Call for Members to register their trades, so that we can network with each other.
- Grant gave the members an update on Varroa Mite. He urged members to get a shaker and test hives regularly and report results to the DPI.
- Bushfires- QBA have confirmed with local authorities that Bee Smokers may be used during a total fire ban:

- asked beekeepers to use extreme caution and are required to carry water or fire extinguishers...



Workshops for New Beekeepers



There will be no courses during December and January. Next course:

- 10 February 2024

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

Booking is essential.

Book online at:
www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.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.

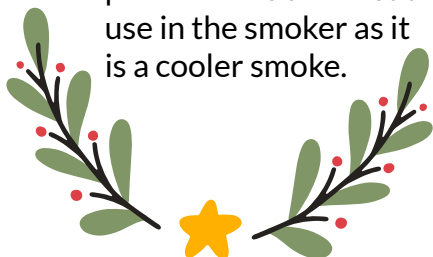
www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au

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

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



- ... clear a Fire break around your hives.
- recommended keeping plenty of fuel in the smoker to eliminate sparks coming out.
- pine needles are best to use in the smoker as it is a cooler smoke.



Dates to Remember: Club Closure

We are closed between 17th December 2023 and 6th January 2024.

Please ensure that you have all supplies that you need to keep your bees happy and productive during this period. If you are desperate Katie has offered to provide any emergency assistance.



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.

- 16 December 2023
- 20 January 2024

Please ensure that you assist with the cleaning up following...



Club Working Bee

We would like to thank all the members who volunteered to work at the Club for this year.

If the dates don't suit or you are unable to attend, please email Lynne Hulm – secretarysbees@gmail.com



2023 Saturday Rosters 2023

NOVEMBER

18/11/23	Honey Harvest	Peter West-Newman Tom Symons	Tom Cowburn
25/11/23	Christmas Party	Cheryl & Gary Axsentieff	

DECEMBER

02/12/23	Open	Ces Siegel-Sebolt Maureen Costello	John Baker
09/12/23	Open	Jason Titman Niall Coburn	Lynne Hulm
16/12/23	Honey Harvest	Evan Flower Rob Questel	Graham Gibb

CLOSED 16 December 2023 - 6 January 2024

2024 Saturday Rosters

JANUARY

06/01/24	Open	Bill McBryde Michael Thompsen	Paul Bonner
13/01/24	Open	Bryan O'Neil Damien Ringrose	David Lee
20/01/24	Honey Harvest	Ron Hulm Steve Partleton	Lynne Hulm
27/01/24	General Meeting	Errol Corsan Ross Grimley	

FEBRUARY

03/02/24	Open	Tony and Tara Pignata	Tom Cowburn
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... the 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.

Swarms

We are seriously in swarm season with our swarm team kept busy collecting miscreant bees and their queens.

Southern: Ian Meyers, 0412 694 058.

North Coast and 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.



What the Club plans for its members

The Honey Extraction has been successful but please follow the directions outlined above. Ensure that the date suits you because if you cancel at the last moment another club member...

10/02/24	Course	Ian Meyers Tony Minto Catering - Mary Spencer	Katie Livock
17/02/24	Honey Harvest	John Wettenhall Martin Law	Grant Eisenmenger
24/02/24	General Meeting	Elise Wonton Fran Burns	

MARCH

02/03/24	Open	Guy Fielding Lindsay Cruickshank	John Baker
09/03/24	Open	Jason March Terry Ind	Kath March
16/03/24	Open	Smita and Adam Diapermal	Paul Bonner
23/03/24	Honey Harvest	Russel Cook Chris Blignant	Graham Gibb
30/03/24	General Meeting	Jo-Anne Brayshaw Damien Casserley	

Spring - Start of 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](#)

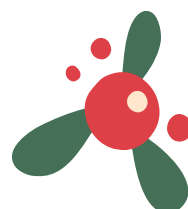
Your Club and Covid Safety

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

Masks are not mandatory and will be left to personal choice.

There is a strong case for regular vaccinations that provide protection against serious disease. Consider getting a booster if you haven't had one in the last 6 months.

Don't forget the lessons learned during the pandemic - hand hygiene, social distancing, if you are sick stay home and get better.



... will miss out.

If interested in borrowing the new 2 frame spinner ensure that you sign it in and out and that it is returned clean and within the week.

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.

Queensland Biosecurity Update 13 November 2023



Queensland's transition to management of varroa mite (Varroa destructor)

Following recent national changes, the Queensland government will be moving its varroa mite (Varroa destructor) response from an eradication program to a management program.

Currently Queensland remains free of varroa mite. Our aim is to continue protecting our beekeeping and pollination-reliant industries for as long as possible. Varroa mite is still a prohibited matter and if found, must be reported to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

Please see Queensland's framework for the transition to management for a detailed explanation of Queensland's

approach, which will be rolled out in three stages.

Stage 1 – Varroa mite is not present in Queensland

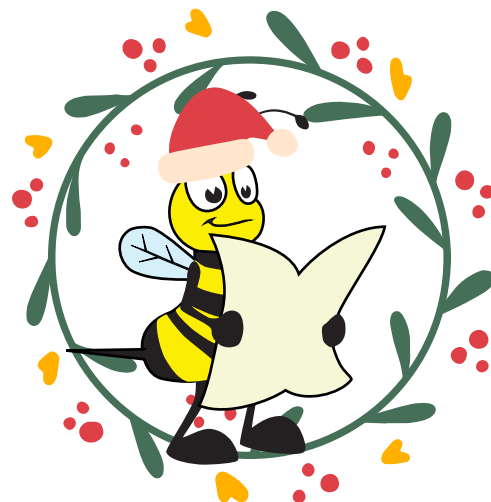
Stage 2 – Initial detection of varroa mite in Queensland

Stage 3 – Long term management of varroa mite.

