BEE NEWS

April 2025
Issue 157

Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast BeeKeepers Inc.

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepers.com.au



This is Tonia Johnson our new member and VDO officer with the gum boots fashioned by Tom Cowburn to brave the rain following the meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, 26 April 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.



President's Report

Happy April everyone!

It was great to see so many people brave the raina nd come along to our March monthly meeting. A huge thank you to our member, VDO Officer, Tonia Johnson who generously gave her time to share important biosecurity information to our community. John was also able to update us on the latest information. We are so lucky to have such great support and information, and I am thankful for both of their time and generosity. A particular thanks to Tom who fashioned Tonia some (in)effective gum boots for Tonia to brave the rain after the meeting!

At the meeting I spoke about the Sunshine Coast Show. I truly encourage everyone to prepare their entries for the show. It would be so great to see our members win all of the categories as well as promote beekeeping in the community. Soon we will ask for volunteers, and we would love to see you give some time and join us at our stall.

Don't forget to check your hives after all of the rain, sometimes the bees can get a little restless being stuck inside all of the time.

Hap-bee Easter everyone!

Katie

Katie Livock

President

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

Dates to Remember

June 13th,14th & 15th - Nambour Show -Volunteers will be needed and preparation of Honey and wax for the Show should start now.

June 18th - Varroa Mite Training Workshops – Gold Coast (last scheduled)

June 19th & 20th – QBA State Conference and 121st AGM " Beeeping to the Future" - Southport

July 26th - AGM

Biosecurity Update

There is nothing new to report from last weeks Biosecurity Champions meeting. The varroa incursion into Queensland is in the Lockyer Valley and Somerset Council Areas.

Remember that is around 100kms from the Sunshine Coast Regional Council which is very close and just a matter of time for us to start discovering varroa in our hives.

It is likely varroa is already more widespread in Queensland than the recent detections indicate.

Surveillance

It is even more important now for all beekeepers to undertake surveillance with alcohol washes every 4 weeks. **Early detection is essential if hives are to survive initial infestations** with early treatment of low mite loads. Drone uncapping should also be practised when drone brood is present.

VDO support available

If help or advice on hive management is needed with doing alochol wash or drone uncapping techniques, the Varroa Development Officers (VDO's) are waiting for your call.

One Day Training Courses

The one-day varroa training courses are finishing with the last one in June on the Gold Coast. You can check for course dates and venues at varroa.au/training. They are likely to fill up early.

Queensland may get another course, but that is yet to be determined.

There will be an online version of the training course for those who have not attended a face-to-face course.

Workshops for New Beekeepers

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

- **10 May 2025**

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

Treatment Options

For those who are thinking about treatment options when the time comes, the NSW experience during the build-up phase, you will not be successful without using synthetic chemicals.

With your first incursion the DPI **must be** notified at which time you will be assisted and given advice on treatment options and if and when treatment is indicated.

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

John Baker.

Biosecurity Alert

The Department of Primary Industries has emailed all registered beekeepers of Regulatory changes to varroa mite in Queensland.

1. Varroa mite Varroa destructor is no longer declared a prohibited matter in Queensland. It remains notifiable and anyone finding varroa mite in their hvies must report it to Biosecurity Queensland.
2. Queensland is now accepting live bees from infested jurisdictions on a case-by-case basis. Beekeepers wanting to move bees and hives into Queensland from an infested jurisdiction will need to apply for a biosecurity instrument permit.

Current Strategy

Testing testing and testing and reporting each time. – every 4 weeks

- continuing to monitor for varroa, **alcohol wash is the gold standard**.
- Drone un-capping can be done whenever you see drone brood.
- Your results should be reported to the "Report" link below.

If and when you have a positive test

- Biosecurity through one of our Varroa Development Officer's (VDO's) will be on hand to guide you through the stages of management.

Varroa Mite Training Workshops

- Gold Coast – Wednesday 18 June to be confirmed
- The workshop material will be available online in due course.

Be Aware of information on Social Media

Be aware of everything you read on social media. Biosecurity

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.

- **19 April 2025**
- **25 May 2025**
- **21 June 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

have warned in relation to treatment of varroa, there is a lot of information there that is wrong or misleading and possibly dangerous if followed. Bunnings is not the supplier of chemicals to treat Varroa.

Record Keeping

Record keeping will become more important.

- noting the general health of the brood and the queen,
- you will have to record results of your monitoring,
- hive movements and
- in due course a record of your varroa treatment.

This is a time for all beekeepers to work together.

Saturday Rosters 2025

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

APRIL

19/04/25	Easter + Harvest	Ron Button Denis Illot	Tom Cowburn
26/04/25	General Meeting	Elise Winton Fran Burns	

MAY

03/05/25	Open	Martin Law Colin Stimpson	Tom Cowburn
10/05/25	Course	Alby, Tom, Graham, Evan Catering - Mary Spencer	Katie Livock
17/05/25	Open	Ian Meyers Peter Petsch	John Baker
24/05/25	Harvest	Tony Minto Tom Symons	Lynne Hulm
31/05/25	General Meeting	Felice and Keith Eastwood	

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.

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.

Sale, Purchase, Swap

A separate sheet is 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.

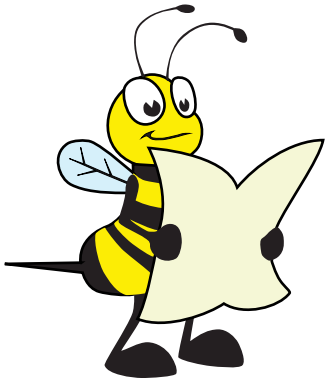
If you would like to list anything could you please send an email with photograph if required to the Newsletter Editor at the following email address: lindaeb6081@gmail.

JUNE

07/06/25	Open	Rob Questral	Paul Bonner
14/06/25	Show Day - Closed		
21/06/25	Harvest	Damien Casserley	David Lee
28/06/25	General Meeting	Chris and Steve Partleton	

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

com 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

Protect Backyard Hives: Aussie Bees Face Mite, Beetle Threat: Mirage April 2025, Cornelia Sattler, Research Fellow in Ecology & Videographer, Maquarie University; Theotime Colin, Post-doctoral Researcher in Bee Ecology, Macquarie University

Australia's honeybees are facing an exceptional crisis. The tiny but devastating foreign pest, Varooa destructor, is steadily spreading across the country. The mite feeds on baby bees (larvae), weakening them. It can also spread viruses that eventually destroy entire bee colonies. Efforts to contain its spread have failed, so it looks like Australia must learn to live with this parasite.

Even a sublethal insecticide dose may disrupt the pollinator mating process: Phys Org April 2025, Katie Bohn Pennsylvania University

Insecticides can help protect crops against troublesome pests, but they also pose a risk for beneficial insects such as pollinators. A study led by reserarches at Penn State provides insight into how even sublethal doses of insecticides can negatively affect pollinators by disrupting the mating process.

2025 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	lindaeb6081@gmail.com	0409 848 466
Facebook/website			
Biosecurity	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
Commitee	David Lee	leesbees@lisco.com.au	0414 757 220
Committee	Evan Sanders	katiemary70@yahoo.com.au	0419 764 421

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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