

Townsville & District Beekeepers Assoc Inc.



NEXT MEETING **9AM 19th August 2018 –**
Oonoonba Community Centre – 2 Shannon St Oonoonba

Guest Speaker – Dr Jennifer Elliman from JCU Senior Lecturer
College of Public Health, Medical & Vet Sciences

Issue No: 7

August 2018

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

Honory Members of the TDBA Inc

Graeme Smith (deceased)

TDBA inc Office Members 2017/18

President:.....Alan Ziegenfusz.....president@beesnorth.com.au

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franajon@gmail.com

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As it gets closer to swarm season: 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

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

Grant Whiteford, **Cranbrook** - 4728 3051

Sharene Dougall, **Bluewater** - 0415426903

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

Ronelle White ,**Alice River/ Rupertswood** 0417752622

Tito Parigi, **Magnetic Island**

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

Please contact Biosecurity : 13 25 23 for any swarm or strange bee activity in the Townsville region. Any swarm or unmanaged nest either kept or reported to a beekeeper, must be sampled with approx. 200-300 bees or 10% of any nest size and given to Biosecurity QLD for recording and sample testing. Feral (unmanaged nests) must include brood comb samples. Contact **varroa@daf.qld.gov.au** for any information.

Looking after your girls in the heat

While the heat is turning on, we need to think about others. Not just ourselves and our 'larger' pets.

You can help look after your wonderful honey producing bees by looking around your backyard and shed, and be surprised at what you can do to make it easier for them.

Here are some easy DIY drinking places you can create at home with hardly any effort.

Try and make simple things, like a small bucket or pot. Fill it with water and add things that will float, like wine corks. This gives the girls a chance to be able to maintain grip while getting a great source of rehydration fluid.

Raid your kids marble sacks. Marbles are another great idea to have sitting in an old plate, saucer or even a shallow container. You don't need to fill the water so that the marbles are covered, as the bees will stand on the marbles and drink away.

Some research done by Kathy Keatley Garvey from UC's Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, suggests that bees will bring back up to an astounding 4.5 litres a day to keep them babies cool and to dilute the gelatinous food provided by the nurse bee so that the queen, drones and larvae can swallow it!! (WOW – I bet most of us don't drink that much like we should in summer)

See below (Left) a homemade marble bowl. Once set up you will be amazed at the thirsty work these girls do. Below right is another easy set up with just rocks. It's the little things that we can do. They don't have air con like us.



Last Meetings Notes

Sunday 15/07/18 club at John Pavetto's farm at Macknade

President – Alan Ziegenfusz, **Secretary** – Beryl Smart, **Treasurer** – Frana Mckinstry

1/ Welcome to club members & visitors – big turn out from the Ingham area for approximately 75 people Attended the meeting.

2/ The minutes of the last meeting in June were in the July Bulletin sent out to members Carla accepted that they were a true and correct account of that meeting and was seconded by Frana.

3/ The treasurer's report, who is going on holidays in August and September, will miss 1 meeting and 2 shops.

A/ membership dues are now required for the year 2018 – 2019, these are to be paid before the 2018 AGM to be considered a financial member and to receive the benefits of being a club member. Only financial club members can make purchases from the club shop of beekeeping supplies. \$25 is still the membership cost.
B/ the financial books are being readied to be audited by the clubs accountant so they can be presented at the AGM.

4/ Club Shop – Is for financial Club members only to purchase equipment from Frana is building stocks up before she leaves on holidays.

Alan Z will be opening the shop on the 1st Saturdays of the month with helpers and prefer direct deposit on pickup of orders or correct cash. All prices are included in the newsletter to work out your bill.

The stock on hand is sold at a minimal mark-up from the cost of the club to purchase the items and freight to Townsville. This leaves the cost of the items at a price that is comparable to purchase from Brisbane or cheaper.

5/ Shirts – Have been supplied by EMU sports Townsville to keep it local and the cost is \$40, we didn't purchase in this round any size 2XL, 3XL or 4XL shirts as we still have the honeycomb design shirts available in those sizes. To move the honeycomb style shirts on these shirts are available for \$25

6/ Kirsty has been our librarian for all of the clubs books, magazines & DVD's pertaining to bees for a long time and has requested to resign from the librarian role. Beryl Smart will be looking after the library from now on. We thank Kirsty for all of her help in maintaining this valuable club resource.

7/ We welcome all ideas on what workshops the members want.

August meeting will be in a hall to be finalised next week for a presentation by Jennifer Elliman.

