

# Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc.)

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



PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814

## Newsletter No 11 Nov 2016

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**Next Meeting: Carla and Steve's**  
**2:00 pm Sunday, 20 November 2016**  
**1576 Riverway Drive Kelso.**  
**Bring a chair - and a plate of food if you can**  
**Tea, coffee, sugar and milk provided**

## ***Xmas lunch at The Vale Hotel, Sunday 11 December, 12:30***

No December Bee Club meeting will be held, instead we will be having a Xmas lunch on Sunday 11 December at The Vale Hotel, Ross River Rd opposite Dan Murphy's. Please book a spot ASAP with President Al at [president@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:president@beesnorth.com.au)

If there is enough interest and enough stories are sent in, Daniel H will compile some award winning bloopers and present them with their awards. Send stories, pics or anecdotes of the best or funniest blunders of the season to [danthemanhorne@gmail.com](mailto:danthemanhorne@gmail.com) or Lindsay T at [trottlindsay@gmail.com](mailto:trottlindsay@gmail.com). There have been some classic prize winners already this year, so get your entry in now.

Dont forget to book your spot at the Xmas lunch with El Presidente Al [president@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:president@beesnorth.com.au)

## ***New adventures for some Newbees***

Some of our newest Newbees, Chris and Michelle L sent in this photo from the first opening of their hive. These girls look like they are also first timers, out for a familiarisation flight before becoming field bees. We wish them all a Merry Xmas and a bountiful honey flow through to next year.

The TDBA Committee wish all our Members a peaceful Xmas and a prosperous New Year.

There will be no December or January Newsletter, and the February Newsletter will have details for the first meeting in 2017 which will be on 19 February. If Club Members need bee help or advice before then, just contact one of the Club Committee members and ask for help. We will try to help you to find a solution.



## ***# 15 in the Bee Blooper Series*** ***(From "Anonymous" - as usual)***

Here is a good reason to use black plastic foundation in the brood box, instead of white. Back in the day before developing an experienced eye, someone knocked a heap of hive beetles off a frame. Had not seen the white larvae against the white plastic foundation . . . Ooooooops.

Please send in your best Blooper photos- Anonymous of course!!! wards to be given at the Xmas lunch.

## Healthy queen, healthy larvae and brood, and honey in the pantry

Some great photos from Chrystal and Dan H. These are from last weekend where Chrystal helped Nathaniel and Daniel inspect several hives and nucs. They were looking for queen evidence and found it all in the last hive they opened.

This sequence nicely shows what you are looking for when inspecting the brood box, and the Ed has taken the liberty of pointing out some important aspects, mainly for the benefit of Newbees, but also to remind some of us with slow hives, that good productive hives are out there somewhere. Here are the reassuring things I can see in these pics



- fat and healthy marked queen surrounded by attendants is good, although the thick brood frame cell walls means this frame might need cycling up to honey super soon, then scraped
- pollen in some cells, and newly hatched furry nurse bees around queen
- no drones, no SHB



- new, clean, thin walled cells
- single eggs standing up means queen was alive and laying less than 3 days ago (after 3 days eggs lay down)
- complete laying pattern with no empty cells means the queen is healthy, happy and laying well
- no multiple egg cells that can indicate a laying worker



- clean, smooth caps on brood, no dark, dented or perforated caps
- large uncapped grubs developing
- nurse bees in attendance, note less furry older bees in this pic
- some pollen in cells near developing brood
- no queen swarm cells
- no drone cells
- reasonably good laying pattern, but some gaps
- no AFB, SHB, or chalkbrood



- worker bees hard at it filling cells and evaporating the honey in the honey super to reach around 20% moisture content before capping
- nice new, white, clean honeycomb will help produce clear light honey without pollen that clouds the final product

Chrystal H wrote: "We have had bees for a year now. We bought our first hive from Frana M, after spending time at Nat Sizes to learn about the bees and coming to club meetings. We got them as Daniel was interested in bees, and looking for a new hobby. No previous experience, except for Nat allowing us to come play and learn when he opened his hives. Best thing would be that it has fostered my sons' interest. Nathaniel helps Daniel with all aspects of hive maintenance, inspections etc. Sebastian builds the hardware, for the hives. 1 hive has turned into 6 hives through swam captures and splits. This past year (our first) we got over 10kgs of honey. The best thing is being able to see the whole life cycle in 1 place without the wait and being able to watch and admire one of the girls when they land on you. Worst bit is getting multiple stings on a day when i wasn't even helping with the hives. ...."

Thanks for the great photos and the story Chrystal - Ed.

## Honey wars: crime and killings in New Zealand's booming manuka industry

An extraordinary rise in the popularity of manuka honey has led to mass poisonings of bees, thefts, vandalism and beatings

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/nov/04/manuka-honey-wars-new-zealand-crime-booming-industry-poisoning-beatings>

## Joshua M's hive in Sydney over "Flows" with honey

Newsletter readers will remember Joshua M's hive set up in Wahroonga in Sydney and the leafy surrounds of his hive. (TDBA Newsletter Oct 2015). He put in a Flow Hive less than 12 months ago and has reported that the 6 flow frames are close to being filled already. He plans on cracking the filled and capped frames this weekend.



