

Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc.)

www.beesnorth.com.au



PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814

Newsletter No 2, March 2020

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Next Meeting: Note the new time

Hermit Park State School
10:00 am Sunday 22 March, 2020
Entrance is off McKimmin St, Hyde Park

Bring a chair – and a plate of morning tea if you can
Coffee, tea, milk, cups, conversation etc provided free

Club Shop Opening Hours: First Saturday every month from 8:30 till 10am
at 3/38 Rendle St. Order via email: shop@beesnorth.com.au

Long days, long hives and a Longpocket hive rescue

Words and pics from our hard working Clubbie Ian Goulevitch in Lucinda

Recently, I was called to a cattle station/cane farm, where I have some of my hives. The owner told me that they were replacing a long fence line and when they came to the corner strainer post it was emitting a strange noise, so they tapped it with a hammer, and – WHOOOSH!

To their surprise, honey bees started flying out of a couple of holes at the lower section of the post. They tell me that they executed a swift controlled departure from the area, whilst describing their language at the time as colourful. I told them to just leave the bees alone, and I would come up in a few days. I arrived to find the only post left standing, was indeed a home to some of our girls. As I approached the post I saw the tail of a snake disappearing down into the top of the post. I thought, this is getting interesting. I had a quick look down the log, and could see the head of a large snake. I picked up a long bent tree branch and poked it down the hole.

Result - Zip.

I thought how could I get him out, without damaging the snake or the bees, and so came up with a cunning plan. Spray down some sugar water, which I did from a distance.

Result - Zip.

I needed a new plan, so I then sprayed down some Apple Cider Vinegar, that should fix him.

Result - Zip.

Running out of options, and ignoring the advice of the owner, which wasn't flash, I poured a whole cupful of vinegar down the stump, that got him moving. Up came Mr Snake, not a happy chappie, a very large black snake, and he started doing his " watch me swing off the log" with half his body still in the log, on my opposite side. A big black mongrel he was.

As he was doing this, and I'm observing this from 10 m away, to my surprise Mrs Snake came out of the log at break neck speed, and both of them headed off in the direction of the cane field. I had another look with a torch, after a few minutes of course, and could see the top of the comb and no more snakes. I put a piece of timber over the hole and proceeded to cut off a section of the post with an electric chain saw. I actually cut the top of the comb on the second cut.

I called up the owner, and he arrived with a front-end loader, fitted with a post remover. I attached the chains, and he just lifted it out, and onto a pair of stools which I had bought with me.

The interesting thing which you can see from the photo, is that the comb goes right down to the bottom of the post and the hole. See photo on far right. If it started raining, the hole would fill up, and good bye, some bees.



I made two cuts with an electric circular saw length ways, after I aligned the comb vertical. I took this piece which had comb on it, and then I placed this piece which I had cut out, next to the hole. The bees were still coming and going, so this acted as a hive for returning bees.

The brood and the honey comb were the full length of the log, but only about 110mm high. I took all of the brood and some honey, not much, and put them into two empty frames which I then held in place with string stapled to the frames. I then placed them into a nuc box with two other frames, just to fill the box.

I put the Nuc onto the stools, made a ramp for the ground bees, and a covering from the sun. See phot on right. I forgot to mention, that I dusted all of the Hive bees into the nuc, and took that piece of post away with me. The ground bees started going up the ramp, which indicated that the queen was inside. I did not see the queen that day.

I got the owner to block off the entrance, after another day, and I then moved the Nuc to another farm about 5km away.

I inspected it one week later, and everything appeared to be ok, but I could not see the queen. The following week I checked again and saw new eggs and larvae, but still no queen. I rehoused them again into a four frame wooden box, and last week noticed an increase in numbers, but alas the queen is too cunning for me.

This is a good outcome for a huge effort. I spent 4.5 hrs on the first day, in the sun, and in a bee suit. Long pocket is 60km from my home at Lucinda, so 120km round trip, is a big effort for me. It's great to get a win occasionally. I saved the bees.

These bees appeared to have been in the log for a long time as some of the honey comb was a black colour. They certainly weren't from my hives, which I have only had up there this year.

Cheers - Ian Goulevitch, Lucinda



Bees absolutely love cannabis and it could help restore their populations



<https://www.sott.net/article/427649-Bees-absolutely-love-cannabis-and-it-could-help-restore-their-populations>

Elias Marat, The Mind Unleashed, Fri 17 Jan 2020 12:35 UTC



Bees are major fans of hemp and a recent study has found that the taller the hemp plants are the larger the number of bees that will flock to it. The new research, spearheaded by researchers at Cornell University and published last month in *Environmental Entomology*, shows that humans aren't the only fans of weed. The findings also reinforce a study published last year at Colorado State University that discovered the same thing.

