

# BEE NEWS

October 2021

Issue 123

Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast  
BeeKeepers Inc.

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



Photograph by Linda Blackwell, flying bee and Callistemon Viminalis

## President's Report

Thank you all for your vote of confidence in re-electing the committee for another term. Claudia Ellis is a new member whose initial duties will be Course Coordinator, as well as overhauling our membership register. She will bring a fresh youthful approach to our tasks.

Our ex-treasurer, Chris Johnson's mammoth

contribution in the reorganizing of the club into an incorporated body was recognized with the awarding of Life membership.

The discussion regarding the proposed roster system for Saturday mornings was positive and the secretary will be sending out notices shortly. There will be one committee member on hand to allocate duties on the day. I am sure everyone will enjoy the camaraderie.

The bees are very busy in the brood box so make sure the queen has plenty of room and keep a nuc handy for swarms.

If we get the promised much needed spring rain, a good honey flow should follow.

Look forward to catching up with everyone at the next meeting on 30th October. Keep well and bee safe.

*Alby Taylor*

## NEXT MEETING

Saturday, 30 October at the Club House,  
43 Farrell Street Yandina.

Morning tea and catch up starts 9.30am,  
BYO plate of food to share plus a  
prize for the raffle. Meeting to start at  
10.00am.

---

## Volunteers for our working bees

At our AGM held last month our President appealed to all members for assistance to maintain our clubhouse and grounds.

Two Saturdays each month are taken up with our regular club meeting and the training course; this leaves on average two weekends per month for our working bees.

Committee members have been rostered on to each of the working bee weekends, to allow for to purchase of goods to be processed, and ensure that each volunteer works safely and in areas they are interested in and have relevant skills. Any areas that carry any risk will be contracted out to suitable tradespeople, such as cleaning the roof.

We desperately 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.

---

## 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.

---

## 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).

---

## Mentors for New Beekeepers

**Beerwah** - Bruce Wallace  
0418 833 997

**Backall Range** - John Baker  
0418 791 149, Rob Qestal  
0447 159 428

**Buderim** - Rod Hutchinson  
0411 477 241

**Caloundra** - Ian Meyers 0412 694 058

**Coolum / Perigian** - Katie Livock 0414 843 342, Sarah Keast 0435 388 425

**Maroochy River** - Tony Minto  
0419 661 843

**Woombye** - Chris Johnson  
0411 415 527, Shane Simpson  
0407 520 078

**Yandina / North** - John Writer  
0409 118 888

## Workshops for New Beekeepers

The upcoming Beekeeper's Course on 13 November still has some places available. The last Course for the year is on 11 December.

**Booking is essential.**

Book online at:  
[www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au/workshops](http://www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au/workshops).



\* Freepik

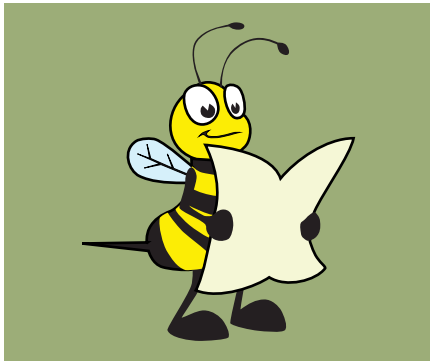
## The Club Online

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)



---

## BEES IN THE NEWS

**Australia Post's COVID-driven delays worry queen bee breeders as busy Christmas period looms: ABC Rural - 11 Oct**

Australia Post says it continues to grapple with "Christmas-like" volume

Breeders will trial data loggers to track temperatures and humidity in parcels, but are struggling to find a solution to the delivery problem

Native bee breeders are also experiencing delays with hive deliveries, which is impacting emerging markets

**Sweet Success: The Road Ahead RACQ - Oct/Nov 2021**

Finding a treatment for their daughter's medical condition led a Jimboomba couple to a successful business. Jason and Natasha both hold down full-time jobs and squeeze in the demands of their growing business with promoting the importance of bees during school visits and at special events. Natasha won the 2019 Qld Agrifutures Rural Women's Award for the Roebig's development of a Beekeeping Centre of Excellence, focused on

---

## Beekeeper of the Month September Edition Correction

A mistake was made in copying a sentence from Ken Evans' article which totally changed the meaning.

