

Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc.)

www.beesnorth.com.au



PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814

Newsletter No 5, May 2019

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Notre Dame 'miracle' as cathedral's rooftop bees and hives survive fire

By [Gabriella Marchant](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-04-18/notre-dame-beehives-appear-to-have-survived-inferno/11026894?smid=Page:%20ABC%20News-Facebook_Organic&WT.src=Facebook_Organic&sf211237651=1&fbclid=IwAR2WxJaWZSzfCH7QyigBYMtlbjYFAm5_oJzOYej8UvWSbUbbVvRuJLCfI2A) https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-04-18/notre-dame-beehives-appear-to-have-survived-inferno/11026894?smid=Page:%20ABC%20News-Facebook_Organic&WT.src=Facebook_Organic&sf211237651=1&fbclid=IwAR2WxJaWZSzfCH7QyigBYMtlbjYFAm5_oJzOYej8UvWSbUbbVvRuJLCfI2A

French beekeepers are declaring a minor "miracle" after a rooftop colony of the insects was found to have survived the Notre Dame cathedral inferno

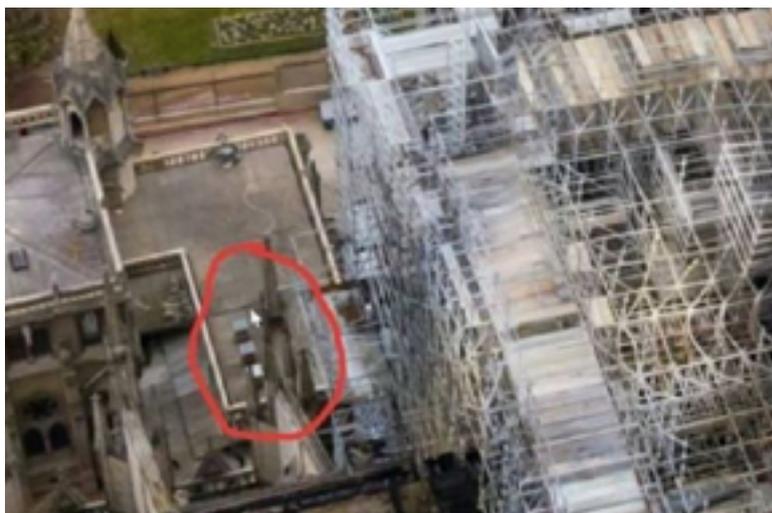
The fire in the central Paris cathedral blazed for several hours on Tuesday, damaging the roof and causing the spire to collapse. Following the fire, there were concerns that a colony of bees had perished in the inferno, despite drone photos appearing to show intact beehives on the cathedral's roof.

The hives have been on the roof since 2013 as part of a Parisian biodiversity project that placed bee colonies around the city, in parks and on iconic landmarks. French urban apiculture company Beeopic, which maintains the hives, has confirmed the insects' survival on its Instagram page, accompanied by the message: #miracle. "Notre Dame's bees are still alive!" the post buzzed.

Earlier, the company expressed cautious optimism about the bees' fate. "An ounce of hope! The pictures taken by different drones show that the three hives are still in place ... and obviously intact!" a translation of the post said.

Notre Dame beekeeper Nicolas Geant described the fire as a "great sadness". "There are about 60,000 bees per hive, and we have three of them," he said. "There has been a great relationship between church and bees for centuries. "Many churchmen influenced modern beekeeping like Brother Adam of Buckfast Abbey in England."

Notre Dame's official website said the hives were part of push to support the local environment. "Their role is indispensable in nature. The presence of bees is a sign of the good health of our environment and their preservation is also saving the planet," a translation said.



Beehives circled in red on the roof of the Notre Dame Cathedral after the fire. (Instagram: Beeopic)

Tasmanian beekeepers not so lucky after fires

For the unfortunate Tassie beekeepers, many of whom have lost hives and the precious Leatherwood forest that supports their unique honey industry, the future does not look too bright. Some pundits have said that the Leatherwood forests are understory trees, that need the taller Tassie oak and associated eucalyptus forests to regrow before the understory can return - and they are talking about 100 years for that to happen

Time to stash away a jar or two of Leatherwood!!

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-02-05/tasmanian-bushfires-burn-leatherwood-in-blow-to-honey-industry/10776606>



Native bee workshop showed how, why and when not to split, and a biology lesson

Thanks to Frana and Jon M for organising such an informative day on Easter Saturday 20th April. Dean Bryant from Brymac Native Bees of the Sunshine Coast demonstrated a wealth of experience by rehousing several hives (*T. carbonaria* and *T. hockingsi*) from some very old hive boxes and a tree log. About 40 Club Members were able to see first hand what it looks like inside the hive and were given advice on splits, identifying queens and brood. John Carr from JCU Vet Science gave us a thorough understanding of the internal workings of a bee and how those various "bits and pieces" function to keep the amazing little creatures in the air and flying, and how their gizzards and internals work.

