Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc.)

www.beesnorth.com.au

PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814

Newsletter No 8 September 2018

In this Issue:

Next Meeting: Geoff & Michelle Hasted
16 Cataract Ave, Rangewood
2pm Sunday 16 September 2018

Members to bring their smokers and their smoking material for a "light up" competition.
We will supply the fire lighter to keep it fair, prizes for 1 light and must keep smoking for 10 min. Judged on coolness of smoke, colour and smell. Judges decision final, no bribery.
Bring a chair - and a plate of food to share if you can
Tea, coffee, sugar and milk provided

Queen Bee and the Queen Bee's Mother

Article and photos from Steve and Carla K.

We look after a couple of our hives which are located at the RSL Care at Rowes Bay. The gardener, George Edwards, had requested to have a couple of hives for pollination adjacent to the garden that he produces vegies and herbs for the residents of the RSL Care, so for the past couple of years we have maintained a couple of hives there. One of which is a sentinel hive as part of the Varroa mite eradication program. We inspect theses hives each fortnight, bit of a routine that we've gotten into for this location, mainly because it's easy for George the gardener to remember when we're coming.

Well, that hive has been full of surprises…..firstly the hive itself was started from a swarm we collected from South Townsville, not far from the Fire Station in mid-October 2016. I'm not sure of the origins of the swarm, but the Queen was marked with a White Dot indicating that she was a 2016 Queen, probably bought by someone local, and swarmed from their hive. Right from the start the queen established herself as one of my best queens, being very productive, healthy and calm offspring. Always a pleasure to work that hive.

5 May 18 - During this routine inspection we noticed that the bee numbers were very low and suspected that the hive had swarmed, we couldn't find the Old Queen either. We did see eggs, so we're guessing that the Old Queen had only recently departed, we also found a newly hatched Virgin Queen. We knew this as the other Swarm Cells had not yet hatched and/or were not started to be torn down by the other bees. No problem, while we were sad that we'd lost one of our Best Queens, her daughter had hatched and would take over the hive.

12 May 18 – During this inspection we found that the Old Queen had returned with her swarm, as bee numbers where back to being very strong, but the New Queen was also still present. Typically the hive had plenty of brood. We didn't really know what we should do, thinking that one Queen would kill the other. We weren't really prepared to make a split, so we just thought we'd let nature take its course.

26 May 18 – During this inspection we found Both Queens were still in the same hive, and both laying. They were at opposite ends of the brood (5 frames apart) and both had eggs on the frame that they were found on, indicating that they were both laying queens. So decided to remove the New Queen to another hive. Bit better prepared this week and we had a hive ready for the New Queen to take over.

9 Jun 18 – Nothing to report, but both Queens had settled in to their individual hives well…… both hives had 5 frames of brood and were progressing well through our Winter.

23 Jun 18 – Well much to our surprise during our inspections today…….we're back to two Queens in the one hive. Another Virgin Queen has hatched and was present in the hive. The Cell from which she hatched was on the bottom edge of the frame, indicating that it was probably a swarm cell, but no other queen cells were found in the hive. I don't think it was a supersedure cell or there would have been a few more cells about. Not sure what we'll do with this one, but she'll have to stay until Mid-July until we can get back to have another look, as we would be busy for the next few weekends.

14 Jul 18 – Well the Virgin Queen has been out and mated, and both Queens were found on adjacent frames, so I'm not sure if they are both laying as there was only a few frames of brood, however all those frames had eggs. I marked the new queen with a Red Disc (No.5), so she'll be easy to find in any subsequent inspections.

28 Jul 18 – I decided to remove both queens and re-queen this hive with a Graeme Armstrong Queen, which I did. These two queens now reside in my Long Langstroth Hive, one at each end. My Long Lang hive can hold 50 frames, and it was always my intention to have a Queen at each end and honey frames in the middle. I'd heard that in countries where the seasons are short, it is common practise to have a 2 Queens in one hive, one in the Top and one in the bottom, obviously divided by Queen Excluders. So I'd thought I was going to give it a go, as a bit of an experiment. Both Queens had settled in to the new hive, although the Old Queen is not as productive as she used to be. So I'll see how things go…….

It sound's like this Queen Bee's Mother, just likes having her Daughters around for company…….just like all mum's do!

Now if you want a good article on Queen Cells then follow this link:

https://thedailyguidetobeekeeping.com/2018/05/30/queen-cells-the-3-types/?utm_source=HiveKeepers+Master+List&utm_campaign=1b13f50c6d-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_01_17_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_244dc13adf-1b13f50c6d-126226073&mc_cid=1b13f50c6d&mc_eid=f11d8d0e65

Ed: Thanks to Steve and Carla K for writing this article - its great to hear what the local hives are up to.

Tower of Honey!!

Seen recently (photo on the right) near Obi Obi Creek just down the Blackall Range near Mapleton on the Sunshine Coast. Apparently it was chockers with honey and 2 splits were not enough to sort out the 2 brood chambers. Check Ray B's article on the following pages with some advice on how many supers are optimum for honey production, although this looks like it was a case of…"I will just keep stacking supers on top and get back to it later…..some other day, maybe??"

Super hero in a Spiderman bee suit - or is that a wasp suit?

This outfit could get you into a lot of trouble with the police if you wandered off site, I suspect. And what do the bees make of it? - is this thing a giant wasp invading our hives?, or a weird leaf stick insect? oh what the heck, let's just sting it and see?

Photo from Ray B - trying out some new fashions in beekeeping on the Gold Coast. Looks like he might have escaped from the nearby Movie World theme park. Don't think it will catch on with the "old guard" beekeepers
Ray B.

