BEE NEWS

June 2025
Issue 158

Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast BeeKeepers Inc.

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepers.com.au



Entries for the Nambour Agricultural Show

President's Report

What a month!!!

A HUGE thank you to everyone involved in the Sunshine Coast Agricultural Show. Our stall was manned by awesome volunteers and the apiculture competition was well-represented by our club members. We received a lot of feedback about our presentations and information shared. I hope this (very busy) weekend will encourage others to join our team.

The reason I got into beekeeping was because I wanted to both learn something new, and do something good. What I didn't realise is that I would become a part of a community of people who believe in the same thing and all support one another. Last week I was lucky enough to attend the Queensland Beekeepers Association State Conference. My focus for the conference was to try and find an agreed upon management plan for varroa mite on the Sunshine Coast. I made it my goal to talk

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, 28 June 2025 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.

Know someone interested in bees? Why not forward this newsletter to them!

to as many professionals as I could and work out what is current practice and marry that with what will work best for our community. I feel relatively confident that I have a plan to share with you all at our meeting on Saturday. I am by no means saying that I have the answers, but I do feel confident enough that I have a starting point for us to consider. If you're anything like me you would be feeling either overwhelmed by the information out there, or frustrated by the lack of direction from governing bodies to guide us through this. We are mostly made up of hobbyist and recreational beekeepers and given our passion for beekeeping, we deserve to have some direction to safely navigate this new challenge. Now that varroa has hit the coast, I feel that we need to act. I hope that the plan I recommend at our meeting is one you also feel comfortable with. Again, I don't have all of the answers, but I have a starting point.

Another beautiful thing to come out of the conference was discovering how unique our team are. I met with several other community beekeeping groups only to find that they do not operate as cohesively as our community does. I was shocked to hear about the conflicts in relationships and collective goals. It was sad to hear that many group numbers are in decline. I always talk about how proud of our community I am, and to know that we are defying trends by committing to supporting one another through education, understanding, and care is so incredible. I congratulate every member of our Sunshine Coast Beekeeping community for making us the team we are.

Let's keep supporting one another and building strong relationships.

Have a bee-utiful week!

Your super proud president,

Katie



Workshops for New Beekeepers

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

- **12 July 2025 now full**
- **13 September 2025 open for bookings**

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

Dates to Remember

June 28th – Feedback from the QBA Conference at the Gold Coast – Katie Livock

July 26th - AGM

Best Honey in the World Competition

First Prize – Tony Minto

Second Prize – Michael Rigg

Third Prize – Unity College students

A great competition run by Gillian and Ian with lots fun had by everyone and according to Gillian everyones honey gained a vote.

Well done everyone.



Nambour Agricultural Show

Show results- Our takings were down from last year maybe related to the position of our stall

David Lee also reported the number of entries in the honey competition was down on last years – 80 entries this year against 115 last year.

Champion – Gerry Hannan

Reserve Champion – Bernadette Dutton

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.

- **29 July 2025**
- **16 August 2025**

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

Borrowing the Clubs spinners to extract honey at home:

- New Honey Extractors have been ordered to replace our old extractors
- As a result of our extractors being returned at times either dirty or with missing parts we have had to formalise our loan system.
- 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

Merv Wruck Trophy – Grant Eisenmernger

Wax Art-First Prize Lynne Hulme

Mead – First Prize traditional – Grant Eisenmenger

First Prize Melomel – David Lee

Fisrt Prize – Spiced – Kylie Albers

And Many more

Biosecurity Update

Mentors for varroa mite management

Tonia Johnson will train 8 of our members as mentors to assist the membership with varroa testing and advise on treatment. 'This training will occur in July

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

Media Release - Fire Ants

The National Fire Ant Eradication Program.

- Fire ant eradication treatment is safe for bees as they forage on nectar and pollen from specific sources.
- Fire ant eradication treatment uses a soybean oil (a protein) to attract ants, but it lacks sugar or similar substances, making it unattractive to bees.
- The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority has approved fire ant eradication treatments for over 20 years.

The National Fire Ant Eradication Program's fire ant eradication treatments are safe for pollinators, including European honeybees and native species such as the blue-banded bee and ground-dwelling Indigenous bees.

Fire ant eradication treatment consists of small pieces of corn grit soaked in soybean oil, with a low concentration of an insect growth regulator (IGR). IGR's are not classified as poisons, instead they break the life cycle of insect pests by preventing the production of viable young.

Commercial and hobby beekeepers are encouraged to report any suspect adverse reactions to fire ant treatment – 132ANT.

Saturday please contact the Secretary to inform her that they are unable to return the spinner at the agreed time.

Autumn / Winter Swarm Season

We are still looking for members interested in learning and being trained as a swarm catcher and volunteer please contact the Secretary.

Southern: Ian Meyers, 0412 694 058.

North Coast, 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.

Saturday Rosters 2025

We would like to thank all the members who volunteered to work at the Club over the preceding months.

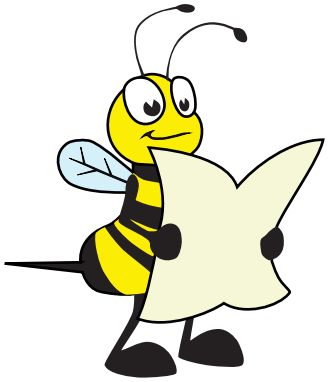
JUNE

28/06/25	General Meeting	Chris and Steve Partleton	

JULY

05/07/25	Open	Bryan O'Neill	Evan Sanders
12/07/25	Course	Alby, Tom, Graham, Evan, Ron Catering - Mary Spencer	Katie Livock
19/07/25	Harvest	Dean Adams	John Baker
26/07/25	AGM	Cheryl and Gary Axsentieff	

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



BEES IN THE NEWS

Australian sugarbag honey from stingless bees found to have antimicrobial properties: By Ruby Ritchie, ABC

In short:

New research from the University of Sydney has analysed the antimicrobial properties of honey from three Australian stingless bees.

