BEE NEWS

August 2025
Issue 160

Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast BeeKeepers Inc.

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepers.com.au





Photo – Bee pollinating Peach tree – Adam Donnelly

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, 30 August 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.

Speaker – Grant Eisenmenger, will share with us his recent experience with varroa, and demonstrate marking the Drones in preparation for marking our Queen bees.

President's Report

One of the great things about our group's involvement in the Sunshine Coast Agricultural Show is that we get to talk to so many people who are also interested in the wonderful world of beekeeping! A bonus to that is that we often get more people who want to become beekeepers as well. Since the show we have increased our Introduction to Beekeeping courses and welcomed more beekeepers to our club. We have been very fortunate to maintain our primary focus as a club which is supporting one another and educating our community. Our course is just one way in which our committee and community do this.

I want to acknowledge John and Lynne for all that they are doing to educate our community on varroa treatment and plans.

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

We know that the best action plan is to have an integrated pest management plan. As hobbyist beekeepers, this can feel like an overwhelming idea to many of us, so I am personally grateful for all of the work that Lynne has done in creating a varroa mentor program. Having this support system in place is so valuable to our community and I feel much better about facing this challenge with experts supporting us.

Lynne has also worked very hard to coordinate a recent workshop at our club with our brilliant member and VDO Tonia. I am sending my gratitude on behalf of the club to our varroa mentors and to Lynne for all she does for our community.

I am looking forward to our next monthly meeting when Grant will share with us his recent varroa experience and he's going to show us how to mark Queens. I hope to see you all there.

Have a bee-utiful week

Katie

Katie Livock

President

Biosecurity Update

A check of the Surveillance map will indicate the extent of varroa infestation in the Sunshine Coast region. This will increase due to natural spread. It is important to continue to monitor your hives for varroa using the alcohol wash method and report the result to BEE123, **even if negative**. We can slow the spread.

Early detection is key to successful management of varroa and slowing the spread. It is a challenge especially in the initial build-up phase, however, it is important to know beekeepers worldwide are successfully managing varroa with long term management solutions. So will we.

If you find varroa mites or a suspected mite in your hives, the following steps should be taken:

1. Take a photo of what you see. You can zoom in to see a mite more clearly.
2. Keep the sample
3. Report your findings to BEE123
4. Wait for an officer to contact you

Take the time to review your integrated Pest Management (IPM) options.

Workshops for New Beekeepers

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

- **13 September - full**
- **11 October - filling up**
- **8 November - 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

To manage varroa mite, chemical options should only be applied once the mite threshold levels are reached. Chemical treatment should only be used as part of an IPM regime.

The club has a supply of chemicals that are available to members at cost. When you receive chemicals to treat your hives you will also receive a copy of the permit ot the label while at ch, as a condition of the permit you must follow. The permits and labels are also available at https://www.business.qld.gov.au/farms-fishing-forestry/agricultural/industries/bees/varroa-mite/manage

If managing varroa is too overwhelming for you and you decide you don't want to manage your hives any more, first do an alcohol wash to determine if your hies are healthy and free of varroa.

- If the hives are healthy, contact the bee club for advice.
- If varroa mite is present, contact your VDO, biosecurity champion or club for alternative options.
- **Do not dump OR ignore your hives.**

Available Support

Support is available from our Varroa Development Officers for free advice to all beekeepers and assist with IPM. Email varroa@dpi.qld.gov.au

A network of Queensland volunteer beekeepers, Biosecurity Champions, is available to support recreational beekeepers with biosecurity advice. The Club has contact details.

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

John Baker.

Saturday Rosters 2025

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

AUGUST

30/08/25	General Meeting	Kylie Albers 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

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.

- **20 September 2025**
- **18 October 2025**

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

Borrowing the Clubs spinners to extract honey at home:

