

# BEE NEWS

March 2021

Issue 116

Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast  
BeeKeepers Inc.

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



Photo by Kathy Lynch, bee on a flower.

## President's Report

The shed is looking great with the new benches. Big thank you to Dave Pass and his team.

We still need volunteers for supervising sales on Saturday mornings and assisting with gardening etc.

### NEXT MEETING

Saturday, 27 March at the Club House, 43 Farrell Street Yandina.

Morning tea and catch up starts 9.30am, BYO plate of food to share and a raffle prize.

Meeting to start at 10.00am.

We have applied for additional grants to complete lining and ceiling the shed as well as installation of air conditioning. This would make it much more comfortable for meetings and workshops.

The mead tasting and information session went well and the impromptu talk by Luke Halling on activities of Federal Govt surveillance was well received.

The club hives at Yandina and Glenview are serviced regularly so put your name down to assist, it is great experience.

Look forward to catching up with everyone at the next meeting on 27th March. Keep well and bee safe.

*Alby Taylor*

## Upcoming Events

### April

- “The Best Honey in the World” competition for Club members.
- Remember to put your honey in a plastic container, which are available at the Club House. For the tasting, please bring your own spoon, a water bottle and a pen.

### May

- Preparing and entering the Sunshine Coast Agricultural Show, which

is on 11 -13 June. Entries close 8 June. Volunteers for the Club Stand are required.

### June

- Sunshine Coast Agricultural Show, 11 - 13 June.

### June - July

- Australian Honey Bee 2021 Research Conference, from 28 June to 3 July, Perth Western Australia: <http://www.crchoneybeeproducts.com/australasian-honey-bee-2021-research-conference-2/>

## Working Bees

Thank you to David Lane for upgrading the Centre Plans to include grill enclosures to the breezeway and adjustment to the fence line. Also, thanks to Bruce Wallace who blew the debris off the roof on 13 March.

- Three people to help with the monthly meeting set up and clean up on 27 March.

- Expressions of interest from people wanting to help with: (1) hive maintenance at Yandina and Glenview, (2) assist with gardening around the Club House at Yandina, and (3) supervising sales on Saturday mornings.

Please email Evan Flower at [evan.flower@bigpond.com](mailto:evan.flower@bigpond.com) or text 0428 406 946.

\* Freepik



## Workshops for New Beekeepers

The upcoming Beekeeper Courses on 10 April and 8 May are open for bookings.

**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)



## Bee Buddy Register

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

## 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.

## BEES IN THE NEWS

**How honeybees see humans: Scientific American, December 2013, page 66**

Tibbetts and Dyer found, after a bee learns the front and side view of a particular face, it will be able to correctly choose a picture of the same face rotated 30 degrees, even if it has not previously seen that particular image.

**Beekeeping becomes a popular hobby across Queensland, as commercial industry remains static: ABC Rural, March 2021**

There has been an explosion in hobby beekeepers in Queensland. Commercial beekeepers are urging hobbyists to get educated about pests and diseases. There is hope the younger generation will eventually end up as commercial beekeepers.

**Phoenix Palm Honey: ABC Rural, March 2021**

An accidental apiarist producing honey with a difference: Customers in the Middle East are lining up to order a boutique blend of honey believed to have aphrodisiac qualities. The honey comes from a bee



sanctuary established by an 80 year old woman who stumbled upon the market and in the process developed a passion for conservation.

**Bee recovery - Kangaroo Island's bee industry recovering after bushfires: ABC Rural, March 2021**

Kangaroo Island's bee industry is slowly recovering from the deadly bushfires of 2020 with a band of volunteer beekeepers from the mainland stepping in to lend a hand.

**Kangaroo Island Beekeepers desperately try to keep Ligurian bees alive after hives destroyed by bushfires: ABC Rural, March 2021**

Kangaroo Island is home

to the Ligurian bee and is considered as a disease-free bee sanctuary. Bushfires devastated the western half of the island in 2020. Honey production has dropped by 75 percent as a result. A group of Adelaide beekeepers has stepped in to help, travelling to the island every few months to help local beekeepers rebuild the hives from flat packs.

