

# Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc.)

[www.beesnorth.com.au](http://www.beesnorth.com.au)



PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814

## Newsletter No 2 March 2018

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- Shhhhhhhh !!! Bee whisperers at work
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**Special Next Meeting: Sonya's Place**  
**47 Mclean St Gulliver**  
**10:00 am Sunday, 18 March 2018**  
Bring a chair - and a plate of food to share if you can  
Tea, coffee, sugar and milk provided

## **Free Hive Building Workshop at Sonya V's this Sunday, 11 March at 9 am**

- hive equipment construction workshop
- sausage sizzle

RSVP Thursday 8 March for catering: Sonya at [sonyaverb@optusnet.com.au](mailto:sonyaverb@optusnet.com.au)

Great opportunity for some hands-on experience assembling and painting hive boxes, lids and frames. Plenty of space available for newbees and assistance required from some experienced members to help out. Come along and find out how the pieces of a hive fit together, and hear the how's and why's (or why not's) of the different benefits of different hive styles from some of the more experienced members.

The assembled hive materials will be available for sale to members at the special March meeting on the following Sunday 18th March beginning at 10 am. If you notify Sonya that you are coming to the meeting, she will consider cooking a brisket and/or pork through the smoker as well to make rolls.

The workshop starts 9 am on Sunday the 11th March, with a FREE sausage sizzle to follow.

Please, please RSVP by Thursday 8 March for catering to : Sonya at [sonyaverb@optusnet.com.au](mailto:sonyaverb@optusnet.com.au)

PS: Bunnings have plans for a native bee box <https://goo.gl/Piy39q> or better still, use Dr Tim Heard's Native Bee Book to learn how to do it.

## **Special Monthly Meeting on Sunday 18 March at new time of 10 am at Sonya's place**

- hive steriliser demo for AFB treatment
- Monthly meeting with hive opening
- hive equipment sales
- sausage sizzle
- free coffee and tea and chat

A special meeting **starting at 10 am** will be on this month of March. The AFB steriliser will be put through it's paces, followed by the Club Meeting and then sales of equipment followed by a sausage sizzle. By this time the steriliser should have gone through a cycle and members can see the end product.

Another special event will be a demo of the steriliser built by Geoff F and Jon M according to DAF plans and instructions. This unit will be transported on the Club purchased galvanised trailer, along with a couple of gazebos. This is a significant step that TDBA has taken to assist Club members dealing with AFB outbreaks, which has been knocking over hives round Townsville for quite a while now. For the uninitiated, an outbreak of AFB is a fatal contagious bacterial disease, affecting the whole hive and is not treatable. Hive owners must notify DAF, and the response to a positive test requires total treatment of **ALL** hive material, ie burning and burying, or paying for packaging, transport and irradiation in Brisbane. The bacterial spores resist boiling and dehydration and can last up to 40 years!!!

If any member is unsure what AFB is, or looks like or wants to know more, there is a lot of info on line, from DAF, in books and brochures available from the Club, free testing kits, free ID tests from DAF, or free advice from Members.

The Club steriliser will enable Members to have their hive hardware and equipment , ie boxes, lids, bases, tools (not the bees, honeycomb, honey or other products) treated on site by DAF approved procedures. See: <https://goo.gl/vKvUrf>

The gazebos will help with shade during the set up and processing of hives.

Come along and see the biggest bain marie in Townsville. Apparently some early tests of the equipment led to a lot of smoke, blackened frames and a noisy smoke detector!! - but it's up and running beautifully now, I am told.

The March meeting will be followed by a hive opening at chit chat over coffee and tea, bring a plate of something if you can.

We will be selling the assembled hives, frames, lids etc from the previous weekend. Get in early for a bargain on hive gear. All proceeds are going to Graeme Smith's family.

**Can we please have RSVP** with number attending for catering purposes please

Contact Sonya V at: [sonyaverb@optusnet.com.au](mailto:sonyaverb@optusnet.com.au)

# “Bee Whisperers” Steve and Carla K show how to remove a difficult swarm

Story and photos from Steve and Carla K.

A post appeared on the TDBA FB page from Christine Bengoa from Aitkenvale on a Thursday.

“Any Bee Whisperers or Relocators in town? I need some help 🐝🐝🐝🐝. A swarm of bees arrived at my house yesterday and this morning I see they've decided to stay in an opening near a water pipe under my front deck.. What's the best plan of action? I haven't rung any terminators yet, as I want to find the best way to help them move them on without destructive chemical warfare, if possible.”

So the story is set:

On Saturday, I was up at Mission Beach playing Touch Footy when I got a call from Christine asking if I could help. I remember seeing her post, but due to what I had on Friday and Saturday, I thought someone else might respond, so didn't give it a second thought. After Christine explained that the swarm that she had spotted was gone and she could now see bees coming and going from under her hi-set house. I thought for sure the bees would be in a wall cavity and require some demolition to get at them. I agreed to come around the next morning and have a look to see either; if I could remove them or give Christine some advice on how they could be removed.