It found sugarbag honey samples showed activity in reducing a variety of bacteria and fungi.

What's next?

The researchers hope further research could lead to the honey being used to treat wounds or skin infections.

Although the benefits of bees have been under the microscope for some time, First Nations bush medicine has been using honey for thousands of years to help fight infection.

Compared to manuka, which gets its antibacterial properties from nectar, sugarbag honey gets its strength from the native bees.

Organic farms and meadows can help save wild bees: By Jordan Joseph, Earth.com staff writer

Bee populations around the world have been slipping for decades, even in areas with meadows. Across the United States, managed hives have dropped from about five million in the 1940s to 2.7 million in 2023.

Pollination keeps the produce aisle stocked, and honey bees alone add roughly $15 billion to the value of U.S. crops every year.

Kathrin Czechofsky of the University of Göttingen says the latest fieldworkshows there is still room for optimism when farms and conservation habitatsare planned together.

Bees are disappearing despite meadows

Habitat loss, pesticide exposure, and disease form a triple threat, yet land conversion remains the clearest driver of wild bee decline.

Climate stress adds another layer, and recent work warns that many bumblebee broods fail when nest temperatures top 96 °F, a threshold that rising heat waves frequently exceed.

Fields blanketed in a single commodity crop create long floral dry spells that leave solitary bees hungry between brief bloom windows.

Even well-intended local actions, such as installing small flower strips, often struggle to reverse losses because bees forage across landscapes, not

single fields.

Without a coordinated plan, conservation patches can cancel one another out or fail to meet nesting needs over an entire season.

Store-bought bee hotels doing more harm than good for native species: By Peter Sanders, ABC Southern Qld June 2025

Pre-made bee hotels being sold in shops and online are often not designed to protect native bees.

Experts warn that cheap imported options may actually harm native species, as they can be treated with chemicals

What's next? The Australian Native Bee Association is calling for a national monitoring scheme of native species, saying Australia is falling behind other countries.

EPA investigates poisoning of 250,000 bees in Corowa: By Justine Longmore and Annie Brown, ABC Rural Beekeeping Thu 17 Apr 2025

In short:

A quarter of a million bees have died in Corowa, New South Wales.

The NSW EPA tested the hives and found they were poisoned by the pesticide fipronil.

What's next?

The EPA is investigating where the pesticide came from and how the bees came in contact with it.

Bees, fish and plants show how climate change's accelerating pace is disrupting nature in 2 key ways: Published: April 30, 2025 Courtney McGuiness, The Conversation

The problem with climate change isn't just the temperature – it's also how fast the climate is changing today.

Historically, Earth's climate changes have generally happened over thousands to millions of years. Today, global temperatures are increasing by about 0.36 degrees Fahrenheit (0.2 degrees Celsius) per decade.

The faster pace and higher temperatures are changing habitat ranges for plants and animals.

Most plant and animal species can tolerate or at least recover from short-term changes in climate, such as a heat wave. When the changes last longer, however, organisms may need to migrate into new areas to adapt for survival.

Some species are already moving toward higher latitudes and altitudes with cooler temperatures, altering their geographic territory to stay within their optimal climate. Fish populations, for example, have shifted toward the poles as ocean temperatures have risen.

Australian honeybees are under attack by mites and beetles. Here's how to keep your backyard hive safe: Published: April 15, 2025 Cornelia Sattier & Theotime Colin The Conversation

Australia's honeybees are facing an exceptional crisis. The tiny but devastating foreign pest Varroa destructor is steadily spreading across the country.

What's worse, Varroa destructor isn't acting alone. In many parts of New South Wales, the mite's arrival appears to have triggered a surge in another destructive pest: the small hive beetle (Aethina tumida).

A slimy accomplice

The varroa invasion appears to be making hives more susceptible to the small hive beetle (Aethina tumida). This species arrived in 2002.

The deadly one-two punch

A healthy bee colony can usually defend itself against beetles. But when bees are weakened by varroa mites, they're far less capable of resisting a beetle invasion.

What to do if you suspect an infestation?

The number of registered recreational beekeepers in Australia is growing. In 2019, there were around 27,800 registered hobbyists. By 2023, that number had jumped to over 47,000. Backyard beekeepers also contribute A$260 million to the economy.

Protection against mites and beetles

To prevent your backyard hives being infested by mites or beetles:

- keep colonies well fed, so they don't rob other

colonies and catch their parasites

- help bees recognise hives, so they don't enter the wrong colony with varroa mites on their back (paint hives, space them apart by a few meters, ideally 10m)
- reduce the size of hive entrances to help bees block access to intruders
- regularly check that your beetle traps are still working, as bees often block the holes that let the beetles into the traps with tree resin
- fill the cracks where beetles hide.

How consumers can help

Buy 100% Australian honey and hive products from trusted, local sources.

Sugar can easily be swapped for honey in most recipes and honey is a great way to sweeten tea.

Avoid imported honey and bee products to reduce the chance of bringing bee viruses into the country.

Finally, planting pollinator-friendly gardens helps to feed local bees.

Safeguarding an industry and a popular hobby

As well as backyard hobbyists, Australia's beekeeping community includes 1,872 large-scale commercial beekeepers.

Many fear mites will push beekeepers out of business. Protecting the industry requires a shift in mindset, from emergency response to long-term pest management.

With good science, community support and adaptive management, beekeepers — both commercial and backyard — can weather the storm.

2025 Executive and Committee

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Club Patron: Alby Taylor

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

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