The study shows how bees are highly attracted to cannabis due to the plant's plentiful stores of pollen, and it could pave the way for scientists to figure out new ways to support their struggling population as well as floral populations. According to the study, the greater the area covered by the hemp plant the greater the chance that bees will swarm to the area. Additionally, those hemp plants that are taller have a much greater likelihood of attracting bees with the tallest plants attracting a stunning 17 times more bees than the shortest plants.

The study also found that as time went on greater amounts of bees visited the hemp plots on a more frequent basis. It sounds almost like the word-of-mouth effect among humans who hear about great deals at a dispensary, no? The researchers also discovered that hemp, a major cash crop with multiple applications, can support no less than 16 different varieties of bees in the northeastern United States.

The findings may seem strange considering that cannabis doesn't produce the sweet, sugary nectar that your typical floral varieties produce to attract insects. Nor does hemp flower come in the dazzling array of bright colors that likewise attract bugs. However, the pollen produced by male flowers is highly attractive to the 16 bee subspecies in the study for reasons that remain unknown.

Female flowers — the kind that humans like to smoke for its intoxicating and soothing effects — are basically ignored by bees since they don't produce any actual flowers.

The study's author's wrote:

The rapid expansion of hemp production in the United States... may have significant implications for agroecosystem-wide pollination dynamics.

As a late-season crop flowering during a period of seasonal floral dearth, hemp may have a particularly strong potential to enhance pollinator populations and subsequent pollination services for crops in the following year by filling gaps in late-season resource scarcity. What makes the findings so compelling is the crucial impact it could have on suffering bee populations across the United States.

Bee are perhaps one of the most important managed pollinators in U.S. agriculture. Spreading the male sex cells of flowers to their female counterparts in a natural process that is highly crucial to plant reproduction. According to the UN Food and Agricultural Organization, pollinators are worth anywhere from \$235 and \$577 billion worldwide owing to their pivotal role in the production of global crops. In the U.S. alone this means that bees are responsible for \$20 billion of domestic crop production. Without bees we can kiss almonds, blueberries, watermelon, and other crops goodbye.

The authors of the study made clear that the combination of bees plus hemp won't mean that folks should worry about cannabinoid-rich pollen sneaking it into their diets nor will the bees start producing honey enriched with tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) — as nice as that sounds. Likewise, the presence of cannabinoids like THC in hemp pollen is "not likely to have an impact on bee development due to the loss of cannabinoid receptors in insects."

So while we often like to focus on the recreational or medicinal use of marijuana — in its edible, smokeable, and vape-able forms — this new research shows that the plant can in fact help nature and agriculture in amazingly important ways.

Genetically engineered gut bacteria may help honey bees to resist pathogens

Science 367 (6477), 573-576.

Several articles on this new approach to bee disease resistance were sent in by correspondents — thanks to you all.

The honey bee gut contains specific and astoundingly consistent core set of bacteria, called its gut microbiome — just like humans, only bees have their very own unique suite of gut bacteria. In this research, bee gut bacteria (I kid you not, but the species used in this research is called *Snodgrassella alvi*) were genetically modified to release specific RNA (its similar to DNA) that triggers an immune response in the host bees involving a technique called RNA interference (RNAi). Once the mechanism of RNA interference was activated in the bees gut bacteria, the honey bees survived infection by Deformed Wing Virus (or DWV) and the parasitic mite *Varroa destructor*. (Eds comment: this could be huge!!!)

As we have heard recently, RNA viruses like DWV (coronavirus is a RNA virus too!!!!), can attain high mutation rates (don't panic just yet) which allows them to be very adaptable and to change their virulence, their hosts and the severity of their impact on the host organism.

The genetically modified bee gut bacteria are passed on to other members of the same hive through their social interaction like grooming and feeding of larvae. Many social insects are invasive pests, such as fire ants (*Solenopsis invicta*) and Formosan termites (*Coptotermes formosanus*).

Could this drug and antibiotic free "silver bullet" be turned onto these pests also, (Ed: and what about other nasty social insects like cockroaches — or are they anti-social??)

Other major problems facing honey bees include insecticide (mis)use and loss of flower-rich habitat. Honey bee gut bacteria engineered to alter host expression of genes involved in detoxification or pollen digestion might go some way to resolving these problems, too. The theory is that it might be possible to promote the bees' defense mechanisms by stimulating enzyme activity involved in the de-toxifying of pesticides — (Ed's comment: Robo Bee here we come?)

PS: The Ed says that research on how RNA interference can protect against viruses and other pathogens received a Nobel Prize in 2006, so it's only quite a recently discovered technique — not bad progress from discovering the method, to devising a cure — all within a few years.

More reading:

<http://science.sciencemag.org/> on February 20, 2020

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RNA_interference

<https://thedailytexan.com/2020/02/05/ut-austin-scientists-protect-bees-from-pests-pathogens>



Drink this!!

Remember to keep your bees *Snodgrassella* populations healthy and help ward off diseases.

TDBAI Club activities

Beginner Beekeeper Course for Club members is on again

The club has a couple of dates under consideration as to when another Beginner Beekeeper course can be held.