**Ed's Note:** How do you ensure that the honey is capped in a Flow Hive before harvesting?? - if there is only one window on the outside of one frame?? In the tropics, we need to ensure around 90-95% of cells are capped before harvesting, in order to prevent fermentation of the unripe honey. I thought the principle of the Flow Hive was to avoid opening the hive and checking on frames and disturbing the bees - so what happens in the tropics?? Do the Flow Hivers out there harvest unripe honey? Does your honey ferment? Can we normal hivers harvest more unripe, uncapped honey??? Please let me know.



## Manuka: New Zealand moves to trademark the word, alarming Australian honey producers

From: The World Today By Clint Jasper (<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-08-26/new-zealand-says-the-name-manuka-is-theirs-alone/7789484>)  
Posted 26 Aug 2016, 4:04pm

New Zealanders argue the word, the plant and the honey the bees make it from is theirs. Australian producers have been alarmed by moves in New Zealand to trademark the word Manuka.

### Key points:

- In export markets it sells for around \$150 per kilogram
- Plant grows natively in Australia and New Zealand
- Claims Manuka is a Maori word and should be protected
- Manuka honey is popular and expensive, thanks in part to celebrity endorsements.



The honey is expensive because it is produced from a single plant — *Leptospermum scoparium*. In export markets it sells for around \$150 per kilogram, and demand in China has been booming as consumers there seek out its medical benefits. Industry estimates have put the combined export value of the Australian and New Zealand industry at around \$300 million. Despite the fact the plant grows natively in Australia, New Zealanders say the word, the plant and the honey the bees make it from is theirs. John Rawcliffe, New Zealand's Unique Manuka Factor Honey Association, has been one of those pushing to have it trademarked. He said while the honey came off the same plant grown in both countries, the bee was "representative of this environment". "It's a lot about New Zealand and that needs to be, because the consumer wants it from New Zealand, wants to know that that word, Manuka, is linked to New Zealand and that's what we're doing," he said. "The same that's been implied internationally with champagne and whiskey."

If successful, Australian producers of the honey would not be able to call it Manuka — the New Zealanders said they would prefer for them to instead call it Tea Tree honey. "The word is a Maori word, and that needs to be protected and ensured it's held in its rightful place here as part of New Zealand," Mr Rawcliffe said. "It has been used in Australia since the 1800s'. Trevor White, from the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, said the move was ridiculous and that he had evidence the word was used in Tasmania, where the same plant grows, by Aboriginals living there." "I will certainly be objecting to any applications for having a restrictive use of that particular name," he said. "Because that plant is here in Australia, and the name has been used in Australia for many years going way back into the 1800s," Mr White said.

The trademark application has been lodged in New Zealand, and local producers will now have to wait and see how it progresses. One local producer told ABC that Canberra was home to a suburb of the same name, and that the plant was an Australian native, so New Zealand producers would have to mount a compelling argument to have it trademarked.

**Ed's Notes:** An Australian researcher from JCU in Townsville, Assoc Prof Marilyn Manley-Harris, was instrumental in the team that identified the active ingredient (methylglyoxal or MGO) of Manuka honey - the chemical that is measured in the UMF or MGO rating of the honey- See TDBA Newsletter Issue 9, 2013.

UMF and MGO ratings are both used to indicate the antibacterial strength of Manuka Honey. UMF is the industry standard. MGO is only used by Manuka Health New Zealand Ltd for their honeys. UMF and MGO measure the strength of Manuka honey in different ways. <http://www.aliveplushoney.com/amh-umf-and-mgo-rating-explained.php>  
It's actually a bit more complicated, and here is a converter for MGO to UMF ratings for when you are next at the shop buying your \$150/kg honey : <https://export-x.com/manuka-honey-umf-to-mgo-calculator/>

There are currently nearly 700,000 hives in New Zealand, up from 300,000 15 years ago.

## Come in Spinner!

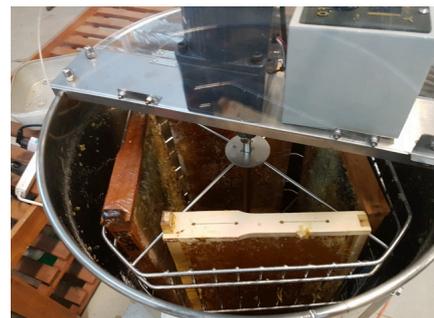
From Ray B on the Gold Coast.

