



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

SUNSHINE COAST BEEKEEPERS INC.

Newsletter: March 2018 Issue 85

PAGE 1

Next Meeting: Saturday, 24th March 2018

Matthew Flinders Anglican College, Stringybark Road, Buderim.

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

The club needs your high quality raffle prizes too.

Dr Peter Brooks and PhD candidate Simon Williams will be our guest speakers.

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

President's Report from the February meeting:

After having spent a good half hour at the last meeting on how to get honey tested by Biosecurity Science lab, I have to report that the information provided was wrong.

There is no charge for testing diagnostic specimens, such as broodcomb or adult bees. However honey is not regarded as a diagnostic specimen as they have to grow a culture to test it. Our apologies for the confusion.

I will be overseas at the time of this months meeting on the 24th & for the whole of May, so will be handing over the reins to Jeff Ross.

Simon Williams from Sunshine Coast University has been approached to address the next meeting at Mathew Flinders to provide an update on Leptospermum honey testing.

There will be a report on the inaugural Introduction to Beekeeping course. Don't forget to mention to any new or potential beekeepers that this will be a regular event on the second Sunday of every month.

Another reminder about honey entries for the Show. <http://www.sunshinecoastshow.asn.au>
Jars will be available at the next 2 meetings for purchase at \$1.00 each.

Jeff Ross has agreed to act as hive master once we get hives located at Yandina.

Dale Liviston will coordinate maintenance working bees at the new facility, so be prepared for a call soon after Easter.

Katie Livock will be responsible for looking after catering supplies.

Don't forget a plate to share & raffle prizes at Mathew Flinders on 24th

Alby Taylor

SUNSHINE COAST BEEKEEPERS INC.

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

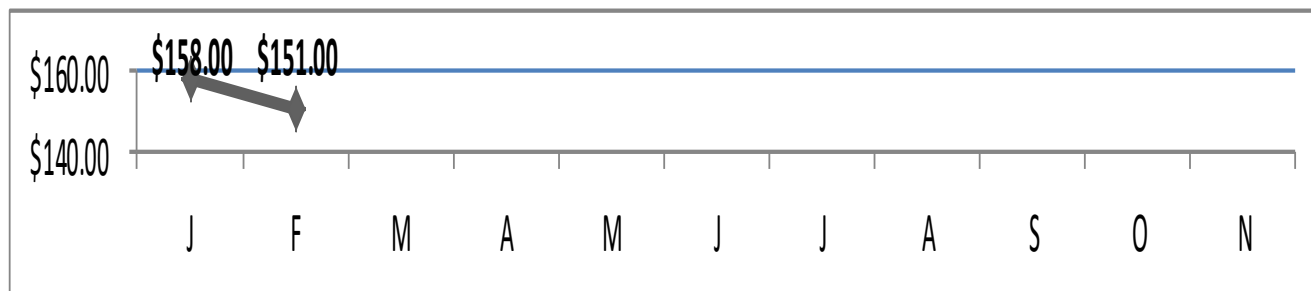
Newsletter: March 2018

PAGE 2

Raffle: Amount raised at the February meeting: **\$151.00**

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!



Guest Speakers for March 24th meeting:

Dr Peter Brooks and PhD candidate Simon Williams from the Sunshine Coast University, will be our guest speakers when we meet at Matthew Flinders Anglican College.

Australian native leptospermum spp. honey has the potential to surpass New Zealand's Manuka honey for both activity and scale. Manuka derived from New Zealand's sole leptospermum tree, leptospermum scoparium is the gold standard in medicinal honey. Australia is the homeland of leptospermum with 85 of the world's 87 species, yet little is known about the potential of the majority of these species.

USC Scientists in the honey research laboratory have been working on understanding Australian leptospermum honeys for the past seven years. They have found that Australian honeys are comparable or better than New Zealand's Manuka honey.

Now PhD candidate, Simon Williams is testing the plants directly.

Their research has revealed that not all Leptospermum are equal. Some of the species have been found not to have the precursor compound dihydroxyacetone in their nectar while others are more active than leptospermum scoparium.

Dr Peter Brooks was awarded his PhD in Chemistry from the University of New South Wales in 1989. He has been with the University of the Sunshine Coast since 2001 and lectures in analytical and organic chemistries. Dr Brooks has extensive research experience in analytical, environmental and organic chemistry. He has held research positions, supervised Honours and PhD candidates and attracted grants on projects involving chemotaxonomic studies, environmental monitoring and bioactives in honey.



At the University of the Sunshine Coast, Dr Brooks' research directions include environmental monitoring and the quantitation of bioactive compounds.

SUNSHINE COAST BEEKEEPERS INC.