Future meetings need new places to visit & to hold meetings. Only 10 meetings /year

8/ AFB – This is not a local problem, it is a national problem. No notifications for a while in the Townsville area which we hope that is a good sign. Latest AFB detection was in Mackay that has been reported. Varroa mite type destructor was confirmed at the port of Melbourne in the last week of June and had travelled from Texas USA. The captain of the ship carrying the cargo notified the port of Melbourne before arriving of finding dead bees on his ship.

The ship was met by AQAS when it docked and cleaned up the dead bees and mite before unloading of cargo occurred. Sentinel hives in the port area are being monitored.

Club Activities for the previous month

1 a/ Bunnings Fairfield waters was a ladies DIY night of approx. 300 women. They were impressed by the display we put on and received a \$50 Gift card for the club to use. We may be asked to attend the other 2 Bunning's stores for their ladies nights.

b/ August meeting – Jennifer Elliman from JCU will be giving a talk to the club on her study of Bees, this will be held at the Oonoonba Community hall with a start of 9am. Townsville's halls are heavily booked for this time of the year and this hall provides seating, kitchen and toilets for this type of presentation.

C/ Adam Poultney from Hobart was at the June meeting, has the Facebook site up and running now called homeward bound honey. This is to locate / rent beehives to residents of the Hobart area.

D/ John Carr & the JCU final year vet students attended a talk at Jon & Frana's residence. John will be attending our meetings in the future to keep us up to date on what is happening at JCU with the study of bees.

E/ Carla spoke that the Varroa mite eradication program is still on going. They need club members to do the tests and send in the results from their hives and with the warmer weather coming so will swarming of bees. Each swarm that is captured approx. 100 bees are required to be delivered to their office in Langton st for testing purposes.

Samples for AFB testing sent to Brisbane when filling out the paperwork add in that it was suspected AFB was present and noticed sunken cells were seen in the hive. General testing for diseases in hive samples will cost the beekeeper \$50 otherwise. This is being challenged at the moment by QBA.

General Business

1/ A lot of interest in Native Bees in our district with a number of queries to purchase colonies of native bees by residents. Frana commented that there is only 2 options of getting these and that is when someone splits a hive and is willing to sell one. The other way is to find and relocate a hive from trees or irrigation pits. The suggestion was to set up a native bee hotel in your yard for the solitary bees to come and nest in as Australia has over 2000 known native bee species. In the Townsville region we only have 2 known colonising native bee species the rest are solitary.

General Meeting was closed

John Pavetto gave a wonderful talk about tropical fruits, their flowers and pollination with plenty of show and tell.

Great conversation was had on various topics. He then gave us a talk about his beloved Ingham and its history. John and his neighbor Trevor then took everyone for a tour of the tropical fruits he had planted next door .

Messages from Biosecurity Qld

Swarm Season – Sampling

With the onset of summer temperatures, swarm season is well and truly upon us once again, so Biosecurity Queensland and the National Varroa Mite Eradication Program are urging local beekeepers to be mindful of risks associated with moving feral colonies of bees in relation to the potential spread of Asian Honeybees and Varroa mite. Most beekeepers can tell the difference between the two species but whenever in doubt **report to BQ immediately by calling 13 25 23**



Stop the spread
Protect Australian agriculture from
varroa mites and report feral bee nests



European honey bee—15mm

Actual size of bee



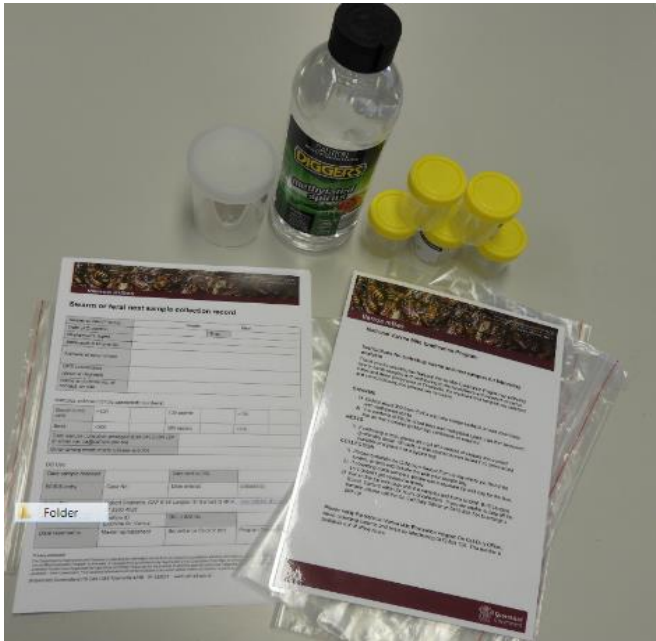
Asian honey bee—10mm

Photo: Paul Zborowski

BQ is also interested in obtaining a sample from colonies of swarming European Honeybees originating from high risk areas where Asian Honeybees have been discovered. We are particularly keen on areas within 2-5km (inside red buffer on map). ID cards and sample bees will be available at the next meeting.

