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PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale, Q4814

Newsletter of the Townsville and District Beekeepers Association



SHB is in Europe to Stay!

The small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*) is an exotic pest originally from South Africa which can infest honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) colonies, destroying combs and brood often causing total colony loss. It invaded the southern USA in the 1990s causing significant economic loss, and has later been found in Australia, Canada and elsewhere. It is subject to statutory control in most European countries, and contingency plans have been in place for some years in anticipation of its arrival.

On 11th September 2014 the small hive beetle was discovered by beekeepers in Gioia Tauro, in south west Italy. The source of the outbreak is currently unknown. Attempts were made to eradicate the beetles, by killing colonies and treating soil with insecticide, setting up a 20 km protection zone and 100 km surveillance zone around the infested colonies.

Subsequent investigation has found that it is present in 48 apiaries of 13 bordering municipalities, all of them concentrated in an area of 10 km radius. Italian beekeepers have asked that the policy

of compulsory destruction be halted, and other measures to avoid spread be implemented.

Dr. Franco Mutinelli of the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie² says: "Our inspections have shown us that the beetle is found in strong bee colonies as well as weak ones, in freshly made combs as well as old ones, and in nucleus colonies as well as full colonies. However, until now the infestation appears limited to this area of Calabria region."

The President of the international honey bee protection network COLOSS¹ Prof. Peter Neumann says: "The COLOSS association is greatly concerned about this discovery, which represents the permanent arrival of this pest into Europe. It is inevitable that it will spread to other European countries, but we cannot yet predict what its effects on the beekeeping industry will be. COLOSS members will work together to bring scientific results into practice for the benefit of beekeepers to help them fight this serious pest." (*COLOSS Honey Bee Research Association News Release*)

ABJ 2014

Special points of interest:

- SHB in Europe
- Meeting Minutes
- BeeConnected
- Cable Drum Bees
- Classifieds

Next meeting:

Sunday 2:00PM
16 November 2014.
At Kevin &
Wendy's place—
16 Staaten St
Pimlico

REMEMBER—
your chair

Minutes of the Meeting....

TDBA October meeting 19-10-2014.

Grant opened the meeting, 2.45pm

Present as per book. over 40 members present

Apologies: Dave and Virginia Muspratt; Matt Hines; Sonya McBride; Lenny McColl

Minutes of Previous meeting: read by Grant, . Move Jon Mc.. sec Tito Parigi

Matters arising:

Native bee workshop going very well with high interest. One day full other nearly full. Tim Heard estimates about \$1100 in expenses but that has been raised already. Press release still coming.

Honey flows going very well across the area.

More foundation wax needs to be ordered.

AON insurance Grant to check out

Correspondance in: an invitation to the Defence Force expo in January

Emails from the website re interested people

Robert Dewar re the Bio security Qld issue on how to handle Apis Cerana around Cairns and the North. (See General business)

OUT: lots of email follow ups with new members and other interested people.

Treasurer's report: Over \$5000 but that will be reduced after the Native Bee workshop in Nov.

SHB traps, foundation etc being ordered,

Moved Kirsty S. Sec. David E.

General Business:

One of our members has AFB, in the Heatley area. Please continually check your brood boxes carefully when you have time and are within a kilometre of that area.

Foul Brood was identified in a hive in Wulguru as well, keep vigilant and ask if unsure. We need to knock it on the head.

Welcome to the new members: Steve and Ping; Walden; Matt; and Cathy and Rachael.

Ron lost bees through spraying up at Kennedy, he should be able to save a hive or two. Some discussion on why , could be a change in type of spray used on the bananas near him. He spoke on how he was managing the hives now nursing them back to health.

Graham Smith mentioned that the honey flow was good because of the amount of sunshine.

Grant read the minutes of the extra meeting held at Dave and Virginia's place in Brandon.

Doug spoke about the swarm collections he has been making and one from out the Bohle which proved a little trying. They swarmed twice from Doug's new home.

The Christmas Do will be on Sunday the 6th of December. Grant to ring up Riverside Tavern and maybe the West End Hotel.

It is the swarming season now, Next meeting the swarm list will have to be updated. and sent to various places, i.e. the council, (they said the last update was in 2011— Grant would dispute this) DPI onto the website etc. Only registered beekeepers should be on the swarm list. Discussion was held with regard to a sharing of knowledge about how to collect swarms from the various places they appear.

NEXT MEETINGS: :

The 3rd Sunday of each month. 2pm to 4pm, please bring a chair.

November : Kevin and Wendy's in Pimlico.

December: a function on the 6th December.

February : Geoff Fisher's place at Balgal Beach
Meeting closed 3:50. food and drink was enjoyed.

BeeConnected Apps

Australia has one of the healthiest honey bee colonies in the world and it is essential we all assist keep it that way.

CropLife Australia's consultation with both farmers and beekeepers identified an opportunity to improve easy and effective communication between the parties. For this reason, CropLife Australia, in partnership with the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, has launched BeeConnected, a world-first innovative communication tool to enable collaboration between farmers and beekeepers.

Through BeeConnected, farmers and contractors may register and will then receive notifications when a registered beekeeper positions beehives near their properties or near a proposed crop protection product application activity that the farmer is undertaking.

Registered beekeepers will also receive notifications alerting them when a registered farmer or contractor enters a proposed nearby crop protection product application activity. The tool also enables instant messaging between registered participants to assist beekeepers, farmers and contractors work together to keep Australia's honeybees healthy, whilst maintaining privacy through the use of a restricted in-App messaging service.

