

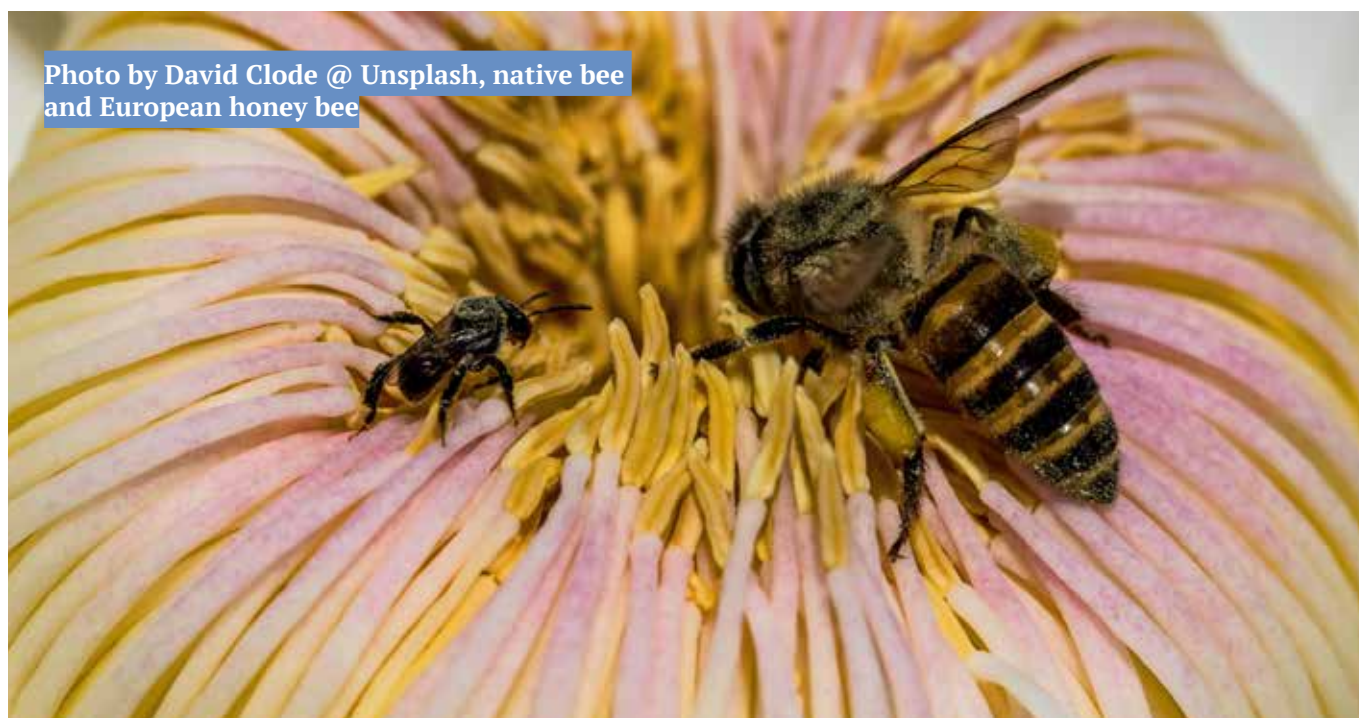
BEE NEWS

May 2023

Issue 139

Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast Beekeepers Inc.

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au



President's Report

What a jam-packed monthly meeting we had in April! We welcomed Heather, a visitor from Newcastle who has experienced the devastating loss of around 30 hives and finds

herself without any bees. Heather was able to share her experience with us and offer some tips. Keep an eye on our facebook page and your email for any updates we receive as a club. Anything we receive we share with our beekeeping community. It is great that we all want our hives healthy and strong, so sharing important information with one another is imperative.

NEXT MEETING

**Saturday, 27 May 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.**

**Annual Best Honey in the World
Competition with Gillian Meyers**

Additionally, a feature of our April meeting was a fantastic demonstration from Graham and Tony on wax foundation making. It's amazing to see the production line and set-up needed to make the foundation. We really appreciate the effort you both went to to share this process with us. I know I can appreciate it all a little more. It's another reminder about the ways in which we can use every bit of the wax we collect.

Well the excitement is building for this month's Greatest Honey in the World Competition! Who will take out the top prize? Will Tony hand the trophy over to a new face or will it be one of our long standing members? (Don't worry, I'm not entering!). Remember to bring along your honey in the container provided. If you have not collected one yet, you can transfer it on the day. The competition is only open to members of the club, so make sure your membership is up to date!

This is a good chance to remind everyone that memberships for 2023-2024 are due now. Please make sure you put your full first and family name in the reference if paying online, or pay at the club house any time.