I am a devotee of a certain online shop starting with "E". My profile says I've clocked up some 441 purchases so far. That said, 99% of those are for items <\$10 so I'm hardly risking the family farm. Recently I decided to buy my spinner from the same online outlet. Unlike previous purchases there was plenty of trepidation this time. I was about to spend \$540 (incl. postage) on one item which could well turn out to be a huge waste of money. The spinner had the basic specifications I was after – 4 frame, electric, stainless steel, etc – but how can you tell the quality, suitability and safety of an item from a few distant photos and a few lines of dodgy Chinglish text? That is why I thought I'd share my experience here.



Well, in a nutshell, uncle China came good again. There were a few small issues, but given that the price tag was many \$100's lower than I otherwise would've had to spend I was prepared to deal with a few issues. To my pleasant surprise the spinner arrived within 4 days from Sydney stock. It was well packaged and arrived undamaged, always a good start! The only assembly that was required was bolting the legs and the two half-lids on and fitting the honey gate. There was absolutely no documentation of any description, so just as well the assembly was straightforward. Three of the six bolts holding the legs on had to be cut down by about 5mm as they had a closed nut on the end and too much thread on the bolt to properly tighten them. Another small issue was that the two honey gate O-rings were made from white silicon, not the usual black nitrile rubber. Silicon O-rings are notorious for stretching and when I screwed the gate onto the barrel it was no surprise to see the O-ring pop out. No amount of jiggery-pokery was going to keep it tucked in. Luckily I have a good O-ring kit just for such occasions. The spinner came with a European plug and an Australian adapter. Not ideal, but again, a small issue. The main thing was that the motor actually worked and was quiet! I can't yet vouch for its safety or reliability – only time will tell.

I managed to put the spinner through its proper paces just days later with 12 frames to spin from my first harvest on the Gold Coast. In setting up, it was immediately obvious that the honey bucket was not going to fit under the honey gate without lifting the whole unit up on some blocks. Again, no big deal and, to be fair, I doubt that the legs that come with most spinners aren't high enough to fit a tall pail under the gate. I found that the spinner was not only quiet, but surprisingly stable during spinning. There was no need to hold it down during spinning and the legs never moved on the blocks; that's even without taking any special care with the orientation of the frames! My biggest bug-bear is that I cannot fit my arm between the barrel and the frame-cage to scrape the honey down at the end. Yes, I admit it, I am a scraper! The honey gate is also about 1cm above the bottom of the barrel so there is no chance of it draining properly in an upright position. Tipping it forward is about the only solution to getting the last few kg's of honey out. Based on my limited experience, this is a common trait among spinners and one that you learn to cope with. All up, I'm very happy with the purchase and I fully expect to get many years of service out of it. Good on you uncle China!



Cheers,  
Ray B

## Eduction is the name of the game

Ray B started an eduction on one of his native *T. carbonaria* hives. It wasn't quite ready for a split and given that the new box size is smaller it would be a messy split anyway, so he thought - why not try an eduction - neat, clean and unstressful? Time is of little consequence here on the Gold Coast. Let's see how long it takes?

Good idea for non stress duplication of hives???? Anyone else tried this??



## Native bees in my bin!

Gail B sent in this photo of a bin in her backyard that has been colonised by native bees (zoom in on bottom of bin). The little critters can set up camp in some strange places, some are easier to transfer to a dedicated hive box than others. Transferring established native hives to boxes has a pretty poor success rate, so ensure there is a real need to move them before attempting, as many hives die out from the attempted shift. See Tim Heard's award winning native bee book for sale through the Club for tips on how to transfer hives and many more secrets of the tiny world of native bees; \$25 for members - it's a bargain - and full of helpful info.



Whitley Awards 2016  
Certificate of Commendation -  
Practical Zoology  
*The Australian Native Bee Book*  
Tim Heard, Sugarbag Bees

## ***Backyard honey sellers- Are you running a business or a hobby?***

Sonya C sent this in for our info, as she thought this information might be interesting for others that may have considered what the rules were about selling their honey in relation to tax. She wasn't aware, but thought it might be helpful to others if like her they were new to beekeeping.

How do I know if it's a business or a hobby?

It's important to understand the differences between a hobby and a business for tax, insurance and legal purposes.

Key questions to consider:

- Is the activity being undertaken for commercial reasons?
- Is your main intention, purpose or prospect to make a profit?
- Do you regularly and repeatedly undertake your activity?
- Is your activity planned, organised and carried out in a businesslike manner?

If you answered yes to most of these questions, you're likely to be running a business, although it depends on your individual circumstances. The ATO website provides further questions, information and examples to help you understand the differences between a hobby and a business.

To get an answer specific to your circumstances, you can:

- talk to a legal, accountant or business adviser (<https://www.business.gov.au/Advisory-Services>) in your area who can help you decide whether you're running a business or a hobby.
- get a private ruling from the ATO, which will provide an answer that protects you from penalties and interest.

Go to: [business.gov.au](https://www.business.gov.au/) (<https://www.business.gov.au/>)

## ***Capilano using imported honey without proper identification???***

From:

<https://www.change.org/p/malcolm-turnbull-imported-honey-must-be-labelled-with-country-of-origin-eg-china-argentina/u/18052784>

Corporations are confusing consumers by not adding country of origin on their imported honey products. Australia is mentioned on the label but these honey products include Chinese and Argentinian honey. Your cheap supermarket honey has the potential to cause liver issues and simultaneously ruin an industry.

