

# Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc.)

[www.beesnorth.com.au](http://www.beesnorth.com.au)



PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814

## Newsletter No 3 April 2018

### In this Issue:

- Varroa checking required and praise for the Club
- why does honey crystallise?
- wild queens, swarms and drawing new comb
- Monster March Club meeting
- Manuka honey in everything
- not Manuka honey - it's Jarrah and Marri honey
- Bee Blooper of the Month
- stories from the hives
- research topics
- TDBA meeting minutes and price list
- Do the "Sugar Shake" and send in a report

**Next Meeting: Hermit Park SS**  
**5 Sussex St, Hermit Park**  
(entry off McKimmin St)  
**2:00 pm Sunday, 29 April 2018**  
Bring a chair - and a plate of food to share if you can

***Kudos for the Club, but keep submitting samples to demonstrate we are Varroa free***



### **The National Varroa Mite Eradication Program (NVMEP) needs your help to increase industry sample submission rates!**

- Last Varroa mite found in Townsville was in June 2016, and
- The last Asian Honey Bee (AHB) found in Townsville was on the 11 November 2016.

From June to November 2016 a total of 7 nests and 3 swarms of AHB with 2 separate infestations of Varroa Mites (Townsville port and private property in Annandale) were identified in the Townsville local council area. All 10 colonies have been genetically traced back to the initial incursion at the Townsville Port. Biosecurity control orders, movement restrictions and the commencement of a control program were immediately implemented to prevent any further spread of the mites. Movement restrictions are still enforced in the Local Townsville Government area. For further information on current movement restrictions please contact the DAF business call centre on 13 25 23 or Varroa On-call mobile on 0427 864 724. On 1 September 2016 the NVMEP entered a 6 month "**eradication phase**" which concluded on 28 February 2017 with no further detections of mites. On 1 March 2017 the program entered the 30 month "**proof of area freedom phase**" which is expected to conclude on the 31 August 2019 providing we have no further detections of Varroa mites.

On behalf of the NVMEP, I would like to thank all members of the public and members of the Townsville and District Bee Keepers Association for your continual effort and support with supplying bee samples for our surveillance activities. With the recent rain events we expect an increase in bee activities. I would encourage all bee club members who collect swarms to please retain a small sample of bees (40 or 50) for our surveillance activities. I would encourage all apiary site owners to contact Ms Carla Kersnovske on 0421 237 412 to arrange sample assistance and collections. Carla is well known to your club and has a wealth of bee knowledge. She will make herself available to assist in sample collection techniques. Without your continual support we will have difficulty in supplying enough samples from locally managed apiary sites to support our recommendations that Qld will be free of Varroa mites at the completion of the 30 month proof of area freedom phase.

During the past 6 months, harsh environmental conditions and the festive season has resulted in a reduced number of industry sample submissions from the Townsville shire area. However, with the recent rains I expect club members, apiary site owners and bee keeper submission rates to increase. For further information on sample submissions please contact Ms Carla Kersnovske on 0421 237 412, Email [Carla.kersnovske@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:Carla.kersnovske@daf.qld.gov.au) or the NVMEP On-call mobile on 0427 864 724 or Email: [varroa@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:varroa@daf.qld.gov.au)

Thanks and kind regards

Mr Stephen Anderson

**NVMEP Program Leader**

## Why does honey crystallise

Source: <http://blog.beeraw.com/real-raw-honey-crystal>

The crystallisation of honey is little understood by the consuming public. Many assume that crystallised honey is adulterated or 'spoiled.' This is not so. Raw honey crystallises.

The crystallisation process is natural and spontaneous. Pure, raw and unheated honey has a natural tendency to crystallise over time with no effect on the honey other than colour and texture. What's more, the crystallisation of honey actually preserves the flavour *and* quality characteristics of your honey. Many honey users prefer it in this state as it is easier to spread on bread or toast. Indeed, some [raw honey recipes](#) can be easier to make with partially or fully-crystallised honey —and, the taste is richer.

