

# BEE NEWS

May 2020

Issue 108

**Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast  
BeeKeepers Inc.**

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



Peter Kerrawn, Flickr

## SHED OPENING

Have you missed our bee community?  
Well, we have missed you too!

With the easing of restrictions we are now able to have up to 10 people in our shed at any given time.

If you would like to stop by the shed, Alby or a committee member will be there each Saturday morning from around 9am-12pm.

So if you need something, or want to come in and help make frames and boxes to sell and recoup some much needed club funds, then please email the Secretary, Bill Spencer if you want to attend so that total numbers can be managed.

**Every Saturday, the Club House, 43  
Farrell Street Yandina. From 9.00am to  
12.00pm**

**Maximum of 10 people, email the  
Secretary to confirm attendance**

## President's Report

The building programme is back on track with the slab for stage 2 now complete.

We are hoping to get the building which will house the toilets and honey room underway this month.

This has created a number of jobs that need to be completed. The garden beds need to be reshaped, weeded, and mulched while the surrounds of the bee enclosure levelled so that it can be mowed to keep the Singapore Daisy at bay.

Anyone with spare time on their hands would be welcomed which ever day of the week suited. All that is needed is a shovel, rake and wheelbarrow. Also, we cannot keep up with the demand for frames for those who would prefer to work inside.

Thank you to those members who have

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answered the call for membership renewal. It is boosting much needed funds while we don't have raffle and Bee Course income.

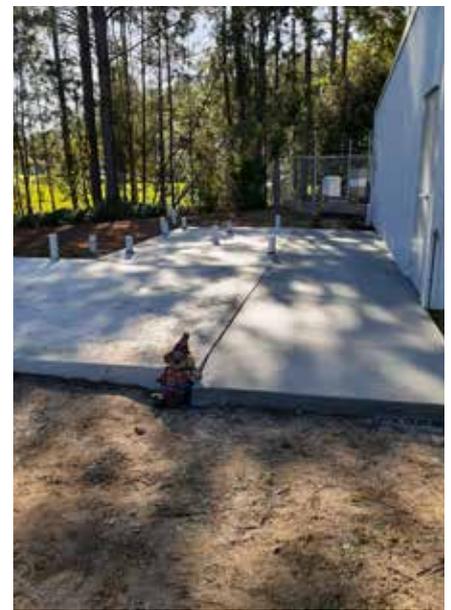
We are still applying for any Grant money that is on offer, but in these economic times it is prudent not to be too optimistic.

If you have not already done so, now is the time to give the hives a final inspection and get them ready for winter.

The shed will be open most Saturday mornings for members to pick up supplies, make boxes and frames and tend the club hives. Please contact Secretary Bill so that he can coordinate numbers to conform with current distancing guidelines.

Looking forward to catching up with everyone whenever we can arrange our next meeting.

*Alby Taylor*



## Membership 2020

Renewal of membership for 2020 is due by **31 May 2020**.

**Cost is \$50.00.**

Renew now via direct deposit:

Account name: Sunshine Coast Beekeepers Inc.

BSB: 633 000

Account number: 1633 79555

Reference: "[Your surname] 2020 membersip"



## Working bees

The Club has had a couple of productive Saturday mornings with various people picking things up around the site, or making frames.

There is quite a bit of tidying up still to do around the new slab and the bee enclosure, which only requires a barrow, rake and shovel.

If nothing else, the Club can never get enough foundation frames made up.

If you have spare time on your hands, please email the Secretary Bill.



No, not here! Although winter on the Sunshine Coast is relatively mild and short, a strong colony is essential for a successful season to follow.

## Getting Ready for Winter 2020

Some points to consider:

- The hive must have a strong vigorous queen. If you have doubts about the queen in your hive, it may not be too late to re-queen. You could also combine 2 weak hives into one.
- There must be a large number of workers so that they can maintain the warmth of the hive for their own comfort. Eight (8) frames well covered with bees are usually needed in cold areas.
- Food is vital. A good colony needs about 20 kilograms of honey (about 8 frames or so) to see it through winter. Pollen should also be available as bees need protein as well as carbohydrates.
- Check that all parts of the hive is sound with no cracks etc. Reduce the size of the entrance by about half to decrease draught.
- We are generally experiencing a poor autumn season on the Sunshine Coast with very little flowering. If the winter is warm, the bees will be active and may need supplementary feeding. A sugar syrup consisting of 2 parts sugar to 1 part water is best, to relieve the bees of some of the hard work of water removal during ripening and storage of honey.. One method of feeding is to place the syrup in a small clip-lock bag inside the super and make some small slits in it, so that the syrup oozes out.
- In colder areas, winter mats are used, but it has been the experience of some of us in the club, that they become a good place for small hive beetles to congregate and are not needed.

## 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

## 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).

In conclusion, due to the current restrictions on meetings at the club, if you are unsure of what to do, feel free to contact me for help. If I can't help, I will find someone who can!

In beekeeping,  
*Chris Johnson*

[chris@redkelpie.com.au](mailto:chris@redkelpie.com.au)  
0411 415 527

## 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)



\* Freepik

## Beekeeping Course

The next Beekeeping Course is postponed.

# The Great Bee Count

A team of optimistic scientists are launching the first world bee count to tally bees around the globe.

