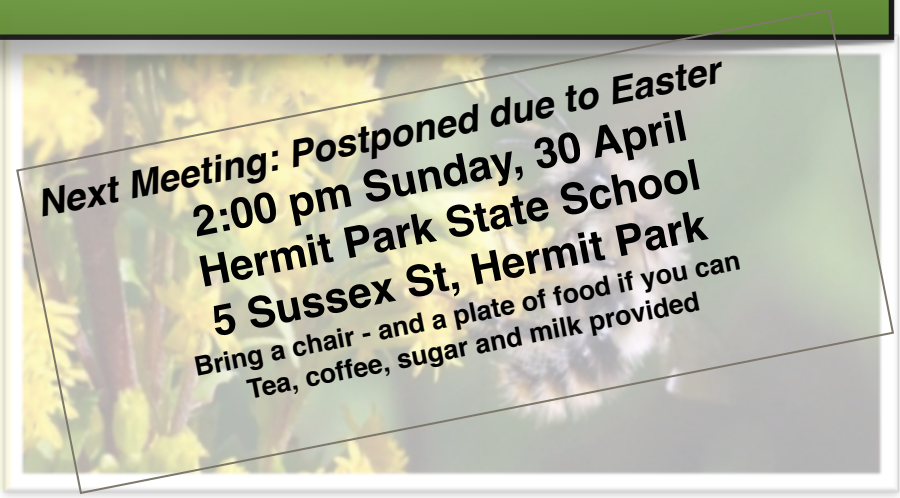
Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc.)

www.beesnorth.com.au

PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814

Newsletter No 3 April 2017

In this Issue:

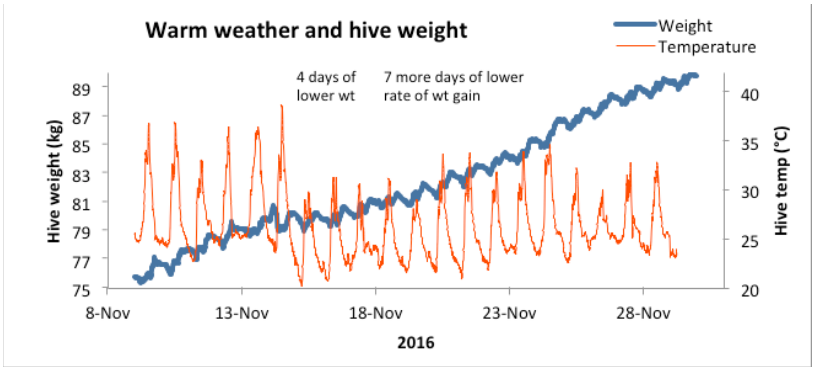


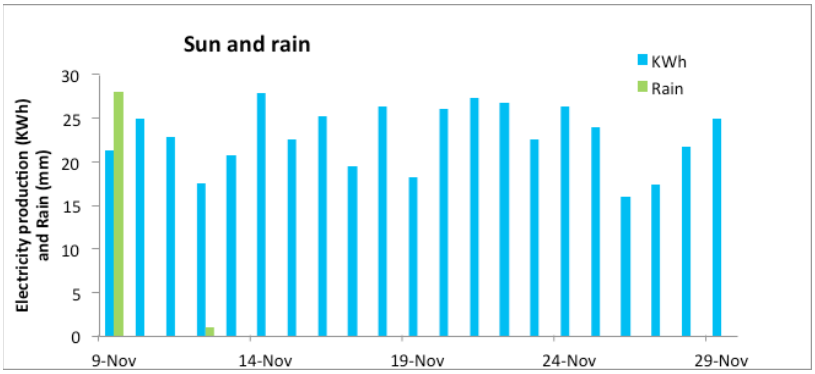
Does hot weather affect bees?

From Ray B on the Gold Coast

One of the nice things about monitoring hive weight day-by-day is the insight it gives into the effects of weather on the colony.

The graphs at right capture the dramatic effect a few unusually hot days had on hive weight in November 2016. These days were the first hot days of the season on the Gold Coast. For the 2 weeks prior to November 14, hive weights had been increasing at an average rate of just under 650g/day. However, the second week of November was a warm one with maximum temperatures inside the hive (measured under the lid) at least 6°C above those for the previous week. The hottest day was 14 Nov with a maximum hive temperature of 38.6 °C. Afterwards, hive weights stagnated and it took 4 days for them to surpass the Nov 14 maximum, even though temperatures had cooled substantially. In fact it took another 7 days for the previous daily weight-gain-rate to be achieved. In the absence of other data,

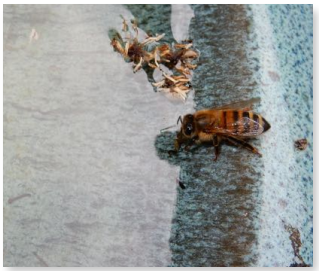




it might be tempting to conclude that rain or overcast weather might have contributed to the downturn in production. However the second graph shows that there were only two rain-days during this period, both during the heat-wave. Also, the daily total solar power production from my home inverter (a proxy for total sunlight hours) was not lower after the heat wave. Therefore rain and (lack of) sunlight did not play a part in lower honey production. So, in short, this heat wave substantially impacted my bees honey productivity for up to 11 days afterwards!

How did yours go this summer?