Bees are even smarter than we thought - but have sensitive "noses"

Articles sourced by Miles F.

"Science" 8 JUNE 2018 • VOL 360 ISSUE 6393.
Bees can do maths and know the meaning of "zero" according to recent research in the journal

"Honey bees have a reputation as smart insects. They possess elaborate short-term memory to consider upcoming decisions, understand abstract concepts such as sameness and difference, and learn intricate skills from other bees. Bees can also estimate the number of up to four objects. But they demonstrate even more astonishing number skills. The researchers report that honey bees can not only rank numerical quantities according to the rules "greater than" and "less than" but they can also extrapolate the less-than rule to place empty sets next to the number one at the lower end of the mental number line."
In effect; They can estimate where zero should be in a series of numbers, identify the notion of "more than" or "less than" certain numbers and can estimate the number of objects present up to four objects.
Ed: I have heard of "spelling bees, but now we will have to have "maths bees"!!!

Our smelly environment might be messing with the bees ability to forage

New Scientist, 17 Feb 2018, p 32-34.

Plant aromas that are used by bees to locate flowers and pollen have been found to be altered or destroyed by the ozone, nitrous oxide and chemicals in car exhaust fumes. Some of the more sensitive aromas produced by roses, orchids, tobacco, tomato and lavender are altered,, by our modern atmosphere that is infused with contaminants such as diesel fumes, nitrous oxide or ozone. One original chemical was degraded to as many as 1200 breakdown products. The altered chemical signals from flowers to bees and other insect pollinators may be related to the observation that there has been a 75% reduction in insect numbers in some German nature reserves within the last 27 years. Apparently, some of the deleterious effects of all this "bad air" can be repaired by planting more flowering trees and plants - naturally.

Want to know what to plant for bees?? - here is your bee friendly planting guide

Free from the RIRDC website

https://www.agrifutures.com.au/wp-content/uploads/publications/12-014.pdf

1st Australian Native Bee Conference, Gold Coast

From Ray B

I had the great pleasure and fortune of being able to attend the 1st (ever!) Australian Native Bee Conference, organised by Dr Tim Heard who has run many native bee courses for our club. It was held at the Royal Pines Resort on the Gold Coast on 1 July 2018 and ran back-to-back with the 3rd Australian Bee Congress. The native bee conference was a much smaller affair than the Bee Congress with 200 attendees, which nevertheless was a sell-out. It was one-day only and packed no less than 35 speakers with NO concurrent sessions! How? By running lots of very short, but concentrated talks. The longest was 10 minutes and in the middle of the conference there were 10 talks by PhD students which were all 3-minute 'TED'-style talks. Nothing like a small time-window to make you hone your message! I have to say the quality of the talks, especially the student talks, was excellent! I had no idea that there was such a high level of active research going on in native bees! The theme across most of these talks was an economic one, i.e. pollination services provided by native bees. It seems that there are quite a few commercial crops dependent greatly upon native bees for pollination, including raspberries, blueberries, macadamias and strawberries. Many commercial growers are now using managed hives for pollination but there is also a significant dependence on wild populations for pollination. This has brought into sharp focus the value of remnant bush and riparian vegetation around orchards and growing houses.

For me the standout talk was by Prof Helen Wallace from the Univ of the Sunshine Coast. Her talk was on Cadaghi (a gum tree officially named *Corymbia torelliana*) – is it friend or foe? Anybody who has kept native bees for some time will have seen how many of these seeds get brought back to the hive and how much native bees struggle to rid themselves of these sticky devils. The first surprise to me was that this gum tree is native to NQ but is a declared pest in SQ (where it is everywhere down here!). The second surprise was that native bees love the resin from this tree for good reason: it is a potent insect repellent and small hive beetle (SHB) avoid it like the plague! SHB can of course be as much of a hive pest in stingless bee hives as in honey bee hives. This research sheds light on why stingless beehives only have a low prevalence of SHB! It was interesting to hear that only 1 in 4 bees that enter a Cadaghi seed pod come out with a seed attached. Also, the overall allocation of effort by a colony in Cadaghi resin collection is fairly low. It seems this gum tree may be a native beekeepers' friend after all, but it may be taking advantage of the love too! Its seed dispersal is highly dependent on native bees and it is fast becoming a major pest in SE Queensland.

Another great talk was by Chris Haley, a very enthusiastic native beekeeper who has founded the Brisbane Native Beekeepers Club (BNBC). His day-job is as a scientist with a biotech company and somewhere along the line he stumbled on the value of essential oils in keeping out insect pests from native bee hives (especially syrphid and phorid flies). He tested a dozen or more of these oils for efficacy and analysed them for their active ingredients. It turns out that citronella, lavender and lemon-scented myrtle oils are great in repelling syrphid and phorid flies which can wreak havoc in native hives, especially after splitting, or opening. They all share the same active ingredient, a citronella compound. Dean uses it as a spray on surfaces near the hive (10-20 drops per 10ml of water) and as a gel smeared around the hive split (10-20 drops mixed with 10ml of Vaseline)
What a gem of information for native bee keepers!

A talk on a phenomenon known as 'fighting swarms' indicated that a great deal has been learnt about this strange behaviour in recent years. As suspected these swarms are mainly about one colony attacking another to gain a suitable nesting site. Months of work are normally required to prepare a new nesting site and sometimes it is just better to do it the dirty way, invasion! Post-swarm genetics on hive brood show that some takeovers are indeed successful. We heard that there is often a high amount of collateral damage in fighting swarms with up to 20% of fighting pairs both being defendants. Swarms are often made up mostly of bees from the defending colony ready to fend off any invaders. Manipulative experiments reveal that it takes <20 foreign bees entering a hive (sometimes by accident, e.g. drift) to set off a full-blown defensive swarm!

