

BEE NEWS

May 2026

Issue 167

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

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepers.com.au



Photo of bee hives in Santori Greece, by Linda Wheeler

NEXT MEETING

**Saturday, 30 May 2026 at the Club
House, 43 Farrell Street Yandina.**

**Greatest Honey in the World
Competition**

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

Meeting to start at 10.00am.

President's Report

Does anyone else look forward to this season as much as me? I secretly love winter, not only because it gives us all a chance to breathe and take stock before things heat up again, but it's awards season! I'm not talking about silly little awards like the Oscars or the Grammys, I'm talking about the only awards that matter - The Greatest Honey in the World Competition* and the Wruck Shield all within a month! First up we have our Greatest Honey in the World Competition* this Saturday at the club! Easily the most important award to win as it is the

coolest trophy and is judged by EXPERTS - US!!! Please get your honey sample (enough to at least half fill a take away container) to our meeting early enough for the judges to prep for the comp. They will put it into a container so you don't know which is yours. Bring a water bottle, a spoon, and a pen and come judge your peers!

While you are getting your honey ready for the comp, I hope you are getting your entry ready for the show! The Wruck Shield is awarded to a member of our club who is the most awarded with highest awards at the show. I hope our members take out every category! Please jump on the website or follow the QR code to enter. Go on, show off how great your honey and hive products are. I dare you to win!

I'm looking forward to seeing you on Saturday and celebrating with you over the next month.

Have a bee-utiful day!

Katie

Katie Livock

President

Dates to Remember

Saturday 30 May - Greatest Honey in the World Competition, at the Club House 43 Farrell Street Yandina.

Obtain your container from the club house and make sure it is half full.

31 May - Membership Renewal for Year 1 June 2026-31 May 2027. If paying over the internet please ensure your name is on the bank transfer form

11 and 12 June - Queensland Beekeepers Conference, Bundaberg Queensland

12 to 14 June - Nambour Agricultural Show. Honey, creamed honey, wax and mead competition. A glass jar can be obtained from the Club House, 1st is free. Make sure you read the information on the website so that your entry meets all required standards.

25 July - AGM

Workshops for New Beekeepers

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

- **11 July - open**
- **8 August - open**

Booking is essential.

Book online at:

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepers.com.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.sunshinecoastbeekeepers.com.au

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

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

Biosecurity Notes

- **Varroa Resistance to Bayvarol on Sunshine Coast**
- **Biosecurity Obligation to report AFB**
- **Other pests and diseases – become informed – Bee Biosecurity Manual and free online courses**
- **Sunshine Coast Research - become involved**

At this month's Champions' meeting it was again noted varroa reporting remained heavily concentrated in Southeast Queensland with 75-80% of Bee123 notifications being positive. Chemical resistance to Bayvarol and Apivar, which have different modes of action, is still a concern with **resistance to Bayvarol detected now on the Sunshine Coast**. We must consider the possibility of having resistant mites when using either of these to treat our hives. Therefore, we must monitor the response to treatment about halfway through the treatment period. If there is a reduced response or no response to treatment, resistant mites is a possibility. To wait until the end of treatment to assess mite load risks losing the hive, and it may be too late to change to another form of treatment.

By focussing on varroa management, it is easy to forget the risk of other bee pests and diseases. We must remain vigilant, particularly for American Foul Brood (AFB). AFB is present around the Sunshine Coast. Unlike varroa, AFB is not treatable so infected colonies must be destroyed. There is a biosecurity obligation to report AFB to the DPI whether confirmed or suspected. A specimen may need to be submitted for confirmation.

Other pests/diseases of importance include European Foul Brood (EFB), chalkbrood, noseema, sacbrood and greater and lesser wax moths. Although not yet in Australia Tropilaelaps mite could be the next incursion. To improve your knowledge with more information on how to recognise and manage the full range of bee pests and diseases, refer to the latest edition of the Bee Biosecurity Manual. It is available on the AHBIC web site. In addition, there is a highly recommended free online course on Biosecurity for Beekeepers which provides training on all pests and diseases. Click on [Bolt Biosecurity Course for Beekeepers](#) and scroll down to "Biosecurity for beekeepers" Re-infestation.