Next month we have the Sunshine Coast Agricultural Show. There will be some stiff competition this year (again, don't worry, I'm not entering!), but PLEASE jump online and register your entry and take them in BY June 12th. You can purchase regulation jars from the club as well. If you are having trouble dropping your entry into the show office, we will accept them on your behalf and take them in for you. You can drop them into the club house on Saturday 10th but they must be labelled with your entry number and this ticket must be attached with a rubber band. You can collect your honey from the show along with your winnings (hopefully!). Any honey left will be returned to the Club for collection from there. Remember, the most successful club member will be awarded the Wruck Shield. So get those entries registered and make sure your membership is up to date.

Looking forward to beeing with you on Saturday!

Katie Livock, President

Guest Speaker 29th April - Heather Wightman, Newcastle

Heather gave a very informative talk about her experiences with Varroa Mite. Sadly Heather lost all of her hives to Varroa Mite and most likely won't be able to have bees again for 3 - 5 years.



Heather Wightman talks to the Club about varroa mite

Workshops for New Beekeepers

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

- 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.



* 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

She explained how to do an alcohol wash to detect the Mite. As 80% of the mites live in capped broods it is very difficult to find them. Must be vigorous when doing the alcohol wash and for 4 minutes. The sugar shake was less effective in finding the mites. The mites sink in the alcohol and you need a strong magnifying glass to find them.

This has been devastating for the area around Newcastle.

All bees were killed in the hives with Petrol fumes and then sealed up for a number of days then burnt or buried in land fill.

In the end with the compensation available it was more practical to take full compensation and eventually get new hives unless you had a flohive it would be economical to save the super. The clean up mess was worse than a slime out.

Dates to Remember

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 **FULL 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.
- **Volunteers needed** to set up and pull down and assist with the stall during the Show.
- Special Note - the Club will provide a bottle free of cost for honey per member in order to encourage entry into the show competition. The Club will also collect entries on the Saturday prior to the Show.

17 June - Club will be closed due to Nambour Show

24 June Club Meeting

Demonstration of making your own wax foundation - Graham Gibb and Tony Minto

Using a Bain Marie with melted wax, they dipped a smooth board into the wax and then into soapy water immediately following. After peeling the wax from the board it went through a Special Wax Making Wringer. Finished product was very impressive. Great for beekeepers who have a lot of hives.



Graham Gibb and Tony Minto make wax foundation

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.

Saturday Rosters 2023

We would like to thank all the members who volunteered to work at the Club for the month of May.

JUNE

03/06/23	Open	Alby Taylor Wade Graham	David Lee
10/06/23	Open	Errol Corsan Ron Hulm	John Baker
17/06/23	CLOSED - SHOW DAY		
24/06/23	G. Meeting	Leila Glover Dean Adams	

JULY

01/07/23	Open	Jamie & Natalie Carlyle	Paul Bonner
08/07/23	Course	Chris John Bill Spencer Catering - Mary Spencer	Katie Livock
15/07/23	Open	Chris Poindestre Bernie Thompson	Lynne Hulm
22/07/23	Honey Harvest	Tony Minto Adam Donnelly	Tom Cowburn
29/07/23	AGM	Felice & Keith Eastwood	

AUGUST

05/08/23	Open	Chris Strewe Rod Hutchinson	Frank Vos
12/08/23	Open	Bob & Sylvia Barns	John Baker
19/08/23	Honey Harvest	Terry Ind Kym Maver	David Lee
26/08/23	General Meeting	Yana Brown Rowena Coghill	

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

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](#)

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.

Honey Extraction Dates

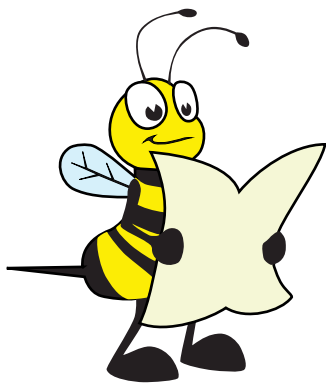
NOTE – all members wanting to use the Club facility for extraction of honey must first book with Lynne Hulm the Secretary to make sure we are not overbooked

- 15th July
- 19th August

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

Why buying pure Australian honey is important in supporting bees' valuable pollination : ABC Rural Jennifer Nichols

Honey bee pollination of Australian crops is worth \$14.3 billion per year, (ABARES). Beekeepers are urging people to support the local industry and not buy imports. A Sunshine Coast

beekeeper is proving his honey is local with QR codes

In the 2021-2022 financial year, honey and wax production in Australia was valued at \$132 million (ABARES). But through added value to agriculture, pollination services were worth more than \$14.3 billion.

An AgriFutures Australia snapshot listed 35 horticultural crops as dependent on honeybee pollination including almonds, apples, avocados, blueberries, pears, some sunflowers, broccoli, brussel sprout, cabbage, canola, carrot, cauliflower, celery, clover and lucerne.

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.

"For all your cucurbits; your pumpkins, melons and cucumbers, it's a 400 per cent better fruit set by having European honeybees sitting next to the crop," Mr Targett said.