Saturday 11th April. This is Easter Saturday.

OR

Sunday 26th April, day after ANZAC day, however it is NOT a long weekend this year.

Could those club members that would like to attend the course please send a response to Sonya (Publicity Officer: Sonya Verburgt sonyaverb@optusnet.com.au) with their preferred date or dates.

The course will be held at Sonya's place in Gulliver again, and will involve both educational and hands-on tutorials. Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

We will aim to do the course on the day that has the most members that are able to attend, or maybe do two days dependent on interest...

The previous course we ran was pretty much booked out, so get in early – it's a Members only course remember. Volunteers for the day will be rewarded with a yummy morning and arvo tea, a gourmet BBQ lunch cooked by our highly trained chefs, possibly a Club Shop Voucher, and the best bit of all – you will almost certainly learn something new, and you will get a buzz watching newbees really get into it. You will find it's a pleasure to be able to introduce someone to such a rewarding and fascinating addiction such as beekeeping.

Pest and diseases talk from BQ

A "Pests and Diseases of Honey Bees" presentation was really well attended by 35+ people on a rainy Sunday Feb 23 afternoon at Mick and Naomi's place. The information was presented by BQ staff Rebecca Rebecca Laws (on the right) and Carla Kernovske - below (also a TDBAI Club member). All reports indicated a really worthwhile event, with great information for newbees, and some new information even for the old hands. Thanks to the hosts for the event, and apparently a great afternoon tea was provided as well.



School presentations

President Mick Olsen (on the right) has been out there giving more spirited school presentations – what a legend. Year 3 kids at Townsville Grammar School at Annandale on Feb 24 and St Benedicts School on Feb 5.

Several other talks and presentations have been undertaken by Club members. Can you please send details, a short story and a photo or two to The Ed for inclusion in the Newsletter please? It's good to let others know of how active some of our Club members are in promoting healthy beekeeping.



Ooooops - Beekeepers sparked bushfire that shut down airport and threatened homes

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/state/act/2020/02/05/canberra-beekeepers-airport-fire/>

A fire that threatened homes and shut down the Canberra Airport was accidentally caused by beekeepers working on a biosecurity program. Canberra Region Beekeepers president Dermot Asis Sha'Non said an apiarist was trying to complete necessary hive checks on January 22 when they accidentally started the fire.

"The person inspecting wanted to keep in mind that there was a total fire ban, so worked to avoid that, but it didn't work out," Mr Asis Sha'Non said.

"The unfortunate thing is that we have milestones that are due at certain dates, and with that in mind, knowing there was a total fire ban on the Friday, the work was undertaken [earlier] to avoid the total fire ban."

That blaze, which was known as the Beard fire, burned at emergency level for several hours, threatening homes and damaging businesses.

It began in the Redwood Forest in Pialligo, where the sentinel hives are kept, and later joined up with a second fire in the area.

The hives are part of a national honey bee surveillance program that regularly checks for the arrival of exotic pests that might threaten Australia's bee population.

That process uses smokers to calm the bees so the hives can be inspected, which requires lighting fuels to generate the smoke.

The hives are maintained on behalf of the ACT government by Canberra Region Beekeepers – the program is usually run through state agriculture departments in other jurisdictions.

Plant Health Australia, which coordinates the program nationally, said it had no first-hand information regarding the fire. But its chief executive Greg Fraser said a range of other surveillance activities would ensure the health of Australia's bee population was not endangered while the hives were rebuilt.

It is understood the bee colonies died in the fire.

Worksafe ACT is speaking to local and federal agencies as part of its investigation.



Beeswax

Only a few centuries ago, bees wax used to be more valuable than honey due to the importance of clean burning candles and other domestic and industrial applications. With the increasing availability of electricity for lighting and energy, and the development of synthetic and hydrocarbon derived wax, bees wax lost its key role. Bees wax prices are now steadily increasing, in part due to the increasing difficulty of finding low or residue free residue wax. Apparently the surge in beeswax demand is partially due to the hipster habit of waxing the "mo".

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2018-05-30/beeswax-demand-surge-has-beards-in-a-frizz/9810998>

The Club Shop currently sells beeswax blocks for \$22/kg to Club members, while the commercial rate is around \$30/kg. The use of antibiotics, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides and chemicals used to treat Varroa in affected hives around the world has contributed to this shortage. Many of these compounds are wax soluble and remain in the wax. Contaminated wax can also adversely affect the development of eggs and larvae.



Wax is produced in the abdominal glands of 12-18 day old worker bees – see photo top right. As soon as the liquid wax is extruded, it solidifies to form wax platelets. To produce 1 kg of bees wax, the bees need to consume approximately 6 kg of honey – quite an energy intensive product and a valuable hive resource. Asian honeybee wax and Australian native stingless bees wax (cerumen- a mixture of wax and plant resins) is quite different to *Apis mellifera* wax.