**Disappointing summer season - honey yields down by 40%: SA Country Hour, March 2021**

The honey season is more bitter than sweet for Australia's honey producers in South Australia as cool, dry weather and the ever-present challenge of climate change take a toll. Apiarists

are turning to supplementary feed to maintain their hives and are pushing for more access to public land. Experts are looking at ways of making more vegetation available for bees.

### Country music legend Graeme Connors becomes and accidental Beekeeper: ABC Rural, February 2021

Graeme and Lyn Connors got into beekeeping after a swarm moved into their yard. Their honey will go into their son's hospitality businesses.



Baby bee just hatched and seeing the world for the first time



Queen got through excluder and laid eggs in super

## Yandina Hive Maintenance

14 March 2021, notes taken by Kathy Lynch

Three frames harvested. Yandina hives seem to be suffering due to lack of food source compared to previous months.

### Hive 1

Brood: Queenless!!! Capped honey frame added, two brood frames added.

Super 1: Capped honey. Hive beetles present.

Super 2: removed.

### Hive 2

Brood: ok.

Super: Removed as nothing happening.

### Hive 3

Brood: Queen sighted. Some eggs are larvae. All good. Placed one good frame (with eggs and larvae) into Hive 1, replaced with freshie.

Super: ok.

### Hive 4

Brood: Good. Lots of light capped brood, pollen, nectar.

Super: Queen was in the Super! Small queen, moved to the brood box.

Removed three frames of honey.

### Hive 5

Brood: Capped brood, capped drone. Queen not sighted. Placed one good frame (with eggs and larvae)

into Hive 1, replaced with freshie.

Super: nil notes.

### Hive 6

Brood: Ok but struggling. Queen not sighted.

### Hive 7

Checked 13 March during the Beekeepers' Course

Brood: Lots of bees, queen sighted and marked. Good brood.

Super 1: Lots of nectar, uncapped

Super 2: nil notes.

### Hive 8

Checked 13 March during the Beekeepers' Course

Brood: Good number of bees but not very active.

### Flow Hive

Brood 1: not checked.

Brood 2: looking good, lots of bees, queen not sighted.

Super: not checked.

### Top Bar Hive

Not checked.

### Native Hive

Not checked.



John Writer's homemade queen catcher

## Mead judging competition and tasting

Presentation by Andy Coates, Proprietor of the Amrita Park Meadery at the Club Meeting on 27 February

Andy Coates comes from a family with a long history of beekeeping and mead making and provided members with a brief introduction to making mead.

The competition was judged with comments on all entries and then members were able to taste mead from Amrita Park.



Andy Coates presentation

## Northern Australian Quarantine Strategy

Presentation by Luke Hallin at the Club Meeting on 27 February

Biosecurity is generally a State/Territory responsibility, but because of the expanse of our northern shoreline and with two states and a territory across the area, the Federal government has developed a strategy to manage and aim to control any pests entering our northern borders.

Luke's talk covered risks and strategies that he had been involved in in relation to control of fruit fly, varroa mite and other pests. They are trapping and eradicating pests all across Northern Australia on an ongoing basis.

Being vigilant is everyone's responsibility.

### What do we ask of you?

Tell us if you notice:

- any suspected new pests, weeds or diseases
- unexplained sick or dying animals or plants (native or introduced)

**Early detection** can be vital for control of exotic pests and diseases.

Phone: 1800 020 504



Luke Hallin presentation

## Honey Labelling Update

Following February's Bee News, and the publication of David Lee's notes about honey labelling (and thank you to David for providing his notes!), there needed to be some further clarification as there was still confusion and it is a great opportunity to research food standards.

A paper is currently being written to assist all Club Members regarding the requirements of labelling their honey if they intend to sell it.

One particular clarification that is needed is that the Food Standards Code (Schedule 9 Mandatory Advisory Statements) does not require honey, when sold on its own, to carry any health or allergy warning statements.

You do not have to declare presence of pollen, propolis or royal jelly. And you do not need to have a warning about not feeding honey to infants under 12 months of age due to risk of botulism.

## 2020 - 2021 Executive and Committee

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