The heat is on #Australian honey, literally, in blending facilities but also from the world after Fairfax media reported samples of blended Australian honey contained high rates of dangerous alkaloids. (**Ed's note:** these alkaloids referred to are presumably from bees foraging on Paterson Curse - the toxic component was detected by a European survey of Australian honey) Since then Woolworths has introduced nationwide sales. Seems like the race is on for Woolworths to dump its bad stash... The greedy impulsive strategy could be close to a knock-out blow to the reputation of Australian honey.

This will bring long-term consequences. This is malignant practice. We need to support Australian beekeepers. Australians want local honey from healthy hives. We deserve to know which country the honey we buy is coming from.

Please let your friends and family know that they should avoid cheap supermarket honey for health and environmental reasons. A decision by Capilano to import honey in 2002 was a knockout blow for many commercial beekeepers who now have to compete with cheap imports from China. Capilano import Chinese honey at \$2 a kilo then blending it with Australian honey. 10 million kilos imported last year.

John Edmonds from Edmonds honey and Jodey Goldworthy from Beechworth honey are calling for a ban on imported honey to Australia as it poses a biosecurity risk. If you are a commercial honey producer (large or small) please only sell to a company that does not import honey.

Here are some options who have all confirmed with me they will pay a higher price for quality honey than Capilano:

John Edmonds. 0412 735 179

Beechworth honey.

Bunyipbeekeeper 0412 977 261

\*Niel Stuckey 0412 977 261

Australian Natural. Andre 0413 497 911

Gather By Jenna 0417 495 862.

\*Honey down under 07 32712830

Please avoid imported honey. Support your local beekeeper and only buy and sell honey to a company that does not import honey. Use the honeymap! Support Australian brands that do not import honey. Beechworth, Edmonds Honey, Archibald, Peninsula Honey, Australian Naturals and Gather By. Read the label if it contains from local and imported ingredients avoid it.

Item sent in by Grant W:

## ***Model Rules to be voted on and incorporated if approved - please read***

The following link contains info on how the Club might elect officials and operate in the future:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/law/laws-regulated-industries-and-accountability/queensland-laws-and-regulations/associations-charities-and-non-for-profits/incorporated-associations/running-an-incorporated-association/rules-for-associations/>

Please have a read, discuss with Committee Members and be prepared to vote on this at a future meeting. I know it's lengthy, procedural and legalese, but we need to deal with this item and resolve it soon (Ed)

# Beekeeping family stung by north Queensland council laws

ABC TROPICAL NORTH by Rachel Riga and Harriet Tatham.

Wed Oct 05, 13:45:08 EST 2016

A north Queensland hobbyist beekeeper says he is outraged after being forced to get rid of his four hives, following pressure from local government. Finch Hatton resident Barry Parkins has been breeding native and honeybees on his hinterland property for two years. But after the Mackay Regional Council came out to his property to investigate two complaints, Mr Parkins said he is being forced to rezone his land in order to keep the beehives in his backyard. "Under Rural Use Clause 8.2.2, the keeping of any insect of any sort is not allowed — it's basically against the council laws, [and] this also includes your native bees as well," Mr Parkins said. "It's quite a ridiculous situation they're setting up — with the wording, even a child with an ant farm can now also be prosecuted by council," he said. And Mr Parkins said rezoning his property was far too expensive. "The costs can range anywhere from \$1600 to \$24,000 — honestly, for the average bee person, where do we get the money for that?" "We will have no pollinators left in Mackay," he said.



Allotment area	Number of hives
Up to 400m <sup>2</sup>	0
401–1000m <sup>2</sup>	2
1001–2000m <sup>2</sup>	5
2001–4000m <sup>2</sup>	10
>4000m <sup>2</sup>	Seek advice for suburban allotments

Despite the Queensland Government's recommendation for the number of hives that can be kept on an allotment, Mackay Regional Council legislation is forcing beekeepers to rezone their property.

ABC TROPICAL NORTH SOURCED: BIOSECURITY QUEENSLAND  
WED OCT 05 13:45:08 EST 2016

Laws ensure safety, council says. In a statement, the Mackay Regional Council said the rezoning process was used to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of the community. "The keeping of bees is defined as Animal Husbandry under the Mirani Planning Scheme," wrote Community and Client Services director Bridget Mather. "If the current zoning of a beekeeper is residential, they would be required to submit a development application for a Material Change of Use to seek approval to conduct a bee keeping operation." "This is required for keeping even a single hive."

'No reason to rezone land'. Executive Director of the Australian Honeybee Council Trevor Weatherhead described the situation as overkill. Despite the Queensland Government's recommendation for the number of hives that can be kept on an allotment, Mackay Regional Council legislation is forcing beekeepers to rezone their property. "I can fully understand if it was a commercial operation, but in the case where there's only a couple of hives and it's only a hobby, then there's no reason that I can see for having to rezone land," he said.