Christine's start to the story:

It was Thursday 12 Oct, around 2:30pm. I was opening the gate in my driveway in Aitkenvale and realised I could hear a loud drone or buzzing.. Looking up, there was a massive swarm of bees right above me. They kept moving towards the house and then were hovering over the roof, where I could see the swarm had a diameter of around 2.5 to 3 metres across. It was impressive to witness! I could see some bees exploring under the front deck but didn't think they would stop there. I didn't realise that tiny gap around the water pipe was there. I had to leave right then, and didn't get back till late that night.

The next morning, I could only see a few bees near the entrance.. At midday there were more of them visible, coming and going. They were always calm and let me stand very close to them, watching. I could see bees returning with pollen on their legs. If you lay down in the lounge room near my front door with your ear to the floorboards, you could hear the hum and murmur of the hive, right there.

So on Sunday when we arrived this is what we found:

The swarm had moved into the ceiling space in a downstairs room. There was a small gap in the fibreboard near a water pipe (See Photo 1). We used plenty of smoke and removed a small section of fibreboard to reveal the hive, or nest as an unmanaged colony (see Photo 2). So from what I could see, they looked to be close enough to the opening for Carla and I to remove them and place them in a hive. So we began the removal of the nest, after we removed a heap of bees (about a shovel full) we started revealing the comb (See Photo 3), probably about 5 hand sized pieces of comb, starting with the little bit you can see on the end, maybe a total nest size of a small watermelon. The comb we removed was obviously very fresh and only had a small amount of nectar and pollen stored in it, no eggs or larvae at all. The comb was placed in empty frames, held in position with rubber bands in a similar layout as they had in their previous nest. We also had some frames of foundation and drawn-out comb in hive they were being relocated into.

A sample of comb and bees was put aside for Biosecurity QLD's Varroa Mite Program, a requirement of all swarms collected in the Townsville area. All the bees and comb were removed using a piece of cardboard, a hive tool and my hands. The bees were very calm, and while I took plenty of stings to my hands while I was scooping them out, they were pleasant to deal with. I used plenty of smoke at the end of the job to encourage the stragglers to leave their old home. We probably removed about 5 shovel loads of bees (we didn't use a shovel, but just trying to give you an idea of the amount of bees were there) which you would consider to be a fairly large swarm.

I took a photo of where the nest was (Photo 4), but I think most of the remaining bees were probably returning foraging bees, then covered the space with a piece of cardboard and tape. There was a tiny gap well away from their previous entry, where the remaining bees could escape the closed off area. Christine kept an eye on this gap to insure that the bees didn't start returning, it seemed to work quite effectively. I also took a photo of the entrance to the hive the bees were relocated into (Photo 5, next page). You can see bees fanning at the entrance, and others making their way into the hive, so we assume that we got the Queen.

We left the hive in location for the remaining 6 hours of daylight, then collected the hive after dark, and relocated it to our home (Photo 6, next page). The following week we inspected the hive to find a laying Queen, a massive amount of bees and plenty of comb making in progress.

The frame in (Photo 7, next page), shows the original pieces of comb at the bottom, new comb being built at the top, and bees clutching to each other (called festooning) on the right, in the process of making new comb. They say that the bees hang from each other, like a plumb-bob, so as they can keep their comb straight as it's being built.

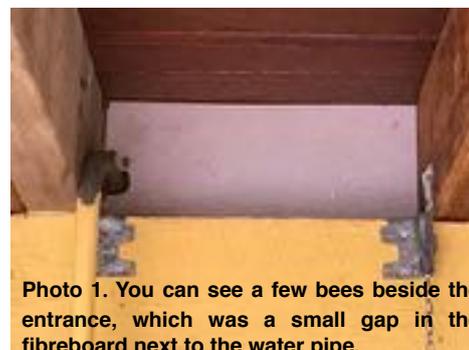


Photo 1. You can see a few bees beside the entrance, which was a small gap in the fibreboard next to the water pipe.



Photo 2. After the piece of fibreboard was removed the swarm was revealed approximately 40cm across and 20 cm tall.



Photo 3. After about a shovel load of bees where removed the freshly made comb was revealed (approximately 5 hand sized pieces).



Photo 4. The cavity after the bees were removed



Photo 5. The bees fanning at the entrance, while other bees readily entered the hive, indicating that the Queen was most likely contained within.



Photo 6. The hive relocated with bees coming and going from the reduced entrance



Photo 7. Hive removal comb at the bottom, newly built comb at the top, festooning bees on the right.

