

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

## SUNSHINE COAST BEEKEEPERS INC.

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**Next Meeting: Saturday 30th June - Unity College, 47 Lomond Cres, Caloundra West**

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 May meeting:**

I hope everyone enjoyed the last meeting with the 'Best Honey in the World Competition'.



I would like to give a big thanks to Brigid for organising the mini trophies. Thank you too, to Paul and Ros for their superlative efforts. Congratulations to Ross Stewart, winner of the trophy.



With spring time coming, now is a good time to prepare make up new frames to replace old brood frames. One of the easiest ways to rotate old comb out of your hives is to decide on schedule of replacement -I like 25% at a time. After repeated use, old brood combs become very dark—nearly black. The inside diameter of each cell also becomes smaller because the cocoons of each succeeding generation are glued to the cell walls. Even though the cells are polished by nurse bees before new eggs are laid, some of this cocoon material remains. This causes the bees to become smaller. Also, pesticides and disease organisms can reside in both the wax cells and the cocoon layers. The darker the cells get, the higher the probability of contamination. For this reason, it is recommended that very dark combs be cut away and discarded. This was not always the case. In the past, beekeepers could keep combs in use ten or twelve years. It was a point of pride to do so. However with the universal use of pesticides and the ever-widening array of honey bee diseases, that philosophy has changed. The old frames can be used to make up nucleus hives or be moved up to the honey super. If you move them up, keep an eye out for queen cells after about 7 days. You may get another queen.

By replacing a percentage of the brood frames each year you will be building healthier colonies.

The next Introduction to Beekeeping course is on the 8th July. Go to:

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

Our next meeting is on the 30th June at Unity College 47 Lomond Cres, Caloundra West QLD.

**Jeff Ross (Vice President)**

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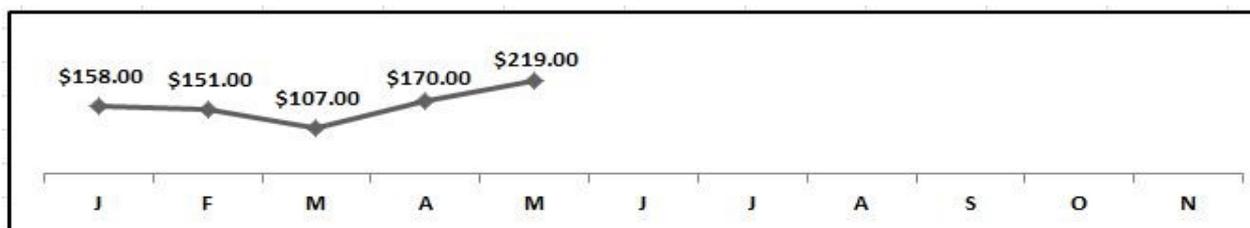
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**Raffle:** Amount raised at the May meeting: **\$219.00 - A wonderful result.**

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.

**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](mailto:ozgeoff@live.com))

## **Wanted:**

Jen Hall is seeking an apiarist who would like to place and manage a hive on private property.

"I have done this in other states but don't know if there is anyone keen here on Sunshine Coast. I am in Eumundi. In the past I have exchanged 1 or 2 litres of honey for someone to leave their hive on our block. They manage it and it's their hive and honey."

Contact Jen on 0418156366 or email: [hall.jenann@gmail.com](mailto:hall.jenann@gmail.com) or: PO Box 44, Eumundi, 4562

**Information on the nutrient needs of bees:** (Thanks to member, Chris Johnson)

<https://www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au/fat-bees-skinny-bees>

## **New You Tube Channel: HoneyBEE TEK**

Allan Teske has created a new You Tube channel. He has over 70 Educational videos that he will be uploading.

Go to: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuHoJr7H8GwOVVsVE5MeuAw>

*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](mailto:suzyfurness@gmail.com)*

**Or go to the Sunshine Coast Beekeepers Website forum:**

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

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## What you missed if you missed the May meeting:

- You missed out on the Best Honey in the World Competition: we tasted the honey from the hives of many of our members, and were able to compare the various flavours.
- We were asked to make sure that our membership email addresses were up to date. Some newsletter emails were returned undelivered.
- A discussion about using a flycatcher but what for or how, I don't know as I was outside at the time of discussion
- More information about using lawn grub in the soil around the hive. Check to make sure the ingredients are safe (and not neonicotinoids).
- A plea from the treasurer to renew your memberships via direct deposit, referencing your name. (In cash at meetings is OK, if you must). Subscriptions were due on the 1st June.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS NOW DUE:

Our membership fees are important to the club. They generate about \$3,000 into our coffers. What do members get for their measly \$30 per year? The right to participate in the Best Honey in the World Competition, as well as lesser privileges like automatic reciprocal rights to other club newsletters, discount purchases of bee products, as well as an entrée to many discussions with wonderfully educated and experienced beekeepers, etc etc etc. Did I mention that you also get this newsletter each month? So I am off to do my membership now. I recommend that you do the same. Post script: It took me about 60 seconds because the bank details had been saved from last year. So my membership fees are working for the bees of the Sunshine Coast right *now*.

