



Issue #11

Nov/Dec 2017

Po Box 1115,
Aitkenvale,
Qld, 4814

TOWNSVILLE AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION INC.

WWW.BEESNORTH.COM.AU

Next Meeting

Steve and Carla's Place @ 1576
Riverway Drive, Kelso at 2pm sharp on
Sunday the 19th of November!

Christmas Break Up

Final gathering and Christmas break up
will be on **Sunday 10th December** at The
Vale Hotel at **12 noon**. Will need
numbers ASAP. Hope to see you all
there!!



**Please remember, all members are
volunteers! Without them, we have no club!**

AFB Confirmed Suburbs



We would like to thank Andrew from DAF for providing us with the current list of AFB positive suburbs that they know of. If all members could please be aware that due to privacy and confidentiality DAF can only supply a suburb. If owners of hives which to advise other beekeepers of their address, then that it up to them. Please respect people's privacy. We are all in a club, and we help each other out. If you have any concerns, please ask within the club or seek help from Andrew at DAF.

Gulliver, Rassmussen, Mount Louisa,
Rangewood, Garbutt, & Cranbrook.

Swarm Season Captures

Please don't forget, any of us who catch a swarm, need to donate at least 300 bees for a swarm or roughly 10% of brood comb as well for Biosecurity Qld. A big thank you to those who have already submitted samples. It is great that we are a part of the presence absence testing for the NVMEP.

A great big thank you!

A big shout out to Ralph B for recovering this discarded item and donating it to the club. It's a 9 piece syder display board with all the necessary parts included. Some minor repairs and we have a great display board for events. Thanks Ralph!



Bowen Bowls Weekend

By Daniel Horne

Townsville and Mackay Bowen Bowls Weekend

Friday afternoon club members of both clubs chucked some clothes in the boot and headed to Bowen for a weekend of bowls, bbq and catch-ups. Being nice and green was a welcome change to all. Janelle had organised great accommodations at Harbour Lights Caravan park.

Saturday afternoon at 2pm both clubs faced off for battle on the green. After a quick how to, barefoot members were let loose with bowls on the green. The sounds of knocking bowls as advantages were lost and gained. The sight of slumped shoulders as the fish went dead in the gutter. The accusations of bowls accidentally taken or worse still, playing in the next games lane. Some got so close to the jack, if only it was their games jack.

A drink was taken, a snack from the platter and an adjustment on the scoreboard. Ends changed for 3 hours, with a few surprises. Steve Kernovski did Townsville proud having a close bowl, however Kendall Newberry from Mackay stole the day with brilliant placement. When all was said and done we went to the scores to see who had victory. But alas, this was proved impossible due to them, who will not be named not keeping score. A draw decided. Punishment will be dealt out at a later date.

We all decided to withdraw to the barbecue beside the pool for an enjoyable evening meal cooked by Ian. Well done Ian and Janelle for organising a great dinner. Discussions and ideas arose as the night went on from funny stories to the dreaded AFB. Interest was shown in our clubs sterilizer and there is definitely interest shown. Carla Kernovski took time out to show how to preform an alcohol wash and distribute some kits out. A great time well into the night occurred.

Sunday morning seen several head to the markets while others took a stroll, but whatever you did it was beautiful weather in a picturesque setting. At 10 am Barry and Ian had the barbecue sizzling bacon and egg sambos filled the hungry hoards. I think it was a ploy to settle us and make us sleepy before our joint club meeting.

Barry chaired the floor and concerns were discussed with American Foul Brood rearing its ugly head. Questions were asked about QBA and NSW AFB month. Mackay are supplying 6 sentinel hives for Mackay port, Abbott Point and Hay Point. Barry mentioned a brilliant idea of a screened enclosure to open a hive in and people can watch from outside without suiting up. Honey month ideas were exchanged with both clubs presenting some good ideas.

The meeting was concluded at 1130 with all agreeing to meet again next year as we all had a great relaxing weekend, but more importantly the two clubs shared ideas and concerns, believing that our voices will be stronger and louder as a whole.

Bazza's Genuine Bowen Bee Gear Boot Sale just happened to pop up after the meeting and it had a line up stretching the next car space behind him while poor Kendall was left doing the paperwork. The was tension as to who would get the 3 frame hangers with The Kernovskies eagerly wanting one.

If you are thinking about coming along next year you won't regret it. It was truly a relaxing weekend of fun in a beautiful location. You'll meet new friends and catch up with old. More importantly it's about supporting and strengthening both clubs and all bee keepers. to Janelle and Ian for organising the accommodation. For organising and cooking dinner and breakfast. Frana for the platters.