A few things to consider are:

1. There were no eggs or larvae in the comb, only pollen and nectar. We didn't see the Queen, but there was plenty of bees, so we're hoping she was amongst them, and the fanning was a good sign, along with bees that were happy to enter the hive and disregard their old home 🏠.
2. Bringing a swarm back to your apiary is a risk, not knowing the origin of a swarm is the reality. You should consider finding yourself a location that you can use to quarantine these bees, until their health and wellbeing can be confirmed. Also, if you are looking for a site, make sure that you're not putting other beekeepers or apiaries at risk.
3. A vacuum would be handy item for any Beekeeper that collects swarms. Both Jon and Dave have offered the use of their bee vacuum systems to us, but bravery and stupidity are often confused. Lucky this nest was very friendly.
4. As part of the Prevention and Control Program for Varroa Mite in Townsville, a sample of bees (at least a cup full) and a good sized piece of brood comb (with drone brood, if possible) should be collected and passed onto Biosecurity Queensland for testing.

**If you're not sure call 0472 864 724**

### **And**

A few lasting comments from Christine were:

Beautiful to witness them huddled together inside and very special to see the purity of a freshly made comb. Thanks for your great work Steve, it was such an interesting experience and I'm very grateful to have the bees relocated with such care and minimal damage to the house.

### **Swarms**

I'm part of the Townsville and District Beekeepers Association, we have a number of people who can come and collect swarms or provide advice on them. We are all happy to help where we can. We, like most people would prefer to see the bees saved. The Townsville and District Beekeepers Association has a webpage dedicated to swarms it can be found at: <http://www.beesnorth.com.au/pages/Beeswarms.htm>

### **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

Daniel Horne, **Bushland Beach** - 0437540473\*

John Pavetto 0488414017, 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 roughly 10% of brood comb and submit to Biosecurity for pest and disease monitoring.



### **Herb garden pulls in the bees**

Here is another good reason to plant flowering and aromatic herbs. This Castlemaine (Vic) garden was bursting with bees on the oregano. Try using plants with a range of flowering times throughout the year and this will help your bees through the tough times.

Photos from The Ed.

Please send me your bees photos:  
[editor@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:editor@beesnorth.com.au)



## It's Harvest time!

Words and data from Ray B  
Gilston (Gold Coast)

Having a hive weight monitoring system has allowed an unusually detailed look at the seasonality of honey bees here on the Gold Coast. The truth is that my bees have done only mediocre for most of the past year and have only just recently 'picked-up'. This particular hive, named 'Split hive', started life as a five-frame nucleus hive in early September 2016. It got supered in early December. Two honey frames were taken off in January and a second super was added on 26 February 2017. February was a good month for bees with steady hive weight gain for the entire month. It was a scorcher and devastatingly dry (14mm rain for the month!). The double-supered hived reached 80kg but no honey was taken off. At the start of March the long-awaited rain finally came, but with it, the honey production stopped. We received 617mm of rain for the month. It more than made up for February's shortfall but my poor bees suffered. In fact, for 5 months they went backwards in the honey stakes, losing 20kg until they finally picked up again in late July. From then on it has been up and up all the way, coinciding with the grevillea coming into flower and in September many other spring-flowering plants. The hive put on 36kg in seven weeks and by then I couldn't resist taking some honey off. I took off 12 frames, replacing them with stickies for a net (theoretical) total of 28kg of honey. These frames went into the freezer awaiting some more frames before extraction. The harvest was indeed sweet, especially after watching the hive go backwards for so long. It was an eye-opener though to see how long an "off-season" can last in this neck of the woods and also how much reserve honey to leave the bees to get through the tough times!

Vital statistics (since the upturn on 28 July):

Total weight gain: 35.91kg

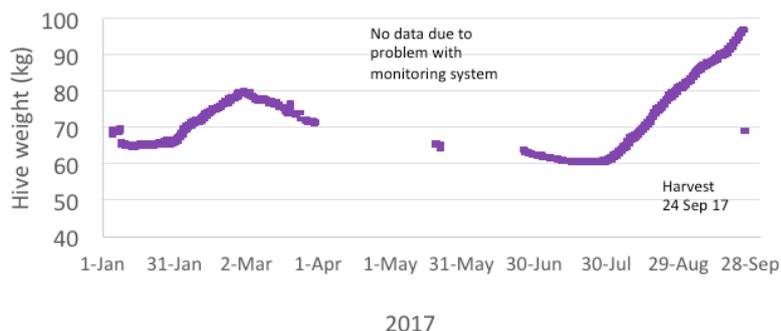
Daily average weight gain: 630g

Highest daily weight gain: 1.24kg (17 Aug)

Lowest daily weight gain: 120g (9 Sep)

**Ed:** Ray built his own electronic wifi connected hive scale with Temp and Humidity sensors used here. The data can be viewed on line here (). Ray has built 2 more of the hive scales and will be commissioning them in TSV soon - some teething problems still to be sorted.

