

# BEE NEWS

September 2021

Issue 122

Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast Beekeepers Inc.

[www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au](http://www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au)



## President's Report

We are well into the swarm season with losses and gains being reported. Once you have removed all capped honey and checked that the queen has plenty of room in the brood box there is not much else that can be done.

### NEXT MEETING - AGM

Saturday, 25 September 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. Lunch will be provided by the Club following the meeting.

Steritech equipment is back at the club for collection.

This month's meeting will be the AGM, so relevant notices will be sent out by the secretary. All positions become vacant so please put up your hand if you are keen to get involved in the administration.

There is at least one vacant position on the committee.

The meeting will be followed by a provided lunch for members, friends, and family.

Look forward to catching up with everyone at the next meeting on 25th September. Keep well and bee safe.

*Alby Taylor*

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## AGM

All committee positions are open for any financial member who wishes to nominate. All current committee members have indicated a willingness to continue in their positions for the coming year. A new position is available this year to support new Beekeepers – Course Management and ensuring that new members are on the club roll, receiving newsletters and linked with a mentor.

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## Swarms

Swarm season is at its maximum from September to December each year.

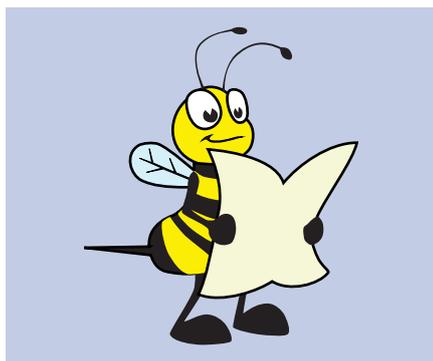
Every beekeeper needs to take management strategies to prevent swarms as bees are often not welcome in our neighbours property.

Southern Sunshine Coast: Ian Meyers, 0412 694 058.

Sippy Downs: Grant Eisenmenger, 0401 720 004

Maleny and surrounds: John Baker, 0418 791 149.

Northern Sunshine Coast: John Writer, 0409 118 888.



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## BEES IN THE NEWS

After life's stings, a sweet buzz of success. Celebrating women of Rural Australia Shine Awards 2021: 1. The Weekend Australian - 11-12 September 2021

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## 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](mailto:secretarysbees@gmail.com), 0419 149 947).

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## Mentors for New Beekeepers

**Beerwah** - Bruce Wallace  
0418 833 997

**Backall Range** - John Baker  
0418 791 149

**Buderim** - Rod Hutchinson  
0411 477 241

**Caloundra** - Ian Meyers 0412 694 058

**Coolum / Perigian** - Katie Livock 0414 843 342, Sarah Keast 0435 388 425

**Maroochy River** - Tony Minto  
0419 661 843

**Woombye** - Chris Johnson  
0411 415 527, Shane Simpson  
0407 520 078

**Yandina / North** - John Writer  
0409 118 888

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One hive and eight years later, Natasha Roebig owns 12 million bees in sites across Queensland and, with her husband has started a

## Workshops for New Beekeepers

The upcoming Beekeeper's Course on 9 October has some places available.

Booking is essential.

Book online at:  
[www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au/workshops](http://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](http://www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au)

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

[www.facebook.com/pg/sunshinecoastbeekeepersaustralia/posts/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/sunshinecoastbeekeepersaustralia/posts/?ref=page_internal)

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natural bee product business called Bee All Natural. She is passionate about changing the face of the bee industry and removing barriers to entry of women. It's why she has been nominated in this year's annual Shine Awards, which puts a spotlight on the untold stories of rural and regional women.

**Leatherwood flowers are a vital resource for Tasmania's honey industry: ABC - August 2021**

To the untrained eye leatherwood looks like any other honey, but to the producers it's 'beautiful, strong and distinctive'.

Premium Tasmanian honey is being diluted and resold with misleading labels.

Pure leatherwood honey comes from a tree species found only in Tasmanian rainforests.

Researchers are building a honey library to more easily spot fakes.

**Expert warns of comfort foods that will be lost if bees become extinct: Independent News - September 2021**

Curry, baked beans and jam are just three of the creature comforts we will lose if bees become extinct, according to an expert.

The insects are crucial to the eco-system due to their role in pollination, but populations are rapidly declining due to habitat loss, pollution and the use of pesticides - among other factors.

**The Age of Extinction. France threatened with legal action over the use of pesticides: The Guardian - September 2021**

**Native bees in WA so fluffy they're like teddy bears: The Guardian - August 2021**

**One man dead after hundreds of stings from bee swarm in Arizona: The Guardian - August 2021**

**'Bee Box' provides stress-free insight into hidden life inside the hive: Phys Org - August 2021**

Researchers seeking ways to discover more about bee behaviour without disrupting the nest have built the world's first 'wild bee nests' with built-in webcams.