Ray B



Eds Note: I reckon 2 of my queens stopped laying during the hot spell that we had in Townsville in Feb, however, I don't have any of the sophisticated gadgetry to reveal the hive secrets like Ray has shown us here. I do know that I ordered in 2 new queens to fill the apparent absence of eggs and uncapped larvae - only to be confronted by new eggs a few weeks later when I went to insert one of the new queens!!!. So, I removed some frames of capped and uncapped brood with nurse bees from another hive, a frame of pollen and 2 frames of honey - and started a nuc with the new queen instead.

And, don't forget to keep the water mozzie free and available for your bees, especially during hot weather. A single hive in hot and dry conditions might need 10 L of water per week. - see my thirsty girls supping at my pond during our latest hot spell.

Does anyone else have a "hot" story to share?

Ligurian bee sanctuary on Kangaroo Island in South Australia

http://www.users.on.net/~hogbay/hogbay2.htm

The Ligurian bees on Kangaroo Island are believed to be the last remaining pure stock of this bee found anywhere in the world. In the early 1880's Ligurian bees were imported to South Australia by the South Australian Chamber of Manufacturers.
The Ligurian bee (*Apis mellifera ligustica)* was named for its origin in the Ligurian Alps in the days of the Roman Empire. Roman historians praised its docility and productivity.

Kangaroo Island was declared a bee sanctuary in 1885. No other bees have since been imported to the Island. The National Trust plaque was erected near Penneshaw to honour the creation of the bee sanctuary. See pic of dedication plaque on right.

The monument to Ligurian bees at Hog Bay, Kangaroo Is.

Chamber of Commerce records show that a Ligurian colony was forwarded to a Mr. Buick of American River transported via Justice James Penn Boucaut from his yacht on Easter Sunday April 13 1884. Boucaut was then a judge of the Supreme Court of South Australia and a former Premier of that colony. A Mr. Turner of Smith's Bay received a hive in June 1884 in exchange for a hive of black bees, which was removed from the Island.

The geographic isolation from the mainland has also enabled the Island to remain free of several bee diseases present on mainland Australia. To maintain this protection, all honey, pollen, used beekeeping tools and equipment are prohibited from being brought to the Island unless these have been certified disease-free by the Department of Primary Industries. The South Australian Government established a queen breeding station at Flinders Chase in 1944 which became known as the Bee Farm, here queen bees and honey were produced for sale.

The breeding of queens for sale both on mainland Australia and internationally is also now expanding options for Island apiarists as the pure Ligurian bee is highly valued for its ease of management and industrious honey, pollen and propolis collection. The pristine environment and disease-free status of the Island bees are of increasing importance in developing markets for queen bees and Island honey. (But they don't ship queens to Townsville due to wrong climatic conditions - The Ed)

6 million tonnes of glyphosate (Roundup herbicide) applied to crops in 10 years

http://www.beeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-no-wonder-11-billion-pounds-of-glyphosate-have-been-applied-in-the-last-10-years/
Article modified by The Ed.

Some 71.6% of the total volume of glyphosate sprayed worldwide over the 40 years to 2014 has been sprayed in just the last 10 years, a new report says. That means over that last decade, 6.1 billion kg (11.24 billion lbs.) of glyphosate have been applied.

New research says that globally, glyphosate use has risen almost 15-fold since Roundup Ready, genetically modified, glyphosate-tolerant crops were introduced in 1996. "This research reveals that Monsanto's glyphosate now is the most heavily used weed-killer in history, and use is sky-rocketing," UK-based Soil Association policy director Peter Melchett says. "As well as being identified as a probable human carcinogen, the research notes that recent studies have made the connection between glyphosate exposure and a number of serious health effects as well as cancer, including the degeneration of the liver and kidney, as well as non-Hodgkin lymphoma." He says the new research questions the safety of using glyphosate on crops destined for people to eat just before they are harvested – "a growing practice in the UK, which must end." **Eds Note:** What about the effect on the poor bees??

The association says glyphosate is used in public parks and other urban areas to kill weeds, and in the last year for which government figures are available, nearly a third of UK cereals, wheat and barley, were sprayed with glyphosate – a little more than one million hectares (2.47 million acres). The Soil Association is calling for a UK ban on the use of glyphosate sprayed on UK wheat as a pre-harvest weed killer and to kill any unripe corn to speed harvests. The association says its analysis of government data from last year revealed glyphosate use in UK farming has increased by 400% in the last 20 years. It says glyphosate is one of the three pesticides regularly found in routine testing of British bread – appearing in up to 30% of samples tested by a Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs committee on pesticide residues in food.

The World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer concluded that glyphosate is probably carcinogenic to humans. The paper says genetically engineered, herbicide-tolerant crops now account for about 56% of global glyphosate use. Because applications occur within days of harvest, they result in much higher residues in the harvested foodstuffs. "To cover such residues, Monsanto and other glyphosate registrants have requested, and generally been granted, substantial increases in glyphosate tolerance levels in several crops, as well as in the animal forages derived from such crops," the report says. Levels of glyphosate in the air, water, and food remain well below acceptable daily intakes set by regulatory bodies around the world. a growing body of literature points to possible, adverse environmental, ecological, and human health consequences following exposure to glyphosate/

"The upward trend in glyphosate use has, and will likely continue to contribute to incremental increases in environmental loadings and human exposures to glyphosate, its major metabolite aminomethylphosphonic acid (AMPA), and various surfactants and adjuvants used in formulating end-use glyphosate-based herbicides," claims the report.

