

BEE NEWS

April 2022

Issue 127

Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast
BeeKeepers Inc.

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au



Bee on lavender, photograph by Timothy M Roberts @ flickr.com

26 March meeting focus - reduced honey production

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, 30 April 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.

Many members' hives, including the Club's hives, have been experiencing minimal honey production.

The Club had difficulty obtaining full frames for extraction for the introductory bee course in March.

The increased rain during the first half of the year encouraged the eucalypts that are the main source of nectar and pollen for many of our beekeepers to put all their energy into general growth in preference to flower and seed production. Alby noticed a fallen eucalypt branch that had flowers that were poorly developed. Any flowers produced by other plants would have had nectar and pollen

washed out by the heavy rain.

The consensus at the meeting was that there was very little that could be done apart from feeding the bees. There was further discussion in relation to the various techniques for feeding hives.

Katie advised that she had recently spoken with the chief biosecurity officer to get his opinion on the situation. He also agreed that seasonal factors seem to be largely to blame for the drop in honey supplies. He also requested any members who had lost hives to floodwaters, and who had been able to get photographic evidence, to forward their photographs to him for analysis. Katie also advised that the chief biosecurity officer is holding a biosecurity webinar on Tuesday, 29 June 2022. Details can be found on the Biosecurity Queensland web site.

Future monthly meetings focus:

- Best honey in the world
- Feedback from David Lee regarding Show Honey Competition 2021
- Heat loss in hives



Best Honey in the World

1 ENTRY PER MEMBER

Saturday 28 May, 2022
at the conclusion of the
General Meeting

All entries to be received prior to the start of the meeting.

BYO Tasting spoon, pen and water bottle.



Workshops for New Beekeepers

Our next Beekeeper's Course on 14 May 2022 will have up to 20 participants.

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

Booking is essential.

Book online at:

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au/workshops.

The following Course on 11 June 2022 is open.



* Freepik

Bee Buddy Register

For those members who would like a buddy to assist with the heavy lifting, and for those likeminded who are happy to have a buddy contact the Club Secretary Bill Spencer (secretarysbees@gmail.com, 0419 149 947).

Saturday working bee volunteers

Please find following the proposed roster up to the end of June 2022.

Members are requested to check their rostered days, and if unable to attend on those days, at least advise us so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Date	Members rostered	Committee member
30 April 2022	Cammie Pettiford, Elise Winton, Richard Condon	Evan
7 May 2022	Jeff Clarke, Ian Davey, Ken Evans	John B
14 May 2022	Mike & Di Ebbsworth, Hanna Ford	Paul
21 May 2022	Jasper Dokon, Andrew Gaffney, Tony Ree	Linda
28 May 2022	Shell Rodney, Kate Stark, Paul Tate	Frank
4 June 2022	Michael Thompson, Tom Symons	Linda
11 June 2022	Barry & Colleen Ramm, Chris Mellish	Evan
18 June 2022	Debra Medhurst, John Miles, Kate Collins	John B
25 June 2022	Michael Brosnan, Russel Clifford, Guy Fielding	Paul

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.

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

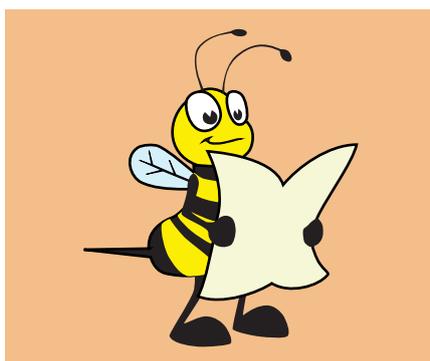
Mentors for New Beekeepers

The list is currently under review so will hopefully be available in the new year. New beekeepers who have not been given the name of a mentor please make contact with the Club Secretary Bill Spencer (secretarysbees@gmail.com, 0419 149 947).

BEES IN THE NEWS

Law allowing honey bees to stay in Qld's national parks set to pass: ABC Rural K Buchanan & J Nichols - April 2022

Conservationists are worried European honey bees compete with native bees for food. Commercial apiarists use 1088 sites in former state forests to feed bees before they go to work on farms for pollination. Bees need a really good variety of nectar and pollen to maintain their health, and these areas provide that



resource.

On the hunt to find the unique of Australian honey: ABC Rural - February 2022

Australia is not short of honey varieties – from manuka to leatherwood and mallee – but researchers are on the hunt to find what makes Australian

honey, in all its flavours, unique.

A baseline for Australian honey is required in order to compare products

Australian honey has sometimes been misclassified due to non-compliance with international standards

Researchers are looking for samples from beekeepers across Australia

DPI food chemist Jamie Ayton is part of the project funded by Agrifutures. A NSW Dept of Primary Industries (DPI) project.

Buzz about new Royal Australian Mint \$2 coin: ABC News - April 2022

The Royal Australian Mint has released a \$2 honey bee coin

to mark the bicentenary of the industry in Australia.

Marking 200 years since the insect's introduction to Australia, the \$2 collector's coin features two honey bees, commemorating "both the remarkable creatures and conscientious beekeepers". It's got Australian flowers and trees around the edges, and a really rich honey like coloured honeycomb in the centre.



Beekeepers now face Cane toad invasion in wake of Northern Rivers floods: ABC Rural - April 2022

Cane toads are invading bee hives in search of small hive beetles to feast on – honey and maggots, and they're loving it.

The non-native amphibians also love bees and tap on the hive to lure them out. Cane toads can eat up to 2,000 bees a night.

Beekeepers are struggling to get disaster recovery grants following the floods.

A promotional graphic for the 4th Australian Bee Congress. It features a large black and yellow bee at the top left. Below it is a logo consisting of five yellow hexagons arranged in a circle with a smaller bee in the center. The text reads: "Registrations will open soon" in a yellow banner, "4th AUSTRALIAN Bee Congress" in large black letters, "CELEBRATING HONEY BEES" in a yellow banner, "At the heart of a healthy Australia", "8 - 11 June 2022", and "Rosehill Gardens, Sydney, NSW". At the bottom left is the website "www.australianbeecongress.com.au" and at the bottom right is a yellow banner that says "SAVE THE DATE".

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

www.australianbeecongress.com.au

SAVE THE DATE

Old Bee Association State Conference

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

2021 - 2022 Executive and Committee

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* Images and artworks are designed by Freepik www.freepik.com

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