

# BEE NEWS

March 2023

Issue 137

**Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast Beekeepers Inc.**

[www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au](http://www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au)



Photo by Katie Livock, bearding bees in Autumn

## NEXT MEETING

**Saturday, 25 March 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: Marek Zdaniewicz, Krakow Poland**

Dr Zdaniewicz is researching bee bread and propolis and would also like to collect small samples from various apiaries.

Propolis and Bee Bread is needed for Dr Zdaniewicz's research. If you are intending to enter your hives this week please collect some propolis and bee bread.

## President's Report

Welcome to Autumn on the Sunshine Coast where the temperature is higher this week than all of Summer! It's crazy what we have to navigate sometimes. In our Introduction to Beekeeping course, I always warn our new beekeepers of watching/reading information about season-prepping your hive as the climate the creator is usually preparing for never compares to our weather, and if this last week isn't the perfect example of this I don't know what is. I've included a picture of one of my hives this week with the most bearding I've seen. It must be hot inside there! An excellent warning to check for swarm cells!

We have been busy making some improvements to our Honey Room and toilet flooring over the past month. Have a look at the

flooring next time you are at the shed - should make clean-up a lot easier (I'm thinking of the clean-up in the honey room here!). Huge thanks to the committee for this, in particular Lynne and Paul for making it happen, all of the volunteers who helped clear the space out and move everything back in, and to Tom for reconnecting the sink. We are pleased to let you know that we have also purchased a freezer to properly treat our club stickies. This means we will have to remove one of the large glass door fridges we have. If you know anyone who can help us dump it, or who may want it (it does not work as a fridge - but someone may be able to fix it) please let one of us know.

On the back of Dr Trong's excellent presentation at our last meeting, I am looking forward to welcoming Marek Zdaniewicz from Poland to our next meeting on Saturday to share with us his research into propolis. He is hoping to collect samples of propolis and bee bread - please bring some in for him. It has been great to have these invited guests share with us their research and field work.

Coming up soon are the Greatest Honey in the World (in our opinions) competition, and the Nambour Show. I hope you are all getting your honey prepped for these two competitions. Don't worry, I am not entering (haha).

See you on Saturday, have a bee-utiful week!

Katie Livock, President

## Dates to Remember

### 8 April Easter Saturday the shed will be closed

### 15 April - Honey Extraction Date

- Please ensure that you make contact with Lynne Hulm before coming to the club.

### 28 May Club Meeting - Annual Best Honey in the World

- Collect your containers after the meeting for your honey
- Gillian Meyers will be back for the meeting on 29th April to provide everyone with final rules for the competition.

### 30 May - Renewal of Membership and payment of membership fee due

- A reminder will be sent out by the secretary prior to the date
- Please ensure that you include your name when transferring the money via internet banking
- BSB: 633000                      Account No: 163379555

### Fri 16 to Sun 18 June - Nambour Show

- Honey / Mead Competition details on the web site provide information on how to prepare your entry.

## Workshops for New Beekeepers

Our next Beekeeper's Course will be held on 1 April - vacancies available.

Additional dates: 13 May, 8 July, 11 November.

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

### Booking is essential.

Book online at:  
[www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au/workshops](http://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](http://www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.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)

- Date Nominations open.
- Collection following the show.
- Call for volunteers to assist in manning our display plus set up and pull down at the show.

## 20 June - Honey Extraction Date

## 29 July AGM – The Club’s AGM is due be held at the end of July

- All the committee positions are declared open but most of the committee is happy to continue in their roles.
- Frank Vos who is on the committee and looks after our Website and Facebook is planning to retire at this date.
- We would like all of you to consider this vacant position and consider taking on this very important role.