And check this out from "The Buzz":
"Reliance on hazardous pesticides is a short-term solution that undermines the right to adequate food and health for present and future generations." Calling current "excessive" pesticide use a "global human rights concern," that threatens "the entire ecological system on which food protection depends," a UN report lays out the negative effects that pesticides bring to the world. Among them: approximately 200,000 acute poisonings each year, 99 percent of which occur in developing countries; damage to water, soil, and biodiversity; acute and chronic diseases; and health problems that include cancer, neurological, developmental, and reproductive disorders.

http://www.beeculture.com/catch-buzz-civil-eats-un-report-says-reliance-hazardous-pesticides-short-term-solution-undermines-right-adequate-food-health-present-future-generat/?utm_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm_campaign=30d159aa1a-Catch_The_Buzz_4_29_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0272f190ab-30d159aa1a-332070937

Urban bees using plastic to build hives

https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/02/140211103340.htm, Date: February 11, 2014, Source: University of Guelph
Article modified by The Ed.

M. campanulae or Bellflower bee on a blue bellflower
http://bugguide.net/node/view/1271789/bgimage

Native bee “Motel” suitable for solitary bees like resin and mason bees
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Megachile_campanulae

Once the snow melts, Canada's bee population will be back in business -- pollinating, making honey and keeping busy doing bee things. For at least two urban bee species, that means making nests out of plastic waste. A new study published in the journal Ecosphere by University of Guelph scientists reveals that some bees use bits of plastic bags and plastic building materials to construct their nests. It's an important discovery because it shows bees' resourcefulness and flexibility in adapting to a human-dominated world, says the lead author Scott MacIvor.

"Plastic waste pervades the global landscape," said MacIvor. Although researchers have shown adverse impacts of the material on species and the ecosystem, few scientists have observed insects adapting to a plastic-rich environment, he said. "We found two solitary bee species using plastic in place of natural nest building materials, which suggests innovative use of common urban materials.

Figuring out that the bees were using plastics in place of natural materials took some detective work by U of G's Andrew Moore, supervisor of analytical microscopy at Laboratory Services. Moore analyzed a grey "goo" that MacIvor discovered in the nests of one kind of bee, *Megachile campanulae (*native to N America), which uses plant resins to build its nests, "Scott thought it might be chewing gum originally," Moore said. His team uses a scanning electron microscope to take highly detailed pictures of items, x-ray microanalysis to determine the elements in the sample and infrared microscopy to identify polymers. They can distinguish the finest detail on the surface of an animal hair.

Australian native Fire-tailed Resin Bee, *Megachile mystaceana*
http://www.brisbaneinsects.com/brisbane_bees/FiretailedResinBee.htm

Turns out that *M. campanulae* was occasionally replacing plant resins with polyurethane-based exterior building sealant, such as caulking, in its brood cells--created in a nest to rear larva. The researchers also discovered another kind of bee, *Megachile rotundata,* an alfalfa leafcutter, was using pieces of polyethylene-based plastic bags to construct its brood cells. The glossy plastic replaced almost one-quarter of the cut leaves normally used to build each cell. "The plastic materials had been gathered by the bees, and then worked -- chewed up and spit out like gum -- to form something new that they could use," Moore said.

In both cases, larvae successfully developed from the plastic-lined nests. In fact, the bees emerged parasite-free, suggesting plastic nests may physically impede parasites, the study said. The nests containing plastic were among more than 200 artificial nest boxes monitored by MacIvor as part of a large-scale investigation of the ecology of urban bees and wasps, a project involving numerous citizen scientists. The nest boxes are located in Toronto and the surrounding region in backyards, community gardens and parks and on green roofs. They are used by a variety of bee species. "The novel use of plastics in the nests of bees could reflect the ecologically adaptive traits necessary for survival in an increasingly human-dominated environment," MacIvor said.

Eds Note: There are several reports of bees removing paint, caulking and glue sniffing- see Ray B’s photos and story with his native Aussie bees *Tetrogonula carbonaria* taking the sticky glue from his grey duct tape holding his shed insulating material in place below.

Glue-sniffing bees?

From Ray B on the Gold Coast

A native bee visiting the sticky glue on the cloth tape used on Ray’s shed

While working on building my new shed, I noticed that there were a few native bees hanging around the top of the shed. I only gave it passing thought on the first day. However in subsequent days I was noticing them more and more. Every day dozens of them and they were around all day. I then noticed that they seemed to be attracted to the cloth tape I had used extensively around the top of the shed to keep the rain from getting into insulation before I had a chance to put the roof sheets on. The bees could be seen emerging from inside the cloth tape folds carrying tiny balls of glue on their back legs. What the heck is going on? Are these glue-sniffing bees? Are they collecting glue to gum up holes in their hives?
Although a search of the internet failed to turn up anything about this curious behaviour, it is apparently not unusual. Dr Tim Heard says in his new book (The Australian Native Bee Book - available from Club Shop) about native bee building materials: “Stingless bees may be seen collecting artificial sticky materials such as perished rubber, sticky tape and wet paint. These materials have a consistency similar to natural resin and so are collected by stingless bees.”

