

Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc.)

www.beesnorth.com.au



PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814

Newsletter No 8 August 2016

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Next Meeting:
2:00 pm Sunday, 21 August 2016
Hermit Park State School, 5 Sussex St, Hermit Park
Bring a chair - and a plate of food if you can

AHB and Varroa incursion in Townsville

Press releases from the Queensland Government, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, 9 August 2016
Beekeepers take to streets Queensland Government and **More Asian honey bees detected in Townsville**

Biosecurity Queensland has not found any Varroa mites on a new swarm of Asian honey bees which were collected at Hyde Park on Friday 5 August. Dr Ashley Bunce, Director, Varroa Mite Response said this detection came about thanks to a call from a member of the public. "It's great that the Townsville community is being so vigilant and reporting feral bee sightings to us," he said. "Our inspectors responded immediately and were able to collect most of the swarm, including the queen.

"The site where the bees were found in Hyde Park is in a direct line between the previous finds at the port of Townsville and Annandale, so we know we're concentrating our surveillance efforts in the right area.

"While we have not found any mites on these particular Asian honey bees, we cannot be complacent. Asian honey bees carry Varroa mites which present a real threat to the honey bee industry and plant industries that rely on bees for pollination.

"Surveillance is continuing in the immediate area around the Hyde Park detection in case there are more Asian honey bees in the area. "If anybody notices swarms of bees in South Townsville, Railway Estate, West End, Hermit Park, Hyde Park, Pimlico, Mundingburra, Idalia, Rosslea or Oonoonba, please contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 immediately. "Asian honey bees can be anywhere, not just in trees, but on the ground, in downpipes, letterboxes, garden sheds and other man-made structures.

"To date, testing of pellets collected by the Birdlife Townsville group from Rainbow bee-eater birds at various roosting sites has not shown any sign of Asian honey bee activity. This is further good news. "Examining the pellets from these birds is a surveillance method used to detect the presence of Asian honey bees within the feeding range of the birds."

"We now have 12 contractors with bee keeping experience working with our surveillance teams which is allowing us to cover more ground," he said. "The Varroa mite response began after a feral Asian honey bee hive was found last month at the Port of Townsville.

"There are restrictions on the movement of bees, bee hives, bee products (excluding honey), and used bee keeping equipment from the Townsville area to prevent any possible spread of the mite."

Information about bee biosecurity, hive care, and photos that will help you identify Varroa mite, are available at www.beeaware.org.au

For information on Asian honey bees visit www.daf.qld.gov.au To report feral bee nests or any suspicious signs in bee hives call Biosecurity Queensland 13 25 23.

Follow Biosecurity Queensland on Facebook and Twitter (@BiosecurityQld).

Sign up for the free e-newsletter at: www.daf.qld.gov.au/services/enewsletters



AHB queen and workers. <http://beeaware.org.au/archive-pest/asian-honey-bee/#ad-image-0>

What does the Asian honey bee (AHB) look like?

Article by Denis Anderson, CSIRO and posted on the BeeAware website at <http://beeaware.org.au/archive-pest/asian-honey-bee/#ad-image-0>

The Asian honey bee (AHB), *Apis cerana*, is found throughout the tropical, sub-tropical and temperate zones of south-east and mainland Asia. This wide distribution has led to variations, commonly known as genotypes or strains, particularly between the temperate and tropical AHB.

Although there are numerous strains or genotypes of *Apis cerana*, the information on this page focusses on the AHB that is present in Cairns (Queensland), which is the *Apis cerana* Java genotype. This is a tropical strain of AHB and most likely arrived in Cairns in 2008 via a ship from Papua New Guinea or Indonesian Papua. This genotype cannot be managed for honey production and pollination services due to its frequent swarming and tendency to abscond. The AHB produces less honey than the European honey bee (EHB), *Apis mellifera*, and in other regions where this bee has established, it has shown the ability to rob the EHB of their honey stores. As a cavity nesting bee which is capable of nesting in smaller areas than the EHB, the AHB also has the potential to become a competitor for nectar, pollen and nesting sites in the natural environment, as well as nest in urban environments.

