

BEE NEWS

June 2022
Issue 129

Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast
BeeKeepers Inc.

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au



Bee on a rose, photograph by Katie Livock

President's Report

June is usually huge month for us at the Sunshine Coast Beekeepers, but wow! What a month!

Huge congratulations to Tony Minto for taking

out the prestigious 'Greatest Honey in the World' competition! It's always such a fun competition and I know how great it feels to have your peers judge your honey as great! Congratulations again Tony.

The Sunshine Coast Agricultural Show is a massive week for us. There are too many people to thank but over the week we must acknowledge John Baker for his organisation, David Lee for his chief stewardship of the honey competition, Sue Lee and Kathy Lynch for their work in the competition, Alby Taylor, Tom Cowburn, and Grant Eisenmenger for working at the stall every single day, and the rest of the club members for volunteering their time in setting up and manning the stall. An

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, 25 June at the Club House, 43
Farrell Street Yandina.

Morning tea and catch up starts 9.30am,
BYO plate of food to share. Meeting to
start at 10.00am.

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

incredible effort that we are all grateful for. We look forever to a break down from David at our next meeting.

Stay warm everyone, thank you for contributing to the greatest club on the coast!

Katie Livock

Club Meeting 29 May

Katie introduced our special guest Sunshine Coast Councillor Councillor David Law to the audience. He praised the club for our efforts on behalf of the bees and the environment, and gave a brief history of his background and a short history of his entry into local politics. He also explained his areas of responsibility in his position as a councillor. He gave a brief introduction of his special interest in waste minimisation and an explanation of the recent council decision to issue a green waste bin to all households in the shire. He took some questions from the group and invited anybody with a particular issue that they wanted to discuss with him to approach him at the end of the meeting.

Councillor David Law talking at the Club meeting on 29 May



Nambour Show

The show will be discussed at our next meeting 25th June.

Congratulations go to:

- Katie our President was awarded as having Champion Honey of the Show.
- John Writer 1st Place for Comb Honey and 2nd Place to Kathy Lynch
- Kathy Lynch 1st Place for Beeswax Art and 2nd Place to Tony Minto

Workshops for New Beekeepers

Our next two Beekeeper's Courses will be held on 10 July and 14 August.

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

Booking is essential.

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



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Upcoming Events

23-24 June 2022 - Qld Bee Association State Conference, at Warwick

30 July 2022 - Annual General Meeting

Hive Check List

Attached to this newsletter is Graham Gibson's Hive Check List. Graham is happy for everyone to use his check list.



Honey and wax art winners at the Nambour Show

Swarms

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

Southern Sunshine Coast: Ian Meyers, 0412 694 058.

Northern Sunshine Coast incl. Sippy Downs: Grant Eisenmenger, 0401 720 004

Maleny and surrounds: John Baker, 0418 791 149.



Mead winners at the Nambour Show

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



The Club's table at the Nambour Show



Tasting the Best Honey in the World

Best Honey in the World

Gilliam Meyers provided a short outline of the rules relating to the “Best Honey in the World” competition, and the way in which honey samples should be tasted and rated.

This years clear winner of the annual trophy was Tony Minto.

Competition results:

- 1st: Tony Minto
- 2nd: Tom Symons
- 3rd: Kay Thompson



Tony Minto was the winner of the 2022 Best Honey in the World

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

We were fortunate that John Baker, a member of our committee and current Acting Vice President of our Club, attended this conference. John has suggested when he has the time he will write a short article of interest from the conference for club members to be included in our monthly newsletter.

The ongoing search for a Lure for Small Hive Beetle

We have previously had a presentation on SHB lantern traps using a honey fermentate as a lure. This has been extensively studied in trials in S.E. Queensland and northern NSW. It has been determined, although this lure attracts SHB, it's usefulness is short lived. It is good for one day then it's effectiveness declines. This

has led to the search for a better synthetic lure.

