

BEE NEWS

May 2022

Issue 128

Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast
BeeKeepers Inc.

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au



Bee on a rose, photograph by Linda Blackwell

President's Report

A huge thank you to everyone who was able to make it to our last two monthly meetings.

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, 28 May 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.

It is always a great opportunity to share concerns, ideas, and discoveries. The last two months we have heard about the general struggles our members are experiencing with a poor honey flow and the hope we are seeing in some recent flow. After consulting with Biosecurity Queensland it was suggested that it is all weather related with pollen being washed away in the recent rain, with many beekeepers reporting the need to feed starving bees. Speaking of rain, we were advised to keep an eye on our hives with the expected increase of Small Hive Beetle. Advice indicated that the rain enables the beetles to easily

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

pupate and infiltrate hives. Our March meeting also offered us a great opportunity to offer support to our fellow beekeepers that suffered loss of hives in the floods. In April we heard that our next meeting will be the much awaited 'Best Honey in the World Competition'. It is such a great competition and remains unrivalled in prestige anywhere in the world! A reminder to bring a water bottle, a pen, and your own spoon – as well as your unmarked honey for judging.

This month we also welcomed another group of new beekeepers through our 'Introduction to Beekeeping Course'. It must be acknowledged that there are a great number of committee members and club members who regularly give up their Saturday morning to share their experience with new beekeepers. If you would like to be a part of our course or workshop, we would LOVE to hear from you. You may think you don't know enough to share with others, but I assure you, you do. Come join our course one weekend and help others save our bees. The bonus is that you also get to have some of Mary's delicious sandwiches!

We have some great things coming up over the next couple of months, including the Sunshine Coast Agricultural Show. There are lots of ways you can help out, and we would love to have you along for the ride (Get it? 'Ride'...like the rides at the show!).

Thank you again to everyone who has been able to help out on a Saturday, and for those who have read this and are inspired to come and help us out.

Have a bee-utiful week!!

Katie Livock

Call for Volunteers

This is a call for volunteers for the stand at the Sunshine Coast Show at Nambour. The show was a great success for us last year, enjoyed by all, and we are looking forward to it again this year.

The show will be held over three days, 10, 11 and 12 June. I am looking for volunteers to help on the three days, either in a morning or an afternoon session (or both). Volunteers will be given an entry ticket for the day. There will be a display, including live bees, and honey and wax will be on sale. The display usually attracts a lot of interest and some new course attendees and members.

If you are willing to put your hand up to help your Club, send an email to mail@johngbaker.com.au indicating the day(s) you are available and whether it is for a morning or afternoon session (or both). If you are able, when nominating a date or time, also nominate a second choice; this will help in drawing up the roster.

Workshops for New Beekeepers

Our Beekeeper's Course in May was cancelled due to rainy weather. The Course in June has been brought forward to 4 June due to the clash with the Sunshine Coast Agricultural Show.

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

May

28 May - Best Honey in the World Competition

June

10, 11 and 12 June - Sunshine Coast Agricultural Show

23-24 June - Queensland Bee Association State Conference



Elise Winton and Alby Taylor at the Yandina State School Under 8s Day

Yandina State School Under 8s Day - 18 May 2022

This year the event included more community based activities so along with the regular art wall, craft, bubble blowing, face painting were included the rural firefighters, police, surf lifesavers and Sunshine Coast Beekeepers. Elise Winton and Alby Taylor were our representatives. Alby kindly brought an observation hive so the kids could see what goes on in the hive, wax plus and some honey that everyone could try. Elise provided books on bees (adult and kids) bee suits a smoker and some colouring sheets.

The kids all enjoyed it and it was good to hear that most knew what bees did (beside sting) and their reactions to the different flavoured honeys was interesting to observe.

It sounds like our involvement was so successful that we will be invited next year.

Thankyou Elise and Alby



Elise Winton teaching the Yandina School students about bees

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.

Sippy Downs: Grant Eisenmenger, 0401 720 004

Maleny and surrounds: John Baker, 0418 791 149.

Northern Sunshine Coast: John Writer, 0409 118 888.

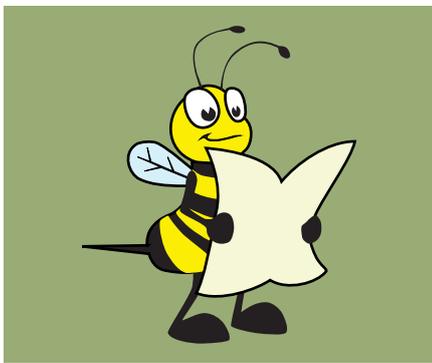
The Club Online

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



BEES IN THE NEWS

Scientists discover how bees activate natural medicine against parasite infection during pollination: PhysOrg -May 2022

Kew scientists and partners report on how bees activate the “medicinal” properties of various nectars to protect themselves from parasite infections.

Honeybees join humans as the only known animals that can tell the difference between odd and even numbers: The Conversation - April 2022

The miniature brains of honeybees were able to understand the concepts of odd and even, despite only having 960,000 neurons

(compared to 86 billion in humans).

Do insects, octopus and other invertebrates feel emotion?: ABC Science - April 2022

Evidence is building that they can.

It’s not just the feeling of pain that is being debated, but the whole spectrum of emotional experience: stress, joy, apprehension , even pleasure.

Science is generating more and more reasons to accept animals’ emotion, without finding any new reasons to deny them.

How to help bees and other pollinators: unique things you can do: Positive News - May 2022

1. Use an algorithm to plan your garden

How about this for a change of perspective? Instead of growing your garden to boost kerb appeal, plant for bees and other pollinators.

2. Donate to Ukrainian beekeepers

Ukraine has for many years been Europe’s top honey

producer, making up to 100,000 tonnes of the sticky stuff each year. The Russian invasion is likely to significantly dent that number. In a nation with more than 400,000 beekeepers, that will be catastrophic for both people’s pockets and pollinators.

3. Buy bee-friendly products

Locally-grown, organic food, on the other hand, is usually produced more in harmony with nature.

4. ‘Air-Bee-n-Bee’ your garden

It’s mainly used for growing food, but bees love strawberries, tomatoes, rosemary, thyme and plenty of other plants we find delicious too.

5. Plant for pollinators all year round

6. Become a bee foster carer

If you’ve got around five feet of spare space – be it a back garden, on a balcony, even a bit of disused land – then you could become a ‘bee foster carer’.

7. Stop buying pesticides – and urge your council to ditch them too

8. Show some hospitality to your garden guests

A bee hotel or leave out some water

Old Bee Association State Conference

This conference will be held in Warwick 23-24 June 2022.

Registrations will open soon

4th AUSTRALIAN
Bee Congress
CELEBRATING HONEY BEES

At the heart of a healthy Australia
8 - 11 June 2022
Rosehill Gardens, Sydney, NSW

SAVE THE DATE

www.australianbeecongress.com.au

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