

# Newsletter of the Townsville and District Beekeepers Association

March 2015

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PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale, Q4814



## How to NOT shift hives !

Most beekeepers know that you can move your hives around the backyard overnight – but only 1 m per day. This is because the “GPS” system of the bees do not reset when moved several metres, and they can’t find their way home. Alternatively, you can move a hive more than a few kms from their previous location overnight, and the bees will find the hive. So it’s either a 1 m move, or several kms for a relocation. There are other theories for shifting –see previous Newsletters.

pretty bad. It seems I had created a “caravan” effect where the bees from the front hive were relocating to the rear hive because each morning the front wheelbarrow and hive was 1 m away. The rear wheelbarrow was exactly where the bees had been on the day before – ooops. The consequences have been – hive warfare with many dead bees, the front hive bees started constructing honeycomb on the outside of the rear hive box, the front hive became despondent and the queen absconded, the wheelbarrows starting filling up with water during the rain and threatened to flood the hives. A better idea is to move one hive at a time, and have a wheelbarrow with holes in the tray.

### Special points of interest:

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### Next meeting:

**Sunday 2:00PM**  
**19 April 2015.**  
**At 14 Rivergum**  
**Court Condon**

**REMEMBER—**  
**your chair**



Bee “caravan” on the move in wheelbarrows.

I tried to move 2 hives at once by putting each one each in a wheelbarrow, and moving them in a line 1 m each night towards the new location. The first couple of mornings things looked OK, but after 3 days things looked



New external hive construction on the rear hive by bees from the front hive.

Lindsay Trott

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

**TDBA October meeting 15-03-2015.**

Held at Steve and Carla's place in Kelso.

Steve opened a couple of hives for the members. Discussed his methods of catching beetle and his honey flow.

President Ron welcomed the members and guests and thanked those who travelled. Ron had a lot of new members introduce themselves around 15 new members.

Some of Steve's inventions were on show.

**Present:** as per signed book, over 55 members and guests

Apologies: as per the book and the Charters Towers contingent, Connie and Ally, Doug and Sonya Mc.

**Minutes of Previous meeting** Taken as read

Moved, Ron sec: Lindsay T.

Carried.

### **Matters arising:**

Native bee workshop organizing has begun, some have paid. A flyer has been sent out and Frana will open it to the public in the near future. Looks as if it will be a huge success just like last year.

**Correspondence:** plenty of memberships have been paid in the past month.

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

Moved Frana Mc.. Sec. Lindsay T.

### **General Business.**

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

Also he asks beekeepers to do the SHB survey on line, as it will help towards funding of bees biosecurity up here. The port surveillance area has been increased to 10 kilometres now that should include a lot more hives. It is important that we support this and keep the population very aware of the interest from beekeepers in keeping bee pests out of the country. For the newer members, please ask around about the tests.

chalk brood was discussed and seems to be a bit around. Stresses on the hive contribute to this condition. Frana and Jon have used banana slices to help control it in their hives. Bees need to be a little more clean. A very slight slope of the hive helps the bees get rid of the rubbish on the floor inside the hive.

Discussion on queens getting through queen excluders.

more talk about checking with the council about an incinerator to be used for the destruction of AFB hives in and around our area. A letter to be written to them and to the 3 new local members explaining our issues and how they can help us.

The Apairy Act is to be dissolved next year about the mid year and a new one formulated.

Apis Cerana hasn't seemed to moved any further south. less monitoring going on though.

Talk on the Flow hive.

SHB have been active again and has slimed out hives even with Apithor traps in them.

Frana had another show and tell session with what the club is offering to members. Bees still wanted by members. Queens should be able to be purchased soon.

Library books are being used very well and the club will be buying more in the near future. two more copies of Doug Purdie's book to be ordered.

Frana asked about fermenting capped honey. Dennis A. mentioned it happens a lot with Bloodwood honey.

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

Honey flows have dried up a bit in certain areas in the district.

With the volume of people coming to meetings some thought will have to be given about future meeting places.

### **Next Meeting**

April to be confirmed.

