

# BEE NEWS

November 2020

Issue 113

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

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



## President's Report

On behalf of the entire committee, thank you for entrusting us with the management of our organization for another year.

Hopefully during this term we will complete and accommodate the full facility. It may then be time for new blood to take us to the next level.

What a season it has been with swarms a

daily occurrence and the bees telling us that we are headed for a big honey flow. We are endeavoring to keep up with demand for hive components but you may have to be patient with some items.

Introduction to beekeeping workshops continue to increase in popularity, which is great for our membership and revenue. However, it places a heavy workload on the organizers.

The practical sessions involve hive inspections, frame making, and honey extraction. It is quite rewarding to work with beginners so anyone who can assist on a casual basis would be most welcome.

Remember this is the silly season so check your hives regularly to make sure there is plenty of room for the queen to lay in the brood box and honey space in the supers.

Enjoy the good season.

*Alby Taylor*

## NEXT MEETING

**Saturday 28 November, 9.30am for  
10.00am at the Club House, 43 Farrell  
Street Yandina.**

**Guest speaker will be Graham Hall on  
native bees followed by a demonstration  
adding a 2nd box to the Club hive.**



## AGM & General Meeting: 31 October 2020

Commenced punctually at 10:00 formalising the ongoing extended committee charged with the responsibility of completing the facility and ensuring a smooth running venue for all of our members. A general meeting was held following the AGM questions and answers from the floor including our monthly raffle.

## 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.

## BEES IN THE NEWS

BEEleive it or not

[NSW Bees are back: hives are recovering after a heavy toll of drought and bushfire and farmers are delighted.](#)

[Noosa council backflips on banning new hives in suburbs, begins liaising with beekeepers.](#)

[Queensland beekeepers' access to national parks to be extended for 20 years.](#)

## 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/>

## 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 ([secretarysbees@gmail.com](mailto:secretarysbees@gmail.com), 0419 149 947).

## Working Bees

Members do come and assist with making frames but we need members to assist with other activities around the club

If you have spare time on your hands, please email the Secretary Bill: [secretarysbees@gmail.com](mailto:secretarysbees@gmail.com).

## Workshops for New Beekeepers

The next course is on 12 December 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)

# Noosa Council Attempts to Ban Urban Beekeeping

At the monthly meeting of the club held on October 31st 2020, a member of the club, who is a very experienced beekeeper spoke of an email exchange that he had recently had with an officer of the Noosa Council advising him that he would be visiting the member's property to inspect his beehives. In that email he was advised that according to the "Noosa Council Plan 2020" beekeeping was not allowed in urban residential blocks in the shire, but, since he was already a beekeeper he would be allowed to retain only three hives, regardless of what type of bees they were. When the member sought to clarify the matter with the Council by phone, he was told by another person that he was not allowed to keep any bees at all.

On the day that the inspector arrived at his property the member then queried the lack of distinction between native stingless bees and European honeybees and was astounded to learn that the officer did not know that there was a clear distinction between the different varieties. This clearly indicated that the people in the council did not have any understanding of what the effect of the new council rules was. For a council that purports to be eco-friendly and conservation-minded this was truly amazing.

At the meeting where the matter was first raised with us, the members were both flabbergasted and incensed at such a ridiculous rule being introduced in

Noosa Shire. It was resolved that we would look into the matter on behalf of all the members who live in that shire and take whatever action we deemed necessary to convince the Noosa Council of the folly of their new rules regarding beekeeping. Our Facebook administrator also made an entry on the page to the effect that we were having trouble with a council and would advise members whenever anything developed. I also sent an email to the CEO of the Noosa Shire outlining our position and seeking a face to face meeting with council officers to try to convince them to change their collective minds and have sanity prevail.

As a result of that Facebook comment I was very quickly contacted by Jennifer Nichols, the local ABC rural reporter, who was interested in finding out what it was all about. I sent her all the information that I then had, and she said that she would follow it up and be in touch. Very soon after that she phoned me to advise that she had made an appointment to interview the member involved and inviting me to be present at that time. When we finally met it became clear that she had thoroughly researched the matter and been in touch with many other interested entities. The outcome of that meeting was the initial report that was put on the ABC Rural program a couple of days

later.

It seemed as though we had created quite a firestorm because very soon after I was being almost besieged with phone calls from media outlets across Australia. I even had a call late one evening from a news reporter in London. They all wanted to know what was going on and what had transpired since the initial news report.

Within a few days the Principal Strategic Planner of the Noosa Shire responded to my message to the CEO and again reiterated that they could not understand what the difficulty was. By this time the QBA had become involved and as a result of that involvement it was decided that a conference of all interested parties should be convened some time soon, although probably not until the new year. I can only presume that the Noosa Council must have been under intense pressure from the media and beekeepers within the shire protesting at the irrationality of the decision to ban suburban beekeeping in the shire, because in a very short while there was the announcement that the council had backed down and reversed their previous decision.

When a decision on the future of beekeeping in the Noosa Shire is finally made, we hope to have meaningful input into the discussions, and it is to be hoped that sanity continues to prevail. If there are other developments, we will keep members informed.

*Bill Spencer*  
Secretary

## Bee Biosecurity Webinar Recordings Now Available

Qld Biosecurity Officer Rebecca Laws presented a series of webinars covering a wide range of bee biosecurity topics like checking your hive for pests and diseases.

The webinars are now available to watch on the Biosecurity Queensland YouTube channel.

<https://beeaware.org.au/archive-news/bee-biosecurity-webinar-recordings-now-available/>

## What's Flowering in November

To see what's flowering now in our local areas, check out the Mooloolah River Landcare facebook page. They regularly update their page with plants that are currently in flower plus beautiful photographs.

<https://www.facebook.com/mooloolahnativenursery/>

## 2020 - 2021 Executive and Committee

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