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

## Sunshine Coast Show Stall Results 2018

Show sales on behalf of members totalled 184 x 50 gram bottles @ \$ 7.50 = \$1,380.00. The club retained 40% of this amount (\$552) plus \$25.00 for sale of native bee honey for Ann Ross.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who assisted with the honey judging competition, operating the stall, & carrying out the extraction demonstrations.

It was very well received & created a lot of goodwill for our organisation.

Alby Taylor

## 2018 Sunshine Coast Show Apiculture Results

|                           |                     |                            |
|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Light Honey (7 entries)   | First Aiden Pretty  | Second Aiden Pretty        |
| Amber Honey (21 entries)  | First Chris Johnson | Second Sylvia Wynne        |
| Medium Honey (19 entries) | First Hive Haven    | Second Lindsay Cruickshank |
| Dark Honey (8 entries)    | First G & L Irvine  | Second Tim Humphreys       |
| Candied Honey (3 entries) | First Bill Spencer  |                            |
| Creamed Honey (4 entries) | First Katie Livock  |                            |
| Bees Wax (3 entries)      | First Aidan Pretty  |                            |

**Show Champion Aiden Pretty's Light Honey**

**Reserve Champion Chris Johnson's Amber Honey**

A big thanks to judge Hamish Lamb who praised the quality of exhibits although there were a number of entries marked down for presentation for not being filled to 6 mm from the top.

Congratulations to all participants, the scoring was very close in all categories.

Alby Taylor (Chief Steward)

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## FROM THE NEWS' DESKS:

- **Beekeeper handfeeding hive in the grip of drought, pollen shortage - ABC Rural - News**

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2018-06-12/outback-beekeeper-handfeeding-bees-during-west-qld-drought/9850358>

- **Beeswax demand surge has beards in a frizz, leaves beekeepers stung by shortage.**

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2018-05-30/beeswax-demand-surge-has-beards-in-a-frizz/9810998>

- **Bee thefts have reached a record level in Spain**, with police saying farmers are paying gangs to steal their competitors' hives. The thefts have become violent as the money to be made from honey has risen. In Valencia, the "honeypot" of Spain, 930 hives have been stolen this year compared with 1800 in all of last year. A hive can be worth several thousand euros. Beekeepers are installing GPS trackers in hives and setting up CCTV cameras. One thief stole hives worth 35,000 euros (\$54,556 au). "Stealing beehives has turned into an industry in itself," said Carlos Munoz, of the Agricultural and Farmers Union in Valencia. The stolen bees are used to make honey or pollinate fruit to boost production on other farms. Officers from the Civil Guard's specialist Roca unit now carry masks to protect them from stings if they have to stop a suspected thief although the bees are only one danger. "We have been threatened with knives and other weapons by the thieves, who come at night " said Antonio Negreiro, head of the Roca unit in Castellon, near Valencia. "Sometimes they have tried to run us over." He said that many of those responsible had grown rich from the illicit trade: "Some live in mansions." The Australian, 23/05/2018 (Thanks to member, Chris Johnson)

- **Bees can tell the style differences between Picasso and Monet:**

This is from an ABC Late Night Live interview. Phillip Adams interviewed Tanya Latty, a Research and Teaching Fellow in Entomology at the University of Sydney.

Honey bees are clever individually. They are able to recognise patterns because that's how they find flowers and know, for example, that one type of flower is worth visiting while another type of flower is not. They can take that basic ability and use it for all sorts of things. In an experiment done at University of Queensland honey bees were trained to distinguish between paintings by Picasso and Monet. Different paintings by these two artists were presented. The bees were always fed near a Picasso painting. On the last day the bees were given two paintings they'd never seen before. One was by Picasso while the other was by Monet. The bees were able to correctly pick the Picasso because of their ability to recognise patterns. So the same way that humans can tell the difference between a Picasso and a Monet by looking at the patterns, so can the honey bees. This is particularly amazing when you consider that the honey bee has a tiny brain the size of a sesame seed. (Thank you to member Roz Bull, for this summary.)

- **Bees get stressed too:** (Thanks to member Geoff Johnson, for this contribution.)

