

Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc.)

www.beesnorth.com.au



PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814

Newsletter No 1 Feb 2018

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Next Meeting:
HPSS at 5 Sussex St, Hermit Park
(entry off McKimmin St)
2:00 pm Sunday, 18 February 2018
Bring a chair - and a plate of food to share if you can
Tea, coffee, sugar and milk provided

The Big Move - a native bee rescue story from Black River

Photos and article by Bronwyn J.

I'm reasonably new to the world of bees and only been in the club since March. Actually I never knew much at all about beekeeping before that. Since then I've come across a variety species of bees in my own backyard. Earlier in the year we knocked down a dry Eucalypt tree on my block at Black River.

It had died not long after Cyclone Yasi. Presumably either from termites or just the stress of being through that weather event. To my shock and delight there was a strong Native Stingless bee colony inside. Not knowing what these Australian bees looked like and that they are so little, at first we thought they were wasps as we have plenty of those angry buggers. They were behaving differently and didn't want to sting.



They are real cute. It was so lucky that when the tree fell the hive entrance wasn't destroyed as it was in a smaller branch not the main trunk. I'm sure they would have repaired it but would have made it a lot harder for them and would have opened them up to elements and pests getting in. The main trouble now was the entrance was facing the sky, so if we had a good down pour of rain I was concerned the hive could be flooded and brood could drown. I decided it was time to stand the log back up. Then in a few weeks move it 1 meter a week to a shady position as stingless bees are sensitive to high temperatures. It was a bit of a guess where to cut with chainsaw. We had some advice of where to cut, but was a big relief we didn't damage the natural hive at all. Very clever how much the bees resined up the openings. I still covered the exposed ends up with bags till they've settled. Its been stabilised with a star picket. Even though they are small they are so fascinating and so very important and worth saving. They are busy little bees.



So far so good, so hopefully they recover well from their big move.

Ed: Get the bible on how to look after native bees by Tim Heard through the Club Shop at a discounted price of \$25 for financial members, [The Australian Native Bee Book](#)

Top bar hive - it might be sold already, but such nice construction deserves an article

Club member Michael O'C made this strongly built hive, in all new timber, he did not paint it as the purchaser would want to paint it in their own colours. Michael had been looking on the net, and the average price is between \$400 to \$600. Wanting around \$350 for this hive, or swap for 2 Langstroth hives, certified AFB free.

Details:

- 18 top bars with space for 10 or 12 more
- 2 dividers
- hinges on the back end so it is not necessary to take the lid off
- hasp and staple in front with a latch to stop the lid blowing open
- an entry hole and landing pad on the ends of each long side (4 in total)
- all top bars have a starter strip
- the lid has a ply wood inner and an alsynite/polycarbonate waterproof sheeting on top,
- made from 19 mm pine all glued and screwed so is very strong and solid



Michael's contacts are:

Phone number 0402 088 080 and these email addresses
trivialpurzitz@bigpond.com & agloe365@bigpond.com

Michael already had 2 people interested last year, anybody interested will have to hassle, first in - best dressed.

Ed: Maybe you can talk to him about turning out some more of these?

How about a horizontal Valkyrie hive (<http://www.therighthandlp.com/valkyrie-long-hive/>) that takes full size Langstroth frames? Much easier on the arms and back.



Ideas for a home made solar wax melter

Some are pretty dinky, but some are good uses of spare building material, seen on Pinterest recently.

<https://goo.gl/ux3Vnd>



"Someone stole my bees"

Source: <https://goo.gl/D7Akpm>

Several Village of Lynbrook, USA, officials, accompanied by a police officer, seized a beehive last month from a home while the occupants were not home. Daryl Altman and her husband Robert Shepard had been raising the bees in their backyard after they attended classes held by the Long Island Beekeepers Club and after two years of research. They say they started the hive as a hobby, and that neighbours were appreciative when they got honey straight from the comb.

"I came home from work and looked in the backyard, the hive was gone," says Shepard, who added that he felt violated.

The beekeepers were told that they violated village ordinance 185-7, which prohibits "insect infestation." The officials had a warrant when they seized the hive.

"Our law says no bees kept, no infestation in the backyard...if you want to keep bees for commercial reasons, you have to have 5 acres," Mayor William Hendrick tells **News 12 Long Island**. "The definition of an infestation is pests that are doing harm...these are not pests," says Altman. Altman and Shepard hired a lawyer and plan to take the village to court. Beekeeping at home is allowed in parts of Suffolk and New York City.