## Club Working Bee

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

### MARCH

25/03/23	G. Meeting	Felice and Keith Eastwood	
----------	------------	---------------------------	--

### APRIL

01/04/23	Course	Ian Meyers Bill McBryde <b>Catering - Mary Spencer</b>	Katie Livock
08/04/23	Open	Ken Dacomb Sue Donnelly	Paul Bonner
15/04/23	Open	Guy Fielding Glenda Vere	Graham Gibb
22/04/23	Harvest	Dennis Illot Ken Harrison	Grant Eisenmenger
29/04/23	G. Meeting	Sylvia and Bob Barnes	

## Honey Extraction Dates

Next dates for honey extraction are **18 March 2023 and 15 April 2023.**

Please contact the Secretary to organise a time:

- Provide the number of frames for extraction and you will be

## 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.

## 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.

## Autumn - Preparing Hives for Winter

Now is the time we all need to be thinking of preparing our hives for winter even with our mild climate. Please refer to the article found on the website, [Resources for Members – Useful Articles for Members](#)



---

given a time

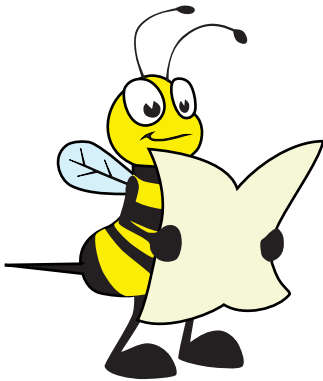
- The last appointment time will be 10:00 am to allow for cleaning
- We would like you to hang round for cleaning as many hands make light work

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 be returned the following Saturday for other members to use.



## **BEES IN THE NEWS**

### **Is the honeybee's iconic waggle dance learned or innate? New research provides the answer: The Conversation, Scarlett Howard, 10 March 2023**

The dance communicates various information about a bee's foraging trip, including the food source's distance and direction from the hive, angle from the sun, and the quality of the resource. It's performed in a repetitive figure eight movement.

---

This behaviour is an interesting example of a complex, informative and co-operative communication style among insects. But, until now, experts didn't know the extent to which it is learnt, as opposed to innate.

These findings show the waggle dance is indeed innate, since it was performed by novice honeybees that had never seen it before.

However, bees that had undergone social learning from more experienced foragers were more accurate and ordered dancers.

## **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](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.

---

### **Varroa Mite Update: 14 March 2023 AHBIC Industry Update**

There have been 9 new infested premises confirmed from NSW DPI Surveillance through laboratory diagnostics. This brings the total Infested Premises to 131.

These new detections are all located in the existing red and purple zones around the Hunter and Central Coast.

### **What do messy lawns have to do with bee food? A bee expert explains: PhysOrg 8 March 2023**

The loss of habitat, and subsequent loss of bee food—

pollen and nectar—is just one of the threats that all bees are facing

Could messy, weed-sprouting lawns potentially help these troubled pollinators find food?

Through an effort called “No Mow May,” homeowners would skip mowing their lawns, or mow less frequently, during the month of May. The idea is to let weeds grow that might be able to provide food for bees.

### **New insecticides to target honey bee enemies: University of Sydney Faculty of Science, Loren Smith, 19 March 2023**

Precision insecticides are the latest weapon in the war on bee pests. Learn how Sydney scientists are developing these to protect honey bees worldwide.

University of Sydney scientists are developing insecticides that target two major pests of honey bees but are completely safe for the bees and other animals.

Today, on World Bee Day, and beyond, they plan to combat the Varroa mite and the small hive beetle, which are leading causes of colony losses worldwide.

Variations in structure between the ecdysone receptors of different arthropods (invertebrates including insects) means that it is possible to design specific molecules that target pests while leaving beneficial insects unharmed.

## **2022 - 2023 Executive and Committee**

<b>President</b>	Katie Livock	presidentscbees@gmail.com	0414 843 342
<b>Vice President</b>	Grant Eisenmenger	vicepresidentscbees@gmail.com	0401 720 004
<b>Secretary</b>	Lynne Hulm	secretaryscbees@gmail.com	0421 720 628
<b>Treasurer</b>	Paul Bonner	treasurerscbees@gmail.com	0403 432 952
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Linda Blackwell	lineb@internode.on.net	0409 848 466
<b>Facebook/website</b>	Frank Vos	frankvos@tpg.com.au	0412 066 546
<b>Committee</b>	John Baker	mail@johnbaker.com.au	0418 791 149
<b>Committee</b>	Graham Gibb	graham@signedbyme.com.au	0414 288 814
<b>Committee</b>	Tom Cowburn	tjcowburn@bigpond.com	0418 143 206
<b>Committee</b>	David Lee	leesbees@lisco.com.au	0414 757 220

### **Life members:**

Merv Wruck, Chris Johnson, Bill Spencer

\* Images and artworks are designed by Freepik [www.freepik.com](http://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.