Freshly built honeycomb is white and transparent, but becomes yellow and darker with age due mainly to yellow carotenoid pigments in pollen and from the dirty feet of the bees crawling over the honeycomb. See pics on the right showing the difference in wax in new and old brood combs. The brood frame wax foundation becomes darker due to the silk cocoon spun by the pre-pupa and it's faeces which is left in the cell. With every new brood cycle, another cocoon and dark stain from faeces makes the wax darker and darker and restricts the diameter of the brood cell. Eventually, old brood honeycomb becomes black and has cell diameters too small for proper larval development. Removal of 10% of the old, dark brood frames each year, and replacement with either blank wax frames or newly drawn comb is a recommended procedure for keeping your hive happy and healthy.



The Ed: Has anyone found a use for the silk cocoons left behind in old brood frames after melting the wax??? I am amazed that there appears to be none mentioned in any literature I have seen. Considering that absolutely everything else in a bee hive is edible or useful – honey, pollen, royal jelly, propolis, wax, edible bee larvae, bee stings – it's a surprise no one has produced a bee silk scarf or jacket. I understand it's a different kind of silk and not produced in threads, but in a kind of plastic veneer inside the cell. Opportunity here for a chemical engineer to produce a new product maybe?

Based on: Dr Wolfgang Ritter in "Bees for Development", Journal 126, March 2018. Extra info from The Ed.

Kangaroo Island's beehives decimated in bushfires

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-01-06/endangered-species-on-kangaroo-island-at-risk-after-bushfire/11843518> and: Casey Briggs and Eugene Boisvert



There has been a lot in the media regarding bushfires and the human, infrastructure, wildlife, and agriculture tragedies associated with this summer, and I am sure you have seen some of the horrible footage of East Coast apiaries totally burnt out and in little grey piles of ashes (see below left). One particular area is worth noting because it is a small example of how much history and the long term efforts of bee keepers, breeders and biosecurity services has been affected.



Kangaroo Island is home to the [world's purest strain of Ligurian honey bees](#) (pic on the right) which originally came from Italy and arrived in Australia via the United States in 1885, before making their way to Kangaroo Island. The Ligurian bees on Kangaroo Island are believed to be the last remaining pure stock of this insect found anywhere in the world. They have been

thriving on the island for the past 135 years after the South Australian Government declared the island a bee sanctuary. The island was regarded as a "bee utopia" because they mostly fed on native flora and were free of most diseases. Bees cannot be brought onto the island to repopulate due to quarantine restrictions.

Ligurian bees were examined during the development of the famous Buckfast bee by Brother Adam in England – he has a laundry list of good and bad attributes of this strain of bee available at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian_bee

SA almond industry will feel the impact of lost hives

From: Ainslie Chandler in Sydney at achandler14@bloomberg.net

Australia exported A\$552.4 million (US\$371 million) worth of almonds in 2018-19, 12% more than a year earlier, on the back of a bumper crop and strong sales to China, according to the Almond Board of Australia. It's too early to measure the impact of bee losses on future output, according to Almond Board CEO Ross Skinner. That's because it's unclear what proportion of the lost hives were used for honey production and for pollination.

"It could take five to 20 years to recover, depending on the severity of the fire," Skinner said, referring to the forest damage. The country's almond industry has been expanding since 2016, and the 2020 crop, due to be harvested in the coming two months, is expected to be about 106,000 tons, a fresh record after 2019's high of 104,000 tons, Skinner said. The wildfires that swept across Australia's east and south killed millions of bees and destroyed vast tracts of forest where the insects feed, putting the country's almond and honey production at risk. Bees play a crucial role in the nation's multi-billion dollar horticulture industry, pollinating not just almonds but fruit, including apples, pears and cherries. Australia is the world's second-largest producer of almonds and growers are already grappling with years of drought.

The fires destroyed about 6,000 hives in New South Wales state alone, according to NSW Apiarists Association President Stephen Targett, with other hives experiencing stock losses as bees perished or were lost in thick smoke.

"In a normal season we could replace those, but we're far from normal," said Targett. "We're in drought." Five million hectares of eucalyptus forest where bees feed have also been razed, leaving beekeepers scrambling for sugar syrup or pollen substitute to nourish their stock, he said.

In South Australia, more than 2,000 hives were reported destroyed in fires on Kangaroo Island, in the Adelaide Hills and in the state's southeast, as of Jan. 17, according to the state's primary industry department. All told, honey bee pollination is worth an estimated \$6 billion annually to the Australian economy, according to estimates in a 2014 parliamentary report. With honey output poised to take a hit, some beekeepers are likely to leave the industry, according to Targett. "We predict honey production in New South Wales could be at least 30% below the historical average for 10 years."

