

# BEE NEWS

January 2021

Issue 114

**Monthly newsletter of the Sunshine Coast Beekeepers Inc.**

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



## President's Report

This may be an opportune time for a brief reflection on the year of 2020.

It commenced with below average rainfall and continued frustrations with the stage 2 development.

We then faced the Covid Pandemic which suspended all club activities including workshops.

The new financial year saw meetings and courses recommence on a restricted scale but

disappointingly cancellation of the local annual show.

Grant approvals of \$2,500.00 from Ted O'Brien's office, \$10,000.00 from Sunshine Coast Council, and \$35,000.00 from the Gambling Commission, allowed for completion of construction of the toilets and honey room as well as installation of the water tank.

The delayed AGM was held in October which resulted in the committee being expanded by 3 to help spread the workload.

A good honey flow following the mad swarming events of spring enabled us to commission the honey room which has provided the club with good stocks of honey and wax for the coming year.

We are working on a protocol for use of these facilities by members and this will be outlined at the January meeting.

## NEXT MEETING

Saturday 30 January, 9.30am for  
10.00am at the Club House, 43 Farrell  
Street Yandina.

The resignation of Chris Johnson as treasurer because of ongoing health problems, was tabled at the November meeting and the appointment of Paul Bonner to the position was confirmed.

The Club owes a lot to Chris for his efforts in setting up our Introduction to Beekeeping workshops and getting our club facility established. He was a Tower of Strength on the committee and will be greatly missed.

We should all be looking forward to 2021 as a year of consolidation with our greatly expanded membership and activities utilizing the extended facilities.

*Alby Taylor*

## From the Editor

Happy New Year to all our members and may this year see better control in the world order with a rollout of the Covid 19 vaccination and increasing peace and prosperity to all humankind.

In our newsletter this year we plan to continue the format developed in 2020 and add a new area of interest profiling one of our members.

If you have any ideas on how we can make the newsletter more relevant and interesting to yourself and our members send an email to me at [lineb@internode.on.net](mailto:lineb@internode.on.net) and I'll see what I can do.

*Linda Blackwell*

## Native Bees with Graham Hall

Graham Hall is a local native beekeeper from Landsborough who came to our meeting on 28 November to share his knowledge of native bees.

He demonstrated how to safely replicate a native beehive without splitting it. Graham's experience is that splitting a native beehive can result in the loss of both hives.

Graham's method involves placing the new hive in front of the existing hive so that the bees pass through the new hive. This encourages the bees to start a separate colony in the new hive.

## Workshops for New Beekeepers

The Beekeepers Courses in February and March 2021 are full with a waiting list.

The following course is on Saturday, 10 April and is open for bookings.

**Booking is essential.**

Book online at [www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au/workshops](http://www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au/workshops).



\* Freepik

## 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](http://www.sunshinecoastbeekeepersinc.org.au)

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

[www.facebook.com/pg/sunshinecoastbeekeepersaustralia/posts/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/sunshinecoastbeekeepersaustralia/posts/?ref=page_internal)



# Keeping Our “Big Hive” Buzzing

Just as our bees must continually work to keep their hive healthy, so must we keep our own Yandina Centre Hive in good condition. This requires several regular jobs to be done, including:

- Set up for Monthly meeting;
- Beekeeping Course Assistance;
- Club Hive Maintenance at Yandina and Glenview;
- Frame making for Club Hives;
- Housekeeping in Main Building and Honey Room/ Toilets Building;
- Internal and External Grounds Areas Maintenance;
- Equipment maintenance; and
- Updating of Covid Safe Plan and Fire Safety Management Plan.

If all members pitch in, only a few hours from each of us over a 6 month period is all that is needed. Beekeepers naturally have a culture similar to our bees’ values of working together so the Committee feels sure we can rise to the needs. Please respond to the next call to do your bit.

## Member Profiles

From time to time some special projects arise wherein different skills would be of great help. Your management committee is setting up a Members Profile Register. If you have a particular skill, trade or profession and if you would be willing to help by using these in projects that arise would you please reply to the email request when it lands in your inbox.

