

BEE NEWS

January 2020

Issue 106

Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast
BeeKeepers Inc.

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au



Side window of the Top Bar Hive

President's Report

Thanks to everyone for your participation at our first meeting for 2020. There was lots of discussion and we all learnt something to help with our beekeeping.

Stage 2 of the development is again on hold as Unity Water has changed our access point for sewerage connection which requires Council approval to transverse their adjoining block. We hope to be back on track in 2 - 3 weeks.

NEXT MEETING

Saturday 29 February 2020 at the Club House, 43 Farrell Street Yandina.

Morning tea and catch up starts from 9.30am, BYO plate of food to share.

Meeting to start at 10.00am.

February will be a busy month with recommencement of 'Introduction to Beekeeping' workshop plus working bees at the shed each Saturday morning to gravel the bee enclosure and usual frame making.

Commencing this month annual family membership will increase to \$50.00 which reflects our increased working costs for the new development and expanded services. There was general consensus at the meeting that this is very reasonable considering the benefits that are now on offer. Sign ups from now will cover up to 31 May 2021.

The new Top Bar hive has been commissioned and Sarah has volunteered to lead the group on how to get the best out of this type of hive.

Our last visit to the club hives provided limited honey so lets hope the recent rains stimulate a good honey flow in the next month or so.

Alby Taylor

Use of smokers during fire bans

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services has advised that beekeepers are permitted to use bee smokers during a local fire ban provided they take the following steps.

Use extreme caution at all times.

Only light a smoker on bare earth with all vegetation removed.

Have a fire extinguisher and water nearby.

Smokers are extinguished after use and must not smoulder in the back of vehicles between sites.

For more information, visit <https://www.qfes.qld.gov.au/>.

Membership 2020

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

Cost is \$50.00.

Renew now via direct deposit:

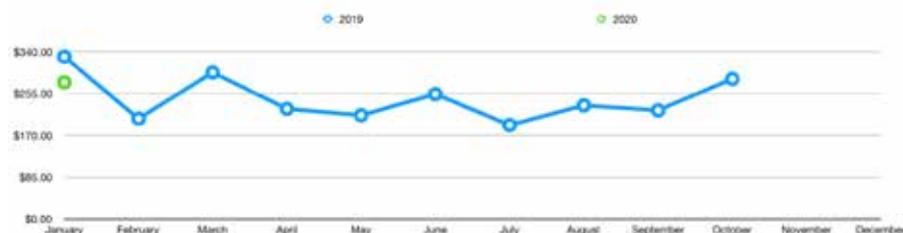
Account name: Sunshine Coast Beekeepers Inc.

BSB: 633 000

Account number: 1633 79555

Reference: "[Your surname] 2020 membersip"

January raffle raised \$278



Glenview Club Hives Review

We were very fortunate to receive an offer of a fantastic site last year.

Under the guidance of Ian Meyers, it has now been built up to five triples and one double hive. Two of these originated from feral hives removed for the council, two nucs were donated, and the other two from splits. In Summer, working bees are organised every four to six weeks to check brood and control small hive beetle.

The hives are now at the stage where we can look forward to regular honey harvests.

Recent hive inspections under the supervision of hive master Ian.



Amrita Park Meadery

Check out the Amrita Park Meadery at Pomona: <https://www.amritaparkmeadery.com.au/>.



Jon Anderson, Flickr

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

Swarms

Northern Sunshine Coast: John Writer, 0409 118, 888.

Southern Sunshine Coast: Ian Meyers, 0423 231 754.

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 (secretaryscbees@gmail.com, 0419 149 947).

