

BEE NEWS

March 2020
Issue 107

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

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au



President's Report

A very big thanks to Rebecca Laws for a very enjoyable and informative presentation on biosecurity matters. It has been posted on the web site as a permanent reference.

We had very good numbers for the March introduction workshop.

Everyone would now be well aware of the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Sunshine Coast Annual Show has been cancelled and there are severe restrictions on numbers at gatherings.

The Committee has no alternative but to suspend all scheduled meetings and workshops until further notice. We will all need to keep in touch via internet, web site and facebook.

The shed will be opened on Saturday mornings for members to pick up supplies, make boxes and frames and tend the club hives. Please

contact Secretary Bill so that he can coordinate numbers.

These unforeseen circumstances will have a serious impact on the clubs revenue from Courses and sale of honey, so it will be important for everyone to renew their membership when the renewal invoices are issued.

We have received a further grant of \$2,500.00 from the Department of Infrastructure through Ted O'Brien's office.

We are still awaiting resolution of the sewerage connection issue with Unity Water to enable construction of the extensions to proceed.

The bees are enjoying conditions after the recent rains, so it may be a late honey harvest.

Looking forward to catching up with everyone whenever we can arrange our next meeting.

Alby Taylor

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

COVID-19 Impact

To All Sunshine Coast Beekeepers Inc. members

As a result of deliberations on 21 March 2020 by the committee members, it has been decided that the activities of Sunshine Coast Beekeepers Inc. will be suspended indefinitely until the COVID-19 situation becomes clearer, or is resolved satisfactorily enough for life to return to some semblance of normality. This means that all meetings and planned gatherings of the group will not now take place until further notice.

This decision has been taken in the best interests of the health and welfare of club members bearing in mind that a high proportion of our membership falls into the 'highly susceptible' segment of the population.

We understand that this will cause inconvenience to members so we are proposing some measures to try to alleviate the situation. It is possible that more restrictive isolation measures will be instituted by government. However, if we are still free to move about while observing the current "social distancing" protocols, members can gain access to the shed and use the facilities for assembling hives or frames in very limited numbers by contacting us and making prior arrangements. We will try to always have somebody available to open the shed on an ad hoc basis as the needs arise.

If anybody has a pressing need to use the club facilities, for whatever bee-related reason, please contact either me, or Alby Taylor in the first instance. Our contact details are readily available on the club website.

The effect that this decision will have on the club development plans will be profound. We estimate that the direct cost of this crisis will be in excess of \$2000 per month. This comes at a time when we are almost in a position to proceed with stage two



February inspection of the Club's top bar hive

of our development project and the need for extra funds is serious. For this reason alone we are appealing to all members to continue paying their membership dues when they arise. We will shortly be sending out membership renewal invoices and we urge all current members to support the club by renewing their memberships promptly.

We will try to provide as much information and support to our members in the hope that we can all get through this crisis relatively unscathed. In the meantime, stay isolated, stay safe, and stay well.

Regards

Bill Spencer

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is postponed indefinitely due to COVID-19

Membership 2020

Renewal of membership for 2020 is due by **31 May 2020.**

Cost is \$50.00.

Renew now via direct deposit:

Account name: Sunshine Coast Beekeepers Inc.

BSB: 633 000

Account number: 1633 79555

Reference: "[Your surname] 2020 membersip"

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.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au

Also, check out our Facebook page for more Club news.

www.facebook.com/pg/sunshinecoastbeekeepersaustralia/posts/?ref=page_internal

February raffle raised \$214



Swarms

Northern Sunshine Coast: John Writer, 0409 118, 888.

Southern Sunshine Coast: Ian Meyers, 0412 694 058.

Maleny and surrounds: John Baker, 0418 791 149

Bee Buddy Register

For those members who would like a mentor, and for those who are happy to mentor, contact the Club Secretary Bill Spencer (secretarysbees@gmail.com, 0419 149 947).



* Freepik

Beekeeping Course

The next Beekeeping Course is postponed.



BEES IN THE NEWS

[Efficacy of cow urine against European foulbrood: Indian case study](#)



Honey extraction day in March



Flowering in March 2020

Chris Johnson

The **Broad-leaved Paper Bark** (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*) flowers March-July on the Sunshine Coast. The leaves are flat and leathery, about 70 mm x 20 mm with 5 distinctive longitudinal veins (quinquenervia). Flowers appear as short bottlebrush spikes, creamy white in colour and 50 mm long. It is one of the most important source of nectar and is a rich pollen source, high in protein, which stimulates the queen to lay. You may find the honey granulates quickly.

You may also have growing in your garden the **Swamp Paperbark** (*M. ericifolia*) which originally comes from southern Australia. It is a hardy small tree to 18' with narrow leaves and profuse, cream 1" bottlebrush flowers appearing in spring/summer. I have one which flowered briefly last month after the rain.

I have noticed **Golden Penda** (*Xanthostemon chrysanthus*) flowering along the streets. It is endemic to north eastern Queensland but is planted as a street tree by the council. I have purchased it from Bunnings. It is a popular garden plant with showy yellow blooms and is attractive to bees.

Don't forget to plant herbs for your bees, especially my favourite, **Bush Basil**, a perennial, that flowers continuously if trimmed and the bees love it! There are some bushes growing well in the club garden where you could take a cutting. Just put it in water for a week or so and plant into a pot till it's ready to plant into your garden.

Until next month.

Happy bee-keeping

Chris



Flower of the Broad-leaved Paper Bark



Flowering Swamp Paperbark



Golden Penda



Bush basil

2020 - 2021 Executive and Committee

President	Alby Taylor	presidentscbees@gmail.com	0418 882 282
Vice-President	Katie Livock	vicepresidentscbees@gmail.com	0414 757 220
Secretary	Bill Spencer	secretaryscbees@gmail.com	0419 149 947
Treasurer	Chris Johnson	treasurerscbees@gmail.com	0411 415 527
Committee	John Baker	mail@johngbaker.com.au	0418 791 149
Committee	Linda Blackwell	lineb@internode.on.net	
Librarian	Lyndall Pettett	lyndall_pettett@hotmail.com	
Publicity	Katie Livock	infoscbees@gmail.com	0414 843 342
Facebook/website	Frank Vos	frankvos@tpg.com.au	0412 066 546
Newsletter editor	Linda Blackwell	lineb@internode.on.net	

* 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.