Clearly, these little creatures are highly adaptable at making do in an urban world. This should serve them well as more native bushland is lost to suburbia.

More about the link between honey bees and resin bees

https://honeybeesuite.com/the-link-between-honey-bees-and-resin-bees/
Article modified by The Ed.

Resin bees are a large group of solitary bees belonging to the Megachilidae family. Technically, resin bees are mason bees, and like other mason bees, they build structures with materials they find in their environment. You may be familiar with mason bees that collect mud or tiny pebbles, but resin bees collect—you guessed it—resin. The resin they use is exuded from the stems, buds, and bark of various plants, especially the conifers. Unlike sap, which is mostly water, plant resins are insoluble in water, often with a glossy appearance. Resins are often sticky, flammable, and may be brightly coloured in shades of red, yellow, and brown. They contain a variety of complex organic compounds which are useful to bees.

Resin bees collect a ball of exudate in their mandibles and carry it home to their nests. Like other bees in the Megachilidae family, these bees nest in the long and narrow cavities of hollow reeds, insect burrows, or even soda straws. The resin is used to line the nest cavity and to build partitions between consecutive egg chambers or cells. After she has lined the nesting cavity with resin, the female places a ball of pollen mixed with nectar in the far end, lays an egg on top of the ball, and then builds a partition of resin. She repeats the process over and over until the entire cavity is filled, one egg to a cell. The concept of “one egg to a cell” should be familiar to any beekeeper because honey bees, too, build a separate cell for every egg.

The resin from plants provides several benefits to these bees. It provides waterproofing for both the interior of the nest cavity and the entrance, and many of the chemicals in resin have antibacterial properties that help to prevent disease in the developing larvae. This, too, should sound familiar to any beekeeper, because honey bees also collect resin.

A big build up of propolis
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Propolis

Although we don’t think of honey bees as resin bees, the collection of plant resins is vital to the health of a honey bee colony. Honey bees collect resins from similar sources: bark, buds, and stems. The honey bees stuff these resins into their pollen baskets and carry them back to the hive. Inside the hive, the resins are kneaded with their mandibles and mixed with bee saliva and beeswax. Once the material becomes soft and malleable, the workers smear it on rough surfaces, cracks, holes, or any place where they want a smooth, waterproof, or antimicrobial surface. Resin processed by honey bees is known as propolis.

Feral honey bee cavities are often surrounded with rings of propolis to help deter pathogens, just as the entrance holes of resin bee nests are coated with a glistening layer. Plants produce these resins to keep themselves healthy. When a plant is injured, the resins ooze out of the wound, and the sticky consistency along with the antimicrobial components allow the plant to heal. By borrowing some of this sticky goo, the bees add layers of protection to their homes. Although it’s easy to remember that bees depend on plants for nectar and pollen, we sometimes forget they also raid the plant medicine chest.

If you mention propolis to a beekeeper, you can expect a groan. It’s messy, stains your clothes, cements bee boxes together, and won’t come off your hands. It destroys the look of comb honey and must be scraped, cracked, or otherwise dealt with. Unfortunately, early bee breeders spent a long time selecting for bees that collected little propolis. They believed beekeeping would be much easier if they could breed a bee that didn’t collect the stuff. But modern researchers are finding that propolis is vital to colony health no matter how inconvenient it may seem to the beekeeper.

One suggestion is that beekeepers build bee boxes of rough-sawn lumber because the irregular interior surface will encourage propolis deposition. These deposits, will enhance the health of the colony by providing “antimicrobial envelopes.” Other researchers, too, are beginning to re-assess the role of propolis in honey bee health.

The bellflower resin bee, *Megachile campanulae*, has been known to collect artificial materials in place of resin. Normally you don’t hear much about resin bees, but one species made the news back in 2013. *Megachile campanulae*, more frequently called the bellflower resin bee, lives in the northeastern US and parts of Canada. Researchers discovered that some urban populations of these bees were collecting man-made materials, such as builders’ caulk, to use in place of resin. This is believed to be adaptive behaviour compelled by urbanisation: when the proper plant materials become scarce, the bees find alternatives. Unfortunately, the chemical polymers in caulk are not good for bees.
Although I have not heard of it, I wouldn’t be surprised to find honey bees collecting similar materials. Since we know honey bees collect sawdust and coffee grounds when pollen is scarce, it doesn’t seem far fetched that they might look for resin substitutes as well.
As you can see, resin is a common feature in the bee world. To me, the existence of resin collection in multiple species is a strong indicator of its evolutionary value. We should pay attention. Far from being a mere annoyance, resin may be a beekeeper’s best friend.

Rusty - Honey Bee Suite

Swarm list

Wayne Taylor	Rasmussen	04 3474 5353
Mick Taylor	Cranbrook	0428626707
Ben Taylor	Townsville West	47284992/ 0428 186 000
Brendan Arboit	Ayr	0406 403 005
Dave Turnbull	Anandale	0458645677
Doug McBride	Mysterton	4775 7465
Dan and Drew Donovan	Wulguru	0428186816
Jon and Frana McKinstry	Kelso	0413765192
Grant Whiteford	Cranbrook	4728 3051
Steve and Carla Kersnovske	Kelso	04 1734 4419

This list will be posted on our website and sent to TCC for contacting these people during all hours to respond to bee swarms. I will publish this list in the next Newsletter with any modifcations, so let me know before then. Cheers, The Ed.

