

BEE NEWS

September 2025

Issue 161

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

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepers.com.au



Photo – Bees on wattle – Linda Blackwell

NEXT MEETING

**Saturday, 27 September 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 – Barry Wedrat re: Hinge
hive system.**

President's Report

While we know that Swarms usually start around September, no one has told the bees that! Lynne has had 5 calls in 2 days with hives swarming all over the coast. It's a timely reminder for us all to check our hives for activity. If we can prevent a swarm then we are all going to be in a better place. If you think you would like to join our swarm catching team, please let us know. If you are not sure how to collect a swarm, please let us know and we can pair you up with one of our team to shadow a collection and you can get some hands on

experience. You probably know more than you think, and almost certainly know more than a frightened member of the public who are hoping to get rid of our unwanted visitors without causing them harm,

I am immensely proud of our 'Introduction to Beekeeping' course held almost monthly. If you started your beekeeping journey via one of our courses, then you would know it's a positive and fun day where we have a chance to share our enthusiasm for beekeeping with a group of people who are just as keen to support our environment and our bees! I want to extend a thank you to all of our team who regularly help us on these courses.

A couple of reminders; if you haven't made the varroa wash a regular step in your monthly hive checks, can you set yourself up to add this step in. We should all be checking every hive every time. We have stocked up on Drone frames and Drone foundation should have this step in your IPM plan. We do recommend Drone uncapping as an important step in monitoring the varroa activity in your hive. And secondly, keep an eye out for swarm activity in your hive. I truly appreciate that everyone is busy, but our community have always been very conscientious and I know that you will all be on board with doing the right thing. Thank you again.

Have a bee-utiful week everyone!

Katie

Katie Livock

President

Biosecurity Notes

Interstate detections continue to increase. There are NSW detections in Tweed Heads, further detections in Victoria and initial detections in South Australia. In Queensland in recent weeks new detections have been found in Maroochydore and near Warwick. As of 10/9/25 there were 188 infested sites in Queensland involving 12 council areas. Rochdale South was the latest on 9th September. In the first 11 days of September there were 11 new infected sites with 22 detections. It is more important than ever you continue with your hive surveillance.

Every four weeks you should do alcohol washes on your hives to detect an infestation early. Combine this with drone uncapping when drone brood is present. Continue to notify the results of your surveillance tests to Bee123 even when negative.

At the recent workshop held at the Club, as part of training in Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Mechanical Controls

Workshops for New Beekeepers

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

- **11 October - filling up**
- **8 November - open**
- **10 January 2026 - open**

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

were discussed. One control is Drone Trapping. I recommend you review and understand this process and prepare your drone combs in a honey super with a second frame to have the comb drawn out. You will then have them ready to use when your hive tests positive. With the first drone comb removal from a brood box, an average of 43% of mites in the colony can be removed. 48% with a second frame removed. It is a method for keeping mites at a manageable level before other treatments are applied. It is therefore useful but not effective alone. Drone trapping has no detrimental effect on worker population, honey production or mating success of queens.

There have been some changes in Biosecurity personnel. An Engagement Officer has been appointed, this is Sarah Hickman, currently a VDO in the Lockyer Valley. A Bee Biosecurity Officer (BBO) will be appointed in due course. The VDO's will finish up at the end of the year. Biosecurity Queensland is expecting the Champion network to play a key role in filling the gap with assistance from the BBO and Engagement Officers.

The COLOSS survey 2025 is open and will close on 1st November. It is hoped to reach as many beekeepers as possible, with or without varroa. The survey takes about 16 minutes and is anonymous. Go to <https://coloss.au/> to complete the survey. The aim of the survey is to identify the biggest challenges facing beekeepers, what are the issues contributing to colony losses, and can we manage them. Have your say and help ensure the future of our industry.

If you require advice on any aspects of the above or the management of varroa contact your VDO or Biosecurity Champion.

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.

SEPTEMBER

20/09/25	Harvest	Terry Ind	Tony Minto
27/09/25	General Meeting	Smita Djapermal Adam Gunton	

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.