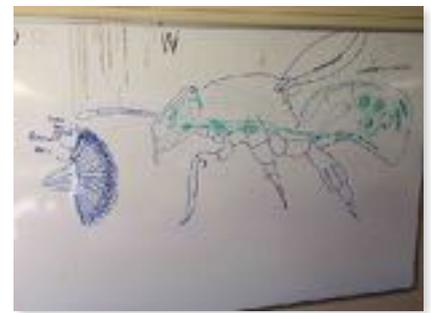


Dean, Jon M and the crowd



Very old and choc-a-bloc *T. carbonaria* hive. Look at that nice neat brood.

Inside the brimming *T. hockingsi* hive with the messy



Nicely constructed cypress pine hive boxes from Dean, look at the thick walls

John Carr gave a lesson on the internal workings of bees



What the best dressed beekeepers are wearing these days

Keen students Beryl and Frana



Club “Shop” in jeopardy

Our activities at the storage facility at Kirwan has come under scrutiny for allegedly operating as a “business” and we are now facing the prospect of not being able to provide our members with the range of bee keeping items that has been such a bonus to Club members. We may have to stop operating the “shop” under the current arrangements and organise a different way of providing the fantastic service that Alan Z and Frana and Jon M plus the rest of our hard working volunteers have done over the last few years.

Stay tuned to hear how the Committee can arrange a new way to provide equipment to our Members at a reasonable price - and the difficult issue of where we can store all this stuff without risk of flood damage! - and without upsetting someone.

All offers of storage would be gratefully considered at this stage.
See photo at right for the current stock held at our storage facility.

Pumpkin patch thrives with native bees

From Ray B on the Gold Coast

My first contact with the club wasn't actually about bees at all. I had no interest in bees per se. It was because of my veggies that I made my initial and very tentative enquiries. Five years of planting pumpkins and zucchini and not a single fruit on any of my plants. No bees in sight, **ever!** It was a no brainer as to what I needed.

Having done some reading, I was dead keen on starting with native bees. If I had to have bees, it may as well be native bees, not honey bees. The idea of getting stung did not appeal to me at all! Unfortunately for me, the call to the club poured cold water on my idea of native bees for this job. I was told then, and many times since then, European veggies need European honey bees to pollinate them. The flowers, especially in the cucurbit family (which include the pumpkins, melons, zucchinis etc.), are too big for native bees. They are better suited to native, smaller flowers. I duly joined the club and found honey bees so interesting and stimulating that I soon forgot about pumpkins and zucchini: bees were now the main game! And now, quite a few years later, things have not changed... except for one small detail....

Pumpkins, like most cucurbits, seem to go for quality over quantity in their pollen. Their pollen has a very high protein content, is low in number (relative to wind pollinated plants) and is sticky. Wind plays NO role in their pollination. That means 100% of their pollination is up to insects. A report by the Australian Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC), “Pollination Aware: The Real Value of Pollination in Australia” (August 2010), quantifies the pollination services of honey bees for the first time. According to this report 100% of all commercial pumpkin, melon and squash crops in Australia are pollinated by honey bees. See here for a free download of the entire document:

<http://www.naturalbeekeeping.com.au/Pollination%20Aware.pdf>

It would be easy to conclude that no other insects, let alone native bees, play any role whatsoever in cucurbit pollination, right? Wrong! As is so often the case, the truth is always more complex than the science would suggest. These days I keep honey bees as well as native bees in my back yard. And what do I find in my pumpkins? Native bees! Honey bees too, but by number, way more native bees than honey bees. Not just once, most days. Not a few, I mean lots of native bees. Not just female flowers, male flowers too. So, who's doing the job here? Let's hear it for the natives, our unsung heroes! (**Ed:** Presumably Ray has *T. carbonaria* down there?)
Ray B, Gold Coast

Ed: According to the “Beeaware” website at <http://beeaware.org.au/pollination/native-bees/native-bees-as-alternative-pollinators/> “There is already a small, but established, managed stingless bee industry in New South Wales and Queensland that provides commercial crop pollination services. The industry is based on the management of the social Australian native bees *Tetragonula carbonaria*, *T. hockingsi* and *Austroplebeia australis*. It mainly services the macadamia, lychee, watermelon, blueberry, mango and avocado industries. However, with further research, it may be shown that they are useful pollinators of other crops.”

For more about native bee pollination, check out: <https://www.aussiebee.com.au/croppollination.html>

And don't forget the mangoes, maggots and blowflies!!!!

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2015-06-12/new-study-shows-flies-not-bees-are-mango-farmers-best-friend/6540674>

New research has shown native bees and flies, not honey bees, are the top pollinators of mango trees.

