



## Newsletter No 4 May 2016

### In this Issue:

- Native bee hive split
- Open Day!
- Bee Bloopers
- Flow Hive demo report back
- ...and so much more!



So many new members below!  
Maybe one of them are in your area?  
Say G'Day if you can....

**Next Meeting:**  
**2:00 pm Sunday,**  
**15th May 2016**  
**Open Day at 12pm**  
**Hermit Park State School**  
**Bring a chair - and a plate of food if you can**

## ***Frana M does the splits - Sonya' Cs native hive success***

The TDBA Inc March meeting had a demonstration native hive split by Frana M. It all went well and the two hives were back in the old spot within the hour and bees coming and going very quickly. A very solid and well constructed new hive box will provide good insulation for the bees in their new home. Check the photos below.



Above: a nice hive showing the advancing front, honey pots and pollen stores on the upper left photo, and after the split - nice and clean with plenty of honey and pollen stores for the lower part of the new hive.

On the left: the new splits back in their old place

Solid new timber 3 part hive box with ventilated shade top

## France moving towards a total ban on the use of neonics

France just became the first country in the world to move toward a full ban on neonicotinoids (or “neonics”), a class of chemical responsible for global bee deaths. Check out the Facebook video by protest group “SumofUs”. [Click here...](#)

## Honey Showcase for May!



Honey with a golden glow - harvested from Lindsay T's hive in North Ward after waiting 9 months for them to cap it off and maturing in the hive. It's been a long wait but the taste is very complex with fruit after tones and slightly citrus higher aromas and a definite Eucalyptus astringency, ....aaaah.

## Bee Bloopers! (it happens to everyone!)

- (Photo on right) Naaaaah, I don't need foundation. Too much fuss and why not let the bees do natural....  
Never try that with genetically disorganised bees. Although I am certain it is perfectly organised for them
- From a Newbee....(no-one really knows when the Newbee phase is over!)  
Always check your smoker is FULL because Murphy's Law says that you will always need to be in the hive longer than you thought! (and bees tend to follow you whilst running frantically around trying to re-light it!)
- **In the Media – Two dogs die after bee attack in Rainbow Beach**



*Rainbow Beach Cooloola Coast (Queensland) Community News*

Bob Butter was staying at his son's holiday house in Cooloola Drive, and was walking near the Rainbow Beach Waste Facility when attacked by bees last weekend.

His dogs did not survive.

Bob couldn't return home to Logan, stung multiple times himself, he said, "It's the first day I've been up on my feet."

An apiarist friend has told Bob that dark colours may aggravate bees, and the two dogs were black and tan Doberman stumpy tail cattle dog cross.

It was confirmed that bees can respond to furry animals, particularly black as they are sometimes interpreted as their

natural predator – bears. This is why beekeepers wear white.

"I had the dogs 14 years, they wouldn't have done anything to the bees."

Bob said there are approximately 30 bee hives about 200 metres down a 4WD track near the Rainbow Beach dump gates (at the very end of Kurrawa Drive).

"It's more of a concern if kids go up there or anyone walking their dogs – the bees could be aggressive to anything coming around the hives. I don't know what ticked the bees off."

Dr. Shannon Coyne from Gympie Veterinary Service said, "There are 2 kinds of death by bee sting. The first is anaphylaxis or hypersensitivity which is a severe allergic reaction causing shock and death. This is the kind we are all more familiar with."

“The deaths of these dogs were due to the second kind which is a massive amount of toxin. It is not allergic in nature, it is actually envenomation like you expect from a snake or spider. We don't see this as you need enormous numbers of bees to provide enough venom.

He said that usually this occurs in the USA or Africa, “It is very rare in Australia”.

“The general numbers are: less than 14 bee stings per kg body weight the animal survives, 14 -24 is critical, more than 24 stings per kg is always fatal.

“These dogs were about 20 kg so would have had at least 300 stings each, possibly double that. There is no prevention except avoiding the bites.”

