

BEE NEWS

July 2020

Issue 109

Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast
Beekeepers Inc.

www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au



President's Report

It was great to get back together with everyone on Saturday, although it was not quite "normal" with social distancing.

We had Merv and Julie Wruck back in our midst and a special welcome to new members from Noosa State High School.

We can look forward to a full meeting with a guest speaker on July 25th.

The frame was up for the toilet/honey room extension, which was a good feel and should be finished next week.

We are concentrating efforts and available funds on fitting out the toilets. Thank you to all the volunteers who have put up their hand to assist. There are two grant funding applications pending, which if forthcoming will allow us to complete

our facility. However in the current financial climate we just have to be patient

Next months Introduction to Beekeeping course is full and we will be welcoming another 18 new members.

Don't forget the shed will be open each available Saturday morning so if you need to get prepared for what could be a good spring, contact the secretary to make arrangements.

It is not recommended that the brood box be opened in this weather but keep your eye on hive activity to ensure that they are not suffering from lack of resources over winter.

Look forward to catching up with everyone on 25th July.

Alby Taylor

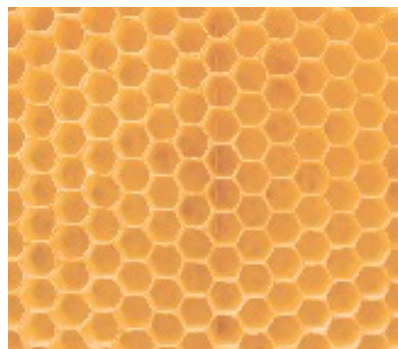
Swarms

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

Southern Sunshine Coast: Ian Meyers, 0412 694 058.

Maleny and surrounds: John Baker, 0418 791

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

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



[How honeybees perform queen duets](#)

Scientists have decoded honeybee queens' "tooting and quacking" duets in the hive.

<https://www.afr.com/life-and-luxury/arts-and-culture/honeyland-prompts-reflection-of-traditional-life-disrupted-20200609-p550v2>

Honeyland prompts reflection of traditional life disrupted

This award-winning documentary about an expert apiarist becomes a fable in which sustainable practices are upset by the intrusion of a clumsy interloper eager to wring a living from the land.

AFB in Bees at the Men's Shed at Caloundra
We have now received information that the hives what were thought to be

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, 0419 149 947

infected with AFB have now all been burned and completely destroyed. The at Men's Shed at Caloundra is apparently moving to a new site where bees are not permitted. We thank the management there for their cooperation and quick and decisive action. Thanks also to our member who assisted the Men's Shed in managing the situation on behalf of our group.

Bee Keeping Course



The next course is on 11 July 2020 and is fully subscribed.

Next Meeting

Saturday 25 July 2020 at the Club House, 43 Farrell Street Yandina.
Meeting to start at 10.00am

What's flowering now

Chris Johnson

My observations from living in the hinterland (Blackall Range) are that there is very little flowering at present other than plants that are in my garden. It is a reminder to plant as many flowering plants or herbs as possible during this period.

Callistemon viminalis or Weeping Bottlebrush

is a small to medium -sized tree which has light green foliage and sprays of bright red bottlebrush flowers in spring and summer.

However my garden specimen has some flowers now (see picture). Many cultivars have been developed from this species eg Callistemon Captain Cook, which grows naturally along watercourses in SE Queensland.

When in full bloom, the Scarlet Honeyeater is attracted to flowers and I have observed my bees carrying red pollen into the hive.



1Callistemon flowering in my garden

A noticeable but unwelcome flowering tree at present is the **African tulip tree** which is native to tropical Africa. It is popular as an ornamental garden tree or street tree in tropical and subtropical parts of Queensland due to its showy, red tulip-shaped flowers. African tulip trees are a serious environmental weed in Coastal Queensland, where they are highly invasive and form dense stands in gullies and along streams, crowding out native vegetation. The African tulip tree's nectar and pollen are extremely harmful to native stingless bees. The tree will reproduce via seeds and suckers and is very capable of spreading from a single planting. Areas most at risk include gullies, areas of vegetation around waterways and disturbed rainforest. Removal of African tulip trees is highly recommended, particularly when they are in close proximity to natural areas. Bats and birds which feed on the nectar are the main pollinators of the plant. It is listed as a Class 3 pest by the DAF and can no longer be sold or distributed in Qld.



2. Dead native bees in the flower

As Bob the Beeman says “This provides yet another very powerful reason to persist in the effort to remove it from our landscape at every possible opportunity, perhaps even to step up that removal. With the decline of *Apis mellifera*, the honeybee, caused by the spread of the small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*), our native stingless bees will assume a greater role in

pollination in natural habitat, perhaps resuming the function that used to be their domain. There is a great interest in stingless bees among the general public, perhaps this can help provide the motivation to remove trees that would otherwise not be removed”.

It may be a good idea to contact your local councillor to ask for the removal of this tree on their footpaths and reserves.

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