Surveying of ten mango farms at Mareeba, in far north Queensland, has revealed up to 50 different insects came into contact with the reproductive parts of the flowers, including two bee species, nine flies and one beetle. Not only were flies shown to be the most dominant and frequent visitors of the mango flowers, they also proved to be highly effective at carrying pollen when compared with honey bees.

Some of the farmers were bringing in roadkill from the roads outside their farm, because they knew the flies had a larval stage that depended on these dead animals. This would increase the numbers of young pollinating flies in the orchard. Yuuuuuk!



Feeding hungry bees

From Don Newport

Hi Lindsay I've taken a photo of the ratio of products needed for the protein mix & they enjoy it depending on how desperate they are, some hives aren't as wrapped in it. I put in a Tasmanian kelp in it which has lots of goodness it and they didn't die so it can't be too bad for them.

I warm it up together in a pot to dissolve it a bit, and let it cool.

Put it in a plastic bag & cut the corner out & pipe it on top of the frame, I make it a bit runnier so it's easy for the bees to take up.

Pollen: 10-25%

Soy flour: 20-100%

Yeast: 20-25%

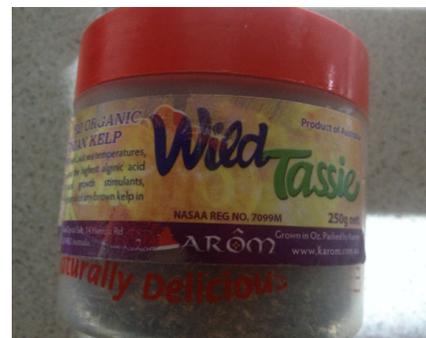
Sugar/honey/water: 20-50%

Ed: Don, I don't think you would go too well on Master Chef with the grey, goopy appearance of your supplement, but obviously the bees seem to like it - lucky it's dark inside the hive so they can't see it.

For a really thorough discussion about feeding pollen supplements to bees, read this:

It's the "Fat Bees, Skinny Bees" publication.

<https://www.agrifutures.com.au/wp-content/uploads/publications/05-054.pdf.au/wp->



Feeding sugar to honey bee colonies to prevent starvation

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/honey-bees/compliance-and-management/feeding-honey-bee-colonies-to-prevent-starvation>

Honey bees store honey in the hive to provide food for winter and for other times when there are few or no nectar secreting flowers available. When nectar is in short supply or unavailable, bees draw on their honey stores in the hive. During these times, it is important to frequently monitor the amount of honey in the hive because when it has all gone, the colony will starve. Starvation can be prevented by moving bees to an area where plants are yielding nectar or by feeding them white table sugar, or syrup made with white sugar. Never use raw, brown and dark brown sugar, and molasses as these may cause dysentery in bees. Bee colonies can be kept alive for long periods by feeding white sugar.

Honey as feed for bees

It is extremely important not to feed honey to bees unless it is from your own disease free hives. Spores of American foulbrood disease (AFB) can be present in honey. Feeding honey from an unknown source, for example, a supermarket or even another beekeeper, may cause infection in your hives. If you feed suitable honey to your bees, it must be placed inside the hive. Never place honey in the open outside the hive as this is illegal under the *Livestock Disease Control Act 1994*.

How and when to feed bees

If sugar syrup or dry sugar is fed in the open, bees from nearby managed and feral colonies will be attracted. You will end up feeding other bees as well as your own. Besides being a waste of money, feeding in the open may cause robber bee activity in the apiary and possible interchange of bee disease pathogens. Placement of sugar syrup or dry sugar in hives is best done towards evening to minimise any tendency for bees to rob the hives that are fed.

Making and feeding sugar syrup

There are differing views about the correct amount of sugar in syrup. Some beekeepers prefer a ratio of one part of sugar to one part of water, measured by weight (known as 1:1). Others prefer a dense syrup of two parts of sugar to one part of water (known as 2:1). Generally, 1:1 syrup is used to supplement honey stores, stimulate colonies to rear brood and encourage drawing of comb foundation particularly in spring. The stronger syrup is used to provide food when honey stores in the hive are low. Measuring the sugar and water by weight or volume is alright because there is no need to be 100% exact about the sugar concentration.

Heat the water in a container large enough to hold both the water and sugar. As soon as the water has begun to boil gently, remove the container from the heat source. Pour in the sugar and stir the mixture until the sugar crystals are dissolved. Never boil the mixture as the sugars may caramelize and may be partially indigestible and toxic to bees. Always let the syrup cool to room temperature before feeding it to bees. The cooled syrup can be given to hives by bottle feeder, plastic bag, inserts on hive tops or through openings in the lid.

Ed: The Club Shop has bottle feeders for only \$2.00. There are lots of ways to make your own feeder with glass bottles in the top, internal plastic containers, plastic bags with a cut in them, empty trays in the super etc etc.

