WWW.BEESNORTH.COM.AU

Townsville & District

BEEKEEPERS

ASSOCIATION

In this Issue:

- **Everything you ever wanted to know about an intrusion of.... *Varroa mites!***
- **a newly found native bee disease. Article provided by Bob Luttrell**
- **Hot off the press! See below for media release and invite by Bio Security QLD**

Have you introduced yourself to a new"beee"?
New members below
Say G'Day if you can....

Next Meeting:
2:00 pm Sunday, 17th July 2016
Hermit Park State School
Bring a chair - and a plate of food if you can

Newsletter No 7
July 2016

CLUB MEMBERSHIP FEES NOW DUE!

Contact off our website

hello, can get a contact phone number from someone who could help me source some nuc colonies or established hives for sale, I am located in mt isa and will travel to collect etc. struggling to make contacts and find help. Thankyou for any assistance cheers Dan

Dan can be contacted on 0412 376 975

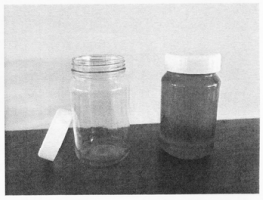
For Sale - Full Flow 7 frames - with Box; new still in the box. $750
Phone Peter on 4779 7216 or email peter.monypenny@gmail.com

Don't forget to register for the QBA Conference next week.
$160 for two days.
Registration form is in the June newsletter which was sent out last month.

2016 QBA AGM/Annual Conference Honey Competition

Entry forms will be available at the Conference from the Chief Steward, Kellie Round
Prizes will be paid for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each class.
One jar only per class per exhibitor
Please note: All entries close at 9.15am Wednesday 13th July 2015

Extracted Honey



Honey exhibited in Classes 1 to 4 must be shown in Standard Trade Jar approved by the Queensland Beekeepers Association. The jar is round (not paralleled) and clear glass with a white cap. It measures approximately: Height 120mm with cap diameter 62mm and contains 500g reputed net weight of honey.
To expedite judging, jars should be filled to capacity. An air space of 6mm is to be left at the top of the jar.

Class 1 – Liquid Honey Standard colour White (PF0-34)	1 jar
Class 2 – Liquid Honey Standard colour Light Amber (PF35-65)	1 jar
Class 3 – Liquid Honey Standard colour Golden (PF66-90)	1 jar
Class 4 - Liquid Honey Standard colour Dark (PF91-120)	1 jar
Class 5 – Liquid Honey any colour. Recreational beekeepers owing up to 50 hives	1 jar
Recreational beekeepers can also exhibit in any of the other classes if they so desire.	
Class 6 – Granulated Honey	1 jar

New Australian stingless bee disease

This is a notification to the Australian stingless bee industry stakeholders that there have been several reported incidences of brood disease and colony deaths in the last two years. Reports of increased incidences have come to light in recent times. As a result of these reports, Jenny Shanks, from the University of Western Sydney, has released the following report based on her research work in this area.

Please be aware that this report is an interim notification to industry stakeholders in an effort to alert beekeepers of the need for caution and improved hygienic behaviour when working with stingless bees.

The development and submission of a short communication in a peer reviewed journal is planned, however, in the interest of informing stingless beekeepers in the immediate future, this communication is being shared.

Stingless bee bacterial infection

The isolated bacteria, sampled from symptomatic *Tetragonula carbonaria* and *Austroplebeia australis* hives, is **speculated** to be causing brood infection and colony deaths. The bacteria is a subspecies of the *Bacillus* group, a group that includes *Paenibacillus larvae* (American Foulbrood - AFB). It is stressed that this bacterial infection is **not** AFB, however symptoms are similar.

The suspect bacteria has been cultured from the majority of nest materials and therefore colony-level transmission is high.

Signs of disease are as follows

- Infected brood does not develop, cells can form sunken caps
- Infected brood becomes discoloured, first turning brown from the last segments of the abdomen eventually turning dark brown all over
- Larvae that have been removed from cells can be found singly or groups throughout hive
- Infected brood eventually degrades to a watery consistency
- Cells become darker in appearance as contents degrade
- Cell provisions discolouration of and/or dry
- Ammonia or decaying smell from infected cells
- Brood formation becomes scattered instead of in organised spiral discs (for T. carbonaria)
- Worker behaviour can initially be frenetic and disorganised, becoming lethargic over time
- These field symptoms are mainly for *T. carbonaria* hives, as Jenny has not had occasion to observed *A. australis* prior to advance infection. Symptoms in *A. australis* include a dried chalky-like brood cell / provision, and this bacteria may be a different strain or subspecies.