Last Meeting Minutes General meeting and AGM At Hermit Park School 22-10-2017

Secretary- Bronwyn

2:10pm

Meeting open

1/ **Minutes** of last meeting were available to read in club newsletter. They were accepted as being correct by Dave Turnball and seconded by Daniel Horne.

2/ **Club shop:** Had a lot of stock being sold over last month. Last time the shop opened it sold approx \$1500 of stock in a 2 hour window. Keep an eye out in newsletter or on email when club shop to be opened. One Saturday a month.

-Payments can be made by cash, phone banking when on site or internet banking before pick up.

- If there is anything in particular you wish the club to stock please let us know.

-See Jon Mckinstry for baseboards with aluminium flooring after meeting. These were shown at last meeting. \$30 to purchase

Have reordered another \$2000 worth of stock

3/Newsletter Little late getting this months out. There were some technical issues converting documents from different programs and emailing on to members. One of the biggest newsletters yet though with 18 pages. Members still wanting copies posted. Keep the stories coming, Shazza kept some to be published in next newsletter.

4/ Kirsty Librarian at meeting, some new material relating to bee health and husbandry. 5 new books from NSW Tafe are doing the rounds and also managing bee health by John Carr.

4/ Alan Ziegenfusz summed up his first year on a committee and as president of Club. Wonderful, friendly and helpful club of people who have an interest in bees. He thanked everyone. It's been a interesting year as beekeepers with arrival Asian honey bee and the varroa mite it was carrying, continued complaints of small hive beetle and bee eater birds. Now we have AFB Cases.

AGM

1. Minutes of last AGM accepted by Frana Mckinstry and seconded by Dave Turnball.

2. Treasury- Frana has Club Financial report for viewing at meeting as per club rules. Club Very financial with \$14400 in Bank. Treasurers report accepted by Frana Mckinstry and seconded by Bronwyn Jarrett

Nominations open

All positions for office members were now declared vacant .No written Nominations were received so was opened to floor for nominations.

New Office Members 2017/2018 Nominated, Accepted by Nominees and all In favour voted in.

President- Alan Ziegenfusz

Vice president-Position to be filled

Treasurer- Frana Mckinstry

Secretary- Bronwyn Jarrett

Webmaster: Ray Berkelmans

Equipment Steward: Daniel and Chrystal Horne

Librarian-Kirsty Sugden

Newsletter Editor-Lindsay Trott

Publicity officer: Sonya Verburgt

Committee Members:

Paul Payne, Paul Walsh, Norm McLeod, Ron Rapson, Wayne Zaverdinos

Need new ideas from committee and members on what workshops, club purchases and anything to improve the meetings. Will have 10 meetings a year so need places to visit and to hold meetings.

General Business for the AGM

1/-**Discussions of Purchase construction of a Heat Chamber** for the backyard beekeepers of club to help with AFB cases. Some equipment can be treated with the unit instead of sending down on pallets.

Would made to specifications in accordance to plans supplied . Plans are available to view. Quote from local person to build of \$3000.

Storage, cleanliness and transport to be discussed. Rental cost to use of approx \$25 to club members and a \$50 security deposit, Returned after used. Standard operating procedure to be put in place. Does the club insurance cover the heat chamber for public liability?

AFB present in corners, wax and propolis so correct cleaning before and after required Cleaned and scorched before placing in heat chamber. Not suitable for plastic boxes or stickies. May warp frames etc but to be expected with high temps. Individuals to adhere to operating system

1/ Motion to Purchase contract a person to construct steam chamber accepted by Carla Kersnovske and seconded by Paul Walsh (Two members voted against the purchase)

2/ Committee to get together to create SOP which included transport and storage in accordance to this SOP to stop cross contaminating sites and equipment. Appoint even a Heat chamber steward Accepted by Dave Turnball and seconded by Carla Kersnovske

AGM Closed

General meeting continued

Biosecurity represented by Rob Stephens

Biosecurity there to help. Register your hive its free. Kits available through club, online or from Biosecurity. If registered club is notified of cases of disease and then can contact member.

Keep a barrier system in place when picking up swarms and send samples away for testing for biosecurity also. Kits available at meeting or from biosecurity. Continue to check hives by checking brood and sugar shake where possible. Send results to biosecurity. Testing is free. Advise biosecurity of cases that are AFB but not necessarily been tested even if hive has been destroyed.

3/ New small Extractor (2 frame) available to purchase \$120 Frana

4/When feeding sugar water keep a check on mould in bottles. Jon suggests Thyme oil to help prevent growth.

