

Newsletter of the Townsville and District Beekeepers Association

March 2015

Volume 2015,
Issue 2



PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale, Q4814



Sylvester the Beekeeper !

As you can probably guess by the honey comb in his hand, Sylvester is a beekeeper.



Sylvester began tending his first hives in 1969 while was living with his family in Uganda. However when war broke out under Idi Amin in 1978, he was forced to return home to Rwanda. Ever since, he's been keeping bees and caring for his countless hives dotting the Rwandan hillsides.



Just by looking at Sylvester, you wouldn't easily guess how successful his business is. His quaint house is tucked away down a dirt path on a small patch of land overlooking the river. It's so peaceful and quiet; all you can hear are birds chirping and bees buzzing.

Every year Sylvester's bees produce 600kg, about 1,323lbs, of honey, which he sells for 2,000RWF per kilogram. That totals almost \$2,000 a year.

Rwandan beehives don't look much like the beehives we're used to seeing . Instead of rectangular, white boxes, Rwandan hives are long and circular. The inside is made of twigs woven together, which are then covered in banana leaves. When they are tucked up in a tree, they blend in with the foliage,



Special points of interest:

-

Next meeting:

Sunday 2:00PM
15 March 2015.
At 1576 Riverway
Drive, Kelso

REMEMBER—
your chair

Sylvester the Beekeeper *continued...*



Sylvester currently has 76 hives, spread out across his property and other fields around the area. A few years ago, he sold a huge number of hives and is slowly increasing his numbers. In two years, he hopes to increase his production to include 1,000 hives in all. As Sylvester showed me around, I asked how he keeps from getting stung. He only has a beekeeper's hat to protect his face, but he assured me it's not a problem. He explained that his bees know him and allow him to open the hives without incident. However if a stranger approaches them alone, the bees will become very agitated. Today I only had a short visit with Sylvester, but I really enjoyed it. I told him when Dad comes to visit, we'll have to come back for a better visit. I'm sure Dad will have all sorts of questions to ask. And he's promised to share some honey the next time he harvests!



Minutes of the Meeting....

TDBA October meeting 15-02-2015.

TDBKA Meeting 15-Feb-15,

(Geoff Fischer's place, Balgal Beach)

Meeting commenced 14:00 with the opening and splitting of a hive. President Ron welcomed members and many new faces.



Attendances: As per signed book, ~45 people

Minutes: Tendered and taken as read.

Matters arising: Dave T queried the decision not to provide receipts for monies tendered. Frana clarified that every transaction is still recorded and that receipts will only be issued if requested.

Native bee workshop will be two one-day sessions on Fri 22 and Sat 23 May 2015. Venue is the Ooonooba Community Center, 2 Shannon St, Ooonooba. Tim Heard (presenter) is booked and will cost ~\$2500. Cost of workshop will be \$40 - \$50 each, to be confirmed. Book and pay early with Frana as we have a long list of carryovers from last October.

Australian Defence Expo was manned by Ron R, Mick T and Dave T. Lots of interest from defence staff and families. Thanks to these three for flying the club flag.

Treasurers Report: Frana presented balance sheets for 2012/13 and 2013/14 – refer her report. Cash in bank is just over \$4,000. We have 121 paid up members which is the healthiest the club has been, ever.

General business: Question re aggressive beehive (i.e. bees randomly attacking people in the yard) and what can be done. A number of possible solutions to keep bees quiet while working them, incl sugar water spray, sprinkling icing sugar around the hive, but long-term the best solution is re-queening the hive.

Frana was introduced to new comers as also being the equipment officer. She ran through the stock now available – see ads at the back of the newsletter.

Dave T has been getting lots of pollen and little brood. In Canada this has been correlated with a harsh winter ahead. Indicative of long wet season for us?

Ray mentioned that packs of moth balls are normally hard to find, but are now available from Overflow in the Annandale shopping centre. These are good for chasing swarms out of wall cavities and other hard-to-get-at places. Works especially well when swarms have just arrived.



Discussion on how best to deal with honey that is really thick and won't spin out. Lycee trees are one of a number of trees that produce viscous honey. .

Minutes of the Meeting.....continued..

The advice is to extract as much as you can and return the frame to the hive. Next time the honey will have been diluted with new honey and will be easier to extract.

Discussion on how best we can help the Mackay beekeepers form a local club. Member Paul Marsh is trying to get a local club going. Members were asked to attend their next meeting. We can also help with a website, newsletter and equipment.

A photographer (Honey Atkinson) wants to do an exhibition of beekeepers in action and is after volunteers to photograph. Members are asked to be subjects

Discussion on the use of queen pheromones to attract swarms. Lemon grass is supposedly also a good attractant. Few members have tried either method. Sid Hislop mentioned he had tried pheromones three times without success.

Meeting closed 15:06. A delicious afternoon tea followed with plenty of discussion as well as a box building demonstration by Jon McK. Thanks to Vicki for the catering.