But not everyone wants to grant beekeepers access to the bush

<https://theconversation.com/buzz-off-honey-industry-our-national-parks-shouldnt-be-milked-for-money-131891>

Australia's native birds, mammals and other insects rely on the same nectar from flowers as honeybees, which are abundant and voracious competitors for this sugary food. Also, honeybees pollinate invasive weeds, such as gorse, lantana and scotch broom. These are adapted to recover and spread after fire, and are very expensive to

control. Many native plant species are not pollinated, or are pollinated inefficiently, by honeybees. This means a concentration of honeybee hives in a conservation area could shift the entire makeup of native vegetation, damaging the ecosystem.

General Meeting Minutes: 16 Feb, 2020

Location: Club Shop 3/38 Rendle St, Aitkenvale at 10:am

President welcomed all members and once again forgot to ask new members and guests to introduce themselves until promptly reminded by the ever-vigilant Treasurer.

Minutes tabled and accepted by Dave Turnbull and seconded by John P from Ingham

Another great Newsletter from Lindsay.

Some members have complained not receiving newsletter but were receiving club emails. Check Your Junk Email.

Committee meeting points of interest:

MO received email from TCC Community Development Officer stating that the TCC Commercial Lease Manager is confident land can be found for TDBAI.

TCC have asked what requirements regarding land the club is after, responded with semi-rural, preferably acreage for hives, flood free with main road access.

Rupertswood Community Centre is also up for grabs with other organisations also interested. Updates as details emerge.

Continued talks at local schools and Vet science students. MO has incorrectly stated the TDBAI supplied St Benedict's with a hive and stand, this is incorrect as the school purchased these items and TDBAI will donate the bees.

Business Arising from previous minutes.

Grants, club now has an ABN allowing us to apply for bigger grants. Club has applied for a \$35000 grant through the community gambling grant scheme.

Formalised workshops will commence today with how to light a smoker, by Jon, and will continue every club day throughout the year. I think due to the extreme heat this did not take place.

Please continue with sugar shakes, drone uncaps and alcohol washes and send through to DAF. Take screen shot of completed form and send through.

Discussed new management database and detailed the pricing of "wild apricot" software, members happy for committee to continue to explore all options prior to settling on a system. To have designer build system will cost around \$4000 plus \$900 - \$1000 per annum.

Will discuss with members of other clubs what systems they are running to find the most cost effective for TDBAI.

Please continue with sugar shakes, drone uncaps and alcohol washes as these are still required.

Treasurer's Report

Frana tabled the treasurer's report with quite a lot of funds banked but a lot of stock purchased as well.

Report accepted by Jon McK and Sonya

Secretary Report Correspondence in/out

In: Helen James TCC community development officer. Jane Mitchell Web designer. Out: Application for ABN. Application for \$35000 grant

Shop

New Starter Kit to include ABC beekeeping book and upgrade cotton jacket to vented, price TBA

New price list to come out by next month due to increase in prices on stock.

New stock arriving next week.

Branding iron available to members however a refundable amount of \$50 is to be left due with shop stewards.

Update from DAF

Entering proof of freedom stage.

Most rainbow eaters have migrated, but DAF would still like to hear of any roosting sites that are spotted.

Please continue with sugar shakes, drone uncaps and alcohol washes as these are still required.

Members reminded about the moving of hives into and out of the region and doing so would require a call to DAF to inform them of said movement

Rebecca Laws doing a talk 23 Feb 2020 with quite a lot of members going.

General Business

TDBAI has been invited to walk the ground looking for Native Bees prior to TCC conducting burn offs. Need to write WMS and looking for volunteers to walk ground. Iain G and MO meeting again with TCC 20 Feb 2020 to discuss further. Email if you are interested in lending a hand.

The club proposed to donate \$1000 to Hive aid and was approved from the floor, this money will help struggling beekeepers affected by fire get back on their feet.

The wife (Sonya) of deceased Life Member Doug McBride has offered to sell the club Doug's honey house for \$500. Members approved the purchase of this item for the use of all members free of charge at their own risk. The HoneyHouse will be relocated to the Presidents place for the interim, some minor repairs are required free of charge through Dave Turnbull.

One of our members had his brood raided around the Ayr area, members in this area be diligent and keep an eye out for any suspicious activity.

Nothing more from the floor

Next meeting to be held at Hermit Park State School 10am on the 22 Mar 2020.

Meeting Closed 1046hrs and off to enjoy a free BBQ courtesy of the Club.

PS: The Ed thanks Iain Gordon as note taker for providing the minutes while The Ed was away- again.

Minutes from the TDBAI Committee Meeting: 09 Feb 2020 at West End Hotel

Welcome

All welcomed to the first committee meeting of the year commencing at 1230hrs

Present

All bar Apologies from : Shane Grist, Sonya Verburgt, and Lindsay Trott

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes tabled and accepted by: Beryl Smart, Seconded by: Iain Gordon

Business arising from previous

MO received email from TCC Community Development Officer stating that the TCC Commercial Lease Manager is confident land can be found for TDBAI.

TCC have asked what requirements regarding land the club is after, responded with semi-rural, preferably acreage for hives, flood free with main road access.

Rupertswood Community Centre is also up for grabs with other organisations also interested. Updates as details emerge.

