

<https://www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au/>

SUNSHINE COAST BEEKEEPERS INC.

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Next Meeting: Saturday, 26th May Connections Baptist Hall, Railway Street, Yandina.

Meetings start at 10 am (with morning tea and socializing from 9.30 am). Bring a plate.

The club needs your high quality raffle prizes and your purchase of tickets!

<https://www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au/meetings-events-calendar>

Vice-president's Report from the April meeting:

It was good to catch up during the April meeting. There was a lot of talk on bees. I'm sure we all learn something new each month.

Our May meeting will feature the '**Best Honey in the World' competition**. Bring about 300 ml of your 'top shelf' honey along. A big thank you to Paul & Ros for doing this over the years. They are looking for someone to take over running it. If that's you, please come along to learn the ropes.

Remember the Nambour show is coming up (15 – 17 June). Get your honey ready and please take note of the judging criteria:

- Density: Measured on a refractometer; more dense honey scores high points.
- Aroma: Judged when the lid is removed from the jar.
- Flavour: The judge tastes a small sample.
- Colour: Judged in relation to allocated class, which ranges from: • Light • Amber • Golden • Dark
- Clearness and Brightness: Cloudy dull honey loses points.
- Finish: Quality of jar; No imperfections; appropriate air space under lid -fill to 6mm of the top.
- Total score is judged out of 100 points (most points are allocated for density and flavour).

Just a quick note: as it gets colder, it is not a good time to manipulate or carry out brood inspections. The bees work hard to keep warm. Chilled brood is not actually a disease, but can be a result of mistreatment of the bees by the beekeeper. It also can be caused by a pesticide hit that primarily kills off the adult population or by a sudden drop in temperature during rapid spring build up. The brood must be kept warm at all times; nurse bees will cluster over the brood to keep it at the right temperature. When a beekeeper opens the hive (to inspect, remove honey, check the queen, or just to look) and prevents the nurse bees from clustering on the frame for too long, the brood can become chilled, deforming or even killing some of the bees.

May Meeting – Sat 26th, 9.30 am for 10 am start at the Connections Baptist Hall, Railway Street, Yandina.

Don't forget a plate to share or a raffle prize. Garden produce always welcomed!

Who will take home 'The Best Honey in the World' trophy this year???

Jeff Ross (Vice President)

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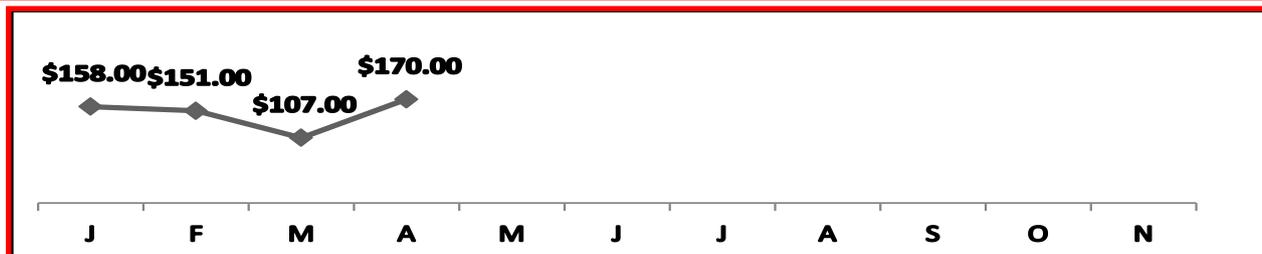
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Raffle: Amount raised at the April meeting: **\$170.00 - A wonderful result.**

The raffle is an important way of raising desperately needed funds for our new club house and facilities. Please bring quality items for prizes - fresh produce from your garden will be snaffled up quickly by lucky winners. (Also, chocolates, and bottles of wine.....)

The Club needs you to buy lots of tickets each meeting!



Members' Stuff:

Swarms: If you find a swarm: Contact Jeff Ross (ph. 0429 960 300, Beerwah) or Alby Taylor (0418 882 282, Woombye) New bees are needed to populate the Club's hives.

Bees Wanted:

Contact Secretary Geoff (ozgeoff@live.com)

Best Practices and Tips:

Do **you** have something you wish to communicate to other members? This could be local or global news; items to sell, buy or give away; photos or news from your apiary.