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

Newsletter: March 2018

PAGE 3

FROM THE NEWS' DESKS:

- **Beekeepers turn to satellite tracking systems to halt hive thefts.**

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2018-02-27/beekeepers-call-for-better-security-amid-beehive-thefts/9449580>

- **ABC News: Standing guard, these beehives are the coastal defence against varroa mite.**

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-02-23/sentinel-bee-hive-program-defending-against-varroa-mite/9470992>

- **Bee Slaves**

Many vegans avoid eating honey because it is an animal product, but a bee's contribution to our diet goes much further than that. Bee colonies are shipped from farm to farm to help pollinate vast quantities of fruits, vegetable and nuts, and maximise yields.

Take almonds, for instance, a prize vegan ingredient. Trees bloom over about a week, and only blossoms that are pollinated can go onto produce a nut. To get the most out of each tree, farms hire hives of honeybees that can be trucked long distances. Migratory beekeeping, as it is called is decidedly unvegan, but it is absolutely vital if we're going to keep these plants producing enough nuts to feed a vegan world. Onions, cucumbers and avocados are just some of the vegetable that also rely on transported bees.

Could we imagine a world in which an armada of robot pollinators release bees from the yoke? Unlikely. Bees are just too efficient and their behaviour is tricky to recreate. Although some robo-bees have been built, they're not a practical solution on a large scale. "Can you imagine a billion robotic bees?" says Chensheng Lu at Harvard University. "How would they not collide? How would their signals not interfere?"

(New Scientist 27th January 2018, p 28)

- **Bees understand the concept of zero.**

Bees seem to grasp the numerical concept of zero– the first invertebrate that scientists have found that can do so. When the insects were encouraged to fly towards a platform carrying fewer shapes than another one, they apparently recognized "no shapes" as a smaller numerical value than "some shapes." (New Scientist 12th August, 2017, page 8)

STOP PRESS:

"WHAT IS IT? A \$94 jar of honey. THOSE BEES SAW YOU COMING MATE.

Ahh but this is no ordinary honey. It's 'ultra-high strength bioactive' manuka honey suitable for wound care, as a dietary supplement, and for smearing all over your bare...

WHOA, HOLD ON. DID YOU SAY *WOUND* CARE? Yes, its MGO level – a measure of antibacterial properties – is a whopping 900+. So it's not just great on toast but on cuts, grazes and gunshot wounds, too. (Disclaimer: always see a GP for gunshot wounds.)

TASTING NOTES: Bouquet is like the seats on a vintage Jag. Flavour is not too sweet but deep, with notes of burnt sugar and molasses. It's delicious.

HOW'S IT MADE? By bees feeding on manuka (tea tree) plants in the "pristine coastal forests" of NSW and Queensland. Now, Kiwis insist the only true manuka honey comes from New Zealand. But what are they going to do about it – *invade us?*

⇒ \$94 for a 250g jar, berrington.com "

(Weekend Australian Magazine page 58, ROAD TEST 10/11 March 2018)

SUNSHINE COAST BEEKEEPERS INC.

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

Newsletter: March 2018

PAGE 4

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

- Frank advised members to visit the SC Beekeepers Website. So I did. WOW!

This website is superb, one of the best I've seen. It's rare to find a website which is so easy to navigate. Here you'll find a treasure trove of information. The first thing you see on opening the website is "What's New in the Website". If only other webmasters could make life on the internet so easy! Want to know what plants will attract bees? Go to "About Bees". Want to phone a committee member but don't know the number? Click "About Us" and go to "Contacts". Want to see what different beetle traps look like and how much they cost? Click on "Shop". It's all there and much much more.

- David reported on his experiments with foundation-less frames. Carefully positioned tongue depressors were used instead of the time consuming wiring of frames. The experiment was a complete success. The filled frames spun well and did not fall apart.

- Proving once again that fact can be stranger than fiction, Jeff reported that a sheik invited him, complete with his native beehive, to Abu Dhabi to address the local beekeepers. Astonishing facts were learned by both parties. Jeff discovered that in Abu Dhabi the bee colonies are imported annually to pollinate the Date Palms and the Sidr trees. The bee colonies are kept for only six weeks. In that time each hive produces a kilo of honey worth \$1,000. For an eye popping experience, google "Sacred Sidr Honey Yemen" and check out the cost of a bottle of honey.

It's such a valuable commodity that hives are protected by people with machine guns.

(This reminds me of my experience in an isolated part of 'Lycian Way' walk in Turkey. The walk took us between a long double line of hives. As we cleared them, a wild and woolly Turk popped up from behind a nearby boulder, brandishing a shot gun! -Ed)

- Ross reported on the foundation-less hives where the bees can decide what size cells to produce. The size varies according to whether the cells are for honey storage, brood or drones. Mother Nature has it all sorted.