Ray

(stand-in Secretary as Grant was unable to attend)

Next meeting:

15 March - Steve Kersnovske's place, 1576 Riverway Drv, KELSO

April -

May -

June - Sonya's place Gulliver

July - Virginia requested a meeting at the gun club in Ayr

Hive Lifter for Sale .



Hive lifter – works well. BYO cordless drill. Needs new string

\$60.00 Contact Ray 0427 473239

Self Extracting Hive..



A new device which allows beekeepers to extract honey without disturbing the hive is to go into full-scale production, after receiving overwhelming support from online crowd-sourcing.

Stuart Anderson and son Cedar, from northern New South Wales, invented the [inbuilt extractor which collects fresh honey as it drips out through plastic tubes](#). Their product, the Flow Hive, was officially launched in Canberra this morning, with an online campaign which raised its \$70,000 target within seconds.

The campaign will be open to online funding pledges until April and has already received more than \$1 million in donations from bee enthusiasts around the world.

Stuart said the response to the product was unprecedented and unexpected.

"We're sort of stunned really, because there's been such an immediate response," he said.

"Within a few minutes we'd hit our target, and now it's only a few hours later and it's at \$1 million."

We hoped it would work, our tests showed it should work and we turned the handle and waited. When the first pour of fresh honey came out filling the jar, that was a moment.

Inventor Cedar Anderson

He said he and his son could not believe that no-one had previously come up with the concept.

"We did thorough patent searches and we realised that we were onto something, because we thought, 'someone must have done this'," Mr Anderson said.

"There were some people in the 1920s who tried it, but when we looked at what they'd done, we could see that it wouldn't have worked.

"We've searched, but no-one's done it like this before."

The pair created a "plastic, artificial honeycomb or matrix" that the bees then build their honeycomb on.

VIDEO: [YouTube - Flow Hive](#)

"Instead of being separate cells it becomes a vertical channel," he said.

"The honey can flow down those channels."

Cedar said the invention was the result of a decade of tinkering.

"We hoped it would work, our tests showed it should work and we turned the handle and waited," he said.

"When the first pour of fresh honey came out filling the jar, that was a moment."

Invention could change day-to-day life of beekeepers: Stuart
But Stuart said that moment was still sinking in.

"It's going to take me a while to realise how big this is for beekeepers and for the world," he said.



PHOTO: [Inventors Stewart Anderson \(R\) and son Cedar.](#) (ABC News: Ruby Cornish)

Self Extracting Hive..continued

Manufacturing is expected to begin in Brisbane in a month, with plans to expand overseas already in the works.

"We'll be setting up new factories ... cranking out the parts as fast as we can," Stuart said.

"We'll probably have one other manufacturing scene overseas somewhere.

"Maybe in America somewhere because the local Brisbane factory wouldn't be able to supply the demand."

Stuart said that commercial producers were maintaining a "wait-and-see attitude".

"Beekeepers are somewhat conservative and set in their ways," he said.

"I can understand that, they've invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in machinery and gear and equipment to process beehives.

"They won't change in a hurry, and that's okay."



PHOTO: The Flow Hive has an inbuilt honey extractor. (ABC News: Ruby Cornish)

Research Project - Jelly Honey..

The University of Technology Sydney is leading an exciting new research project looking for more sources of medicinal Australian *Leptospermum* honey (aka jelly bush, or Australian manuka).

We are asking beekeepers with access to *Leptospermum* (jelly bush / manuka) honeys from anywhere in the country to provide samples to include in this research project. We will test these honeys for antimicrobial activity and investigate the relationship between the activity and the plant source.

The project will run over the next three years plus, to allow us to collect and test as many Australian *Leptospermum* honeys as possible.

Why are we doing this?

Manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*) honey from NZ is world famous, and it is sold at a much higher price than other honeys. However, although Australia is home to the largest diversity of *Leptospermum* plants in the world (we have more than 80 species compared to NZ's two!), most of our honeys do not enjoy the high prices of their NZ equivalents.

We already know that a handful of Australian *Leptospermum* honeys have similar levels of antibacterial activity to NZ manuka, but most of the other 80 plus Australian varieties have not been tested. We want to find more sources of active honey, which will help the Australian beekeeping industry by increasing the amount and value of medicinal Australian honey being produced.

If you have access to *Leptospermum* honeys from anywhere in Australia, and would like to include them in our survey, please get in touch with us. We'll be asking for approximately 500 g, and some information about the location it was collected, as well as samples from the plants the bees visited to produce the honey. We will provide a collection kit containing clear instructions, an address to send your samples to and other important information for our study.

We will keep the results confidential, but we will provide anyone supplying samples with a report on the results from the testing of their honeys.

The Research Team involved in this project includes Dr Shona Blair, Dr Peter Brooks and Professor Dee Carter, as well as the Principle Investigator, Professor Liz Harry and the Project Coordinator, Nural Cokcetin. The project is being funded by RIRDC, with support from Capilano and Comvita.

