

# BEE

## Attack



Hi all.

The cold weather here at Loch hasn't deterred our bees from coming out to play. Our garden is alive with bees foraging, particularly amongst the lavender and small flowered natives.

As cold as it is, our grass continues to grow. Last week when inspecting the hives, I noticed one of the landing boards was covered in grass and needed trimming. A two-minute chore I had done many a time without incident.

I usually wait until dark before trimming any grass around the hives but not so on this occasion. It was just after 5pm, the day had been wet and cold. The bees will all be inside - so I thought. Ignoring Nola's advice to suit up, down I went, dressed in black, secateurs in hand. On arrival all looked good. No bees hanging around so to work I went. Within seconds of putting my head in front of their entrance, bang, a sting to the forehead and some very ungrateful guards buzzing me. As I retreated, one disappeared down my shirt.

Doing my own version of the waggle dance, back to the house I ran. Nola wasn't impressed and offered no sympathy to the pain I was in, or for the bee down my shirt. She even suggested that I might be overreacting. Obviously, she had never had a bee buzzing in her clothing when still being worn.

In a not so calming way, she pushed me outside screaming for me to take off my shirt as it was only "just a bee". Her attitude soon changed when after removing my shirt the bee appeared and started buzzing her. Who's overreacting now I said?

So, what have I learnt? (a) To follow my wife's advice and (b) wear suitable protective clothing when working around the hives.

Cheers

Barry