Some honeys crystallise uniformly; some will be partially crystallised and form two layers, with the crystallised layer on the bottom of the jar and a liquid on top. Honeys also vary in the size of the crystals formed. Some form fine crystals and others large, gritty ones. (See microscope photos of ice crystals in snow, on the right - no it's not honey crystals) The more rapid honey crystallises, the finer the texture will be. And crystallised honey tends to set a lighter/paler colour than when liquid. This is due to the fact that glucose sugar tends to separate out in dehydrating crystals, and that glucose crystals are naturally pure white. [Darker honeys retain a brownish appearance.](#)

Ice crystals



Hungry for more chemistry? Honey is a highly concentrated sugar solution. It contains more than 70% sugars and less than 20% water. This means that the water in honey contains more sugar than it should naturally hold. The overabundance of sugar makes honey unstable. Thus, it is natural for honey to crystallise since it is an over-saturated sugar solution.

The two principal sugars in honey are fructose (fruit sugar) and glucose (grape sugar). The ratio of fructose and glucose in honey varies from one type of honey to the other. Generally, the fructose ranges from 30- 44% and glucose from 25- 40%. The balance of these two major sugars causes the crystallisation of honey, and the relative percentage of each determines whether it crystallises rapidly or slowly. What crystallises is the glucose, due to its lower solubility. Fructose is more soluble in water than glucose and will remain fluid.

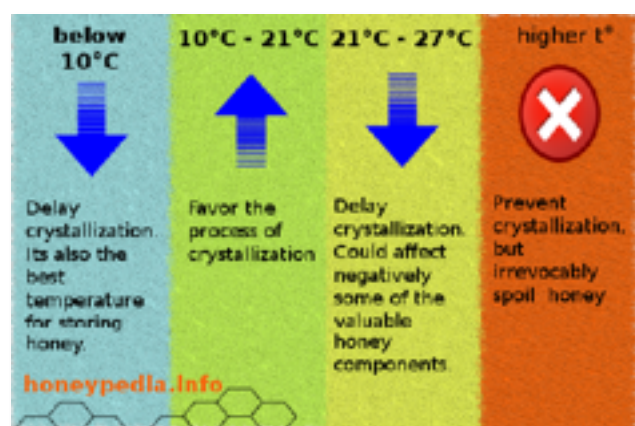
When glucose crystallises, it separates from water and takes the form of tiny crystals. As the crystallisation progresses and more glucose crystallises, those crystals spread throughout the honey. The solution changes to a stable saturated form, and ultimately the honey becomes thick or crystallised.

## How to store honey to delay crystallisation

Source: <http://honeypedia.info/why-does-honey-crystallize>

Cooler temperatures (below 10°C) are ideal for crystallisation delay, whereas temperatures from 10°C to 21°C favour the process. Higher temperatures (21°C - 27°C) delay crystallisation like the lower ones, but could affect negatively some of the valuable honey components (at long-term storage). Still higher temperatures successfully prevent crystallisation, but irrevocably spoil (destroy) honey during long-term storage.

Both subzero and extreme temperatures affect honey negatively. It is interesting to mention the results of some studies which show that honey could remain in its liquid state for a considerable amount of time if kept at a temperature of 0°C for at least 5 weeks, and then stored at 14°C.



## Factors affecting crystallisation

Many factors influence the crystallisation of honey. Some batches of honey never crystallise, while others do so within a few days of extraction. Honey removed from the comb and processed with extractors and pumps is likely to crystallise faster than if it was left in the comb. Most liquid honey crystallises within a few weeks of extraction.

The tendency of honey to crystallise depends primarily on its glucose content and moisture level. The overall composition of honey, which includes sugars other than glucose and more than 180 identified substances such as minerals, acids and proteins, also influences crystallisation. Additionally, crystallisation can be stimulated by any small particles—dust, pollen, bits of wax or propolis, air bubbles—that are present in the honey. These factors are related to the type of honey and are influenced by how the honey is handled and processed. Storage conditions—temperature, relative humidity and type of container—may also influence the tendency of honey to crystallise.

Sources: <https://www.bjcp.org/mead/crystal.pdf>

## Beeswax wanted to buy

Item provided by Steve K

Tablelands, person who's in the process of setting up a Bees Wax Products Business is looking for suppliers, from some of the smaller backyard beekeepers. She will try to attend a Club meeting to describe what she is doing and source beeswax from Townsville

Nadia Quinn – Beeswax Essentials

Yungaburra, QLD, 4884

m. 0407 969 462

e. [nadia@beeswaxessentials.com.au](mailto:nadia@beeswaxessentials.com.au)

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST - Wild Survivor Queens

Source: <http://wildernessbees.com>

**Ed:** Some people in USA prefer wild mated queens sourced from feral hives rather than the Aussie custom of getting queen breeders to do the family business. DAF would take a pretty dim view of this practice I suspect and I would treat any wild caught queens with extreme caution due to disease issues, Varroa, poor breeding etc.