You can keep up to date with the latest information by visiting the Varroa mite: Transition to management webpage. We also encourage you to subscribe to DAF's bee e-alert for more frequent updates.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries acknowledges the hard work by beekeepers, beekeeping and pollination-reliant industries, and government agencies in the transition to management.

For more information, please call 13 25 23.



BEES IN THE NEWS

Dangerous bee virus less deadly in at least one US forest, researchers find: PhysOrg, Katie Bohn Pennsylvania State Uni, 10 November 2023

This year's cold and flu season is bringing good news for honey bees. Penn State researchers have found that the deadly deformed wing virus (DMV) may have evolved to be less deadly in at least one U.S. forest. The findings could have implications for preventing or treating the virus in managed colonies, researchers said.



Bee swarming on the rise in South Australia, but varroa mite predicted to impact 95pc of feral hives: ABC South East SA, Josh Brine, 19 November 2023

The number of call-outs for bee swarm removals in South Australia' South East are increasing. Varroa mite is expected to reduce feral bee populations by 95 per cent. Diseased hives can increase swarming behaviour



Beekeeper Glenn Locke receives 'overwhelming' support after losing beehives



to varroa mite and NSW bushfires: ABC Coffs Coast, Charles Rushforth, 2 November 2023

Beekeeper Glenn Locke lost his entire stock of 40 bee hives in the recent Nymboida bushfires. Mr Locke was required to euthanise 76 of his hives last year due to varroa mite measures. Vice-president of Amateur Beekeeping Australia Doug Purdie says more government support is needed.

Beekeepers battling varroa mite count the cost of failed eradication and call for industry exit strategy: Landline, Bronwyn Herbert, 22 October 2023

Search warrants have been issued as part of the federal government's investigation into the suspected illegal importation of live bees infected with varroa mite, as the industry works out what's next in learning to live with the deadly pest.

Varroa mite was first detected in sentinel hives at the Port of Newcastle in June 2022, but authorities now know ground zero was near Williamstown further north.

The investigation, known as Operation Decker, began as a result of information passed on by the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI).

It's now thought the pest did not arrive via Newcastle port as originally suspected

More than 30,000 hives have been euthanased across 286 infested premises.

A beekeeper has called for an exit strategy for those looking to leave the industry.

Backyard beekeepers stop producing honey as varroa mites, and the outbreak response, destroys hives: ABC Rural, Kim Honan, Tina Quinn and David Claughton, 9 October 2023

Some bee clubs in varroa

hotspots have already lost half their members. The trend is expected to play out nationally. Honey production and pollination services are expected to recover

How air pollution is making life tougher for bugs: The Conversation, 22 September 2023

We're making the lives of insects tough – and not just by swatting them away with a newspaper. Insect populations worldwide are in sharp decline as they battle against climate change, habitat loss and pesticides.

Now, we can add air pollution to the list of threats. Our research from 2022 revealed that when exposed to two common air pollutants at concentrations within EU air quality limits, the visits of pollinating insects to flowers plummeted by as much as 90%.



2022 - 2023 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
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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

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

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.

SALE SWAP PURCHASE

November 2023

Issue 5

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 Friday the week prior to the meeting each month.

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	Strong Nucs for Sale:
	1 x 5 nuc frame - \$150
	1 x 8 frame - \$200
	1 x 10 frame - \$250
	10% discount if purchased by Christmas
Location	Sunshine Coast
Cost	As indicated
Conditions	Contact seller for conditions
Contact	David Lee - 0414 757 220

Items	Hive Equipment:
	1 x 10 frame bees and queen - \$350
	Brood box 10 frame:
	Pine box, assembled and 2x coats of paint - \$55.00
	One inner lid - \$18.00
	1 bottom base - \$25.00
1 migratory lid - \$38.80	

	1 x 2-frame extractor manual, with legs, not used, quality, metal drive gears, stainless steel - \$310
	1 bee suit, medium, size 28 - \$90
	Hat and veil - \$15
	Basic equipment 50% off - \$342:
	1 x smoker, 1 x frame grabber, wire crimper/tightener, 1 x excluder, 1 x scraper, plastic gloves, 1 x super (honey box) assembled and painted, 8 x frames with foundation, 6 x beetle jail traps, 2 x frames no foundation, 12 x foundation, hive stand, 1 x soft bristle brush, 1 x hive lock with strapping, 1 x combo aust & american hive tool, 2 x tier polygenic uncapping unit, 1 x 20L bucket with honey gate
Location	Sunshine Coast
Cost	As indicated
Conditions	Contact seller for conditions
Contact	Joanne Johnson - 0439506791 jjwinner7@gmail.com

Items	Vogue Sierra wood heater, used condition. See photo below.
	Includes chimney flue.
Location	Mons, Sunshine Coast
Cost	Free
Conditions	Contact seller for conditions
Contact	Linda Blackwell - 0409848466