"As long you keep them in regards to the recommendation in the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, then there should be no reason to have to rezone land." Mr Weatherhead said he was unaware of any other Australian local government to impose these laws. And he said many local councils had made plans to encourage beekeepers to breed native bees, as they understood the important role they played in our ecosystem.

"With our honeybees, they are required for pollination, so if it's in an urban area they're probably doing a lot of backyard pollination in the gardens of the people around the hive." "If the bees are being forced to be removed out because the council want to impose some ridiculous fees on them and make them rezone, then the neighbours will suffer because they won't get their fruit and veggies pollinated."

Mr Parkins said by removing beehives, council was overlooking the valuable role bees place in food production. "What a lot of people don't realise is that bees themselves are dying out, and without the bees there's literally going to be no food for us." He said aside from the environment impact, the law is having an impact on the emotional health of his family. "I gave my son a beehive for his birthday, and now I've got to tell him that we've got no choice but to get rid of it," he said. "The impact that's it having on our family and our hobby is basically to the point where, 'well do I just get rid of them and forget about it, or do I keep fighting?' — it's becoming quite distressing."

Sent in by Grant W.

## ***South Carolina just obliterated millions of bees by accident***

From:

[http://www.sciencealert.com/south-carolina-just-obliterated-millions-of-bees-by-accident?utm\\_source=ScienceAlert+-+Daily+Email+Updates&utm\\_campaign=9238a06fd0-MAILCHIMP\\_EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_fe5632fb09-9238a06fd0-365465125](http://www.sciencealert.com/south-carolina-just-obliterated-millions-of-bees-by-accident?utm_source=ScienceAlert+-+Daily+Email+Updates&utm_campaign=9238a06fd0-MAILCHIMP_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fe5632fb09-9238a06fd0-365465125)

2 Sep, 2016

Reports out of South Carolina have indicated that when officials approved the spraying of local farmlands with insecticide to prevent the spread of Zika-carrying mosquitos, it accidentally wiped out millions of bees too. The insecticide in question, called Naled, is known to be "highly toxic" to bees, and these vital pollinators appear to be the latest collateral damage in the fight against Zika.

In response to the ensuing outcry from local farmers after last Sunday's bout of aerial spraying in Dorchester County, the local administrator's office announced that the state health department had reported four travel-related cases of Zika virus in the Summerville area of Dorchester County on Friday 26 August. While the health department reported that no one has been infected from a local mosquito bite to date, Dorchester County officials justified the accidental bee cull on the grounds that the mosquito population remained a threat. "Dorchester County is concerned about the safety of its citizens," a statement from the County Administrator's Office reads. "This includes protecting citizens from insect bites from pests such as mosquitoes that carry viruses including West Nile and Zika."

The spraying commenced at 6:30am last Sunday morning, and the effects on bees were reportedly instant. "Stressed insects tried to flee their nests, only to surrender in little clumps at hive entrances," Ben Guarino reports for The Washington Post. "The pattern matched acute pesticide poisoning. By one estimate, at a single apiary - Flowertown Bee Farm and Supply, in Summerville - 46 hives died on the spot, totalling about 2.5 million bees." The decision to conduct aerial spraying with Naled - something that's never been done in South Carolina before - is of course highly controversial, but what's perhaps even more contentious is the fact that local officials claim to have warned farmers ahead of Sunday. If they did, their messaging doesn't appear to have been all that effective. "Had I known, I would have been camping on the steps doing whatever I had to do screaming, 'No you can't do this,'" beekeeper Juanita Stanley told WCSC-TV. "All of my equipment is contaminated, my honey is contaminated, my cone is contaminated, I'm totally shut down here."

Naled has been in use in the US since 1959, and since then, bee-keepers have gotten pretty good at protecting their hives - if they are prepared. As Larry Haigh, president of the South Carolina Beekeepers Association, told David Quick at The Post & Courier last year, most county mosquito control programs spray at night when bees are in their hives, and beekeepers can cover them with protective sheeting. "If the spraying is done during the day, it's definitely going to kill bees and other pollinators that come in contact with it (insecticides)," said Haigh, which brings into question why the aerial spraying was conducted between 6:30am and 8:30am. Sadly, there's no real silver lining to this story, because there was never any indication that local mosquitos were carrying Zika virus anyway, though South Carolina officials might have been spooked by reports of Zika-carrying mosquitos in a very small neighbourhood in Miami.

And it's a blow to the local bee population that it really can't afford right now. Just last month, the results of an 18-year study revealed just how damaging a different class of pesticides called neonicotinoids can be for bees. "The chemicals, which farmers apply to their crops to keep away insects that munch through their harvests, are among the most-used bug-killers out there," Meghan Bartels reported for Business Insider in August. The results supported the findings of a previous study that confirmed for the first time that even the small amounts of neonicotinoid insecticide found in nectar and pollen is enough to affect the brain activity of the bumblebees that consume it.