### “VSH RUSSIAN FERAL HYBRIDS – DISEASE RESISTANT & MITE TOLERANT

We are Queen Breeders located in the uniquely isolated micro-climate of the North Olympic Peninsula of Washington State. We began our WILD SURVIVOR BEE BREEDING PROGRAM in 1997 when feral bee populations were thought to be near extinction due to varroa mites. We successfully captured wild swarms from remote locations; evaluated their resistance characteristics and gradually enhanced their performance with the selective introduction of USDA Russian and SMR/VSH queen lines to achieve a unique northern-bred feral hybrid queen stock that demonstrates genetics capable of withstanding many of the lethal pathogens that threaten honeybees everywhere.”



## How do I get my bees to draw new comb?

Source: <https://www.ceracell.co.nz/Articles/Your+friend+the+Smoker.html>

**Point 1.** You need young to middle aged bees in the hive to get frames drawn.

**Point 2.** There must be a lot of honey in the hive, or a lot of nectar (or sugar syrup) coming into the hive before the bees will make beeswax.

**Point 3.** Bees given beeswax by the beekeeper when the hive is short of young bees, or short of honey or nectar, will remove beeswax from the waxed frames or foundation, and use it where they think it is needed.

**Point 4.** In the spring and summer with a good laying queen and nectar (or sugar syrup) coming in, or available, the bees will likely draw comb in the brood nest.

**Point 5.** Good sized healthy swarms readily and quickly draw comb.

**Point 6.** Bees will draw comb in which to store nectar and honey if there is insufficient drawn comb in the hive to handle what is arriving.

So considering the points about bee biology and behaviour here are some tips to give you the best chance of your frames well drawn.

**Tip 1.** Don't put undrawn frames in the hive in the winter, or any time that the bees are unlikely to draw the frames as they may strip the wax preparation from the frames.

**Tip 2.** Ensure your hives have healthy young queens that will lay prodigiously.

**Tip 3.** Once you see the queen laying a lot, put one or two wax-prepped frames in the brood nest close to where the queen is laying. If it is still a long time until the honey flow hits, feeding a light sugar syrup (1 part sugar to 1 part water by weight) will encourage wax production and comb to be drawn.

**Tip 4.** If you capture a swarm, house it in a nucleus hive, or standard hive, filled with clean wax-prepped undrawn frames. Feed prodigiously with light sugar syrup. Check the hive regularly, removing clean drawn frames and replacing with clean wax-prepped undrawn frames, until the bees' urge to draw frames stops.

**Tip 5.** As the season progresses, there will periodically be small honey flows. Try adding a honey super of clean wax-prepped undrawn frames to the hive as these flows hit, but ensure the hive is a strong one with lots of young bees. Check the honey super at least weekly to see if the frames are being drawn, and if not, remove the honey super. Do **NOT** feed sugar syrup coming into the honey flow season, as we don't want to adulterate the honey made from floral nectar with sugar syrup.

**Tip 6.** At some stage one of the “small” honey flows will become a strong one. By checking your honey supers regularly you'll discover the strong flow and that is the time to get a lot of wax-prepped frames drawn. As the bees fill the honey supers, add a new super of clean wax-prepped undrawn frames **UNDER** the filled honey super and on top of the top brood box. This is called “Under Supering” and though it may be a bit less convenient than just putting each new super on top of the hive, Under Supering has been well documented to encourage frames to be drawn and filled with honey quickly.

### AND:

If you want your bees to build combs, either you must feed your bees sugar syrup or there must be a nectar flow going on. The most simple way to get combs is to feed the bees 1:1 syrup. The sooner you start feeding, the sooner comb will be made. It is important to regulate the amount of syrup that is eaten by the bees. You want to feed but not over feed, don't feed when the bees are laying down nectar in the super.

