BEE NEWS

August 2026
Issue 170

Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast BeeKeepers Inc.

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepers.com.au





Photo of bees on wattle flower, by Linda Blackwell

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, 29 August 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:

Barry Wedrot and Tony Minto - treatments and vaping with oxalic acid

President's Report

Happy August everyone. Thank you to everyone who attended our AGM last month. It was great to re-elect our committee with the support of our Beekeeping community. Thank you to the committee for electing to represent the community for another year. It was also great to share a democracy sausage with you all.

A special thank you to Ashley Frost for taking the time to present at our meeting to share his travelling adventures. If you ever want to share your experience with us, or you have an invention or find, you are welcome to be our monthly guest speaker. We love diversity and

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

it's your club, so please let us know what you need.

This week I have been fortunate enough to have been invited to present at the Nambour Rotary Club and I had the opportunity to share all about our club, the importance of beekeeping and the beekeeping community, and the environmental impact of all we do. I was also able to present to a prep school of students who were very excited to see an inflatable Queen Bee in their classroom!

Until Saturday, have a bee-utiful week!

Katie

Katie Livock

President

QBA Requesting Expressions of Interest – Pollination Contact List

The QBA is looking at ways to make a coordinated effort to improve relationships and communication between our members and farmers.

Would you be interested in being part of a **Pollination List?**

The aim of the list is to help farmers easily identify beekeepers who may be available to provide pollination services in their area.

If you are interested please reply to Steph Ruge at support@QBAbees.org.au

Biosecurity Notes

Fire Ants - Bait Safety for Bees

- The bait contains an insect growth regulator treatment 5 gms per kilogram of bait
- This treatment prevents the fire ant queen from producing viable and reproductive offspring
- Bees are unlikely to choose to feed on the granules or mistake it for pollen. The bait uses soybean oil (a protein) to attract ants. It doesn't contain sugar or anything similar that would attact bees.
- The active ingredient has low toxicity to bees.
- The active ingredient has low solubility and does not dissolve in water

Note, in favourable conditions – 1 female fire ant can mate

Workshops for New Beekeepers

Our upcoming Beekeeper's Courses for 2026 will be held on:

- **12 September - full**
- **10 October - 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

with a male fly 2 – 3 kms away and start a new nest.

Varroa Update

An update will be provided by John at the meeting on Saturday.

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

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

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.

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.

Saturday Rosters 2026

SEPTEMBER

05/09/26	Open	Martin Law	Paul Bonner
12/09/26	Course	Alby, Tom, Kylie, Tony, Evan, Ron, Katie and Lynne	
19/09/26	Open	Terry Ind	Evan Sanders
26/09/26	General Meeting	Kathleen and Jason March	

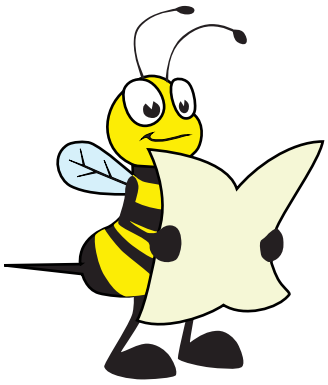
OCTOBER

03/10/26	Open	Chris Blignauts	Tony Minto
10/10/26	Course	Alby, Tom, Kylie, Tony, Evan, Ron, Katie and Lynne	
17/10/26	Open	Ashley Frost	David Lee
24/10/26	Open	Tom Symons	Tom Cowburn
31/10/26	General Meeting	Chris and Steve Partleton	

NOVEMBER

07/11/26	Open	Ron Hulm	Lynne Hulm
14/11/26	Course	Alby, Tom, Kylie, Tony, Evan, Ron, Katie and Lynne	
21/11/26	Open	Griffin Pengelly	John Baker
28/11/26	General Meeting	CHRISTMAS PARTY	

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



BEES IN THE NEWS

Australian beekeepers can't tackle Varroa mite alone. Here's how we can help

Casey C. Forster, Macquarie University and Théotime Colin, Macquarie University
August 18, 2026

Varroa is here to stay. For beekeepers across Australia, that means learning to live with the risks of infested hives, lower production and lost income.

So, how are we currently managing Varroa? And what needs to change?

Australia's response

In Australia, authorities have sought to bolster the industry and slow Varroa's spread under a national management program, introduced in early 2024. Today, the scale of the problem varies from state to state.

How do we currently treat

Varroa?

Effective Varroa management relies on three key principles.

1. Monitoring

2. Treatment

Varroa treatments can be costly and complicated. Finding miticides – a type of pesticide specifically designed to kill ticks and mites. In the past three years, mites in most states have developed resistance to pyrethroid- and formamidine-based treatments.

3. Post-treatment

Beekeepers can slow the spread of Varroa by keeping colonies well fed to prevent robbing. To reduce drifting, apiarists can also place hives further apart and face

Backing our beekeepers

We can better support our beekeepers by:

Without support, the Australian Honeybee Council estimates almost 40% of commercial beekeepers will leave the sector in the coming years. This means there will be fewer bees pollinating crops – putting our farming communities and food security at risk.

Bee-killing mite second wave raises food security alarm

By Duncan Murray. Updated August 25 2026 – The Canberra Times

A second incursion of a bee-killing parasite has brought a more chemically-resistant wave of the pests, raising concerns over their impact on Australia's food security.

Bees play a crucial role in food production, with an estimated $12.9 billion of crops in Australia at least partially reliant on them for pollination.

Crops including almonds, avocados, apples, cherries, and berries are almost completely reliant on honey bees.

Industry modelling suggests Varroa could lead to losses of up to $1.25 billion across pollinator-reliant industries over the next 30 years without effective intervention.

Giving hope to Ms Bryant - and the subject of her research - is that wild hives of European honey bees have demonstrated an ability to develop a genetic resistance to Varroa over time.

"Globally, when Varroa first arrives we see a massive drop off in feral hives, but then we do eventually see an uptick over around a five-year period as the population starts re-establishing," she said.

"There is something happening in their genetics that is allowing them to survive, and if we can unlock what that is, that has amazing potential for the future of agriculture."

2026 Executive and Committee

President	Katie Livock	presidentscbees@gmail.com	0414 843 342
Vice President	Grant Eisenmenger	vicepresidentscbees@gmail.com	0401 720 004
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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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