Figure 1 Brood cells showing discoloured larvae dispersed amongst normal larvae (Photo J. Shanks)

Figure 2 Discoloured larvae that have been removed by workers (Photo J. Shanks)

Figure 3 Diseased larva within a brood cell (Photo J. Shanks)

While many beekeepers may be of the opinion that they can manage such problems please be aware that attempts to manage this condition have been made. These include the removal of infected brood and supplementary feed; however, since the bacteria can reside in the honey stores, spores may be transmitted by adults. Therefore, this action is not an appropriate control measure, and the colony will most probably die. The addition of pupating brood cells, in the hope that emerging workers may assist in overcoming infection, does not work.

Since discovering the bacterial infections, and losing many of her own colonies, Jenny has devised a strategy to minimise the spread of the infection. The following guidelines are recommended to all stingless bee beekeepers who manipulate their nests. It is stressed here that if it is not necessary to open your colonies, DON'T.

The current recommended strategies for control of this new bacterial infection are as follows

- Isolate the nest and workers. That is, block the hive entrance when all nest mates have returned
- Burn the entire colony and box. This is a drastic measure, however, is performed with highly infected colonies
- Minimise chances of cross contamination between colonies. Beekeepers should sterilise equipment with bleach. Sterilisation should take place between working with boxes and when sampling (including being vigilant with all hive tools and the reuse of boxes).
- Spore longevity is unknown thus it is recommended to large-scale colony producers that they consider the radiation of equipment, as is the case with AFB infection in *Apis* colonies
- DO NOT leave boxes or stores out for other colonies to rob. This increases the chances of infection into neighbouring colonies
- The transfer of brood between colonies, to aid in population or recovery, is NOT RECOMMENDED. The bacteria takes 22 days from infection to first observed symptoms and the spores would have to be present in the provision before egg is laid and cell capped. Therefore the transfer of "healthy" young brood may still be infected and not showing symptoms. Infected larvae do not progress to pupal stage, therefore, to date it is believed that older developing brood should be okay.
- DO NOT supplementary feed with *Apis* honey.

Ongoing actions

In light of this information and concerns beekeepers may have, it is suggested that any questions or queries be formerly directed to Bob Luttrell. Bob is currently assisting stakeholders with potentially infected colonies and with information provided for field identification. Bob may be able to assist in the identification of suspect brood**.** If, when you open a hive, you become concerned about your colony please obtain **good quality photographs** which show developing larvae. Check for queen-right status if possible. Bob is unable to take brood specimens for lab analysis, but can help with identification through photographic evidence. You can contact Bob at (robertb.luttrell@bigpond.com). Please provide the location of your hive and number of hives in your meliponary with the photo.

Important

DO NOT OPEN YOUR HIVES JUST TO CHECK FOR THE DISEASE. If you have no symptoms, such as discoloured larvae being removed from the nest, reduced worker activity at the nest entrance or other, do not open the hive.

Don't panic

It is important that stingless beekeepers don't start to panic in light of this information. If you manipulate your hives please follow the recommended protocols listed above. Also, keep records of what is happening with your colonies.

Collusion in the honey industry

Simon Mulvany
Melbourne, VIC

3 JUL 2016 — Price leadership is a form of tacit collusion that oligopolies may use to achieve a monopoly-like market outcome. In Australia at the moment Capilano Ltd are the price leader and anything they pay other Australian packers like Beechworth , Superbee will match. This is economic bulling and profiteering. In essence illegal.

Collusion hurts the producers who are beekeeping families. This has enabled Capilano honey to make mega profits for their shareholders like billionaire Kerry stokes and Asian investment firms while Australian beekeepers get a wholesale price half of New Zealand $5kg. Capilano importing of Chinese honey exacerbates this.
Everything is connected commercial beekeepers being under stress leads to bee stress which leads to disease. 80 percent of bees in Australia face a life time disease and Foulbrood , chalkbrood ,dysentery ,nosema. Hive beetle has the capability of ruining apiaries.

Beekeepers feel alone to overcome these challenges. Bees don't respond well to greed. Please try to source your honey direct from the beekeeper using the honey map. Thanks new packers who have been contacting me but I expect you to pay a fair price.

New Members!