The trade display was understandably a humble affair given the lack of big money in native bees. Nevertheless, there were some impressive displays by hive box makers (timber, moulded plastic and styrene), native bee products, books, posters etc, an entomological society display and several displays by educational institutions. All up it was a very intimate and enjoyable conference with much valuable information gained!

Ray B.

Ed: For a really thorough discussion about the Cadaghi issue with native bees, I recommend you read the wisdom of "Bob the Beeman", Bob Luttrell here at :http://www.bobthebeeman.com.au/cadaghi-story.asp, Alternative trees such as Golden Penda, Swamp Mahogany or Lemon scented gum are recommended for planting at : http://www.growmeinstead.com.au/plant/cadaghi-dry.aspx

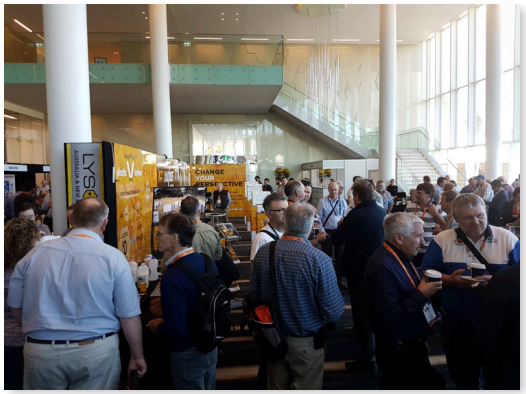
And: May thanks to Ray writing up all this information for our Club. Take time to digest all this info, and talk to the Club if you want more info.

3rd Australian Bee Conference Wrap Up

From Ray B.

It was a great pleasure to attend the 3rd Australian Bee Congress held at the Royal Pines on the Gold Coast, July 27-30th 2018. A huge thanks to our Ed, Lindsay, for paying the substantial conference fees for me to attend event this out of his own pocket!! (*see note below).

As it turned out, I was not the only club member to attend the congress: Paul Marsh, our commercial beekeeper from Sarina, also came off his own bat. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting him for the first time, having corresponded many times but never quite connected in person. Rob Stephens, our BioSecurity rep and Andy, his offsider, were also there to fly the NQ flag. The conference was much bigger than I thought: >800 delegates from all over Australia and overseas, incl Canada, USA, South Africa, Sweden, India, Malaysia and many more countries. There were 72 presentations from 61 invited speakers in two concurrent sessions. That meant I could only attend half the talks and even then, only two out of the three days, due to prior commitments. The themes covered included pesticides and bee breeding/genetics on day 1; biosecurity, nutrition and pollination on day 2; and trade, pollination, urban beekeeping and native bees on day 3.



I attended the biosecurity and nutrition sessions on day 2. Among the talks we heard the latest on the Asian honey bee (AHB) incursion in NQ and the potential for Varroa to arrive in Australia. How countries like Canada have successfully coped with the mite and what other nasties might be in the wind for us, incl the Cape bee from South Africa (which is unbelievably aggressive and will outcompete any European honey bee population!), predatory hornets from Asia and the huge variety of Varroa mites in Asia (not just *V. destructor* and *V. jacobsoni*!). These are all potentials to arrive in Australia – scary! For me the standout talk was by Dr John Roberts from CSIRO, who detailed our preparedness to protect our honey bees from a foreign invasion. Among the expected arsenal of tools was a completely novel technique (at least to my ears!) for detecting and monitoring Asian Honey Bee (AHB) presence: balloons! Here, helium balloons are launched with a sticky thread under the balloon which is laced with a pheromone attractant. When deployed in a forest opening (the preferred habitat for AHB drone aggregations), the drones are attracted to the top of the balloon and get stuck on the thread. Using statistical and genetic techniques, scientists are able to estimate the number of nearby hives. Rob was able to confirm this method was, and continues to be, used in Townsville for the detection of any remaining AHB colonies in our area. And another super-scary reality from the AHB invasion in NQ: Dr Ros Gloag from the University of Sydney detailed one study where her team found that over 30% of European honey bee queens at a site near Cairns had been inseminated by AHB drones – Eek! The only small consolation is that those eggs were infertile and only developed into drones…. for now! Watch out for queens who lay high numbers of drone eggs! Among the nutrition talks we heard how widespread supplementary feeding is nowadays in commercial beekeeping. Also, our understanding of exactly what makes up a good pollen feed is substantially improved in recent years. The breakdowns and ratios of amino acids is keenly monitored and in very recent times, the importance of the fat content in pollen is now becoming apparent. Trials have shown that feeding bees early in the season produces a 30% increase in brood enabling commercial beekeepers to produce more honey and earlier than previously possible.

On day 3 I chose to attend the sessions on native bees and urban beekeeping. In the talks on native bees we heard about diseases and nutrition in native bees with syrphid flies and phorid flies the chief threats to hive health, but also a number of brood diseases and of course small hive beetle. There was also a talk on fighting swarms which was fascinating! On the urban beekeeping theme, we had talks from local clubs and also heard about the challenges of rooftop beekeeping, incl the maximum height (level 10 is about the limit!), vagaries of which hives produce honey (need for electronic hive monitoring!), the need for water sources, and more often than not, the difficulty of access to many rooftops!