## Swarm Contact List:

Jon & Frana McKinstry, **Kelso** - 0413 765 192 (Jon) or 0401 014 948 (Frana)

Sonya Verbrugt - **Gulliver** - 04 0853 0991

Wayne Taylor, **Rasmussen** - 0434 745 353

Mick Taylor, **Cranbrook** - 0428 626 707

Ben Taylor, **Townsville West** - 4728 4992/ 0428 186 000

Brendan Arboit - **Ayr** 0406 403 005

Steve and Carla Kersnovske - **Kelso** 0417 344 419

Dave Turnbull **Annandale** - 0458 645 677

Doug McBride, **Mysterton** - 4775 7465

Dan & Drew Donovan, **Wulguru**- 0428 218 816

Grant Whiteford, **Cranbrook** - 4728 3051

Sharene Dougall, **Bluewater** - 0415426903

Daniel Horne, **Bushland Beach** – 0437540473\*

John Pavetto 0488414017, and Ian Goulevitch **-Hinchinbrook Area.**

Swarm List Please contact Biosecurity : 13 25 23 for any swarm or strange bee activity in the Townsville region. For all swarm collections, please collect 300 bees or roughly 10% of brood comb and submit to Biosecurity Queensland for pest and disease monitoring.

## Monster March Meeting at Sonya V's

What a great show and tell we had at the last meeting - with hands -on wax embedding, frame construction, AFB steriliser demo, sausage sizzle, equipment sale, hive opening and inspection. It was a bit like our Open Day, with so much happening on the day. Great big thanks to all the volunteer Club members who helped out with setup, pack up, sizzling sausages or cooking equipment in the steriliser - and to Sonya V for having us all in her lovely shady backyard. Pics from the day



On the left, Jon M demonstrating our portable AFB steriliser unit, and one of the melted products!! On the right - safety, safety, safety.



Some of Graeme Smith's old irradiated equipment up for sale - lots of bargains for the keen eyed



Relaxed crowd at the March Meeting, with pics of the backyard and during the opening of hives for inspection. Sonya had a swarm the previous day, so it was good practice for some to see what is left behind after such an event. On the right is Steve K, sizzling sausages for the hungry horde, and competing for the world record for fried onions - nice work Steve, but i saw that you left the cutting of all those raw onions to Sonya and her helper - no tears for you Steve.



## Community engagement by the TDBA

Club members like Frana and Jon M and Al Z have been doing a lot of community engagement and giving talks, displays etc at many places recently. Here is President Al (below right) inspiring the next generation of beekeepers at Townsville Grammar Primary School at Annandale.Club. Presentations encompass a wide range now - JCU vet students, senior city. schools, other clubs (garden, permits, herb) home schoolers, Council events, preschoolers (next week) and a mini expo at Balgal at end of April.



Jon and Frana have also been making bee and insect motels to give to some of the groups in order to spark interest in the world of bugs, see motel and budding beekeeper with donated insect motel (below left) and President Al giving a talk to the students (right).



# Manuka honey is in EVERYTHING in NZ !!!

Roving Beehound and absentee Editor Lindsay T recently passed through Auckland International Airport where he was stunned and somewhat amused by the varied products in which Manuka honey has become the magic ingredient. Everything from youthful skin cream, to tooth paste, face masks, mud masks, night cream, day cream, interior and exterior health, and even included with sheep placenta (i think) to put on your ?????? whatever.

Take a peek at some of the prices !!!- yes folks, that's \$100 NZ for a cream that contains bee venom to put on your face. I can provide you with the real deal any time I open one of my hives - just remove your veil.



Sheep placenta in a bottle??



## Electronic Security Alert

get a load of this seen at Woolies recently. Manuka honey is getting to be pretty expensive if you have to resort to this kind of electronic security for a jar of honey.

Electronic security on honey jars!!!!



So i have hatched a money making retirement plan - see right.



## Bioactive Jarrah and Marri honey fetching high prices in China

Sources: <https://goo.gl/zm1ZSy> <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/food/article-5226589/Australian-Jarrah-honey-effective-manuka.html#ixzz580TkCNrt> <http://www.thehouseofhoney.com.au/jarrah/>

Honey sourced from WA's unique native eucalyptus forests is proving to be a winner in the antibiotic and medicinal stakes. Farmgate prices for honey have increased tenfold in the last ten years, with some selling for \$100/kg. It's all due to the finding that Jarrah and Marri honeys can have much stronger antimicrobial properties than the Kiwi Manuka honey. (**Eds note:** Manuka honey relies on the presence of the heat stable molecule MGO for its antibiotic strength and not peroxide, which is heat sensitive).

It also has two to three times higher levels of antioxidants compared to Manuka, which makes it an ideal natural anti-ageing treatment for boosting collagen and elastin production and supporting cell renewal.

The Jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) and Marri (*Corymbia calophylla*) are native trees unique to Western Australia. They grow in the rich, environmentally pristine native forests stretching from Perth to WA's South West. During late spring and early summer the trees produce a profusion of flowers on which come alive with the buzz of bees' busily collecting pollen and the rich nectar to make Jarrah honey.

Jarrah is an amber coloured honey with a full bodied nutty malt flavour. Jarrah honey is considered a prized honey amongst beekeepers as the forests that it comes from dwindle in size from dieback and clearing. Delicious in all cuisine, Jarrah honey is not only smooth on the palate but has amazing healing abilities and does not crystallise easily due to a high fructose/glucose ratio.

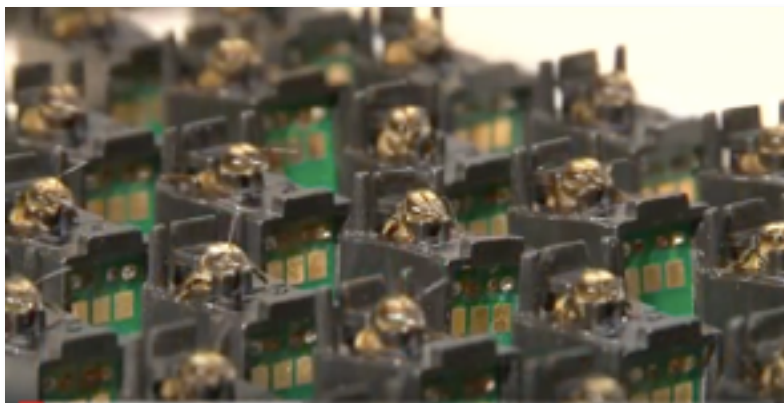
According to chairman of the WA Bee Industry Council, Colin Fleay, five new extraction and packing plants have been built recently to take advantage of export opportunities, changing what has been a largely cottage-based industry selling blended honey.

Jarrah honey is in short supply because of the diminishing forest reserves, unpredictable climate, dieback and wildfires. Jarrah honey is highly sought after by Western Australian Beekeepers who are finding it increasingly difficult to harvest. Continuing clearing of Jarrah trees in WA forests coupled with high fuel costs contribute to production difficulties. Jarrah flowers are produced in profusion every second year if temperatures exceed 25°C with adequate rainfall.



Photo above on left is from front cover of The Australasian Beekeeper magazine, April 2013, Vol114, No. 10.

Bubbles on the bottom of cells (frame upside down to make bubbles rise) - caused by the very high hydrogen peroxide activity of pure Jarrah honey in WA. Photo courtesy Kim Fewster



### Tele marketing bees at their cubicles?

No, its "Bomb-ble bees": Insects to sniff out explosives  
Scientists in Hertfordshire are developing a new bomb detecting technology using bees. The honeybees are being trained to sniff out explosives. They are trained to stick their tongues out and receive sugar water when an explosive chemical is presented to them, a bit like the Pavlov's Dog experiments. A tiny sensor notices when their tongues protrude, indicating an explosive chemical is nearby.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DMGbf6pGOUg>

### Custom built hives available

Michael C has sold his nicely built top bar hive that was advertised in previous Newsletters. He is now offering to construct other hives to your design, or modify available designs to suit your beekeeping style. Discuss and negotiate with Michael at:

Phone 0402 088 080 and these email addresses [trivialpurzuitz@bigpond.com](mailto:trivialpurzuitz@bigpond.com) & [aglow365@bigpond.com](mailto:aglow365@bigpond.com)



## News from ABK magazine

President AI sent in some references to articles in the March 2018 ABK. Some interesting information about Kenyan top bar hives (good and bad side to them - but DanD will fill you in on the bad side), chalk brood disease - no mention of apple cider vinegar treatment that some of our club members swear by, and an article on Leptospermum honeys, including Manuka and some of the local species and how to set up split hive. Look for the March ABK to see these articles, or borrow it from the Club library (and please bring it back promptly for other Clubbies to be able to access the info).

## Bees photos from Members



Garden bed in La Paz in Bolivia



Cute bum! Sent in by Sonya V from Facebook??



Consumed recently

## Don't over tighten those honey gates!!!!

Ed nearly got himself in to a 35kg sticky mess recently. Harvested honey was drained into a 20 L plastic bucket with honey gate (and yes I remembered to close the tap first - thank you). All went well, except a slow drip of honey was noticed during bottling the honey, so Ed stuck his hand in and tightened the backing nut when the honey level was low enough - but aaaargh the thread broke off - and what now - 5 L of honey in a bucket with no tap. **Handy Tip #1:** Always keep a clean deep basin handy when bottling.