The majority of the information contained on this pest page was developed by Biosecurity Queensland during the Asian Honey Bee Transition to Management Program.

Note

Exotic Plant Pest Hotline

The mites detected on Asian honey bees in July 2016 in Townsville are *Varroa jacobsoni*, not *Varroa destructor*.

If you see any unusual bees, bee activity, swarms, or pests of bees, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline 1800 084 881 or 13 25 23

For more info:

http://asianhoneybee.net.au/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/2423_AHB-manual_WEB.pdf



AHB comb



Typical AHB brood with pinholes in brood caps



The feral Asian honeybee, *Apis cerana*, (right) is smaller and has more distinct bands than the commercial honeybee, *Apis mellifera*, (left). Photo by Paul Zborowski/Queensland Government

Leaders of the Varroa Mite Response team from DAF to give presentation to August TDBA Meeting

Roger Winton, the leader of the response team, and Andrea Corby, responsible for community and stakeholder engagement will be giving the Club an update, and the opportunity to ask questions at the August 21 Club meeting.

This is a great opportunity to get the latest information and clear up queries you have regarding our AHB issue.

The Newsletter Ed has already had a list of questions answered, but the answer to one question will raise eyebrows with local beekeepers. It would appear likely that Townsville is faced with a future with AHB, and the name of the DAF "Varroa Mite Response" team, instead of something like "the AHB eradication team" is probably indicative of the focus, read on:

Question: What are the findings from the Cairns incursion?

Answer: "Asian honey bees were first detected in Cairns, Queensland in 2007.

In 2011, the National Management Group (NMG) determined that it was **not feasible to eradicate Asian honey bees in Australia**. (my red highlight, Ed).

This decision was based on:

- the tendency for the bees to swarm
- Asian honey bee breeds rapidly and can travel long distances, particularly with assisted movement on vehicles and trains
- Limitations of the surveillance methods at the time, which made it difficult to locate all nests and destroy them.

In response to the NMG decision, the Queensland and Australian Governments, along with the Australian honey bee industry commenced a two-year Transition to Management program on 1 July 2011.

A key focus for the Transition to Management Program was to develop the ability of the community, land owners, honey bee industry and apiarists to identify the pest bee and apply mitigating and control measures to limit the pest bee's impact in Australia.

The bee industry has put significant effort into the development of a comprehensive bee industry biosecurity plan, which is an important resource for assisting beekeepers prepare for, and reduce the risk of, exotic and established pests for honey bees."

So you can see that the rationale appears to be that AHB is not controllable, so we had better start learning to live with AHB in Townsville, but is the Varroa mite capable of being eradicated??? time will tell. Please alert all your neighbours and friends to track down any feral hives and notify the Biosecurity hotline 13 25 23

Bees in Space!!!!

Queensland Government, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Media Alert, 11 August 2016
Varroa mite response update

The fight to eradicate any Varroa mites from the Townsville area is taking to the skies with the use of 'balloon traps' to catch Asian honey bees. Biosecurity Queensland will demonstrate this latest surveillance technique at Annandale 11:30am, Friday 12 August and will provide an update on the current Varroa mite response.



Roger Winton (DAF) Leader of the Varroa Mite Response in Townsville



Chalkbrood Disease

- article from Frana M. and a Facebook contact

We found, prior to 1990, that replacing the queen only as a treatment for Chalkbrood (as advised in some books), some hives could get worse and in some instances the hives were lost, so we experimented on a number of different ways to clear the problem. When Chalkbrood Disease is discovered in any of our hives, we remove those frames from the brood box and place them above the queen excluder in the centre of a strong hive (middle super). Any hives that were infested with the disease never had it return to those hives

Generally the Chalkbrood mummies are removed and cells are cleaned within 48 hours (sometimes earlier, depending on conditions) because the bees want to fill those cells with nectar. The same applies to frames of pollen removed from the brood super

If there is a good queen in the hive there is no need to replace her. We have been using this method 1990, which proves that this method works. The bees get Chalkbrood Disease because they have come under stress – generally can be, if there is a lot of rainy weather, too much air space in the hive, bee numbers dwindling or dearth of nectar or pollen.



