

BEE NEWS

January 2026

Issue 164

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

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepers.com.au



Photo of bee on grevillea flower, by Paddy Pohlod on Unsplash

NEXT MEETING

**Saturday, 31 January 2026 at the Club
House, 43 Farrell Street Yandina.**

**Morning tea and catch up starts
9.30am, BYO plate of food to share
and the monthly raffle.**

Meeting to start at 10.00am.

**Guest speaker - Grant Eisenmenger
- Increase in Hive Beetles while
treating bees for Varroa**

President's Report

Welcome to 2026!

This week I attended the Sunshine Coast Council Australia Day Community Awards to represent our club which was nominated for two awards. We were recognised in the Healthy and Active category, and the Community Group or Organisation category. Sadly we did not win, but it was a brilliant opportunity to showcase our community and I was very excited to represent our club at the ceremony. Both the CEO of the Council and Mayor Rosanne Natoli congratulated our community for the work we do.

We have started our year off at a run with our first Introduction to Beekeeping Course at the start of January. It is so brilliant to see so many new beekeepers joining our club and the world of beekeeping. I always talk about one of my favourite things about our club, is our innate ability to reach out, to create connections, and to support one another. I wanted to encourage everyone to continue to make these important connections in our community. I hope that you will consider challenging yourself at our next monthly meeting and introduce yourself to someone new and offer a supportive ear, you just might help someone in ways you can't imagine. There is nothing more intimidating than starting a new hobby and feeling out of your depth - let's all help the new members of our community thrive and feel connected as well.

Remember that this is your club. If there is something you would like to see at our monthly meetings, then please reach out and let us know so that we can cater to the needs of our members.

Keep an eye out on your emails for other opportunities to contribute to the club and our beekeeping community.

Have a bee-utiful week!

Katie

Katie Livock

President

Biosecurity Notes

With increasing frequency in recent weeks, conversations with beekeepers are turning to the issues with small hive beetle (SHB) indicating increased infestations in large numbers and reports of colony losses through slime outs. This increase may be accounted for by the wet weather, but is also a risk in colonies infested with varroa, i.e. colonies weakened by varroa are at a greater risk of being lost by SHB. It is important to keep control of SHB in your hives with a multi-pronged approach we know as Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Please refer to the email sent out on 15th January that contains an article produced by Tonia Johnson.

The national body that was responsible for the varroa management programme has concluded. You might wonder why this has happened with Queensland now in the build-up phase of varroa. The national body's web page, National Varroa Mite Management Programme (NVMMP) is <https://www.varroa.org.au/>

This has been the site we have previously referred to that

Workshops for New Beekeepers

Our upcoming Beekeeper's Courses for 2025 will be held on:

- **14 February - closed**
- **7 March - now open**
- **11 April - open**
- **9 May - open**

Booking is essential.

Book online at:

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepers.com.au/workshops.



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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.sunshinecoastbeekeepers.com.au

Also, check out our Facebook page for more Club news.

www.facebook.com/pg/sunshinecoastbeekeepersaustralia/posts/?ref=page_internal

contains an enormous amount of information on varroa. This site will stay active until the end of 2026. It contains all the information including the training modules and handbooks, information sheets and lots of instructional videos. Much of this material can be downloaded and kept but in due course it will also be transferred to other organisations such as QBA.

By the time you see this note, the appointment of our new Bee Biosecurity

Officer (BBO), will have been announced. With the conclusion of the VDO system, beekeepers will be able to seek advice from the BBO. However, the BBO has statewide responsibilities and alone, will not be able to provide the degree of support that you had from the VDO's. The BBO will be supported by an engagement officer, Sarah Hickman and the "Bio" Champs. Your club also has mentors who are also available for advice.

It is important to follow the directions of the Varroa Chemical Treatment Table when using chemicals to treat varroa once your hives have reached treatment threshold. The advice is based on long term experience of beekeepers and is safe and free of contaminants that could be harmful to your bees or risk contamination of your honey.

