BEE NEWS

July 2026
Issue 169

Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast BeeKeepers Inc.

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepers.com.au





Photo of bees on grevillea flower, by Linda Blackwell

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, 25 July 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 Speakers:

Ashley Frost and his international beekeeping adventures

John Baker about removing/disposing old varroa treatments demonstration, updated biosecurity report

President's Report

We've had a busy but really fun month in our club. We had our successful representation at the Sunshine Coast Agricultural Show, followed by an awesome monthly club meeting and working bee clean up, and we finished the month with an Introduction to Beekeeping Course that saw another brilliant group of new beekeepers join our team.

As a club we should feel very proud of our relationship with the University of the Sunshine Coast, and this was evident in our last meeting. We were lucky enough to have scientists Roy Barkin and Lucy, with Professor Rob Arby address our community and share their research. It was great to hear that the samples provided by our members is being used in research right now and could make a difference

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

to the way beekeeping is supported for all. Roy expressed his gratitude to our club and I extend that to all who have helped supply samples, and I encourage us all to be involved. We will be able to address this at our next meeting if there are further questions.

Speaking of next meetings...our meeting this weekend is our AGM! 'Hooray' I hear you exclaim! I know everyone loves the formality of the meeting and to celebrate it we are going to throw on a BBQ after the meeting. That won't be the only highlight, Ashley Frost has returned from a trip and has information to share as well. On that note, please remember that this is your club. If there is anything you want to be addressed at a meeting, if there is a focus you would like us to draw attention to, or if you would like to present - we would love to hear from you.

Until Saturday, have a bee-utiful week!

Katie

Katie Livock

President

Biosecurity Notes

Update on local mite resistance email - July 2026

Mite resistance to the synthetic chemicals has been detected in Bli Bli and Rosemount. The interesting fact is that tests from Bli Bli demonstrated a mixed population of mites meaning that some were not resistant.

1. A mixed population of mites indicates the hives are being infested from multiple sources.
2. During treatment a drop of non-resistant mites might be observed . The resistant mites will survive and continue to multiply. To determine if you have resistant mites, the advice is to test hives rigorously during treatment, and consider doing it twice.
3. If treatment in this situation is allowed to continue for the full 6 to 8 weeks, the resistant mites are being selected, and will survive and multiply. This places that hive and others nearby at risk of being lost.

Tests from other sites did not show resistance but that does not mean there are no resistant mites in those locations.

We should all consider the possibility we have resistant mites in our hives.

It is very important to test for mites at least every 4 weeks. Always consider the possibility that mites detected in our

Workshops for New Beekeepers

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

- **11 July - 8 enrolled, open**
- **8 August - 2 enrolled, 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

hives, no matter where they are, could be resistant to treatment with the synthetics.

Despite the emergence of resistant mites, it is not all doom and gloom. Other treatment options are available including all components of Intergrated Pest Management - IPM We can keep our mite loads low going into Spring. You can seek advice from the DPI, the Biosecurity Officer, the Biosecurity Champions or experienced Club members.

- Alternative to a wash

  An alternative to doing a the wash after 7-14 days treatment is to monitor the tray if you have a ventilated base. A heavy mite drop is an indication of successful treatment. If there is any doubt, do a wash.

- Mite count at conclusion of treatment

  Do a mite count at the conclusion of treatment for a baseline for the following 4 weeks management decisions.

- Oxalic acid

  Oxalic acid on its own is not likely to control a heavy infestation unless combined with another component of IPM such as **brood sacrifice** or, depending on the count, **queen caging**.

UniSC Research

After a temporary pause in live mite collections by researchers at the University of the Sunshine Coast (UniSC), we are looking for beekeepers again who are willing to "donate" mites. John is the contact for this.

John Baker

Linda Blackwell

Biosecurity Champions

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

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.

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.

Saturday Rosters 2026

To be published when available.

Swarms

Current estimations are that the number of unmanaged (i.e. feral) bee hives per square kilometre has diminished considerably since the spread of varroa. The remaining hives will die out due to varroa mite infestations and small beetle slime outs but these bees will also re-infest 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.

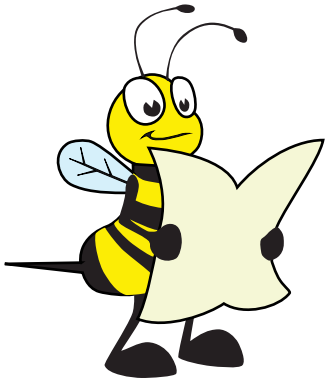
Ensuring equipment is clean, the ground around your apiary is tidy, the Queen has space in the brood box, the workers have space for honey, splitting your hive to form a nuc as a stategy and that common pests such as hive beetle and wax moths are controlled.

Swarm Removal

The catching of swarms is an important community service and will continue. Catching swarms is alo important as feral hives can develop into varroa bombs. Swarms can be brought back to the Club and once checked can be sold to members.

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



BEES IN THE NEWS

Scientists discover the hidden brain switch that assigns bees their jobs

Science Daily 22 July 2026 Heinrich-Heine University Duesseldorf

Researchers found that specific brain circuits help decide which jobs bees perform as they age. When those circuits were switched off, older worker bees began caring for the queen again instead of carrying out their normal later-life duties. The findings reveal that a bee colony's complex division of labor may be guided by neural switches hidden inside each bee's brain.

The results indicate that task organization within a bee colony has a neural foundation. When activity in particular areas of the brain is reduced, other neural circuits may become active and trigger a different set of behaviors.

The findings provide early evidence that communication between neural circuits helps determine whether a worker bee nurses the queen, builds or guards the hive, or searches for food.

2026 Executive and Committee

President	Katie Livock	presidentscbees@gmail.com	0414 843 342
Vice President	Grant Eisenmenger	vicepresidentscbees@gmail.com	0401 720 004
Secretary / Course Co-ordinator	Lynne Hulm	secretaryscbees@gmail.com	0421 720 628
Treasurer	Paul Bonner	treasurerscbees@gmail.com	0403 432 952
Newsletter Editor / Biosecurity	Linda Blackwell	lindaeb6081@gmail.com	0409 848 466
Facebook/website			
Biosecurity / Committee	John Baker	mail@johngbaker.com.au	0418 791 149
Committee	Tom Cowburn	tjcowburn@bigpond.com	0418 143 206
Committee	David Lee	leesbees@lisco.com.au	0414 757 220
Commitee	Evan Sanders	katiemary70@yahoo.com.au	0419 764 421
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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