

# Newsletter of the Townsville and District Beekeepers Association

May 2015

Volume 2015,  
Issue 5



PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale, Q4814



## Australian Bees Wax..

Australian beekeepers say they're cashing in on a significant rise in the international demand for beeswax.

Beeswax is used to make cosmetics like lipstick, but in the northern hemisphere, it's tainted by a chemical called miticide, which is used to control varroa mite, a tiny parasite which attacks bees and eventually destroys their hives.

Australia doesn't have varroa mite and beeswax is rarely exposed to chemicals or residual sprays or pesticides.

Beekeeper Carmen Pearce-Brown, from Canberra, says demand for her beeswax has doubled in the past year and the price has risen from \$3 to \$7 per kilogram.

"The demand is huge. We've almost got a waiting list actually for our bulk wax," she said.

"It's a desperation in people wanting to source the wax and, for example, candle makers in metropolitan areas are making direct contact with beekeepers now to source wax for their candle making." Capilano Honey's beekeeping services manager, Bill Winner, says demand for beeswax has increased by 25 per cent in the last two years and it's expected to continue to rise.

"As a company, we would export between 150 to 170 tonnes of beeswax to Europe and US customers and a little bit into Asia, annually," he said.



"The beekeepers produce it in seven to eight kilogram blocks and we stack them on export pallets and we stress wrap them and place them onto shipping containers."

But Mr Winner says not everyone in the industry is capitalising on the beeswax boom.

"Australia's been influenced by severe drought over the past few years and that's presented in a honey drought. As a result, there's been a drop in the availability of beeswax, so it's far outstripped the ability to produce it," he said.

"So if a beekeeper was able to generate wax through the honey that he did produce, then that return is definitely assisting them greatly this year."

Mr Winner says mother nature will largely dictate whether the industry can meet the international demand for beeswax in the future. All that's needed is 'a good season!'

### Special points of interest:

- Australian Wax
- Meeting minutes
- Bees w- nicotine
- Classifieds
- TDBA Shop

### Next meeting:

**Sunday 2:00PM**  
**17 May 2015.**  
**At Riley Road**  
**Cape Cleveland**

**REMEMBER—**  
**your chair**

## *Minutes of the Meeting....*

**TDBA February meeting 18-04-2015.**

Held at Nathan's place in Kelso.

**V/P Paul opened the meeting. 2.10, welcoming members and newer members.**

Frana lead a nucleus hive transfer for a member, from a 5 frame hive box into a 10 frame hive box. She and others explained what was happening. They were very quiet bees.

**Present:** as per signed book, Apologies: as per the book and the Charters Towers contingent, Doug and Sonya McBride, Sonya V. Robert T. Virginia Muspratt.

**Minutes of Previous meeting** Taken as read

Moved, Frana sec: Connie N.

Carried.

**Matters arising:**

Native bee workshop organizing has begun some have paid. need to fill in the SHB survey, it is our best interests as beekeepers.

A few have had slimed out hives. Books still to be ordered the secretary issue, Carried over people thinking about it.

**Correspondence:** memberships have been paid in the past month. Ray registered us as Flow Hive interested party. QBA newsletter,

Website changes to be actioned. Ray to action new name will be [beesnorth.com.au](http://beesnorth.com.au) when it all goes through.

**Treasurer's report:** see separate sheet. over 132 members. Bank account healthy, over \$6000, but expenses will come out to cater for the Native bee workshop.

Club has spent money on Apithor traps and a ute load of beekeeping equipment thanks to Ray (and Frana) and his trip to Brisbane. Already many of they have been sold.

Moved Ray B. Sec. Ron Rapson.

**General Business.**

**Native bee workshop on the Friday the 22 of May and 23rd of May.** costs \$40 for members and \$50 for nonmembers. Frana spoke at length with that. More native hives needed for splits to be done.

The committee have been working well together with organizing the workshops.

Trevor mentioned that perhaps the club could purchase a cheap computer for our records to be stored. Discussion followed and Jon mc. proposed that it be left on the table and considered closely in the future.

Frana asked about what benefits our club had belonging to the QBA. She also put on You Tube a film of one queen stinging another hatching queen in the queen cell. very interesting.