And here is one that you can put in and leave, and top up any time during the year without opening the hive below, and no messy spillage from leaky bottle feeders.

See: www.hivedoctor.com



Presentations to the public by Club members

NQ Herb Society

By Frana M, abstract of a talk and demo given on 6 April 2019.

The focus on this presentation is on honey; what it is, how it is made by bees, why the different colours and taste and some of its properties.

Basically, honey is nectar from flowers that has enzymes added and is concentrated by dehydration by the bees. It is made up of different sugars, mainly glucose and fructose. The consistency is determined by water content, too much water and it will ferment – the ideal amount is about 17% water. The colour and flavour of honey is determined by the primary nectar source, keeping in mind that most backyard bees will produce honey from many different plant sources with colour and flavour variation in a single hive and even a single frame. So backyard honey is a blend of many plant species together.

Raw honey will often crystallise over time, this process is dependent on ratio of the sugars, water content, presence of nucleate particles (eg pollen) and temperature. For example, the higher the glucose content, the more likely to crystallise, especially if stored in a fridge. All raw honey has antibiotic and antiseptic properties to some degree. Manuka is the most well known and the Australian jelly-bush (*Leptospermum polygalifolium*) is part of this family. Studies have shown that native bee (*Tetragonula carbonaria*) honey is even stronger than manuka.

Bees are attracted to flowering herbs especially those with blue or white flowers. Of particular interest is that the herbs grown by us for their healing properties provide the same effect within a beehive, eg thymol in thyme is effective in hive hygiene. So keep those herbs growing!

Frana McKinstry

Other presentations have been given to the JCU Vet Science students (Frana), Townsville CWA and Lions Clubs (Lindsay).

Quote of the week:

Miles Furnas loaned me a book that I will give a review on later. My emphasis is on some quotes that make me smile. My motto with bees is “Always expect the unexpected.”

From the book “The Honey Factory : Inside the Ingenious World of Bees” by Jurgen Tautz and Diedrich Steen.

“Beekeeping is fascinating because bees continue to surprise even those who have kept them for decades. When describing their experiences, amazed beekeepers will often say **“They have never done that before”**.”

Every bee colony has it’s own character and every year follows it’s own rhythm. **Bees are never boring.**

A bee colony is a complex organism, rather like a book that one can read and find new and interesting stories at each reading.”

The Library is now open

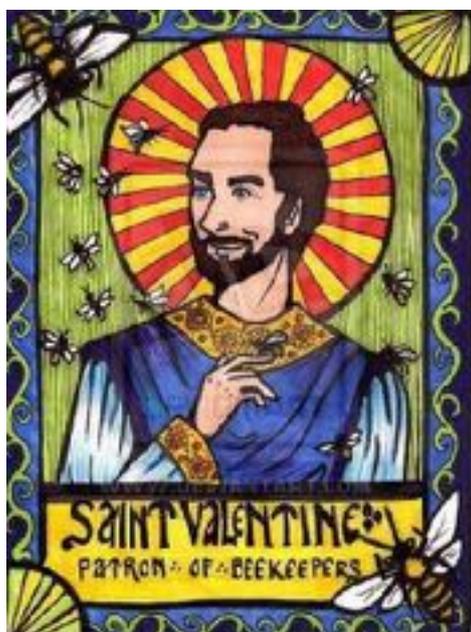
Our club library has a varied range of books on bees and beekeeping which are available for members to borrow. These cover a range of subjects from basic beekeeping, native bees, queen rearing, honey & pollen flora, and bee health. We also have ABK magazines from 2014 to current editions, DPI & BIOSECURITY information, DVD’s, recipe books & various other fact sheets.

There are also a couple of very good books which are suitable for children that I also found great for us older ones as well.

I bring a range of these items to each monthly meeting and have them on display, so please come over, say g’day and see if there is anything you would like to borrow. While I am unable to bring everything to each meeting, I have a list of all the items in the library so you can browse through that and if I haven’t got what you want on the day, I can bring it to the next meeting for you.

Looking forward to catching up at the next meeting.

Beryl Smart - Club Librarian



Our favourite Saint

Doctors in Taiwan have found four small sweat bees alive inside the eye of a woman.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-04-11/doctors-find-sweat-bees-in-eye-of-taiwanese-woman/10991532>

Key points:

- Sweat bees are found around the world and are known for their attraction to perspiration
- Ophthalmologist Hong Chi Tang said it was a first for Taiwan to find the bees in the eyes
- Dr Hong said the woman could have gone blind if she had rubbed her eyes

The woman, known as Ms He, had visited Fooyin University Hospital in south-west Taiwan with a stinging pain in her left eye after visiting her ancestor's grave during a yearly tomb-sweeping festival. The BBC reported she had been pulling out weeds when a gust of wind blew what she thought was dirt into her eye. But the pain kept up after several hours.

