

BEE NEWS

October 2023

Issue 143

Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast
BeeKeepers Inc.

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au



President's Report

Happy October everyone!

In our September meeting we spoke about the Varroa situation in our beautiful country and, in discussions resulting, our general dismay and disappointment at the response from

authorities. We know from responses around the world that the impending invasion that will reach us at some point will not spell the end of beekeeping for any of us. It's just another challenge and I know that our community will support one another through this next challenge. We outlined that the committee are preparing ways in which to support one another. I have no worries that we won't continue to thrive. This is one of the beauties of being a part of our club and our community. Hooray for us!

Also in our meeting, Grant showed us a recent adventure that he and Tony went on to remove an old hive from the walls of the Catholic Education Building in Brisbane. Entertaining and informative, thank you gents!

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, 28 October 2023 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.

A huge thank you to Ken Bannister who presented our club with a new hive which he is able to offer deals to our members.

Watch out for swarms. I have had two phone calls today about them!

I am an apology for this month's meeting but you can bet that I will be back for November...is it a coincidence that this is also our Christmas Party? Don't forget to help us out with catering by indicating if you will be in attendance for the Christmas Party. Can't wait to celebrate another awesome year of beekeeping with you (and in the air conditioning this year!! Yay!)

Happy beekeeping friends!

Katie

Good News Story on how mentorship can really work

At the September meeting, we asked for a mentor to give us newbies some advice on our flowhive.

Heather Wightman was visiting from NSW and a very experienced beekeeper, Heather came out to our property at Landsborough and gave us a hand to prevent a swarm.

Once she was home, she sent me honey recipes and stayed in touch, offering to come back and assist us to split the hive. That was done last week and Heather arrived bright and early with her bee suit out of the freezer to eliminate the danger of bringing any of the dreaded varroa onto our property.

In the interim, we had done a harvest and Heather offered to take a bottle of our honey back to enter into the Northern NSW Morrisset Regional Agricultural Show.

A few days ago she sent us these delightful photos of our 3rd prize bottle of honey with a 79/100 score. What a thrill for new beekeepers and motivation to learn how to improve those scores!!

See you Saturday, Wayne and Kaye

Workshops for New Beekeepers

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

- 11 November 2023
- 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



Dates to Remember: Honey Extraction Dates

The Club has just purchased a new 12 frame spinner which will assist with the number of members using the Club facilities. We are also looking at buying equipment to improve decapping of frames as we understand many members have difficulty with this process.

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

- 18 November
- 16 December

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.

Saturday Rosters 2023

We would like to thank all the members who volunteered to work at the Club for the months of September and October.

NOVEMBER

04/11/23	Open	Shane Simpson	Paul Bonner
11/11/23	Course	Chris Johnson Ashley Frost Catering - Mary Spencer	Katie Livock
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

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

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

We recommend physical distancing, wearing masks and hand hygiene to keep us all safe.

Masks are not all equal – N95 and P2 are the gold standard, then surgical masks and lastly cloth masks are better than nothing.

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.

Saturday 4 November 2023 - Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers' Field Day

This a reminder that the GCRB/ABA Field day will be held at the Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers' Club at 18 Leagues Club Drive, Nerang Qld, on Saturday 4 November 2023. Here is a link to their flyer for the event: [Field Day Flyer](#). They have now drawn up a programme of speakers and demonstrations which will take place at the field day. A copy of the programme of Events is attached.

What the Club plans for its members

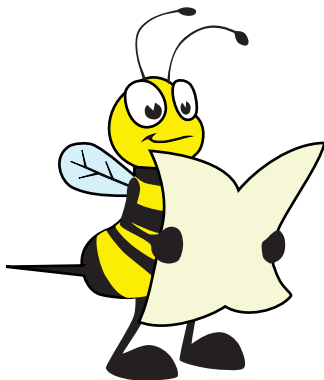
The Honey Extraction has been successful but please follow the directions outlined above. Ensure that the date suits you because if you cancel at the last moment another club member will miss out.

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.



BEES IN THE NEWS

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

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.

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.

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Backyard beekeepers stop producing honey as varroa mites, and the outbreak response, destroys hives:

ABC Rural, Kim Honan, Tina Quinn and David Cloughton, 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. Australia's decision to abandon efforts to eradicate varroa mite is triggering an exodus of backyard and hobby beekeepers.

Australia abandons \$100 million plan to eradicate deadly varroa mite from bee populations: 9News, Daniel Jeffrey

After 15 months and more than 14,000 destroyed bee hives, Australia has abandoned its efforts to eradicate the varroa mite and will instead transition towards managing the deadly parasite.

Since varroa mites were detected in New South Wales, near Newcastle, in June last year, \$101 million was spent on trying to eradicate the pest.

The NMG said the illegal movement of bees and non-compliance with eradication measures from some beekeepers contributed to the program's failure.

Canadian authorities race to capture five million bees from roadway spill: 1 September 2023

Authorities raced to capture five million bees released yesterday after a truck carrying several crates of hives fell onto a roadway.

The angry insects turned

on the first beekeeper who attempted to recapture them.