'Split' hive



## Top bar hive by Michael C still available

Remember this hive from the previous Newsletter? Club member Michael O'C says it is still available. 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. Or contact Michael to negotiate.

### 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 0402 088 080 and these email addresses [trivialpurzuitz@bigpond.com](mailto:trivialpurzuitz@bigpond.com) & [aglow365@bigpond.com](mailto:aglow365@bigpond.com)



## BEE BED — SLEEP WITH YOUR BEES!

As seen in the American Bee Journal.

Huge horizontal hive you can sleep in.

Bathe in the bees' warmth, vibes, and smells.

Amazingly relaxing and soothing.

Many therapeutic uses.

Opens on hinges for easy access.

Accepts 55 standard deep frames (2 colonies).

Material cost: \$200. Building time: 12 hrs.

<http://www.horizontalhive.com/how-to-build/hive-frame-swarm-trap.shtml>



## Adopt a Beehive on the Sunshine Coast

See the website at: <http://www.adoptabeehive.com.au/adopting-a-beehive/adopt-a-beehive>

**Ed:** This could be a way to get honey without getting “stung”, but the cost of “renting” a hive has a sting in the tail, with an up front cost of \$590.

The website advertises an option to assist in the production of organic honey on the Sunshine Coast.

“This option enables you to Adopt a Hive containing around 80,000 bees!

“Hive Establishment” Fee: \$590\*.

As an expression of appreciation from your bees, you will receive 8 kgs of pure, 100% raw honey from your hive within 12 months.

Then on your adoption anniversary date each year, a payment of \$125\* is payable to assist in the upkeep and hive maintenance and you will continue to receive 8 kgs of our exquisite delicious honey every year that you remain a member.

\* Prices include GST”

## A taste of honey from home - Ecuadorian style

Roving Beehound Report from Lindsay T



Francisco Guana and family started beekeeping in 1973 and now have around 850 hives that their company Apicola Santa Anita run for honey production and pollination of the many flower farms in the hilly and volcanic Cayambe region NE of Quito, Ecuador. And when I say hilly I’m talking between 2,000m to 4,000m altitude. I ran into Francisco at his stall selling their range of products outside a vet supplies shop in Quito. Honey, pollen, propolis, royal jelly, beeswax, bee bread, hand cream, lip balm, and dried fruit and nuts in honey, as well as a display frame of really large, dark striped Carniolan? live bees was on display and drawing a crowd. Of course I had to sample some honey, but the surprise came with the first taste – that’s Aussie honey, surely!!! Ahhhhh, you see, the thing is, Ecuador started planting *Eucalyptus globulus* (Tasmania’s floral emblem) aka Tasmanian blue gum, over 100 years ago for soil erosion prevention, and now the countryside is packed with it. Some issues, such as water retention by the deep roots causing creeks to dry up and some serious wildfires have arisen, but overall the tree has flourished and provided great benefits like timber, oil, firewood, nectar and pollen and grows on steep slopes throughout the central valley between the Andes and the coast.



So, the familiar eucalyptus tang in the honey flavour was really the taste of home, but a bit of a surprise as to where it came from.

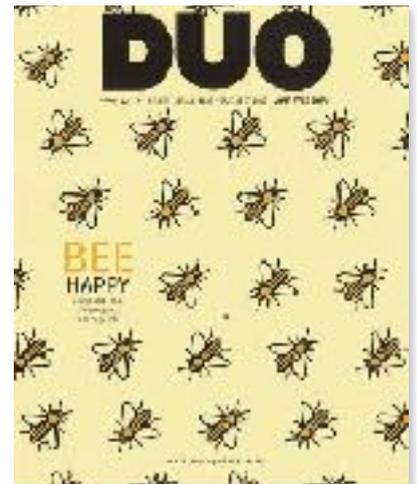
Try out your Spanish beekeeping terminology with Francisco at: [apicolasantaanita@hotmail.com](mailto:apicolasantaanita@hotmail.com)

Hasta luego amigos, Lindsay T.

## Motley Crew revealed in local mag expose

Did you see the article about TDBA Inc in the “Duo” monthly Townsville mag recently? Looks a bit like a strange fancy dress party, or a “Trick or Treat” night on Halloween.

I don’t know about the NQ uniform of shorts and thongs for beekeeping!!!! I would call that “extreme beekeeping” - too many thrills for me.



# Praise for the Varroa mite eradication team operating in Townsville - and to TDBA

**Ed:** This is part of a public email from the Leader of the National Varroa Mite Eradication Program - Stephen Anderson. I have highlighted the part where he acknowledges the support of the TDBA.

