Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc.)

www.beesnorth.com.au

PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814

Newsletter No 1 Feb 2017

In this Issue:

Next Meeting: Sonya V's place
47 McLean St, Gulliver
2:00 pm Sunday, 19 February
Bring a chair - and a plate of food if you can
Tea, coffee, sugar and milk provided

Graeme Smith nominated for Honorary Membership of TDBA Inc

Today we nominate Mr Graeme Smith as an Honorary Member of the Townsville and District Beekeeping Association.

Mr Graeme Smith, born 16 Apr 1928, 88 years young.

Graeme started his interest in bees as a schoolboy in Brisbane working on weekends helping beekeepers, this lead to getting his first hive. He had other hobbies such as archery, pigeon breeding and racing, while he completed an apprenticeship in tool making. In 1958 Graeme met Charles Roth who was an Apiary Officer. Charles mentored Graeme and taught him about beekeeping including identifying trees and likely locations of honey flows, something Graeme is now very passionate about. In 1960 he started working for the QLD University as a technician and in 1962 he moved to Townsville, taking up work at James Cook University. When Graeme left Brisbane he had 28 hives, which he sold.

He got his first hive in Townsville from a swarm on the Strand which he put into a tea chest as he did not have any boxes up here. He eventually bought and made boxes to put his bees in and worked his way up to 70 hives.

In those days he was called out regularly in swarm season, up to 5 times in one day and the most being 36 in a season. The Council would call the University to ask if Graeme could collect the swarms, sometimes holding up traffic, while he swept bees off streetlights. Graeme met John Guilfoyle who moved his beekeeping equipment business to Townsville. They worked together to raise queens to sell, but realised this was difficult at that time. So they concentrated their time and effort on developing, repairing and making adjustments on beekeeping equipment, such as honey extractors. Something Graeme excelled in as Tradesman in Toolmaking. In 1963 Graeme became a Townsville Honey Wholesaler for an Apiarist located in the Tablelands.

Graeme was also a member of the bush walking club in Townsville where he met his wife, Margaret, and courted her for 18 months, before they married in 1965. They had 4 children.

Graeme, along with Dennis Anger were founding members of the Townsville Bee Club in 1983. The start of what we have today. If we had membership numbers, theirs would be 1 and 2 respectively……

Graham loves to chat…… his fascination with nature and especially trees, enables him to provide advice on what's flowering and what times and locations to look for flows. He's got a theory about everything, right or wrong, it's always worth considering……..because he's probably forgotten more about bees than some of us will ever know. He loves teaching and mentoring new bee keepers……..and doesn't mind telling you that you've made another 'typical new beekeeper's mistake', he's said it to me on more occasions that I'd like to admit.

He has taught, mentored and been a sounding board for our friend Sonya for more than 3 years after she got her first hive from a swarm in a trailer in Kirwan, and has also mentored Carla and I since we started a couple of years ago.

He's always got the time to explain a theory to any question put to him.Graham has been a Beekeeper for about 60 years, he joined the Qld Bee Club when he was 17 years old and has attended more than 60 conferences, he qualified for his 25 year membership badge, as part of the Queensland Beekeepers Association more than 25 years ago.

Graham's lifetime dedication to beekeeping can't be denied, and as he is a long term and founding member of our club, then it is our responsibility to recognise his achievements and induct him today as one of our Honorary Members.

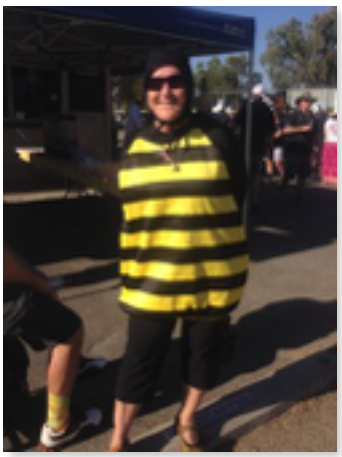
Congratulations Graeme,

Background story from Steve K and Sonya V.