"It was a very intense stinging pain and I was constantly shedding tears, there was a lot of secretion," she said.

Ophthalmologist Hong Chi Tang said he was surprised to find something alive in her eye. "After I pulled them out one by one, I discovered that surprisingly there were four bees," Dr Hong said. "The size of every single bee was around 0.3 to 0.4 centimetres."

The insects were sweat bees, also known as halictidae, which are found around the world and known for their attraction to perspiration.

Dr Hong told the BBC the discovery of the bees was a first for the country and the insects were still alive and being studied.

He said Ms He was lucky she did not lose her sight.

"She was wearing contact lenses so she didn't dare to rub her eyes in case she broke the lens. If she did she could have induced the bees to produce venom ... she could have gone blind," Dr Hong told the BBC.



The sweat bee is named for its attraction to perspiration. (Supplied: Missouri Department of Conservation)

Ouch -- that's gotta hurt

Report from Frana M regarding one of our Anonymous beekeepers.

Rain last night softened the ground such that the stand leg sank & hive toppled over and separated (no strapping). Intrepid keeper was putting hive back together, no smoker but was wearing his jacket & veil with long trousers & boots. All good there until unhappy bees noticed his fly was undone and this fellow is (apparently) a free-baller! I heard it was quite a performance with him trying not to drop the boxes and get himself free of the bees. Last word was that his wife was removing the stings while trying not to laugh. Wish we had pix . .

Ed:s Comment: It seems we beekeepers never learn. Readers may recall my personal story from last year about the toppled over wheelbarrow with an unstrapped hive being "rectified" in the middle of the night. And yes, there was an unzipped veil involved, but thankfully not down in the nether regions. Is this person a True Scot? and going about regimental??

Bee blooper contest still open

Please submit any of your amusing stories regarding dropped boxes, slipped frames, lost queens, exploding bees wax, swarm misadventures, firelighter flame outs, fermented honey, squared queens, etc to The Editor for inclusion in the Annual Bee Blooper Contest. Michael O'Connell has a doozy for the the next edition , stay tuned- (oops it's all meant to be Anonymous to protect the guilty, oh well).

Swarm Contact List:

Please advise me if you wish to be removed from this list. Contact me with your name, phone number and suburb if you want to be on the list.

I have not heard yet from the people in pink.

Sonya Verbrugt - Gulliver - 04 0853 0991
Steve and Carla Kersnovske - Kelso 0417 344 419
Ben Taylor, Douglas/ Riverside eGardens - 4728 4992/ 0428 186 000
Dave Turnbull Annandale - 0458 645 677
Doug McBride, Mysterton - 4775 7465
Dan & Drew Donovan, Wulguru- 0428 218 816
Ronelle White , Alice River/ Rupertswood 0417752622
Sharene Dougall, Bluewater - 0415426903
Tito Parigi - Magnetic Island - 0418 796 951
John Pavetto 0488414017, and Ian Goulevitch -Hinchinbrook Area.
Michael O'Connell Douglas/0420 951 929
Graeme Dolby 0402 088 080

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 Queensland for pest and disease monitoring.

Storm in a teacup?– no it's a SHB in my teacup

The Ed's fairer half left her half consumed cup of tea near a light on our verandah around 6 pm on Thursday. When the cup was raised to drink, what was swimming around in there???, it was a SHB. Guess that's a sign to go and check the hives soon, and maybe put up some of those external bait traps described by Jon McKinstry at previous meetings. See previous Newsletters for links to the Youtube video of how to set them up and the recipe for the bait.

It's triplets Mrs Bee!!!

Photo and info from Jon and Frana M

Nice photo of twins and triplets being raised in a fairly recent re-queened hive run by Jon and Frana M. See either 1, 2 or 3 larvae developing in the same cell in photo on right.

Two possible reasons for multiple eggs/larvae in one cell are:

- Newly mated queen just getting organised and she will learn to count to 1 soon (just joking about the counting bit, but it seems bees can count)
- Laying worker – multiple eggs in one cell is a common feature when a queenless hive is left for too long and the queen pheromone has worn off in the hive.

