

BEE NEWS

November 2022

Issue 134

Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast
BeeKeepers Inc.

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au



Photo by Boba Jaglicic on Unsplash

MEETING & CHRISTMAS LUNCH

If you want to come RSVP to Lynne ASAP.

Saturday, 26 November 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: Frank Vos - Costly
beekeeping mistakes and how to avoid
them

No need to bring anything for the raffle,
but please BYO chair

President's Report

What a brilliant turn out for our October monthly meeting! It was so great to see so many of you back at the Club, and our presenters, Rom, Grant, and Francis, were outstanding. So much information was shared and I felt very lucky to have so much expertise on show in our Club. November's meeting is shaping up to be even bigger than October's! As I said last month, we are really hoping to hear from more of you at our meetings, and our own webmaster Frank Vos is taking much of the meeting to discuss costly mistakes made while beekeeping. He may even ask you to try and guess what some are so bring your thinking caps along.

After our meeting we will have our Christmas party! Woohoo! It should be a merry

celebration. A reminder that there is no need to bring anything for the raffle, but please bring morning tea. Our treasurer Paul Bonner has done an incredible job wrangling up almost \$1000 worth of prizes. We will have 25 draws for those who buy tickets, \$5 each and you can buy as many as you like. Truly, so excellent prizes available. A reminder that you do need to RSVP to our secretary, the amazing Lynne Hulm, who has worked tirelessly to cater for this party. We all look forward to a Paella lunch. With almost 100 people attending so far, we will be short of chairs by about 20...so please pack a chair if you have one.

A huge thank you to the team for their work in creating a celebration for our club.

Please check the information in the newsletter about opening times over Christmas. Of course, the committee will always help out members even during the down time, but we felt it best to try and set up some times.

I am looking forward to seeing you all on Saturday!

Katie

Club Opening Times

Christmas Closure

The Club will be closed between 17 December 2022 and 7 January 2023. If you require something urgently from the Club please contact a committee member.

Honey Extraction

Next dates for honey extraction are 17 December 2022 and 21 January 2023.

Please contact the Secretary to organise a time:

- Provide the number of frames for extraction and you will be given a time
- The last appointment time will be 10:00 am to allow for cleaning
- We would like you to hang round for cleaning as many hands make light work

Beekeepers experienced with honey extraction and the Club equipment can come on other dates but must always clean up after use.

Borrowing Manual Honey Extractor

Members are able to borrow the manual extractor.

- When borrowing let a committee member on duty know and put your name on the whiteboard
- The extractor must returned the following Saturday for other members to use.

Workshops for New Beekeepers

Our next Beekeeper's Courses will be held on 10 December 2022 and 11 February 2023.

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

Booking is essential.

Book online at:
www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au/workshops.



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

Club Working Bee

We would also like to thank all the members who volunteered to work at the club for the Month of November.

DECEMBER / JANUARY ROSTER

03/12/22	Open	Russell Cook Kym Maver	Grant Eisenmenger
10/12/22	Course	Tony Gates Maureen Costello Catering - Mary Spencer	Katie Livock
17/12/22	Harvest	Erin Mason Bill Spencer	Frank Vos
Closed until 07/01/23			
07/01/23	Open	Niall Coburn Chris Strewe	Paul Bonner
14/01/23	Open	Chris Johnson Elise Winton	Lynne Hulm
21/01/23	Harvest	Ron Button Ken Evans	Tom Cowburn
28/01/23	G. Meeting	Andrew Gaffney Dianna Bannick	-

Club Meeting Presentations 29 October 2022

Grant Eisenmenger - Swarm removal from houses

Our Vice President Grant from Bee Chillin spoke to us about removing Bee hives from wall cavities in houses. Grant has been very busy over the last few weeks removing swarms.

- A small video was shown courtesy of Channel 7.
- He specialises in removing hives from houses using a thermal camera to locate the hive and estimate its size. Then cutting the Gyproc or wall lining from around the hive.
- Hive removal can take between 2- 6 hours in total.
- A modified Bee Box and vacuum cleaner is used to extract the bees.
- With brick houses he uses swarm traps – a mesh funnel and box to trap the foraging bees.

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.

At this stage of the pandemic there is again an increase in case numbers with no clear understanding of immunity with the different variants and nor a real understanding of the implications of long covid. Take Care.

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.



- Once the bees have been successfully removed they are placed in quarantine. Grant has only had 1 case of AFB over the many years he has been removing hives.
- If a pest controller is called and uses pesticides to kill the bees within months the hive beetle will have taken over and cause a slime out. The first thing the owners notice is grubs and leaking slime. Most reputable pest companies now understand and call a swarm catcher.

Ron Button - Hive Lifter Demonstration

Ron showed a small video demonstrating his super lifter. The lifter is operated by an electric winch powered by 12 V battery. It can lift one or two supers at the same time.



Ron Button and his Hive Lifter

Guest Speaker - Francis Gellatly

- A retired Bee Inspector who worked in Wales UK.
- He has been dealing with Varroa Mites since 1994 in Wales.
- Varroa is a very successful and invasive parasite.
- Constant monitoring is important for control to keep numbers low.
- The parasite mates and breeds in any brood cells but prefer Drone cells.
- Easiest way to detect them is to look in Drone cells at the pink eye stage.

