

BEE NEWS

February 2023

Issue 136

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

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au



Photo by Kathy Lynch

President's Report

This month saw our first Introduction to Beekeeping Course for 2023. It is always such a great day to welcome new beekeepers and friends into the amazing world of beekeeping. New beekeepers are always looking for mentors and we encourage them to come along to our monthly meetings. If you see someone new, please welcome them and help them find their feet. I will always remember the hospitality shown to me at my first meeting and

the connections I made that day encouraged me to pursue and take on the challenges beekeeping presented.

Another 'cool' change you might notice to our shed is the installation of air conditioners. YES! This is real! We are so grateful to Sunstate Climate Control Airconditioning & Refrigeration Services for their reasonable price and quick installation. It makes Saturday mornings much more bearable.

Our monthly meeting on Saturday will see the return of Dr Trong Tran from the University of the Sunshine Coast. You may remember Trong visited us a few years ago and collected propolis for research. Well, he is reporting his findings back to us and I am sure we will all learn a great deal on Saturday. Dr Tran has requested more propolis samples. So if you are in your hives this week, please collect some, fill out the form that has been emailed out, and bring it along on Saturday.

NEXT MEETING

**Saturday, 25 February 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: Dr Trong Tran

I want to make special mention of two members of our team for their incredibly hard work as of late. Tom and Alby have been managing our hives here at the Club and at North Arm, and with Ian at our Glen View site. At times, these can be enormous jobs and take up their personal time. The heat has been relentless of late and I wanted to acknowledge and thank them for their work. Thank you.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting on Saturday. Please let us know if you would like anything raised or investigated before the meeting, otherwise, bring along your questions (and morning tea and raffle prizes) and I will see you there!

Katie

Guest speaker Dr Trong Tran - 25 February

Dr Trans' presentation will show the quality and chemical diversity of Australian honey bee propolis and the identification of new anti-scarring compound from native stingless bee propolis. His findings suggest that there are untapped potential market values for Australian propolis

Propolis needed for Dr Trans research

If you are intending to enter your hives this week please collect some propolis for Dr Trans research project and this very interesting and potential market industry in Australia. A form will be attached to the newsletter. Place the propolis in the fridge following collection. Trong is requesting large amounts so don't hold back.

Guest speaker Dr Marek Zdaniewicz, Krakow Poland - 25 March

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

Propolis samples for Dr Zdaniewicz's research

If you are entering your hives in the next month please remember to collect propolis to go back to Poland. I would suggest small yellow top bottles and label them clearly. I suggest that you place the bottles in the fridge.

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.

Workshops for New Beekeepers

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

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 like to thank all the members who volunteered to work at the club for the month of January.

MARCH

04/03/23	Open	Ross Grimley Peter Keim	John Baker
11/03/23	Open	John Wettenhall Bryan O'Neill	Frank Vos
18/03/23	Harvest Day	Gerry Hannan Tony Minto	David Lee
25/03/23	G. Meeting	Felice and Keith Eastwood	

APRIL

01/04/23	Course	Ian Meyers Bill McBryde Catering - Mary Spencer	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	

28 January Club Meeting

If anyone would like any of these issues to be researched in more depth please let me know:

- Crystallized honey in Frames – maybe Manuka or Jelly bush honey.
- Mould in Plastic boxes – lack of ventilation with too much moisture - clean with vinegar and water. Choice recommends 80% vinegar and 20% water
- Water content of honey should be under 20% water content. Judging at the show disregard any honey over 18% water content.

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.

- Requeening angry hives. This generally results from an angry Queen. Quite a few beekeepers have success stories in requeening and having a more settled hive.
- Storing stickies. You can store stickies in a well sealed eskie following 24 to 48 hours in a freezer. The freezer will kill the eggs and any small larvae of the hive beetle and wax moths.
- Mints in your hive - a number of beekeepers have had success in placing a ¼ of a mint in each corner of the hive and have successfully repelled hive beetles. I still don't know the brand of mint but sounds like it is worth trying.

Honey Extraction Dates

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

Please contact the Secretary to organise a time:

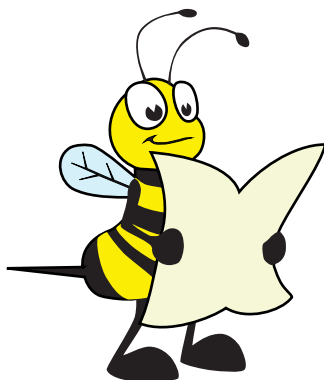
- Provide the number of frames for extraction and you will be given a time
- The last appointment time will be 10:00 am to allow for cleaning
- We would like you to hang round for cleaning as many hands make light work

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

AI can track bees on camera. Here's how that will help farmers: The Conversation, 16 February 2023

Artificial intelligence (AI) offers a new way to track the insect pollinators essential to farming.

In a new study, we installed miniature digital cameras and computers inside a greenhouse at a strawberry farm in Victoria, Australia, to track bees and other insects as they flew from plant to plant pollinating flowers.

Using custom AI software, we analysed several days' video footage from our system to build a picture of pollination behaviour over a wide area.

With a growing human population and limited natural resources, food production needs to become more efficient and sustainable. Precision agriculture powered by new technologies, like AI, can help secure future food

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 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.

production.

Efficient pollination is crucial to produce healthy fruits, vegetables, legumes and nuts.

Optimal pollination requires just the right number of insect pollinator visits to flowers.

Strawberries produce quality fruit after a minimum of four insect visits to an individual flower. Too many visits can actually damage flowers and reduce fruit quality

Wollongong CBD rooftop car park a native bee sanctuary designed to educate and boost biodiversity: ABC Illawarra, Justin Huntsdale, 8 February 2023

"We're showcasing what you can do with any space," Bee Team Wollongong member Mr Williams said.

"The urban environment shouldn't restrict native vegetation, it should be integrated with it.

"If we can put it on a car park, you can put in in your front or backyard or on the public streets."

The stingless native bees will forage on vegetation in plant beds around the city's streets and gardens, as well as plants growing in the bee sanctuary.

Echuca beekeeper fined \$12,500 for failure to reveal American foulbrood infections: ABC Rural, Annie Brown, 2 February 2023

A well-known beekeeper from Echuca has been fined after pleading guilty to breaching biosecurity laws, including failing to notify authorities of hives infected with American and European foulbrood.

The experienced beekeeper also pleaded guilty to having hives that were not marked with his registration number.

Shortage of pollinators could be killing 427,000 people a year: New Scientist, 21 December 2022

Inadequate numbers of bees and other pollinators have a huge impact on human health due to lower production of fruit and vegetables, according to a modelling study.

New varroa mite detections

around Taree, NSW linked to illegal movement of beehives: ABC Mid North Coast, Emma Siossian

There have been new detections of varroa mite in beehives at two locations near Taree. DPI investigations are linked to the movement of hives from restricted zones. The NSW Apiarists' president says it is a disappointing setback for the industry.

Penalties for illegally moving hives can be up to \$1.1million or imprisonment for 3 years for individuals.

Testing at the two sites at Taree and Wherrol Flat confirmed the presence of varroa mite in a small number of hives that were moved into the region in December.

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

Life members:

Merv Wruck, Chris Johnson, Bill Spencer

* 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.