

Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc.)

www.beesnorth.com.au



PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814

Newsletter No 10, October 2019

In this Issue

- Wax wrap workshop and community activities
- Royal Jelly and dangerous Queens
- Native bee rescue, photos and conference
- Bees in the news – new Varroa program started
- Bee Club activities, Bowen Bowls Comp,
- General Meeting and Committee Minutes
- New Members, contacts for Club officials
- AGM nomination form for November meeting
- Sugar shaking
- Club Shop price list

Next Meeting:

Hermit Park SS

2:00 pm, Sunday 20 October

Entrance off McKimmin Rd, Hermit Park

Bring a chair – and a plate of arvo tea if you can
Coffee, tea, milk, cups, conversation etc provided free

That's a wrap – beeswax wrap workshop has it covered

Photos and story from Beryl Smart

A very successful and interesting workshop on beeswax wrap making was conducted recently by the multi talented Sonya Verburgt. About 20 people attended and had the opportunity of making 2 wraps each. Everyone had a great time and loved the colourful wraps they made. It was great to see such a mix of ages and genders joining in this experience. We even had a bee fly in and have a sticky beak. A big thank you to Sonya for sharing her skills with us, and also for providing the delicious slices for morning tea. Thanks also to Mick and Naomi for cooking the sausage sizzle lunch.



Bee Cause Day at Kalynda Chase

Community day supported by Councillor Margie Ryder and organized by Bianca from Kalynda Chase and pushed along by an enthusiastic Club Secretary Alan Ziegenfusz. It was a very well attended day, and TCC are considering using the type of day as community get togethers as part of disaster recovery activities. Apparently the entire display of Club member's honey was totally sold out – and they had to call out for more.



How to make a queen – or - Royal Jelly ain't all it's cracked up to be

Sources : Xi Chen of Nanjing et al, August 31, 2017 in *PLOS Genetics* ,and an article adapted from: *Professor Boris Baer* Professor for Pollinator Health, Centre for Integrative Bee Research, University of California [file://localhost/, https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/1:7:e1500795.full](https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/1:7:e1500795.full), doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgen.1006946

Bee larvae develop into workers, in part, because their diet of pollen and honey, called beebread, is rich in plant regulatory molecules called microRNAs, and a chemical from pollen called p-coumarin, which delay development and keep their ovaries inactive. It's effectively a chemical contraception of the workers.

Early on, all bee larvae are fed a substance called royal jelly, which is a gelatinous substance produced in the head glands of 'nurse' bees. Royal jelly is composed of approximately two-thirds water, one-eighth proteins, 11 per cent simple sugars, small quantities of Vitamin C and various trace minerals and enzymes.

Any female egg can develop into a queen—depending on her diet. After three days, those larvae destined to become workers receive no more royal jelly;

instead, their diet switches to bee bread (a mixture of pollen, nectar and honey). In contrast, those larvae chosen to become queens are fed only royal jelly for the remainder of their lives.

While the workers primarily consume beebread, the queens feast on royal jelly secreted by the glands of nurse bees. Beebread contains much higher levels of plant microRNAs and p-coumarin than royal jelly, so researchers decided to investigate if these molecules, which regulate gene expression in plants, could also impact honeybee caste development. They found that honeybees raised in the lab on simulated beebread supplemented with plant microRNAs and p-coumarin developed more slowly and had a smaller body and smaller ovaries than larvae raised without the supplements. The plant microRNAs also had a similar effect on fruit fly larvae, even though fruit flies are not social insects.

The action of environment and food components affecting gene expression is described as "Epigenetics". The larvae that develop into queen bees or worker bees are genetically identical, yet as adults they are so different they appear like completely different organisms. Worker bees are smaller, have different anatomy and behaviour, die after stinging and are relatively short lived (typically, active workers live between five and seven weeks, while queen bees can live for four to five years).

Ed's comment: My cynical view of the exceedingly expensive health and wellbeing craze to rub royal jelly on your face is now confirmed. And, how about this: If you want the benefits of Royal Jelly – maybe think twice about its affects on the bee – young virgin queens leave the hive for a mass mid air orgy where up to 10 males have their wicked way and rip their organs out and die in the process. The newly mated queen returns to the hive and never leaves the house again. She ends up weighing almost twice as much as her sisters and does nothing but produce babies, in fact her entire body weight in babies each day when she lays around 1500 eggs/daily. She does not feed herself or toilet herself, as the nurse bees attend to this. When she runs out of sperm or gets old and frail, the hive raise a new princess and evicts the old queen, not into an aged care home, but out in the exposed world with no hive - Ungrateful children!!!