To identify if you have laying workers, inspect the brood combs and some signs are: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laying_worker_bee

- **Brood pattern**
Laying workers lay eggs that lack the queen's egg recognition pheromone, meaning that other workers may remove the eggs. This results in a spotty brood pattern, in which empty cells are scattered heavily through capped brood.
- **Number of eggs per cell**
Queen bees will usually lay only a single egg to a cell, but laying workers will lay multiple eggs per cell. Multiple eggs per cell are not an absolute sign of a laying worker because when a newly mated queen begins laying, she may lay more than one egg per cell.
- **Egg position**
Egg position in the cell is a good indicator of a laying worker. A queen bee's abdomen is noticeably longer than a worker, allowing a queen to lay an egg at the bottom of the cell. A queen bee will usually lay an egg centered in the cell. Workers cannot reach the bottom of normal depth cells, and will lay eggs on the sides of the cell or off center.
- **Drone brood in worker cells**
Another good indicator is drone brood in worker sized cells. Drones are raised in larger cells than workers. Drone cells are recognizable by their larger size; and when capped, drone cells are capped with blunt pointed cappings. Drones in worker cells are a sure sign of a failing queen or laying worker.
- Drone cells in the honey super. If you see drone cells above the queen excluder, its almost guaranteed that you have a laying worker



Remember that all eggs produced by a laying worker are unfertilised (haploid) and will only produce drones (males). The queen has the ability to lay either fertilised eggs that are female (diploid) or unfertilised eggs (haploid) that are males.

It is the pheromones from open uncapped brood that suppress the ovaries in female workers so they do not lay eggs when the hive is “queen right”. Apparently it is not the queen pheromone that does this. It's difficult to overcome the laying worker syndrome, but there are several interventions that are on the web or in bee books to refer to. The difficulty is that the hive thinks it has a queen (the laying workers) and will not accept a new queen. The laying workers are virtually impossible to find in a hive with somewhere between 20-50,000 bees.

Did you hear the one about the Irish Queen Bee that was laying three eggs in each brood cell???

- to be sure, to be sure, to be sure.

Bees find their way home from up to 13 km - and avoid the “over water” track back

Article sent in by Paul Payne

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0019669>

Honeybee foragers frequently fly several kilometres to and from vital resources, and communicate those locations to their nest mates by a symbolic dance language. Research has shown that they achieve this feat by memorising landmarks and the skyline panorama, using the sun and polarised skylight as compasses and by integrating their outbound flight paths. In order to investigate the capacity of the honeybees' homing abilities, we artificially displaced foragers to novel release spots at various distances up to 13 km in the four cardinal directions. Returning bees were individually registered by a radio frequency identification (RFID) system at the hive entrance. We found that homing rate, homing speed and the maximum homing distance depend on the release direction. Bees released in the east were more likely to find their way back home, and returned faster than bees released in any other direction, due to the familiarity of global landmarks seen from the hive. Our findings suggest that such large scale homing is facilitated by global landmarks acting as beacons, and possibly the entire skyline panorama.

Ed: And they found that bees released on one side of Lake Burley Griffin flew around the lake shore to get home as bees don't particularly like to fly over water - no fuel or resting stops. It was a longer flight path, but they made it home in the same amount of time.

TDBA Inc General Meeting Minutes 14/4/2019 at HPSS

Chair: President, Mick Olsen

Minutes: Newsletter Editor, Lindsay Trott

Meeting commenced around 2:00 pm

Mick introduced the Committee members in attendance

Mick welcomed the attendees and highlighted the Visitors so they could be welcomed.

Attendance book circulated

Previous Minutes were accepted: Moved, Lindsay Trott, 2nd Joan Ruddell

Chair:

- Club has decided to stay at HPSS for the immediate future as the Riverside Gardens option does not allow for on site hives.

- Graeme Armstrong (our local queen breeder) will give us a workshop on queens when he has built up his hive numbers to 1,000!!!

- Workshop requests are being considered for SHB and methods of prevention, honey harvesting and extraction methods

- Club Library will get a display stand to show off books and mags at meetings.

Treasurer:

Frana M reported a very healthy bank balance of \$16,208. Lots of stock still on order. Once again, the stock turnover has been huge. Thanks to our Shop organisers Frana and Alan and the rest of the volunteers who help out on the shop open day. Some stock will be discontinued - like cotton jackets, and replacing with vented suits and jackets. Starter beekeeper kits will be reviewed, best smoker is the Beeco brand. New item was a bucket drainer, our wax sheets are still only \$2.40/sheet. Please make payments by cash on purchase day or bank transfer.

Secretary:

- No mail in/out

- Eco Fiesta is in Queens Gardens on Sunday 26 May. Still waiting for confirmation. Paul Payne asked for volunteers to attend and mind the stall. Hours available are 9-11, 11-1, 1-3 and there is a need for people before and after to help set up/pack up. Come along and talk to the interested public to inform them of the Club's activities and answer bee questions, usually simple, so no degree in bee keeping required. No plastic containers at this year's event, so any honey to be sold will need to be in glass jars.

- The "Bee Cause" day to be held at Kalynda Chase community gardens on 19 May from 8 am- 2 pm – along with Honey Month and Bee Month.

Shop: see Treasurer's report above

Librarian: Beryl has several books, ABK magazine, and DVD's, etc on display and for Members to borrow. Please notify Beryl when you return borrowed books and material. Some very old outstanding items on loan, so please check your shelves.

