

# BEE NEWS

May 2024

Issue 148

Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast  
BeeKeepers Inc.

[www.sunshinecoastbeekeepers.com.au](http://www.sunshinecoastbeekeepers.com.au)



## President's Report

Our team has been working hard to make our club as great as it can be and we are beyond grateful for anyone who can help us with this. Recently we had some trees trimmed

in an attempt to keep our grounds as safe as can be. Thank you to everyone who is able to contribute from electrical and plumbing support, lawn mowing and path gerneing, to our volunteers who keep our club clean and neat. If you think you can support our club in any way we would love to hear from you - especially if you are a tree trimmer!

## NEXT MEETING

Saturday, 25 May 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.

Thank you to Grant who made us all jealous of his recent Indian trip, and for the insight into bee removal under the restrictions around the Port of Brisbane. Our May meeting is the one everyone most looks forward to...the AGM! I'm kidding!! That's another month away...May's Meeting is the 'Greatest Honey in the World' competition! Will you be the one to hold aloft the most magnificent trophy on the coast??

Make sure you check the rules sent out in an email from Lynne.

If you miss out on that trophy, remember that the show is on next month and there are plenty of prizes to be won there, and the member who wins the most could win our club trophy as well!

The AGM is next month, and if you would like to be a part of the leadership team, please come and have a chat. Until then, make sure you are prepping your honey for our competitions and get ready for an awesome celebration of honey!

Have a bee-utiful week!

Katie :-)

President

**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**

## **27 April Meeting - Grant Eisenmenger - Meadery in India and Varoa Update**

### **Indian Meadery south of Mumbai**

Moonshine Meadery's owner Nitin Vishwas gave Grant a tour of the facilities and Grant is returning in August to do some work experience at the Meadery for three days. The Meadery began as a hobby and has now turned into

## **Workshops for New Beekeepers**

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

- 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](http://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](http://www.sunshinecoastbeekeepers.com.au)

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

[www.facebook.com/pg/sunshinecoastbeekeepersaustralia/posts/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/sunshinecoastbeekeepersaustralia/posts/?ref=page_internal)

a business. In 2022/23 they used 52 Tons of honey to make 250,000 litres of mead. They make flavoured Mead - Coffee, Apple, Guava & Chilli, Grilled Pineapple to name a few.

### Varroa update

Grant was called to Murrarie - an exclusion area - to do a swarm cut out of a wall. The DPI took the hive away and tested it, but there was no Varroa Mite. He took all disposable clothing and tools. Nothing was taken away only by the DPI to be destroyed.

At present there has only been one Varroa Jacobsini found in Brisbane.

Apparently there is now Varroa Mite at Lennox Head, 76 km from the Qld border.

## Saturday Rosters 2024

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

### MAY

25/05/24	General Meeting	Sylvia and Bob Barns	
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### 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 Strewé	David Lee
13/07/24	Open	Jason March Mel Simpson	Kathleen March



Grant Eisenmenger

## Summer / Autumn Swarm Season

We are still receiving calls for the removal of swarms. Anyone interested to become trained as a swarm catcher and volunteer please contact the Secretary.

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.

## 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](mailto: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.

20/07/24	Honey Harvest	Evan Flower Tom Symons	Tom Cowburn
27/07/24	Meeting AGM	Cheryl and Gary Azsentief	

**If the dates don't suit OR you are unable to attend please email Lynne Hulm - [secretaryscbees@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryscbees@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.

- 22 June
- 20 August
- 23 September

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.

## Biosecurity Queensland Update - 29 April

No further varroa mite found at the Port of Brisbane and hives have tested negative for exotic bee viruses

Queensland remains on guard - new detections in the Ballina Shire in NSW. Only a matter of time.

### **Interstate movement**

Message is clear- the whole of Queensland remains a Varroa Mite Biosecurity Zone and our borders remain closed to live bees coming from states where varroa mite has been found.

Pollination events - Queensland beekeepers need to adhere to entry requirements for each state you pass through and that you are destined for. Once the pollination event has finished, beekeepers are free to return

from states or territories where varroa mite has not been detected.