The trade display was massive and awe-inspiring. Everything from huge tractors for moving hive pallets to shiny stainless frame decappers, massive spinners and pumps, and from equipment suppliers to electronic hive monitoring systems and everything in between. Personally, I couldn't help but be attracted to the high-tech end, like the hive GPS tracker, RFID asset identifiers (e.g hive boxes) as well as a satellite-based hive monitoring system. But for others, the hive supplementary feed options, hive box designs and high-pressure cleaning gear must have been equally impressive. Each to their own.

All in all, this was a pretty big intake for my first bee conference and the head hurt even after the first day!
Ray B

* **Ray's Note:** I can only conclude that our **Ed** is desperate for newsletter articles by paying for the conference fees! Please help him with YOUR stories. And 'NO', you don't have to be an expert beekeeper to write your story, experience or anecdote! Even seasoned beekeepers enjoy seeing bees through YOUR eyes!
* **Ed** agrees strongly with that, please send me YOUR stories about your backyard bees and include a photo, I promise to publish it, however this is not a "pay for article" Newsletter.

Australian beekeepers dodge another Varroa bullet, but there's always more to the story

https://www.beeculture.com/catch-the-buzz-australia-has-a-near-miss-on-varroa-entering-the-country-surveillance-of-varroa-ends-after-no-mites-were-found/?utm_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm_campaign=f436b6e3eb-Catch_The_Buzz_4_29_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0272f190ab-f436b6e3eb-332070937

Victoria had a near miss with Varroa recently, as outlined in the "Bee Culture" article, available at the above website. Once again, containers on ships from overseas have been the vehicle for introduced foreign bee species and their attached pests. The authors urged bee keepers to remain vigilant for unusual signs in their hives. "Regularly test hives using the sugar shake method and follow the Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice." This is the same advice given to Townsville beekeepers to remain vigilant against Asian honey bee and Varroa after our incursion from the Townsville Port in 2016.
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council executive director Trevor Weatherhead said testing was precautionary and he did not expect the discovery of any Varroa infected bees. But what really piqued my interest was his following and final sentence: "
He said.. "**interestingly" DNA tests showed the bees to be *Apis mellifera mellifera.*"** If you get to the bottom of this ramble by The Ed., you will see why Trevor thought it was "interesting", as this bee has been almost made extinct twice, and is quite a rare species to have landed on our shores.

What's so interesting about that I thought initially, but then I did some homework. *Apis mellifera* is the Western, or European honey bee, the most common of the 7-12 species of honey bee worldwide (Antarctica is the only continent worldwide without any bees, and Australia is the only continent without an established population of Varroa mite - so far!). https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honey_bee
Apis mellifera mellifera (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_dark_bee) is a subspecies of A. mellifera called the **European dark bee.** It is a subspecies of honey bee whose original European range stretched from western Russia through Northern Europe and probably down to the Iberian Peninsula. It was domesticated in Europe and hives were brought to North America in their colonial era in the 17th and 18th C. They are large for honey bees though they have unusually short tongues. They are sometimes called the **British Black Bee**, **German Black Bee** or **German Dark Bee**.[1]

Apis mellifera mellifera is no longer a significant commercial subspecies of the Western honey bee, but there are a number of dedicated hobbyist beekeepers that keep these bees in Europe and other parts of the world. Immigrants brought these subspecies into the Americas. Prior to their arrival, the American continent did not have any honey bees. Hybrid descendants of the original colonial black bees may also have survived in North America as feral bees. There are reports by beekeepers that, after the arrival of the Varroa mite on the American continent in 1987, some feral bee colonies survived. The original form is no longer present in North America.

In Western Europe, dark bee breeds were the original honey bee stock until creation of the Buckfast bee. This is a hybrid breed whose progeny includes salvaged remnants of the **British black bee**, nearly extinct by then due to *Acarapis woodi* (acarine mite or tracheal mite). The breeding stocks in Central Europe were nearly destroyed by order of the Nazis, who considered the honey yields not up to modern standards and wanted to "improve" the bee stocks kept in areas under their control. **Ed:** Gadzooks!!!, and I thought they only meddled with human eugenics!!
This led to the creation of more aggressive, high-yield breeds (with average production of **150 kgs honey per hive per year.)**, probably by cross-breeding dark and Buckfast high-yield strains with Carniolan honey bees. Unfortunately, these were very susceptible to Varroa mite infection and unpleasant to handle and were dropped from use after World War II, but just as in North America, some feral colonies survive. Dedicated breeders and research facilities are today working on preserving and spreading what could be saved from the original stocks. There are only a handful of colonies present in Germany, but larger numbers have survived in Norway (*A. mellifera lehzeni*), the Alps (*A. mellifera inigra*) and Poland and Belgium (*A. mellifera lmellifera*).

So, this means Victoria recently had an incursion of a rare species of bee that had nearly been wiped out twice, one time by a mite and the second time by deliberate human intervention - or beegenics??. It survived and arrived here in Australia, carrying the seeds of our own beekeeping mayhem or destruction (maybe a bit melodramatic, sorry).

And the story of the Benedictine monk Brother Adam from Buckfast Abbey in England who developed the famous highly productive Buckfast breed of bee (mentioned above: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buckfast_bee) is also fascinating. Brother Adam (born 1898 in Germany, died in 1996) was put in charge of the Abbey's beekeeping in 1919, and began extensive breeding work creating the honeybee known as the Buckfast bee. He managed to save one species of bee and cross it with another to produce the famous Buckfast bee hybrid.
The monastery's most successful product is Buckfast Tonic Wine, a fortified wine which the monks began making (to a French recipe) in the 1890s using honey as a vital ingredient. Due to it's high caffeine, alcohol and sugar content, and it's low price, It has become the tipple of choice for youths especially in Scotland and Ireland.