The change was made to: 'The theory here is that the bees won't use any infected honey in drawing the comb.'

The correct sentence should have been: 'The theory here is that the bees use any infected honey in drawing the comb.'

"Ken's theory is that bees will use any infected honey that they may have consumed and use it to draw out the new foundation. Thus bacteria is sealed within the wax".

**Note this theory is not supported by biosecurity.**

---

teaching youth how to manage both native and European bees ethically and sustainably.

**Honeybees suspected in deaths of 63 endangered penguins in South Africa: Independent - September 2021**

At least 63 endangered penguins may have died as a result of being stung by a swarm of honey bees at a beach near South Africa's Cape Town city, according to preliminary investigations done by government officials and a non-profit. There were also many dead bees found at the site where the birds had died. The reason as to why the bees may have stung the penguins has not yet been determined by the officials.

Cape honeybees, which are a subspecies of western honeybees, are also part of the same ecosystem. Several issues, however, including diminishing food resources, pests, diseases and increasing problems from pesticides and insecticide misuse, pose a risk to them, according to

the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI).

**Have you heard the buzz? Department Agriculture and Fisheries Biosecurity News- September 2021**

Our honeybees are once again safe as we are officially free of varroa mite!

Two incursions of the parasitic pest found in nests of feral Asian honeybees at the Port of Townsville in May 2019 and April 2020 have now been fully eradicated.

The eradication restores Australia's status as the only major honey producing country in the world to be free from this high priority pest, with varroa mite having caused mass disruption to crop pollination and honey production across the world.

**'Leave the poor little fellas alone': Beekeepers despair at hive vandalism: ABC News - September 2021**

WA honey producers say theft, senseless killing of bees, and vandalism of hives is

costing their industry tens of thousands of dollars each year.

Some beekeepers are investing in cameras to monitor their hives. Vandalism is happening mainly in state forests where there are recreational four-wheel drivers out there.

### **Climate change reduces protein in pollen, bad for bees: ANBA - 10 Aug 2021**

The 2021 IPCC report sends a dire warning for all of us to do something about climate change. Our precious bees are

directly affected. Rising CO2 levels reduce protein in pollen, which is a crucial nutrient for bees. Bee food is less nutritious than it used to be, and the quality of pollen will continue to decline into the future. That's not great news for bees

### **Amateur beekeepers buzzing over new venom-harvesting revenue stream: ABC Gold Coast - Apr 2019**

Bee venom harvesting has amateur apiarists buzzing over a new revenue stream that does not damage their

colonies.

A battery-powered collector is placed outside the hive and uses a small pulsation that bees won't detect.

The bees sting a glass plate, which collects the venom and does not hurt the bee.

Harvesting bee venom is not new and the inventor says his model is a variation on existing products.

Brisbane inventor James Watts said his venom collector was more bee friendly than other harvesting techniques.

## **2021-2022 Executive and Committee**

<b>President</b>	Alby Taylor	presidentscbees@gmail.com	0418 882 282
<b>Vice-President Publicity</b>	Katie Livock	vicepresidentscbees@gmail.com	0414 843 342
<b>Secretary</b>	Bill Spencer	secretaryscbees@gmail.com	0419 149 947
<b>Treasurer</b>	Paul Bonner	treasurerscbees@gmail.com	0403 432 952
<b>Committee</b>	John Baker	mail@johnbaker.com.au	0418 791 149
<b>Committee Newsletter Editor</b>	Linda Blackwell	lineb@internode.on.net	0409 848 466
<b>Committee Strategic Planning</b>	Evan Flower	evan.flower@bigpond.com	
<b>Committee Hive Master</b>	John Writer	monarocove@gmail.com	0409 118 888
<b>Facebook/website</b>	Frank Vos	frankvos@tpg.com.au	0412 066 546
<b>Course Co-ordinator</b>	Claudia Ellis	beyondhoney1@gmail.com	0466 194 866

\* 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.