In the event that a detection takes place in another jurisdiction a pollination event, restricted movement for Queensland beekeepers to get back home will be assessed on an individual basis. Biosecurity Queensland will assess the risk with the intention of repatriating hives back to Queensland. The assessment will include up to date testing of hives, however repatriation is not guaranteed.

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### **Transition to management**

Biosecurity Queensland is committed to supporting our beekeeping industry through the transition to managing varroa mite. All beekeepers should be registered as a biosecurity entity, whether you have one hive or one hundred, and be abreast of the latest varroa mite situation.

Biosecurity champions have been nominated from many beekeeping clubs in Queensland. This position has been filled by John Baker who can be contacted about biosecurity matters.

### **What can beekeepers do now?**

Regular checking hives for varroa mite (every 16 weeks) using the alcohol wash method. All checks should be reported using the Bee 123.

Immediately report unexpected hive deaths, deformed bees, bees with parasites, poor brood patterns and dead brood to Biosecurity Queensland.

Keep your contact details and apiary sites up to date and renew your biosecurity entity registration when due.

Keep accurate and up to date records of hive movements, hive checks, and any bees bought or sold, including queens.

Keep up to date with the relevant state authority for movement requirements before entering or leaving the state.

Keep up to date with the latest varroa mite situation on our website and subscribe to our bee e-alert.

To report varroa mite, contact Biosecurity Queensland online or by calling 13 25 23.

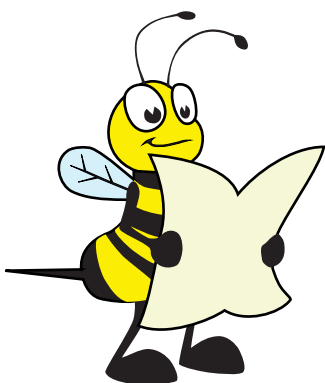
## **Your Club and Covid Safety**

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.



## **BEES IN THE NEWS**

**Farmers in southern Mexico rescue bees as drought grips region: Reuters, 19 May 2024**

The volunteer farmer

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Bernardino Blas works to relocate and save wild bee hives, protecting them from the lack of flowering caused by drought and attacks by people who consider them aggressive.

The group transports the honeycombs to apiaries stocked with food and water in what farmer Bernardino Blas calls a labour of love.

“It’s our mission in this world: to rescue the bees,” he said.

**We mean bees-ness! New varroa mite detection technology to be tested:**

**Newsletter, Biosecurity Diseases – Australian Government, 19 March 2024**

In response to the recent varroa mite outbreak, the Catalysing Australia’s Biosecurity (CAB) initiative is leading a cutting-edge partnership between the Australian Capital Territory Government, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, University of Canberra and CSIRO, to detect varroa mites – a danger to honeybees across the globe.

A new low-cost technology, BeeRight, has been shown to detect varroa mites in beehives in New Zealand and could be the solution to slowing the spread of this destructive pest.

If varroa mites establish in Australia's honeybee population, pollination activities would be significantly reduced, posing an extreme risk to Australia's food security.

BeeRight technology is an Internet of Things solution that can be set up in any hive without damaging the hive or bothering the bees. The technology has the potential

to monitor for:

- beehive activity
- colony strength
- queen status
- productivity
- swarming status
- hive location
- presence of disease
- when to treat hives.

Two pilot trials will take place in Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales from 1 April to 7 June 2024. The trials will collect data from hobbyist and commercial beekeepers, putting the BeeRight

technology and environmental DNA (eDNA) to the test. Data collected from the sites will be analysed by a team of data scientists and entomologists to determine if BeeRight and eDNA can detect varroa.

If successful, we'll be one step closer to slowing the spread of varroa in Australia and reducing the risk of losing hives due to the virus.

We'll share more updates soon on this novel technology. For more information email [innovationpilots@aff.gov.au](mailto:innovationpilots@aff.gov.au).

Read more articles from Biosecurity Matters Newsletter.

## 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](http://www.freepik.com)

### Disclaimer

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