

BEE NEWS

July 2022

Issue 130

Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast
BeeKeepers Inc.

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au



Bee on a citrus flower, photograph by Graham Gibb



President's Report

What a difference a month makes!

AGM SATURDAY 30 JULY

Saturday, 30 June at the Club House, 43
Farrell Street Yandina.

Morning tea and catch up starts 9.30am,
BYO plate of food to share and some
items for the raffle.

Meeting to start at 10.00am.

In June we were discussing the success of the show and celebrating our members, now in July we are keenly watching the varroa situation unfold in NSW. I am sharing information on Facebook as it is released. We remain hopeful that the work being done by the beekeepers and the government departments in both NSW and QLD in an attempt to keep everything under control is working. As a registered beehive owner you will have received communication from Biosecurity Queensland. If you did not, please check that you are registered. It has proven an integral measure in controlling the current outbreak. Hoping to hear more at the AGM next week and looking forward to seeing you all there!

Katie Livock

Page 1

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

Annual General Meeting

Annual Reports from the President and Treasurer

Election of committee for the forthcoming year.

A number of Committee members have expressed their desire to step down from their current positions while others have expressed their willingness to remain in their present positions.

Positions of Secretary and Vice President are now vacant. Nominations have been received for these two positions but any member wishing to contest any position is welcome to do so. Anybody wishing to nominate for a committee position is invited to contact the Secretary and seek a nomination form.

Guest Speaker

Our special guest speaker for the meeting will be Dr. Dave Schlipalius. The Bee Biosecurity Officer of Biosecurity Queensland, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, who will present an update on the current varroa mite situation in NSW and give a practical demonstration of how to conduct a mite check and report results.

Lunch will be provided following the meeting.

Your Club and COVID Safety

We recommend physical distancing, wearing masks and hand hygiene to keep us all safe.

Masks are not all equal – N95 and P2 are the gold standard, then surgical masks and lastly cloth masks are better than nothing.

Your nose and mouth must be covered to be effective.

You can reuse your mask. When you take it off put it inside a paper bag and leave it for a few days. It allows the mask to dry out and after 3 or 4 days any germs will likely have died.

Annual Subscription

Our annual year extends from 1st June in one year up to the 31st May the following year. The annual subscription is \$50 annually and is now overdue. Could you all please remember to support your club by renewing your annual subscription.

Club Meeting 25 June

Issues raised from the members:

- Varroa mite infestation had been detected in the port of Newcastle precinct. Prompt detection and swift action has hopefully been sufficient to contain the outbreak.

Workshops for New Beekeepers

Our next two Beekeeper's Courses will be held on 14 August and 11 September.

All participants must agree to the Club's covid rules.

Booking is essential.

Book online at:
www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.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.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au

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

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

- There appears to be a great deal of moisture condensation in hives, which is apparently leading to significant build-up of mould in hives. Chris Johnson indicated that he has previously had success with a product called “Mr Mould”. This is apparently quite expensive but very effective at managing mould in hives.
- There was also discussion of the necessity and methods of feeding bees which appear to be starving. Most solutions offered appear to be based around the idea of using sugar and water combinations in various ways to feed the bees.

4th Australian Bee Congress, Sydney, 8-11th June 2022:

Sniffing Out American Foulbrood

Summarised by John Baker

American Foulbrood (AFB), is an infectious disease of honeybee brood caused by the spore forming bacterium *Paenibacillus* larvae. Young larvae ingest the spores which germinate in the honeybee gut. As the infection spreads, the brood dies in the pupal or pre-pupal stage.

The issues are:

1. The incidence of AFB is increasing in Australia
2. The disease is incurable
3. Once infected the colony must be destroyed and the hive either burnt or irradiated
4. The infection is advanced by the time of a positive manual inspection

The characteristic features of AFB found during hive inspection are well described.

To reduce the risk of AFB spreading to other colonies or apiaries, the infection should be identified as early as possible. A group of researchers at the Western Australia Dept. of Primary Industries and the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Honey Bee Products, is developing “A beehive breathalyser for AFB”

First, they identified volatile components in the foul odour of infected hives and infected larvae using gas chromatography and mass spectroscopy. An abundance of over 100 compounds have been identified. The number was reduced progressively to 40 then 19 and 15 to 4. These 4 biomarkers of interest have strong specificity and sensitivity for identifying AFB; they are distinct from a healthy hive, other causes of hive death, and sacbrood. The most sensitive biomarker has been tested and was

Swarms

Every beekeeper needs to take management strategies to prevent swarms as bees are often not welcome in our neighbours’ property.

Southern: Ian Meyers,
0412 694 058.

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

Buderim: Tom Cowburn,
0418 143 206.

North and South areas: Alby
Taylor, 0418 882 282.

Maleny and surrounds: John
Baker, 0418 791 149.

detectable in hives with fewer than 10 AFB symptomatic larvae, a level of infection a lot lower than can be detected by manual inspection.