## Bee Bloopers of the Month - Midnight Beekeeping

Anonymous moved some hives around recently to accommodate some nucs and splits. Why not put the hive in a wheelbarrow and move it 1 m each night - what a good idea he thought - and because "nothing can go wrong" - he didn't strap the boxes together. Except the wheelbarrow tipped over very late one night with a crash. Anonymous popped downstairs and found a very "upset" hive with a full super upside down, the lid akimbo, and on the ground were dripping honey frames and many, many bees confused and looking for something to latch on to.

So here are my tips for midnight beekeeping:

- **don't** do it!!!! - wait till the morning, or if you do go out to face the music -
- **don't** wear a head torch - bees will zero in on your face and veil
- **do** get properly kitted up and check carefully for incomplete zipped up veils, get dressed in the light somewhere, have someone check you for gaps anywhere, because these bees will not behave like they do in the daytime, and you will have 100's on you
- **do** find somewhere remote from the house to get rid of the hundreds of bees that have attached to you and can't find their way home in the dark
- **don't** go out in to the street and start behaving like the demented monk from "The Da Vinci Code" by flagellating yourself and yelping with stings while wearing a white pointy headed suit and clothing - you might get mistaken for another bunch that get about in such pointy headed white suits at night with smoke and much shouting; see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capiroete>

Maybe Anonymous should have been using a 4 wheel trolley like Sonya V has for transport - instead of an unstable 3 legged wheelbarrow??? See to the right.



## 1ST AUSTRALIAN Native Bee CONFERENCE



01+02 JULY 2018

GOLD COAST • QUEENSLAND

Integrating beekeeping, crop pollination, hive products and research. Beekeepers, farmers, industry leaders and researchers are invited to share knowledge at the first Australian Native Bee Conference. We will discuss issues required to increase understanding and unlock the potential of our native bees, a valuable but under-utilized natural resource.

To register, submit an Abstract, find out about the program, trade show and field trip, or to contact us, go to: [australiannativebeeconference.com.au](http://australiannativebeeconference.com.au)

**Where:** RACV Royal Pines Resort, Gold Coast, Queensland

**When:** Sunday 1 July 2018, 8:30 AM – 5 PM

Note that the Australian Bee Congress, which focusses on honey bees, will host two symposia on native stingless Bees the day before, Saturday 30 June 2018, at the same venue. We encourage attendees to also consider attending this event.

# ***TDBA Inc Minutes - General Meeting, demo and hardware sale at Sonya's 18/3/2018***

**Open:** 10:00 am

**Welcome:** President AI

Sonya V gave a welcome to her apiary and backyard, and a brief history of her bee habit, and recent adventures with swarms, AFB, requeening etc. She averages around 60L honey per year but recent rains have affected nectar supplies. One of her hives swarmed yesterday. She described the days events with hands-on demos of frame wiring and wax foundation embedding, equipment for sale, and hive openings to check on swarmed hives and queen locations.

**Apologies:** as per book or by email

**Visitors:** Welcomed and identified. Mentors were requested for new and interested members.

**Agenda:** none this month

**Minutes of previous Meeting:** as per March Newsletter: Moved, Dave T, 2nd, Frana M.

**Treasurer's Report:** Club in very good financial shape, - details available from Treasurer

**Newsletter Editor:** always need news and photos from Clubbies, please send in questions, photos or comments.

**Shop Report:** Equipment sales going well. Club shirts in all sizes ordered and will be here in April.

**Library:** Kirsty S was available for book returns, Aus Beekeeper magazine issues available for borrowing

## **General Business:**

**President** - Eco Fest in Queens Gardens in June - Paul P will again co-ordinate volunteers. Encourage all to get along as the stall generates quite a buzz!

- AFB still around, with 2 positive and 2 negative cases in January,, positive outbreaks in Gulliver and Roseneath in Feb, and in March we had two negative notifications thankfully. Need vigilance in checking every 2 weeks if +ve hives nearby, DAF will do free checks. Do the matchstick test yourself, and/or get help from a Clubbie or DAF if you are concerned.

- quite a few swarms around and queens needed to set up swarmed hives (Frana M and Australia Post story still ongoing - under negotiation). Remember to take samples from swarms for submitting to BQ for Varroa testing.