Alene & Ron	A	
Alan & Judy	L	ROSSLEA
Lachlan	T	BELGIAN GARDENS
Dave	E	ALICE RIVER
Kevin	M	MILLAROO
Shane & Narelle	G	BUSHLAND BEACH
Glen	C	BLACK RIVER
Tyler	P	SOUTH TOWNSVILLE
Brad	G	ROLLINGSTONE

Varroa mite Communication 1 from our President 7 July 2016

G'Day All Club Members,
By now you have most probably heard that a colony of Asian honey Bees were found in a remote area of the Port and that Varroa mites were also found.
While this development is extremely concerning, I have been in contact with both the Queensland Beekeeping Association and Biosecurity Queensland and below is an updated media release. Plus what I know as of this point in time.
Noting I have a follow up meeting with Biosecurity Queensland tomorrow (8/7) and will update you all if there are any major changes.

1) On or around the 27/06/16 the port authority were moving a container at a remote area of the port when a colony of bees were spotted in the underside of the container. I believe it was where the forklift talons would normally enter.
2) On closer inspection it was identified as a colony of Asian Honey Bees. It was subsequently destroyed and sent for testing. Where 2 Varroa mites were found.
3) Initial reports indicate that the colony could have been at this site for anywhere up to 2 years. Which would mean that several swarms would have most probably occurred given the right breeding conditions.
4) Fortunately, the Varroa mites found were V. Jacobsoni not the V. Destructor. Biosecurity Qld are still finalising their testing but at this stage they are advising that V. Jacobsoni will not make the move from its host the Asian Honey Bee over to our European honey bees. Let's just hope so!
5) Biosecurity QLD have implemented a number of controls including a full quarantine area within 2kms of the port, inspections and monitoring with 10 kms of the port and <u>no moving of any bee hives or bee equipment from the Townsville area until further notice.</u> As of this afternoon no additional Asian Honey bees have been found within the 10km zone.
6) Members and the general public have been asked to keep an eye out for any Bee swarms and to report any and all possible sightings to Biosecurity QLD on 132523. Those not of the Asian honey bee variety will be passed on to the club.
7) There is additional information on the websites listed below if you want to read more.

Thanks
Ron Rapson

Varroa mite Communication 2 from our President 8 July 2016

Afternoon All,
Just a quick update for those who may be interested.
The colony found was approximately 5000 bees strong and it was located inside a metal leg of a container stand.
I hope to have pictures shortly.
In extensive testing of the colony a total of 5 V. Jacobsoni mites have been found. The queen was confirmed as being within the 5000 bees and at this stage no signs of queen cells were observed.

Biosecurity QLD have implemented an Emergency Management Plan and are calling in resources from all over the country, including representatives from the Bee industry who were planning to attend the conference next week.

No additional colonies have been found and inspections are continuing.

All sentinel hives, Catch Boxes, bait stations and other tests have not found any sign of the Asian Honey Bees / Varroa mites.

Our club offered of assistance has been warmly welcomed and we may be called on in the near further to assist with ongoing inspections as the inspection area widens (Training will be provided for those who are interested).

I will send out updates as the come to hand, however if anyone wants firsthand information Biosecurity have set up a "War Room" where you can obtain the latest information, maps etc… at the Townsville Regional Office, 9-15 Langton Street, *Garbutt QLD* 4814.

Remember all if you see or hear of any reports of the Asian Honey Bee please report to Biosecurity Qld on 132523.

Thanks
Ron Rapson

TOWNSVILLE & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
MONTHLY MEETING – 1400 19TH JUNE 2016

1. PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

a. Ron Rapson welcomes old & potential new members to the monthly meeting;
b. NIL minutes from previous meeting (Flow Hive workshop);
c. Invites potential new members to introduce themselves & detail bee interest including:
i. Dave from Alice River – NIL hives at present but interested in European honey bees
ii. Kev Menzies from Millaroo – NIL hives at present
iii. Tyler from Sth Townsville – NIL bees at present but interested in European & native honey bees
iv. Jason Lavarack from West End – 1 x hive of European bees
v. Shane & Narelle from Bushland Beach – NIL hives at present
vi. Brett Beale from Belgian Gardens – 1 x hive of European bees
vii. Glen Cox from Black River – 4 x hives of European bees
d. Equipment Steward, Frana McKinstry, detailed club membership & DPI registration packs. Noted importance of being registered with DPI for hive disease control.

2. BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MONTH

a. QBA pre-conference meeting reminder for 12 July 2016 (1230-1400). Frana noted to club members that we need to deliver a message to QBA that the Townsville club is more than a small group of amateurs – which appears to be the perception of the QBA. Dan & Neil to attend the meeting as Townsville representatives.
b. Suggested issue to raise at meeting was the funding of an incinerator for the club.
c. Merchandising - T-shirt / Polo shirt design & / Broad-brim / Bucket hats & Bumper Stickers– no update at present. Final decision for design to rest with committee.
d. Honey Month – May. Activities for the month included:
i. Flow Hive Workshop
ii. Open Day
iii. ECO Festival
e. Thanks from the floor to those in those in the club who organised the Honey Month activities, & a suggestion that others from the floor might wish to volunteer in advance for next years honey month

activities. Frana noted that bookings for major venues (e.g. library) needs to be undertaken a year in advance & that extra assistance with this type of organisation would be helpful.
f. President raised potential purchase of advertisement banners for the club – e.g. teardrops. Showed an advertisement to the floor whereby company (FLAGS / BANNERS / DISPLAYS) will design the banners from club ideas. Could potentially mirror T-shirt / Polo designs. Prices range from $195-$245)

3. CORRESPONDENCE
a. Email received from Bob Luttrell (Native Bee Keeper) wondering if the club was interested in a workshop in August, where he could demonstrate / instruct on new types of native hives / boxes. Show of hands from the floor indicated at least 10 members would be interested in attending. President will respond on clubs interest to host a workshop. Details of the workshop will be on Facebook & in the club newsletter.

4. PRESIDENTS MESSAGES
a. Beware Winter – make sure your hive is on solid ground & does not sink as the ground softens with rain;
b. Ensure hive is set at a slight angle so rainwater cannot enter hive & drown bees;
c. Don't take honey now – leave it for the bees over winter.

5. **TREASURERS REPORT** – as per attached data. Other information provided included:
a. Update on merchandise available to club members (prices well below shop / on-line prices);
b. Public Liability insurance paid;
c. Reminder that club renewals are due 01 Aug 16

6. **SHOP REPORT** – Dan Horn will be managing the merchandise while Frana & Jon are away. Before handing over, Frana demonstrated the new ventilated suit now available for $95.00 through the club.

7. **LIBRARY REPORT** – Librarian, Kirsty Sugden reported that all books accounted for & available for borrowing. A couple of journals are still out.

8. **NEWSLETTER REPORT** – Tracy will be away before the next newsletter is due out. Request for early submission of articles made. President reminded members that newsletter is due out one week prior to all meetings (which are held on the 3rd week of each month).

9. GENERAL BUSINESS
a. Frana asked for a volunteer to be an email POC whilst she is away. Sonia volunteered.
b. Frana noted display of new Styrofoam beehives for club members to look at. Triple hive sells at $200.
c. Tony Compton discussed new style of beetle trap for flow hive & paradise hive.
d. Trailer update – club still looking at grants. Information still being assimilated including criteria that need to be satisfied – e.g. collaboration with other agencies (like educational groups). Plus the club needs a history of grant experience in order to become more competitive in the grant landscape.

10. **GUEST SPEAKERS** – Norm & Janet from Bird Life Townsville spoke on the Rainbow Bee Eater currently causing Townsville beekeepers with problems. Norm provided club members with the following information:
a. Background on the bee eater habits & behaviour, including Northern & Southern (migratory) varieties;
b. Demonstration of sounds made by bee eater;
c. Legal position on protection of bee eater, including cannot kill or interfere with nests. Hefty fines exist;
d. Predator may include Brown Goshawk. Predator call demonstrated to club. Predator sound test conducted locally. Inconclusive results, however Bird Life Australia is prepared to do more tests;
e. Electronic bird calls can be obtained online at Pizzey & Knight Birds of Australia Digital Application.

11. **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR** - Jon McKinstry provided information on two journal articles. One about potential for flower pollen to transmit disease, the other on the benefits of the addition of caffeine to bee feed.

12. Next meeting to be held at Hermit Park School.

13. Meeting closed at 1500

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

Written by: Mark Hodder
Authorised:

Queensland Government

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Media Release

8 July 2016
Invitation to Townsville beekeeper meeting

Beekeepers are invited to attend an information session in Townsville on Tuesday 12 July to hear the latest information about the local varroa mite detection and response activities.

What: Varroa mite information session
Where: Mercure Townsville
166 Woolcock Street
When: Tuesday 12 July 2016, 6.30pm – 7.30pm
No RSVP required

Biosecurity Queensland officers will provide details of surveillance activities underway, and how beekeepers can protect their hives from varroa mite and other biosecurity threats.

Representatives from the Queensland Beekeepers Association and Australian Honey Bee Industry Council will also make presentations.

Biosecurity Queensland is currently conducting surveillance in the Townsville port area after the exotic bee parasite varroa mite was confirmed in a feral Asian honey bee hive was recently detected there.

Restrictions have been imposed on the movement of bee hives, bees, bee products (excluding honey), and used bee keeping equipment from the Townsville area to prevent any possible spread of the mite.

