

BEE NEWS

January 2023

Issue 135

Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast
BeeKeepers Inc.

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au



Photo by Bianca Ackermann on Unsplash

President's Report

Welcome to 2023 beekeepers of the Sunshine Coast! I hope everyone had a safe and happy break. From all reports, honey is flowing all over the coast. I hope you are all enjoying the spoils of the job! Everyone suddenly has a lot more friends when they have honey? Haha!

As many of you know, I have been out of action for a couple of months. I want to thank the committee for all they have done to cover for me. Especially Tom and Alby for always managing our hives, and Paul and Lynne for running the Club in my absence. We have a

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, 28 January 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.

great team of people and I am thankful for their support.

I heard the Christmas party was a delicious time for everyone! Congratulations to our huge list of winners and thank you to the team for organising the catering and prizes.

The committee met this week to discuss some plans for 2023. We will be leaning on the beekeeping community again for the Sunshine Coast Agricultural Show later this year, and I hope everyone is preparing their entries in the honey, mead, and wax competitions.

Our first meeting for 2023 is next Saturday morning 28 January at 9:30am for a 10am start. The focus will be catching up on all things that have been happening and will give you all a chance to ask questions. If you have any item of interest and would like to present at this meeting, or an upcoming meeting, please get in contact. We would love to hear from you.

Until then, happy beekeeping everyone!

Katie

Honey Extraction Dates

Next dates for honey extraction are 21 January 2023 and 18 February 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.

Club Working Bee

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

JANUARY

28/01/23	G. Meeting	Andrew Gaffney Dianna Bannick	-
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FEBRUARY

04/02/23	Open	Evan Flower Bruce Granger	Grant Eisenmenger
11/02/23	Course	Bill Spencer Ashley Frost Catering - Lynne Hulm	Katie Livock
18/02/23	Harvest	Alby Taylor Rob Questel	Graham Gibb
25/02/23	G. Meeting	Cheryl and Gary Axsientieff	-

Workshops for New Beekeepers

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

11 February - FULL

1 April - availability

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

Christmas Meeting

Vice President Grant Eisenmenger chaired the meeting due to our President's unavailability. Grant mentioned various reports from NSW regarding varroa mite. Currently it seems they are not destroying the hives, they are containing them in the area.

David Lee reported on the Nambour Show

Show dates -16-18 June 2023

He suggests that we start thinking about choosing some of our good honey to put aside to enter at the show.

If you are thinking of making mead now is the time to start preparing.

He encouraged all members to consider entering in the competition as we struggled to get numbers in 2022.

Frank Vos – A Lighted hearted account on the Beekeeping Mistakes we have all made

- Starting at all
- Starting with just 1 colony
- Opening a hive without a plan
- Not having the right gear on when inspecting hives
- Not having the right equipment on hand when opening hives
- The smoker keeps going out
- Worrying too much about full sun, not enough sun, shade, not enough shade
- Failing to feed new colonies or weak colonies
- Harvesting too much honey
- Starting at all

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 two 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

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.

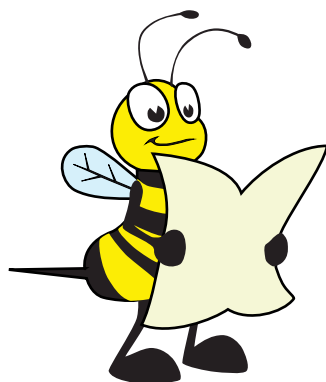
North Coast and Sippy Downs:
Grant Eisenmenger,
0401 720 004

Buderim: Tom Cowburn, 0418 143 206.

North and central areas: Alby Taylor, 0418 882 282.

Maleny and surrounds: John Baker, 0418 791 149.

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.



BEES IN THE NEWS

Sunflowers Linked To Reduced Varroa Mite Infestation: Entomology Today, January 2023

A new study indicates a benefit to honey bees of local sunflower cropland. Even low levels of sunflower acreage nearby correlate with reduced Varroa mite infestation in managed colonies, researchers found, and supplemental sunflower pollen helps ward off the mites, as well.

Scientists long thought that Varroa mites were tick-like—blood-suckers that transmitted diseases—and that the bulk of the harm they caused came from the diseases they spread. Even without spreading diseases, Varroa mites damage bees because they don't actually eat replaceable hemolymph (a bee's blood-equivalent); rather, they eat its fat body. It sounds benign because the name is misleading. A bee's fat body is a bit like a human's liver. It plays a role in the bee's immune system and its ability to survive the winter

and detox pesticides. Any method of lowering Varroa loads would be a huge boon to honey bees and their keepers.

How do you vaccinate a honeybee? 6 questions answered about a new tool for protecting pollinators: The Conversation : January 21, 2023 12.37am

The new bee vaccine, Paenibacillus Larvae Bacterin, aims to protect honeybees from American foulbrood.

One published study demonstrated a 30% to 50% increase in resistance to American foulbrood in a vaccinated queen's offspring.

Beekeepers mix the vaccine into bee food. This approach exposes queen bees to inactive Paenibacillus larvae bacteria, which helps larvae hatched in the hive to resist infection.

When queen bees are shipped to a beekeeper, they are typically placed in a small cage with 50 to 200 worker bees that have been fed something called queen candy. This substance is often made with powdered sugar and corn syrup and has the consistency of sugar cookie dough or modeling clay. Worker bees consume the candy, produce royal jelly and feed it to the queen.

The vaccine's delivery method uses this unique system. A beekeeper can mix the vaccine with the queen candy, which is then digested by worker

bees. They produce royal jelly and feed it to the queen, who digests it and then transfers the vaccine to her ovaries. Once she is transferred to the hive and begins laying eggs, the larvae that hatch from those eggs have a heightened immunity to American foulbrood.

Australian honey producers claim victory in Trans-Tasman legal battle over "manuka" title: ABC Rural Clint Jasper 23/1/23

NZ manuka honey producers withdraw from trademark dispute in UK and EU.

Women beekeepers 'astonished' by response to world record attempt: ABC Rural, Jennifer Nichols & Fiona Breen

From all over Australia to war-torn Ukraine, snow-covered Maine, and the Mongolian Steppes: Passionate women from around the globe have set a new world record for "the most photos of women beekeeping uploaded in 24 hours."

The brainchild of Tasmanian based female collaboration, Sister Hives Australia, the group hoped to make a small difference in promoting diversity in beekeeping.

Latest Varroa Update

The Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice requires all beekeepers to check their

hives (a minimum of one hive per apiary) at least twice per year for external pests. Surveillance activities such as sugar shaking, alcohol washing or drone uncapping are recommended.

Victorian beekeepers can now apply to move hives from NSW: ABC Central Victoria, Sarah Lawrence

In a milestone for the national varroa mite eradication response, restrictions are easing for Victorian beekeepers.

Ant raids are decimating honeybee colonies, says study: Victoria University of Wellington, January 2023

Jana Dobelmann’s research shows that when Argentine Ants invade bee colonies, there are higher levels of Deformed wing virus (DWV)—infamous for causing the death of millions of hives around the globe.

“Ants will raid beehives, kill off the bees, and take the honey—they’re predators.”

“But what we’re also seeing is that even if the raid doesn’t necessarily spell the end of a hive, it can still result in extremely high viral loads causing severe infections and stress for the bees.”

2022 - 2023 Executive and Committee

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