

BEE NEWS

August 2020
Issue 110

Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast
BeeKeepers Inc.

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au



Blue-banded bee

John Coke, #flickr

President's Report

Our first full meeting back after the shutdown held last Saturday was a great success with a lot of new members present.

The Sunshine Coast Council has approved a further \$10,000.00 grant to fit out the toilets which will make life a lot easier in future for members and guests.

Special thanks to workshop attendees last Sunday. Not big numbers but lots of enthusiasm.

We are still working on grant applications for fit out of the honey room, security cameras, water tank and solar panels.

Next month's Introduction to Beekeeping course is full and the September one is filling quickly.

There were good reports about honey stores from members at the meeting, so we could well be in for an early honey flow this spring.

Remember the shed is open each available Saturday morning to get all your frames and boxes ready.

The Secretary will be sending out notices for the AGM to be held On Saturday August 29th. All positions will be vacant so please nominate if you can contribute to the future of our club. It is going to be an exciting time.

Look forward to catching up with everyone at the AGM if not before.

Alby Taylor

NEXT MEETING

Regular club meetings are held on the last Saturday of each month

The AGM is to be held on the 25th of August



The Club Online

To save our members time searching online, the Club's website has links to the best beekeeping information and websites we can find.

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au

Also, check out our Facebook page for more Club news.

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

Swarms

Northern Sunshine Coast: John Writer, 0409 118, 888.

Southern Sunshine Coast: Ian Meyers, 0412 694 058.

Maleny and surrounds: John Baker, 0418 791 149.

Bee Buddy Register

For those members who would like a mentor, and for those who are happy to mentor, contact the Club Secretary Bill Spencer (secretaryscbees@gmail.com, 0419 149 947).

Working Bees

The Club has had a couple of productive Saturday mornings with various people picking things up around the site, or making frames. There is quite a bit of tidying up still to do around the new slab and the bee enclosure, which only requires a barrow, rake and shovel. If nothing else, the Club can never get enough foundation frames made up. If you have spare time on your hands, please email the Secretary Bill.



BEES IN THE NEWS

[Bega Cheese taps AI to protect beehives](#)



Workshops for New Beekeepers

The next Beekeeping Course is on **Saturday 12 September 9am to 2pm** at the Club House, 43 Farrell Street Yandina.

Booking is essential.

Book online at www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au/workshops.

Flowering in August

Chris Johnson

As the end of winter nears, most of us are all looking forward to spring flowering to finally get some honey!

Blue Gum or Forest Red Gum, *E. tereticornis*, is a major source of pollen and a medium source of pleasant tasting honey. The trunk is straight, usually unbranched for more than half of the total height of the tree and has a girth of up to 2 m. The bark is shed in irregular sheets, resulting in a smooth trunk surface coloured in patches of white, grey and blue. The flowers are white.

Grey Ironbark, *E. siderophloia*, (from Greek 'sideros'- iron) is a major source of honey with good flavour and colour. It is a minor source of pollen. The bark is furrowed, dark grey to nearly black and the leaves narrow, light grey to darkish green. Whitish flowers are in groups of 4-7 in panicle.

Those of us who are trying to make Manuka honey, are looking forward to the flowering of **Leptospermum polygalifolium**, known as Jelly Bush or Wild May. The honey, once ripened, 'jellies' in the super making it difficult to extract, but when you do, it can sell for up to four times the price of standard honey!

It is common and widespread in the well-drained, sandy wallum areas of the Sunshine Coast, but can also be found as a dense shrub in the dry eucalypt forest.

Until next month. Happy bee-keeping

Chris



2020 - 2021 Executive and Committee

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Allan Teske's YouTube channels

For those BEEKs or others interested: - I 'DARE' to be different!

I have 2 YouTube channels

HoneyBEE TEK -

<https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCuHoJr7H8GwOVVsVE5MeuAw>

over 55 years of Practical Beekeeping Knowledge

Educational videos that any BEEK can learn from

Over 200 videos uploaded (June 2020) and counting...

Become a Subscriber, Like & click the Bell ... to help the channel GROW!

The working of Beehives is universally the same!!!