- Steve reported on an item on the Sunshine Coast Beekeepers FB site in the Visitors Post section. It shows a bee hive on the inside wall of a house. This allows a fascinating view of the bees inside the hive. The entrance for the bees is on the outside wall of the house. However before you take that Rembrandt off the wall to replace it with one of these beehives, the general consensus is that this sort of hive is probably a novelty. But take a look at the video. It's interesting.

(I missed the meeting, so this interesting summary was provided by Roz—Ed.)

Q: Who is the bees' favourite singer?

A. Sting!

Q: Who is the bees favourite pop group?

A. The Bee Gees!

Q: What does a queen bee do when she burps?

A. Issues a royal pardon.

Q: Why do bees hum?

A Because they've forgotten the words!

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?

SUNSHINE COAST BEEKEEPERS INC.

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

Newsletter: March 2018

PAGE 5

Introduction to Beekeeping Workshop, March 11th:

The inaugural introductory workshop for beginner beekeepers was enthusiastically attended by nine participants. There were multiple presenters, varied discussions and interesting questions and answers.

The workshop took place at the Matthew Flinders Anglican College Farm which was an excellent venue with its onsite hives, bee keeping equipment and covered work spaces.

One of the hives was opened which provided many of the participants with a great experience of observing the operations of a healthy hive.



The next course is April 8th. 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: March 2018

PAGE 6

Book Review:

Practical Beekeeping in New Zealand, by Andrew Matheson and Murray Reid 5th Edition, 2018

I really like this book. The well written narrative is conducive to reading on and on. It is interesting and encompasses all the relevant information on beekeeping. The photographs are clear and well presented.

I was interested to read that the 'smoker must produce cool dense smoke to be effective. Using it correctly is an art...' Who knew?

The section on AFB is similarly informative. But the chapter I really couldn't put down was the one about the varroa mite. During a visit to the south island of NZ recently, I talked about the varroa mite with two beekeepers.. The standard treatment is a miticide strip placed in the hive during non-honey harvesting times. I decided that when (not if) varroa arrives in Oz, I will give up bee keeping.

My only criticism of **Practical Beekeeping in New Zealand** is that, despite its being published this year, there is no mention of flow hives. Traditional bee keepers may hate flow hives, but they are here to stay. Ignoring their existence is plain stupid. I think.

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

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>

News from my hive:

This month I learnt that a flow hive super frame can be taken out before harvesting to check to see that it is fully capped. Presumably at this time one would check for disease as well as clean up the propolis. So, preparatory for winter, I have purchased a new brood/super box. It is in the process of being painted after which we will have a back up box for the supers to live in whilst we repair the original box. Then maintenance will be commenced on the brood box.

I also purchased a backup queen excluder for the times when I want to give the original queen excluder a good scrub up.

Finally, I read up about the management of American Foulbrood Disease via a publication from the NSW Department of Primary Industries:

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/bees/pests-diseases/foulbrood-disease/managing-afb>

The takeaway message for me is to be stridently careful with hygiene, and to maintain a strict isolation of my hive from other hives and equipment.

SUNSHINE COAST BEEKEEPERS INC.

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

Newsletter: March 2018

PAGE 7

Radio Interview with David Lee on Beekeeping:

About half an hour was taped which was dispersed as 3 minute segments throughout the 2 hour Noosa 101.3FM. program "Good Night Music Pet-Purri" broadcast on Sunday 11th March.



Honey Dressing:

1/3 cup olive oil; 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar; 3 tsp honey; 2 tbs finely chopped pine nuts; salt and pepper to taste.

Put it all into a screw top jar, shake, and sprinkle over the salad.

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

President:	Alby Taylor	halardo@bigpond.net.au	ph. 0418 882 282
Vice President:	Jeff Ross	jeff@jaross.com.au	ph. 0429 960 300
Secretary:	Geoff Johnson	ozgeoff@live.com	ph. 0417 607 622
Treasurer:	Bill Spencer	talsher@bigpond.net.au	ph. 0419 149 947
Librarian:	Peter Francis	becfrancis@gmail.com	ph. 0411 392 750
F'book/Website:	Frank Vos	frank_vos@optusnet.com.au	ph. 0412 066 546
Publicity Officer:	Chris Johnson	redkelpie2@bigpond.com	ph. 0411 415 527
Newsletter:	Suzy Furness	suzyfurness@gmail.com	

Disclaimer – the views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Sunshine Coast Beekeepers Group. The SCBG accepts no liability for the consequences of any actions taken on the basis of the information provided in this newsletter.