This is the amount of chalk brood mummies produced by a hive in 2 weeks. The hive will become depleted of bees if this rate of loss is not remedied. Lindsay T photo and hive - unfortunately.

WA honey producers sign up for monofloral honey certification

<http://www.chemcentre.wa.gov.au/News-Events/News/ChemCentre-honey-initiative-partnering-with-indust>

Date Published: 26-Feb-16

A consortium of 17 WA honey producers, representing more than 80 per cent of industry production, have invested in an industry development blueprint designed to deliver sustained growth for the industry. An essential component of that process is the establishment of a certification process using sophisticated laboratory analysis to analyse the authenticity of monofloral honeys – or honey from the nectar of a single species. Currently within Australia there is no certification for honey, and therefore this initiative is critical for the industry to retain its international credibility

Compositional chemistry will be carried out by the WA government lab called ChemCentre, and this analysis is considered critical to the traceability and quality measures necessary to enter high value niche markets. This sentiment is shared by international buyer One Food Honey, which has just signed a 15 year agreement with local apiarists to purchase monofloral honey products, and premium local producer Capilano - both of which support this certification imperative.

ChemCentre Food Scientist, Ken Dods, says two unique honey varieties are identified as key drivers for WA industry advancement. “The Jarrah and Marri monofloral honeys are unique to WA, and have attributes that appeal to health conscious and discerning buyers internationally. Demand for these products is very high,” said Mr Dods. Several recent contracts have demonstrated values of a 10-times multiplier per kilogram than traditional blended honey markets.”

Buyers have indicated that price will be determined by the confidence they have about a certified product, so providing that certification is critical.

Healthy queen and her entourage

Michael C took this photo of his very healthy looking marked queen earlier this year. He took the photo because he had not seen her for about 6 weeks and was worried she had left ,especially when he observed a queen cell.

Do need to know how to mark your queen? Ask an experienced



How to rear two queens in the same hive and get two separate hives

Story and queen separator from Graeme Smith - interpreted and expanded by The Ed (hope I got this right?)

The intent of a queen excluder is to limit the queen's access to the honey supers. If the queen lays eggs in the honey supers and a brood develops it is difficult to harvest a clean honey product and it makes management more difficult for apiarists in cold climates. Queen excluders are removed in the autumn; otherwise, the queen would not be able to move with the winter cluster and would die from exposure. The death of the queen in winter would doom the hive unless the beekeeper introduces a new queen in the spring. Queen excluders are used with some queen breeding methods, especially as a way to allow queen cells to be built in the same hive with an existing queen, or as a way to house multiple queens in the same hive. See Graeme Smith's dual queen raising excluder in photo

Criticism of queen excluders comes from some beekeepers who believe that they result in less efficient movement for worker bees, and therefore prefer not to use queen excluders, but rather to control the location of the queen by other methods. (Ed's Note: There are Youtube videos that show how worker numbers are restricted in their movements through queen excluders). This belief is based on the observation that the bees tend to be less prone to move up the hive into the supers when a queen excluder is used, preferring to fill cells in the brood box with nectar and honey first.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_excluder

This behaviour constrains the size of the brood nest which the queen can lay eggs in, which has two effects on the colony: the buildup rate of workers is constrained and a dearth of space for the queen to lay can lead to swarm preparations. But wait !!!! there is a way to capitalise on the appearance of a swarm queen using the board in the photo.



How does it work? There is a space between the upper and lower meshes on this board that allows two hives to smell each other, but not mix. When a swarm queen or supersedure queen cell is noticed in the lower brood box, you can introduce this board that separates the hive in to two levels. The board is placed with the exit space (lower right in photo) to the back of the original hive box (so you now have a front door for the bottom level and a back door for the top level). Now place the developing queen cell and frame with other developing brood from down below in the top box and wait for the queen to hatch, mate and return to the hive - Bingo, you now have two hives with two queens. All the older workers that were prevented from going up and down the hive by the mesh will have gone out the back door, scratched their heads, and realised they were in the wrong place, and ended up going home through the front door on the other side - all the new brood from upstairs will recognise their entrance as their own from their first flight, and return to that entrance. Brilliant!