Club Mascot still needs a name?

Send in your suggestions



Roving Beehound Report from Patagonia - a short story from the absentee Editor

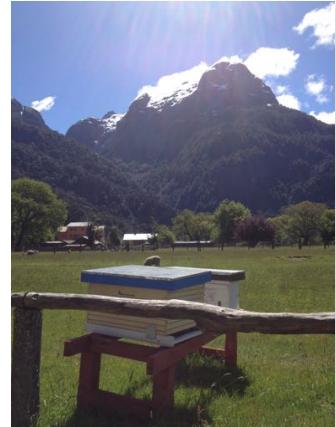
Photos and story from Lindsay T.

During my absence on a jaunt to South America, I discovered a fantastic tasting honey called "Ulmo" honey from the native elm forests. It has a pungent "anise" like flavour, is only seasonally available during elm flowering periods, and is highly prized by locals. But the story about the honey got better when I found out about the local beekeeper's lifestyle.



Volcanic Mt Osorno from the Lake Todos los Santos

The lucky locals who are allowed to live in the national park surrounding the glacier lake "Todos los Santos" occupy themselves by maintaining and repairing the summer lodges of the rich in winter, and doing their beekeeping in the warmer spring and summer months. I think I will become a volunteer!!



Photos are from around lake Todos Los Santos, near Puerto Varas in northern Patagonia, Chile. It's an area of glacial lakes, volcanoes (2015 was the last blast), crystal clear water with trout and salmon, and an area famous for organic produce and honey - its a winner.

Australian growers are developing the strongest Manuka medicinal grade honey by cloning plants with the highest concentration of DHA

From: Catch The Buzz website (<https://goo.gl/Q4AvnL>)

Australian promoters are reported working on a project to clone the strongest medical Manuka honey available and produce it in a medicinal honey plantation.

"The Land" weekly farm newspaper reports one of the first plantations of its kind in Australia is producing promising results. Cofounder Matt Blomfield, chief executive of Gather By says the company is using evidence-based approach, working with scientists from the University of the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, University Technology Sydney and University of Western Australia. "Our cloned plants produce flowers at an order of magnitude greater than in the wild," Blomfield says.



The parent stock plantation includes diverse species of wild-cloned potent Manuka, all of them Australian native Leptospermum, which have been tested for dihydroxyacetone (DHA) which indicates their ultimate honey strength. Three years of field research identified 15 species of potent Manuka plants, with Blomfield and co-founder Jenna Ford driving thousands of miles to remote locations, searching out existing Leptospermum stands, geo-tagging thousands of plants, collecting minute amounts of nectar from tiny flowers using a pipette before delivering to researchers for testing. Based on lab results they revisited the locations of 'hyper-DHA' plants, taking cuttings. Now, secure nursery sites are propagating plants at six plantations in five regions. New Zealand's Manuka honey is gathered from bushes growing wild in the NZ countryside. Data from the Australian plantations will assess which varieties of Leptospermum best suit each locality.

In the model proposed by Gather by, honey bees stay on location for up to seven months, feeding on an array of flowering plants that add protein and nutrients to the bees' diet while they produce Manuka honey. To keep them there the plantation design incorporates a great diversity of flowering Leptospermum plants and others with more protein and nutrition. The company plans to sell its chemical free, raw bioactive, Manuka honey and products on local and export markets.

Is that a Bee flat playing?

Bee behaviour included in Citizenship test

With all the recent brouhaha about dual citizenship, I thought this a bit amusing. Can you be a real Aussie citizen if you don't understand bee behaviour?? Apparently you have to understand questions about bees. Here is a report on the questions included in the test of whether you are a "Real Aussie", or not!

<https://theconversation.com/could-you-pass-the-proposed-english-test-for-australian-citizenship-79269>



TDBA Minutes from November meeting

General Meeting Sunday 19/11/2017 Steve and Carla K's house

Minutes Taken by Secretary – Bronwyn J.

Great meeting location today Steve and Carla's place. Perfect bee haven.

Steve gave a little talk about their bee history. Originally started for pollination in garden and have been beekeeping approx 3.5 years. They have both native and Apis honey bees. Most hives located at RSL care, One is sentinel hive used for monitoring with biosecurity. They have a mixture of Langstroth box, core flutes and Polystyrene. Their bees are mostly calm and easy to work around which has a lot to do with the queens they have. They enjoy mentoring new beekeepers or getting them started.