- If hives have open mesh floors monitor the droppings otherwise use sugar sake or alcohol wash.
- Once Varroa has been identified the aim is to keep numbers low.
- Pyrethroid, oxalic acid, apiguard gel and others chemicals are used.
- In Wales treatment is done in the broodless period - Oct to April each year.
- He does not rate our chances of eradicating Varroa as high as evidenced from his experience in the UK.



Francis Gellatly retired UK Bee Inspector

Radio Interview with Lynne Hulm

Our Secretary Lynne was contacted by ABC Gympie resulting from a question by a listener regarding an observation of a reduction of bees in her garden.

Lynne made suggestions in her interview that fewer bees may have resulted from removal of hives from her area or to a lack of flowers especially at the beginning of the year from all the rain.

Congratulations Lynne well done.

Ongoing Weather Warning for Spring Summer 2022/23

Be aware of the weather conditions as BOM continues to predict that we are about to head into another La Nina albeit weaker weather system over Spring and Summer this year which will mean more rain and flooding. It may not be as bad but be ready and ensure that your hives are dry, well protected and that the bees have adequate honey and pollen stores. Constant rain could again affect the flowering of our large eucalypts and other native bush. Pollen can be bought from Burnett Bees at Caboolture at a reasonable price. I used a large plant saucer which was under cover and once the bees had had enough they lost interest and moved to natural pollens. But be sure to leave enough honey in the hives.



BEES IN THE NEWS

Apiarist amazed after cutting out second 'monster' bee hive from Sunshine Coast home: ABC News Sunshine Coast Jennifer Nicholls

A Sunshine Coast apiarist has been called to a home to remove a massive colony of bees for the second time.

It took eight hours to remove the feral honey bees from the bathroom ceiling.

The hive has been relocated.

Four years ago, Sunshine Coast apiarist Scott Whitaker encountered a "monster" hive housing more than 50,000 bees in a bathroom ceiling — the largest feral honey bee colony he had ever rescued from inside a house.

Now they are back. "Once you've had bees in a cavity, it's impossible to get rid of the smell of the bees, the queen pheromone [attracts them]," he said.

"If you take away the space the bees can't move in.

"Vicki will definitely need to get some insulation batts up into that joist space where the bees have been."

What the Club plans for its members

The Honey Extraction has been successful and will continue next year as outlined above with a few tweaks.

Next we would like to offer a **Sale - Purchase - Swap** system for our members.

A separate sheet will be 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.

Sick queen bees have shriveled ovaries, putting their colonies at risk: Phy Org Oct 2022 University of British Columbia

Queen bees with viral infections have smaller ovaries than their healthy counterparts, a recent UBC study has found, which could threaten the health and financial viability of their colonies.

Viral infections in honey bees are becoming more intense and widespread.

The researchers are in the very early stages of working on a "queen vaccine" to protect the bees. In the meantime, beekeepers are practicing COVID-style measures to prevent virus spread, including quarantining sick colonies and sterilizing equipment.

Honey bee life spans are 50% shorter today than they were 50 years ago: Phys Org November University of Maryland

A new study by University of Maryland entomologists shows that the lifespan for individual honey bees kept in a controlled, laboratory environment is 50% shorter than it was in the 1970s. When scientists modeled the effect of today's shorter lifespans, the results corresponded with the increased colony loss and reduced honey production trends seen by U.S. beekeepers in recent decades.

In an effort to understand why, researchers have focused on environmental stressors, diseases, parasites, pesticide exposure and nutrition.

This is the first study to show an overall decline in honey bee lifespan potentially independent of environmental stressors, hinting that genetics may be influencing the broader trends seen in the beekeeping industry. The study was published November 14, 2022, in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

Citizen scientists urged to count bees and flies as 60 years of research released for pollinator week: ABC Rural / By Kallee Buchanan and Debra Pearce

When James Wheildon set out to solve a problem on his farm, he had no idea it would end with him being known as the 'fly guy,' or that his solution would become a potential back-up to bees under pressure.

60 years of honey bee research has been digitised and made available to the public

The role of alternative pollinators such as native bees and flies is being explored

During Australian Pollinator Week (November 12-20) citizen scientists are tasked with the first census of pollinator populations

Bee experts have called on the community to help count thousands of species of flies, butterflies, moths, wasps, beetles and other insects during Australian Pollinator Week to establish the health of the population.

How an innovative hive entrance could help save bees: By Michelle Cohan, CNN

Jain visited an apiary in 2018 and saw piles of dead bees, she felt an innate drive to find out what was happening. What she discovered surprised her.

"Honeybee declines are the result of the three P's: parasites, pesticides and poor nutrition," says Samuel Ramsey, a professor of entomology at University of Colorado Boulder's BioFrontiers Institute.

Jain started working on a solution to get rid of Varroa mite infestations. After a lot of trial and error, she came up with HiveGuard, a 3D-printed hive entranceway that is coated with a non-toxic, plant-based pesticide called thymol.

"As bees pass through the entranceway, the thymol rubs off onto the body of the

bee, where ultimately the concentration kills the varroa mites, but the honeybee is left unharmed," Jain says.

Since March 2021, about 2,000 beekeepers have been beta testing the device, and Jain plans on an official release later this year. The data she has collected so far shows that three weeks after installation there's a 70% decline in varroa mite infestations, with no reported side effects.

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
Newsletter Editor	Linda Blackwell	lineb@internode.on.net	0409 848 466
Facebook/website	Frank Vos	frankvos@tpg.com.au	0412 066 546
Committee	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

* 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.