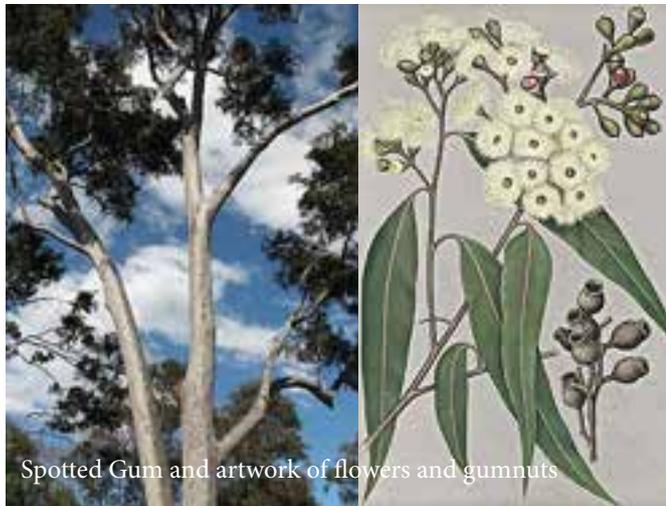
Participants can simply use their smartphones to take photos of bees they spot and upload the photos onto a free app, the World Bee Count.

Photos submitted to the World Bee Count will be put together to create an interactive digital map to be unveiled on 20 May, World Bee Day.

The team of scientists at Appalachian State University, lead by James Wilkes, is confident that people everywhere will contribute to the citizen-led research project.

The data collected will be examined at the university and will include photos of other natural pollinators, including bats, butterflies and moths. One goal is to raise awareness of pollinators and their importance to food production.

For more information go to [beescount.org](http://beescount.org).



Spotted Gum and artwork of flowers and gumnuts

## What's flowering now

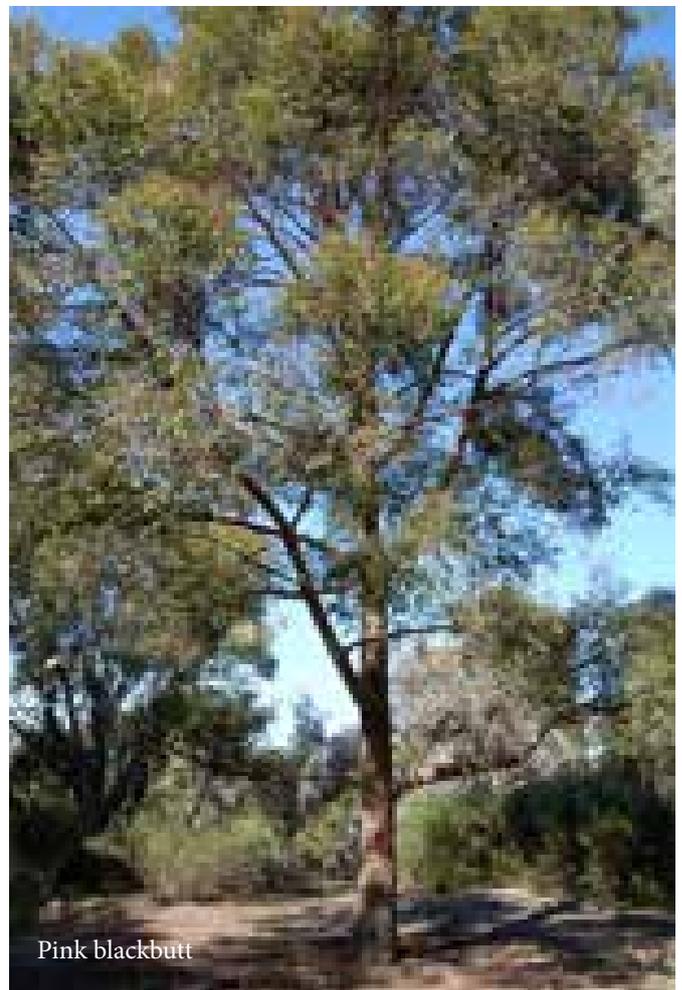
Chris Johnson

As we know from observation, there is very little flowering in the native bushland at present, so bees are dependent on what you have flowering in your and your neighbours' properties.

The **Spotted Gum**, *Corymbia maculata* (from the Latin 'maculosus' or 'speckled' referring to the blotched pattern on its trunk) flowers from Winter to Spring.

**Pink blackbutt**, *Eucalyptus eugenioides*, also called Thin-leaved stringybark, is a medium to major source of nectar and medium source of pollen which produces the last crop before Winter, so is good for overwintering.

As I have mentioned before, weeds can be a major source of pollen and some nectar. **Turnip weed** is now growing from seed produced last



Pink blackbutt



Pink blackbutt flowers

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season and can build colony strength as we approach Winter.

I wish to acknowledge that material for this article has been sourced from Honey Boy Apiaries' Beekeeping Flora List - Sunshine Coast and Hinterland which has been compiled by Grant Thomson, who is a member of our Club. The list is available on our website.

Until next month. Happy bee-keeping

Chris



## Bee Security online talks with Rebecca Laws

Rebecca Laws has a series of upcoming talks on Bee Biosecurity. They are open to the public and free. And for people not available on the night, the talks will be taped and available to those who register through the registration links and on the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries website.

- [26 May - Bee biosecurity basics](#)
- [9 June - Brood diseases](#)
- [23 June - Varroa mites](#)
- [7 July - Sending samples to the lab](#)
- [21 July - How to comply with the Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice](#)

## 2020 - 2021 Executive and Committee

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