

JULY 2026



NEWSLETTER



The final workshop for our 2025-26 program was held at Willie Smith's Apple Shed in Grove - Andrew Smith and the team at R & R Smith are Bee Queens partners and through their support, this program is made possible, thanks team! For this workshop, we learned the many different flavours and uses for honey. If you think about it, honey is captured sunlight transformed by bees into an edible form, that we then have the privilege to consume. How cool is that? We tasted many different kinds of honey, with Shaunah's condensed milk, fudgyt, creamy honey popular with everyone. We also had a chance to chat about marketing honey and the importance of correct labelling. After our graduation ceremony, we shared lunch and a cider to celebrate a fabulous year together. Congratulations to all of the Queens who completed this year's program.



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BEE QUEENS 2026-27

'Queens are made not born' is the recruitment campaign for our 2026-27 Bee Queens program. This year, we have an extensive waitlist and the initial group has been given an early bird opportunity to sign up, with over half of the places now taken. If you know someone who may be interested in this program, please point them towards the sign up link [here](#) or by sending an email to beequeensinfo@gmail.com. This year, there will be some changes to how our community is activated with the aim of building in sustainability and to explore more opportunities of meaningful engagement for you. To this end, I will be sending a survey out to all past participants.



WORKSHOP 1

On Saturday August 1, we are welcoming a new group of women to our Bee Queens community, and you are invited to join us. In addition to our meet and greet, workshop 1 will also include a showing of the 'Secrets of the Bees' a documentary produced and released this year by National Geographic. A new year is a chance to meet other beekeepers and to stay connected (or reconnect) with our community. One of the wonderful things about beekeeping is that learning never ends, and the bees continually reveal their secrets to us. Join us at the Rosny Library from 10.00am.

SPIDER V MITE

The Queensland government has provided \$100,000 to support two research projects that are developing potential weapons against the varroa mite. One project is exploring the use of spider venom peptides, and the other is looking at gene disruptors. Enter "Spider-Man", better known as associate professor Volker Herzig, whose lab at the University of the Sunshine Coast is home to the world's largest arachnid venom collection, with samples from more than 870 species. "A spider is an arachnid and a mite is also an arachnid and, because they eat each other, they also have toxins in their venom that target each other," Dr Herzig said. "We identified these two venoms that had really good activity against the varroa mite." Read more [here](#).