- Honey Month in May with displays by Club in Townsville and Thuringowa Libraries for 2 weeks - contact President AI if you can help set up or pull down display. Club Open Day at HPSS will be on 3rd Sunday in May instead of Monthly Meeting - please volunteer to helpout.

- **April Month Meeting will be on 29 April** due to all the holidays (Easter/Anzac etc)

- Club shirts design is finalised , deposit required, shirts available next meeting on 29 April

- Library books and DVDs available will be put on list and circulated so that members can see what's available to borrow

- attempting to have alternate meetings at HPSS and Club members house - volunteer if you can house us in your backyard

- Beryl S announced that Slovenia is hosting UN World Bee Day celebrations on 20 May- she is going as "bee tourist" (**Ed:** I need stories!!)

- Club shop displayed new plastic boxes from Nuplas at \$40 (cheap), has a rebated lid and vented base with closing tabs - looks great

- any hives available? advertise here or let Club know

- Dave T notified that Doug McB is selling his trailer or ute crane for \$70 - suitable for lifting and shifting heavy hives

- Visitor Ian Gordon (an ex Scottish beekeeper living in TSV) noted that New Scientist recently had research articles about bee. "Silence of the Plants" is about how smell is very important in bee behaviour and how air pollution with ozone and NOx gases affect this. Another article referred to how CSIRO is developing the ability to produce the silk cocoon material from bee brood cells, and make bee silk clothing Ian is chasing a native bee hive

- Jon and Frana and Alan described how they are doing a lot of talks and presentations to various groups. Can you help occasionally to lighten the load on our volunteer presenters - even just to help set up and pack up. Club has a really good display board now, courtesy of Ralph.

- Jon M showed how dry rot can destroy hive boxes if they are not prepped and painted or maintained properly, also said how ABK magazine is a great source of info - available at Newsagents. Members should be practising their Varroa detection, management, and checking procedures so they are ready if/when it comes to Australia

- Visitors introduced themselves and were welcomed

**Next Meeting:** April- venue to be decided (New member Bart volunteered - to be confirmed)

**Meeting Closed:** 10:40 am. Sausage sizzle, drinks, opening and demonstration of the steriliser, Tea, coffee, cake and biscuits with open discussion followed.

Meeting was followed by a demonstration of the steriliser by Jon M, and a sale of hardware from Graeme Smith's stash. Sonya V and helpers are still going through Gaeme Smith's stores of equipment that has been treated and preparing it for sale. Get in now for some cheap specials, or else stuff will be discarded. Contact Sonya V. Proceeds from sales will go to Graeme's family.

Sonya opened some hives and a recently swarmed hive to demonstrate to newbees.

## 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 newbees experience hive openings to become more confident, and you will learn more yourself by trying to explain what's going on in there.

Marion G - Hermit Park, - Peter D. - Kirwan, Stephen deB. - Hervey's Range, Cheryl and Mal G. - Annandale, Darryl A. - Mt Louisa, Donna C. - Kelso, Jason R. - Alice River, Tyler P. - South Townsville, Stephen F. - Kirwan, Miles F. - Castle Hill, Ben B. - Kelso, Randy O. - Aitkenvale

## Annual Membership Fees for 2018/2019 are due in July

### 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](mailto:president@beesnorth.com.au), [treasurer@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:treasurer@beesnorth.com.au), [editor@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:editor@beesnorth.com.au) , [secretary@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:secretary@beesnorth.com.au)

And for all web and membership enquiries : [info@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:info@beesnorth.com.au).

## TDBA Inc Office Holders for 2016/2017

President:	Alan Ziegenfusz	<a href="mailto:alan.G.Ziegenfusz@team.telstra.com">alan.G.Ziegenfusz@team.telstra.com</a> , or : <a href="mailto:president@beesnorth.com.au">president@beesnorth.com.au</a>
Vice President:	Vacant	
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## 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

# Let's all get up and do the "Sugar Shake" - maintain the detection tests for Varroa

Biosecurity would like beekeepers to fill out this form below when they do self assessments, such as sugar shaker, drone uncapping or alcohol wash. The form can be filled out manually and sent into us reply paid or it can be email edit to anyone who wants it and they can fill it out on line and email it back. Carla K will also be visiting everyone who would like to practise with the different self assessment types.