Dan and Chrystal H's adventures with natives and honey bees

Story and pics from Chrystal and Dan H

Some nice photos again from our observant Shop Stewards, Native hive (looks like a *T hockingsi* hive to me -Ed) rescue from Charters Towers. A friend called to let them know about these bees that had settled in an irrigation box that was prone to flooding in rain. They opened the box and saw the queen. These are the pictures attached. They discovered they had started building in a second box across the driveway so made arrangements to come back with more boxes in a fortnight. Nathaniel is the one who cut it out and transferred it and saw the queen. When they went back after the fortnight they got 3 more hives. The original had built up a new hive. The second off shoot was a full hive and there was a third complete nest in another irrigation system as well. They are all doing well here at home.

Burr comb patterns in a European honey bee hive

Signs of a laying worker- 2 drones in the same cell (on the right)

-and a David Attenborough moment on the left with the queen caught in the process of laying an egg - this is a prize winner!!

Stories and pics from Dan and Chrystal H.

No comment on effectiveness of the treatment below, except that thanks to my aggressive hives, I probably will NEVER suffer from Lyme

12 BAYSIDE LEADER, Tuesday, December 13, 2016 SBVE01Z01MA - V1

Bee stings treat Lyme disease

Unorthodox treatment is last resort for long-time sufferer

Suzan Delibasic

A CAULFIELD North woman has gone to painful extreme measures to find a cure for her disease, which is not recognised in Australia.

After contracting Lyme disease through a tick bite in America a few years ago, Linda Blatt endures bee stings three times a week to help combat the crippling illness that left her bedridden for six months.

She said the therapy was a last resort. "The bees sting me as their venom acts as a potent killer against Lyme disease," she told *Leader*.

"It's incredibly painful but I'll do what I have to as this is virtually my last resort, having exhausted all funds."

Ms Blatt said the bee keeper picks up each bee on long reverse tweezers and stings her back. "I currently undergo five stings three times a week and I would like to work my way up to 10 stings," Ms Blatt said.

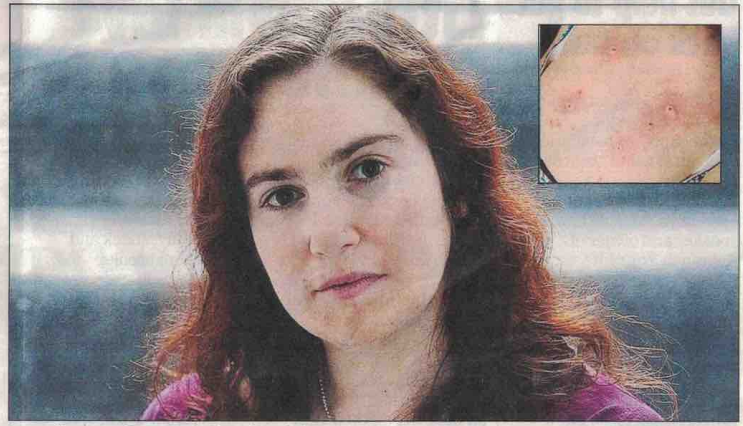
"The full protocol begins when you have reached 10 stings, you then need to continue the process for two to three years to fully kill the Lyme.

"I go to my local bee keeper down the road to be stung."

"He will soon teach my mum how to sting me and we will just get a box of bees each week."

The unorthodox treatment made headlines this year after Hollywood star Gwyneth Paltrow admitted to having bees sting her face in the name of beauty. It was also a popular method of traditional medicine in China.

The health department says on its website "the concept of chronic Lyme disease is disputed and not accepted by most conventional medical practitioners, not only in Australia but around the world".



Lyme disease sufferer Linda Blatt; (inset) the bee stings she says help. Picture: IAN CURRIE

March 2017 TDBA meeting at Sonya C and Lola's place at Purono Parkway

Mt Bohle weather station received 114 mm rain the day before the meeting, making the ground a little soggy and the humidity fairly extreme.. That didn't stop some intrepid members who witnessed the opening of some "chock-a-block" native *T. hockingsi* hives that were only between 6 -12 months old!! What do they feed them out there on the farm???
Thanks to our hosts who also managed to get some shade erected and setup with coffee and tea etc despite the inclement weather, and to all who brought some arvo tea items along for the hungry hordes. Some seriously cheap bargains of run out stock from the Club Shop were to be had if you were quick.

Pics from Sonya C and The Ed.

A small but interested crowd in the bee friendly backyard with garden plots, veggies and lots of available water on the day!
Frana M and Sonya C did the splits!! and the 6-12 month old hives had plenty of new brood, pollen and honey pots.

Cracking the hive

What's inside???
Plenty of brood, eggs, pollen and honey pots.
Sonya C had 3 *T. hocking hives* that were cracked open, but we didn't have any spare hive boxes on hand for a split.

This hive on the left has probably exceeded its growth space and started again from the bottom??? or maybe it just decided to store the honey and pollen pots in the bottom section - just to be different. See above right where the hive is the "right" way up with advancing brood line in the bottom box.
Note the long smooth entrance tube along the right hand side of the box that extends all the way in to the centre of the hive. The convoluted and long entrance is apparently helpful in keeping out marauding pests. This gives the native bees an upper chance of restricting invaders movements and allowing the natives to outnumber the intruders in close encounter hand to hand combat.