I don't want to put a "hex" on this by talking about it before it has happened, **BUT**, if the negative reports keep coming in: Townsville could be the only place in the world where a known Varroa introduction has been eliminated. Australia is still the only continent without a Varroa mite infestation- lets hope we can keep it that way. So, keep up the inspections, the reporting, the samples and the vigilance.

Here is what Stephen had to say\_

"Not much has changed since our last industry stakeholders meeting that was held in October last year. In brief; the last Varroa mite found in Townsville was in July 2016 with the last Asian honey bee (AHB) being found in Townsville during November 2016. The program entered into the Proof of Area Freedom Phase on the 1 March 2017 and without any further detections of Varroa Mites it is anticipated the program will terminate at the end of August 2019 with the program claiming Varroa freedom. The Cairns known infested area (KIA) for AHB has extended slightly south to El Arish: no surprises."

"The NVMEP staff have been worked very hard to find any evidence of Varroa mites and AHB's in Townsville collect samples and increase public awareness. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Townsville and District Bee Keepers Association club members for their assistance and help over the period the program. Without the club and the members continual assistance to the Townsville Varroa Mite program, the program would not be as successful as it has been."

- **and** as reported in the "Varroa Mite Update Newsletter" of 14 November 2017. The Townsville team received a gong for their success so far.

"Progress on Varroa eradication in Townsville

"Our National Varroa Mite Eradication Program team based in Townsville remains dedicated to the job at hand. They recently received a Department of Agriculture and Fisheries achievement award for their efforts, and it is a well-deserved accolade.

"We are fortunate to have a team which includes a highly experienced entomologist, two experienced beekeepers and others with a great wealth of experience they have brought to the task. As the summer brings more difficult conditions for surveillance, I am sure the team will maintain their positive attitude and continue to work with industry and the wider community as we strive for area freedom."

## Stephen Anderson

Program Leader, National Varroa Mite Eradication Program (NVMEP)

Plant Biosecurity & Product Integrity (PB & PI)

Biosecurity Queensland (BQ)

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)



European honey bee on left, Asian honey bee on right. [www.daf.qld.gov.au](http://www.daf.qld.gov.au)



Varroa jacobsoni (magnified view)  
<https://www.google.com.au/imgres?imgurl=http://res.freestockphotos.biz/pictures/10/10102>

## The mail always get through - unfortunately this time the live contents were cooked

Sad tale from Treasurer and queen co-ordinator for many Club members Frana M recently.

Frana ordered the queens through Covey's Bees queen breeders (see short Australian Geo video at <https://goo.gl/DQVAdy> from Keswick Is down South). It turned out to be a hell of a hot week for both people and bees, with many a hive having a bee beard hanging out the front and fanning to try to cool the hive. But the treatment handed out to the 15 queens and their attendants en route from Brisbane was just too much. Apparently all the labels and warnings in the world are not enough for some;

**LIVE BEES NO SUN NO SPRAYS DELIVER QUICKLY**

This apparently didn't spark the posties attention. The poor bees were kept in the posties saddle bag the entire morning after being safely delivered to the local air conditioned delivery centre. It took till later in the afternoon of that steamy hot day for the postie to casually drop the package in the mailbox, and start to meander off - but not before being spotted and collared by a very disappointed customer who had been eagerly awaiting and tracking their precious cargo by the Australia Post electronic tracking system.

Covey's Bees have offered to replace the precious queens at their cost and no expense to Frana, but Australia Post are still ... "working with Ms McKinstry to reach a suitable resolution to the situation." I have a suggestion - ask AP to follow their own labelling system and "READ THE LABEL".



# THINK OF HONEY BEES AS 'LIVESTOCK,' NOT WILDLIFE, ARGUE EXPERTS.

Source: <https://goo.gl/vXuc5t> Bee Culture magazine.

**Ed:** Food for thought in this article. By keeping European honeybees in Australia, we are increasing the population of an introduced insect - strange? or not. Keeping local species of native bees does not fall in to this category.

The 'die-off' events occurring in honey bee colonies that are bred and farmed like livestock must not be confused with the conservation crisis of dramatic declines in thousands of wild pollinator species, say Cambridge researchers.

Writing in the journal *Science*, the conservationists argue there is a "lack of distinction" in public understanding – fuelled by misguided charity campaigns and media reports – between an agricultural problem and an urgent biodiversity issue.

In fact, they say domesticated honey bees actually contribute to wild bee declines through resource competition and spread of disease, with so-called environmental initiatives promoting honeybee-keeping in cities or, worse, protected areas far from agriculture, only likely to exacerbate the loss of wild pollinators.

"The crisis in global pollinator decline has been associated with one species above all, the western honeybee. Yet this is one of the few pollinator species that is continually replenished through breeding and agriculture," said co-author Dr Jonas Geldmann from Cambridge University's Department of Zoology.