Swarm Contact List:

Jon & Frana McKinstry, **Kelso** - 0413 765 192 (Jon) or 0401 014 948 (Frana)
Sonya Verbrugt - **Gulliver** - 04 0853 0991
Wayne Taylor, **Rasmussen** - 0434 745 353
Mick Taylor, **Cranbrook** - 0428 626 707
Ben Taylor, **Townsville West** - 4728 4992/ 0428 186 000
Brendan Arboit - **Ayr** 0406 403 005
Steve and Carla Kersnovske - **Kelso** 0417 344 419
Dave Turnbull **Annandale -** 0458 645 677
Doug McBride, **Mysterton** - 4775 7465
Dan & Drew Donovan, **Wulguru**- 0428 218 816
Grant Whiteford, **Cranbrook -** 4728 3051
Ronelle White , **Alice River/ Rupertswood** 0417752622
Sharene Dougall, **Bluewater** - 0415426903
Daniel Horne, **Bushland Beach** – 0437540473
Tito Parigi - **Magnetic Island** - 0418 796 951
John Pavetto 0488414017, and Ian Goulevitch -**Hinchinbrook Area.**
Swarm List Please contact Biosecurity : 13 25 23 for any swarm or strange bee activity in the Townsville region. For all swarm collections, please collect 300 bees or roughly10%of brood comb and submit to Biosecurity Queensland for pest and disease monitoring.

“Adulterated” honey hits the headlines - and disappears off the supermarket shelves

http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-09-03/capilano-and-supermarkets-accused-of-selling-fake-honey/10187628

Edited version

Australia's biggest listed honey company and some of the country's largest supermarket chains face accusations of unwittingly selling "fake" honey. Testing at a leading international scientific lab that specialises in honey fraud detection has found that almost half the honey samples selected from supermarket shelves were "adulterated", meaning it has been mixed with something other than nectar from bees. The adulterated samples were all products that blend local and imported honey.

ASX-listed Capilano's Allowrie-branded Mixed Blossom Honey, which sources honey from Australia and overseas, and markets itself as 100 per cent honey, showed up as "adulterated" in the majority of samples tested. Capilano strongly denied any issues with its products and criticised the type of test — known as Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) — used to detect the impurities, pointing out that it differed from the official Australian test. There is no suggestion that Capilano's eponymous brand of Australian-sourced honey has any issue or that Capilano or other brands were aware of the adulteration.

Phil McCabe, the president of the International Federation of Beekeepers' Association (Apimondia), believes the NMR test is the most accurate available and thinks consumers are not getting what they paid for."By and large [the impurity] is some kind of syrup that's been converted to look like honey, it tastes like honey. Consumers don't realise what they are buying and eating isn't honey."Almost 50 per cent of samples tested ‘adulterated'.

The results are set to ignite a storm over how honey purity is tested that will involve the Federal Government as well as local and international regulators. Supermarket chain, ALDI, has already moved to pull any affected product from its shelves as a precaution.

Mr McCabe said he would refer the tests, obtained by Fairfax Media and 7.30, and commissioned by top law firm King & Wood Mallesons, to Interpol for further investigation. Germany's Quality Services International (QSI) lab was commissioned by the law firm on behalf of horticulturalist Robert Costa to conduct two types of tests of the sampled honey. One used NMR screening and the second used the official C4 sugar test. The joint media investigation into the honey industry was supplied a copy of the results from Mallesons. The law firm collected 28 blended and imported honey samples from supermarket stores around Australia, including Coles, Woolworths, ALDI and IGA and documented the stores, locations, brands and batches.

The lab tested eight Allowrie samples as well as IGA's Black & Gold private label and ALDI's Bramwell's private label brand, which are blended local and imported honey, and detected adulteration in almost half the samples. Using the NMR testing the results showed that 12 of the 28 samples tested were not 100 per cent pure honey. Four of the six IGA Black and Gold private label products registered as adulterated, two of six ALDI Bramwell's private label brands failed the NMR test and six out of eight of Capilano's Allowrie budget branded bottles had adulterated honey when NMR screening was used. The same 28 samples were then tested using the official Australian test, C4, and all passed.

Capilano was sent a copy of the results of the tests. It vigorously denied that any of its products were not pure honey and rejected NMR testing as the best way to determine adulteration. It said Australian and international regulators "do not use this testing regime at all."

Capilano said it was 100 per cent confident its Allowrie honey, which is made using up to 70 per cent imported honey, was pure and that it was not surprised by the results given the "weaknesses" in NMR testing as an analytical method. "We are incredibly concerned that they are being used in isolation of more robust analytical testing, given this is also the opinion of the manufacturer [Bruker] and the two most reputable laboratories in the world [Intertek and QSI], one of which has conducted the NMR analysis," Capilano said in a statement.

"Our concern lies in the use of these results to create doubt and confusion over the authenticity of honey and how that could be used to mislead the public and consumers.” Capilano said one of those weaknesses was that the NMR test did not detect that blended honey from different regions was 100 per cent honey, something the German lab, QSI, vigorously denies.

Capilano declined an interview but said it "stands by the quality and purity of all of our honey brands, including Allowrie which has never failed more stringent and appropriate testing by world renowned laboratories.”

QSI's managing director Gudrun Beckh, who has been testing honey for almost 30 years, said she was confident in the NMR test findings and said if a sample showed up as adulterated it meant the honey was not pure honey. "Fake honey always existed, but in the last years it's a growing problem because of the people who adulterate using more and more sophisticated methods, so it's more complicated to detect it," she told 7.30. QSI performs a variety of tests for clients but Ms Beckh said NMR was the best for detecting adulteration.

