

# BEE NEWS

November 2021

Issue 124

Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast Beekeepers Inc.

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



Photograph by Kathy Lynch, bee on sandpaper vine flower.

## President's Report

Thank you all for your enthusiasm when we

### NEXT MEETING

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

Morning tea and catch up starts 9.30am, BYO plate of food to share plus a raffle prize. Meeting to start at 10.00am. This will be our last meeting for the year.

Special guest speaking will be our new Bee Biosecurity Officer – Dr Dave, Schipalius.

Lunch will be provided by the Club following the meeting. Feel free to BYO drinks and feel free to bring along your family and friends.

discussed the Saturday morning roster. It has been good fun for those who have participated so put your hand up when you get the call from the secretary.

This month's monthly meeting will feature a presentation by our industry's biosecurity officer, which is something not to be missed.

The meeting is our last for the year, so will be followed by a lunch provided by the club. Feel free to BYO drinks.

Most of us missed out on a lot of the promised rain but what we received was much appreciated. Let's hope it is followed up with a good honey flow.

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

*Alby Taylor*

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## Working Bee Volunteers

Great work to all who have been rostered so far, the Clubhouse is starting to look great. Well done.

We require volunteers to assist on every weekend - assisting during the workshop, setting up the Club for our monthly meeting and for other weekends when the club is open for all members to work in the garden, and other identified work. If everyone pulls their weight we should only need your assistance for two to three weekends in a year. Committee members have been rostered on each of the working bee weekends to allow for purchase of goods to be processed and ensure that each volunteer works safely and works in areas they are interested in and have the suitable skills.

Any areas that carry any risk will be contracted out to suitable tradespeople- such as cleaning the roof.

Our secretary will be making a six month roster of members who are available. We still need your support to share the load of maintaining our club house so that it is clean and tidy for all of us to enjoy.

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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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## Conversation with Kate

The aim is to stimulate a conversation about a topic that is pertinent to all beekeepers at that period of the year. A new

## Workshops for New Beekeepers

The upcoming Beekeeper's Course on 11 December has some places available. This is the last course for the year.

The next Course will be on 12 February 2022.

**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)

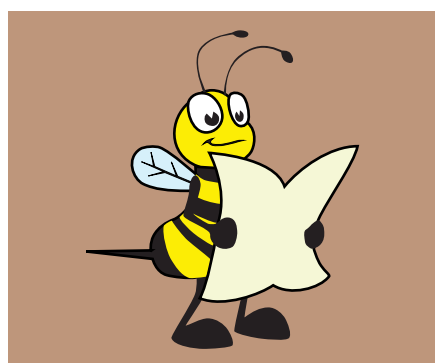
topic will be discussed when something new is identified or when an issue is identified, suggestions are more than welcome.

### October topic - Requeening a Hive

- Hive is too full and need to split the hive
  - Poor honey production
  - An aggressive hive
1. Requeening can be achieved with a push in cage with a Queen and a couple of nurse bees bought from a reputable breeder, but the old Queen must be found and removed into a nuc or destroyed.
  2. Natural selection with no beekeeper intervention - let the bees decide what to do and when to act - to kill the old Queen and breed new Queens OR the old Queen may swarm and take half the bees with her leaving a number of Queen cells in the hive as potential replacements.
  3. How do you get rid of an old Queen when you can't find her - a marked Queen makes the task easy, however removing frames once inspected into a separate box and then replacing them should provide the opportunity to find her.
  4. Commercial Beekeepers replace their Queen annually
  5. Best Practice would suggest that a Beekeeper should consider replacing a Queen every 2 years
  6. Remember bees are about numbers in order to have a good honey supply and a healthy hive so always consider the number of bees in your hive when deciding what action to follow.

### Suggestions for consideration:

- Age of the Queen in the hive - Keep a record by either using API Manager or your own system as part of a Word record or Xcel spreadsheet.
- Marking the Queen so that she is easy to spot. Practice your marking technique on Drones to ensure that you have developed the skill before risking damage to the Queen.
- Always remember the life cycle of bees when making a decision relating to requeening or splitting your hive.
- From new Queen cell, take into consideration the new Queen from her hatching, mating flight and coming back to lay eggs and then for the eggs to hatch and workers to be ready to forage. The Queen takes 16 days from egg to hatching and the worker takes 21 days. The workers live between 2 to 6 weeks during the summer months and may live up to 20 weeks during winter.
- If splitting your hive maybe take a small split to take the pressure off your hive without reducing the number of bees in your main hive. This will impact honey production less.
- If you are considering leaving the hive the decision to replace the Queen take into consideration the time frames as above.
- Remember Beekeepers have a responsibility to their community to manage their hive to prevent swarms therefore splitting the hive may be the best solution when the hive is full and queen cells are found at the bottom of the frames.



## BEES IN THE NEWS

Sound the alarm: bees 'scream' when murder hornets attack, study finds:  
The Guardian - November 2021

Royal Society Open Science research finds bees release 'rallying call for collective defence' that is 'harsh and noisy'.

When left unchecked, the giant Asian hornets can destroy a honeybee hive in

hours, feeding on larvae and decapitating bees in what scientists call a “slaughter phase”. The hornets then feed severed body parts to their young.