6 surprising things about bees on World Bee Day: CNN Katie Hunt May 2023

Bees like to 'waggle dance'
Bees can communicate and make decisions by dancing.

Bees can use tools. Honeybees in Vietnam and other parts of Asia are threatened by predatory species of giant hornet that attack bee colonies, killing the adults defending the nest and

preying on the young bees. In particular, the voracious hornet species *Vespa soror* is capable of obliterating the hive within hours.

To ward off such attacks, the bees have been observed collecting fresh animal feces and smearing it around the entrance to their hive. Fecal spotting is the first clear example of bees using a tool in nature.

Bee poop nearly caused a Cold War confrontation. In the 1980s, “yellow rain” – tiny splotches of yellow found on jungle foliage in Laos and Cambodia – was thought to be the residue of chemical weapons?

Bumblebees get hangry. When pollen is scarce, bumblebees damaged tomato and mustard plant leaves in a unique way that resulted in the plant flowering up to 30 days earlier than un nibbled plants, scientists in Switzerland and France found.

Humans have been exploiting honeybees for thousands of years. A cave painting in Spain thought to be 8,000 years old depicts a human gathering honey from a ladder. Traces of beeswax on pottery also suggest that early farmers kept bees 9,000 years ago. Honey has also been found in ancient Egyptian tombs.

Some bees eat meat. The vast majority of bees feed on pollen and nectar, but some species have evolved to feast on meat, substituting dead animal carcasses for flower meadows.

Vulture bees in Costa Rica

have guts rich in acid-loving bacteria similar to those found in hyenas and other animals that feed on carrion, scientists discovered in 2021. Though vulture bees feed on flesh, their honey is still sweet and edible.

How greenwashing can lead us astray in the pursuit of wildlife-friendly gardens: The Conversation, May 2023

Nature is messy. Ecological systems are full of variation. The more diversity in the plant and animal species in it, the more healthy and resilient it is. A tidy and well-manicured garden may not fully support the needs of the native insects and birds.

Pick plants that feed wildlife (especially native plants), tolerate a little messiness and learn more about the specific needs of the wildlife you wish to shelter and conserve.

Bees can do so much more than you think – from dancing to being little art critics: The Conversation, May 2023

Bees are among the most important insects on Earth – vital pollinators of our crops and significant contributors to human societies for thousands of years.

Bees have a great memory and can learn a lot. These flower memories can last for days, allowing for individual workers to return to the best flowers.

Bees are capable of learning in complex ways. They can use “cross-modal” learning, recognising an object they’ve

experienced with one sense when it’s presented in another sense

Bees also learn from each other. Honeybees are possibly most famous for the “waggle dance”, which is how they tell their nest mates about the distance, direction, and quality of a food source.

Bees can recognise faces – and paintings.

Bees can learn, remember, think and make decisions – here’s a look at how they navigate the world: The Conversation, May 2023

Bees’ sensory experience of the world is markedly different from ours. For example, humans see the world through the primary colors of red, green and blue. Primary colors for bees are green, blue and ultraviolet.

From a distance, bees detect flowers by scent. A honeybee’s sense of smell is 100 times more sensitive than ours.

AI-powered hives latest weapon in fight to protect Australian bees from varroa mite: TThe Guardian, May 2023

The purple hives are equipped with high-definition cameras and AI technology to scan bees for the deadly parasite

A bright purple, AI-powered beehive at a North Queensland cargo port could be the answer to saving our \$70m honey industry.

The “smart” hive, which was positioned at the edge of Townsville port on Monday,

is expected to attract bees carrying the deadly varroa mite that have hitched a ride to Australia on cargo ships.

Whenever a bee enters the hive, it is scanned to see if it is carrying the mite, and then once it has found a mite it will send an SMS alert.

This will help authorities respond to any infected bees before the mite can spread.

The new hive was still in its infancy but trials in Melbourne and New Zealand had shown positive results. The developer is confident the AI would be able to accurately detect the mite, which can be as small as a sesame seed and often

burrows into the abdomen of bees.

The Queensland government still believed the total eradication of varroa mite was possible and that the state was looking at all possible solutions - Rob Stephens, the varroa mite prevention and preparedness program manager for the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Electromagnetic fields from power lines are messing with honeybees: NewScientist, Sofia Quaglia, May 2023

Transmission towers emit electromagnetic fields that can

disrupt honeybees' ability to pollinate nearby plants, which could reduce biodiversity in these areas.

Honeybees often rely on natural electromagnetic fields (EMFs) to navigate their surroundings - they have a specialised magnetoreception system in their abdomens. A growing body of research has already suggested that exposure to artificial EMFs can be disorienting for honeybees, sometimes causing them to get lost on their way home from foraging, and even leaving entire colonies without enough foragers to survive in some cases.

2022 - 2023 Executive and Committee

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Merv Wruck, Chris Johnson, Bill Spencer

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

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