Some things you see when you do have a camera

Left: Special bee cakes for some very special beekeepers

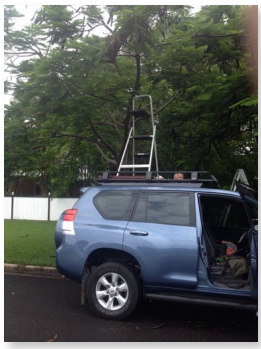
Right: High-Vis golf attire for a bee friendly golfer seen at Rowes Bay Golf Course.

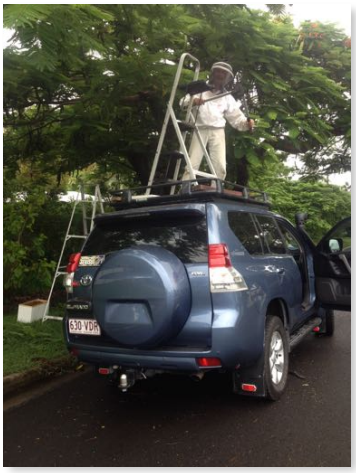


Mobile swarm collector - don't try this at home folks

Swarm collecting before the OH+S Officer arrived. I hope he put the handbrake on!!

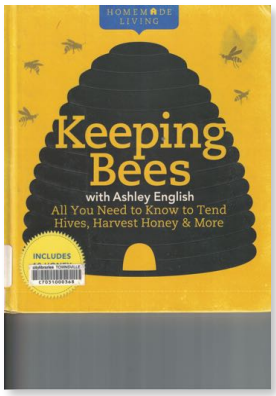
What can I say? something about silly old blokes, ladders and tricky situations.





Bee advice for free - Keeping Bees by Ashley English

Check out this bee book available from the TCC Library if you need some straight talking advice with lots of images and informative diagrams. It is written with North American beekeepers in mind, but I really like the uncomplicated descriptions of the life stages, smart beekeeping tips, recipes, and enthusiastic approach that this lady beekeeper brings to this nicely produced book. Makes you feel warm and fuzzy about beekeeping, and might inspire you to withstand a few more stings - all in the name of saving the planet!



Bees wax cloth replaces Glad Wrap??

Amber Gust uses beeswax to infuse into cotton to make an eco-friendly food wrap, similar to what you'd expect 'glad wrap' to do. She's from Magnetic Island and sells her product locally at the markets and through Facebook. She buys beeswax locally from backyard beekeepers, but to keep her costs down probably needs the beeswax at about $15 per kg. If you have any spare please let her know so she can arrange pickup. Her contact details are on the card

Small Hive Beetle control methods

Story from Jon and Frana M

Every once in a while, Frana & I are presented with a game changing revelation. The latest was a small article in the September 2016 Australian Beekeeping magazine pp 101 - 102. The article is entitled 'Neverwet & Beetlejail – more tools to fight Small Hive Beetle.

The article suggested a look at YouTube – 'small hive beetle Excluder/controller' and look for Jeff Willard. Having seen the You Tube video, this seems to be very logical and for under $35.00 for enough Neverwet to treat about 20 of our hives, we have gone ahead and are now progressively changing our bottom boards to include this beetle barrier. We did not use aluminium strips but used redundant vinyl as the barrier sheets.

We are also trialling Neverwet in our aluminium beetle traps with the hope of doing away with the vegetable oil. Once the results are in, we will advise the club by a newsletter article.

Jon and Frana M

V jacobsoni can switch from Asian to European honey bees - it has done it before

Differential gene expression in Varroa jacobsoni mites following a host shift to European honey bees (Apis mellifera)
Gladys K. Andino, Michael Gribskov, Denis L. Anderson, Jay D. Evans and Greg J. Hunt BMC Genomics 2016 17:926 DOI: 10.1186/s12864-016-3130-3
http://bmcgenomics.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12864-016-3130-3

Varroa mites are widely considered the biggest honey bee health problem worldwide. Until recently, *Varroa jacobsoni* has been found to live and reproduce only in Asian honey bee or AHB (*Apis cerana*) colonies, while *V. destructor* successfully reproduces in both *A. cerana* and *A. mellifera* colonies. However, we have identified an island population of *V. jacobsoni* that is highly destructive to *A. mellifera*, the primary species used for pollination and honey production. The ability of these populations of mites to cross the host species boundary potentially represents an enormous threat to apiculture, and is presumably due to genetic variation that exists among populations of *V. jacobsoni* that influences gene expression and reproductive status.

