BEE NEWS

October 2025
Issue 162

Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast BeeKeepers Inc.

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepers.com.au



Photo of Australian native bees, by David Clode on Unsplash

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, 25 October 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 October everyone!

Our Introduction to Beekeeping Course this month was another brilliant day. I always feel so excited to welcome new beekeepers to our community. With the introduction of varroa, we really didn't know how many people would find an additional step to management too much, but for those just joining our world, then this will be a natural part of their beekeeping adventure. For this reason I feel so proud that

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

we have steps in place to support one another. This month our committee met to plan ahead for the 2026 year, and in response to demand, I am pleased to say that we have added more courses to our calendar for next year. All of this just means that we need to support one another and our newest beekeepers even more. I want to encourage our community members to come to our monthly meetings, and to introduce yourself to someone - offer support and kindness. I know from personal experience that a kind word of encouragement and support really makes a difference.

This week at our meeting, we will, as always, update you on all things Sunshine Coast Beekeepers and varroa on the coast, but we will also cover some more practical and, hopefully, fun topics.

Don't forget to test and report every time you check your hive.

I'm looking forward to seeing you on Saturday!

Have a bee-utiful week

Katie

Katie Livock

President

Biosecurity Notes

As predicted, Varroa infestations are becoming more widespread, especially in South-East Queenslan d and the Sunshine Coast. At a recent biosecurity meeting the DPI reported the spread and number of hives being affected is progressing faster than predicted. It is more important than ever with spring conditions under way you undertake regular surveillance of your hives with drone uncapping and alcohol washes. When your hives test positive, you must continue performing alcohol washes to assess mite load and treaat once threshold has been reached. Current threshold is 5+. This will change to 9+ on 1st December.

It is time for all of us to review our knowedge of varroa management with the following:

- Review your "Varroa Mite Management" workshop notebook
- Go to the web addesss varroa.org.au Together with a lot of other information, there are links to two online training modules "Varroa Basics" and "Introduction Varroa Management".
- The Biosecurity Code of Practice Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice

Workshops for New Beekeepers

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

- **8 November - closed**
- **10 January 2026 - closed**
- **14 February 2026 - now open**
- **7 March 2026 - now open**

Booking is essential.

Book online at: www.sunshinecoastbeekeepers.com.au/workshops.



* Freepik

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

Kashmir Bee Virus

As part of the National Varroa Mite Transition to Management Programme, a nationwide honeybee virus survey has been completed. A suspect Kashmir bee virus (KBV) was lab confirmed in August on European honey bees in a small number of hives in Victoria. KBV can be a serious pathogen affecting honey bees and has been linked to colony collapse disorder. Management focuses on regular inspections and an integrated response to colony stressors including controlloing varroa mite populations, maintaining hive hygiene and supporting bee nutrition.

COLOSS Survey

Unfortunately, participation rates for the current survey are lower than expected. An email will be sent to all members with information about this important annual confidential survey and a link to the survey. Go to https://coloss.au/ to complete the survey. Closing date is 1st November.

If you require advice on any aspects of the above or management of varroa contact your VDO, Club Mentors or Biosecurioty Champion.

John Baker

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

Saturday Rosters 2025

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

OCTOBER

25/10/25	Meeting	Tony and Tara Pignata	

NOVEMBER

01/11/25	Open		
08/11/25	Course	Alby, Tom, Graham, Evan Catering - Mary Spencer	Katie Livock
15/11/25	Open	Damien Casserly	Tom Cowburn
22/11/25	Harvest	Ron Button	David Lee
29/11/25	General Meeting	Christmas Party	

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.

- **22 November**
- **20 December**
- **24 January 2026**

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.

DECEMBER

06/12/25	Open	Tom Symons	Evan Sanders
13/12/25	Open	Griffin Pengally	John Baker
20/12/25	Last day for 2025	Ron and Lynne Hulme	

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

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.