Residents have also reported that swarms of bees have been observed in Bombala Drive.

A spokesperson from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines has advised the Community News that, “Land adjacent to the corner of Kurrawa Drive and Koolyangarra Road, Rainbow Beach is unallocated State land owned by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

No person has been granted permission to place bee hives on this land.

- **Beekeeper’s hives destroyed by fire**

A beekeeper’s hives were destroyed by fire due to the owner’s failure to comply with legal requirements to identify all brood boxes.

The devastating loss of a commercial load of bees, estimated to be worth between \$10,000 and \$15,000 may have been averted had the owner clearly identified the brood boxes with the owner’s registered beekeeper’s number.

A frantic phone call from a concerned local resident was made to inform the authorities that a load of beehives were in the direct line of a raging bush fire. When asked did he know the owner of the hives or were there any identification on the boxes the reply was a sad, “No!”

The hives were placed there by the owner without seeking permission or informing the land owner or land manager.

All the hives were destroyed in the fire that passed through the apiary site.

Eventually the owner of the hives came forward. When asked if he knew the requirements to identify all brood boxes he admitted that indeed he knew of that requirement.

A fact sheet entitled Identifying beehives was provided to the beekeeper. He then left to start identifying all his other brood boxes under his control.

This situation and similar ones have occurred in the past.

You could be placed in the same situation if you do not identify all brood boxes under your control.

## It figures....

From Lindsay's well-kept statistics ....a record of Honey production from his 4 hives, and an indication of what a bad wet season can do to output from the bees.

Year	Honey Production (kg)			
	5 McKinley	DPI @5 Mck	Bryony	Zolly
<b>Mar 12 -</b>				
<b>Mar 13</b>	48	-	-	-
<b>Mar 13 –</b>				
<b>Mar 14</b>	72	87	27	-
<b>Mar14 - Mar15</b>	32	44	85	126
<b>Mar 15 –</b>				
<b>Mar 16</b>	10	0	7	15

## Labelling of Honey

The Australian New Zealand Food Standards Code defines honey, prescribes its composition and identifies the information that must be provided when labeling it for retail sale.

### Definition

Standard 2.8.2 provides the following definition of honey:

The natural sweet substance produced by honey bees from the nectar of blossoms or from secretions of living parts of plants or excretions of plant sucking insects on the living parts of plants, which honey bees collect, transform and combine with specific substances of their own, store and leave in the honey comb to ripen and mature.

### Composition of honey

Standard 2.8.2 also stipulates the composition of honey should contain:

- (a) No less than 60 % reducing sugars; and
- (b) No more than 21 % moisture

### Labeling Requirements

Part 1.2 of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code sets out the information that must be provided on foods that are required to bear a label.

The label on a package of pure honey for retail sale must include the following general information:

The prescribed name of the product (i.e. honey);

The lot identification;

The name and business address of the supplier;

Date marking;

Nutrition labeling; and

Where the product for sale includes ingredients other than honey, the label must also include a list of ingredients and may be required to carry a declaration of key or characterising ingredients and components and/or a percentage declaration. If the product is pure honey, an ingredient label is not mandatory. The label must also include a statement about the country of origin of the product.

### Legibility Requirements for Food Labels

Any information required in or on a food label needs to comply with legibility requirements. All food labels must present information so that it is legible, prominent and in English.

Source:

<http://www.qualitybeekeepingsupplies.com.au/index.php/faqs/21-labelling-of-honey>

## OK all you Old Hands - find a Newbee and see who gets more correct answers!

- **How many stomachs does a bee have?**
  - Bees have two stomachs - one stomach for eating and the other special stomach is for storing nectar collected from flowers or water so that they can carry it back to their hive.
- **How many eyes does a bee have?**
  - Bees have five eyes - two compound eyes and three tiny ocelli eyes.
- **Are bees insects or bugs? Why?**

Bees are classified as insects and they have six legs.