To help facilitate this sampling, BQ will also be giving out kits at the next meeting (or by request) to beekeepers who expect to be collecting swarms over the coming months. The sampling technique is very simple, however staff from the National Varroa Mite Eradication Program are only ever a phone call away should help be required.

Beekeepers should also be aware of other potential disease risks associated with the collection of swarms including the spread of American Foulbrood (AFB). Where possible beekeepers should try and have barrier systems in place in order to isolate potential risk. Further information available from BQ



Brood Inspections



As most people are aware the National Varroa Mite Eradication Program is seeking the assistance of local Townsville beekeepers to regularly test the status of their own hives for the presence of Varroa mite. This testing needs to be conducted in the brood chamber and can be done via one of three separate testing methods:

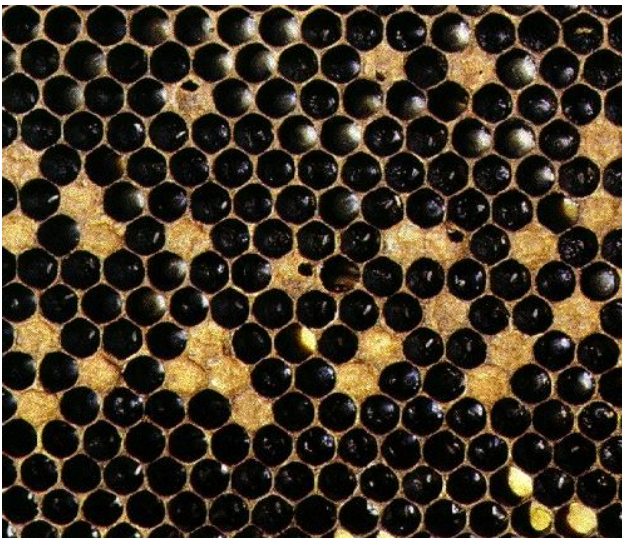
- Alcohol Wash
- Sugar Shake (Kit pictured below)
- Drone uncapping



As seen above, many local beekeepers have been contributing to the program regularly and testing their hives every 8-12 weeks with the assistance of Carla from the Varroa team. If anyone would like to know more about these testing methods, we have Carla available to come and demonstrate the different testing methods. We will also provide a kit for follow up testing should you feel comfortable in performing the testing unassisted. All results (including negative) should be regularly reported to Varroa@daf.qld.gov.au. The NVMEP has now gone over 15 months without a mite detection and is creeping towards one full year since the last detection of Asian

honeybees on Remembrance Day. We are aiming to achieve what no other jurisdiction has before by eradicating the mites after they have gotten past a port of entry. If this does take place, the TDBAI has a lot to be proud of and we are very grateful for their support.

AFB – BEE VIGILANT during hive inspections



. The Varroa program takes hygiene and decontamination very seriously along with the need for notification of suspect hives. BQ have been working closely with many beekeepers in creating awareness of the many disease issues affecting the industry and how they are best handled at a local level.

As always BQ is available to assist beekeepers in determining the presence of brood disorders such as AFB. DAF lab normally processing samples within 2-3 days upon receipt. All suspected cases of AFB are should be reported to BQ immediately with confidentiality paramount. BQ will however pass on localities (suburbs) of confirmed cases to a nominated person within the club which currently is the president Alan.

Cost of testing samples is in dispute at the moment by this club, As some samples are being charged \$50. We believe this is too expensive and may cause hobbyists not to send in samples and infect other apiaries in the area



All apiary related endemic disease issues are handled via Plant Biosecurity and Product Integrity staff and reports can be made via the call centre number on

**2018 PINEAPPLE FESTIVAL to be held at Rollingsstone NQ
Saturday 8th September 2018**

Call out for people interested in being a stall holder or to sell their produce.

Call or email Rhonda for further information 0431637980, 47707813,

schwarzee1959@gmail.com

Pace Park - Community Crescent Balgal Beach. Saturday 8th September 2018

**Annual Membership Fees are due in June/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.

Currently \$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: Club Shop Stewards:Frana M or Alan Z

info@beesnorth.com.au or shop@beesnorth.com.au

Get ready for the AGM coming up in October. These last 2 years have been very difficult on a very few members who are the committee. This club is quite large with its membership. We do need more members to step up and help out.

The club has 10 meetings / workshops per year.

4 committee meetings per year to organize the year's events.

Our store of beekeeping supplies is available 11times for 2 hours. Great greet and meet new and old members when picking up supplies. Never know what hints you can pick up there.