It's pretty incredible to consider that without bees, 70 percent of the fruit, vegetables, seeds, and nuts we consume on a daily basis will struggle to reproduce. If bees disappear, it's not only going to affect what we eat, but also what we wear, and what we feed our livestock, which means milk, cheese, egg, and meat production is in jeopardy.

But we humans were never very good at planning ahead.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naled>

### **Dad joke for the day:**

**Q: What do you call a bee having a bad hair day?**

**A: A Frisbee!**

## ***Welcome to our new members***

Please help them with their introductions and questions at the next meeting

Wayne B, WEST END

Doug R, INGHAM

Nicole & Rob A, BLUEWATER

Randy O'D, ?Suburb

Wayne S, MOUNT LOW

Jennifer T, ALICE RIVER

and a special welcome to Dr Tim Heard - the native bee expert, and author of the native bee book for sale in our Bookshop.

## Watch How Bees Teach Each Other Bees to Solve Problems

Check out the video clip here to see how bumblebees learn to pull a string to get at food, and teach each others how to do it!!

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/10/bees-learn-by-watching-each-other-bumblebees/>

By Brian Clark Howard, Published October 21, 2016



Bumblebee queen (left), worker (middle) and drone (right)

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/pest-insects-and-mites/keep-victoria-bumblebee-free>

Bumblebees learn to solve problems by watching each other. In the first study of its kind in insects, scientists constructed experiments that challenged bees to pull strings in order to access rewards of nectar. It's a technique that has long been used to test cognition in various vertebrates, but hadn't yet been tried with insects.

The first step was proving that bees could learn to solve a simple problem. But what's more interesting is that other bees that hadn't encountered the problem before picked up the ability to solve it more quickly when they had a chance to watch a trainer bee that had already figured out the puzzle. Further, that knowledge was shown to spread from bee to bee throughout a colony, even if the first bee that figured out the trick died.

The scientists hoped their study would shed light on a bigger picture: how social learning spreads through a population. That might even have implications for the evolutionary roots of culture in human beings, they noted. To arrive at these conclusions, Chittka and team made artificial flowers and filled them with an artificial nectar made of sugar water. They put the flowers under Plexiglass and attached a string. Then they added bees. While most of the insects failed to get at the nectar, a few eventually figured out how to access it, by pulling the string.

Watching bees tackle the task both intrigued him and made him laugh, Chittka said in a statement. "What I like about the work, in addition to the experimental and intellectual challenges and insights, is the sheer absurdity of seeing bees solving a string-pulling puzzle," said Chittka.

The team discovered that they could greatly increase the success rate of the bees by first placing them inside a transparent box where they could watch an experienced bee pull the string. Then, when the boxed bees were released, they often knew what to do and successfully pulled the string to retrieve nectar 60 percent of the time.

Next, the researchers added a bee that was experienced in string pulling to each of three new colonies that had never seen the experiment before. Within a short time, about half of all those bees were soon pulling the strings. That result suggests the learned behaviour was able to spread from bee to bee, similar to the way cultural ideas spread in other animals, including people.

The experiment suggests that social learning may be more widespread in the animal kingdom than people previously thought, the authors wrote. Further, "the single task that actually requires a big brain has not been discovered yet, and indeed there is more and more evidence, both from experiments on small-brained insects and computational neuroscience, that small circuits can deal with exceptionally complex challenges," said Chittka.

**Eds Note:** We do not have the true Bumble bee on mainland Australia - yet!, but it has been introduced and escaped from greenhouses in Tasmania. Checkout the aussiebee site for details: <http://www.aussiebee.com.au/bumblebeeid.html>

**Bumblebee:** *Bombus terrestris* are large, fat and very hairy. Worker bees may be 8 mm to 22 mm in length while queen bees are up to about 25 mm. They make a loud buzzing sound when they fly (and do buzz pollination). They are black with one yellow/ochre band across the thorax and another across the abdomen. The tip of the abdomen is also buff or white.

**Not to be confused with our large native bees**

**Great Carpenter Bee:** *Xylocopa aruana* females are 13–18 mm long with a bright yellow thorax and a black abdomen. Unlike the bumble bee, the abdomen of the female carpenter bee is shiny and hairless. Male carpenter bees are about the same size but are completely covered with yellow brown or dull olive hair.

**Teddy Bear Bee:** *Amegilla bombiformis* is 13–18 mm long and completely covered with ochre fur except for one narrow black stripe on the abdomen.

**Blue Banded Bee:** *Amegilla* sp. is 10–14 mm long with reddish brown fur on the thorax, pale blue stripes across a black abdomen.

## **Annual Membership Fees are OVER due Now**

A reminder that your club membership if still unpaid, is now over due. This can be done 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.