TDBA Meeting Minutes

Meeting at Sonya & Lola's Purono Parkway 19th March 2017
Open 14:10 by President Alan Ziegenfusz

- Alan officially welcomed all new members
- Attendance as per attendance book
- Minutes of last meeting taken as read. Moved: John P, Seconded : Kirsty Sugden
- Concern over lack of rain or very heavy rain, bees are either working hard or going to swarm
- Library is available through Kirsty Sugden for magazines, books, DVD's for hire
- Treasurer's report Frana McKinstry– Cash balance as at today $9,600, since November deposited $20,000 and spent $23,000 on purchasing equipment which is a reflection on the good pricing of equipment like frames, foundations, corflute nuc boxes etc. Nuc boxes are $28 each and 18 customers made use of the 2hr shop opening on Saturday morning with a turnover of $1,800.
- Shop has just put in a new order, will be ordering more of the corflute nuc boxes, 25 that were bought have been sold (spare piece is a joining piece for 2 boxes) any questions ask Steve K
- Clean-up of gear, 5 older style suits were on sale for $20 - $30 each and NSW DPI booklets on managing AFB for a gold coin donation
- The swarm callout list will be published in the newsletter and if anyone would like to be on the list advise Lindsay Trott. All people on the list MUST be available to attend at ANY TIME or be willing to pass on to others
- Membership will be staying at $25 and is due in July / August, those who have already paid have been noted to have paid up until 2018
- Ray Berkelmans is managing the website which is doing well and very active
- There is also a lot of activity on Facebook
- The next meeting will be on 30th April and will cover wax, anyone who would like to host a meeting please let someone know and put your name down
- 21st May is 'Honeymonth' open day at the Hermit Park State School
- General Business
- Bee hives at Hermit Park State School checked by Frana and Jon M, added 2 new queens, 1 hive had swarmed and replaced queen with marked queen, the other was going so well another super was added above flow hive. Hives will require extraction soon and will arrange with school to organise, doing very well. Hives will be opened on Open Day
- Jon McKinstry, definition in the Australian Standards, important as some commercial beekeepers are bringing in product which is not 'honey' and labelling it as honey
- Two people with hives completely slimed out with SHB, mesh bottom boards have been successful and also using 'NeverWet' which is an anti-moisture product used on the bottom of the super and bottom board. Both processes have reduced SHB by 2/3. Anyone want to talk about beetles see Jon McKinstry
- Rob Stephens from Biosecurity gave an update on Varroa and AHB. No detection of Asian Honey Bees or Varroa Mites. We are no longer in eradication phase and successfully transitioned to 'proof of area free' until August 2019. Re-engaged Carla K to start working with Varroa project again and may hear from Carla as more involvement from local beekeepers desired to test more hives to prove the mites have not transferred to the European honey bees. These tests will teach beekeepers how to do the alcohol wash, sugar shaker and drone uncapping. Kits were given to people on the swam list, if swarms are collected from the greater Townsville area Biosecurity would like a sample again to prove there are no mites. Hopefully some volunteers from club will also be involved in program. If anyone would like more info speak to Rob
- Alan Z said the visit to the Cathedral School went very well, the children were very inquisitive
- Committee meeting 6th April, West End Hotel 7pm
- Please sign the attendance book
- Meeting closed 14:25

Meeting was followed by an opening and inspection of 3 native *T. hockingsi* hives (seee photos on previous page), general discussion, coffee, tea and arvo tea provided by Sonya and Lola and members.

Is your honey any good??

Want to enter your honey in a competition? here are 2 things that you can do to get ready for the Sydney Royal Easter Show honey comp. Talk to our resident honey judge Graham Smith, and look at this site: http://www.honey.org.au/showing-honey/

Should we sell our honey through the Club? - just like the Gold Coast Club

Ray B forwarded this extract from the Gold Coast Amateur Beekeeper Society

"The committee have decided that honey to be sold at our upcoming events including Mudgeeraba and Gold Coast Show and our Field/Open Day this year will be purchased from club members. Below you will find requirements for honey sold to the club and how to be eligible to sell honey to the club.

1. Reply to this email before the next upcoming general meeting on the 15th of May 2016 stating how much honey you have available to sell to the club along with your name and current contact details.
2. Names of people who would like to sell their honey to the club will be put into the hat and drawn out at the next general meeting until we have enough names to make the quota of honey the club needs.
3. Honey must be of good standard and come in sealed food grade plastic buckets with your name and contact details on the buckets.
4. Wholesale price will be offered - $7.00 per kg for honey and $9.00 for creamed honey
5. Honey will need to be supplied to the club by the 11th June
6. Members must be current and financial

The honey will be packed in 500gm squeeze bottles and 500gm/1kg tamper proof plastic bottles/tubs. We will put the beekepers name on their honey for traceability. GCABS Committee."

Alternatively we will have an opportunity for you to sell your own honey while you staff the Club stand at the next Eco Fiesta in Townsville.

Welcome to our New Members

Existing Club Members are encouraged to assist/mentor our Newbees. They have joined the club to learn about bees, so even if you only have limited experience, give them a hand if you can. Invite a Newbee to your hive opening and discuss what's inside the box, let newbies experience hive openings to become more confident, and you will learn more yourself by trying to explain what's going on in there.