Secretary Report/Correspondence

Email from TCC Development Officer

Email from Jane Mitchell (web designer) in regard to pricing for new web update/build

Presidents Report

Plenty of School visits done and more pencilled in for talks on bees.

MO delivered native bee box and stand to suit to St Benedict's School

MO Guest speaker Rotary Club Thuringowa

Association now has ABN which allows us to apply for more grants.

MO has applied for \$35000 gambling grant applied for to go towards building a club house or upgrading a vacant one.

Margie Ryder grant for \$250 awarded to club and this will go towards Apiary Roadshow and Mates4Mates day.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer has tabled savings in the account, very healthy balance.

General Business

Working on workshop lessons to commence 16 Feb 2020 around Cert 111 for beekeeping.

Investigate costing of new data base system (Wild Apricot) or build our own

Hive theft in Ayr police have been notified by the beekeeper.

FMCK gave a talk to the Garden Club and was well received with many people attending.

Committee suggested donating \$1000 to Rural.org.au to assist with those beekeepers who were greatly affected by the bushfires.

IG has meet with TCC and suggested volunteers from TDBAI walk any ground prior to burning operations to identify any native bee colonies and remove. This was well received by TCC with the first burn planned for Apr/May.

WE raised the issue that the club to a business study to ensure if the club borrows any money for building works that TDBAI can repay loan. WE was informed we are currently just investigating all options and when the time came and we have decided on a path that a business study would most definitely be conducted against whatever model the club chooses, i.e. build our own building or upgrade an existing one.

An AFB hotspot seems to be located in the Mysterton area. MO asked to liaise with Rob Stephens to see if there is any avenue that the club might be able to take to deal with this problem, as it is beyond the legislative powers of DAF.

MO is attending a grant writing course to be better able at applying for future grants.

Nothing further from the floor, meeting closed @1330hrs.

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 newbies experience hive openings to become more confident, and you will learn more yourself by trying to explain what's going on in there.

Keith GRACE - CHARTERS TOWERS

Toni NIXON – MUNDINGBURRA

Gary ABRAHAM – MUNDINGBURRA

Shaun SUTTON – BURDELL

Jennifer SUTTON – BURDELL

Steven PILCHOWSKI - BUSHLAND BEACH

Jon ROBINSON – Bluewater

Evelyn HENRY – BURDELL

Ngairie TRIGG - SHAW

Scott HUGHSON – KELSO

Cliff KEMP – KELSO

Donald BATTERSBY – PALUMA

Mick LAVENDER - MAJORS CREEK

Cinzia Spinelli - WOODSTOCK

Anand PILLAI – WOODSTOCK

Diane FANTI – NOME

John EVES - KIRWAN

Shop etiquette – please?

It was a full-on few hours at the club shop opening on 7 March. On arrival at 7am the first job was to unpack and shelve the contents of two pallets of goods that had arrived the week before, then move the trailer out of the way and set it up for sterilisation of some hive hardware.

Only then did we have a chance to start packing orders that had come in by email. Unfortunately, on this particular occasion there was only one member volunteer to help with picking and packing, to say **Mark Quadrell** had his tail hanging out is an understatement. Also, the first members arrived shortly after 8am with no pre-order made, and wanting to have a chat about this and that.

The volunteers arrive about 7am to prep the shed and pack orders, it is distracting when members arrive before the 8.30am opening - we do our best to have orders ready for collection from 8:30am but often cannot achieve this especially when there are questions about beekeeping and/or the items we sell. We certainly encourage members to socialise and have a chat during shop hours, however, we need the time before 8:30am for packing.

So, in summary: where possible, pre-order by email to shop@beesnorth.com.au; wait till after 8:30am to come into the shop; leave Frana alone 'cos she gets stressed really easily; bring coffee (flat white, extra hot, no sugar); and don't forget to volunteer your services, its only a couple of hours once a month.

Ed's comment: Dear Club members who utilize the fantastic opportunity that our volunteer shopkeepers provide. If we do not wish to see this service reduced or limited we need to show a lot more consideration for those people providing this service. If we burn them out, we might not have this excellent service and convenience.

For your consideration, I outline some **Golden Rules for the Club Shop:**

Please:

1. Order **before** the opening day by email: shop@beesnorth.com.au
2. Arrive **after** 8:30 am, **depart** by 10:00 am
3. **Go outside** the Shop to chat about bees
4. Wait quietly and patiently outside the Shop till the emailed orders have been completed if you have not emailed in advance – non emailed orders may not get any attention if the Shop is too busy.
5. Do not panic - We do not sell toilet paper

Blooper of the Month

Our IT man on the Gold Coast, Ray Berkelmans, has a lovely couple of ha with a steep drop off to the neighbours' property. He thought he would just do a quick mow around his hives the other month, as the recent rains had caused the grass to get a bit long around the entrances.

"Don't mow so close to the edge" said his wife – "No worries luvvvvvvvv....."