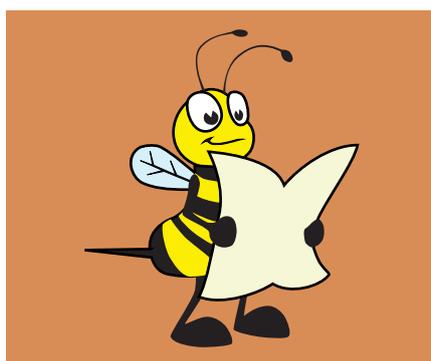
BEES IN THE NEWS

[Canberra bushfire that shut down airport and threatened homes was accidentally caused by beekeepers.](#)

[Scientists genetically modify honey bee gut bug in the fight against colony collapse.](#)

[Kangaroo Island bushfires may have destroyed a quarter of island's Ligurian beehives.](#)

['Insect apocalypse' poses risk to all life on Earth, conservationists warn.](#)



[Urgent new 'roadmap to recovery' could reverse insect apocalypse.](#)

['Like sending bees to war': the deadly truth behind your almond milk obsession.](#)



* Freepik

Beekeeping Course

The next Beekeeping Course is on **14 March 2020** at the Club House, 43 Farrell Street Yandina.

Booking is essential.

Book online at www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au/workshops.

What's flowering now

Chris Johnson

In the general area, Gympie Messmate (*E.cloeziana*) seems to be flowering. I have a large specimen in my front yard which flowered in November, but with the rain in January it is not unusual for various eucalypts to flower due to seasonal events.

[Gympie Messmate \(*E.cloeziana*\) at Lucid Central](#)

The Ivory Curl Tree (*Buckinghamia celsissima*) is flowering. This is a street tree planted by the council. It is reported to be very attractive to bees for both nectar and pollen.

[Buckinghamia Celsissima at Australian Native Plants Society](#)

For more information on these two trees, please refer to the [article on our website](#). This is a great reference article for all sorts of flora on the Sunshine Coast.

Most of our bees seem to be suffering in the dry conditions. I find that one thing we can do is plant as many bee-attractive herbs as possible in your garden. My favourite is Bush Basil, a perennial, that flowers continuously if trimmed and the bees love it! I have at least 30 plants around my house.

[Bush basil at Lush Plants Online](#)

Another old favourite is Borage. It seeds easily, so watch for the small seedlings coming up to re-plant.

[Borage at Permaculture News](#)

You should also check out [Noosa Native Plants website](#) on what is flowering now.

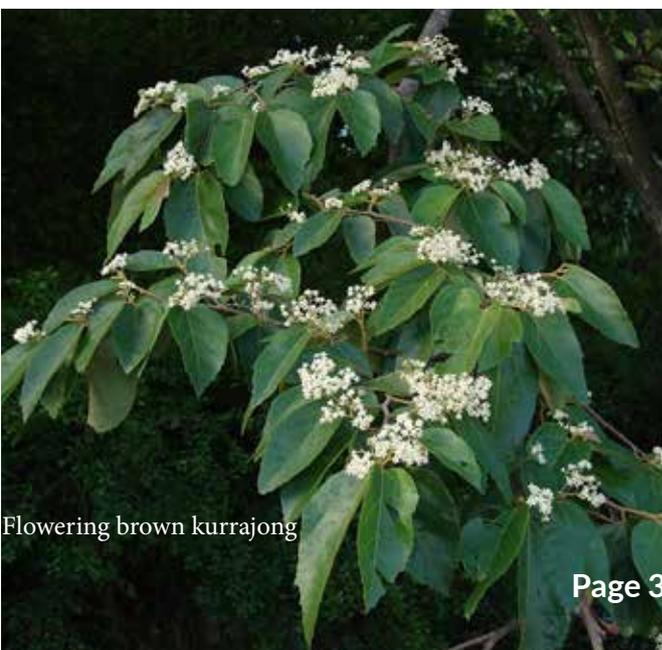
Mooloola Landcare Nursey advises the following trees are flowering in the area:

- Brown kurrajong (*Commersonia bartramia*)
- Pink bloodwood (*Corymbia intermedia*)
- Pink doughwood (*Melicope elleryana*)

Until next month.

Happy bee-keeping

Chris



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