BeeConnected is a nation-wide, user-driven smartphone app that enables collaboration between beekeepers, farmers and spray service contractors to facilitate best-practice pollinator protection. BeeConnected is free and available on iPhone, Android and desktop computers.

<http://www.croplife.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/BClogotransparent.png>

Stewardship protects pollinators

Friday 22 August 2014— Australian farmers and manufacturers of seed products now have access to contemporary best management practice guidance on the handling and planting of treated seed with the launch of the Seed Treatment Stewardship Strategy. The Strategy is part of CropLife Australia's new Pollinator Protection Initiative.

Seed treatments are an excellent example of how the seed industry and the crop protection industry provide Australian farmers with pioneering tools to meet ongoing crop production challenges. Seed treatments are specifically tailored to meet farmers pest and disease control needs by acting as a delivery mechanism that minimizes risks to health safety and the environment.

The Seed Treatment Stewardship Strategy has been developed by Australian industry experts, drawing on the latest international and domestic information available. It outlines measures to reduce potential risks from the dust generated during handling and planting seed and provides guidance on industry best practice to minimize unintended movement of pest and disease management product said Mr. Cossey

CropLife is proud to have partnership support of the Seed Treatment Stewardship Strategy from organizations that represent farmers across Australia including AgForce, the Australian Seed Federation, Grain Producers Australia, Grain Producers SA, the NSW Farmers Association, the Northern Territory Farmers Association, the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association and the Western Australian Farmers Federation.

CropLife recognizes that its essential to provide the latest stewardship information and techniques to farmers and other crop protection product users so their business operations keep up to date with worlds best practice. The active support of a number of state farming organizations and producer groups for this CropLife initiative will help to ensure best management practice advice is readily available to farmers across Australia

The PPI is part of CropLife Australia's Stewardship First program which aims to foster the responsible sustainable use of crop protection products throughout their lifecycle helping to extend the life of these vital farming tools and ensuring the protection of human and environmental health

The Seed Treatment Stewardship Strategy is available to download at www.croplife.org.au/ppi

Cable Drum Bees...

Grant Whiteford was contacted by a company at the Bohle Industrial Estate about bees who had set up house in a roll of electrical cable.

Doug McBride and Grant retrieved the cable drum which was loaded on Doug's trailer late Wednesday afternoon.

On Thursday morning Doug and I (David Turnbull) off loaded the cable drum and then tilted the drum so we could unravel the cable and feed it into the trailer for return to the company. The bees were not perturbed with that process as you can see in the photo they remained on the outside.



The best approach was to cut the two top slats so we could examine what was inside. We realised why the bees were on the outside they had no room the whole inside of the drum was full of honey and brood. With the travelling over Townsville roads the honey comb had come together from the movement reducing their home size.

The slats were replaced and a towel was placed over it for the night. That took about 5 hours to do and they were left in-situate until Friday morning to tackle the process of extracting their house.



We prepared 3 1/2 boxes of empty frames tire wire and set up a table to lay the comb onto.

The second and third slats were cut on each side for ease of removal. As each frame of comb came out it was assessed for honey or brood. Honey into a bucket and brood laid onto the table and cut to suit the



empty frames. They were tired then placed into the hive in the appropriate order. Top-Middle- Bottom. During this process the bees remained on the outside of the cable drum. There was enough brood for 19 half frames this process took 2 and 1/2 hours. I said to Doug should we not collect the bees and place them into the empty box on top of the brood. Doug said no they will be ok and it is time for coffee.

Went inside for coffee and when finished I walked outside and saw that the bees had gone. Sang out "ha Doug, they have swarmed" Doug came out and said he can hear them but could not see them; they were circling about 20 feet above. We kept an eye on them and within 5 minutes they had formed into a ball and settled in the Lychee tree above where we were working. We set up the ladder and Doug got his special bee scoop. Brilliant idea, it is a 20 litre drum with the top cut off attached to a long pole. I got up the ladder with hand pruners and Doug held the scoop I guided the ball of bees in and cut the branch. They were placed into the empty box on top of the brood lid placed on for a couple of days.

That is how you remove bees from a cable drum.



David Turnbull

Classifieds

For Sale

Bottom Boards - 10 Frames
wood & metal pressure primed before assembly and
ready for use
made to Australian Standards
9mm risers & cleats
70x35 mm to fit commonly used stands

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



Bee Joke for November by Roberts 9yr old son Wouter

What bees make milk?

Boo bees

FOR SALE

Honey gate \$10

Smokers for sale - \$35

Gloves \$20

Honey gate \$10

Un-capping knife \$15

Hive Tools for sale - \$5

Frames \$1.35ea

Wax foundation \$1.35 ea

Ring Frana Ph 0401 014 948

Wanted to Buy

Bees wanted

- *Ronda & Gary Teitz*
- *Greg Broomhall*
- *Tito Parigi*
- *Marg Crane*
- *Allan Z.*

Bees for Sale

- *Graeme Armstong*
- *Jon & Frana McKinstry*

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

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Ph 0428 218816



Apithor Traps \$6

TK Mats for SHB \$6

SHB oil traps \$5

See our Treasurer—Doug....



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

Bee Jackets \$50

Hive tools \$5

Gate valves \$10

Gloves \$20

Smokers \$35

All five items sold as a Beginners Kit \$90

Uncapping knives sold separately - \$15

Frana Ph 0401 014 948