[https://theconversation.com/bees-get-stressed-at-work-too-and-it-might-be-causing-colony-collapse-96412?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2019%202018%20-%20104459217&utm\\_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2019%202018%20-%20104459217+CID\\_512b1f54667be8acb105df0ed5669097&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor&utm\\_term=Bees%20get%20stressed%20at%20work%20too%20and%20it%20might%20be%20causing%20colony%20collapse](https://theconversation.com/bees-get-stressed-at-work-too-and-it-might-be-causing-colony-collapse-96412?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2019%202018%20-%20104459217&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2019%202018%20-%20104459217+CID_512b1f54667be8acb105df0ed5669097&utm_source=campaign_monitor&utm_term=Bees%20get%20stressed%20at%20work%20too%20and%20it%20might%20be%20causing%20colony%20collapse)

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

**Check Out our Facebook Page:**

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/sunshinecoastbeekeepersaustralia/posts/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/sunshinecoastbeekeepersaustralia/posts/?ref=page_internal)

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**News from the hive:** (From an Australian bee keeper living in Japan via member, Ken Evans)

"The hive I received with the bees in it is a Japanese style hive (the lower part). The flow hive I got from Australia is sitting on top. I've made an adaptation so I can mount the brood box on top. I want them to start building comb up in the top so the queen can lay brood up there too. I also want the queen up there so I can monitor her and the state of the hive. The Japanese hives don't allow you any access inside. You have to pull the hive apart to get the honey. Which means everything is finished once you do that. Very Japanese—but maybe not so practical! I want more brood so I can get a new queen and then split the hives and start using my complete flow hive. Honey on tap! Very minimal disruption to the bees!"



Why do bees buzz?

Because they can't whistle!

What goes zzub, zzub?

A bee flying backwards!

What are the cleverest bees?

Spelling bees!

What bee is good for your health?

Vitamin bee!

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

**Know someone who is interested in bees?**

**Why not forward this newsletter to them?**

**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](https://www.facebook.com/pg/sunshinecoastbeekeepersaustralia/posts/?ref=page_internal)

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## **Book Review:**

There is no book review this month—I haven't got any more bee books, and no one has sent in a review. Send in a review of a book that you think may interest our members. Email to [suzyfurness@gmail.com](mailto:suzyfurness@gmail.com)

## **The next beginners' beekeeping course is 8th July:**

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

### **Honey Crème Caramels by Louise Keats (From the Weekend Australian 16/17th June)**

8 tablespoons honey plus 2 tablespoons extra  
150 mls pouring cream  
450 mls milk  
1 vanilla bean, halved lengthways  
4 eggs  
2 egg yolks

Preheat oven to 160°C (140°C fan). Place 6 ovenproof ramekins (200 ml capacity) into a large baking dish. Place honey into a medium heavy-based saucepan over medium heat. Bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer for 3-5 mins. until deep golden. Carefully pour honey into ramekins. Swirl to coat bases and sides of ramekins, then return to baking dish.

Combine cream, milk and vanilla bean in a saucepan. Cook over a low-medium heat until mixture almost boils. Remove from heat and set aside to cool slightly.

Whisk eggs, yolks and extra honey in a large heat proof bowl. Gradually whisk in warm cream mixture until combined. Strain mixture through a fine sieve into a large jug. Pour evenly into each prepared ramekin. Pour enough boiling water into a baking dish to come halfway up the sides of the ramekins. Bake for 35-40 minutes or until just set (they should still have a slight wobble). Remove ramekins from baking dish and allow them to cool for about 30 minutes. Once cooled place in a refrigerator overnight. To serve, carefully run a knife around the edge of each crème caramel and turn out onto plates. Serves 6.

*Do you have a favourite recipe that uses honey?. Email it to [suzyfurness@gmail.com](mailto:suzyfurness@gmail.com)*

### **2017 – 2018 Executive and Committee**

|                           |               |  |                  |
|---------------------------|---------------|--|------------------|
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| <b>Vice President:</b>    | Jeff Ross     | <a href="mailto:jeff@jaross.com.au">jeff@jaross.com.au</a>               | ph. 0429 960 300 |
| <b>Secretary:</b>         | Geoff Johnson | <a href="mailto:ozgeoff@live.com">ozgeoff@live.com</a>                   | ph. 0417 607 622 |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>         | Bill Spencer  | <a href="mailto:talsher@bigpond.net.au">talsher@bigpond.net.au</a>       | ph. 0419 149 947 |
| <b>Librarian:</b>         | Peter Francis | <a href="mailto:becfrancis@gmail.com">becfrancis@gmail.com</a>           | ph. 0411 392 750 |
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