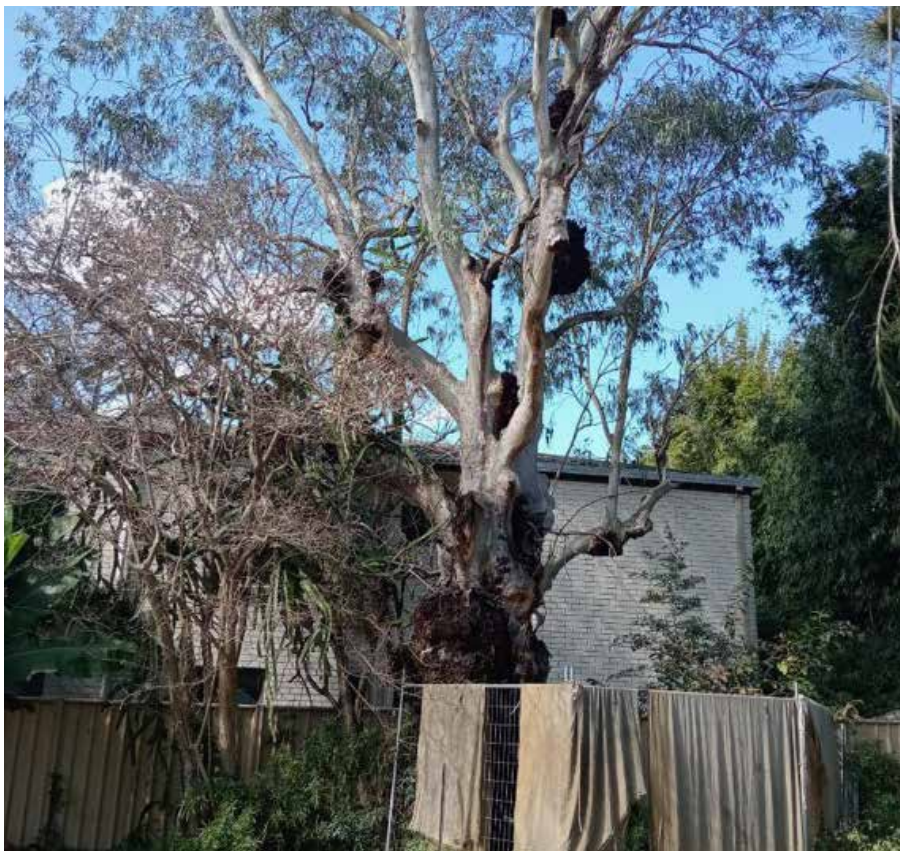
- The book for the loan of extractors has been updated and a hire sheet will enable the committee member on duty to ensure that the new system is followed.
- The Spinner must be returned to the club by 9:00am the following Saturday cleaned and ready for the next member to borrow.
- If for some unforeseen reason the spinner cannot be returned to the club by 9:00am the following Saturday please contact the Secretary to inform her that they are unable to return the spinner at the agreed time.

20/09/25	Harvest	Terry Ind	Evan Sanders
27/09/25	General Meeting	Smita Djapermal Adam Gunton	

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

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 reinfect 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 months are controlled.

Swarm Removal

Feedback was recently received that there was some confusion as to whether the club was still answering calls to catch swarms due to the spread of varroa.

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.

Southern: Ian Meyers 0412694058

North Coast and Sippy Downs: Grant Eisenmenger – 0401 720 004

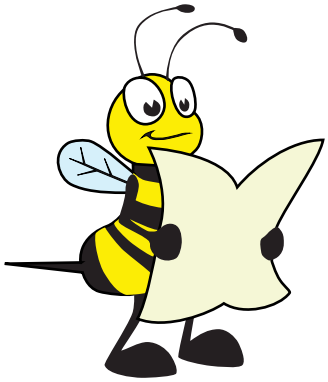
North and Central Areas: Tony Minto - 0419661843

Blackall Range, 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.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

Scientists found the missing nutrients bees need — Colonies grew 15-fold: Wright W, University of Oxford August 25

Scientists have developed a breakthrough food supplement that could help save honeybees from devastating declines. By engineering yeast to produce six essential sterols found in pollen, researchers provided bees with a nutritionally complete diet that boosted reproduction up to 15-fold. Unlike commercial substitutes that lack key nutrients, this supplement mimics natural pollen's sterol profile, giving bees the equivalent of a balanced diet.

Hidden honey bee viruses alter flight distance and speed in different ways: by Justin Jackson, Phys.org Aug 25

Montana State University-led research finds that bees with deformed wing virus flew shorter distances, whereas bees with sacbrood virus flew greater distances at higher speeds.

Findings indicate implications across organismal, colony, and the greater ecosystem. Study authors report that DWV infections may hinder the foraging capacity of the colony, resulting in less food and increasing the chances of colony death due to nutritional stress, and that bee-infecting viruses can be shared between sympatric species via floral resources.

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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