V. destructor was originally a parasite of the Asian honey bee, *Apis cerana*. At least 60 years ago, it made a host switch and now parasitises several European and African races of *A. mellifera*.. Population studies indicate that there was a genetic bottleneck associated with the host switch to *A. mellifera.* The research results suggested that two varieties of V. destructor each correspond to a single host capture event, followed by a rapid spread, particularly by one variant, which has now almost spread worldwide. These haplotypes (J and K) also seem to be completely reproductively isolated from each other. Two routes of invasion of V. destructor into the Americas, and specifically into the USA, have been proposed based on the dates and places where each haplotype was first detected . The J haplotype first shifted from *A. cerana* to *A. mellifera* in Japan during the last century, following the introduction of *A. mellifera*. From Japan, it spread to Thailand, to Paraguay in (1971), to Brazil in 1972, and was later found in North America in 1987. The K haplotype first shifted from *A. cerana* to *A. mellifera* near Vladivostok (north of the Korean peninsula), following the introduction of *A. mellifera* from Ukraine in the 1950s. Later, it spread from eastern Russia to western Russia, to Bulgaria in 1972, to Germany in 1977, and then continued spreading around Europe and also to the U.S.

Eds Note: It's amazing to see how genetic studies can follow the timing of the introduction of Varroa mites and that the spread of *V. destructor* can be tracked historically from one country to another. We have had *V. jacobsoni* introduced to Townsville via feral populations of AHB, and hopefully we can avoid joining the list of contaminated countries and contain it's spread, and eliminate it.

……and AHB drones can mate with our resident European honey bees

Story from Jon and Frana M.

When the Asian honey bee first escaped in Cairns, we were assured that the Asian Bee would not cross breed with *Apis mellifera*. This has not proved to be true as the Asian drones will mate with an *Apis mellifera* queen. The offspring will be sterile but this is no joy if a bee keeper is trying to self- raise a queen.

Another item for concern is, we were informed that the Asian Honey Bee had a colony size of about a hand fist size up to about a basketball size. The December 2016 Australian Bee Keeper magazine cover showed a swarm of about three basketball volumes. A search of the web shows that Asian Honey Bee colonies can contain up to about 2/3 the volume of an *Apis mellifera* colony that is about 30,000 – 40,000.

While the Department is concentrating on eliminating the Varroa, mite, it is heartening to see that the elimination of the Asian Honey Bee in the Townsville district is a by-product of the program. We have enough pest and diseases to keep us on our toes and the latest ABK advises of the Moku virus that can be spread by an invasive wasp *Vespula pensylvanica*. We do not have this wasp in Australia and we don't want it. Thanks to the Department for getting on top of the current incursion of Asian Honey Bee.

Jon & Frana M

Misleading advertising on Capilano honeys using "house" brand names

Simon Mulvany has been waging a long campaign to have the identify of the country of origin of honey sold by Capilano.clearly labelled See story at :
http://www.beethecure.com.au/capilano-vs-savethebees/

Capilano have recently started a new brand "Sunny Flo" that does not indicate it contains any imported ingredients. Allowrie, Smiths, Barnes, Wescobee and Woolworths homebrand also contain imported honey.The deceptive labelling on "Sunny Flo" displays "packed in Australia" which gives consumers the impression that it is Australian honey. It actually contains imported honey - usually from China.

Simon lists several Southern beekeepers who sell their own honeys and can be relied on to sell only Australian honey, and urges consumers to support the locals. Here in Townsville we have a reasonable supply of locally produced raw honey that can be bought at local markets, or by contacting the TDBA who will put any raw honey hungry consumers in touch with the local beekeepers.

Article sent in by Grant W.

