

# BEE INFORMED

**BAYSIDE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION INC.**  
REDLANDS RESEARCH FACILITY, DELANCEY STREET, CLEVELAND

AUGUST 2022 • ISSUE 90



## MONTHLY DATES

### FIELD DAY:

Gates open from **8:30am**  
for a **9:00am** start.



**14 AUGUST 2022**

### CLUB MEETING:

Main gates open **7:00pm**  
for a **7:30pm** start.



**18 AUGUST 2022**

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### MOUNT GRAVATT SHOW

The club had a very successful weekend at the Mount Gravatt Show. The display frame was once again a hit and we ended the weekend sold out of honey.

Thank you to all those who volunteered, not only on the day, but with all the jobs before and after, and of course thank you to Penny for your stewardship once again.

Congratulations to all the members who entered into the honey and wax competition as well.

# PRESIDENTS REPORT

## FROM SHONA MCKENZIE

### JULY 2022

**Dear Members,**

As July slides away I hope you and your bees are coping with the cold weather. July is Mt Gravatt show month. The show ran over the weekend of the 23-24th. My thanks to all those people who helped out with the preparation of the club stall, bottling of honey as well those who worked on the stall and finally those who helped bump out on Sunday afternoon. Thank you also to those members who submitted entries in the honey and wax competition. The great news is we sold all the honey at the show.

I want to give particular thanks to Penny who is and has been for many years the club's representative with the show society. Penny not only makes herself available for the full duration of the show and the preparations, she also attends the planning meetings and negotiates our representation at each show. Penny's efforts ensure the clubs participation in the show runs smoothly. On behalf of the club Penny I would like to offer our sincere gratitude and thanks for all your effort.

The club will be represented at the Redlands Museum science day on the 8th of August. Thanks to Julie and Greg for coordinating this. It is the day of the show day holiday, if you are able to pop along and help out, please talk to Julie or Greg.

Ray Goldsworthy will be leading a discussion on swarms at the next club meeting and more importantly how we as beekeepers can prevent our bees from swarming. It is timely that this presentation is occurring in August, the time when the weather begins to warm and hive activity begins to ramp up.

The threat of the Varroa Mite continues to loom and we as beekeepers need to stay abreast of the latest information. Thank you, Julie, for forwarding all information on this issue from the QBA.

Shona



Photos from Mt Gravatt Show

# FIELD DAY REPORT

JULY 10 2022

**FROM ANDREW WILSON.**

On Sunday morning we saw 12 members and one visitor attend the July field day. With the colder weather the main focus of the day was to check and ensure the hive beetle traps were maintained, ensure hive mats were on the hives, monitor beetle numbers and a general hive check. With the cooler weather we were reluctant to interfere too much with the brood.

Hive one was collapsed back to just a brood box to ensure that the hive could better maintain a smaller space over the winter period. In general it was noted that there were considerable hive beetle numbers.

With the varroa mite incursion in New south wales it has reminded us that it is extremely important that we as beekeepers maintain and follow best practice. As a part of this you must ensure that you are registered as a beekeeper. This process is free for recreational beekeepers.

Jeff and Barry also took the opportunity on the day to demonstrate the process to monitor for varroa mite using the sugar shake method. At the moment reports are that the mite has been found in NSW however as beekeepers we must be vigilant and proactive to monitor our aperies.

This process is outlined on the Department of primary industries web site:  
<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/bees/pests-diseases/sugar-shake-month>

It was great to see our members attend the July field day and thank you to everyone for helping out on the day. Our next field day will be August the 14th.



# MAKING A SUGAR SHAKER

## FROM MARCEL SMIT

Some practical and simple steps to make a sugar shaker that will help you to detect varroa mites.

1. Purchase a suitable container. I purchased a \$3 screw top from the reject shop.
2. Purchase a matador mesh grill mat at Bunnings for \$9.98. It's food grade plastic / silicon and can be cut with scissors (You can probably cut 20 x or so out of the sheet).
3. As the screw top lid is quite hard, I could not cut it easily, but decided to drill holes around the inner circle, then just drill it all out. Messy, but functional.
4. Using some rough sand paper, smooth the edges a bit.
5. Then cut an appropriate circle out of the grill mat, and use some bondcrete or similar to glue it to the lid. Leave to dry overnight .
6. Et Voila.

Please note that as the mesh does vary between 3mm to 4mm some smaller nursing bees may wiggle out.



# BEE NEWS

As you can imagine the majority of bee news again this month has been related to the Varroa Mite outbreak in NSW, below are some links and articles of interest.