Australia abandons effort to eradicate varroa mite after 14,000 bee hives destroyed: The Guardian

Despite a \$100m effort over 14 months to stop the invasive parasite, scientists say eradication is no longer possible

Beekeepers will have to learn to live with the deadly varroa mite following a national decision to shift from eradication to a management approach.

AHBIC Industry Update 46 – 455 days of response: 20 September 2023

Varroa Eradication Deemed No Longer Feasible

The group of affected industry and government parties unanimously agreed that it was no longer practically feasible to achieve eradication and agreed that the response should transition to a management phase.

It was also agreed to implement interim arrangements to allow clarity for beekeepers whilst the transition to management plan is negotiated by the CCEPP.

This interim management strategy will be in place for a short period of time and will involve specific rules to minimise impacts on affected beekeepers whilst slowing the spread.

As part of the new strategy no further mandatory euthanasia will occur and fipronil baiting will cease.

Industry Impact

Whilst the response has now moved into a transition phase it is important to recognise the enormous sacrifices that have been made across the affected response zones by beekeepers during the eradication effort. It is more important now than ever that our industry supports those who have lost hives and rally to support them to reestablish.

It is anticipated that the transition framework will:

1. Slow the spread of Varroa mite
2. Build industry resilience to the pest
3. Provide management options including IPM recommendation and chemistry, and
4. Supporting pollination security

AHBIC will be advocating for the plan to be built around national education for beekeepers through workshops, webinars, videos and factsheets. We will also be ensuring that beekeepers have access to management tools and treatment options accessible as the mite spreads and impacts beekeepers.

Will living with varroa mite make Australian honey and food more expensive? ABC Rural, Monty Jacka

Research into varroa mite is expected to surge after Australia waved the white flag in its fight to eradicate the pest from New South Wales, a decision that is also expected to increase beekeeping costs.

Will the ‘moat’ of Bass Strait keep varroa mite at bay and save Tasmania’s bees? Evan Wallace

Tasmanian beekeepers are on alert after the mainland gave up on eradicating the varroa mite – but one local apiarist sees the march of the deadly parasitic pest as an “opportunity” for the island’s industry.

‘Very angry’ bees shut down WA waste facility after hive is dumped in resident’s recycling bin: ABC Esperance, Byron Queale and Andrew Chounding

The swarm of bees erupted from a hive dumped in a recycling bin, the contents of which had been transported to the Shire of Esperance’s waste facility in Wylie Bay.

Australia has officially given up on eradicating the Varroa mite. Now what? The Conversation, 21 September 2023

The federal government body in charge of pest control has announced Australia will abandon efforts on eradicating the Varroa mite.

Varroa mite is already causing significant economic damage to livelihoods, due to restrictions on hive movements and the euthanasia of around 30,000 bee colonies.

As seen in other countries, honey production and hive numbers may remain relatively stable. But beekeepers will need to invest significant time and resources to monitor,

manage and replace hives due to Varroa losses.

What should Australia do to minimise the impact?

We need a national program in Australia that monitors colony losses so we can quantify the impacts across the sector.

As an industry that contributes more than \$14.2 billion to the economy, we now have a critical need for national capacity building for beekeeping, Varroa and pollination research, development and training.

Australia also remains free from virulent bee viruses, such as the deformed wing virus. Hopefully, the Varroa incursion will lead to strengthened biosecurity for honey bee pests and diseases we do not have in the country yet, like *Tropilaelaps* mites.

We also need to strengthen compliance with the honey bee biosecurity code of practice and improve monitoring of bee losses, bee viruses and native bees. In the long term, we will need to establish breeding programs for bees with Varroa tolerance, as seen in other countries such as the United States, New Zealand and Hawaii.

Canberra researchers studying bee stingers may help develop the next generation of micro medical devices: ABC News, Emmy Groves

UNSW Canberra researchers have made a 3D render of a bee stinger which could inspire micro medical devices

The team believes recreating

the unique geometries could help keep devices and patches in place

Researcher Dr Fiorella Ramirez Esquivel says recreating the stinger’s barb is possible, but the tiny pistons will take longer yet

The UNSW Canberra team believe the stinger’s “unique geometries” lend themselves to redesigned or refined medical anchoring methods, and could help keep devices or patches in place “without the need for chemical adhesives, which can cause [skin] irritation or be unviable on moist surfaces, like the inside of the body.”

Supplementary feeding in spotlight: The Batest Buzz When Bee Foundation, October 2023

NSW Department of Primary Industries researcher, Dr Madlen Kratz, is leading a four-year project to identify feeding strategies Australian beekeepers can use to support hives through periods with limited floral resources

“Not only are our floral resources becoming ever less predictable, beekeepers have been struggling through drought, bushfires, floods and escalating diesel prices, making shifting bees more expensive than ever,” Dr Kratz said.

“The need for pollination services is also increasing at a fast rate, making supplementary feeding a more important management tool than ever before.”

2022 - 2023 Executive and Committee

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Club Patron: Alby Taylor

Life members: Merv Wruck, Chris Johnson, Bill Spencer

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

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