Bee hive removal from a brick/plaster board wall cavity - it ain't easy

We had our first go at removing a hive established in a wall cavity in Kelso on Sunday 18 Dec 2016. The bees were entering in a gap below the box air conditioner, into the space between the external bricks and the internal plasterboard (see photos attached). After removing the air conditioning unit and the supporting tray, the top of the hive was exposed (see images). To prevent doing too much damage to the house, we worked through the available gap that was about 10 cm wide and 50 cm long. So while holding onto the comb with one hand, and cutting with the other, we were able to remove the comb in relatively large pieces i.e. 3 main pieces of brood comb about 30 cm wide and 40 cm deep, as well as a number of other smaller pieces.

The hive looked very healthy with no signs of chalkbrood, wax moth or small hive beetle and mainly consisted of; brood comb, plenty of pollen and small amounts of nectar and capped honey. We used the 3 large pieces of brood comb to cut and frame up as part of the bees and comb to be taken away. Once the comb was out, we used a piece of plastic to scoop out most of the remaining bees and a couple of pieces of brood comb to attract the remaining bees (see images).

I would have estimated that the hive was there for about a month, due to the freshness on the comb, and the fact that some of the brood had already hatched. We didn't see the Queen at any stage, but there were plenty of eggs, larvae and capped brood, so we'll just have to wait a few days to check if we got her or not. The whole operation took us about 3 hours, with about half of that time waiting while the bees settled and gathered on the pieces of brood comb, to be shook into my hive. It was difficult to work through a small opening and although the bees were very calm, I took plenty of stings on my arms and hands while working through the small opening. No other stings anywhere while working in a face veil, shorts and thongs. We don't have a vacuum system, so in hindsight I think that a vacuum would have helped by reducing the number of bees that where covering the comb and speeding up the process of gathering the loose bees that where crawling around the cavity.....so that's on the 'to do list'.
Story and photos from Steve K.

Capilano releases honey that is a "prebiotic" - apparently it's better than honey

http://capilano.com.au/au/our-range/beeotic

What is a prebiotic?
A prebiotic is defined by as 'a selectively fermented ingredient that results in specific changes, in the composition and/or activity of the gastrointestinal microbiota, thus conferring benefit(s) upon the host' (Gibson et al. 2010).

Prebiotics are natural, non-digestible fibres that pass undigested through the upper part of the gastrointestinal tract and stimulate the growth or activity of advantageous bacteria that colonize the large bowel by acting as substrate for them.

What is the difference between a probiotic and a prebiotic?
A probiotic is a preparation of live bacteria as we find in yoghurt, dairy and supplements which can survive in the gut and thereby exert a health benefit. A prebiotic is a special type of dietary fibre which is not digested by the host and therefore reaches the colon where it is selectively utilised by the good bacteria that are naturally present in the colon, thereby improving the ratio of the good bacteria to the bad bacteria which will in turn lead to health benefits.

Probiotics & colony productivity

Randy Oliver of Scientific Beekeeping.com has an excellent article in the September 2016 Australian Beekeeping magazine pp126 – 129. Having read the article by Ken Olley (September 2016 Australian Beekeeping magazine p 134) 'Healthy Beemix – A Revolutionary Bee Disease Solution, Frana contacted Ken to find out more about Healthy Beemix. Ken assured us that the product did not contain any antibiotics but did contain probiotics. Randy says, 'the honey bee is host to a "core' bacterial community that resides in its gut, as well as other bacteria that colonises its hypopharyngeal glands and beebread. These bacteria appear to be involved in digestion and disease resistance and may produce critical nutrients not found in pollen or nectar.'

He ran an approved test of 24 hives in each of 7 sites. He collected 5 samples from each hive and had them evaluated for good and bad bacteria. He concluded that 'since there was no apparent correlation between honey bee forager gut microbiota and honey production…the results do not support the hypothesis that colony productivity would be improved by feeding specific probiotic bacteria.' He went on to warn hat 'a repurposed human, pet or livestock probiotic was unlikely to benefit the colony and may create its own dysiosis.

With the above in mind, we are willing to trial a sample of Healthy Beemix with an understanding that it is up to us to evaluate the product and not to rely on claims from the supplier. We will keep the club informed of the outcome in a subsequent newsletter.

Article provided by Jon & Frana McKinstry

Quality of Queens depends on their maturity

A few weeks ago Steve K met up with one of the Australian Honeybee Industry Council volunteers that was up in Townsville as part of the Varroa Mite Eradication program. Her name is Corinne Jordan (also known as 'The Bee Lady Apiaries' on Facebook). She operates from the Brisbane/Redland Area, near the Logan River.