## **Useful Links**

Justyn Bedford has found a guide for the "Control of Varroa" published by the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to assist the New Zealand beekeeping industry following the discovery of Varroa on their shores in 2001. The guide can be found here:

<https://www.waikatobeekeepers.org.nz/media/1470/control-of-varroa-guide.pdf>

Any pressing updates are still being emailed out but for any further questions or concerns please refer to the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (ARBIC) website <https://honeybee.org.au/news-landing/>, Bee Aware <https://beeaware.org.au/> or the QBA online portal <https://members.qbabees.org.au/QBA-Varroa-Mite-Portal>.

During this time it is also incredibly important to make sure your hives are registered, for more information on this please visit

<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/niche-industries/bees-beekeeping/beekeeping/hive-registration>.

## **Varroa – and the threat of bee decimation – has now arrived. What have we learned from other nations' devastation?**

**By Nathan Kilah, COSMOS**

Now that the notorious parasite has arrived, evolution is the best solution.

**Read the full article here:**

<https://cosmosmagazine.com/earth/varroa-mites-australian-beehives/>

## **Total queen bees may be moved as varroa mite red zone expands to include breeding program site**

**By Amelia Bernasconi and Giselle Wakatama, ABC**

The New South Wales Agriculture Minister says as many queen bees as possible may be moved from a newly expanded varroa mite eradication zone to protect a national bee breeding program.

**Read the full article here:**

[abc.net.au/news/rural/2022-08-02/varroa-mite-red-zone-impacts-bee-breeding-program/101290900](http://abc.net.au/news/rural/2022-08-02/varroa-mite-red-zone-impacts-bee-breeding-program/101290900)

## **Backyard beekeeping boom prompts varroa mite warning from honey industry**

**By Elly Bradfield, Georgie Hewson, and Jennifer Nichols, ABC**

Backyard beekeeping is booming, but with the world's worst bee parasite on our doorstep, could well-meaning enthusiasts bring down Queensland's honey industry?

**Read the full article here:**

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2022-07-29/backyard-bee-boom-prompts-varroa-mite-warning-honey-industry/101277476>

## NOTICES

 national science week



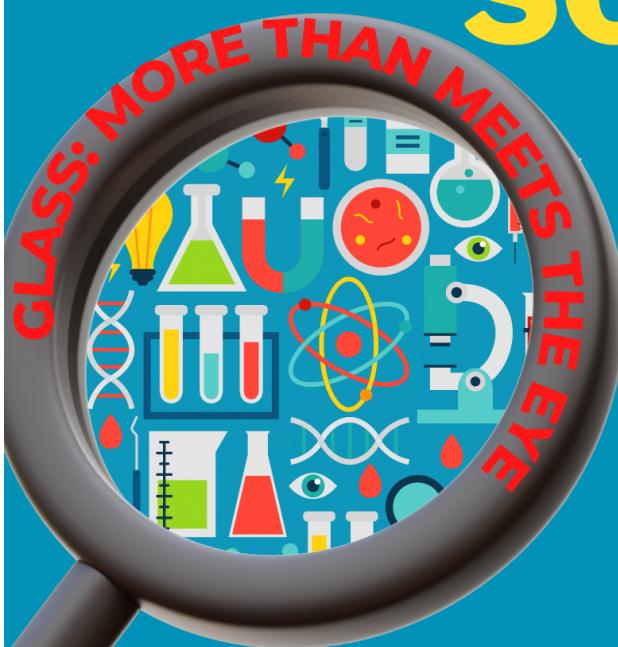
Scan QR code  
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# SWITCH ON TO SCIENCE

Monday  
**8 August 2022**

Redlands City Ekka  
Public Holiday

Explore the  
Museum to discover  
the science that  
makes things work



### Plus The Surfing Scientist Laser presentation with Ruben Meerman

A light-bending presentation about the  
wonders of optics and photonics



**Adults \$9.00 | Concession \$7.00 | Children \$7.00 | Family \$27.00**



**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**

**60 Smith Street, Cleveland**

**3286 3494**

[www.redlandmuseum.org.au](http://www.redlandmuseum.org.au)

Supported by



Please join Julie, Greg and Ian on Monday the 8th at the Redlands Museum, the club is hosting a stall on the wonders of bees and it promises to be a exciting day of science all round.

## MEMBERSHIP DUE

A friendly reminder that memberships for the year 2022/2023 were due at the end of June 2022. Annual membership is \$30 per person with a maximum of \$60 per family. If you have joined after 1st April 2022, your membership is current until June 2023. Please note that Greg is currently unable to take eftpos payments, however he is happy to take your cash or preferably payments can be made via direct deposit to the Bayside Beekeepers Account ensuring that you add your first name and surname as a reference.

Heritage Building Society  
Account Name: Bayside Beekeepers  
BSB: 638 080  
Account Number: 6473547  
Reference: SURNAME, First name

## AGM

The club's Annual General Meeting will take place in September, a list of committee and non-committee roles was emailed out with the minutes of the July meeting.