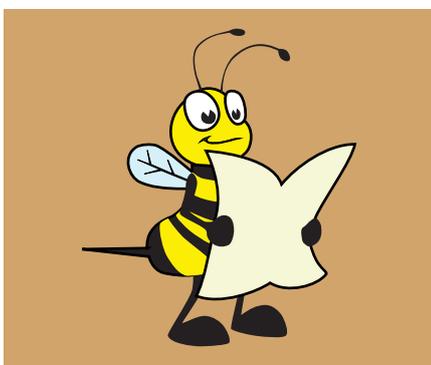
Kevin Farnier is a research scientist in Chemical Ecology specialising on lure development for the control of insect pests. His research involves behavioural studies, analytical chemistry, insect electrophysiology to investigate the olfactory responses of pest insects and identify potential natural attractants (e.g., pheromones or food and microbial-derived odours). He has developed lures for Queensland fruit flies, carob moths and relevant to the stone fruit industry, several carpophilus beetle species.

Dr Farnier's current research, since January 2022, focusses on the development and optimisation of a long-lasting lure. He has identified 10 key volatile compounds from hive material. Further investigation of them is underway. These 'volatile' attractants can then be formulated using various dispenser technologies to create a synthetic 'odorant' lure. This can then be used to monitor for the presence of SHB (biosecurity), or as a pest control tool in integrated pest management strategies (e.g., mass trapping).

Controlling small hive beetle populations in apiaries will alleviate their impact on the beekeeping industry.

Dr Farnier is ready to test prototype lures and has put out a call for beekeepers near Brisbane or Melbourne to assist with field test sites. In-kind support will involve replacing lures and checking traps.

The future for the control of SHB is looking promising.



BEES IN THE NEWS

Why it's crucial to safeguard the ancient practice of finding wild honey with birds: The Conversation - June 2022

In parts of Africa, a small bird called the Greater Honeyguide (Indicator indicator) helps people search for honey. It approaches people and chatters and flies in the direction of a wild bees' nest, urging the person to follow. When bird and human reach the nest together, the human honey-hunter knows just what to do: they subdue the bees and harvest the honey with smoke and tools. When that's done, the little bird feeds on the beeswax and larvae left behind.

Today, human-honeyguide cooperation is becoming scarcer because of changing cultures and deteriorating habitats.

Our review paper, published in Conservation Letters outlines possible ways to safeguard active cases of human-wildlife cooperation.

Beyond honey: Four essential reads about bees

1. Females are the future

The survival of bee colonies depends on female bees, although they play different roles depending on their species.

2. Some bees are curious, others are focused

All bees forage, but they do it in different ways. Some become very focused on the smell, colours and locations of known food sources and return to those flowers over and over. Others are more willing to explore and will change their behaviour when they learn about new food sources.

3. It takes a colony

For example, bees use dancing to persuade their colony to move to a new nest site and bees work together to defend their colonies against external threats.

A fungus that causes a bee disease called chalkbrood needs cool temperatures to infect bees, so the bees respond with heat. "When this pathogen is detected, worker bees protect the vulnerable young by contracting their large flight muscles to

generate heat. Worker bees also remove diseased and dead young from the colony, which reduces the chance of infection spreading.

South Australian beekeeper's paddock to plate vision earns inaugural Australian Beekeeper Award: Honeybee.org.au - June 2022

A vision focused on inspiring creativity with honey and honey products in the food industry has earned Adelaide Hills-based beekeeper, Jake Leske, the inaugural Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) Australian Beekeeper Award, announced to a crowd of 600 delegates at the 4th Australian Honey Bee Congress Dinner in Sydney on Friday night.

New insecticides to target honey bee enemies: June 2022

World Bee Day gets a killer research boost

Precision insecticides are the latest weapon in the war on bee pests. Learn how Sydney scientists are developing these to protect honey bees worldwide.

University of Sydney scientists are developing insecticides that target two major pests of honey bees but are completely safe for the bees and other animals.

Today, on World Bee Day, and beyond, they plan to combat the Varroa mite and the small hive beetle, which are leading causes of colony losses worldwide.

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	

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