- **What are the development stages of the bee?**
  - Bees go through four stages of development: Egg, Larvae, Pupae and Adult Bee
- **How many eggs (on average) will a Queen lay?**
  - The queen will lay around 1,500 eggs per day.
- **Honey was found in the tombs in Egypt – True or false?**
  - True

- What speed can a bee fly at?
  - 24 KM/H
- How many beats per second do bees wings beat?
  - Approximately 200 beats per second
- How much honey will an average worker make in her life time?
  - 1/12th of a teaspoon
- What are the five basic products that are harvested from bee hives?
  - Honey, propolis, pollen, beeswax and royal jelly.
- What is it American bears like from the bee hive the most?
  - Bee larvae
- Drone bees are used solely for the Cleaning and feeding of the baby bees – True or False?
  - False – Their job in the hive is to find a queen to mate with. Male bees fly out and meet in special drone congregation areas where they hope to meet a queen.
- Drones cannot sting a human – True or False
  - True – they don't have a stinger.
- How long have Bees been around?
  - 30 million years
- What do bees collect to make honey?
  - Nectar. If you said pollen they do indeed collect pollen but they use pollen for the feeding of babies as it is a good source of protein.
- How many wings do bees have?
  - Four. Interesting fact: bee wings have tiny 'teeth' that can lock together to make a single wing for extended flight.
- How is bees wax made?
  - It is made on Beeswax is produced by the bees. Bees have special glands on their stomach that secrete the wax into little wax pockets on their stomach. The bee takes the wax and chews it with her mandibles and shapes it to make honeycomb.

*(Note of exclamation from Inter-rim Editor: 1/12th of a teaspoon????)*



## New Members!

Wow - the Club is going really strong!

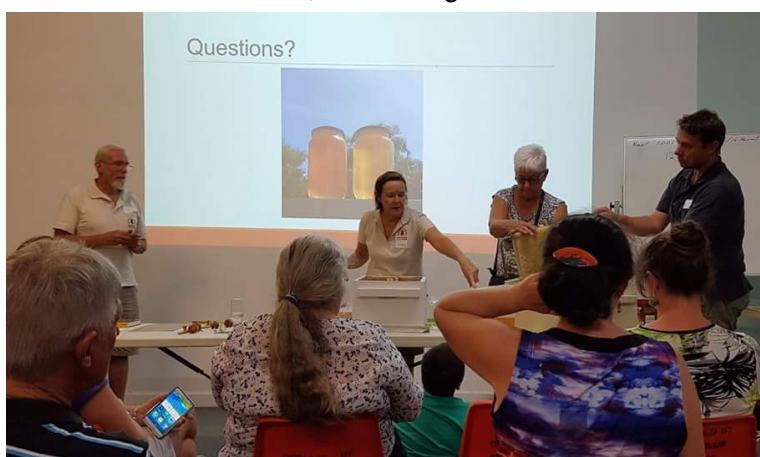
Graeme K	Victoria
Gary & Carmel G	Mysterton
Brigid M	Kelso
Mark Q	
Stephanie M	Cranbrook
Troy L	Bushland Beach
Pamela S	Millaroo
Kerry D	Herveys Range
Renee C	Alligator Creek
Shane H	Barratta
Chris & Michelle L	Alice River
Anthony & Samantha B	Mount Low
Daniel C	Braemeadows
Kim & Thomas B	Proserpine
Allison M	Bushland Beach
Blake C	Arcadia
Merilyn T	Oak Valley
Leah T	Bushland Beach
Sandra L	Kirwan
Ronelle & Dale W	Alice River
Arthur F	Vincent
Ian G	Lucinda



## Flow Hive workshop report

The Flow hive workshop presented by Frana and Jon on behalf of the TDBAI gave me more of an insight to the Flow hive I had ordered online. Being very new to beekeeping and only having had some small experience with Native Bees I wasn't really sure what to expect.