Another resource for information is an ongoing series of video presentations on bee biosecurity topics. You can view them and subscribe to future videos by clicking on [DPI YouTube channel](#).

Members were sent an email recently about research into mite resistance at Sunshine Coast University. The research is entitled "Precision receptor-specific miticides for safeguarding Australian bees" with the prospect of a new and safe treatment for varroa. We can assist by providing access to our hives for the

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.

- **30 May**

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

Borrowing the Clubs spinners to extract honey at home:

- No bookings are taken for the 3 portable spinners that the Club loans out.
- This is first come first served basis - be at the Club at 9:00am to secure a spinner.
- All spinners can only be borrowed for a week and **MUST** be returned clean and on the following Saturday by 9:00am ready for other members to borrow.



Ancient bee smoker, photo by Linda Wheeler

Saturday Rosters 2026

To be published in the next newsletter.

collection of live mites. This is a great opportunity to contribute. The email outlined the process but you can contact John for more information.

John Baker

Linda Blackwell

Biosecurity Champions

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

Swarm Catchers

North Coast and Cut Outs (in a house)	Grant Eisenmenger - 0401 720 004
Coolum and Bli Bli	Tony Minto - 0419 661 843
Nambour	Alby Taylor - 0418 882 282
Buderim / Maroochy	Tom Cowburn - 0494 302 366 Ron Hulm - 0432 310 707
Maleny / Montville	John Baker - 0418 791 149
Caloundra / Southern	Ian Meyers - 0412 694 058

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 reinfest 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.

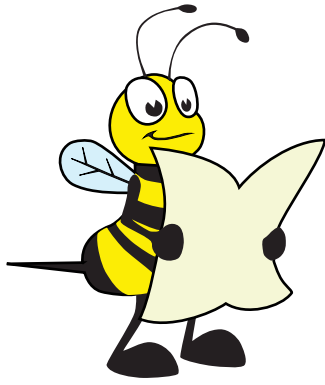
An attempt must always be made to clearly explain the behaviour of bees to the public. Bees when swarming may stay in one place for a few hours or days before they eventually move.

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.



BEES IN THE NEWS

AHBIC Biosecurity Update – Incursion of Resistant Varroa Mite – 23 April 2026

NSW DPIRD have confirmed that the resistant mite populations detected in QLD and NSW are a new population of mites un-related to the original 2022 detection. This new population of mites has confirmed genetic resistance to both pyrethroid and amitraz-based treatments. Further work is being undertaken to determine how these mites arrived in

Australia and how far they have spread.

These miticide resistant varroa mites will eventually become widespread, meaning beekeepers will eventually have lower efficacy from key synthetic control tools, and there will become an increased risk of high mite loads and colony losses across Australia.

The messaging remains consistent from the start of the incursion, it is more important than ever to ROTATE modes of action, and MONITOR mite numbers before, during and after miticide treatments.

Honeybees may be helping spread treekilling myrtle rust – new research

**Published: May 4, 2026
5.07am AEST Conversation**

We know introduced honeybees as the ever-busy helpers of our gardens, farms

and orchards.

In pollinating crops and fertilising fruit, they support more than a third of the food we eat and are worth billions of dollars to New Zealand's economy.

But they could also be unwittingly helping one of the worst natural threats facing Aotearoa's native forests: myrtle rust.

By collecting spores as food, then carrying them from plant to plant, honeybees may be under-appreciated vectors of this recently-arrived fungal disease.

We found the spores themselves contained all the essential amino acids young bees need to grow, along with enough protein to support healthy colony development.



Bee jewellery from the Minoans of Knossos

2026 Executive and Committee

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Club Patron: Alby Taylor

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

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepers.com.au

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

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