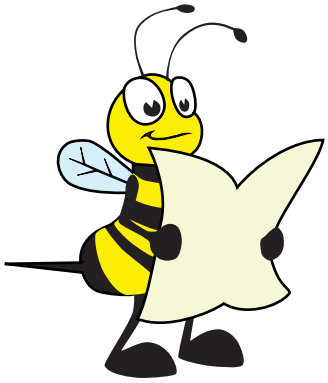
The member of the public must understand that they recontact the swarm catcher if the bees have moved on.

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

AHBIC Industry Update 72 & Important Biosecurity Update Kashmir Bee Virus: 20 OCTOBER 2025 (honeybee.org.au)

As part of the National Varroa Mite Transition to Management Program, a nationwide honeybee virus survey has been completed. During this National Honey Bee Virus Baseline Project bees were collected from 1209 hives, with samples coming proportionally from all states and territories. Eight viruses were tested for across 5,769 pools of the samples.

Of those baseline samples collected from Victorian hives, suspect Kashmir bee virus (KBV) was lab confirmed in August 2025, on European honey bees in a small number of hives across Victoria.

About Kashmir Bee Virus (KBV)
Kashmir bee virus can be a serious viral pathogen affecting honey bees and has been linked with colony collapse, especially when combined with other colony stressors such as the presence of other pests or diseases and poor nutrition. Management focuses on regular colony inspections and an integrated response to colony stressors including controlling varroa mite populations, maintaining hive hygiene and supporting bee nutrition.

Beekeepers: All States & Territories

AHBIC strongly recommends beekeepers across Australia, that it is more important than ever to conduct surveillance on colonies in your care. With spring conditions underway, checking hives for presence of varroa using one of the preferred methods is essential.

National T2M Webinar Final

The National Varroa Mite Management Program team will host a Final Program Webinar, on Wednesday 3 December 2025, starting at 7pm.

This webinar will reflect on the initial response first detection of Varroa in 2022 and subsequent Transition to Management Program. An overview of the delivery of T2M program objectives and detail state and territory plans to continue to support Australia's honey bee and pollination-dependent industries in the years ahead.

The webinar will also feature a live Q & A session. This is a free online event and registrations are essential.

Moving your Bee Hives - Is the 3 foot/3 miles "rule" a bit of a fib?: From random internet sites

The idea is that you can either move a hive 3 feet or 3 miles. Less than 3 feet and they will smell the queen and find the hive, more than 3 miles and the bees will recalibrate when they leave the hive. Anywhere in between and the bees will return to the location of where their hive used to be.

We've just moved three hives about a mile away and haven't had anybody return. Where has this "rule" come from?

The statement is meant to imply you should either move the hive a small amount, enough that the bees can find it easily say 3-10 ft from its original location, or move it a lot so far that the bees are completely confused as to where they are and reorient to new landmarks.

If you move it 3 miles however more distant landmarks, say half a mile away will have changed and they will navigate based on the sun not old landmarks that lead them to the old location.

Yes you can move a hive in between distances. Changing the environment dramatically even to the point of rotating the hive, or placing branches across the entrance is usually encouraged."

Put shit in front of the entrance (like a leafy branch on the landing board) so they wonder WTF happened.

If you can move in an evening before it's going to rain the next day, even better.

Small hive beetle detected in Devonport beehive threatens

$12.8m Tasmanian honey industry: 10 March 2023 1:25 PM, Anonymous

The discovery of a small hive beetle in a beehive in the north-west of Tasmania has rocked the state's honey bee industry.

The small hive beetle has been described as a "shocking pest" by the president of the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association, Lindsay Bourke.

The small hive beetle has been found in a beehive at Devonport Port with a 15-kilometre exclusion zone declared.

The pest beetle can fly up to 7km and infiltrate bee hives, posing a threat to Tasmania's $12.8-million honey industry.

The NT is the only state free of the beetle.

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
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

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 offical 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.