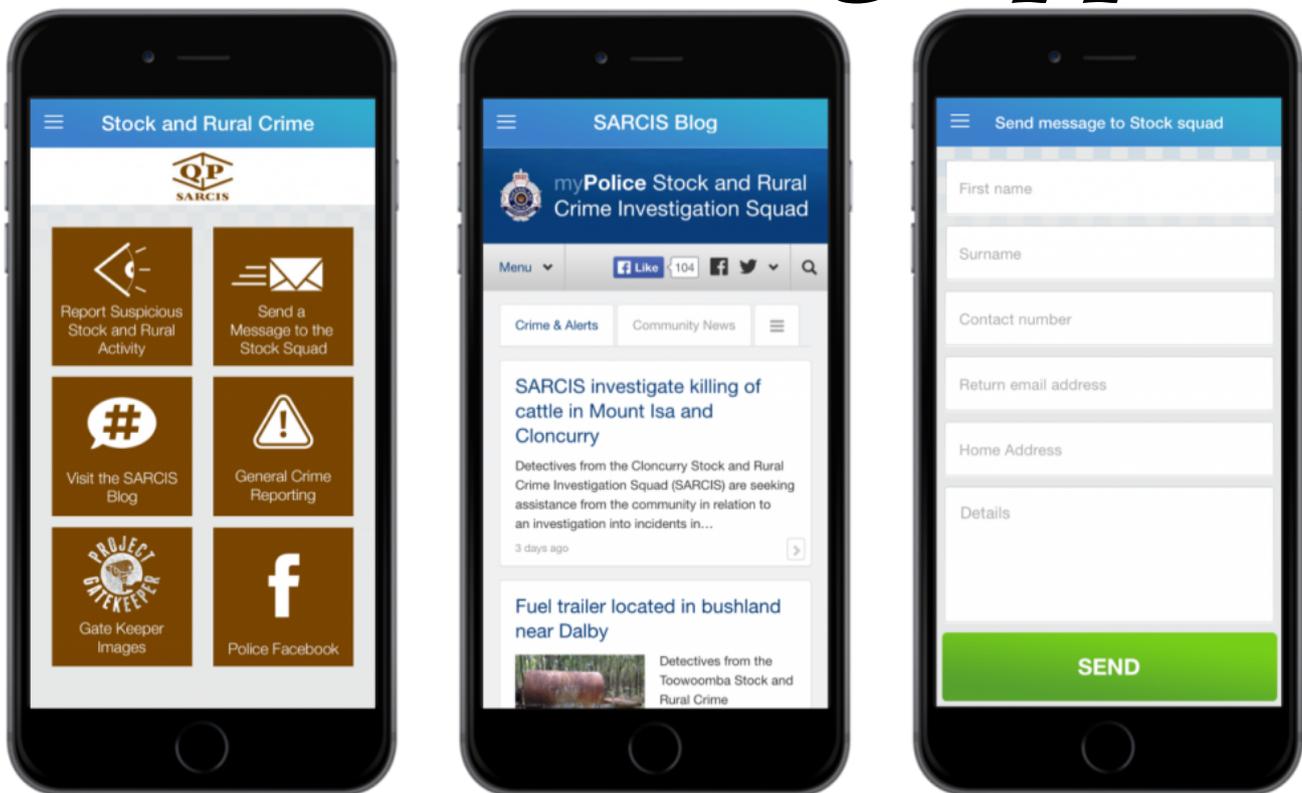
May

June Sonya's place in Gulliver.

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

Please look up addresses in our membership lists sent Meeting closed 3.45. Coffee, tea, and some eats and lots of discussions were enjoyed.

# *Crime busting App.*



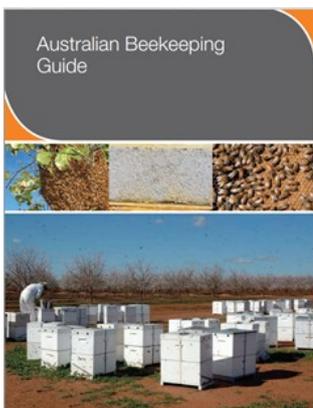
The Queensland Police Service's Stock and Rural Crime Investigation Squad (SARCIS) has launched a unique app service that is designed to make it easier for people to report rural crime in the State. Stock and Rural Crime Investigation Squad (SARCIS) has worked with Queensland Policelink to develop a specific crime reporting function allowing farmers in the pastoral and agricultural industries to instantly report crime. Assistant Commissioner Gayle Hogan of Queensland Police Crime Command said this morning that the custom designed function enabled users to instantly upload images and make a report without waiting until they were back home or in the office. "Most users of this function would be out on a property when they see a crime such as trespassers or property damage," Assistant Commissioner Hogan said. "Instead of waiting to get back to the office or home to report the crime they can do it straight away via the Policelink app or have the report saved to send when they next have phone coverage."

In 2013 SARCIS implemented Project Gatekeeper to encourage rural communities to shut the gate on rural crime. "One initiative of the project was to remove barriers for rural and remote residents to report suspi-

SARCIS worked closely with Associate Professor Elaine Barclay of the University of New England who identified an under reporting of stock and rural crime. The survey found over half of the reported crimes were trespassing for illegal hunting or fishing yet only half of those offences were reported to police. "We hope this new function will contribute to addressing the issue and believe the increased reporting will assist in reducing stock and rural crime generally in the long run," Assistant Commissioner Hogan said. 2014 Queensland Rural Ambassador Sarah Hannah encourages the rural community to embrace the use of this modern technology like they are embracing new innovations in their industries. "I hope the rural residents get on board and use this app which can help lead us to safer rural communities across the state," Sarah Hannah said. Since the upgrade to the Policelink app in December 2014, the SARCIS functionality has been accessed 379 times. SARCIS also wants the pastoral and agricultural communities to keep up to date with crime trends and crime prevention strategies by following their blog site. The Policelink App is available to download for free from the internet.