This research has led to the development of novel chemistries that change colour in the presence of the biomarker in the hive that is specific to AFB. A range of paper-based sensors have been created and tested for high sensitivity and specificity for AFB and have been tested in the field with positive results. Within a year or two, there will be a simple and quick method to screen every hive for AFB, using this diagnostic AFB screening tool, by observing a colour change on a paper test strip.

(Ref: CRC for Honey Bee Products, The University of Western Australia.)



BEES IN THE NEWS

New South Wales Agriculture Minister confident varroa mite outbreak can be eradicated as ban on hive movement eases: ABC News - Jason Om

Nearly 2,000 beehives have been destroyed by state authorities since the detection of Varroa destructor

New South Wales Agriculture Minister Dugald Saunders says the elimination strategy is ongoing

Currently, hives outside of varroa mite biosecurity zones can be moved with a permit

Claims that the Department of Primary Industries did not check surveillance hives regularly enough to prevent the outbreak was rejected.

\$18m compensation package announced for beekeepers

battling varroa mite outbreak: ABC Central West - Hamish Cole

Apiarists will be reimbursed for the loss of equipment, hives and bees.

Dozens of premises have been infested with the mite, but the NSW Agriculture Minister says the situation is in hand.

The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council says the compensation package is crucial.

Calls to improve Australia's biosecurity as cost of varroa mite - incursion to agriculture mounts: ABC News - Nicole Asher

Australia's biosecurity system has been described as not fit for purpose and the country's almond industry is demanding changes so farmers are not left paying the cost of importers' mistakes.

A 2017 review recommended a levy on importers to cover the cost of any pests entering Australia.

Freight industry leaders say technology could be better used to locate pests.

The almond industry is one of the worst-affected by the varroa mite crisis.

Bees Are Smarter Than We've Previously Given Them Credit For, Research Finds: ExtremeTech - 19 July 2022

According to Lars Chittka, a seasoned bee researcher and a professor of ecology at Queen Mary University of London, we "now have suggestive evidence that there is some level of conscious awareness in bees—that there is a sentience, that they have emotion-like states.

10,000 bees join protest in Chile, stinging seven police officers: BBC

Honey production has been hurt by a long-term drought in Chile that has withered the bees' food sources such as flowers and crops.

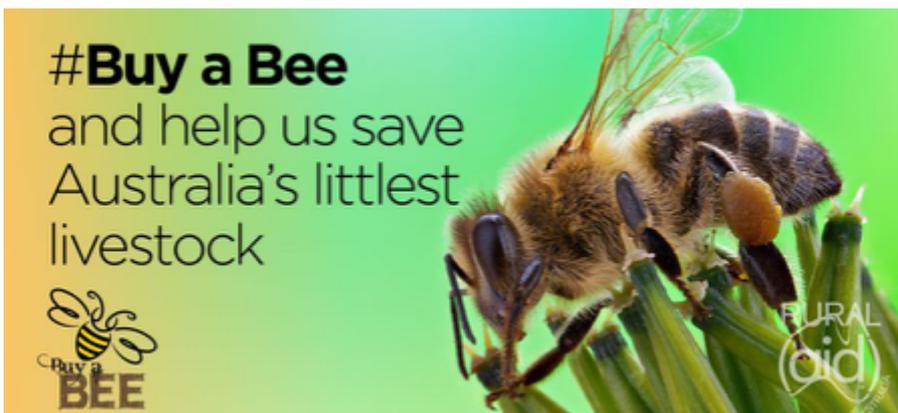
The beekeepers want government reform to improve honey prices or to provide subsidies to honey producers.

"Bees are dying," Mr Iturra said.

"There would be no life if the bees die. That's what we wanted to highlight with this demonstration."

How beetles trick bees into feeding them food rich in nutrients: The Conversation - 3 July 2022

Small hive beetles are the only species known to mimic honeybee trophallaxis (mutual exchange of regurgitated liquids between insects) and successfully coerce worker bees to share carbohydrates and protein, which are essential for the bee colony's own survival and reproduction.



2021 - 2022 Executive and Committee

Acting President	Katie Livock	presidentscbees@gmail.com	0414 843 342
Acting Vice President	John Baker	mail@johnbaker.com.au	0418 791 149
Secretary	Bill Spencer	secretaryscbees@gmail.com	0419 149 947
Treasurer	Paul Bonner	treasurerscbees@gmail.com	0403 432 952
Course Coordinator	Alby Taylor	infoscbees@gmail.com	0418 882 282
Committee Newsletter Editor	Linda Blackwell	lineb@internode.on.net	0409 848 466
Committee	Graham Gibb	graham@signedbyme.com.au	0414 288 814
Facebook/website	Frank Vos	frankvos@tpg.com.au	0412 066 546
Committee	Evan Flower	evan.flower@bigpond.com	

* 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.