

# BEE NEWS

August 2022

Issue 131

Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast  
BeeKeepers Inc.

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



Bee on a grevillea flower, photograph by Linda Blackwell

## President's Report

Our July meeting saw some exciting items. Firstly, our AGM was chaired by the outgoing Secretary Bill Spencer. Thank you Bill. The meeting saw the appointment of a new 2022-2023 committee. My sincere thanks to those leaving, those joining, and those who have stuck around. I encourage anyone who is interested in shaping our club to think about joining us

### NEXT MEETING

Saturday, 27 August 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.

next year. Congratulations to Bill who was inducted as a Life Member for his commitment and service to our club over many years. On a personal note, I would like to thank all members for electing me as President. I don't take the responsibility lightly and I feel very honoured to be our first female president. Our club is a true community and I value any thoughts on how we can grow and flourish. Please come along to our monthly meetings and contribute to our community.

We were also lucky to have Dave Schlipalius from Biosecurities come and discuss the current varroa situation. He also gave a demonstration on inspecting for varroa.

Once again, thank you, and I will see you at the next meeting.

*Katie Livock*

---

## Your Club and COVID Safety

We recommend physical distancing, wearing masks and hand hygiene to keep us all safe.

Masks are not all equal – N95 and P2 are the gold standard, then surgical masks and lastly cloth masks are better than nothing.

Your nose and mouth must be covered to be effective.

You can reuse your mask. When you take it off put it inside a paper bag and leave it for a few days. It allows the mask to dry out and after 3 or 4 days any germs will likely have died.

---

## Membership Reminder

We reminded all members in the July Newsletter that Membership of \$50 was due. From the end of this month any non-financial members will be taken off the newsletter listing. We are planning a strong future so encourage all non-members to join up.

---

## What the Club plans for its members

On the third Saturday of each month the Club will be open to assist members extract honey from frames. We therefore welcome all members to come with their frames in boxes with containers to store their honey.

---

## Swarms

We are fast approaching Swarm Season. Every beekeeper has a responsibility to take management strategies to prevent swarms as often bees are not welcome on our neighbours properties.

Check that your Queen has enough space in the brood box, ensure that the bees have enough space to store honey, and control small hive beetle

Southern: Ian Meyers, 0412 694 058.

North Coast and Sippy Downs: Grant Eisenmenger, 0401 720 004

Buderim: Tom Cowburn, 0418 143 206.

North and central areas: Alby Taylor, 0418 882 282.

Maleny and surrounds: John Baker, 0418 791 149.

## Workshops for New Beekeepers

Our next two Beekeeper's Courses will be held on 10 September and 15 October.

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

**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)

---

# University of Sunshine Coast Sippy Downs

I am thrilled to share you two scientific papers that have been recently published from our propolis study starting in 2020. The electronic version of the papers are attached in this email.

The first paper reports the quality and chemical diversity of Australian honey bee propolis. Original link: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-17955-w>

The second paper presents the antidiabetic potential of one of the premium honey bee propolis found in Queensland. Original link: <https://www.mdpi.com/2304-8158/11/13/1964/htm>

My propolis study could not achieve this success without the support from Australian beekeepers who kindly donated samples, and funding bodies including AgriFutures

Australia, Hive and Wellness Australia and University of the Sunshine Coast. I would like to acknowledge all your help in the project.

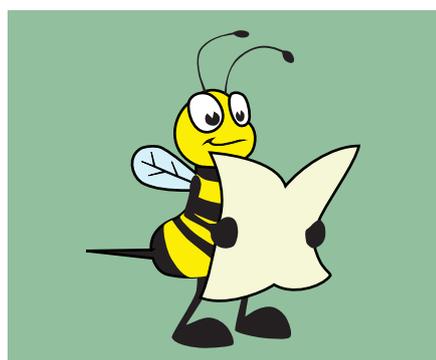
This is just the first steps of the journey to understand scientifically the values of our Australian propolis. You will see propolis is one of the medicinal gifts that bees kindly provide to human for nutraceutical and cosmeceutical applications. My study just plays a small role in the development of the propolis industry in Australia. It will become unmeaningful without the support of beekeepers (samples) and processors (high-end products).

Trong Tran, PhD

Lecturer in Chemistry

Centre for Bioinnovation, Building I, Room 11.14A

School of Science, Technology and Engineering  
University of the Sunshine Coast



## BEES IN THE NEWS

### Feral bee colonies to be destroyed: August 2022

Entire colonies of feral bees could be euthanised as part of tough new measures across New South Wales.

As the state heads towards the warmer months – there are fears the spring bee swarm could spread the Varroa mite.

Bees swarm during warmer months to find a new home –

and often settle in chimneys or house walls.