"Saving the honeybee does not help wildlife. Western honeybees are a commercially managed species that can actually have negative effects on their immediate environment through the massive numbers in which they are introduced.

"Levels of wild pollinators, such as species of solitary bumblebee, moth and hoverfly, continue to decline at an alarming rate. Currently, up to 50% of all European bee species are threatened with extinction," Geldmann said.

Honeybees are vital for many crops – as are wild pollinators, with some assessments suggesting wild species provide up to half the needed "pollinator services" for the three-quarters of globally important crops that require pollination.

However, generating honeybee colonies for crop pollination is problematic. Major flowering crops such as fruits and oilseed rape bloom for a period of days or weeks, whereas honeybees are active for nine to twelve months and travel up to 10km from their hives.

This results in massive "spillover" from farmed honeybees into the landscape, potentially out-competing wild pollinators. A recent study by the co-author of today's *Science* article, Dr Juan P. González-Varo, showed honey bee levels in woodlands of southern Spain to be eight times higher after orange tree crops finish blooming.

"Keeping honeybees is an extractive activity. It removes pollen and nectar from the environment, which are natural resources needed by many wild species of bee and other pollinators," said González-Varo, also from Cambridge's Zoology Department.

"Honeybees are artificially-bred agricultural animals similar to livestock such as pigs and cows. Except this livestock can roam beyond any enclosures to disrupt local ecosystems through competition and disease."

As with other intensively farmed animals, overcrowding and homogenous diets have depressed bee immune systems and sent pathogen rates soaring in commercial hives. Diseases are transferred to wild species when bees feed from the same flowers, similar to germs passing between humans through a shared coffee cup.

This puts added pressure on endangered wild European bee species such as the great yellow bumblebee, which was once found across the UK but has lost 80% of its range in the last half century, and is now limited to coastal areas of Scotland.

Both wild and cultivated pollinators are afflicted by pesticides such as neonicotinoids, as well as other anthropogenic effects – from loss of hedgerows to climate change – which drive the much-publicized die-offs among farmed bees and the decline in wild pollinator species over the last few decades.

"Honeybee colony die-offs are likely to be a 'canary in the coalmine' that is mirrored by many wild pollinator species. The attention on honeybees may help raise awareness, but action must also be directed towards our threatened species," said Geldmann.

"The past decade has seen an explosion in research on honey bee loss and the dangers posed to crops. Yet little research has been done to understand wild native pollinator declines, including the potential negative role of managed honey bees."

Geldmann and González-Varo recommend policies to limit the impact of managed honeybees, including hive size limits, the moving of colonies to track the bloom of different crops, and greater controls on managed hives in protected areas.

"Honeybees may be necessary for crop pollination, but beekeeping is an agrarian activity that should not be confused with wildlife conservation," they write.



On the left: Galápagos carpenter bee - *Xylocopa darwini*, is the only native species of bee found in the Galápagos Islands, to which it is endemic. The female is all black (Photo from Ed), whereas the male has a black abdomen and is yellow-brown elsewhere. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xylocopa\\_darwini](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xylocopa_darwini)

Very similar to our own Great carpenter bee in the *Xylocopa* genus (<http://www.aussiebee.com.au/xylocopa.html>) on the right). Female shown here, male is pale brown and furry.



## 1ST AUSTRALIAN Native Bee CONFERENCE

01+02 JULY 2018

GOLD COAST • QUEENSLAND

Integrating beekeeping, crop pollination, hive products and research  
Beekeepers, farmers, industry leaders and researchers are invited to share knowledge at the first Australian Native Bee Conference. We will discuss issues required to increase understanding and unlock the potential of our native bees, a valuable but under-utilized natural resource.

To register, submit an Abstract, find out about the program, trade show and field trip, or to contact us, go to: [australiannativebeeconference.com.au](http://australiannativebeeconference.com.au)

**Where:** RACV Royal Pines Resort, Gold Coast, Queensland

**When:** Sunday 1 July 2018, 8:30 AM – 5 PM

Note that the Australian Bee Congress, which focusses on honey bees, will host two symposia on native stingless Bees the day before, Saturday 30 June 2018, at the same venue. We encourage attendees to also consider attending this event.

## **TDBA Inc Minutes - General Meeting at HPSS 18/2/18**

Meeting was preceded by an inspection of the friendly hives at HPSS, where Frana did her inspection and display in her shorts - very NQ style!