Steve is going to try some of her Queens, and while they're a little more expensive than what we normally get though our Club contacts, at $35 ea, Corinne rests her reputation on the quality of her Queens. She is into artificial insemination and breeding for specific needs i.e. calmness, productivity, cleanliness etc. She is adamant on ensuring that her Queens are laying for a period of 28 days prior to sale (so they actually come with her own prodigy, not just bees a different queen), with an established laying pattern and strong pheromone. Note that some Queen producers sell Queens as little as 14 days after laying. She claims that having a more mature new Queen will stop the likelihood of an absconding queen or rejection. Doug Somerville in NSW writes an Industry paper that details the percentage rate of successfully introduced Queens in hives e.g. There were low survival rates of queens caught at 14 days compared with 21 days of age. At 21 days 82.5% of the queens survived. This further improved to an average of 90% survival for queens caught at 28 days of age. For more information on buying queen bees by Doug Somerville open this link
http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/305097/Buying-queen-bees.pdf
Steve K will have tried some of her Queens by now, so we will get an update on success rates soon.
Steve K.

3 sides to every story - your side, my side,……. and possibly the truth!

The following email was received by Frana M from Mackay based Club Member Paul M, who had another side to the saga of the family reportedly being forced to give up beekeeping due to Council bylaws. This latest news shows why it always pays to check your info sources, or get a second opinion when quoting internet news……**but …..**this one was from "your ABC"!!!

"That story about the Mackay resident being forced to get rid of his hives was wrong. I had a meeting with Council, and they never told him that; he also had his hives up against the neighbours fence (just a chain fence) in the wrong area. He has since apologised to Council for creating this mess. He was a Newbie who doesn't come to meetings to learn; these sort of people don't deserve to have bees. He created a lot of anger and panic to Beeks in town because he did the wrong thing and then went to the media with lies. This is why clubs are so important to help and guide these people to be better and more responsible beekeepers.
Cheers, Paul M."

Save your sight - and save the bees - with this simple LED light source

http://www.voanews.com/a/therapy-for-vision-loss-could-save-bees/3604244.html
Scientists See the Light with a Novel Way to Save Bees
November 15, 2016 12:36 PM Kevin Enochs

Macular degeneration is a leading cause of vision loss among people 50 and older. British researchers developing a treatment for the condition may have also found a way to save the world's honeybee population.

Dr Glen Jeffery's work focused on how neonicotinoids affect the bees on a cellular level, specifically how the pesticides affect mitochondria. "Mitochondria are the batteries in our cells that make the energy they need in the form of ATP," a molecule that transports the energy, he explained. "Mitochondrial decline is a key feature of the action of the neonicotinoid insecticide, so ATP goes down when bees are exposed to it." In other words, the pesticide pushes the bee's cells into overdrive and they use up all their energy, and then just simply become immobile, unable to move or feed themselves and they die of starvation.

But science is a funny thing. Jeffery and his team were initially doing research on ageing, not necessarily bees, so they knew that "...mitochondrial function can be improved with specific wavelengths of light" and light therapy was shown to improve mobility and life span in flies. And here's the great part: Jeffery says the idea of using a similar therapy on bees "occurred to me (a visual scientist) cycling home in the rain after reading about the mode of action of the insecticide and I thought that the light should help." So, he took the idea to the lab.

"The researchers used four groups of bees from commercial hives, with more than 400 bees in each colony. Two groups were exposed to a neonicotinoid, Imidacloprid, for ten days, with one group also being treated with light therapy over the same period." Jeffery says he was "surprised by the positive impact." The bees that were poisoned but got light therapy "had significantly better mobility and survival rates, living just as long and functioning just as well as bees that had not been poisoned," while the bees that didn't get light therapy showed less mobility and higher death rates. The team also found that the light therapy -- "15 minutes of near infrared light (670nm) twice daily" -- didn't affect the bees' behaviour because they can't see the light. So now Jeffery says he and his team are "working to develop a small device that can be fitted into a commercial hive, which could be an economic solution to a problem with very widespread implications."