Katrina & Jeff B. CONDON;
Cameron M. ALICE RIVER;
Peter J. ALLIGATOR CREEK;
Nigel E. ALLIGATOR CREEK;
Amanda L. BRANDON;
Kyle F. TOWNSVILLE;
Ralph B. GUMLOW
Jared S. HERMIT PARK
Tom & Joan R. HERVEY RANGE

Annual Membership Fees due in July - a bargain at only $25 (no CPI increase!)

Membership fees can be made 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.

New email contacts for the Office Holders

You can use these email contacts for the Office Holders, and hopefully they will have figured out how to access them and will respond ASAP.

president@beesnorth.com.au, treasurer@beesnorth.com.au, editor@beesnorth.com.au , secretary@beesnorth.com.au

And for all web and membership enquiries : info@beesnorth.com.au.

TDBA Inc Office Holders for 2016/2017

President:	Alan Ziegenfusz	alan.G.Ziegenfusz@team.telstra.com, or : president@beesnorth.com.au
Vice President:	Mick Taylor	cranbrooksolar@bigpond.com **Nominated:** To be Confirmed
Secretary:	Anne Stanley	cromartybird@outlook.com, or: secretary@beesnorth.com.au
Treasurer:	Frana McKinstry	franajon@gmail.com, or: treasurer@bigpond.com.au
Membership	Frana McKinstry	franajon@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor:	Lindsay Trott	trottlindsay@gmail.com or: editor@beesnorth.com.au
Librarian:	Kirsty Sugden	0447 762 686
Equipment Steward:…	Daniel Horne	danthemanhorne@gmail.com
Webmaster:	Ray Berkelmans	rberkelm@gmail.com
Publicity Officer:	Sonya Verburgt	sonyaverb@optusnet.com.au
Committee Members:	Dave Bowtell	spanner1969@gmail.com
	Dave Turnbull	turnbuld@bigpond.net.au
	Ron Rapson	Ronald.I.Rapson@team.telstra.com
	Paul Payne	trapper4812@gmail.com
	Mark Quadrell	markquadrell@gmail.com
	Sonya Verbrugt	sonyaverb@optusnet.com.au

Life 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

Honorary Members of the TDBA Inc: Graham Smith

Stop the spread

Protect Australian agriculture from varroa mites and report feral bees

Varroa mite (*Varroa jacobsoni*) have been detected on feral Asian honey bees (*Apis cerana*) in Townsville.

The mites have the potential to significantly damage our bee industry, disrupting both honey production and pollination services.

Biosecurity Queensland is conducting surveillance and control activities to detect and destroy Asian honey bees and eradicate varroa mites.

Asian honey bee nests can be found in tree hollows, in cavities in buildings and in letterboxes and garden sheds. Asian honey bees are smaller and less furry than the European honey bee and have more pronounced brown and yellow stripes.

Please report sightings of suspected Asian honey bees, feral nests or hives showing symptoms of exotic pests to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

To stop the spread of varroa mites, a Prevention and Control Program is now in place for the Townsville City Council local government area.

The Prevention and Control Program imposes obligations on an occupier of a place where managed hives are kept. Anyone wanting to move live bees, bee hives, or any other item that may contain live bees out of the Townsville City Council area will need to notify Biosecurity Queensland by email at **varroa@daf.qld.gov.au** at least seven (7) days prior to the intended movement.

Anyone moving live bees through the Townsville City Council area, that have originated outside the area, must ensure the bees are packaged and sealed in a manner that prevents the escape of live bees while they transit through the area.

A copy of the Prevention and Control Program for varroa mite (*Varroa jacobsoni*) under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* is available at **www.daf.qld.gov.au.** Interested parties can also contact the National Varroa Mite Eradication Program to request a copy of the program at **varroa@daf.qld.gov.au.**