For more information on providing samples, please contact:

Nural Cokcetin, Project Coordinator, University of Technology Sydney M-0405284718 email– nural.cokcetin@uts.edu.au
OR

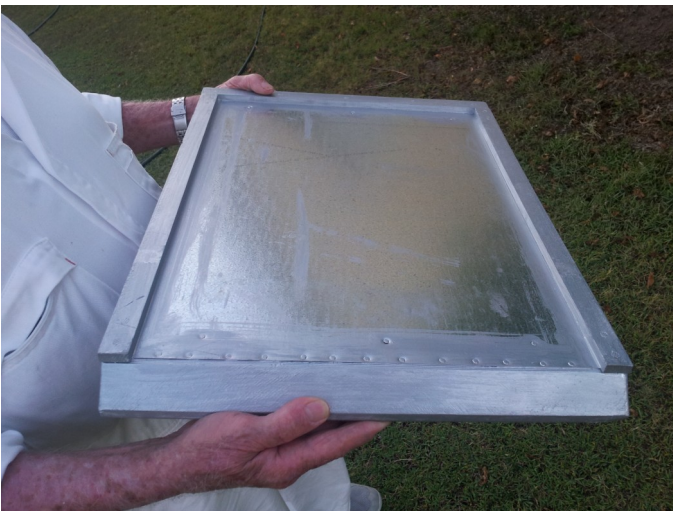
Professor Liz Harry, Principle Investigator, University of Technology Sydney, M– 0404643181 or 02 98106461 email— Elizabeth.harry@uts.edu.au

Classifieds

For Sale

Bottom Boards - 10 Frames
wood & metal pressure primed before assembly and ready for use
made to Australian Standards
9mm risers & cleats
70x35 mm to fit commonly used stands

\$20 each
Graham Smith
232 Corcoran Street
Currajong 4812
t - 47796591



For Sale

Club shop News

We're increasing the range of items available to club members. Dan Donovan has made plastic foundation and full depths frames available, we also stock wax foundation and wire excluders (limited number) and are expecting new stock of the vented bee jackets in the near future.

Club Polo Shirts

Don't forget we still have these shirts, and I would like to get them moving. They are only \$22 each, please consider purchasing one of the remaining sizes/colours

White – 3XL; XL; L; M and S are available

Beige – 3XL, M and S are available

Womens style, we have 1 x white and 1 x beige, both Size 14 available.

Honey gate \$10

Smokers for sale - \$35

Gloves \$20

Honey gate \$10

Un-capping knife \$15

Hive Tools for sale - \$5

Frames \$1.35ea

Wax foundation \$1.35 ea

**Ring Frana Ph 0401 014 948 OR
franajon@gmail.com**

Wanted to Buy

Bees wanted

- Marg Crane
- Waldon Edwards

Bees for Sale

- Graeme Armstong
- Jon & Frana McKinstry

Anyone wanting to sell OR buy any equipment, bees, wooden ware or the like please forward a email with preferably a photo, some details and a price to wayne@bcqld.com.au

Club Shop Price List...

Item	Price	Comment
Veil with drawstring	20.00	
Jacket / Round hat	50.00	
Ventilated jacket	70.00	
Full Suit	75.00	
Gloves	20.00	
Hive tool (S/S)	12.00	
Hive tool (Yellow)	5.00	
Smoker	35.00	
Queen Excluder - Wire	20.00	Limited supply
Queen Excluder - Plastic	5.00	Ideal for use as inner lids
Frames - Full depth	1.35	
Foundation - Plastic	1.90	
Foundation - Wax	1.25	
Bee Brush - Natural bristle	8.00	
Bee Brush - Synthetic bristle	7.00	
Queen Catcher	3.00	
Frame Gripper	8.00	
Gate valve	10.00	
Capping knife, serrated	15.00	
Comb scratcher	6.00	
Honey jars 500gm	0.75	
TRAPS		
Apithor trap	6.00	
Silver Bullet trap	7.00	or 3 for \$20
TK Beetle mat	6.00	
"Die Ya Bastard" trap	TBA	
Diatomaceous earth	2.00	
Booklet - Managing AFB	6.00	
Club Polo Shirts	22.00	

TDBAI is supported by ...

THE AUSTRALIAN BEE-KEEPER MAGAZINE (ABK)

Published monthly
Subscriptions \$72 per year.
Available from
Pender Beegoods, PMB 19,
MAITLAND NSW 2320

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



Apithor Traps \$6
TK Mats for SHB \$6
Silver Bullet SHB traps \$7
See our Treasurer—Frana...



*All locally available in Townsville:
Club Members Only!*

Bee Jackets \$50 Hive tools \$5
Bee Brush \$7 Gloves \$20
Smokers \$35
All five items sold as a Beginners Kit \$90

Uncapping knives sold separately - \$15
Gate Valve \$10

Frana Ph 0401 014 948