I thought there would be some work still involved for sure, but having watched the online video of the Flow hive I thought, this is great, no annoying the bees to get the honey out and therefore no stings and no messy clean up, this will be easy. So I felt that I had invested my \$1000 well (I paid extra for the cedar over the pine, thinking it must be better, right, because it costs so much more). Thank goodness I had offered up my newly ordered Flow hive for an example of construction otherwise I am not sure how I would have gone.



So thanks Jon and Frana for not only educating me on the construction but also the features and the benefits of both types of hive and doing all the major assembly for me.

After going through a comparison of the Flow Hive and the traditional style of hive, the Langstroth bee hive, which I have also purchased and am currently assembling for about a quarter of the price, I now understand some of the quite obvious things I had not realised. Such as not being able to obtain cappings wax to have my own wax from my bees. Something I was a bit sad on missing out on to be honest, I am glad I can at least do that in the Langstroth hive.

Sure the Flow hive has viewing windows to check the frames but only a portion of one side of one frame. I still will have to open it up and check the frames to ensure they are fully capped to be able to extract. I am still going to have to check for infestations of pests and or disease regularly. Frana and Jon advised the different types of things to look for and what you can put in place to avoid some of the pests. This was very helpful

as reading about them can be overwhelming, so further explanation and helpful questions and answers gave me more insight.



My Flow hive looks pretty, like a little house so it will look lovely in the garden. All the inner workings of the Flow hive are plastic which is great for some things, however in our climate and heat plastic can warp over time. So how long am I going to have my Flow hive frames intact well enough to use them? What if I do obtain the dreaded AFB in my hive and have to burn everything? \$1000 down the drain.

I, like many others, thought oh look a new and easy way to do something. Don't get me wrong, it has some advantages sure but only at the end when all the hard

work has been done. All in all as stated by Frana the main difference between managing the Flow hive and the Langstroth is mainly in honey extraction.

And given the cost difference I feel that getting sticky in the extraction process will be half the fun ☺. So, at this stage I am of the opinion that I have not wasted money, however have learned a very expensive lesson. When I populate my hives the first is going to be the Langstroth hive. This way I can learn the traditional ways and have a better understanding of my Bees and what they need. Then I can utilize the Flow hive. Come extraction time my opinion may sway, but who knows, it might be like when you're a kid and you fight to lick the batter off the bowl ☺.

Keep everyone posted ☺

Sonya Corkery

## ***Disaster – Run!***

There is something about disasters.

As a disaster unfolds, those involved often watch the event unfold in slow motion. While time seems to slow down, the event continues to unfold without any chance of intervention. Now - Seconds from Disaster...

“Here love, can you just give me a hand to lift this honey super off so that I can have a squiz in the brood box. Should only take a sec”. Now it probably would have been prudent for the vertically challenged helper to quickly ascertain that the heavy honey super

was going to be lifted down into an adequate space that was suitable for it. A snug, even tight fit space, may have suggested more space would have been better.

“Right ho, I’ve cracked the super and can you help me lift it down”. Now honey supers can get heavy, very heavy. A vertically challenged person has the added disadvantage of lifting at about head height on a three tier super.

Shortly into the operation – “oopse! I don’t think the super is going to fit. It is now hovering over the narrow, too narrow, opening and the strain on the diminutive arms was showing. Disaster was brewing. “lift it back up and we will make more space” It was never going to happen.

‘My hands are slipping from the handles’. Now the honey super was full of honey and bees. When it fell, it knocked the rest of the hive and yes, there was now enough space to put the honey super but the bees were on the ground with honey frames, brood frames and lots and lots and lots of very angry bees.

“Run Forrest, Run!” Usain Bolt would not have covered the distance from the event to the back screen door but then Usain Bolt does not normally have a cloud of angry bees encouraging him to move faster. These angry fans hung about the screen door for quite some time.

The moral of the story is – If you are trying to get fit in a hurry, just drop a super full of bees and all your anaerobic exercise will be condensed into that slowly developing window of time that accompanies disaster.