Thanks in anticipation of a “Swarm”.

*Evan Flower*



## 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.

## Beetle Busters

Bruce Wallace from Beetle Busters presented at our AGM on 31 October 2020 and outlined the design of his beetle buster baseboard.

This is an innovative product that effectively controls small hive beetles, and has been designed and produced locally in our own backyard at Beerwah.

If you are interested check out his website at [www.beetlebusterbeekeeping.com](http://www.beetlebusterbeekeeping.com)



\* Freepik

## BEES IN THE NEWS

**Malmsbury beekeeping program giving young men in youth justice a second chance - Rural ABC 20 Nov 2020**

A new beekeeping program is hoping to aid the rehab of men in the youth justice system.

The 5 week program teaches the fundamentals of commercial beekeeping.

The program aims to help youths gain full-time employment once they are on parole.

**Noosa Council backflips on banning beehives in the suburbs. ABC Rural 12 Nov 2020**

Council is now talking with beekeeping groups and will consider amending its planning scheme.

**Qld beekeepers access to national parks to be extended for 20 years- ABC Rural 10 Nov 2020**

**Bees bounce back from drought and fires as NSW rains bring bumper crops. -ABC Central West 7Nov 2020**

**Bold Bid to Create the Sunshine Coasts new Destination**

To create our version of Byron Bays "The Farm"- approval for the likes of eco-cabins, cropping, animal husbandry, food and drink outlets, a function facility, cooking school, shop and garden centre . Beekeeping, cattle and chickens were proposed to be a part of the project. Watch

this space, Scott Sawyer 28 December 2020

**Keeping beehives safe during storms and cyclones - ABC Nth Qld 23 Oct 2020**

A Townsville beekeeper provides tips for keeping bees safe during storms and cyclones.

Bees can survive if hives are prepared.

Strap hives to their frame and to the ground. Be careful as they get quite angry If the hive does fall over

## Australian Honey Bee 2021 Research Conference

Conference 30 June to 1 July 2021

Full program runs from 28 June to 3 July 2021, Perth Western Australia

<http://www.crchoneybeeproducts.com/australasian-honey-bee-2021-research-conference-2/>



## Beekeeper in Profile - John Writer

This month our beekeeper in profile is our Hive Master - John Writer.

My name is John Writer I was a commercial builder now retired , I moved to Tewantin 5 years ago and built my home here with my wife Maree.

I have been passionate about bees all my life. I owned my first bee hive in the 90's. Since then my passion for bee-keeping has only increased as I now have over 20 hives. I have a great interest in grafting and breeding Queens (hobbyist). I use the Nicot system. I also graft and split colonies.

I make all my own hive boxes, inner boxes and inner lids. I have designed a few different types of base boards over the years and I have managed to eliminate a lot of the problems with hive beetle etc through my modifications. I have developed a base system which I believe is far superior to the original Langstroff solid base board.

I have 3 apiary sites around Noosa and the hinterland. I sell bee hives from time to time and am always interested in helping people with their hives. It's all about bee hygiene and bee numbers.

