

BEE NEWS

September 2022

Issue 132

Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast Beekeepers Inc.

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au



Photo by Damien TUPINIER on Unsplash

President's Report

Happy swarm season everyone! We have been inundated with calls about swarms over the past few weeks. I was lucky enough to tag along with our Vice President Grant Eisenmenger when he cut out a large hive from a roof. Watching the hard work that goes into this

work reminded me to make sure I thoroughly check my brood this month. At our meeting on Saturday we are lucky to have Ian and Gillian address us on the swarm catching they do. If you have any area of interest you would like to present to the club, we would love to hear from you. You may have learned something or honed a technique that someone else would benefit from as well. Let us know if you are happy to share, our club works best when we share with one another! A huge thank you to our Saturday volunteers, it is so great spending time together and building our club!

Looking forward to seeing you all on Saturday at the meeting. Have a bee-utiful week!

Katie Livock

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, 25 September 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.

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.

Your nose and mouth must be covered to be effective.

At this stage of the pandemic no-one really understands the implications of long covid so be like me and don't have it on your bucket list. Take Care.

What the Club plans for its members

On the third Saturday of each month the Club will be open to assist members extract honey from frames. We therefore welcome all members to come with their frames in boxes with containers to store their honey.

Weather Warning

Be aware of the weather conditions as BOM has predicted that we are about to head into another La Nina weather system over Spring and Summer 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 effect 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 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.

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.

Workshops for New Beekeepers

Our next Beekeeper's Courses will be held on 15 October, 17 December and 18 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

Preparing Your Hive for Swarm Season

Meeting Saturday 27th August Written by your newsletter editor Linda Blackwell with notes from the meeting taken by our Secretary Lynne Hulme

The reasons for a hive to swarm:

- There is strong evidence that swarming is in the DNA of the bees in a beehive and therefore vigilance and regular checking of your hives is required to have any control.
- Bees will swarm when:
 - the queen does not have enough room for brood in the brood box.
 - when the hive does not have enough space for storing honey.
 - when a slime out caused by small hive beetle occurs the bees leave home due to the smell and destruction caused by the larvae of the beetle.

The key understanding is that attempting to prevent your bees from swarming is one of the most important management strategies within apiculture.

- The effect of losing bees due to swarming:
 - Loss of a large number of active working bees thus reducing your honey production
 - Loss of the opportunity of increasing your number of hives or selling a nucleus
 - Swarms can be a nuisance when they find their new home in a neighbour's garden or house.
 - As beekeepers we are also concerned with the welfare of the bees and do not want to see them unnecessarily killed by Pest Control companies.

Strategies to assist in preventing your hives from swarming

1. Management of small hive beetle:
 - Every time you open your hive provides

you with an opportunity to reduce the number of small hive beetles and wax moths - please refer to the article on the website on small hive beetle.

- Diatomaceous earth in a beetle buster design or nuplas base including at least 2 bullets in each super.
- Weed mat around the hives to stop the beetles burrowing into the earth around the hive.
- Salt and Vinegar to drench the soil - 4 cups of pool salt and 1 cup of vinegar with water in a new pump sprayer. Spray underneath and around the hive in the evening when the bees are inactive.
- Use of Permethrin containing 500g/L. This is the only approved chemical for use around hives. Please refer to the article on SHB on the website. Chooks allowed to scratch under the hives tend to eat all the beetle larvae and provide good control.

2. Managing the super:

- Harvest fully capped frames from the super always leaving sufficient honey for the bees. Remember to be aware of the weather forecasts.
- Leave room for the 2 frames to be moved from the brood box up to the first super
- If frames are filling and none can be harvested consider adding an additional super with some stored stickies to make up the number of frames
- Remember in the super you always have 1 less frame and ensure that the frames are evenly spaced.

3. Managing the brood box:

- Split your hive to reduce the number of bees and increase the room in the hive.
- Purchase a new queen from a reputable supplier for the main hive and place the old queen in the nucleus hive. Remove the nucleus hive from your apiary by at

least 5 kms distance.

