

Sunshine Coast Beekeepers Inc.

<https://sites.google.com/site/sunshinecoastbeekeepersincinc/meetings>

From the Acting Big Drone Jeff Ross Presidents Report April 2017:

I would like to thank Unity Collage for the use of their facilities for the March meeting. The school is a great facility and thank you Gillian for organizing the day. The weather was a bit wet to inspect the Unity College honey bee hives. That may be possible on 29th April.

Hopefully everyone gained something out of the meeting showing how to assemble a Flow Hive.

At the April meeting (29th) we will include a talk on the 'change in seasons' throughout the year and how this affects your hives. We will have time for 'show and tell' so if you have something to bring along to talk about please do let us know beforehand so we can slot you into the agenda for a 5 minute presentation – 0429 960 300.

With a gam start, remember it is all about the bees.

The May meeting will be at Nambour (Best Honey in the World Competition) which last year attracted over 60 entries from members. The completion is a blind tasting and was last year won by yours truly at Hive Haven.

Jeff Ross



Next Meetings

2017 - 2018 Committee Meeting Dates

Meetings are held on the last Saturday of each month in locations to be confirmed.

Meetings start at 10am (with morning tea at 9.30am) and are generally followed by a workshop.

April – 29th, 2017 Unity College
Caloundra

May – 27th, 2017 Best Honey in
the World Competition.
Nambour Showgrounds

June – 24th, 2017

July - 29th, 2017

August – 26th, 2017 - AGM

**Bring a plate to share for
morning tea.**

**Something for the raffle table
is always appreciated.**

Swarms

David Lee is always looking for people to have their name added to the list of those prepared to collect swarms at short notice. If keen get in touch via secretaryscbg@hotmail.com



Bee Books

There is an extensive range of books on all aspects of beekeeping that can be borrowed from the SCBG library. Please see our friendly worker bee librarian Bec Francis at our next meeting becfrancis@gmail.com.

SCBG on Facebook

In the Facebook search bar type Sunshine Coast Beekeepers Group, Australia for lots of interesting articles, videos and members' stories. Laura Ellis implaurasaurus@hotmail.com

Committee Meetings in Skype

Executive Committee meetings are held on Skype on the last Thursday of each month at 6pm. Observers are invited to join.

Round Dance

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

2016 – 2017 Executive and Committee

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Flow Hive Assembly 25 March 2017

Our Club is working with Flow Hive distributors to promote the healthy use of alternative bee keeping approaches such as Flow Hive and we don't forget Top Bar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6klnaM68XMk>

Flow Hive have offered a significant discount to SCBI members for equipment bought through our club. The administration of this deal is still being finalized so stay tuned. Flow donated a complete new hive as an aid to educating our members.

The hive body supplied was made from raw hoop pine (as most traditional commercial hives are). Flow Hive also supply western red cedar hives which are naturally rot-resistant without treatment. This posed an instant assembly issue because hoop pine is susceptible to wood rot from humidity and/or moisture so permanently assembling an un-treated hive was not acceptable to anyone present. Two treatments are in common use: multiple coats of paint (preferably with a proper primer) OR copper naphthalate immersion, air drying for several days and then painting.



After a buoyant discussion with many attendees participating, it was clear that preservative treatment (which penetrates the timber) was the clearly preferred, enduring and reliable method.

In summary: The brood box is easily assembled due to its use of finger-jointed corners (as shown). Make sure sides are square. The Super requires more care to put together due to the removable frame tapping door. *Hint:* place a thin shim like a credit card between the door and the box when screwing components tight. This allows the door to be opened easily in future. *Extra Hint:* remember to put the credit card back in your pocket.

The roof is readily assembled but care needs to be taken throughout to minimize gaps as small as 2 mm which allow the dreaded Small Hive Beetle to enter. Similar issues apply to the base. A discussion on SHB traps is an issue for another Newsletter.



Native Bees

Members Jeff and Ann from Hive Haven have been chosen by Business Queensland to represent the Sunshine Coast for Small Business Week 15 to 20 May.

In 2014 Ann lost her stingless native bees in heat waves that hit the coast and Jeff was quick to start working on a solution. He built a native bee box that would alleviate hive overheating. The result is a hive assembly that's easy to use whilst providing a holistic approach to the care and safety of bees.

Over the last two years Hive Haven has provided hundreds of stingless native bee honey tastings at industry and community events. Ann is working to build a viable stingless native bee agribusiness that will benefit primarily the Sunshine Coast and Queensland overall. Jeff is negotiating with manufacturing companies to up-scale production of his innovative hive design which will enable the harvesting of food and medical grade native honey.

In Australia, we are seeing a growing interest in native bee pollination from peak bodies including the Australian macadamia industry and the Australian almond industry. Stingless native bees are very low maintenance in comparison to honey bees and their honey and Propolis have been researched and proven to possess biomedical properties.

Image – Ann giving Hon Leeanne Enoch Minister for Innovation, Science and Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business a taste of Hive Haven Stingless native bee honey at the recent pre-launch of Small Business Week 2017 Post Office Square Brisbane



Share with other members of the colony anything you have further from the hive (on the world wide web) by doing a waggle dance and sharing the web links with members!



- **Queensland Beekeepers Association** is a great place to see bee industry issues, conferences and a variety of newsletters <http://qbabees.org.au/>
- Flow Hive forum - <http://forum.honeyflow.com/> is a good source of beekeeping wisdom but make sure to work with your club mentors.
- The Bee Aware newsletter - <http://beeaware.org.au/subscribe-to-newsletter/> gives useful advice regularly.
- Anyone interested in learning how to collect swarms can use this course material - <http://www.honeybee.org.au/pdf/RTE3153A.pdf> or this Australian video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qeAd1K7rWJU>

Department of Agriculture & Fisheries

<https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/animal-industries/bees/industry-contacts> This link will give you the contact details of a variety of beekeeping contact such as suppliers.

<https://ablis.business.gov.au/qld/pages/56eaf618-d2ae-4b54-9332-0a41503ba687.aspx> This link will take you to the registration of beehives information and forms. A pdf of this form can also be found on the SCBG website.

<https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/animal-industries/bees> This link will take you to the main page with further links for more detailed information.

<http://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Biosecurity-Manual-for-Beekeepers.pdf>
This link is the Biosecurity Manual link for Plant Health Australia.

Next Meeting

Saturday 29th April again at Unity College Lecture Theatre, 47 Lomond Crescent, Caloundra West, 4551 Park in the main carpark and follow the walk way under the huge portico between the Auditorium and the undercover Basketball court. You can't miss the Lecture Theatre in front of you!

Map directions link

<https://www.google.com.au/maps/dir/'/unity+college+caloundra/@-26.8009245,153.0651839,13.79z/data=!4m8!4m7!1m0!1m5!1m1!1s0x6b939be98e3bd19d:0x20b4e181ef193ef1!2m2!1d153.0889211!2d-26.8021508>

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