She said QSI had an extensive database and used various tests for testing honey but NMR was the most reliable. She said blended honey from different regions was tested regularly and NMR screening could pinpoint country of origin and botanical origin of the honey.

In the tested samples, she said it was the Chinese aspect of the honey that was adulterated not the Australian honey. Despite Capilano's criticisms there is a groundswell of international experts, academics and private companies increasingly relying on NMR as the test of choice for detecting fake honey.

Apimondia, the peak body for the sector internationally, recently said it would use NMR screening as part of its new honey competition rules.

Leaked emails from the local peak industry group, the Australian Bee Industry Council (AHBIC), of which Capilano is a financial member and has board representation, show it wrote to the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources in July requesting it review the way it tests honey, ditching the old C4 test and moving to NMR. The executive director of AHBIC Trevor Weatherhead said in the email to the department that "AHBIC would ask the department to change to the NMR test if it has not done so already.” He said it was reported that suppliers that were adulterating honey were finding ways around the C4 sugar test. "The NMR test has been found to be very effective," Mr Weatherhead said in an email.

Mallesons was expected to send a copy of the test results to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) on Monday.

Mr Costa, who bankrolled the honey sample tests, said his concern as a horticulturist was that cheap imported honey was hurting the local industry, which, in turn, would hurt the production of agriculture. He estimated that 65 per cent of agriculture depended on pollination by honey bees. "We know what's going on, we expected it, we just needed the evidence," he told 7.30. "I certainly wasn't shocked."

Beechworth Honey, Australia's second largest honey operator and a major competitor to Capilano, said it only used Australian honey.

Beechworth managing director Jodie Goldsworthy said she supported NMR testing as the best way to detect adulteration. Ms Goldsworthy said beekeepers of the world had largely been silent about the problem of adulterated honey for fear of hurting the reputation of the industry. “The silence has made it really easy for the frauds to go on unhindered," she said.

"It's time to speak up before it's too late."

AGM is the October meeting on 21/10/2018.

All positions are vacant and we are looking for volunteers to keep the club moving

Make sure you contribute to helping keep the Club active, relevant and serving your needs and interests - the best way is to be part of the Committee and help to make decisions, volunteer etc

Get involved - become a mentor to “newbees”, answer bee questions, volunteer

Next Meeting is at Geoff & Michelle Hasted’s - 16 Cataract Ave, Rangewood

2pm Sunday 16 September 2018

“Smoker” Competition

Members to bring their smokers and their smoking material for a “light up” competition. We will supply the fire lighter to keep it fair, prizes for 1 light and must keep smoking for 10 min.
Judged on coolness of smoke, colour and smell.
Judges decision final, no bribery.

Bring a chair - and a plate of food to share if you can
Tea, coffee, sugar and milk provided

101 Things to do with your Bee Smoker: #1 in the series.

Remember this article from years ago in the Newsletter. Scientists were discovering that smoke from certain plant material promoted the germination and growth of some Australian native plants. There is now a product to help germinate seeds called…..wait for it….”Australian Smoky Water” - imaginative , hey?

Source: An effective system to produce smoke solutions from dried plant tissue for seed germination studies. Applications in Plant Sciences, 2(3), 2014. J. Coons, N. Coutant, B. Lawrence, D. Finn, S. Finn.

A pot of poo at the end of the rainbow?

If you know where these colourful killers of our bees are nesting overnight, please let Biosecurity know on 13 25 23. I know where they come to feed!!!! Right outside my hives.

Biosecurity are keen to collect their poo to perform genetic tests and discover if there is any Asian honey bee DNA in there. Pretty weird, hay?? but it’s a very sophisticated and non destructive way to sample for natural predators of the invasive AHB along with it’s Varroa mite - and we are on the way to becoming declared mite and AHB free.- next year possibly if none turn up in the next year. More samples that turn out to be negative are a good sign that we have avoided being invaded by both these nasty pests. Now if only someone could come up with a non destructive method of asking the Rainbow bee eater to politely “go away” and stop eating my bees, that would be great.

Why it is so important to prevent the spread of the Asian honey bee (Apis cerana)

From: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022201109001906

The ectoparasitic honey bee mite *Varroa destructor* was originally confined to the Eastern or Asian honey bee (*Apis cerana*.) After a shift to the new host *Apis mellifera* during the first half of the last century, the parasite dispersed world wide and is currently considered the major threat for apiculture. The damage caused by Varroosis is thought to be a crucial driver for the periodical colony losses in Europe and the USA and regular *Varroa* treatments are essential in these countries.
When *A cerana* arrived in Townsville it was carrying a different mite - *V. jacobsoni*,, the brother of *V. destructor.* However, it has already been observed in PNG that *V, jacobsoni* can change hosts and infect our *A mellifera*.. It is crucial that we wipe out the new introduction to Townsville of the Asian honey bee that was carrying the new and potentially destructive *V. jacobsoni.*

Welcome to our New Members

Existing Club Members are encouraged to assist/mentor our Newbees. They have joined the club to learn about bees, so even if you only have limited experience, give them a hand if you can. Invite a Newbee to your hive opening and discuss what's inside the box, let newbees experience hive openings to become more confident, and you will learn more yourself by trying to explain what's going on in there.

Gail S. from Aitkenvale **Wayne F** from Lansdown **Alex H**. from Mt Louisa **Adam Y.** from Charters Towers
Phil and Naomi K. from Deeragun **Paul and Karen V** from Deeragun

Annual Membership Fees for 2018/2019 are due in July - still only $25/year
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.