Amount at this time: \$25.00 but soon to become \$30

Please note that an item will be tabled at the next AGM to increase the membership to \$30.00, where the additional \$5.00 dollars per member will go to the QBA for ongoing research and development in support of the Bee industry.

### ***New Committee for 2016/17***

At the last meeting, TDBA members elected the following committee and office holders for the 2016/2017 year

<b>Position</b>	<b>Representative</b>
President / Chairperson	Alan Ziegenfusz
Vice President	Nominated by Management Committee
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Frana McKinstry
Committee Members	Dave Bowtell David Turnbull Sonya Verbrugt Mick Taylor Ron Rapson Paul Payne Mark Quadrell
Librarian	Kirsty Sugden
Newsletter	Lindsay Trott
Shop Steward	Daniel Horne

### ***TDBA Inc Office Holders for 2015/2016***

<u>President:</u>	Ron Rapson	<a href="mailto:ronald.i.rapson@team.telstra.com">ronald.i.rapson@team.telstra.com</a>
<u>Vice President:</u>	Paul Payne	<a href="mailto:trapper4812@gmail.com">trapper4812@gmail.com</a>
<u>Secretary:</u>	Vacant	
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Frana McKinstry	<a href="mailto:franajon@gmail.com">franajon@gmail.com</a>
<u>Membershio</u>	Frana McKinstry	<a href="mailto:franajon@gmail.com">franajon@gmail.com</a>
<u>Newsletter Editor:</u>	Lindsay Trott	<a href="mailto:trott Lindsay@gmail.com">trott Lindsay@gmail.com</a>
<u>Librarian:</u>	Kirsty Sugden	0447 762 686
<u>Equipment Steward:</u> ...	Daniel Horne	<a href="mailto:danthemanhorne@gmail.com">danthemanhorne@gmail.com</a>
<u>Webmaster:</u>	Nathan Size	<a href="mailto:smiles gardenbags@live.com">smiles gardenbags@live.com</a>
<u>Publicity Officer:</u>	Sonya Verburgt	<a href="mailto:sonyaverb@optusnet.com.au">sonyaverb@optusnet.com.au</a>
<u>Committee Members:</u>	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>

### ***Honorary 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

## AGM and Meeting- Minutes

**Welcome:** by President

**Present:** / Apologies Refer to Attendance Book

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** – AGM 2015. Note: Previous AGM minutes not available

**Business from Previous Meeting:** – AGM 2015. Not Applicable

**President Report:** Busy year, Interest in Natives – Tim Heard now member of club, Growth of Club -Nearly 200 members  
Yearly income improved, Flow hive workshop, Eco Fiesta, Volunteers, Asian Honey Bees, Bee Eaters, Improved  
Working Relationship with Biosecurity, National Conference in Tsv. Mover: Ron Rapson, Seconded: Sonya Verbrugt

**Treasurer Report including Auditors Report for the Year ended 31 July 2016:**

Audited Accounts To 31 July 2016: Receipts \$38,884, Expenses \$27,533, Surplus \$11,000, Mov: Frana McKinstry  
Sec: Daniel Horne

**Election of 2016/2017 Management Committee:** President / Chairperson: Alan Ziegenfusz, Vice President: Nominated by  
Management Committee, Secretary: Connie Navarro, Treasurer: Frana McKinstry, Committee Members: Dave  
Bowtell, David Turnbull, Sonya Verbrugt, Mick Taylor, Ron Rapson, Paul Payne, Mark Qudrel, Librarian: Kirsty  
Sugden, Newsletter: Lindsay Trott, Shop Steward: Daniel Horne, Appointment of Auditor for 2016/2017: For  
committee meeting

**Close Meeting** 2.55pm

## General Meeting – Minutes

**Welcome:** by President

**Present / Apologies:** Refer to Attendance Book

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Mover: Ron Rapson, Seconded: Frana McKinstry. Refer to attached minutes

**Business from Previous Meeting:**

1. TDBA Merchandise - Order from Chrystal Horne, Names on Shirts, Get your orders in.
2. Biosecurity Action and AFB updates: Mon 17 is 17 weeks into response. Dan Donovan is now industry representative.  
Moving location.

Detections:

1. Port of Tsv, 2. Annandale, 3. Hyde Park – Princes Rd, swarm on ground, no varroa, virgin queen, 4. Hyde Park, wine barrel, queen detected, queen cells, 5. Hyde Park – Princes Rd, Eaves of House, 6. Hyde Park – Princes Rd, Compost Bin, 7. Hyde Park – Ethel St, under capping in house under renovation, 8. North Ward – house for demolition, 9. Foraging Bees in North Ward

Varroa mite – greatest threat to industry. V. jacobsoni – found in Tsv. V. destructor – not found in Tsv

Move from Emergency response to Program - \$2.6m

Job application advertised for Program Leader and Surveillance Coordinator – 3 years. Others – 6 months

New boundary – TCC local government area. Register with biosecurity for mail outs. Can move hives into / around area but not out of zone unless have Biosecurity Permit. See map / conditions provided with Movement Control Order No. 2. 5 weeks industry volunteers: 19 industry volunteers, 18 from outside Qld, Now 2 visitors at a time, Seen 50 beekeepers, Inspected 82 hives, Handed out 32 bottom boxes, Conducted 36 alcohol wash, 57 sugar shakes, Nikita will continue with managed hive surveillance

Eradication program – 6 months from last detection. Program – 30 months clear from eradication. Monitoring bottom boxes every 8 Weeks.