Varroa mites are a serious pest and a threat to the local honey bee industry. Certain species and strains can infest European honey bees, killing off hives and severely affecting honey production and pollination services.

If you know of feral bee hives in the Townsville area, or see Asian honey bees or suspect your bees have been affected, call the Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

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

For information on Asian honey bees visit www.daf.qld.gov.au

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

Media: Mark Hodder 3087 8598

This newsletter comers to you slighter later due to holiday and illness issues; should have stayed in Sunny Townsville and watched my bees!
Thanks to all who contributed to this issue.
ktmadventurer@hotmail.com is where you can send all future articles.
Remember, this is a newsletter run by the Club, for the Club
May Mother Nature reign in your gardens…

National Conferences in Townsville July 2016

Put these dates in your diary - this is a fantastic opportunity to be smothered in bee and honey related information, new developments, research and face-to face contact with both small and big wheels in the bee business.

Annual National Conferences of:
Queensland Beekeepers Association on Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th July at the Mercure Inn, Townsville. Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Friday 15th July, at the Mercure Inn, Townsville, followed by their AGM.

TDBA Inc Office Holders for 2015/2016

President:	Ron Rapson	ronald.i.rapson@team.telstra.com
Vice President:	Paul Payne	trapper4812@gmail.com
Secretary:	Connie Navarro	navarroc@bigpond.com
Treasurer:	Frana McKinstry	franajon@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor:	Lindsay Trott	tro9lindsay@gmail.com
Librarian:	Kirsty Sugden	
Equipment Steward:…	Frana McKinstry	franajon@gmail.com
Webmaster:	Nathan Size	smilesgardenbags@live.com
Publicity Officer:	Sonya Verburgt	sonyaverb@optusnet.com.au
Committee Members:	Dave Bowtell	spanner1969@gmail.com
	Dave Turnbull	turnbuld@bigpond.net.au

Honorary Members of the TDBA Inc

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

Dennis ANGER Graeme & Adele ARMSTRONG Ken & Marcia CALEO

Dave HOEY Mike & Jill JAMES Doug & Sonya MCBRIDE

CLUB MEMBERSHIP FEES NOW DUE!

Club Shop Items- 2016 Price List

These prices are only available to current financial members

CLUB MEMBERSHIP FEES NOW DUE!

Item	Price $	Comment
Veil - Native bee	10.00	
Veil - cotton	15.00	
Veil - ventilated	20.00	
Jacket / Round hat (cotton)	55.00	
Ventilated jacket	75.00	
Full suit (Cotton)	75.00	
Full suit Ventilated	95.00	
Emlock	12.00	
Gloves	20.00	
Super — Rebated	25.00	Full depth, unassembled
Super - Dove tail	26.00	Full depth, unassembled
Super - Treated Ply	35.00	Full depth, unassembled
Hive Lids	25.00	
Hive Bases	25.00	
Lifting Cleats (Handles)	5.00 pair	
Spring clips	2.00	
Hive tool (S/S)	15.00	
Hive tool (Yellow)	8.00	
Smoker	35.00	
Queen Excluder - Wire	20.00	
Queen Excluder - Plastic	6.00	
Frames - Full depth	1.50	
Foundation - Plastic	2.00	
Foundation - Wax	1.60	
Eyelets pkt 500	10.00	
Bee Brush - Natural bristle	10.00	
Bee Brush - Synthetic bristle	8.00	
Queen Catcher	3.00	
Frame Gripper	10.00	
Bee Feeder	2.00	
Gate valve	10.00	
Capping knife, serrated	15.00	
Comb scratcher	8.00	
Honey jars 250gm	0.65	
Honey jars 500gm	0.75	
Honey jars 1 kg	1.00	
Honey Pails 1kg	1.25	
Strainers (fit bucket)	80.00	
TRAPS		
Apithor trap	6.00	
Silver Bullet trap	7.00 or 3 for $20	
BeetlTra bottom trap	20.00	
TK Beetle mat	6.00	
Booklet - Managing AFB	6.00	

TDBA Starter Kit - $95

The Perfect Gift for a budding Beekeeper

All available in Townsville:

Club Members Price Only!

Bee Jackets $55 Hive tool $8 Gloves $20

Smoker $35 Bee Brush $10,

All five items sold as a Beginners Kit $95

Contact: Frana: Ph. 0401 014 948

CLUB MEMBERSHIP FEES NOW DUE!

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

Honey, wax, boxes, frames, plastic foundation and much more.Pollination services. Will help new members get started with bees

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

Townsville & District

BEEKEEPERS

Like us on Facebook

ASSOCIATION

PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale, Q4814 www.beesnorth.com.au