**Origin of rare, healthy sugar found in stingless bee honey: Phys Org - August 2021**

The mystery of what creates the rare, healthy sugar found in stingless bee honey, has been solved by researchers at The University of Queensland, in collaboration with Queensland Health Forensic and Scientific Services.

**Angry bees produce better venom: Phys Org - August 2021**

Researchers at Curtin University revealed how behavioural and ecological

factors influence the quality of bee venom, a product widely known for its effective treatment of degenerative and infectious diseases such as Parkinson's and osteoarthritis.

**Bees Have a New, Lifesaving 'Vaccine' to Make Them Immune to Pesti-Side Effects: Good News Network**

There's been a lot of talk about vaccines these days, but not for bees. But a Cornell student has figured that since our most important pollinators are regularly exposed to lethal pesticides, there ought to be talk about a bee vaccine.

James Webb did more than talk though, he invented one—a pollen-sized microparticle containing a compound that neutralized one of the most commonly used and toxic pesticide bees encounter. Once fed to bees, they demonstrated hugely increased survival rates after being exposed to the pesticide compound malathion.

Beemunnity is a marketable supplement/vaccine for beekeepers that was demonstrated in a study—published in Nature journal—to prevent 100% of bee deaths from malathion (whereas the survival rate of bees exposed to malathion in the control group was 0%).

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## **Beekeeper of the Month - Ken Evans**

Each month in our newsletter we aim to profile one of our Club Members so we can all get to know each other a little better. Our September BoM is Ken Evans.



Ken Evans

It was about 1992 and the Courier Mail ran an article about Hobby Beekeeping. At the time I was a bank manager at the Sandgate branch of the ANZ Bank. I interviewed a customer about his loan and he mentioned that he kept a few hives of bees. He invited me to come to his home that weekend to learn a little as he planned to extract honey. Of course he sent me home to Everton Park with a small pale of honey and a four frame nucleus hive of bees for free as he really wanted his loan approved. A few months later the nuc became a full box which then progressed to two boxes.

A year later it became two hives and in 1994 I retired from the ANZ Bank after 40 years service and moved to King Street at Buderim. I transported the two hives from Everton Park to Buderim after sealing the boxes securely and with my wife and daughter on board we set out. However, when passing McDonalds at Kallangur both wife and daughter decided to allow me and my precious cargo to continue on our own while they awaited my return. You see the "secure" seal still allowed bees to escape

and the bees filled the station wagon – and were particularly drawn by bright lights as well. The ungrateful bees were really angry when we arrived at their new home and inflicted many stings.

When I first commenced beekeeping, I joined Northside Beekeepers, which met in the Pine Rivers School each month at night. At the time, there was no hobby beekeeping group on Sunshine Coast until Os Dent and his daughter Cecily Odges suggested we gather to form a group. Thus the Sunshine Coast Beekeepers began meeting in each others' homes. Ralph and Loris Gray, Merv and Julie Wruck, Bert and Betty Livingstone and Bryan O'Rourke were some of the foundation members with Jan and I. We later became a sub-branch of Stanley Rivers Branch of QBA but in recent years we became incorporated in our own right. Under the progressive leadership of President Alby we have now become a force to be reconed with, running beekeeping courses and representation at the Sunshine Coast Show. Our impressive complex at Yandina is the result of Federal, State and Local Government's fundings as well as club contributions. Our volunteers and team leaders and committee should be congratulated for this achievement.

Anyway, I now have seven hives thriving from the wide variety of flora in Buderim but I can barely keep up with honey supply to the honesty system of selling honey from home as raw honey is much in demand now.

I have experienced four occasions with American Fowl Brood disease which necessitated locking bees in the hive at night and killing them with petrol and burning all wax and bees and having boxes and frames treated with either radiation or in the "cooker" operated by Les Brammah. On two occasions I managed to save the queen and bees by using the "shake" system whereby I used a new box with new foundation in all 10 frames. I caught and placed the queen in the new box and shook the bees onto the ground and allowed them to walk into the new box. The theory here is that the bees won't use any infected honey in drawing the comb.

On a couple of occasions I have also lost a few hives due to slime-out by the small hive beetle.

Other diseases, such as chalk brood, have been successfully treated by feeding banana to the infected hives. I have also fed sugar syrup to the bees in winter if the hives appear to be weak.

I also have one native bee hive, which is a great joy to children and I believe the macadamia crop has been greater since they arrived.

It is now over 20 years that I have enjoyed the fellowship with like-minded people here on the Sunshine Coast. It has been a pleasure to introduce and mentor many people to beekeeping since I took up the hobby almost 30 years ago. I must be a slow learner as I am still learning.



Ken Evans

## 2020 - 2021 Executive and Committee

<b>President</b>	Alby Taylor	presidentscbees@gmail.com	0418 882 282
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\* Images and artworks are designed by Freepik [www.freepik.com](http://www.freepik.com)

### Disclaimer

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