New email contacts for the Office Holders

You can use these email contacts for the Office Holders, and hopefully they will have figured out how to access them and will respond ASAP.

president@beesnorth.com.au, treasurer@beesnorth.com.au, editor@beesnorth.com.au , shop@beesnorth.com.au

And for all web and membership enquiries : info@beesnorth.com.au.

TDBA Inc Office Holders for 2016/2017

President:	Alan Ziegenfusz	alan.G.Ziegenfusz@team.telstra.com, or : president@beesnorth.com.au
Vice President:	Paul Payne	trapper4812@gmail.com
Secretary:	Vacant	shop@beesnorth.com.au
Treasurer:	Frana McKinstry	franajon@gmail.com, or: treasurer@bigpond.com.au
Membership	Frana McKinstry	franajon@gmail.com or info@beesnorth.com.au.
Newsletter Editor:	Lindsay Trott	trottlindsay@gmail.com or: editor@beesnorth.com.au
Librarian:	Beryl Smart	smartberyl@gmail.com
Equipment Stewards:…	Frana McKinstry/Alan Ziegenfusz	shop@beesnorth.com.au.
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	Wayne Zaverdinos	Wayne_Zaverdinos@hotmail.com
	Carla Kersnovske	cke00786@bigpond.net.au

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

Honorary Members of the TDBA Inc: Graham Smith (deceased)

TDBA Inc General Meeting - Sunday 19/08/18 at Oonoonba Community Centre

Open: 14:00 **Welcome:** President Al ran the meeting and advised that the Editor and Treasurer were still away.
TDBA thanked Kirsty S for being our previous librarian. Our new librarian (Beryl Smart) should be back from her European tour of beehives in Slovenia for next months meeting.

Previous Meeting and Minutes: The July meeting was held at John Pavetto's property at Macknade. Great meeting where over 75 attended, a lot of people from the Ingham area , a tour of the rare fruit farm and a BBQ lunch, then a leisurely drive to the Frosty Mango for ice cream on the way home. The Minutes of the July meeting were in the August Newsletter. Steve Kernovske accepted that they are a true and correct account of the last meeting, seconded by Peter Duncan.
We also had a committee meeting 2 weeks ago to cover the year so far and the run up to the AGM to be held at the October meeting.
Frana M took the minutes of that meeting.

Treasurer's Report: delivered by the President, the books have been sent to the Club's accountant by Frana M, and the results will be available for the AGM meeting in October , or contact the Treasurer for any information regarding the Club. Frana M is on holidays and will miss 1 meeting and 2 shop openings.

Club Shop: report by the President – is for financial Club members only to buy their wares locally and at a good price. We were supposed to have a quiet shop on the 4/8/18 but we were still very hectic till 10 am. Frana, Jon, Wayne & myself did a stocktake of what we have in stock, last one was in Feb. Al Z will be opening the shop on the 2nd September 8:30 – 10 am. We open the shop on the first Saturday of the month unless notified of other dates. Payment –cash, phone banking when on site or internet banking before pick up. Does anyone wish the club to hold any other item?
The stock on hand is sold at a minimal mark-up from the cost to the club plus the freight to Townsville. This leaves the cost of the items at a price that is comparable to purchase from Brisbane or cheaper. In some instances. Special urgent orders of stock can be arranged by contacting Frana M or Alan Z.

Shirts – Have been supplied by EMU sports Townsville to keep it local and the cost is $40, we didn't purchase in this round any 2, 3 or 4XL shirts. We still have shirts available in those sizes in the previous print at a special price.
Beryl Smart will be the **librarian** for all loans of mags, books pertaining to bees and handling. We have a list of all of the books, DVD's and magazines to choose from
We welcome all ideas on what workshops the members want at every meeting.

September meeting will be at Michelle's property at Rupertswood, all bring your smokers, smoking fuel, lighters, and no flame throwers, there will be prizes.

October meeting will be the AGM at HPSS, we would like more volunteers to come on the committee, to help run meetings, plus new ideas for the club. I will not be accepting the president's role this time as I have done for 2 years and to keep the club fresh we need a new President. I will be staying on the committee to help with my experience from the last 2 years.

November is the last meeting of the year and that will be at Steve & Carla's property at Kelso.

December is a Christmas lunch. Then the next meeting is **February 2019**
Future meetings need new places to visit & to hold meetings. Only 10 meetings /year

DAF: AFB – This is not a local problem, it is a national problem. Our 1st AFB case since February was confirmed at this meeting in the Gulliver area. 3 hives side by side, 2 negative and 1 positive.
Rob Stephens gave a brief report from Bio Security Queensland on reporting bee swarms and providing a sample of 100 bees from the swarm for test purposes.

Other Business:
Mackay club wants a rematch of Lawn bowls in October at Bowen, we had 10 members interested.
T**ownsville Bulletin** newspaper article – Capilano honey has been sold, next week's paper Bega cheese is vying to buy a controlling share of Capilano honey
ABK magazine article about insurance wording if an accident occurs while transporting beehives, must have the word livestock in the policy otherwise it could be void.
Open Day will be held next year in the August 2019 meeting instead of May, so we are coming into spring in Australia. The time of honey flow and swarming plus hives ready for sale.
Nominations for Life or Honorary Membership for a Club member who has done considerable service to the club,
If you think someone is deserving of this, we need a short story and then it will go to the Committee for review.
Please submit before the AGM to President Al

Open Forum:
•Conversation in regards to bio security charging for samples sent to Brisbane for testing.
•Sonia V has created a spreadsheet for new members who are wanting to buy hives can put their details on and when the nuc's become available they will be contacted. This also works for members who want to sell hives can contact Sonya and they will be put onto a buyer.
•Conversation on the subject of AFB – testing samples what to provide, how clean the equipment needs to be for Steritech gamma irradiation in Brisbane and also the steam steriliser to work fully.