Meeting opened approx 2:05pm

1. Welcome : 4-5 new visitors including new member to meeting Ranging From West end , Jensen, Black River, Rangewood and Aitkenvale.

2. Newsletter was emailed out day before meeting. Has lots of great info and articles to read. "Shazza" our fill in editor has done a wonderful job compiling this for us while Lindsay has been away. As volunteers we sometimes have limited available time to devote but it was worth the wait.

Heat chamber has been ordered. Committee meeting 30th November to discuss Steriliser, compile standard operating procedure and the year to come

Minutes were available in newsletter for all to read and checked. The minutes were accepted as being correct. Accepted by Chrystal Horne and seconded Jon McKinstry

Corrections to last minutes of AGM made aware by Dave Turnbull

There will be motion to amend minutes with correct wording at next meeting.

3. Treasurer: Frana away at moment. There were Questions raised about the accountants report in regards to where certain things were placed in financials. These have been answered by accountant. If there are any queries in regards to club financials email to treasurer@beesnorth.com.au

4. Club shop: Quite busy when opened last weekend. Keep an eye out on email when it opens next or contact club if need something in particular. Now stocking Frame hangers for side of hives and reusable Apithor beetle trap. The traps are approved to use with bees, has 4 entrances. Sticky mat and bait can be used . Few members are trialling. Suggest to put oil around entrances to prevent bees from blocking entrances. Jon M's base boards he designed are being trialled also and are available to purchase through club

7. Christmas Party will be held Vale Hotel 12 noon 10th dec. Need names and numbers. Contact Alan

8. Shirts: Found a local supplier Emu Sportswear on Ingham road. Aprox \$40 S TO 5 XL. Minimum purchase of 20.

9. Librarian Kirsty came along with books and magazines relating to bees to loan out.

10. Last month's activities: Few members went down to Bowen for Bowls and bbq, Combined with their club meeting. 13 people from Townsville and 9 from Mackay. -Monday 13th November DAFF ran a workshop on pests and diseases including American and European Foul Brood diseases, Varroa mite and Asian honey bee. One of the points was honey from an infected hive is ok for human consumption but equipment used to extract or spin honey is then classed as infected.

11. Next meeting on February 18th Location TBA

Next year will endeavour to have meeting in Ingham and Ayr. Volunteers for holding meeting at your place are open. We need new locations to visit and hold meetings. 10 meeting a year

We welcome ideas on what workshops the members would like and what would you like the club to stock.

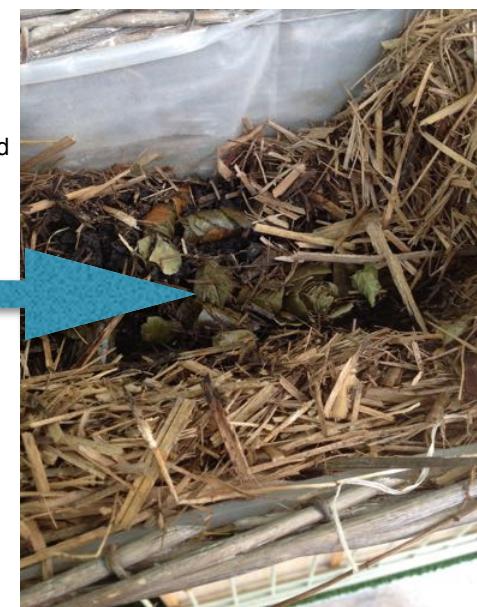
12. Biosecurity- Carla stated its important to keep getting negative data to Varroa mite. We will be first place to maintain negative data if we can . Contact Carla to get samples taken from your hive.

13. DAF-AFB: Alan contacted Bryce QBA and spoke mainly about AFB. Not just a local problem, its national. DAF budget in Townsville is to fight Varroa mite. Andrew will notify club. with details of Suburb only. Suggest 4 weekly checks instead on 2 weekly checks to reduce stress on bees. Results come back super quick. Good suggestion to test hives even if look OK as some have come back positive and were looking strong and healthy. Having tools for each hive and marking them so not to cross contaminate.

General Meeting closed 2:40pm

Leafcutter bee nests in a pot plant

Pic sent in from someone interested to know what the curled up leaves were in the potting mix.



