

BEE NEWS

November 2020

Issue 113

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

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, 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.

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.



* 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

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

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

President	Alby Taylor	presidentscbees@gmail.com	0418 882 282
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Allan Teske's YouTube channels

For those BEEKs or others interested: - I 'DARE' to be different!

I have 2 YouTube channels

HoneyBEE TEK -

<https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCuHoJr7H8GwOVVsVE5MeuAw>

over 55 years of Practical Beekeeping Knowledge

Educational videos that any BEEK can learn from

Over 200 videos uploaded (June 2020) and counting...

Become a Subscriber, Like & click the Bell... to help the channel GROW!

The working of Beehives is universally the same!!!

The Beek just has to adjust to local conditions

New channel - Hobby Beekeeping in S. E. Q. Australia - with "TEK"

https://www.youtube.com/channel/ucipnuqdoee_nu59nxwqyuaa

* Images and artworks are designed by Freepik www.freepik.com

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FROM THE CLASSROOM.

Supersedure and Small Hive Beetle (S.H.B.)

Supersedure: - *(The Finer Points)*

When a hive supersedes it takes approximately 2 months (8 weeks) for field bees to increase in numbers for gathering nectar and pollen. The bee numbers dwindle because there are no bees being reared. The hive goes backward. The egg to virgin queen is (Approx.) 19 days, to mating up to another 7 days, to start laying eggs another 5 to 6 days, another 21 days egg to worker bee hatching of the new bees from the new queen. A further 14 to 21 days for those new bees to become workers.



Problems that can occur: -

If the hive is not strong to very strong, they will become weakened through the process of no bees being reared. The number of supers must be reduced in accordance to the number of bees in the hive. If this is not accomplished and the bee numbers are not covering wall to wall of the supers the S.H.B. will overtake the hive.

If the superseded queen for some reason does not mate or return to the hive, the hive can become a drone layer and again the S.H.B. will overtake the hive in a very short time.

With self-reared queens, the life span generally is about 12 to 18 months. **A.E. & L.M. TESKE....**

Solutions: -

The brood super of hives should be inspected every 6 weeks or less for S.H.B., disease and supersedure during the months of spring to autumn. An easy check is to watch the bee numbers enter and leaving at the entrance. **If the bee numbers are reducing there is a problem. Always extract excess honey, when poor brood pattern is found -- REPLACE QUEEN** (if there is no disease).



PHOTOGRAPH – This photo shows thick wall cells and large area of drone cells. **This frame has no place in the brood super.**

A poor brood pattern can indicate a poor queen. This frame contains many cells with uncapped pupae and they are not adjacent to one another with honey in other cells. Cell walls are about 1mm thick indicating that the frame has been used in the brood super a long time.

Poor brood patterns may result from many things including infertile eggs and disease, **but most frequently it is the result of having an old queen, which does not lay compactly. --REPLACE QUEEN.**

Another solution is to operate at least 1 Nucellus colony so that if a queen is failing a new queen is able to be replaced in the hive, if it is at a time when queens are scarce. If the nuce is increasing in numbers it can be reduced by removing and placing frames of brood in your honey hive. Any brood frames must be checked 5 to 7 days for for rogue queen cells and destroyed or (make up another nuce).

The old queen can be placed in the nuce temporarily while a new queen is sought. *We have found that an old queen placed in a nuce can increase in bee numbers because she is only laying about 300 eggs a day instead of about 1000 plus eggs.---* **PURCHASE NEW QUEEN.**

ALWAYS REMEMBER: - IT IS A NUMBERS GAME

- IF YOU DO NOT HAVE BEES**
- YOU DO NOT GET HONEY.**

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Sunshine Coast Beekeepers Inc.

FROM THE CLASSROOM.



RECORD KEEPING OF ALL YOUR HIVES SHOULD BE A PRIORITY.

Supersedure and the Queen *(The Finer Points)*

It is often stated by beekeepers, *my hive is reducing in bee numbers - I have checked the brood super, there are no eggs and very little brood. I would like to purchase a queen to put in the hive.*

The first question that should be asked – Is there a queen in the hive.

A.E. & L.M. TESKE....

A queen can fail at any time of the year, especially if she runs out of fertile sperm. The bees will start queen cells for survival, which are called supersedure cells. There are generally two or three large cells made from the centre to top of the frame. All the cells will be of the same age.

Swarm cells are formed along the bottom of the frame and are generally different ages – there can be up to a dozen cells.

If a queen is purchased and placed in the hive the bees will, 99.9% of the time kill the queen. ***The bees will want to rear their own queen.***

The only way to be sure that there is not a queen in the hive is to place a frame of eggs in the centre of the brood super, **mark that frame and check in - Min.5 days – Max.7 days** for queen cells.

AT THIS STAGE THERE ARE 3 CHOICES;

1. If it is found that there are **no** queen cells it means that there is a new self-reared queen about ready to lay. Close the hive and check in 7-10 days for eggs, eggs found, close and further check 14 days' time. After 21 days there should be sealed brood. Once sealed brood is sighted it will be necessary to re-arrange the brood super to get the hive back into production.

Sometimes when a virgin queen goes out to mate she can be killed. The hive will then become a drone layer. This hive will eventually die out and could be overtaken by Small Hive Beetle.

2. If it is found that there **are** queen cells it means that the hive is queen less.
All brood frames must be checked for queen cells and destroyed, if a new purchased queen is to be placed. *(If a queen cell is missed the new queen that is placed in the hive will be killed.)*
3. If the self-reared queen cells are left and the hive is to self-rear, it is best to check all cells, remove the smallest and keep only two of the unsealed cells if possible, if not keep two of the largest cells.
An inferior queen will be hatched and the hive goes further backward if small cells are allowed to hatch.

Another solution is to operate at least 1 Nucleus colony so that if a queen is failing a new queen is able to be replaced in the hive, if it is at a time when queens are scarce. The old queen can be placed in the nuce temporarily while a new queen is sought.

DON'T BE AFRAID TO EXPERIMENT WITH YOUR HIVES

ALWAYS REMEMBER: - IT IS A NUMBERS GAME.

- IF YOU DO NOT HAVE BEES.**
- YOU DO NOT GET HONEY.**

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