You can now separate the hive in to two hives, or recombine the hive (they are still sisters from down below) and take the queen and her brood frames from upstairs and start a nuc somewhere else.

If you need a better explanation, talk to Graeme Smith at the next meeting or ask him to bring the board again.

Just as a matter of interest, check the date on the original reference below for this idea - that's right **1846!!**

Info on beginning beekeeping

http://www.hunter-valley-amateur-beekeepers.org/hvaba_link_documents/Beginning%20in%20Bees.pdf

It's not the most recent information and has no pretty colour photos, but it's free and on line. Alternatively you can get great bee keeping reference books from the Club at discounted prices. Check with Sonya V or Frana M at the next meeting. We recommend The Australian Beekeeping Manual by Robert Owen, and The Australian Native Bee Book: Keeping Stingless Bee Hives for Pets, Pollination and Sugarbag Honey by Tim Heard.

Lindsay T will have a native bee hive box with no bees for inspection at the next meeting, cerumen, pollen, honey and no bees to annoy your close inspection.

Annual Membership Fees are Due Now

A reminder that your club membership is now due. This can be done electronically to

Name:- Townsville and District Beekeepers Association

BSB:- 633000

Account:- 141466078

Refer :- Please make sure you add **your Surname** so that your membership can be signed off.

Amount at this time: \$25.00

Please note that an item will be tabled at the next AGM to increase the membership to \$30.00, where the additional \$5.00 dollars per member will go to the Queensland Beekeepers Association for ongoing research and development

Hives wanted!!

Native bee hives wanted by:

Contact: vanessa.warrington@jcu.edu.au

Contact: Ron Gladman: 0474 318272

European bee hive placements, ie people who would like to host a hive at their place:

Contact: j.andersen@westnet.com.au

Contact: Lenore in Douglas on 0401 4588748

Contact: Linda at linray@internode.on.net

We have several other people who have already expressed interest in native and European bee hives. Do you have

Manuka honey challenged by date juice as the strongest and sweetest antibacterial agent

http://www.sciencealert.com/date-syrup-could-fend-off-bacterial-infections&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencealert-latestnews+%28ScienceAlert-Latest%29

If you're weaning off sugar, you may have encountered date syrup. It's thick, dark brown and super-sweet, and it's commonly used for cooking in the Middle East, to add flavour to everything from chicken dishes to desserts. But new research suggests that date syrup might be more than a tasty marinade, and could actually contain chemical compounds that help ward off a number of bacterial infections, including those caused by *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Escherichia coli*.

Hajer Taleb, a research student from Cardiff Metropolitan University in the UK, decided to test the effect of of date syrup produced in Basra in southern Iraq on colonies of bacteria growing in a petri dish. He identified that the date syrup contained a number of phenolic compounds that form naturally in the date fruit as it matures. These compounds, which are present in other fruits such as grapes used for winemaking, can influence the flavour, colour and texture of the syrup, and are known for their antioxidant potential. And now they're being shown to have antibacterial activity, too.

When the syrup was mixed with a range of disease-causing bacteria - including *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Enterococcus* spp. and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* - it inhibited their growth in about six hours, which researchers say is faster than Manuka honey, which is known for its antibacterial and wound healing properties.



Queensland Beekeepers Association Conference 2016 in Townsville

Story and pictures from Mick Taylor

The conference opened with the QBA AGM - nothing new to report there, it was short and sweet as they should be so we could get on with the good bits.