Swarm Contact List:

Jon & Frana McKinstry, **Kelso** - 0413 765 192 (Jon) or 0401 014 948 (Frana)

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

Sharene Dougall, **Bluewater** - 0415426903

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 roughly 10% of brood comb and submit to Biosecurity for pest and disease monitoring.

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.

Daniel Z., Adam Z., Scott L., Michelle, Geoff & Jaiden H., Shane McC., Timothy V.,
Brad H., Mitch P., David L., Soon T., Iain G.; Shaun W.

Annual Membership Fees

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.
Currently \$25.00

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, secretary@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:	Mick Taylor	cranbrooksolar@bigpond.com Nominated: To be Confirmed
Secretary:	Bronwyn Jarret	bronniehickey85@bigpond.com.au or: secretary@beesnorth.com.au
Treasurer:	Frana McKinstry	franajon@gmail.com , or: treasurer@bigpond.com.au
Membership	Frana McKinstry	franajon@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor:	Lindsay Trott	trottlindsay@gmail.com or: editor@beesnorth.com.au
Librarian:	Kirsty Sugden	0447 762 686
Equipment Steward:	Daniel Horne	dantheemanhorne@gmail.com
Webmaster:	Ray Berkelmans	rberkelm@gmail.com
Publicity Officer:	Sonya Verburgt	sonyaverb@optusnet.com.au
Committee Members:	Dave Bowtell	spanner1969@gmail.com
	Dave Turnbull	turnbuld@bigpond.net.au
	Ron Rapson	Ronald.I.Rapson@team.telstra.com
	Paul Payne	trapper4812@gmail.com
	Mark Quadrell	markquadrell@gmail.com
	Sonya Verbrugt	sonyaverb@optusnet.com.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:

Graeme Smith

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 online and email it back. Carla K will also be visiting everyone who would like to practise with the different self assessment types.



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

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

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price \$\$</u>
Veil - Native Bee	10.00
Veil - cotton	20.00
Veil - ventilated	25.00
Jacket / Cotton/ Round hat	60.00
Jacket Ventilated	80.00
Full Suit - Cotton	85.00
Full Suit - ventilated	105.00
Gloves	22.00
Super - 8 frame Rebated	25.00
Super - Dove tail	28.00
Super - Ideal	25.00
Parker plastic supers	65.00
Lids	27.00
Bases Ply	22.00
Bases - "Bluebees	35.00
"Lifting Cleats (Handles/pr)	5.00 pair
Spring clips	2.00 ea
Emlok	12.00
Corflute Nuc Box	28.00
Corflute Queen excluder	4.00
Hive tool (S/S)	15.00
Hive tool (Yellow)	8.00
Crimping Tool	8.00
Smoker	38.00
Queen Excluder - Wire (8 or 10 frame)	22.00
Queen Excluder - Plastic	7.00
Frames - Full depth	1.90
Frames - Ideal	1.50
Foundation - Plastic	2.10
Foundation - Wax	2.00
Beeswax block	15.00 per kg
Eyelets pkt 500/40gm	10.00
S/S Wire .5mm x 500gm	20.00
Bee Brush - Natural bristle	12.00
Queen Catcher	3.00
Frame Gripper	10.00
Bee Feeders	2.00
Gate valve	10.00
Capping knife, serrated	15.00
Comb scratcher	8.00
Honey jars 250gm	0.65
Honey jars 500gm - square	0.75
Honey jars 500gm - round	0.75
Honey jars 550gm - squeeze	0.75
Honey jars 1kg round	1.00
Apithor trap	7.00
Silver Bullet trap	7.00
BeetlTra bottom trap	20.00
TK Beetle mat	6.00
Booklet - Managing AFB	2.00
Australian Beekeeping Manual	35.00
Australian Native Bee Book	25.00
Club Polo shirts	30.00

We also have lots new items in the Club Shop, including Extractors (manual two frame); Frame nails; a new style of beetle trap (with sticky base); replacement hoods for vented suits; and best of all, pink vented suits for the ladies (Yecch!!)

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: Daniel: Ph. 0437 540 473



THE AUSTRALIAN BEE-KEEPER MAGAZINE (ABK)

Published monthly Subscriptions \$84 per year.

Available from: Pender Beegoods,

PO Box 7124, Karabar NSW 2620



LOTS-A-STINGS

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

Dan Donovan: Ph 0428 218 816