Other Business:

- ½ day native bee workshop at HPSS by Dean Bryant for Easter Sat 20 April at \$15/head for Club Members is booked out.

- Al Z suggested previously that maybe JCU (Vet Science) could develop the skills/accreditation to be able to perform screening or ID for AFB, chalkbrood, EFB and possibly develop a bee unit?? Worth a try!

- Jon M offered free mesh offcuts for lid vents, and reported on the SHB trap and 2 recipes for the bait, he offered some furry table cloth material for trapping SHB and John Pavetto talked about putting Chux cloth in a wire cage as a SHB trap. Jon M displayed what happens to poorly maintained hive box suffering from dry rot (not his hives).

- John Pavetto spoke of Ingham where there were only 3 days without rain in the last 40 days and the bees were using pollen from the grasses because all the nectar and pollen had been washed out of flowers. He noticed he gets no burr comb when he doesn't put Apithor traps in, and a strong hive can keep SHB under control, but a nuc or weak hive will go down very quickly. He heard of citronella and Vaseline being applied to external cracks and joints on native bee hives to stop egg laying of pests that can migrate through the small cracks.

2:30 pm finish and the group proceeded to split a hive and re-queen at HPSS hives. Everyone could get up close and personal with the hives, as they were pretty friendly, even with the splitting procedure going on.

Next Meeting 12 May 2019 at HPSS

Eco Fiesta is on, please sign up to volunteer at our stall:

Venue: Queens Gardens

Date: Sunday 26 May, 2019

Time: 9am - 3pm

Eco Fiesta will be **GOING DRASTIC AND BANNING ALL PLASTIC!** So, no plastic honey jars!!!! After lots of feedback from TCC's valued exhibitors (food & markets) and audience over the past 3-4 years we are finally banning all plastic!

This includes plastic cups, cutlery, balloons, bags, straws, plastic drink bottles and food packaging. Please spread the word to encourage the public to bring along their own personal bottles and bags.

World Bee Day is on 20 May

<https://www.worldbeeday.org/en/>

This article is from the World Bee day website

Apitherapy Beekeepers are known to be healthy, and many live to a ripe old age, retaining their physical energy and clarity of thought to the very end. The bees themselves contribute a great deal to this because they demand concentration and calmness from the apiarist. The hive fragrance that beekeepers inhale while working or resting in the bee house is most pleasant and beneficial. Because of the free circulation of aromatic air from the hives, such bee houses engender an extremely fine microclimate which exerts a favourable effect on the human respiratory system and well-being in general. Thus some beekeepers place beds within them, thereby transforming the bee house into an api-therapeutic chamber. Indeed, it is believed that pollen allergies can be cured through the regular and timely inhalation of air from beehives. Even more beneficial to human health is the regular consumption of honey and other bee products, whose composition and characteristics are well known to every beekeeper. So, as our health is of the greatest importance, why not use them when they are forever on hand? It is well known that beekeepers, prone to being stung, are less prone to various rheumatic ailments, largely because of their exposure to bee venom. Today apitherapy is a widely-established discipline, serving as a beneficial supplement to traditional medicine.



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. New members.

Renee McALLISTER, RAILWAY ESTATE Shawn HUDDY, ARCADIA Ron WILLIAMS, BLACK RIVER
Judi LIOSATOS, BLACK RIVER Judith MATTHEWS, MUNDINGBURRA Tara GLEESON, CURRAJONG
Caitlin KELLY, KIRWAN Tracey, Brenden & Eadyn PERRETT, CURRAJONG
Fran CRAIG, BLUEWATER

Annual Membership Fees are due in June/July 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.

New email contacts for the Office Holders 2018/19

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

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

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

TDBA Inc Office Holders for 2018/2019

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

Vice President: [Paul Payne](mailto:PaulPayne@gmail.com) trapper4812@gmail.com
.....

Secretary: Alan Ziegenfusz secretary@beesnorth.com.au
.....

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

Membership Frana McKinstry franajon@gmail.com or info@beesnorth.com.au
.....

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

Librarian: Beryl Smart smartberyl@gmail.com
.....

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

Webmaster: Ray Berkelmans rberkelm@gmail.com
.....

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

Committee Members: Ian Gordon iain.gordon59@gmail.com
.....

.....
 Ian Goulevitch goulevitchi@gmail.com
.....

 Michell Hasted pexperts@bigpond.com
.....

 Waldon Edwards waldon.edwards@iinet.net.au
.....

 Tom and Joan Ruddell
.....

 Carla Kersnovske cke00786@bigpond.net.au
.....

Life Members of the TDBA Inc

In recognition of their long term service and support of our Association.