OCTOBER

04/10/25	Course	Alby, Tom, Graham, Evan, Ron, Kylie Catering - Mary Spencer	Katie Livock
11/10/25	Open	Ken Evans	John Baker
18/10/25	Harvest	Evan Flower	Tony Minto
25/10/25	Meeting	Tony and Tara Pignata	

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 moths 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.

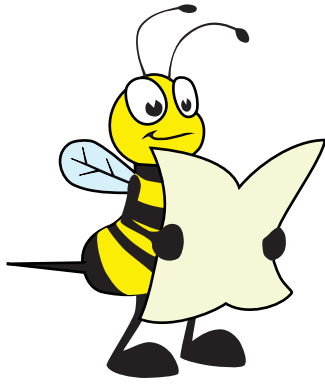
The member of the public must understand that they recontact the swarm catcher if the bees have moved on.

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.

Swarm Catchers

Southern Areas	Ian Meyers - 0412 694 058 Terry Ind - 0424 165 840
North Coast and Sippy Downs	Grant Eisenmenger - 0401 720 004
North and Central Areas	Tony Minto - 0419 661 843
Nambour and Maroochy	Alby Taylor - 0418 882 282
Buderim	Tom Cowburn - 0494 302 366
Blackall Range and Maleny	John Baker - 0418 791 149



BEES IN THE NEWS

Scientists make 'superfood' that could save honeybees: Georgina Rannard Climate and science correspondent BBC August 25

Scientists have developed a honeybee "superfood" that could protect the animals against the threats of climate change and habitat loss.

Bee colonies that ate the supplement during trials had up to 15 times more baby bees that grew to adulthood.

Honeybees are a vital part of food production and contribute to the pollination by animals of 70% of leading global crops.

"This technological breakthrough provides all the nutrients bees need to survive, meaning we can continue to feed them even when there's not enough pollen," senior author Professor Geraldine Wright at the University of Oxford told BBC News.

World-famous bee sanctuary on Kangaroo Island under threat from Varroa mite: By James Wakelin, Stateline August 25

Kangaroo Island beekeepers

are feeling anxious about the deadly Varroa mite.

It was detected in South Australia for the first time earlier this month in the Riverland.

What's next?

The state government says a range of regulations are in place for those visiting KI and it would consider expanding checks if needed.

"They've been recognised as the most pure strain of Ligurian bee left in the world.

NDIS registered beekeeping program has school students buzzing. Inclusive honey business opens beekeeping to students and community: By Courtney Wilson, Landline August 25

It's not your average school day at Flagstone State Community College in south-east Queensland.

Instead of sitting in classrooms, a group of secondary students is suited up in protective gear, carefully lifting frames from beehives under the guidance of local beekeepers.

Agriculture teacher says the impact of these hands-on experiences is immediate. "You just can't replicate this in a classroom. Their whole attitude changes, they're engaged, they're listening."

A business born out of helping their daughter. Jason and Natasha Roebig run Bee All Natural, a boutique honey business based in Logan in south-east Queensland.

They produce traditional and creamed honey, as well as bath, body and beauty products.

Their journey into beekeeping wasn't planned. It began with a personal mission to help their daughter. She was born with eczema.

"We tried everything, all the creams, all the natural creams and all the steroid creams. We spent thousands. Then one day, both our doctor and naturopath suggested trying raw honey."

Encouraged by the improvement in their daughter's skin, they began experimenting with homemade balms, and soon friends and family began asking for samples.

"She was diagnosed with ASD [autism spectrum disorder] and ADD [attention deficit disorder] about five years ago, and later developed Tourette's.

"But, we noticed that when she was actually working the bees with us, it all just disappeared.

Making beekeeping inclusive

Inspired by their daughters experience, the Roebigs began offering workshops, incursions and resources for schools, including beekeeping courses for beginners.

Because of their interest in this space, they've become registered NDIS service providers, offering tailored beekeeping experiences to individuals with physical or cognitive challenges.

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	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
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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