

BEE NEWS

August 2024

Issue 150

Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast Beekeepers Inc.

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepers.com.au



Photograph of bees in grevillea

President's Report

Our July Meeting each year sees the introduction of our newest committee after our AGM. This year we have an almost unchanged line-up of familiar, helpful, selfless, and kind individuals. On behalf of our whole beekeeping

community, I thank the 2023/2024 team for all they have done to contribute to making our club what it is, and I am excited to be a part of our 2024/2025 team. This year we welcome Evan to our team. Evan has been very involved and is a regular volunteer so we are excited to have him a part of the team.

Personally, I want to thank you all for trusting me with the position of President for another year. I am not sure what I have done to deserve this, as I said at the AGM, Lynne and Paul make us all look good with all of the behind the scenes work they do. Thank you you to Lynne and Paul and the whole team.

Next meeting we will have an up date from Grant who is touring a few meaderies in India. What a tough assignment for poor Grant! I hope he doesn't mind tasting all of the different meads to report back to us!

Thank you to John for all of his biosecurity

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, 31 August 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.

Speaker - Grant Eisenmenger will be linking from Mumbai talking about his tours of meaderies.

updates as well. If you have any worries or questions, please reach out anytime.

Thank you again everyone. Have a bee-utiful week!

Katie Livock

President

Biosecurity Update

Last week Biosecurity Qld. reported the number of hive surveillance tests being done in Qld has dropped. It is very important to test your hives by an alcohol wash of nurse bees and drone uncapping every 16 weeks and report the result, even if negative, to the Bee 123 portal (see the link below). Knowing where there is no Varroa mite is information that will assist management of an incursion. Biosecurity expects an incursion any time from now. It is possible Varroa could already be in Queensland, it just has not been detected. Early detection relies on beekeepers doing the tests.

All day Varroa workshops are starting in Queensland on 5th October. The one on the Sunshine Coast will be in Maroochydore, the likely date being 19th October. I will confirm the date and registration procedure. There will be no cost to the beekeeper. The topics to be discussed at the Workshop are:-

- Understanding varroa mite and its impacts
- 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.

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

Scan this QR code to report your hive surveillance tests.



Feel free to contact me with any questions or advice on biosecurity matters.

John Baker

Workshops for New Beekeepers

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

- 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

Saturday Rosters 2024

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

AUGUST

31/08/24	General Meeting	Keith and Felice Eastwood	
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SEPTEMBER

07/09/24	Open	Ross Grimley	Graham Gibb
14/09/23	Open	Tony and Tara Pignata	Paul Bonner
21/09/24	Harvest	Smita Djapermal Adam Gunton	David Lee
28/09/24	General Meeting	Ian and Gillian Meyers	

OCTOBER

05/10/24	Open	Joanne Brayshaw Ron Hulm	Lynne Hulm
12/10/24	Course	Alby, Tom, Graham, Evan Catering - Mary Spencer	Katie Livock
19/10/24	Harvest	Fran Burns Rob Questrel	Tom Cowburn
26/10/24	General Meeting	Stephen and Chris Partleton	

NOVEMBER

02/11/24	Open	Griffin Pengelley Kylie Aalbers	Grant Eisenmenger
09/11/24	Open	Jason March David Macklyn	Kathleen March
16/11/24	Open	Damien Casserley Ken Harrison	John Baker
23/11/24	Harvest	Tony Minto	Graham Gibb
30/11/24	Christmas	Christmas Party	

Winter / Spring Swarm Season

Winter is certainly over and Lynne is receiving 2 calls per day for swarm removal.

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

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.

Used Battery Returns

Now that the scheme has become more widely known, people can drop their used batteries into Bunning's, Office Works, IGA, and most Coles and Woolworths stores. Lions have done our best to raise the awareness but don't have the resources to go it alone.

Thank you for your participation.

DECEMBER

07/12/24	Open	Dioanna Bannick Ron Button	Paul Bonner
14/12/24	Open	Willis and 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

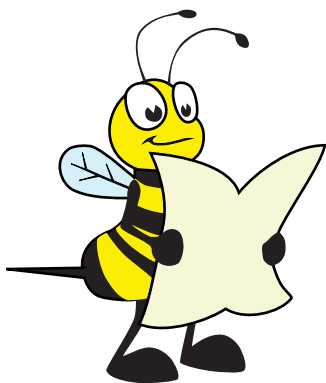
NOTE - all members wanting to use the Club facility for extraction of honey must first book with Lynne Hulm the Secretary to make sure we are not overbooked. You must let Lynne know how many frames that you want to extract honey from.

- **21 September**
- **19 October**
- **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.



BEES IN THE NEWS

Selling and buying native stingless bee honey is now legal: ABC, Jennifer Nichols, Aug 2024

First Nations Australians have prized native stingless bee honey for food and medicine for tens of thousands of years, and now consumers can legally buy it.

Until late last month, beekeepers who sold the rare

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.

native honey, which retails for up to \$500 per kilogram, were operating in a grey area and did not have the law on their side.

Rich in bioactive ingredients, native stingless bee honey could not legally be defined as honey because it did not meet the definition of honey in the national food standards code.

Australian-made insulated beehives are modernising beekeeping and boosting honey production: ABC, Peter Lusted, Landline, Aug 2024

Redeveloping the hive ‘from the ground up’.

The pair started out with 160 hives, the majority of which were traditional wooden Langstroth hives that were designed 172 years ago.

About 90 per cent of the world’s 100 million bee hives are in this wooden type of hive.

When you pop the lid in winter and there’s water dripping all over them and there’s mould growing on the wall frames it really hurts, it really hits you and it drags you down.

They set out trying to find a solution and started experimenting with insulated hives.

“Bees actually need a really warm environment to raise brood, around 34, 35 degrees Celsius

The bees will assign a percentage of their population

to be heater bees and they vibrate their flight muscles to generate a lot of heat.

But in doing so they have a high metabolic stress, so they have a shorter life span and consume a lot of honey and burn through their stores.

We redeveloped the hive from the ground up, everything from how the entrance works, the ventilation in the floor, how the boxes interlock together.

The new design helped produce a third more honey than non-insulated hives.

Their company, HivelQ, won a Commonwealth grant through the Manufacturing Modernisation Fund.

New technology to monitor colonies to be rolled out in the second half of 2024.

Introducing new technology within the hive, such as sensors and scales with accompanying software, so keepers can track the temperature, weight and health of their hives.

Pollution affecting pollinators and other

beneficial insects, study finds: ABC Kimberley, Alys Marshall, Aug 2024

Air pollution can disrupt pollination and the regulation of pest insects by 40 per cent, a study published in Nature Communications shows.

Pollutants such as ozone impact bees and other bugs’ ability to locate flowers and crops.

The findings indicate increased ozone and other air pollutants are yet another stressor on pollinators, which play a crucial role in ensuring global food supply.

Ozone, naturally occurring in the upper atmosphere, develops harmfully at ground level due to chemical reactions from man-made activities such as burning fossil fuels.

The data from a study in Nature Communication, which was collected on 40 different insect species across 19 countries, pointed towards pollinators and beneficial predator species experiencing an almost 40 per cent drop in productivity, while pest insects were not significantly impacted.

2024 Executive and Committee

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Club Patron: Alby Taylor

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

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

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