No bees or humans were injured in this escapade, as Ray managed a graceful exit before the disappearance of the mower over the edge. Apparently the mower engine only needed a bit of a clean out and removal of oil up around the pistons where it shouldn't have been. It's a jungle out there – take care.



Sell/Swap/Buy/Help needed

I will list items for 2 Newsletters only, unless you let me know otherwise. Please drop The Editor editor@beesnorth.com.au a note to indicate whether the items are required to be listed for a longer period.

Peter Britton has this **top bar hive for sale**.
Price is \$475.00 Ph: 0418 728 699. Photos at right.



Subscribe to the Bee Aware e-newsletter and stay up to date

The BeeAware newsletter is an e-newsletter for beekeepers and growers of pollinator-reliant crops, or anyone else simply interested in beekeeping or the pollination of crops. Each newsletter contains the latest in news, research and development, as well as upcoming events relating to honey bee biosecurity and the pollination of horticultural and agricultural crops.

<https://beeaware.org.au/subscribe-to-newsletter/>

Annual Membership Fees are due in July/August each year - currently \$25/p.a. 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.

Email contacts for the Office Holders 2019/20

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, publicityofficer@beesnorth.com.au

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

TDBA Inc Office Holders for 2019/2020

President: Mick Olsen president@beesnorth.com.au or mick_naomi@bigpond.com

Vice President: Paul Payne trapper4812@gmail.com

Secretary: Waldon Edwards secretary@beesnorth.com.au

Treasurer: Frana McKinstry franajon@gmail.com or info@beesnorth.com.au

Treasurer's Assistant: Michelle Hasted pexperts@bigpond.com

Members: Frana McKinstry franajon@gmail.com or info@beesnorth.com.au

Newsletter: Lindsay Trott editor@beesnorth.com.au or trott Lindsay@gmail.com

Librarian: Beryl Smart smartberyl@gmail.com

Equipment Stewards: Frana McKinstry and Alan Ziegenfusz shop@beesnorth.com.au

Webmaster: Ray Berkelmans rberkelm@gmail.com

Publicity Officer: Sonya Verburgt sonyaverb@optusnet.com.au

Committee:

Ronelle Nord

Keith Hunter

Shane Grist

Tom and Joan Ruddell

Michelle Hasted

Alan Ziegenfusz

Swarm Contact List:

Please advise editor@beesnorth.com.au if you wish to be removed from this list. Contact me with your name, phone number and suburb if you want to be added to the list.

Sonya Verburgt - Gulliver - 04 0853 0991

Steve and Carla Kersnovske - Kelso - 0417 344 419

Ben Taylor, Douglas/ Riverside Gardens - 4728 4992/ 0428 186 000

Sharene Dougall, Bluewater - 0415426903

Tito Parigi - Magnetic Island - 0418 796 951

Ronelle Nord, Alice River - 0417752622

Duane Saltmer - Alice River - 0400 339 508

Adrian Kirby - Kirwan - 0403 443 141

Mervyn Yule - Charters Towers - 0427 124 126

Swarm List Please contact Biosecurity Queensland : 13 25 23 for any swarm or strange bee activity in the Townsville region. For all swarm collections, please collect 300 bees or roughly 10% of brood comb and submit to Biosecurity Queensland for pest and disease monitoring.

New form for "Sugar Shake" results – BQ requesting us to step up on detection tests for Varroa

Biosecurity Queensland would like beekeepers to fill out this new 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 in reply paid, or it can be emailed. Carla K will also be visiting everyone who would like to practise with the different self assessment types.

Varroa Mite Eradication Program



Managed hive test or feral nest/swarm removal form

Please use this form to submit the results of self-assessments and to submit samples from collected feral swarms or nests. Complete the first section and then any other applicable sections. Please use multiple forms if necessary and separate forms for each location tested.

Return forms to, or contact for sample collection – Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: 07 3330 4560

PO Box 1085 Townsville Q 4810 or email varroa@daf.qld.gov.au.

Address of collection location	
Collector	
Collector's phone or email	
HIN	

Alcohol wash/ sugar shake (300 bees per hive recommended. Submit sample if anything suspect seen)

Date tested	Alcohol wash or sugar shake? (AW or SS)	Hive ID and approximate number of bees tested	Anything suspect? (Y or N)	Sample submitted? (Y or N)

Drone uncapping (20 drone pupae per hive recommended. Submit sample if anything suspect seen)

Date tested	Hive ID and approximate number of drone pupae examined	Anything suspect? (Y or N)	Sample submitted? (Y or N)

Feral nest or swarm removed and samples kept for DAF to identify and check for varroa (300 bees and several hundred capped brood cells - especially drone brood - recommended)

Date collected	Bees submitted?	Comb submitted?