Dennis ANGER

Graeme & Adele ARMSTRONG

Ken & Marcia CALEO

Dave HOEY

Mike & Jill JAMES

Doug & Sonya MCBRIDE

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="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Attach sample no.(s) or barcode
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Attach LIMS number
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>

Location details

Address

Nearest road Locality

GPS Location Latitude . °S Longitude . °E

(WGS 84, decimal degrees)

Contact on site Phone

Hive details

Number of hives

HIN

Comments

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

Club Shop Items - 2019 Price List

These prices are only available to current financial members

Item	Price	Item	Price
Veil - Native Bee (camo)	\$5.00	Queen Catcher	\$3.00
Veil - Native Bee (mesh)	\$3.00	Frame Gripper	\$10.00
Veil - cotton	\$20.0	Frame Hanger	\$20.00
Veil - ventilated	\$25.0	Bee Feeders	\$2.00
Jacket - Cotton	\$60.0	Spring clips	\$2.00
Jacket - Ventilated	\$90.0	Frame Nails per packet	\$6.00
Full Suit - Cotton	\$85.0	Mesh (for base construction)	\$15.00
Full Suit - ventilated	\$115.	Gate valve - Yellow	\$10.00
Gloves - pair	\$22.0	Gate valve - Nuplas	\$12.00
Replacement veil for vented suit	\$20.0	Gate Valve – Parker	\$30.00
Cowboy hat-veil	\$12.0	Cappings knife, serrated	\$15.00
Super - 8 frame	\$25.0	Cappings knife, electric	\$30.00
Super - 10 Frame	\$28.0	Comb scratcher	\$8.00
Super - Ideal	\$25.00	Bucket bracket	\$10.00
Super - WSP	\$25.00	Strainer	\$25.00
Super - Nuplas Plastic	\$40.00	Queen Excluder scraper	\$10.00
Nuplas Base	\$45.00	Hive handle (metal)	\$12.00
Nuplas Lid	\$38.00	Wax Embedding tool	\$45.00
Nuplas set – 1x super & lid &	\$120	Extractor - Plastic	\$140.00
Nuplas oil tray & frame	\$28.00	Extractor - S/S	PO
Nuplas Cleats - pair	\$10.00	Honey jars 250gm	\$0.70
Lids (8 or 10 Frame)	\$27.00	Honey jars 500gm - square	\$0.80
Base - Ply (8 or 10 frame)	\$22.00	Honey jars 550gm - squeeze	\$0.80
Base - Mesh	\$30.00	Honey jars 1kg round	\$1.00
Lifting Cleats (Handles, pr)	\$5.00	Honey Pails - 1 kg	\$1.20
Emlok - hive clamp set	\$14.00	Honey Pails - 1.5kg	\$1.30
Corflute Nuc box	\$20.00	Warning Sign	\$10.00
Corflute - Queen excluder	\$4.00	Bee Poster	\$20.00
Hive tool (S/S)	\$15.00	Traps	
Smoker	\$35.00	Apithor trap	\$8.00
Smoker – Beeco	\$85.00	Silver Bullet trap	\$8.00
Bee Brush - Natural bristle	\$10.00	Apis sticky trap	\$4.50
Queen Excluder - Wire (8 or 10	\$22.00	Books	
Queen Excluder - Plastic	\$10.00	Managing AFB	\$0.00
Frames - Full depth	\$2.00	Australian Beekeeping Manual	\$35.00
Frames - Ideal	\$1.50	Australian Native Bee Book	\$25.00
Frames - WSP	\$1.50		
Foundation - Plastic	\$2.10	AFB test kits	\$0.00
Foundation - Wax	\$2.40	Club Polo Shirts short sleeve	\$40.00
Beeswax block per kg	\$18.00	Club Polo Shirts long sleeve	\$45.00
Eyelets pkt 500/40gm - packet	\$10.00	Club Hat	\$15.00
Awl (for fitting eyelets)	\$5.00	Honey labels (\$5.00 for 50) or	\$25.00
S/S Wire x 500gm	\$20.00	Gate valve O rings - Parker	\$6.00
S/S Wire x 80gm	\$6.00	POSCA queen marking pen	\$5.00
Wire crimping tool	\$12.00		

TDBA Bee Starter Kit - \$110

The Perfect Gift for a budding Beekeeper

Available in Townsville from the Club Shop:

Club Members Price Only! \$110

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

Contact: Club Shop Stewards: Frana M or Alan Z

info@beesnorth.com.au



TDBA is proudly supported by:

**Fairway
Group Townsville**

Graeme Kent
Senior Accountant,
Business Consultant

Member of the
Association of Accountants
Annandale QLD 4014

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

Coaching - Taxation - Accounting - Bookkeeping

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Phone (02) 6584 4338

Email: office@theabk.com.au

LOTS-A-STINGS

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

.Dan Donovan: Ph 0428 218 816

Townsville & District
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION

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