*(From the inter-rim Editor again.....and this is almost word for word what happened to me recently, and I'm still recovering from a torn disc in my back; at least I got to get up close and really personal with all my bees on the ground! OUCH.....)*



## MINUTES

**Meeting:** General Meeting  
**Date:** 17 April 2016  
**Time:** 2pm  
**Venue:** 193 Purono Parkway, Yabulu

AGENDA ITEM	COMMENT
<b>Welcome by President</b>	
<b>Present / Apologies</b>	Refer to Attendance Book
<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>	Mover: Dave Bowtell Seconded: David Turnbull
<b>Business from Previous Meeting</b>	<b>QBA Annual General Meeting Townsville</b> Conference Agenda Circulated Mick Taylor and Dave Bowtell to attend on behalf of TDBA  <b>Proposed Workshop – Flow Hives</b> On 1 May 2016, Wildlife Carers Building 31 attendees confirmed Perhaps cap at 50 Reserve your spot  <b>EcoFiesta – update</b> On 29 May 2016 Will be contacted by end of month to confirm our spot. Volunteers will be required on the day
<b>Correspondence</b>	QBA Newsletters Australian BeeKeeper Magazine Administration items – PO Box renewal, bank statements
<b>President Report</b>	Nil
<b>Shop Report</b>	Good variety and level of stock available. Stock samples provided at meeting.

<b>Librarian Report</b>	Absent from meeting.
<b>Newsletter Report</b>	Lindsay Trott will be away. Tracy Braun will take on production of Newsletter.
<b>Special Business</b>	<p><b>Public Liability Insurance</b></p> <p>Executive has made decision to obtain public liability insurance for the club. Broker has provided quotes which are being considered by executive.</p> <p>Will have in place by May workshop.</p> <p><b>Honey Month – May</b></p> <p>Flow Hive Workshop will kick things off.</p> <p>Library display – Sonia Corkery to investigate</p> <p>Other activities to be considered</p>
<b>General Business</b>	<p><b>TDBA Membership Update</b></p> <p>185 Financial Members</p> <p>DAF Membership Packs available</p> <p><b>QBA Membership</b></p> <p>Club is member with no hives. Therefore club pays \$50 membership.</p> <p><b>Banner</b></p> <p>Lindsay to provide logos to Sonya</p> <p><b>Jervoise Meats – Certified Organic</b></p> <p>Opportunity for beekeeper who would like to put hives on Jervoise station - Organic beef production.</p> <p>Individual members who are interested should contact Jervoise.</p> <p><b>TDBA Merchandise</b></p> <p>Tito providing options for New Shirts, Bucket hats.</p> <p>Also consider Stickers.</p>
<b>Next Meeting</b>	Hermit Park State School
<b>Close Meeting</b>	3.20pm

As Lindsay is away for a few months, please send all articles, bloopers, news items and anything bee related to the temporary Editor, Tracy  
[ktmadventurer@hotmail.com](mailto:ktmadventurer@hotmail.com)

### 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in each class.

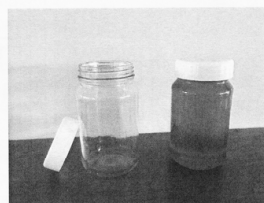
**One jar only per class per exhibitor**

**Please note: All entries close at 9.15am Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> 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 <i>Recreational beekeepers can also exhibit in any of the other classes if they so desire.</i>	1 jar
Class 6 – Granulated Honey	1 jar

## 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 13<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July at the Mercure Inn, Townsville.

Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July, at the Mercure Inn, Townsville, followed by their AGM.

### TDBA Inc Office Holders for 2015/2016

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

### 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 Shop Items- 2016 Price List

These prices are only available to current financial members

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Price \$</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Veil - Native bee	10.00	
Veil - cotton	15.00	
Veil - ventilated	20.00	
Jacket / Round hat	55.00	
Ventilated jacket	70.00	
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	20.00	
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	1.50	
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	new
<b>TRAPS</b>		
Apithor trap	6.00	
Silver Bullet trap	7.00	
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***



***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**