Talk about seeing the light.

Brisbane girls' school gets native bee friendly

Story and photos from Megan Daley,
Junior School Teacher Librarian at St Aidan's Anglican Girls' School, Brisbane

The final project for Earth Angels Student Sustainability Group for 2016 was to see a Native Stingless Beehive and bees installed in the Junior School grounds. We used a local company, 'Sugarbag Bees' at West End so we that could ensure the bees would be suited to our climate and because of their extensive work with schools. A stall selling secondhand books and entirely upcycled 'Microgreen Microgardens' raised funds for our Native Stingless Beehive and bees and several families made donations, which will be acknowledged on a plaque near the hive. Dr Tobias Smith from 'Sugarbag Bees' and 'BeeAware Brisbane' came to install our hive in the correct position and gave a fascinating talk to most of the Junior School – Kindy children were particularly enthralled by the bees and Dr Toby's talk! Dr Tobias Smith will be back early in 2017 to give more extensive talks to Junior School students on being native beekeepers and the importance of bees to our ecosystem.

With life-cycles studied at several year levels, the native beehive will be an excellent teaching tool and will enrich the learning of our students. Bees are absolutely vital to the ecosystem and we have plans for work looking at the vital role of the bee in crop pollination and the sheer variety of bees which exist in Australia. Earth Angels members will be taking observations of bee behaviour and will take the lead in beekeeping. The hive will be regularly weighed to ensure it is being filled and when it reaches maturity, 'Sugarbag Bees' will be back to split our hive and help us to start another. We aim to have four-five hives in total with some for production of honey and some for breeding. A Native Stingless hive of the size we have will produce about 1 litre of honey a year – native bees are an investment in the ecosystem more than honey producers! The honey is strong tasting as it contains much tree resin and is worth around $200 a kilo. The Junior School students (and their teacher librarian and teacher in charge of Earth Angels) are extremely excited about our venture into the world of beekeeping.

Swarm collections in Townsville still need to be notified and tested for Varroa

With the onset of summer and the recent rainfall in our region, floral resources are blooming and there has been a notable increase in bee activity and swarms. The Varroa Mite Prevention and Control Program is interested in gathering samples from any feral European honey bee swarms or nests, so that they can be tested for the presence of varroa mite.

Beekeepers can assist the Program by observing swarms and feral nests and collecting samples. Sample bottles, alcohol and instructions on how to collect valid swarm samples (for monitoring) can be provided by the Varroa Mite team who can also arrange to pick up the sample, if preferred. In the case of feral nests, please contact the Varroa Mite team who can advise on how to collect a comb sample of capped brood.

The Varroa Mite Prevention and Control team can be contacted through the free phone number 13 25 23, or please email varroa@daf.qld.gov.au

Managed Hive Program

Bee keepers who are interested in learning more about promoting and monitoring hive health can get in touch with the Managed Hive Program where training can be provided in alcohol washing, sugar shaking and drone uncapping. Contact details above.

Isabel Bryce
Communication & Stakeholder Engagement, Varroa Mite Response, Biosecurity Queensland
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
P 07 3330 4524
E isabel.bryce@daf.qld.gov.au **W** www.daf.qld.gov.au
Customer Service Centre 13 25 23

TDBA Inc Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes 20/11/2016, at Steve and Carla's place

Present: as per Attendance Book
Apologies: none recorded
Minutes of previous Meeting: taken as read, Moved: Ron R, Sec: Lindsay T
President's Welcome: Alan Z welcomed several newbees and requested experienced members to mentor the newbees.
Previous Month's Business:

- Minimum of 100 shirts and hats to be ordered by Chrystal H, shirts can have name embroidered for $5 extra before ordering or $15 after ordering. Shirts are $30 for short sleeve and $35 for long sleeve. Orders requested to be completed before Xmas.
- Xmas lunch for 11 Dec at 12:30 at Vale Hotel, all invited, bookings needed ASAP to President Al.
- Model Rules introduction as submitted by Dave T is still not voted on and appear to be causing some confusion. They are based on the RSL rules to promote Club continuity by limiting long term appointments of Committee Members and encouraging more members to participate in running of the Club. Members encouraged to read the Model Rules in advance of the vote, and ask questions if its not clear.
- "Pollinator Week" was 20-27 November 2016 and was highlighted in the on line Bee Aware Newsletter, also articles on native bees.