5/ South Townsville school Interested to have European and Native bee Hive on premises. Details given to them to contact club.

6/ Sonya will be helping Graham Smiths Family to distribute his old bee keeping gear that has come back from Radiation. She proposes a working bee and opportunity for mentoring day to put together boxes and work what equipment there is to be put up for sale 18th November. She is asking for volunteers and interest. Sonya will send out information by email.

6/November meeting at Carla and Steve's House 19th November

7/ Christmas Lunch 10th December Aitkenvale Hotel **Meeting closed**

Message from BO

Hive Maintenance and Hygiene

With many beekeepers enjoying small to moderate honeyflows and increased floral resources around, it is timely to remind everyone of good beekeeping practices and methods for reducing exposure to potential diseases like AFB. All care and attention



must be taken to prevent robbing. Under no circumstances should bee combs, extractors, storage tanks, honey or other equipment be exposed to robbing bees, whether they are your bees, feral bees or those of a neighbouring beekeepers. Items to avoid include manipulation or activities which induce bees to rob, feeding extracted or cappings honey to bees, or allowing honey to spill. It's also a good time to review some of the "creative" setups that many beekeepers utilise during the course of the season. During BO's inspections under the National Varroa mite Eradication Program, we encounter the odd minor workplace health and safety issue. Fortunately for us it's nothing quite as extreme as in the attached photos. However we do encounter minor issues such as: boxes without handles, deteriorated boxes, unsuitable or unstable hive stands, excessively high hive stands (or top boxes), along with extremely heavy boxes that are overdue to be robbed. It's also preferable that sticky mat hives could be placed a minimum of 600mm away from fence lines in order to have access for the tray to slide in and out.



Recently the Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice (the Code) has been developed in consultation with beekeepers and governments to provide a clear framework for Australian beekeepers to engage in best-practice biosecurity. The Code can be downloaded from various sources online including the beeaware website: <http://beeaware.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Australian-Honey-Bee-Industry-Biosecurity-Code-of-Practice.pdf>. The Biosecurity manual for beekeepers can also be downloaded via the Plant Health bee aware pages.

The code provides very good advice in terms of robbing prevention, hive maintenance and record keeping with the following excerpts coming from it directly:

Hives must be maintained to assist bees in defending their hives and to prevent leakage

of honey. Equipment and vehicles should be kept clean and well maintained. Allowing hives or appliances to become exposed or neglected is an offence in all states and territories. Robbing of exposed or neglected hives is a major pathway for the spread of pests and disease and it is vital to reinforce the importance of beekeepers biosecurity obligation and the importance of properly caring for hives. The appropriate care of hives also means ensuring bees have ready access to suitable water.

Hives (including swarm catch boxes) should be maintained in good condition to minimise the risk of disease spread. If bees can only enter and leave the hive through the entrance designed by the hive manufacturer this will assist bees defend their hives from robber bees. To facilitate the hive inspection required government inspectors, all hives must have removable combs. Top bar hives are permitted but only if the combs can be individually and separately removed from the hive for inspection.

Good record keeping is critical to good beekeeping and good biosecurity. It provides a record of actions and observations that were undertaken and accurate records are essential for tracing the source of disease outbreaks. It is also important that records are contemporaneous, that is, they are made at, or close to, the time that the action or observation being recorded was taken. Hives or groups of hives should be clearly identified and accurate records of movements kept for traceability. Templates for record keeping are very simple and are available online.

With a little bit of time and good management, beekeeping can be accessible and safe for everyone!



SWARM COLLECTION

A swarm collected by Holly Buchholz on 27 October, most likely an after-swarm as it was small. When we opened the box we thought at first they were Asian honey bees as they are so small. Could not locate a queen on the first inspection so figured she was out on a mating flight - after-swarms usually have a virgin queen. We left it a few days before checking again, and found this! Multiple eggs laid in just about every cell. While multiple eggs are usually a sign of a laying worker bee, a new queen can also do this until she gets the hand of it but I have never seen it to this extent. Also, the eggs are mostly at bottom of cell and the laying pattern is good unlike that of a laying worker bee. But we still couldn't find her. Waiting till these are capped will be the only sure way we'll have of knowing if a mated queen or not.



23 year old hockingsi hive you say?

A MUST read from Holly about her 23 year old hockingsi hive transfer. Definitely worth the read!! Job well done Holly!!