DAF use only - Analysis by NVMEP

Case	Sample	Date tested	Tested by
ID result	<i>Apis cerana</i> (AHB)	<i>Apis mellifera</i> (EHB)	Other
Varroa seen			
Recording	Date	By	

Scan to server, email to varroa (cc to manager and SPO), add to VMI2019 (attach scan to result), file hard copy

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is collecting the information on this form as a record of surveillance activities conducted under the National Varroa Mite Eradication Program. Summaries of surveillance activities may be provided to the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests, formed by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture for the purpose of reporting against the Response Plan for the Eradication of *Varroa jacobsoni* from Queensland – 2019 Incident. Any personal information collected will not be disclosed to any other parties unless authorised or required by law.

Club Shop Items - 2020 Price List

These prices are only available to current financial members

Item	Price	Item	Price
Jacket - Cotton	60.00	Eyelets pkt 500	10.00
Jacket - Ventilated	90.00	Awl (for picking eyelets)	5.00
Full Suit - Cotton	90.00	S/S Wire x 500gm	20.00
Full Suit - ventilated	115.00	Crimping Tool	14.00
Replacement veil for vented suit	25.00	Bucket Bracket	10.00
Cowboy hat with veil	12.00	Queen Catcher Clip	3.00
Veil - cotton	20.00	Queen Catcher & Marker	8.00
Veil - ventilated	25.00	Frame Gripper	10.00
Gloves - pair	25.00	Frame Hanger	20.00
Veil - Native Bee	3.00	Bee Feeders	1.00
		Spring clips, ea	2.00
Super - 10 Frame	28.00	Frame Nails pkt	6.00
Super - 8 frame	25.00		
Super - Ideal	25.00	Gate valve - Nuplas	12.00
Super - WSP	25.00	Gate valve - Parker	30.00
Lids (8 or 10 Frame)	27.00	Gata Valve S/S	35.00
Lids (8 or 10 Frame) pre-assembled	35.00	Gate valve O rings - Parker	7.00
Base - Ply (8 or 10 frame)	22.00	Cappings knife, serrated	15.00
Base - Mesh	35.00	Cappings knife, electric	45.00
Mesh sheet (for base construction)	15.00	Comb scratcher	8.00
Lifting Cleats (Handles, pair)	5.00	Strainer	26.00
		Scales	12.00
Nuplas Super 10 Fr	40.00	Extractor - Plastic	140.00
Nuplas Super 8 Fr	40.00		
Nuplas Super - Ideal	35.00	Honey jars 250gm	0.70
Nuplas Lid, 8 or 10 Fr	38.00	Honey jars 500gm square	0.80
Nuplas Base, 8 or 10 Fr	45.00	Honey Jars Squeeze 550g	0.80
Nuplas 10 Fr set: 1 x super, lid & base	120.00	Honey Jars 1 kg	1.00
Nuplas cleats	10.00	Honey Pails - 1 kg	1.20
Nuplas oil tray & frame	28.00	Honey Pails - 1.5kg	1.30
Hive Doctor plastic base	55.00	Honey bottle 2.8kg (2 litre)	0.80
4 Frame Nuc Box	65.00	TRAPS	
5 Frame Nuc Box	70.00	Apithor trap	8.00
Corflute Nuc boxes	28.00	Silver Bullet trap	8.00
Hive tool (S/S)	15.00	BOOKS	
Smoker	35.00	Managing AFB	0.00
Smoker - Beeco	85.00	ABC of Beekeeping in Tropics	25.00
Bee Brush - Natural bristle	10.00	Australian Beekeeping Manual	35.00
Emlok - hive clamp	14.00	Australian Native Bee Book	25.00
Hive Handle (galvanised)	12.00		
Queen Excluder - Wire (8 or 10 frame)	22.00	Honey Labels (\$5 for 50) or roll	25.00
Queen Excluder - Plastic	12.00	Nutrition panel labels (per roll)	20.00
Queen Excluder scraper	10.00	Posca Queen marking pen	5.00
		Warning Sign	10.00
Frames - Full depth	2.00	Bee Poster	20.00
Frames - Full depth, prewired	4.00	AFB test kit	0.00
Frames - Ideal	1.50		
Frames - WSP	1.50	Club Polo Shirts	40.00
Foundation - Plastic	2.10	Club Polo Shirts L/S	45.00
Foundation - Wax, per sheet	2.40	Club hats with logo	15.00
WSP foundation (plastic)	2.00		
Wax Embedding tool	45.00		
Block beeswax, per Kg	22.00		

TDBA Bee Starter Kit - \$160

The Perfect Gift for a budding Beekeeper

Available in Townsville from the Club Shop:

Club Members Price Only! \$160

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

Plus: The ABC of Beekeeping book

Contact: Club Shop Stewards: Frana M or Alan Z or email:

shop@beesnorth.com.au



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Queensland Branch

M: 0400 607 868 graeme@fwgs.com.au

Coaching - Taxation - Accounting - Bookkeeping

LOTS-A-STINGS

Raw honey, and pollination services. Will help new members get started with bees

Dan Donovan: Ph 0428 218 816