Correspondence:

- Defence Force Welcome Expo on 4 Feb 2017 invite received for any members willing to describe beekeeping to incoming Defence Force personnel. Contact Isabel Bryce from DAFF if you can help out <ISABEL.BRYCE@daf.qld.gov.au>
- "Sweeten the Pot" support for Qld Police is supported by QBA, request for support from TDBA Inc received.
- approx 3 new member requests received each week, plus requests for hives both native and European.

Treasurer's Report:
Opening bank balance in Nov 2017 was $12,555, deposits $10,000, spending $9,000 (purchased 25 corflute nucs at $25 ea). All figures approx as the note taker was not writing fast enough to capture all the detail , sorry. Contact Treasurer Frana if accurate details required. Treasurer's Report accepted: Prop, Lindsay T, Sec, Chrystal H.
Shop Report:
Chrystal and Dan H will take over all store duties from Frana and John M,and many thanks to them for establishing the range of equipment at such good prices.All gear selling well. Storage unit established and all gear will be transferred in 2 weeks. 8 frame nucs available (suit Flow Hives), ideal supers and frames available. Flow Hive bases of metal that can replace corflute bases also available.
LibraryReport: ABK is in Library and available for borrowing, newspaper items collected, many books available.
Newsletter Report: No Newsletters till February, still need stories and photos of your backyard bee adventures.
General Business:

- Rob Stephens reports that the latest AHB detections have been Varroa negative, and no foraging AHB have been detected lately. So far there have been 10 AHB detections in Townsville from the recent introduction, and only 2 have shown to be Varroa positive, with the last 8 being clear.
- Request from Club for another workshop on AHB, Varroa and the detection and surveillance program underway to be run by DAFF.
- Request from Club for info on total AFB detections in Townsville in order to justify obtaining an incinerator for contaminated hive disposal.
- Mackay beekeeper who caused the ruckus with local Council found to be offside with Club, Council and neighbours (see story this issue).
- Club shirts available - please order early.
- Native and European bee workshop planned for 2017. Honey tasting for competitions workshop also a possibility
- Next meeting HPSS on 19 Feb with 3 activities planned.

Meeting closed: 4:30 pm
Equipment displays and demonstrations were made available, honey tastings and hive opening - all thanks to our generous hosts Steve and Carla K, and efforts of Sonya V, Dan D, others? Many thanks .

Welcome to our new Members
- make them welcome and offer them a hand with their hives

Neil E.	ANNANDALE	Peter B.	KIRWAN	Scott W.	EL ARISH
Vanessa & Justin U.	KELSO	Ros D.	JENSEN	Susan T-M	EINASLEIGH
Jackie T.	BUSHLAND BEACH	Peter W.	INGHAM	Wendi F.	EINASLEIGH
Brad B.	GUMLOW	Melanie & Troy C.	RAILWAY ESTATE	Laurence B	Forsyth

Bee Blooper of the Month - from Anon.

Anon just about burnt the house down recently after forgetting to turn off the electric frypan with bees wax. Anon.did a quick waxing of some plastic foundation in the morning, and "thought" he had turned that thing off!!!!
A few hours later, and all hell broke loose downstairs in the workshop - smoke detectors going mental, smoke, flames, so Anon went down stairs in his shorts to combat the flames, smoke, disaster etc. Flames were eventually smothered with a fire blanket and 1/2 hour later we saw the end product. Timely that we were still here in the house, as the flames were right beside the paint store - with metho, turps, and gas cylinder. Jeepers creepers, almost lost the lot.

See burnt and melted paint roller, blackened and burnt wax, and discoloured lid used to unsuccessfully dampen the flames.

New light weight, foldable corflute nucs - now available from Club Shop

Annual Membership Fees

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 but soon to become $30
Please note that an item will be tabled at the next AGM to increase the membership to $30.00, where the additional $5.00 dollars per member will go to the QBA for ongoing research and development in support of the Bee industry.