3. TDBA – Storage Shed Options. 5x3m shed \$150/per month. Move bulk of inventory for storage until permanence found.

4. Bee Club Catch Up. 5 November 2016 at Jubilee Bowls Club Mundingburra, Awaiting Final Numbers

5. Portable Incinerator – any further update. No updates

6. Email address for Executive Members. Ongoing

**Correspondence:** Insurance Documents, Bank Statements, ABK, QBA

**President Report:** NA – refer to AGM minutes. Mover: Seconded:

**Treasurer Report:** Income: \$4,986.30, Expenses: \$3,252, Cash on Hand: \$11,534.47

Renewal of Membership by end Oct 2016 otherwise non financial member. Mover: Frana McKinstry. Seconded:  
Connie Navarro

**Shop Report:** Update on Shop Management

**Librarian Report:** Good books available in stock

**Newsletter Report:** New Publications Required, Looking for Short Stories

**Special Business:** Amendment of TDBA Rules

Motion: That the TDBA Rules be reviewed and amendments be prepared by the management committee having regard to:

- The requirements for use of the model rules including insertion of the organisation name, object and class of members;
- Requirements to notify persons nominated for management committee role;
- Representation by secretary on the management committee ;
- Turnover of management committee and consideration of maximum terms for management committee representatives;
- Any other relevant matter deemed necessary by the management committee to update the model rules to reflect the outcomes of the TDBA.

Mover: Connie Navarro, Seconded: Cristi Morf. All in Favour: Resolution Passed

**General Business:** QBA – increase in fee or request donation. TDBA propose to increase fee or contribute an amount to QBA. Move that the committee consider on an annual basis whether there are sufficient funds and how much, to provide financial donation/contribution to QBA. Move: Jon McKinstry, Seconded: Robyn

Queen Bees – good time to requeen, order queens – let Frana know. Suggestion – TDBA refocus on informative meetings.

Next Meeting: November 2016, Carla Kersnovske, 1576 Riverway Drive Kelso. Close Meeting 3.45pm

# Club Shop Items - 2016 Price List

These prices are only available to current financial members

<b>Item</b>	<b>Price</b>
Veil - Native Bee	10.00
Veil - cotton	15.00
Veil - ventilated	20.00
Jacket / Cotton/ Round hat	55.00
Ventilated jacket	75.00
Full Suit - Cotton	75.00
Full Suit - ventilated	95.00
Gloves	20.00
Super - Rebated	25.00
Super - Dove tail	26.00
Lids	25.00
Bases	20.00
Lifting Cleats (Handles)	5.00 pair
Spring clips	2.00 ea
Emlok	12.00
Hive tool (S/S)	15.00
Hive tool (Yellow)	8.00
Smoker	35.00
Queen Excluder - Wire	20.00
Queen Excluder - Plastic	6.00
Frames - Full depth	1.50
Foundation - Plastic	2.00
Foundation - Wax	1.60
Beeswax block	10.00 per kg
Eyelets pkt 500/50gm	10.00
S/S Wire .5mm x 500gm	20.00
Bee Brush - Natural bristle	10.00
Bee Brush - Synthetic bristle	8.00
Queen Catcher	3.00
Frame Gripper	10.00
Bee Feeders	2.00
Gate valve	10.00
Capping knife, serrated	15.00
Comb scratcher	8.00
Honey jars 250gm	0.65
Honey jars 500gm - square	0.75
Honey jars 500gm - round	0.75
Honey jars 550gm - squeeze	0.75
Honey jars 1kg round	1.00
Honey Pails 1kg	1.25
Strainers (fit bucket)	80.00
Apithor trap	6.00
Silver Bullet trap	7.00
BeetlTra bottom trap	20.00
TK Beetle mat	6.00
Booklet - Managing AFB	6.00
Australian Beekeeping Manual	35
Australian Native Bee Book	25.00

## ***TDBA Starter Kit - \$95***

***The Perfect Gift for a budding Beekeeper***

***All available in Townsville (freight free):***

***Club Members Price Only!***

Bee Jackets \$55      Hive tool \$8      Gloves \$20

Smoker \$35      Bee Brush \$8,

All five items sold as a Beginners Kit \$95

***Contact: Daniel: Ph. 0437 540 473***



***TDBA is proudly supported by:***

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

Published monthly Subscriptions \$84 per year.

Available from: Pender Beegoods,

PO Box 7124, Karabar NSW 2620

### **LOTS-A-STINGS**

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

**Dan Donovan: Ph 0428 218 816**