**Open:** 2:00 pm

**Welcome:** President AI

**Apologies:** as per book or by email

**Visitors:** Welcomed and identified at end of meeting. Mentors were requested for new and interested members.

**Agenda:** circulated by President

**Minutes of previous Meeting:** as per February Newsletter: Moved, Dave T, 2nd, Sonya V.

**Treasurer's Report:** Club in good financial shape, details available from Treasurer

**Newsletter Editor:** back from extended holidays, thanks to the Temporary Eds, always need news and photos from Clubbies

**Shop Report:** Shop will now be open on 1st Sat each month 08:30 - 10:30 am. Please e-mail orders to Frana beforehand. Shop will be open on 10 March instead of 3 March due to Native Bee Workshop. Shop now has electric uncapping knife-\$30, awl \$5, and small native bee veil \$20. Sonya V announced some ore Graeme Smith items \_ frame nails \$6/500gm, and more queen excluders, and a workshop for construction on 11 March (details in email to come). Club shirts in all sizes ordered and will be here in 6 weeks.

**Library:** Kirsty was available for book returns, Aus Beekeeper issues available for borrowing

### **General Business:**

**President** expressed disappointment and frustration at the lack of input from wider Club Membership, as only a handful of Members contribute..  
- Previous Committee meeting had very few attend, makes it difficult to keep the Club activities going with limited input. Still have need of Secretary after Bronwyn J resigned. Dave T name spelling mix up fixed. Need temporary Newsletter Editor in June, July.

- Activities: Honey Month in May will have 2 x 2 week displays in City Libraries (need volunteers to help set up/dismantle). Club Open Day in May from 10 am - 2 pm will exhibit Club activities (need volunteers). Combined April/May meeting will be held 29 April due to other activities.

- AFB Steriliser being constructed by Clubbies Jon M and Geoff F nearly finished, needs a bit of fine tuning apparently - a couple of scorched boxes and lots of smoke at the previous trial. This is a great initiative by TDBA, as there are only 2 other sterilisers like this with Clubs in Australia. TDBA has also bought a single axle, galvanised tipping trailer with cage (\$1600). It will enable the steriliser to be taken to members sites at home and disinfect equipment "on-site" without need for removal for radiation, burning etc. Room for the gazebo on the trailer. This is a really great initiative from the Club and a credit to the members involved.

- Eco Fest in Queens Gardens in June - Paul P will again co-ordinate volunteers. Encourage all to get along as the stall generates quite a buzz!  
- AFB still around, with recent outbreaks in Gulliver, Mysterton, Roseneath, and Annandale. 1 out of 3 hives in one apiary affected, other 2 still OK but need vigilance in checking every 2 weeks if +ve hives nearby, DAF will do free checks. Do the matchstick test yourself, and/or get help from a Clubbie or DAF if you are concerned.

- Carla K gave a detailed description of the history and number of Asian Honey Bee (AHB) and Varroa mite detections, and all the different activities undertaken by DAF to track down and eliminate these pests. Pheromone ballooning, trap boxes at Port, net sweeps in community, rainbow bee eater pellets, swarm reports from community. The story is good so far, with no new detections since Nov 2016. Carla explained that this could be the world's first detection and elimination of Varroa mite if we stay with no new detections for another 12-18 months. Do the sugar shake and alcohol test and submit to DAF for testing. Community interest has been very high. Public meetings by DAF on Varroa progress every 3 months, but last one had very poor attendance. Carla noted SHB was on the increase - be vigilant. Rainbow bee eater discussion about biology, poo and vomit, and other topics followed.

- Visitor Kylie requested beekeepers to tell their stories for a doco she is producing - see Time Essence Productions.

- Frana M told her sad story of the death of 15 queens and attendants who received poor handling from Australia Post during the hot days recently - clear instructions and protocols were not followed. Covey queen bee breeders ( see story about the queen breeding at Keswick Is <https://goo.gl/DQVAdy>) have very generously offered to replace the queens at their cost - and it was not their fault that the bees were mishandled by AP. See article this edition of Newsletter.

- Sonya V and helpers are still going through Gaeme Smith's stores of equipment that has been treated and preparing it for sale. Workshop at 47 McLean St Gulliver on Sunday 11 March at 9 am to prepare the gear for sale. Free sausage sizzle after the assembly session, email will alert members of event. Great opportunity to learn how to assemble lids, boxes, frames, stands and prep them for use. Proceeds from sales will go to Graeme's family.

- Carl K suggested some activities for the Club - eg Ladies night at Bunnings, other activities announced were talks by President AI and Frana M to U3A, schools, and other groups.

- Visitor Ian Gordon (ex CSIRO, now JCU) is an ex Scottish beekeeper living in TSV and willing to give info talk about his experiences and bee research, is interested in local native bees, and not introduced European or non local native bees.