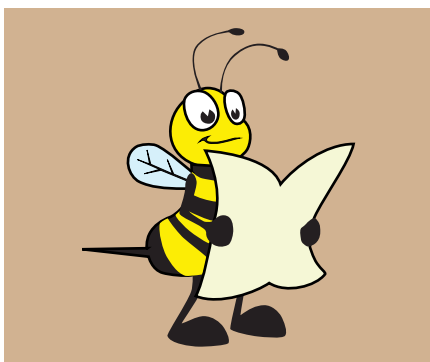
- Take the frames with the swarm cells to make the new nucleus hive. Remove a suitable distance from your apiary
- Add space in the brood box by removing the outside frames which are mainly for storing honey and place into a full frame super.
- Add 2 new frames to the brood box 1 frame in from the outside and date each frame clearly.
- Frames should be replaced every 2 years. Brood cells reduce in size following each new bee that hatches
- In a 10 frame brood box the outside frames are predominantly honey with the brood taking up 8 frames in the shape of a football with honey and pollen above and below

Note that commercial beekeepers replace their queens every year. Hobby beekeepers every second or third year depending on the ability of the queen to lay eggs.

Ian Meyers reported that sometimes when there are several queen cells the emerging queen does not kill the other queen cells. This is when you can get multiple swarms from the one hive.

Always inspect the hive immediately when you suspect the hive has swarmed looking for a queen or queen cells and then destroy queen cells after the swarm if there is a queen present.

Note that the use of a normal size brood box and an 'ideal' honey super does not provide you with a super to place the honey frames from your normal sized brood box. The same dilemma exists for flohives which do not have a Langstroth hive to support their flohives.



BEES IN THE NEWS

Queens saved as 20 million bees destroyed: The Canberra Times Liv Casben Updated Sept 19 2022

Australia's national honey bee genetics program has suffered a significant set back after it was forced to destroy around 20 million bees in the Hunter region of NSW, due to the threat from the varroa mite.

While around 50 queen bees in the national Plan Bee project were preserved, some 342 hives each containing

around 60,000 bees have been destroyed in the past fortnight. Under a permit system developed to protect bees with high genetic value, 50 queen bees were found homes elsewhere in NSW

Bee populations facing multiple challenges as Varroa mite and La Niña make for difficult spring: ABC Gippsland Rachel Lucas 18/9/22

But the forecast wet La Niña conditions may present a challenge for bees foraging for pollen among limited flowering plants, in their efforts to support healthy hives.

Industry Update – day 85 of the response: 15 SEPTEMBER 2022

Queens and queen cells can now be raised and sold commercially within NSW with conditions including

completing the Tocal training and completing at least one alcohol wash (must notify the department of results through the online form) on the apiary prior to the first round of catching queens. In addition, it is also a requirement to maintain accurate records of queens moving out of your operation.

Records that must be maintained include.

- the date on which movement occurs, and
- details of the origin and destination premises

Washing requirements have changed

Alcohol washing of hives is now no longer tied to hive movements. NSW apiarists now must do at least one alcohol wash in every **16 weeks** period regardless of if they move or not. Beekeepers

must report the results of the alcohol washes through the online form when completed.

Dealing with swarms in zones

In the PURPLE and RED zones registered beekeepers can catch a swarm, but only for the purpose of euthanising the swarm. Swarms must not be kept in this Zone.

In the BLUE ZONE a registered beekeeper may catch and keep a swarm. You must alcohol wash the swarm before you move it, and once it has been moved to your apiary it can be managed as any other hive.

These Bats Buzz like Bees to Save Their Own Lives: Karen Hopkin September 16 2022

Scientific American

New research has discovered the first case of acoustic mimicry between a mammal and an insect—an acquired skill that could just save certain bats' skin.

In a recent study, researchers found that certain bats buzz like bees...a sound that could discourage owls from eating them.

2022 - 2023 Executive and Committee

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