Feral colonies in the eradication zones will be destroyed by authorities, beekeepers and pest controllers.

### Off-season native bee carers give macadamia farmer a pollination backup plan against varroa mite: ABC Rural - Kallee Buchanan

Geoff Chivers has increased his number of native beehives from five to 150 in the past five years.

“Foster parents” take care of the bees in the off-season when the macadamia trees are not flowering.

The stingless bees are not susceptible to the invasive varroa mite, which threatens honey bees.

### Bee parasite *varroa destructor* fears lessened by native bees and insects for some growers: ABC Rural - Lara Webster and Keely Johnson

Some farmers are confident native bees will be a saving grace for their orchards.

Unlike the European honey bee, native bees are not hosts of varroa mite

The macadamia industry is hopeful native bees and other insects will help pollinate crops.

### Charles Henry Turner: The little-known black high school science teacher who revolutionized the study of insect behavior in the early 20th century: The Conversation - 29 July 2022

Among Turner’s most significant findings was that wasps, bees, sawflies and ants

---

– members of the *Hymenoptera* order – are not simply primitive automatons, as so many of his contemporaries thought. Instead, they are organisms with the capacities to remember, learn and feel.

Turner’s scientific contributions endure. His articles continue to be widely cited, and entomologists have subsequently verified most of his conclusions.

Despite the colossal challenges he faced throughout his career, Charles Henry Turner was among the first scientists to shed light on the secret lives of bees, the winged pollinators that ensure the welfare of human food systems and the survival of Earth’s biosphere.

**Shining fluorescent light on bee sperm could help explain colony survival: The Conversation - 29 July 2022**

Bee colonies are collapsing around the world. The threats to their survival make it urgent to understand the relationship between form and function in honey bees, particularly the sperm of the male bees (drones).

There is some urgency to

understanding the sperm quality of the honey bee drones because of how long it has to last.

The queen can store some six million sperm in a specialised sac, the spermatheca, for as long as seven years. Any one queen bee can potentially have around 1.7 million offspring.

So, she needs the best and most resilient sperm she can get. And she will be choosy, shedding some sperm and keeping only what she likes. It’s not known how the queen decides which sperm is chosen or shed.

Sperm quality has also been put forward as a cause of colony collapse. This sort of research broadens our understanding of sperm quality’s importance for colony health and performance. Researchers elsewhere have suggested that drone quality (which we believe includes sperm quality) and variability in a colony or apiary can be a useful indicator of queen and colony health. It can therefore also be used to identify the effect of, for example, environmental stressors.

Assessing sperm quality as part of drone quality will

allow for early detection of such stressors. That will allow for preventive management strategies to avoid colony deterioration.

**Bees ‘drunk’ from pesticide exposure: Insects struggle to walk in a straight line: Illawarra Mercury - 18 August 2022**

New research has identified what happens to bees when they are subject to insecticides. Commonly used insecticides like sulfoxaflor (kills aphids and lygus) and the neonicotinoid imidacloprid (pesticide that protects seeds of field crops) can profoundly impair the visually guided behaviour of honeybees.

“Neonicotinoid and sulfoximine insecticides activate neurons in the insect brain and are not always recycled fast enough to prevent toxicity,” said Parkinson.

This research comes on the heels of a slew of other research in recent years suggesting that pesticides impair baby bee brain development, or it can make them antisocial and lazy, and many scientists are asking for them to be banned.

## 2022 - 2023 Executive and Committee

<b>President</b>	Katie Livock	presidentscbees@gmail.com	0414 843 342
<b>Vice President</b>	Grant Eisenmenger	vicepresidentscbees@gmail.com	0401 720 004
<b>Secretary</b>	Lynne Hulm	secretaryscbees@gmail.com	0421 720 628
<b>Treasurer</b>	Paul Bonner	treasurerscbees@gmail.com	0403 432 952
<b>Course Coordinator</b>	Alby Taylor	infoscbees@gmail.com	0418 882 282
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Linda Blackwell	lineb@internode.on.net	0409 848 466
<b>Facebook/website</b>	Frank Vos	frankvos@tpg.com.au	0412 066 546
<b>Committee</b>	John Baker	mail@johnbaker.com.au	0418 791 149
<b>Committee</b>	Tom Cowburn	tjcowburn@bigpond.com	0418 143 206
<b>Committee</b>	David Lee	leesbees@lisco.com.au	0414 757 220

\* Images and artworks are designed by Freepik [www.freepik.com](http://www.freepik.com)

### Disclaimer

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Sunshine Coast Beekeepers Inc. The Sunshine Coast Beekeepers Inc accepts no liability for the consequences of any actions taken on the basis of the information provided in this newsletter.