Opening and official reports from RIRDC and AHBIC; most directed to the bigger players in the industry ,then after lunch, the first speaker David Westervelt from the USA spoke at length about American foul brood (AFB). We are all aware of AFB and how to recognise it (aren't we), if not, newbees should ask a Club Member and do some reading on the subject. David has researched AFB for the last 25 odd years, and spoke about the different ways the USA beekeepers have tried to deal with it by using antibiotics .His conclusion is: don't go down that path - the best way to deal with AFB is to irradiate all your gear, or second, the humble red head match - burn and bury everything. He also spoke on the next day about small hive beetle (SHB) and how to control them, not a lot new to learn as we do most of the things here they do in the USA. One thing he did mention was that just opening a hive can cause enough stress to attract the beetle to your hive There is research being done in Australia by Dr Diana Leemon who is working on an external hive beetle trap to get them before they get in to do the damage - much research has been done but the beetles just won't play yet.

The most interesting speaker for me was on Wednesday arvo Dr Mark K Greko (Diagnostic Radioentomology) where he CT scans an insect and gets a digital picture on computer - then he can dissect the insect without killing it. He is a beekeeper himself and wanted to find a way to study them without having to kill them and cut them to pieces all the time .He is passionate about his work and some of his research ideas will filter down to medical treatments for us as well as helping bees.

There were other presentations about bee nutrition and its importance in helping fight Nosema (a parasite that causes bee dysentery) and other bee diseases. Our bees up here get a variety of flowers, so not a big issue for Townsville beekeepers.

Food at the venue was excellent and there were displays of beekeeping gear outside some of which our club purchased and is now available from club shop.

I did enjoy the conference and would recommend if you can get to the 2017 meeting you would enjoy it as well.

Mick T.

Photos showing attendees, equipment stalls, a poster on almond production and pollination in S.A.



TDBA Inc Meeting Minutes

- not available in time for this edition

TDBA Inc Office Holders for 2015/2016

<u>President:</u>	Ron Rapson	ronald.i.rapson@team.telstra.com
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	Dave Turnbull	turnbuld@bigpond.net.au

Honorary Members of the TDBA Inc

In recognition of their long term service and support of our Association.

Dennis ANGER

Graeme & Adele ARMSTRONG

Ken & Marcia CALEO

Dave HOEY

Mike & Jill JAMES

Doug & Sonya MCBRIDE

Club Shop Items- 2016 Price List

These prices are only available to current financial members

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price \$</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Veil - Native bee	10.00	
Veil - cotton	15.00	
Veil - ventilated	20.00	
Jacket / Round hat	55.00	
Ventilated jacket	70.00	
Gloves	20.00	
Super — Rebated	25.00	Full depth, unassembled
Super - Dove tail	26.00	Full depth, unassembled
Super - Treated Ply	35.00	Full depth, unassembled
Hive Lids	25.00	
Hive Bases	20.00	
Lifting Cleats (Handles)	5.00 pair	
Spring clips	2.00	
Hive tool (S/S)	15.00	
Hive tool (Yellow)	8.00	
Smoker	35.00	
Queen Excluder - Wire	20.00	
Queen Excluder - Plastic	6.00	
Frames - Full depth	1.50	
Foundation - Plastic	2.00	
Foundation - Wax	1.60	
Eyelets pkt 500	10.00	
Bee Brush - Natural bristle	10.00	
Bee Brush - Synthetic bristle	8.00	
Queen Catcher	3.00	
Frame Gripper	10.00	
Bee Feeder	1.50	
Gate valve	10.00	
Capping knife, serrated	15.00	
Comb scratcher	8.00	
Honey jars 250gm	0.65	
Honey jars 500gm	0.75	
Honey jars 1 kg	1.00	
Honey Pails 1kg	1.25	
Strainers (fit bucket)	80.00	new
TRAPS		
Apithor trap	6.00	
Silver Bullet trap	7.00	
BeetlTra bottom trap	20.00	
TK Beetle mat	6.00	
Booklet - Managing AFB	6.00	

TDBA Starter Kit - \$95

The Perfect Gift for a budding Beekeeper

All available in Townsville:

Club Members Price Only!

Bee Jackets \$55 Hive tool \$8 Gloves \$20

Smoker \$35 Bee Brush \$10,

All five items sold as a Beginners Kit \$95

Contact: Frana: Ph. 0401 014 948



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.Dan Donovan: Ph 0428 218 816

