



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

SUNSHINE COAST BEEKEEPERS INC.

Newsletter: April 2018 Issue 86

PAGE 1

Next Meeting: Saturday, 28th April

The School Hall, Nambour Showgrounds. (After entering the grounds, turn left up a hill to the old school house.) 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 March meeting:

It was my pleasure to chair the March meeting in Alby's absence.

Thanks to Matthew Flinders College for the use of their venue.

Simon Williams from the Sunshine Coast University gave a very informative talk on Leptospermum honey testing. Simon has compiled his research into two informative publications that can be ordered through the club. The cost is 'Northern Rivers and Surrounds' is \$20 and the 'East Coast Leptospermum' is \$45, Simon has also passed on a honey sampling information form.

As we move into winter, it's a good idea to keep your hives as warm as possible 35° Celsius is good. This can be achieved by reducing the air flow (chimney effect) within your hive. When hot air rises it pulls more cold air in through the hive entrance. To help keep the hive warm, I use wintering mats on top of the brood box under the queen excluder (image below).



Bees also like to occupy a space 70% to 100% of their volume. It is harder for the bees to keep warm if there is too much air space.

In closing - remember it is all about the bees. We have a symbiotic relationship with the bees so we have a duty of care once we take them from their natural order to look after them. They give us honey in return. The better we look after them the more honey we get.

Don't forget to keep some honey for the Nambour and Caboolture show.

The next meeting is on Saturday, April 28 at The School Hall, Nambour Showgrounds.

Don't forget a plate to share & raffle prizes, plus funds to buy lots of tickets.

Jeff Ross (Vice President)

SUNSHINE COAST BEEKEEPERS INC.

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

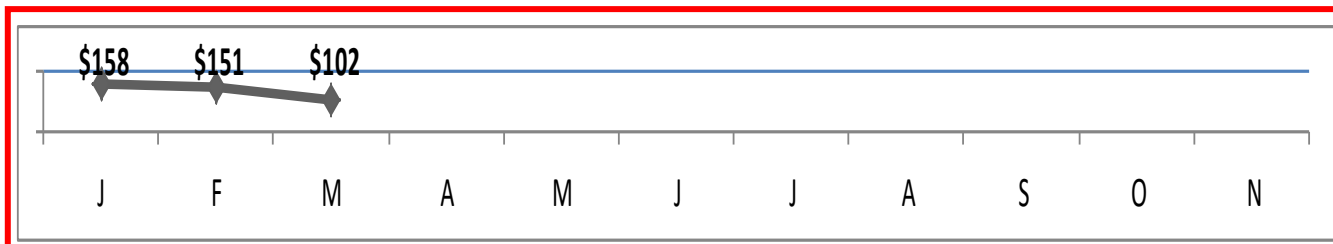
Newsletter: April 2018 Issue 86

PAGE 2

Raffle: Amount raised at the March meeting: **\$102.00 - A terrible 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)

Best Practices and Tips:

Thanks to member Eila, for her explanation and demonstration of how her queen-catcher works. She has sent the following link for the online store she used:

<https://www.becsbeehive.com.au/collections/queens/products/queen-catcher-device-one-handed?variant=381347397639>

For a just dandy demonstration go to:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPrT91KGB_s

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>

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Q: What did the bee say to the flower? | A. Hello honey! |
| Q: What did the confused bee say? | A. To bee or not to bee |
| Q: What is a baby bee? | A. A little humbug! |
| Q: What does a bee say before it stings you? | |
| A. This is going to hurt me a lot more than it hurts you! | |

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

SUNSHINE COAST BEEKEEPERS INC.

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

Newsletter: April 2018 Issue 86

PAGE 3

What you missed if you didn't attend the March meeting:

- You may have missed the meeting, but participants came from as far away as Jimboomba and Boreen Point to hear what Simon Williams had to tell us.
- Simon gave us an excellent talk about the results of his 3 year project into the *Leptospermum* species and the honey that bees make from it. We were told that there out of 87 *Leptospermum* species in the world, 84 are native to Australia, and 82 are endemic to Australia. He tested 54 of the species for their levels of DHA, MGO, and HMF. The highest species have the capability to produce a 40+ NPA *Leptospermum* honey, but on average SE Queensland species tested had the capability to produce a 20+ NPA honey if the conditions were right. Some *Leptospermum* species had no activity detected so it's important to know which species you are looking at. If you're considering planting *Leptospermum* for honey production it is important to get the right plants. There can be a lot of variation in production potential within a *Leptospermum* species so it is important to start with good plants. It is also important to consider the habitat of the plants and the number of flowers the species produce as well. Go to: <https://www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au/usc-honey-lab>

Other projects the USC honey lab is involved in is looking at the inflammatory features of honey, as well as the effects of heating honey—how long and at what temperatures is the MGO affected. Honey that is heated excessively will have a reduction in MGO and an increase in the honey quality indicator HMF which will devalue the honey.

The honey lab as part of the CRC for Honey Bee Products has an information form about how to sample honey and what the results reported back mean:

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/56d1a1_cfa35a34c14f4767b6bcd44ff980144.pdf

- Chris Johnson gave us a summary of the history of his *L. polygalifolium* and *L. petersonii* plantation. It was a lot of work and not cheap. His plants are now 2 metres high, and now the questions plaguing him are ones like whether to prune and how much???
- On the subject of the new club premises: we heard that the application is in council's hands and progressing well.
- We were reminded that Caboolture show is coming up. Cheryl Williams will help with getting the entries in.
- Jeff advised us to get our hives ready for winter, and to keep our eyes out for disease.
- You missed being able to have a chin wag with members after the meeting.



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



SUNSHINE COAST BEEKEEPERS INC.