TDBA Inc Office Holders for 2016/2017

President:	Alan Ziegenfusz	Alan.G.Ziegenfusz@team.telstra.com	
Vice President:	Mick Taylor	cranbrooksolar@bigpond.com	**Nominated:** To be Confirmed
Secretary:	Anne Stanley	cromartybird@outlook.com	
Treasurer:	Frana McKinstry	franajon@gmail.com	
Membership	Frana McKinstry	franajon@gmail.com	
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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

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.**

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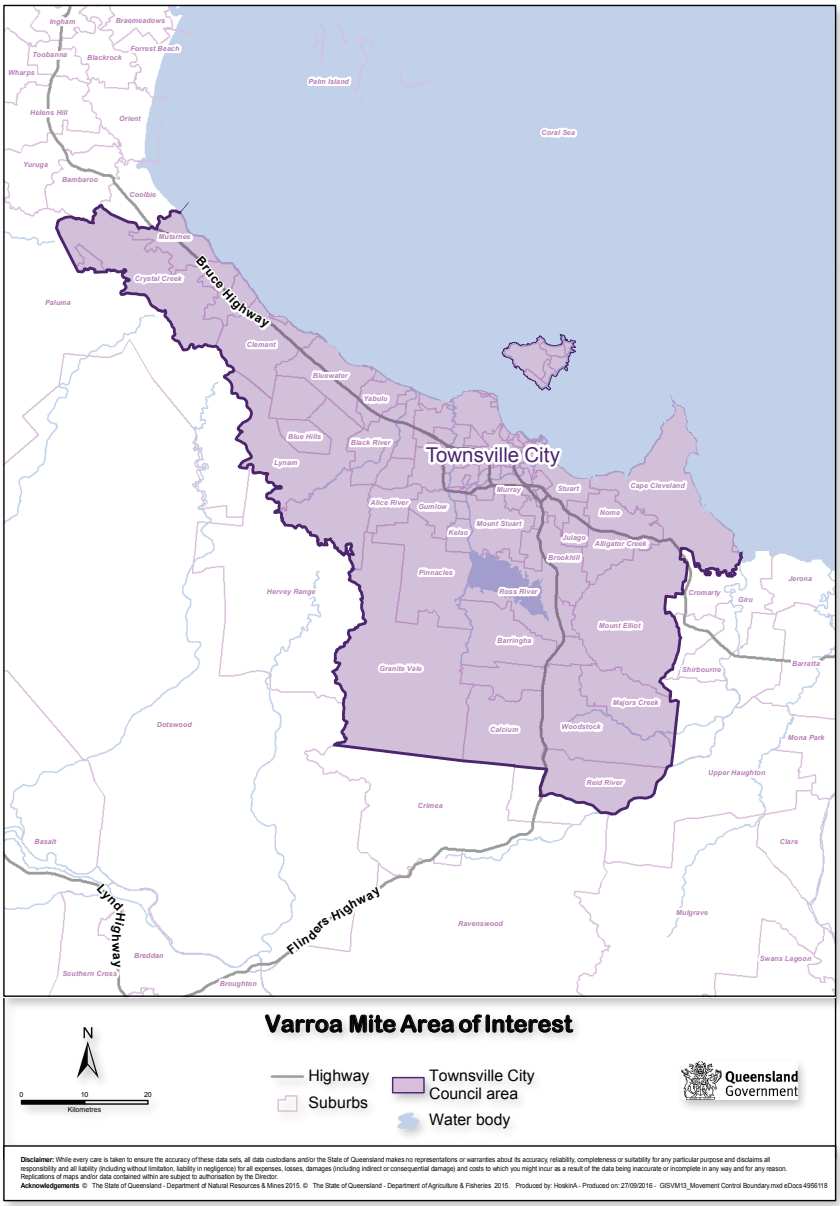

Actual length: Approximately 10 mm

(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
All prices include freight free of charge

Item	Price $$
Veil - Native Bee	10.00
Veil - cotton	20.00
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
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
Bee Brush - Synthetic bristle	8.00
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
Honey Pails 1kg	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 (freight free):

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
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