**Queensland  
Government**

## Managed hive sample collection form

### Details of person completing the form

Inspector/Person(s) attending	BQ Officer	Contractor	Other	Date
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Attach sample no.(s) or barcode
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Attach LIMS number
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>

### Location details

Address

Nearest road  Locality

GPS Location Latitude  .  °S Longitude  .  °E  
(WGS 84, decimal degrees)

Contact on site  Phone

### Hive details

Number of hives  Comments

HIN

### Surveillance details

	Alcohol wash	Sugar shake	Drone uncapping
Approximate number of bees tested			
Less than 300	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
~ 300	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More than 300	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Results/Detection			
Positive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Negative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unconfirmed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sample submitted to DAF			
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Office use only

#### Sample receipt and dispatch

Date sample received by BQ  Comments

Sample dispatched to DAF BSL for analysis

No If no, provide reason

Yes If yes, provide date of dispatch and connote number

Sample entered into BORIS by  Date

#### Laboratory results

Date results received  Results and action taken

Result entered into BORIS by  Date

### Privacy statement

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is collecting the information on this form as a record of surveillance activities conducted on managed bee hives under the National Varroa Mite Eradication Program. Summaries of managed hive surveillance may be provided to the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests, formed by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources for the purpose of reporting against the National Response Plan for the Eradication of *Varroa jacobsoni* from Queensland. Your personal information will not be disclosed to any other parties unless authorised or required by law.

Please return this form to Biosecurity Queensland at PO Box 1085 Townsville 4810 or by email to [varroa@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:varroa@daf.qld.gov.au)

# Club Shop Items - 2018 Price List

These prices are only available to current financial members

Item	Price \$\$
Veil - Native Bee (camo)	5.00
Veil - Native Bee (mesh)	3.00
Veil - cotton	20.00
Veil - ventilated	25.00
Jacket - Cotton	60.00
Jacket - Ventilated	80.00
Full Suit - Cotton	85.00
Full Suit - ventilated	105.00
Gloves	22.00
Replacement veil for ventilated suit	20.00
Super - 8 frame	25.00
Super - 10 Frame	28.00
Super - Ideal	25.00
Super - WSP	25.00
Super - Parker/Nuplas Plastic	65.00
Lids (8 or 10 Frame)	27.00
Base - Ply (8 or 10 frame)	22.00
Base - Mesh	30.00
Base 'Bluebees'	35.00
Lifting Cleats (Handles, pr)	5.00 pr
Emlok - hive clamp	12.00
Corflute Nuc box	28.00
Corflute - Queen excluder	4.00
Hive tool (S/S)	15.00
Smoker	38.00
Bee Brush - Natural bristle	10.00
Queen Excluder - Wire (8 or 10 frame)	22.00
Queen Excluder - Plastic	7.00
Frames - Full depth	2.00
Frames - Ideal	1.50
Frames - WSP	1.50
Foundation - Plastic	2.10
Foundation - Wax	2.00
Beeswax block	15.00 per kg
Eyelets pkt 500/40gm	10.00
Awl (for fitting eyelets)	5.00
S/S Wire x 500gm	20.00
S/S Wire x 80gm	6.00
Wire crimping tool	12.00
Queen Catcher	3.00
Frame Gripper	10.00
Frame Hanger	20.00
Bee Feeders	2.00
Spring clips	2.00 ea
Frame Nails	6.00
Mesh (for base construction)	15.00
Gate valve	10.00
Gate valve - Parker	26.00
Gate valve O rings - Parker	6.00
Cappings knife, serrated	15.00
Cappings knife, electric	30.00
Comb scratcher	8.00
Comb Roller	22.00
Strainer	25.00
Extractor - Plastic	150.00
Extractor - S/S	120.00
Honey jars 250gm	0.70
Honey jars 500gm - square	0.80
Honey jars 550gm - squeeze	0.80
Honey jars 1kg round	1.00
Honey Pails - 1 kg	1.20
Honey Pails - 1.5kg	1.30
<b>TRAPS</b>	
Apithor trap	7.00
Silver Bullet trap	7.00
Apis sticky trap	4.50
<b>BOOKS</b>	
Managing AFB	0.00
Australian Beekeeping Manual	35.00
Australian Native Bee Book	25.00
AFB test kits	0.00
Club Polo Shirts	40.00

## **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: Club Shop Stewards - Frana M or Alan Z**

**[info@beesnorthcom.au](mailto:info@beesnorthcom.au)**



### **THE AUSTRALIAN BEE-KEEPER MAGAZINE (ABK)**

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