General Meeting closed around 15:00
We welcomed **Dr Jennifer Elliman from JCU** on diseases and bacteria that affect bees, and what are the differences and some new scientific research.

Let's all get up and do the "Sugar Shake" - maintain the detection tests for Varroa

Biosecurity would like beekeepers to fill out this form below when they do self assessments, such as sugar shaker, drone uncapping or alcohol wash. The form can be filled out manually and sent into us reply paid or it can be email edit to anyone who wants it and they can fill it out on line and email it back. Carla K will also be visiting everyone who would like to practise with the different self assessment types.

Queensland Government

Managed hive sample collection form

Details of person completing the form

Inspector/Person(s) attending	BQ Officer	Contractor	Other
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐

Date

Attach sample no.(s) or barcode

Attach LIMS number

Location details

Address

Nearest road

Locality

GPS Location (WGS 84, decimal degrees) Latitude ____ . ____ °S Longitude ____ . ____ °E

Contact on site

Phone

Hive details

Number of hives

Comments

HIN

Surveillance details

	Alcohol wash	Sugar shake	Drone uncapping
Approximate number of bees tested			
Less than 300	☐	☐	☐
~ 300	☐	☐	☐
More than 300	☐	☐	☐
Results/Detection			
Positive	☐	☐	☐
Negative	☐	☐	☐
Unconfirmed	☐	☐	☐
Sample submitted to DAF			
Yes	☐	☐	☐
No	☐	☐	☐

Office use only

Sample receipt and dispatch

Date sample received by BQ

Comments

Sample dispatched to DAF BSL for analysis

☐ No If no, provide reason

☐ Yes If yes, provide date of dispatch and connote number

Sample entered into BORIS by

Date

Laboratory results

Date results received

Results and action taken

Result entered into BORIS by

Date

Privacy statement

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is collecting the information on this form as a record of surveillance activities conducted on managed bee hives under the National Varroa Mite Eradication Program. Summaries of managed hive surveillance may be provided to the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests, formed by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources for the purpose of reporting against the National Response Plan for the Eradication of *Varroa jacobsoni* from Queensland. Your personal information will not be disclosed to any other parties unless authorised or required by law.

Please return this form to Biosecurity Queensland at PO Box 1085 Townsville 4810 or by email to varroa@daf.qld.gov.au

Club Shop Items - 2018 Price List

These prices are only available to current financial members

	Item	Price $$
	Veil - Native Bee (camo)	5.00
	Veil - Native Bee (mesh)	3.00
	Veil - cotton	20.00
	Veil - ventilated	25.00
	Jacket - Cotton	60.00
	Jacket - Ventilated	80.00
	Full Suit - Cotton	85.00
	Full Suit - ventilated	105.00
	Gloves	22.00
	Replacement veil for ventilated suit	20.00
	Super - 8 frame	25.00
	Super - 10 Frame	28.00
	Super - Ideal	25.00
	Super - WSP	25.00
	Super - Parker/Nuplas Plastic	65.00
	Lids (8 or 10 Frame)	27.00
	Base - Ply (8 or 10 frame)	22.00
	Base - Mesh	30.00
	Base 'Bluebees'	35.00
	Lifting Cleats (Handles, pr)	5.00 pr
	Emlok - hive clamp	12.00
	Corflute Nuc box	28.00
	Corflute - Queen excluder	4.00
	Hive tool (S/S)	15.00
	Smoker	38.00
	Bee Brush - Natural bristle	10.00
	Queen Excluder - Wire (8 or 10 frame)	22.00
	Queen Excluder - Plastic	7.00
	Frames - Full depth	2.00
	Frames - Ideal	1.50
	Frames - WSP	1.50
	Foundation - Plastic	2.10
	Foundation - Wax	2.00
	Beeswax block	15.00 per kg
	Eyelets pkt 500/40gm	10.00
	Awl (for fitting eyelets)	5.00
	S/S Wire x 500gm	20.00
	S/S Wire x 80gm	6.00
	Wire crimping tool	12.00
	Queen Catcher	3.00
	Frame Gripper	10.00
	Frame Hanger	20.00
	Bee Feeders	2.00
	Spring clips	2.00 ea
	Frame Nails	6.00
	Mesh (for base construction)	15.00
	Gate valve	10.00
	Gate valve - Parker	26.00
	Gate valve O rings - Parker	6.00
	Cappings knife, serrated	15.00
	Cappings knife, electric	30.00
	Comb scratcher	8.00
	Comb Roller	22.00
	Strainer	25.00
	Extractor - Plastic	150.00
	Extractor - S/S	120.00
	Honey jars 250gm	0.70
	Honey jars 500gm - square	0.80
	Honey jars 550gm - squeeze	0.80
	Honey jars 1kg round	1.00
	Honey Pails - 1 kg	1.20
	Honey Pails - 1.5kg	1.30
TRAPS		
	Apithor trap	7.00
	Silver Bullet trap	7.00
	Apis sticky trap	4.50
BOOKS		
	Managing AFB	0.00
	Australian Beekeeping Manual	35.00
	Australian Native Bee Book	25.00
	AFB test kits	0.00
	Club Polo Shirts	40.00

TDBA Bee Starter Kit - $110

The Perfect Gift for a budding Beekeeper

Available in Townsville from the Club Shop:

Club Members Price Only!

$110

Hive tool, brush, cotton jacket/veil, gloves, and smoker

Contact: Club Shop Stewards - Frana M or Alan Z

shop@beesnorthcom.au

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