John Baker

Linda Blackwell

Remember, **you are not alone; we are all in this together.**

Saturday Rosters 2026

JANUARY

31/01/26	General Meeting	Gillian and Ian Meyers	
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FEBRUARY

07/02/26	Open	Jason and Kathleen March	David Lee
14/02/26	Course	Alby, Tom, Graham, Evan, Ron Catering - Mary Spencer	Katie Livock
21/02/26	Open	Ron and Lynne Hulme	
28/02/26	General Meeting	Felice and Keith Eastwood	

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. You must let Lynne know how many frames that you want to extract honey from.

- **24 January**
- **21 February**
- **21 March**

Please ensure that you assist with the cleaning up following extraction of honey.

Borrowing the Clubs spinners to extract honey at home:

- The book for the loan of extractors has been updated and a hire sheet will enable the committee member on duty to ensure that the new system is followed.
- The Spinner must be returned to the club by 9:00am the following Saturday cleaned and ready for the next member to borrow.
- If for some unforeseen reason the spinner cannot be returned to the club by 9:00am the following Saturday please contact the Secretary to inform her that they are unable to return the spinner at the agreed time.

MARCH

07/03/26	Course	Alby, Tom, Graham, Evan, Ron Catering - Mary Spencer	Katie Livock
14/03/26	Open		Evan Sanders
21/03/26	Open	Kylie Albers	Paul Bonner
28/03/26	General Meeting	Chris and Stephen Partleton	

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

Swarms

In South East Queensland it is estimated that there could be over 150 feral bee hives per square kilometer. In the first 18 months the majority of these hives will die out due to varroa mite infestation but these bees will also reinfect managed hives.

Prevention of Swarms

Management of our hives is more essential than ever with the spread of the varroa mite.

Part of our management strategy should include strategies to minimise swarms which in themselves spread the varroa mite.

Ensuring equipment is clean, the ground around your apiary is tidy, the Queen has space in the brood box, the workers have space for honey, splitting your hive to form a nuc and that common pests such as hive beetle and wax moths are controlled.

Swarm Removal

The catching of swarms is an **important community service** and will continue.

An attempt must always be made to clearly explain the behaviour of bees to the public. Bees when swarming may stay in one place for a few hours or days before they eventually move.

The member of the public must understand that they recontact the swarm catcher if the bees have moved on.

We still have members available to catch swarms but bees caught will be tested for varroa and treated if varroa is present and then quarantined before joining an apiary.

We have fewer members available to catch swarms so would encourage members reconsider assisting by gaining advice on swarm catching or be trained by one of our experienced members.

Swarm Catchers

North Coast and Sippy Downs	Grant Eisenmenger - 0401 720 004
North and Central Areas	Tony Minto - 0419 661 843
Nambour and Maroochy	Alby Taylor - 0418 882 282
Buderim	Tom Cowburn - 0494 302 366
Blackall Range and Maleny	John Baker - 0418 791 149



BEES IN THE NEWS

Extreme heat waves disrupt honey bee thermoregulation and threaten colony survival: by University of Chicago, edited by Gaby Clark, reviewed by Andrew Zinin

Although honey bees have the ability to regulate

hive temperatures, new research published in *Ecological and Evolutionary Physiology* shows that extreme summer heat can overwhelm these critical pollinators' cooling systems, leading to significant colony population declines.

Victorian bushfires squeeze beekeeper access to high-quality trees for bees ahead of winter: ABC Mildura-Swan Hill, by Timu King, Tue 20 Jan

Victorian beekeepers say they are concerned that bushfires in consecutive years have significantly reduced the amount of accessible land for bees.

Victorian Apiarists Association (VAA) president Lindsay Callaway says it could take eight years for beekeepers to return to some areas, which could affect other industries.

The VAA says beekeepers are having to consider alternative feeding options for the next few months.

2026 Executive and Committee

President	Katie Livock	presidentscbees@gmail.com	0414 843 342
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Committee	Tony Minto	tonyminto@hotmail.com	0419 661 843

Club Patron: Alby Taylor

Life members: Merv Wruck, Chris Johnson, Bill Spencer, Ken Evans

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