This newsletter is sent out each month. It reaches all members: email suzyfurness@gmail.com

Or go to the Sunshine Coast Beekeepers Website forum:

<https://www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au/forum>

FROM THE NEWS' DESKS:

1. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-05-08/colony-collapse-ten-years-after-crisis-what-is-happening-to-bees/8507408>
2. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2018-04-30/beekeepers-call-for-neonicotinoids-australia-ban/9710252>
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/apr/27/eu-agrees-total-ban-on-bee-harming-pesticides>
4. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2017-02-24/smart-bees-learn-how-to-use-tools-by-watching-others/8297576>
5. <https://www.notredamedeparis.fr/en/la-cathedrale/les-informations-insolites/les-abeilles-de-notre-dame-de-paris/>

David Lee first saw this as an article in a rail magazine while traveling from Paris to Barcelona in 2014. Do we have any one who can do a summary in English for us?

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What you missed if you missed the April meeting: (thank you, to member Roz Bull).

- Jeff gave an interesting demonstration and talk on How to Prepare Beehives for Winter.
-Bees keep the hives at 35 degrees year round. Because the top lid of the Langstroth Super is vented, a chimney effect is produced with the hot air rising and escaping through these vents, to be replaced with cool air sucked in through the hive entrance. As well as enabling the bees to keep the temperature at 35 degrees, the chimney effect aids in the curing honey giving off moisture which rises and escapes through the vents holes.

-In winter and the bees need our assistance to maintain that 35 degree temperature. Jeff demonstrated a very simple method of using a mat made of “damp course” material to stop the chimney effect, thereby retaining heat in the hive. Come autumn, here’s Jeff’s step by step guide:-

1. Remove the vented lid on the Super;
2. Place a beetle trap on top of the brood frames;
3. Cover the beetle trap and frames with the mat;
4. Place the queen excluder over the mat.

-In mid-July or early August, Jeff removes the mat and takes off as much capped honey as possible. This is because in Australia, the bees do not go into full hibernation and are still producing some brood, Jeff leaves the uncapped honey for the bees to feed the brood. This is also an opportune time to replace half of the brood frames with fresh ones.

Jeff rounded off his talk by reminding us that the bees will happily reward us with an increased supply of honey if we work *with* the them by making their lives as easy as possible, .

- Alby reported on his recent visit to NZ where he investigated how they are handling **the verroa mite**. His findings are important:-

1. It’s not a case of ‘if’ but ‘when’ the verroa mite arrives in Australia;
2. Small hive Beetle is a worse problem than the verroa mite;
3. If you can handle the small hive beetle then you can handle the verroa mite;
4. The verroa mite is easily controlled with miticide applied twice yearly. The downside is that the use of these chemicals adds significantly to the cost of beekeeping. This may inevitably lead to some beekeepers exiting the industry.

- **Hive beetle—human health precautions:**

There was some discussion about the cleaning of ‘slimed out’ frames caused by the small hive beetle. A member alerted the meeting of the need to take health precautions whilst performing this task:

Cut and Paste this link: <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/land-management/health-pests-weeds-diseases/pests/invasive-animals/other/small-hive-beetle>

-The slime on combs and hive material of beetle-infested hives contains the yeast *Kodamaea ohmeri*, which has reportedly made some people sick;

-Anyone with a weakened immune system should not clean hives affected by small hive beetle;

-When cleaning hives affected by small hive beetle, wear gloves and P2 or N95 face mask and apply waterproof dressing to any exposed broken skin;

-When cleaning is complete, shower immediately and put on clean clothes;

- For \$15 per month, you can sign up with **Telstra to monitor remote hives** via an outdoor camera using batteries.
- **The use of lawn grub killer**, dug into the ground under the hive significantly reduces the prevalence of hive beetle.
- **In Spring give the queen plenty of room**—otherwise swarming will occur.

**Know someone who is interested in bees?
Why not forward this newsletter to them?**

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There was a hiccup with access to the building for the April meeting—no keys. So the meeting went ahead outdoors. Congratulations to the committee for their can-do attitude. Within a short space of time, a ute was moved into a convenient position with the name tags stand in the tray of the ute while the tailgate made a perfect norming tea bench. The raffle prize table was equally novel.



The next Introductory Bee-keeping course will probably be held in July.

(It will depend on the temperature and the weather—the bees work hard in winter to keep the temperature in the hive at 35 degrees. Opening the hive in cold weather can lead to death of the young and other impacts.)

Keep an eye on the Sunshine Coast Beekeepers website. Go to:

<https://www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au/workshops>

- | What does a bee get at McDonalds?
- | A hamburger!
- | What buzzes, is black and yellow and goes along the bottom of the sea?
- | A bee in a submarine!
- | What's more dangerous than being with a fool?
- | Fooling with a bee!
- | Who writes books for little bees?
- | Bee-trix Potter!
- | What do you call a bee born in May?
- | A maybe!