Like: www.facebook.com/BiosecurityQld

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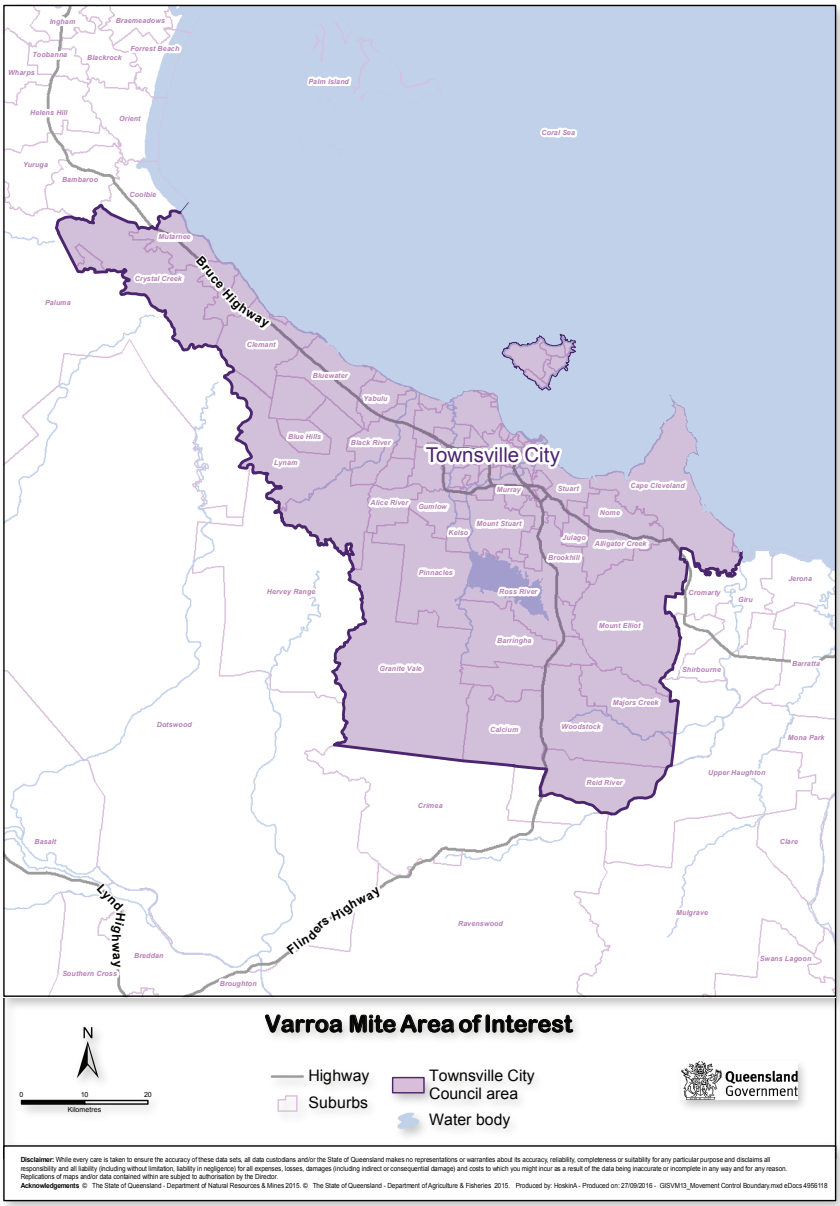

Disclaimer: While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of these data sets, all data custodians and/or the State of Queensland makes no representations or warranties about its accuracy, reliability, completeness or suitability for any particular purpose and disclaims all responsibility and all liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages (including indirect or consequential damage) and costs to which you might incur as a result of the data being inaccurate or incomplete in any way and for any reason. Replications of maps and/or data contained within are subject to authorisation by the Director.
Acknowledgements © The State of Queensland - Department of Natural Resources & Mines 2015. © The State of Queensland - Department of Agriculture & Fisheries 2015. Produced by: HoskinA - Produced on: 27/09/2016 - GISVM13_Movement Control Boundary.mxd eDocs 4956118

Actual length: Approximately 10 mm

(Illustration only, not actual size)

European honey bee (left) and Asian honey bee (right)

Photo by Paul Zborowski

CS6391 12/16

Club Shop Items - 2017 Price List

These prices are only available to current financial members

Item	Price $$
Veil - Native Bee	10.00
Veil - cotton	20.00
Veil - ventilated	25.00
Jacket / Cotton/ Round hat	60.00
Jacket Ventilated	80.00
Full Suit - Cotton	85.00
Full Suit - ventilated	105.00
Gloves	22.00
Super - 8 frame Rebated	25.00
Super - Dove tail	29.00
Super - Ideal	25.00
Parker plastic supers	65.00
Lids	27.00
Bases Ply	22.00
Bases - “Bluebees	35.00
”Lifting Cleats (Handles/pr)	5.00 pair
Spring clips	2.00 ea
Emlok	12.00
Hive tool (S/S)	15.00
Hive tool (Yellow)	8.00
Crimping Tool	8.00
Smoker	38.00
Queen Excluder - Wire (8 or 10 frame)	22.00
Queen Excluder - Plastic	7.00
Frames - Full depth	1.90
Frames - Ideal	1.50
Foundation - Plastic	2.10
Foundation - Wax	2.00
Beeswax block	15.00 per kg
Eyelets pkt 500/40gm	10.00
S/S Wire .5mm x 500gm	20.00
Bee Brush - Natural bristle	12.00
Queen Catcher	3.00
Frame Gripper	10.00
Bee Feeders	2.00
Gate valve	10.00
Capping knife, serrated	15.00
Comb scratcher	8.00
Honey jars 250gm	0.65
Honey jars 500gm - square	0.75
Honey jars 500gm - round	0.75
Honey jars 550gm - squeeze	0.75
Honey jars 1kg round	1.00
Apithor trap	7.00
Silver Bullet trap	7.00
BeetlTra bottom trap	20.00
TK Beetle mat	6.00
Booklet - Managing AFB	3.00
Australian Beekeeping Manual	35.00
Australian Native Bee Book	25.00

TDBA Bee Starter Kit - $110

The Perfect Gift for a budding Beekeeper

Available in Townsville from the Club Shop:

Club Members Price Only!

$110

Hive tool, brush, cotton jacket/veil, gloves, and smoker

Contact: Daniel: Ph. 0437 540 473

TDBA is proudly supported by:

THE AUSTRALIAN BEE-KEEPER MAGAZINE (ABK)

Published monthly Subscriptions $84 per year.

Available from: Pender Beegoods,

PO Box 7124, Karabar NSW 2620

LOTS-A-STINGS

Raw honey, and pollination services. Will help new members get started with bees

.**Dan Donovan:** ***Ph 0428 218 816***

Townsville & District
BEEKEEPERS
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