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

Newsletter: April 2018 Issue 86

PAGE 4

Introduction to Beekeeping Workshop.: April 8th:

On a slightly overcast day with patches of sunshine breaking through, seven (7) participants found their way to President, Alby's Woombye property to attend our second Introduction to Beekeeping Course on 8th April.

By the completion of the course, they had been given information on beekeeper registration requirements, record keeping, the bee colony (queen, drones & worker bees), bee pests and diseases and hive types.

The club Flow Hive was demonstrated (with no bees) which attracted much interest as the majority either had a flow hive, had one on order or were considering getting one. They also inspected Alby's very swish honey extraction room.

After morning tea, participants had a chance to assemble a frame, wire it and fix foundation to it. There was adequate time to ask questions of Alby, Bill & Chris about all aspects of beekeeping.

Fortified with an enjoyable Subway lunch, all then donned bee suits and had a practical demonstration of transferring a swarm colony into one of the new club hives. This enabled all to find and identify the queen, drones and worker bees and inspect an active brood colony.

Feedback was very positive with all 7 participants becoming new members of the Sunshine Coast Beekeepers.



The next course is May 13th.

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

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

SUNSHINE COAST BEEKEEPERS INC.

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

Newsletter: April 2018 Issue 86

PAGE 5

News from the hive:

The weeds are high and rampant. Something needs to be done. Actually pulling out the weeds by hand is a daunting prospect with ten acres. So, this month I am researching whether glyphosate (Round Up) has any deleterious effect on bees. Some of the information I found was based on whether the bees were killed outright (no) but the more refined experiments looked at whether glyphosate has a toxicity that affects bee behaviour. Some of the google hits were obviously unreliable.

Here's what I found:

1. This paper, published in the Journal of experimental biology, showed that "honeybee navigation is affected by ingesting traces of (glyphosate) the most widely used herbicide worldwide, with potential long-term negative consequences for colony foraging success".

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26333931>

2. There is a lot of unproven rubbish promulgated by a Dr Don Huber. He postulates without any research proof, and in unsubstantiated statements, that glyphosate causes problems by destroying vital micronutrients in the pollen and nectar of flowers. He reckons that this affects the bees' ability to make honey from the affected pollen and nectar. There appears to be no scientific basis for many of his claims. His work appears to be discredited by many of his peers.

<https://geneticliteracyproject.org/glp-facts/don-huber-science-still-looking-for-purdue-professors-gmo-pathogen-time-bomb-2/>

3. Next, I read an article from the internet, purporting to be the National Geographic.

<https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2015/04/150422-glyphosate-roundup-herbicide-weeds/>

This appears to be an article by the National Geographic, but I am unable to find any mention of it in either the April or March, 2015 magazines. In the article, 'National Geographic' (if it is) writes that Monsanto may have influenced the research into the effects of glyphosate on the environment (25th April, 2015)

My point in summary, about each of these internet articles, is that it is impossible to know the source of material from a Google search. However, authenticity or otherwise is easier to clarify if you go to the actual research papers.

Do you have a point of view as to whether Glyphosate is harmful to bees or not?

- Contribute to the discussion by emailing your opinions to: suzyfurness@gmail.com

FROM THE NEWS' DESKS:

- I didn't read much about bees in magazines, newspapers, or news sites this month. The only newsworthy item was that Mac Horton, Gold medalist swimmer, got bitten by a bee in the weeks before the Commonwealth Games. His arm became swollen, and he now has to be careful of bees in the pool water. I strongly advise him not to go swimming in the pool at Arkaroola in the north of South Australia. The bees formed a carpet over the surface.
- **The Rise and Rise of Urban Beekeeping:** (BBC News 12-03-2017)
This is an interesting article about the advantages of keeping bees in urban environments
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-38227113>
- **Urban beekeeping is harming wild bees says Cambridge University:** (25/01/2018)
This is an interesting article on why it's **not** a good idea to keep bees in urban environments!

SUNSHINE COAST BEEKEEPERS INC.

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

Newsletter: April 2018 Issue 86

PAGE 6

Book Review:

The Australian Beekeeping Manual by Robert Owen. Exisle Publishing. 2015

This book has a good overall framework for beekeepers. I enjoyed reading about the management of disease, and pests. I was downright fascinated to read that mice can get into a hive. AND what happens to them inside the hive.

The section of what to do to stop the hive from overheating was a new angle on temperature control. The book also gives information about many other topics like preparing the honey for shows, how to make a garden bee friendly, about our native bees, about rearing queens, extracting honey (pre Flow Hives so no information for flow hive extraction), plus a section about making sure the bees' water supply is adequate with a floating item so that they can land and take off and not drown in the water.

All in all, it would be hard not to appreciate the depth of the topics covered. I hope a new edition comes soon with some information about Flow Hives.

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

Tamal's honey and almond biscuits. (Picture: Guy Bailey)

15g unsalted butter

75g runny honey

15g double cream

35g caster sugar

Pinch salt

20g plain flour

Tiny squeeze lemon juice

100g slivered almonds



Preheat oven to 180°C (fan). In a small saucepan, melt butter and then add cream, honey, sugar, salt, flour and lemon juice (just a touch, or the dough will be too loose, which will cause the biscuits to spread too much while baking). Stir until combined; add almonds and stir to coat. Spoon teaspoonfuls of the mixture onto two or three baking sheets lined with greaseproof paper and flatten a little with the back of a wet wooden spoon. (The biscuits will spread while cooking, so you'll probably be able to fit only about four to a tray.) Bake for seven minutes then remove from oven, leave to cool and enjoy with a cup of tea. *Makes 12.*

(Weekend Australian Magazine, March 24th.)

I don't cook, so it would be good if a cooking member could contribute to this item. Email something, anything to suzyfurness@gmail.com

2017 – 2018 Executive and Committee

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