The Beek just has to adjust to local conditions

New channel - Hobby Beekeeping in S. E. Q. Australia - with "TEK"

https://www.youtube.com/channel/ucipnuqdoee_nu59nxwqyuuaa

* Images and artworks are designed by Freepik www.freepik.com

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FROM THE CLASSROOM.

RECORD KEEPING OF ALL YOUR HIVES SHOULD BE A PRIORITY.

Brood Frames (*The Finer Points*)



Spring to end of summer, early autumn manipulations.

The quality of brood frames in a beehive can be crucial to the number of bees that are reared and the amount of honey that is produced.

Brood frames should be exchanged for new frames - maximum of 3 years so those disease organisms are reduced.

Every time a bee hatches a cocoon is left in the cell, so the longer that bees are allowed to hatch the more cocoons and the smaller the bees can be produced.

Brood frames must be top quality combs with: -

A.E. & L.M. TESKE....

1. No bow's in the original foundation, with at least 1mm space of the foundation clear of the frame for expansion in the hive. If there is no space the foundation can bow when it is being drawn.
2. The wires must be taught (*able to play a tune*).
3. As the number of hatching increases the walls of each cell will become thicker resulting in smaller bees.
4. When working the brood super and it is found that there is a part of frame or frames that are not being used with sealed brood in other parts of the same frame, it can be assumed that there is something wrong with those cells or the frame. The queen has not laid any eggs in those cells.
5. Replace those frames and place the unusable frames above the excluder so that the brood can hatch, (*make sure that the brood is checked for rogue queen cells 5 to 7 days later and destroyed*). Leave those frames in the honey super to fill with honey, extract and then cut out the old comb. Replace with new foundation.

All honey and pollen must be removed from the brood super to achieve high honey production.

Remember: - Bee numbers exceed approximately 45,000 bees, 3 supers high, and (*bees bubbling over the top super*) will give high honey production.

**ALWAYS REMEMBER: - IT IS A NUMBERS GAME
- IF YOU DO NOT HAVE BEES
- YOU DO NOT GET HONEY.**

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FROM THE CLASSROOM.

RECORD KEEPING OF ALL YOUR HIVES SHOULD BE A PRIORITY.

Good Management Practices

(The Finer Points)

Due to a lot of hard work and experimenting (that works for us), to-date we have not lost any beehives or sticky honey frames from Small Hive Beetle or Wax Moth.

Hives are checked at a maximum of 4- week intervals or earlier from spring to autumn.

We run 3 supers high all year round. We practice "Preparing for the flow" to the limit, - Of bees overflowing the top super when the lid is being removed. Generally this is achieved by the first week in September, after that it is a matter of taking off honey.

When the top super is capped, (generally the 2nd super is at least half full of honey) it is removed for extracting. The next day the supers are extracted, the following day that super is placed on the same hive by under supering (3-day turn-around). We practice the "barrier method" with our hives for reducing disease and pests.



All our lids have about 45-50 mm space above the top super for safety, if there is a lot of nectar coming in while the super is extracted. When transporting the honey supers we use trays top and bottom with paper so that there is no leakage. **A.E. & L.M. TESKE....**

Between autumn and winter if there are some spare stickies in supers for storage they can be either irradiated or placed in the freezer for 7 days, which will kill any SMB or Wax Moth, then placed in the trays and paper for storage. **(All supers must be bee and pest proof).**

We use our own design of elastic clips for keeping the top and bottom trays together.

We do no lifting of supers; it is all done by mechanical means. A

petrol blower blows out the bees and any other unwanted pests (SHB in particular) that are not required in the extraction area. The capped honey supers are placed on a blower stand, which tilts 45 degrees either way so that the bees are blown away from where you are standing. It only takes a few minutes to remove the bees and pests, and then the supers are lifted on to the vehicle.



The best practices are 1. To keep all hives strong as possible. **2.** They will not swarm if you work them regular. **3.** Make sure that there is plenty of space for storage of nectar. **4.** Plenty of ventilation in the lids. **5.** Beetle traps that work. **6. (Do not operate more than 3 supers high).**

DON'T BE AFRAID TO EXPERIMENT WITH YOUR HIVES

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