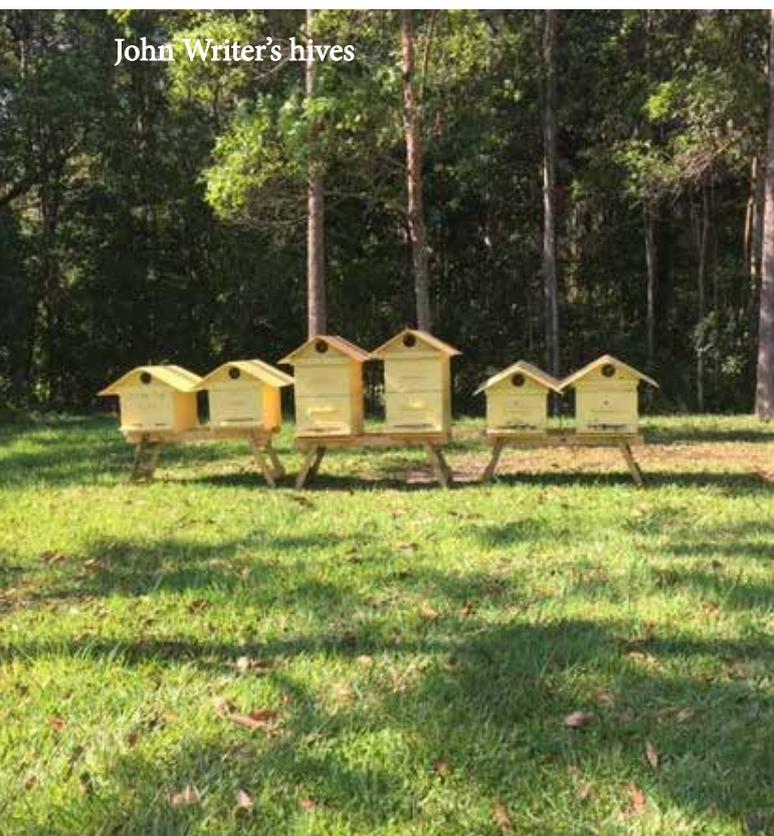
I volunteer at Sunshine Butterflies and give educational talks on bees for their clients and friends, and also donate pales of honey during the year which they then on sell to the community.

## John Writer's Tips

Always wear a bee suit, be confident and smooth in your actions when handling frames etc. For all of you new bee keepers don't be afraid to ask for help. You can always learn something from somebody even one small thing learnt from another will help you become a better bee keeper.

You can never stop learning from Mother Nature and her bees.

*John Writer*



John Writer's hives

## What's Flowering Now

The **Brown Kurrajong** (*Commersonia Bartrama*) is a medium tree that grows in drier rain forest margins and regrowth areas. Flowers in summer and has been exceptional around Christmas this year.



Brown Kurrajong flower

The **Native lasiandra / Blue tongue** (*Melastoma malabathricum*) is a shrub now used as highway and street plantings and has very attractive purple flowers with edible fruit.



Native lasiandra / Blue Tongue

The **Swamp May** (*Leptospermum liversidgei*) is a shrub that grows to three metres tall, and is also flowering now and produces the qualities of manuka honey.

The **Blackwood** (*Acacia melaloxalon*) is a tree that has creamy white balls and flowers for much of the year.

The **Honey Myrtle** (*Malaleuca thymifolia*) is a small shrub that grows to one metre high and has clusters of pink, purple or white flowers. It is flowering now as a result of the rain, but usually flowers in spring. You will find some flowers all year on this very easy to grow native.

All of these trees have light creamy white flowers, and flower from November through to April. The rain should encourage vigorous flowering.

The major trees flowering now are:

- **Brown bloodwood** (*Corymbia trachyphloia*)
- **Gympie messmate** (*Eucalyptus cloeziana*)
- **Grey box** (*Eucalyptus moluccana*)
- **Grey gum** (*Eucalyptus propinqua*)



Flowers and foliage of Honey Myrtle

## 2020 - 2021 Executive and Committee

<b>President</b>	Alby Taylor	presidentscbees@gmail.com	0418 882 282
<b>Vice-President Publicity</b>	Katie Livock	vicepresidentscbees@gmail.com	0414 843 342
<b>Secretary</b>	Bill Spencer	secretaryscbees@gmail.com	0419 149 947
<b>Treasurer</b>	Paul Bonner	treasurerscbees@gmail.com	0403 432 952
<b>Committee</b>	John Baker	mail@johnbaker.com.au	0418 791 149
<b>Committee Newsletter Editor</b>	Linda Blackwell	lineb@internode.on.net	0409 848 466
<b>Committee Strategic Planning</b>	Evan Flower	evan.flower@bigpond.com	
<b>Committee Hive Master</b>	John Writer	monarocove@gmail.com	0412 694 058
<b>Committee Purchasing Officer</b>	Chris (Kiwi) Willitts	kiwichris@aapt.net.au	
<b>Facebook/website</b>	Frank Vos	frank_vos@optusnet.com.au	0412 066 546

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### Disclaimer

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