1 open day of activities & various schools, clubs to visit and share your knowledge of all things bees.



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017
NOMINATION FORM
OFFICE BEARERS / MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

I, of.....

Being a member of the above named Association hereby nominate

..... of.....

To be (position) for Townsville & District Beekeepers Association Inc during the year 2017 / 2018

Nominated by:
(Signature)

Seconded by:
(Signature)

Dated:

Note: Form to be returned to TDBA Secretary before AGM

Cut along dotted line

**TOWNSVILLE & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017
PROXY FORM**

I, of.....

Being a member of the Association, appoint.....

Of

As my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the above named Association to be held on 22 October 2017, and at any adjournment thereof

Signed this day of 2016
.....
(Signature)

This form is to be used: - In favour of the resolution ./ - Against the resolution

TDBKA Club Members price - These prices are only available to current financial members only
 email order to Shop@Beesnorth.com

Item	Price	
Veil - Native Bee (camo)	\$5.00	ea
Veil - Native Bee (mesh)	\$3.00	ea
Veil - cotton	\$20.00	ea
Veil - ventilated	\$25.00	ea
Jacket - Cotton	\$60.00	ea
Jacket - Ventilated	\$80.00	ea
Full Suit - Cotton	\$85.00	ea
Full Suit - ventilated	\$105.00	ea
Gloves	\$22.00	pair
Replacement veil for vented suit	\$20.00	ea
Super - 8 frame	\$25.00	per box
Super - 10 Frame	\$28.00	per box
Super - Ideal	\$25.00	per box
Super - WSP	\$25.00	per box
Super - Nuplas Plastic – see bottom next column	\$40.00	per box
Lids (8 or 10 Frame)	\$27.00	ea
Base - Ply (8 or 10 frame)	\$22.00	ea
Base - Mesh	\$30.00	ea
Base 'Bluebees'	\$35.00	ea
Lifting Cleats (Handles, pr) wooden	\$5.00	pair
Emlock - hive clamp set	\$12.00	set
Corflute Nuc box	\$28.00	ea
Corflute - Queen excluder	\$4.00	ea
Hive tool (S/S)	\$15.00	ea
Smoker	\$30.00	ea
Bee Brush - Natural bristle	\$10.00	ea
Queen Excluder - Wire (8 or 10 frame)	\$22.00	ea
Queen Excluder - Plastic	\$7.00	ea
Frames - Full depth	\$2.00	ea
Frames - Ideal	\$1.50	ea
Frames - WSP	\$1.50	ea
Foundation - Plastic	\$2.10	ea
Foundation - Wax	\$2.00	ea
Beeswax block	\$15.00	per KG
Eyelets pkt 500/40gm	\$10.00	packet
Awl (for fitting eyelets)	\$5.00	ea
S/S Wire x 500gm	\$20.00	roll
S/S Wire x 80gm	\$6.00	roll
Wire crimping tool	\$12.00	ea

Item	Price	
Queen Catcher	\$3.00	ea
Frame Gripper	\$10.00	ea
Frame Hanger	\$20.00	ea
Bee Feeders	\$2.00	ea
Spring clips	\$2.00	ea
Frame Nails	\$6.00	packet
Mesh (for base construction)	\$15.00	ea
Gate valve	\$10.00	ea
Gate valve - Parker	\$26.00	ea
Gate valve O rings - Parker	\$6.00	ea
Capping's knife, serrated	\$15.00	ea
Capping's knife, electric	\$30.00	ea
Comb scratcher	\$8.00	ea
Comb Roller	\$22.00	ea
Strainer	\$25.00	set
Extractor - Plastic	\$150.00	ea
Extractor - S/S	\$120.00	ea
Honey jars 250gm	\$0.70	ea
Honey jars 500gm - square	\$0.80	ea
Honey jars 550gm - squeeze	\$0.80	ea
Honey jars 1kg round	\$1.00	ea
Honey Pails - 1 kg	\$1.20	ea
Honey Pails - 1.5kg	\$1.30	ea
TRAPS		
Apithor trap	\$7.00	ea
Silver Bullet trap	\$7.00	ea
Apis sticky trap	\$4.50	ea
BOOKS		
Managing AFB	\$0.00	
Australian Beekeeping Manual	\$35.00	ea
Australian Native Bee Book	\$25.00	ea
AFB test kits	\$0.00	
Club Polo Shirts	\$40.00	ea
Nuplas Base	\$45	ea
Nuplas Lid	\$38	ea
Nuplas Super 10 frame	\$40	ea
Nuplas set – 1x super & lid & base	\$120	set
Nuplas Cleats	\$12	pair

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