<http://miniaturseabsolutely.blogspot.com.au/2017/11/native-bee-rescue.html>



Bee hives for sale

Robert Teunisse 0406 610 687 (3 in total 1 box; 2 boxes and a flow hive complete). Robert also has electric extractor \$350 as well as various other items

Jared Sunderland (2 x 5 frame; 1 x 10 frame) jpsunderland@gmail.com

Gayle Nolte (1 x 10 frame box) blkelts@bigpond.net.au

Christian Frey (1 x 10 frame + honey super) christian.frey.home@gmail.com

Wendy Furber (2 x 10 frame hives) wfurber@activ8.net.au

Michael O'Connell would like to sell a Kenyan top bar hive or swap for a langstroth hive trivialpurzuitz@bigpond.com

Wayne Bromham has 3 x flow free cartridges for sale or exchange for a carton of beer. wbromham@bigpond.net.au

LOTS-A-STINGS

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

Dan Donovan: Ph 0428 218 816

CLUB SHOP PRICES – UPDATED

Item	Price		Frames - Full depth	1.90	
Veil - Native Bee	10.00		Frames - Ideal	1.50	
Veil - cotton	20.00		Frames - WSP	1.50	
Veil - ventilated	25.00		Foundation - Plastic	2.10	
Jacket - Cotton	60.00		Foundation - Wax	2.00	
Jacket - Ventilated	80.00		Beeswax block	15.00	p/kg
Full Suit - Cotton	85.00		Eyelets pkt 500/40gm	10.00	
Full Suit - ventilated	105.00		S/S Wire .5mm x 500gm	20.00	
Gloves	22.00		Wire crimper		
Super - 8 frame	25.00		Bee Brush - Natural bristle	10.00	
Super - 10 Frame	28.00		Queen Catcher	3.00	
Super - Ideal	25.00		Frame Gripper	10.00	
Super - WSP	25.00		Bee Feeders	2.00	
Super - Parker Plastic	65.00		Gate valve	10.00	
Lids (8 or 10 Frame)	27.00		Gate valve - Parker	26.00	
Base - Ply (8 or 10 frame)	22.00		Capping knife, serrated	15.00	
Bases 'Bluebees'	35.00		Comb scratcher	8.00	
Lifting Cleats (Handles, pr)	5.00	pr	Comb Roller	10.00	
Spring clips	2.00	ea	Strainer	25.00	
Emlok	12.00		HONEY CONTAINERS		
Corflute Nuc box	28.00		Honey jars 250gm	0.65	
Corflute - Queen excluder	4.00		Honey jars 500gm - square	0.75	
Hive tool (S/S)	15.00		Honey jars 500gm - rnd	0.75	
Hive tool (Yellow)	8.00		Honey jars 550gm - sq	0.75	
Smoker	38.00		Honey jars 1kg round	1.00	
QUEEN EXCLUDERS			Honey Pails - 1 kg	1.15	
Queen Excluder - Wire	22.00		Honey Pails - 1.5kg	1.30	
Queen Excluder - Plastic	7.00		TRAPS		
BOOKS			Apithor trap	7.00	
Managing AFB	2.00		Silver Bullet trap	7.00	
Australian Beekeeping Manual	35.00		BeetlTra bottom trap	20.00	
Australian Native Bee Book	25.00		AFB Test Kit	0.00	
Club Polo Shirts	30.00				

Swarm Contact List:

Jon & Frana McKinstry, **Kelso** - 0413 765 192 (Jon) or 0401 014 948 (Frana)* Wayne Taylor, **Rasmussen** - 0434 745 353 * Mick Taylor, **Cranbrook** - 0428 626 707 * Ben Taylor, **Townsville West** - 4728 4992/ 0428 186 000 * Brendan Arboit - **Ayr** 0419447122 * Steve and Carla Kersnovske - **Kelso** 0417 344 419 * Dave Turnbull **Annandale** - 0458 645 677 * Doug McBride, **Mysterton** - 4775 7465 * Dan & Drew Donovan, **Wulguru**- 0428 218 816 * Grant Whiteford, **Cranbrook** - 4728 3051 * Sharene Dougall, **Bluewater** – 0415426903 * Daniel Horne, **Bushland Beach** – 0437540473 **Swarm List** Please contact Biosecurity : 13 25 23 for any swarm or strange bee activity in the Townsville region. Samples from any swarm of 200-300 or 10% of the swarm, are to be taken and stored in Metho and given to Biosecurity for Varroa testing.



TDBA Bee Starter Kit - \$110

The Perfect Gift for a budding Beekeeper

Available in Townsville from the Club Shop:

Club Members Price Only!

\$110

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

Contact: Daniel: Ph. 0437 540 473