The previously undiscovered signal, now known as an “anti-predator pipe, shares acoustic traits with alarm shrieks, fear screams and panic calls of primates, birds and meerkats,” according to the study.

Bees produce the sound by vibrating their wings or thorax, elevating their abdomens and exposing a gland to release a pheromone.

The hornets are an invasive species that are very difficult to locate, as they tend to be in forested areas.

In addition to causing devastating harm to bee colonies, the giant hornet can harm humans, at times causing fatalities.

### **Gardeners urged to plant natives in bid to help battling native Australian bees: ABC Ballarat - November 2021**

Bee expert Dr Ken Walker says protecting native bees is about continuing an essential “love story” necessary to help native flora thrive.

Some of the major factors threatening native bees are habitat loss from agriculture and urban environments, bushfires, pesticide use and climate change.

The recent Global Change Biodiversity report also found at least 11 species of bees met the criteria to be listed as threatened following the Black Summer bushfires.

### **Bee Seen: Australian Geographic - May-June 2021**

The Australian cloaked bee had not been found since 1923 and was thought to be extinct. On the edge of a small area of rainforest near Atherton a small bee was caught in a sweep net and within days was identified as the cloaked bee. Between that summer and the next he found three populations of the bee in Atherton, Kuranda and Eungella. The bee seemed to be found flying around the illawarra flame tree and the firewheel tree both red flowering rainforest trees. Having very vibrant red flowers, both are thought to be pollinated by birds not insects. Much more research is needed to lift the shroud of mystery surrounding this small native bee.

### **Researchers must assume responsibility for halting the global bee decline: PhysOrg - November 2021**

The database Global Biodiversity Information Facility shows that biodiversity among wild bees has decreased by 25 percent since 1990. This is a serious threat to many plants, who depend on pollinators to form seeds and reproduce.

Researchers trace the insect decline to the massive use of modern pesticides that has slipped through the cracks in the otherwise rigorous European regulatory system. There is a prevailing perception that modern pesticides are much safer than they used to be. However, new studies link environmental

contamination from so-called neonicotinoids in modern pesticides to a decline in the populations of wild bees and many other insects.

### **Heroes, hives and a journey of healing: ABC Landline - November 2021**

Military veteran Marc Webb struggled to leave his house in Adelaide, years after a serious incident in Afghanistan left him wounded and traumatised. He never thought bees would be what saved him.

He watched the bees come and go from the hive and found himself relaxing watching them. He became a bee expert – undertaking courses, devouring YouTube videos, and learning the difference between the “buzz” and the “hum”.

The effect of the bees was described as mindfulness – the state of being present and being conscious of your surroundings. This led to his diagnosis of PTSD and an acknowledgement for Marc and his wife to figure it out together.

Hives for Heroes - Marc is determined to get the word out about beekeeping as an alternative therapy for trauma.

In his research, he found a non-profit organisation in the United States with a mission of saving bees and veterans.



Chris Johnson

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## Beekeeper of the Month - Chris Johnson

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 Chris Johnson.

Chris is an archetypal baby-boomer, born in Brisbane and raised both there and in Gympie. He is a graduate in Science and Economics from the University of Queensland- taking advantage of free university education in the boom-time 60's and 70's!

Married young, he forged a career in corporate life with Carlton & United Breweries in Queensland for twenty years while having five children with his life-long partner, Maureen. Mid-life saw a change of direction, pursuing other career opportunities, including a stint as

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a hotel proprietor, a natural therapist, a men's health nutritionist and owner of a promotional products business. He is now retired with Maureen and living in Woombye.

Chris's beekeeping interest was sparked by a display at the Maleny Garden & Wood Show by Max Lindegger from Crystal Waters. Chris lived on acreage at Montville at the time. He did a beekeeping course with Max and started with a nuc from him in November 2011.

Chris received advice on beekeeping from Shelley Schweikert, who was a member of Sunshine Coast Beekeepers club. At that time, the club had no premises of their own and were a sub-branch of the Stanley Rivers Branch of the Queensland Beekeepers Association.

Some members, including Chris, saw the need for the club to become a stand-alone incorporated association. It was duly incorporated in April 2016. It was soon realized that there was a demand for introductory beekeeping courses. The first one was held on 11 March 2018 at Mathew Flinders Anglican College, Buderim, presented by Chris and Alby Taylor. More followed at various locations including at both Chris's and Alby's home.

The first course held at the new clubhouse at Yandina was on May 11, 2019. They have been held almost monthly ever since with a regular maximum attendance of 20 each time.

Chris's main interest is in the biochemical processes that occur in the formation of honey in the hive. He is a dedicated wood hive beekeeper, especially using native hoop pine from managed, sustainable plantations in SE Queensland.

Chris was honored by the club at the 2021 AGM and made a life member in recognition of his work for the 'Sunshine Coast Beekeepers club. Although now retired also from beekeeping Chris still comes down to the clubhouse to assist in any way he can with the New Beekeeper's Workshop.

## 2020 - 2021 Executive and Committee

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### Disclaimer

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