Thank you Lorraine, for this contribution. All members are welcome to send in your best or worst bee jokes.

Check Out our Website: <https://www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au/>

Many of our members spend time on-line looking for beekeeping information. Our website shows the best of the best links that we can find.

This saves members lots of time. It is also a useful and convenient foundation for communications between Club members. Our Club Executive continually adds useful information.

Check Out our Facebook Page:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/sunshinecoastbeekeepersaustralia/posts/?ref=page_internal

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News from the hive:



I am always worried that after a holiday, I will return to a hive that has been hit by a fallen tree, or one that has been taken over by hive beetles. Or some crisis informed by a nightmare I might have had. Monsters etc. So checking my hive on arrival home from my latest sojourn, I was a little bit unhappy to find that the honey reserves in the flow frames seemed to have considerably diminished. A check of the hive by the lovely local who helps me with re-queening and all my other crises, showed a healthy brood as well as a hard working queen, and much industriousness on the part of the workers. So I thought, maybe the decrease in honey reserves was because of the increased efforts by the hive to keep the internal temperature at 35 degrees, (as Jeff mentions on page 1 and 3).

So a sheet of 50 mm foam was purchased from Bunnings, cut to size and installed onto the outside of the hive. We also replaced the voluminous, well ventilated A-frame flow hive roof with a flat one.

I am pleased to say that the honey reserves in the flow frames now seem to be holding their own. Unfortunately, one of the knobs on the back door pulled out of its screw, so more hive repairs ahead...

Have you got a story from your hive/hives? Email: suzyfurness@gmail.com

Letter to the Editor: (in relation to the glyphosate story in the April newsletter.)

I have been using a Generic Round Up (double strength mix) for over 30 years and have found no problems with reduced bee numbers or honey production.

It is used to keep the grass & weeds down around the beehive stands in my apiaries.

Allan Teske

(The results of much of the valid research appears to be related to sub-lethal effects, and cumulative effects. Neither of which may be observable by an individual beekeeper –Ed.)

There's a beehive inside a shop at Hahndorf in South Australia!!!



The bees had no difficulty in climbing up the vertical part of the tube to exit the hive. On returning to the hive the bees went into a freefall down the vertical section of the plastic tube.

At times it looked like a waterfall.

Share your bee photos with members: suzyfurness@gmail.com



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Book Review: The History of Bees, Reviews by Maja Lunde

“Following a simple premise—what would happen if bees disappeared?—Lunde’s novel, originally released in Norwegian in 2015, jumps back and forth, across time, between the stories of three beekeepers. The term, it should be noted, is used loosely: There’s William, a British biologist in the mid-1800s; George, a farmer in the contemporary Midwest; and Tao, a young Chinese mother in a bee-less 2098 who spends hours performing manual labor in the fields to make up for the lack of apiformes.” (excerpt from review in The Atlantic.)

Personally, I found the ‘History of Bees’ to be not particularly well written. Nevertheless, it was interesting to be taken back in time and then into a possible future without bees. It is part of a new category of literature known as climate fiction—“cli-fi,”

This book is in our library. Contact Peter Francis, our librarian to borrow it.

Send in a review of a book that you think may interest our members. Email to suzyfurness@gmail.com

Honey and orange cake

250g runny honey

225g unsalted butter, diced

100g brown sugar

Icing sugar, to dust

3 large eggs, beaten

Finely grated zest ½ orange

300g self-raising flour

Preheat oven to 150°C (fan). Grease and line base of a 20cm round loose-bottomed cake tin. Place honey, butter, zest and sugar in a saucepan and cook over a low heat, stirring occasionally, until butter is melted and sugar is dissolved. Bring to the boil and simmer for 1 minute, then remove and set aside to cool. Transfer cooled mixture to a bowl; using a wooden spoon, beat in eggs. Sift over flour and mix until combined (it will be runny). Pour mixture into tin and bake for about 60-65 minutes, covering cake with foil after about 40 minutes, until cake is well-risen, golden brown and springs back when pressed. A skewer pushed into the centre should come out clean. Allow to cool in tin. Remove and dust with icing sugar to serve. Serves 8

(From the Weekend Australian Magazine: David Herbert, March 24, 2018)

Do you have a favourite recipe that uses honey? Email it to suzyfurness@gmail.com

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