

BEE NEWS

July 2025

Issue 159

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

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepers.com.au



Bee on callistemon flower, photo by Linda Blackwell

NEXT MEETING - AGM

**Saturday, 26 July 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.**

AGM to start at 10.00am.

**Feedback from Mentor workshop and
Update on Varroa.**

Sausage Sizzle.

President's Report

Firstly, thank you all so much for coming along to our last meeting. I truly appreciated the positive feedback about my presentation. You will remember that the focus of my presentation was a wrap up of the QBA State Conference and, importantly, developing an action plan for managing varroa mite. These topics are always controversial and as we always note, you might meet beekeepers and get many opinions. If we can remember that the focus of our club is always to support one another and share information with the view of making things better for our beekeeping community, then I am confident that we will get through this challenge. The main points I want to remind our community of is that we must

always check for varroa through alcohol washes and respond to how many mites we find. We will have them and the only thing we can do now is respond accordingly. Remember that the threshold dictates the action plan. The other important point is to develop an Integrated Pest Management Plan. We will continue to share our recommendations as to what this looks like, but ultimately these are just steps to add to your established management of your hive. What I have learned is that we absolutely can manage this. The next 18 months will be a challenge, and from then on we just need to implement our management.

We are beyond lucky to have our Biosecurity Champion John and VDO Officer Tonia supporting us and our team have put together varroa mentors to offer another level of support to our members. In all, I believe we are in a really good position to be in the face of this challenge.

Beyond that, we have our AGM this Saturday and the committee is throwing on a sausage sizzle! Who doesn't love a democracy sausage??

See you all on Saturday.

Have a bee-utiful week!

Katie

Katie Livock

President

Biosecurity Update

Mentors for varroa mite management

Tonia Johnson has provided training for a number of our members as mentors to assist the membership with varroa testing and provide advice on treatment. This training occurred in early July.

Varroa Detections Sunshine Coast

Varroa is spreading relatively quickly across South East Queensland.

The latest sites around the Sunshine Coast are Yandina, Noosa, Maleny, Reesville and Caloundra.

Remember the probability of more sites being infested around the Sunshine Coast is **very high**. At this time of year most hives are without drone cells and when considering NSW experience alcohol wash can be negative and drone cell uncapping positive.

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

Workshops for New Beekeepers

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

- **16 August 2025 almost full**
- **13 September 2025 open for bookings**

Booking is essential.

Book online at:

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepers.com.au/workshops.



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

Topics which you will need to understand and opportunities for learning include:

- Education
 - Varroa basics online training
 - Ongoing education opportunities
- Integrated Pest Management Framework
 - Monitoring (continuous), sampling techniques and Reporting
 - Mechanical & cultural controls
 - Planning and Record keeping
 - Thresholds and chemical treatment
 - Reinfestation Risks

Saturday Rosters 2025

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

AUGUST

01/08/25	Open	Ron Hulm	Lynne Hulm
09/08/25	Course	Alby, Tom, Graham, Evan, Ron, Kylie Catering - Mary Spencer	Katie Livock
16/08/25	Harvest	Bill McBryde	Tony Minto
23/08/25	Open	Ken Harrison	Paul Bonner
30/08/25	General Meeting	Kylie Albers and Gerry Hannan	

SEPTEMBER

06/09/25	Open	Peter Petsch	David Lee
13/09/25	Course	Alby, Tom, Graham, Evan, Ron, Kylie Catering - Mary Spencer	Katie Livock
20/09/25	Harvest	Terry Ind	Evan Sanders

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.

- **16 August 2025**
- **20 September 2025**

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

Borrowing the Clubs spinners to extract honey at home:

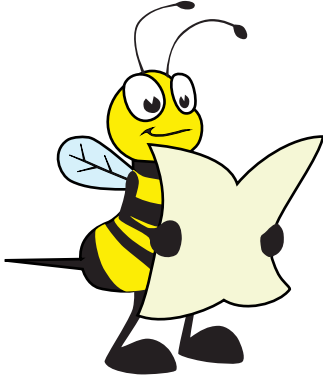
- New Honey Extractors have been ordered to replace our old extractors
- As a result of our extractors being returned at times either dirty or with missing parts we have had to formalise our loan system.
- The book for the loan of extractors has been updated and a hire sheet will enable the committee 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

26/07/25

General
Meeting

Smita Djapermal
and Adam Gunton

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



BEES IN THE NEWS

How AI can help protect bees from dangerous parasites: By Farnaz Sheikhi, Farhad Maleki, The Conversation, July 2025

Using imaging systems, sensors embedded in hives, image-processing techniques and AI, researchers are now able to continuously collect and analyze hive data to detect Varroa mites.

In this approach, a camera is placed inside the beehive brood box to capture images of the honey bees. These images are then transmitted via Wi-Fi or Bluetooth for storage and analysis.

Transitioning to smart beekeeping is a strategic solution that is non-invasive and environmentally friendly, cost-effective and profitable in the long term. The good news is that researchers at the University of Calgary and beekeepers are already

working together to make this happen and preserve the sweetness of honey across our land.

Could become a death spiral': scientists discover what's driving record die-offs of US honeybees: By Phoebe Wetson, The Guardian, July 2025

Experts scrambling to understand losses in hives across the country are finally identifying the culprits. And the damage to farmed bees is a sign of trouble for wild bees too.

It developed into the largest US honeybee die-off on record, with beekeepers losing on average 60% of their colonies, at a cost of \$600m (£440m).

Scientists have been scrambling to discover what happened; now the culprits are emerging. A research paper published by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), though not yet peer-reviewed, has found nearly all colonies had contracted a bee virus spread by parasitic mites that appear to have developed resistance to the main chemicals used to control them.

"It was only a matter of time before widespread resistance to amitraz, the only remaining effective synthetic chemical,

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.

would develop," he says.

But the discovery of amitraz-resistant mites in hives does not mean they alone were responsible for all of last year's record die-offs. A combination of factors is likely to be causing successive colony deaths among US bees, including the changing climate, exposure to pesticides, and less food in the form of pollen and nectar as monocrop farming proliferates. Many US beekeepers now expect to lose 30% of their colony or more every year.

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
Committee	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

Disclaimer

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Sunshine Coast Beekeepers Inc. The Sunshine Coast Beekeepers Inc accepts no liability for the consequences of any actions taken on the basis of the information provided in this newsletter.