Ali Mendi mentioned about a venue to hold meetigns because of the numbers turning up now. maybe an alternative arrangement could be decided upon. we could support Rob Stevens in a way if it was held at the same place. each time.

Ray spoke of handling hive splits and introducing queen bees.

Paul spoke about the upcoming eco fiesta and the need to have volunteers for our stall on Sunday the 31st May probably at Queens Gardens in North Ward. He strongly advised the newer members to help out because to the knowledge they would obtain.

Jon clarified about the issue of purchasing the book the ABC of plants. decision left on the table. The library is functioning well and the members need to use it please as it will help with knowledge.

Frana asked for the possibility of listing the club honey sellers on the website in order for people to look up places where they could purchase honey. Frana and Wayne to coordinate it.

Ron R. spoke on collecting a swarm.  
new members paid dues.

Members are asked again to do an icing sugar shake of their bees to check for varroa. **Please report any test particularly negative ones,** let Rob Stevens know.

Ron asked people to consider having a meeting at their place no volunteers for the may meeting.

Justin a new member form Cape Cleveland.

Grant will be standing down as secretary in the near future so please consider volunteering for the task.

**Next Meeting**

May undecided.

June Sonya's place in Gulliver.

July Virginia's hives at the pistol (gun) club near Clare in the Burdekin.

Please look up addresses in our membership lists sent

Meeting closed 3.45. Coffee, tea, and some eats and lots of discussions were enjoyed.

# Bumblebees use nicotine

Bumblebees that have been infected by parasites seek out flowers with nicotine in the nectar, likely to fight off the infection, new research has found. The nicotine appears to slow the progression of disease in in-

Researchers from Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) and Royal Holloway, University of London (RHUL), gave bumblebees the option to choose between a sugar solution with nicotine in it and one without. Those bees infected with the *Crithidia bombi*

Dr David Baracchi from the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences at QMUL, co-author of the research, said: "While it's clear that there is some benefit to nicotine consumption for parasite-infected bees, a key challenge now is to discover exactly how such natural medication limits the impact of the disease on



parasite were more likely to go for the nicotine-laced nectar than those that weren't infected.

Infected bumblebees that consumed nicotine delayed the progress of the infection for a few days, showing lower levels of parasites than those that had not. However, it did not increase the life expectancy of those bees, meaning that the direct benefits of nicotine for the bee colony remain to be identified.

the bees' society.

"Given the stresses placed on worldwide bee populations by disease, understanding how the bees themselves fight infection is key."

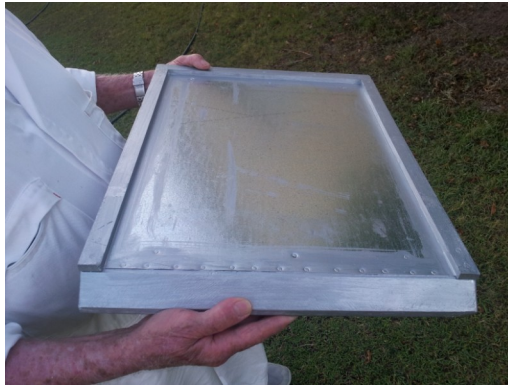
# Classifieds

## 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



## Beekeeping Equipment for Sale

Supers; Nucs; excluders; frames etc

Barry Madsen, 23 Bundock Street, Belgian Gardens  
Ph 47714969

## 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 have new stock of the vented bee jackets .

### 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 MS or SSteel \$12.00

Frames \$1.35ea

Wax foundation \$1.60 ea

***Ring Frana Ph 0401 014 948 OR***

***franajon@gmail.com***

## Wanted to Buy

### Bees wanted

***- Marg Crane (Swarm)***

### Bees for Sale

***- Jon & Frana McKinstry***

***- Mick Taylor***

***- Kevin Harding***

***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	1.60	
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	
1kg Buckets	1.25ea	
<b>TRAPS</b>		
Apithor trap	6.50	
Silver Bullet trap	7.00	or 3 for \$20
TK Beetle mat	6.00	
"Die Ya Bastard" trap	2.00	
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**