<http://www.beefcentral.com/news/rural-crime-busting-app-launched-in-qld/>

## Hobby beekeepers benefit from new resource..



Over recent years the number of beekeepers in Australia has increased markedly in both urban and regional areas. They now have access to a wealth of information about keeping bees and honey bee biosecurity with the release of the book *The Australian Beekeeping Guide*. This book was previously published under the title *Beekeeping* in 1991.

The book draws on the knowledge and experience of scientists, various state and territory beehive inspectors and officers and, most importantly, beekeepers. It provides a strong platform for beginner beekeepers to grow their hobby and is a useful foundation for those contemplating beekeeping as a sideline or full-time commercial enterprise.

Beekeeper and spokesperson for the Honey Bee and Pollination R&D Program, James Kershaw, said beekeeping was a craft, learned over a number of years.

“Successful beekeeping is about practice, building experience and confidence. It’s a fascinating and rewarding hobby, a profitable sideline and, for many commercial operators, a full time occupation which contributes millions of dollars to the Australian economy each year,” Mr Kershaw said. The project has been funded by the Honey Bee and Pollination R&D Program, which is funded by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) and Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited (HIA); as well as the Victorian Department of Economic Development.

For a copy of *The Australian Beekeeping Guide* go to <https://rirdc.infoservices.com.au/items/14-098>

## Jar Honeycomb

Seen by a travelling beehound in Japan recently. This honeycomb in a glass jar was perfect in shape, colour and tidiness, and there was no honey stored in it yet, how did they get them to do that??? And - If you look carefully in the background you can see Manuka honey on display – the asking price was over \$100/kg,



Perfect honeycomb in a jar from a Japanese honey shop.

and even the local Linden honey (fluorescent green with a pretty awful medicinal after-taste) sold for over \$60/kg. Trade restrictions prevent more Aussie honey getting into the Japanese market.



See the green cross on Manuka honey jars; priced at 1,800 Yen for 180 gm (~\$106/kg)

# Classifieds

## For Sale

Bottom Boards - 10  
Frames wood & metal pressure primed before assembly and ready for use made to Australian Standards

9mm risers & cleats  
70x35 mm to fit commonly used stands

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



## Beekeeping Equipment for Sale

Supers; Nucs; excluders; frames etc

Barry Madsen, 23 Bundock Street, Belgian Gardens  
Ph 47714969

## For Sale

### Club shop News

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

### Club Polo Shirts

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

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

Beige – 3XL, M and S are available

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

Honey gate \$10

Smokers for sale - \$35

Gloves \$20

Honey gate \$10

Un-capping knife \$15

Hive Tools for sale - \$5 MS or SSteel \$12.00

Frames \$1.35ea

Wax foundation \$1.60 ea

**Ring Frana Ph 0401 014 948 OR**

**franajon@gmail.com**

## Wanted to Buy

### Bees wanted

- Marg Crane (Swarm)

### Bees for Sale

- Jon & Frana McKinstry

- Mick Taylor

- Kevin Harding

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

## *Club Shop Price List...*

Item	Price	Comment
Veil with drawstring	20.00	
Jacket / Round hat	50.00	
Ventilated jacket	70.00	
Full Suit	75.00	
Gloves	20.00	
Hive tool (S/S)	12.00	
Hive tool (Yellow)	5.00	
Smoker	35.00	
Queen Excluder - Wire	20.00	Limited supply
Queen Excluder - Plastic	5.00	Ideal for use as inner lids
Frames - Full depth	1.35	
Foundation - Plastic	1.90	
Foundation - Wax	1.60	
Bee Brush - Natural bristle	8.00	
Bee Brush - Synthetic bristle	7.00	
Queen Catcher	3.00	
Frame Gripper	8.00	
Gate valve	10.00	
Capping knife, serrated	15.00	
Comb scratcher	6.00	
Honey jars 500gm	0.75	
1kg Buckets	1.25ea	
<b>TRAPS</b>		
Apithor trap	6.50	
Silver Bullet trap	7.00	or 3 for \$20
TK Beetle mat	6.00	
"Die Ya Bastard" trap	2.00	
Diatomaceous earth	2.00	
Booklet - Managing AFB	6.00	
Club Polo Shirts	22.00	

*TDBAI is supported by ...*

**THE AUSTRALIAN BEE-KEEPER MAGAZINE (ABK)**

Published monthly  
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Pender Beegoods, PMB 19,  
MAITLAND NSW 2320

**LOTS-A-STINGS**

Honey, wax, boxes,  
frames, plastic foundation  
and much more.  
Pollination services  
Will help new members get  
started with bees.  
Dan Donovan  
**Ph 0428 218 816**



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



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

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

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

**Frana Ph 0401 014 948**