- Visitors introduced themselves and were welcomed

**Next Meeting:** March 18 - venue to be decided

**Meeting Closed:** 3:50 pm. Tea, coffee, cake and biscuits with open discussion followed.

## 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.

**Bradd O'K.,**

**Lincoln W.,**

**Tyrone & Judith K.,**

**Derelle & Dave Y.**



### Bee friendly mailboxes

Images: <https://goo.gl/7LfHh4>



## 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](mailto:president@beesnorth.com.au), [treasurer@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:treasurer@beesnorth.com.au), [editor@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:editor@beesnorth.com.au) , [secretary@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:secretary@beesnorth.com.au)

And for all web and membership enquiries : [info@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:info@beesnorth.com.au).

## TDBA Inc Office Holders for 2016/2017

President:	Alan Ziegenfusz	<a href="mailto:alan.G.Ziegenfusz@team.telstra.com">alan.G.Ziegenfusz@team.telstra.com</a> , or : <a href="mailto:president@beesnorth.com.au">president@beesnorth.com.au</a>
Vice President:	Mick Taylor	<a href="mailto:cranbrooksolar@bigpond.com">cranbrooksolar@bigpond.com</a> <b>Nominated:</b> To be Confirmed
Secretary:	<b>Position open</b>	or: <a href="mailto:secretary@beesnorth.com.au">secretary@beesnorth.com.au</a>
Treasurer:	Frana McKinstry	<a href="mailto:franajon@gmail.com">franajon@gmail.com</a> , or: <a href="mailto:treasurer@bigpond.com.au">treasurer@bigpond.com.au</a>
Membership	Frana McKinstry	<a href="mailto:franajon@gmail.com">franajon@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter Editor:	Lindsay Trott	<a href="mailto:trottlindsay@gmail.com">trottlindsay@gmail.com</a> or: <a href="mailto:editor@beesnorth.com.au">editor@beesnorth.com.au</a>
Librarian:	Kirsty Sugden	0447 762 686
Equipment Steward:...	Daniel Horne	<a href="mailto:danthemanhorne@gmail.com">danthemanhorne@gmail.com</a>
Webmaster:	Ray Berkelmans	<a href="mailto:rberkelm@gmail.com">rberkelm@gmail.com</a>
Publicity Officer:	Sonya Verburgt	<a href="mailto:sonyaverb@optusnet.com.au">sonyaverb@optusnet.com.au</a>
Committee Members:	Dave Bowtell	<a href="mailto:spanner1969@gmail.com">spanner1969@gmail.com</a>
	Dave Turnbull	<a href="mailto:turnbuld@bigpond.net.au">turnbuld@bigpond.net.au</a>
	Ron Rapson	<a href="mailto:Ronald.I.Rapson@team.telstra.com">Ronald.I.Rapson@team.telstra.com</a>
	Paul Payne	<a href="mailto:trapper4812@gmail.com">trapper4812@gmail.com</a>
	Mark Quadrell	<a href="mailto:markquadrell@gmail.com">markquadrell@gmail.com</a>
	Sonya Verbrugt	<a href="mailto:sonyaverb@optusnet.com.au">sonyaverb@optusnet.com.au</a>

## 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

# 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/ Round hat	60.00
Jacket Ventilated	80.00
Full Suit - Cotton	85.00
Full Suit - ventilated	105.00
Replacement veil for vented suit	20.00
Gloves	22.00
Super - 8 frame - Rebated	25.00/box
Super - 10 frame . rebated	28.00/box
Super - Ideal	25.00/box
Super WSP	25.00/box
Super - Nuplas/Parker plastic supers	65.00/box
Lids (8 or 10 frame)	27.00
Bases Ply (8 or 10 frame)	22.00
Basees - mesh	30.00
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	8.00
Frames - Full depth	2.00
Frames - Ideal	1.50
Frames WSP	1.50
Foundation - Plastic	2.10
Awl (for fitting eyelets)	5.00
Wire crimping tool	12.00
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
Frame hanger	20.00
Bee Feeders	2.00
Spring clips	2.00
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 - electric	30.00
Capping knife, serrated	15.00
Comb scratcher	8.00
Comb roller	22.00
Strainer	25.00
Extractor - plastic	?best price?
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 1kg	1.20
Honey pails 1.5kg	1.30
Apithor trap	7.00
Silver Bullet trap	7.00
Apis sticky trap	4.50
Booklet - Managing AFB	2.00
Australian Beekeeping Manual	35.00
Australian Native Bee Book	25.00
Club Polo shirts	40.00
AFB Test kits	0.00

# 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

	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Attach sample no.(s) or barcode

Attach LIMS number

### Location details

Address

Nearest road

Locality

GPS Location

Latitude

Longitude

(WGS 84, decimal degrees)

 °S

 °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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
~ 300	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More than 300	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Results/Detection			
Positive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Negative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unconfirmed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sample submitted to DAF			
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 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](mailto:varroa@daf.qld.gov.au)

## ***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***



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PO Box 7124, Karabar NSW 2620

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**.Dan Donovan: Ph 0428 218 816**