So when you next rub bee snot (Royal Jelly) on your face hoping for a youthful complexion, consider what nature has in store for those who use it.

Why male honeybees try to blind their queens – why you don't casually date a queen bee.

<https://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/animals/stories/male-honeybees-semen-blind-queen>

A queen typically mates with about a dozen drones in mid-air, but that number sometimes reaches 40. Most male honeybees only get one shot at it. And she doesn't have time for dinner.

So what does a humble drone do to make sure she always remembers him? Wear his best pin-striped suit? A bouquet of pollen-rich daisies? Researchers at the University of California, Riverside, suggest he brings something a little darker to the party: a toxin that makes her go blind. Scientists describe how honeybees are so keen to be the queen's one-and-only, they try to incapacitate her with toxins in their semen.

For the queen, the blindness is only temporary — lasting anywhere from 24 to 48 hours. But it may be just long enough to keep her from flying. And if she can't fly, good luck getting to the other dates on her busy schedule.

"The male bees want to ensure their genes are among those that get passed on by discouraging the queen from mating with additional males," Boris Baer, the study's lead author said. "She can't fly if she can't see properly

Male honeybees only get one chance to make a lasting impression on their queen. Indeed, the queen is a busy bee — which may be why drone semen is such a heady cocktail. That bodily fluid is engineered to slow her down, maximizing the chances of one particular bee's genes prevailing. To that end, the researchers identified a couple of proteins in the drone's bodily fluids. One of them attacks the sperm of other males, aiming to undermine the efforts of other suitors. The other protein, described for the first time in the study, goes to work on the queen's brain, affecting her vision.

To test its potency, researchers dosed a group of queens with bee semen. A second group of queens was given a saline solution. When they tracked the movement of all the queens, the scientists noted the semen-addled queens were much likelier to get lost on their way back to the hive.

What's more, electrodes attached to the brains of queens suggested the bee semen had compromised their sensitivity to light.

It's hard to blame a doomed drone for wanting his lineage to carry on. But as callous as the queen may seem, she's only looking out for the colony. More mates means more semen — she can pack away **as much as 6 million sperm**, keeping them fresh for as long as seven years.

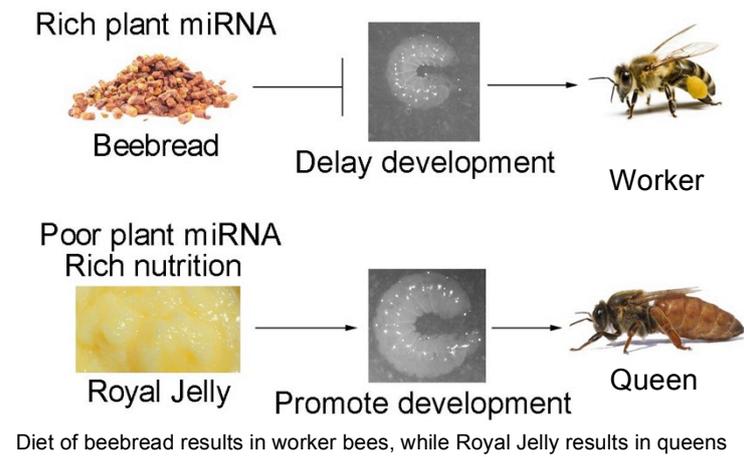
That adds up to around 1.7 million buzzing baby bees in her lifetime. And, some day, many of them will also get a chance to date a queen.

They, too, will do everything they can to make a lasting impression — and perhaps even be king for a day.

Spider venom used to kill SHB but not the bees

From: *New Scientist*, 14 Sep 2019, p12.

African honeybees are so aggressive that they are able to keep the dreaded African Small Hive Beetle (SHB) at bay from infesting the hives and destroying wax comb, pollen and honey, and leading to a collapsed hive or "slime out". Researchers have recently found a way to protect the venom of a funnel web spider from being broken down in the gut of SHB, by binding it to a sugar molecule. Tests have shown that SHB start to wither and die a couple of days after ingesting the sugar coated venom. When fed to bees the venom had no effect. **Ed:** Hope the honey doesn't have the same kick to it.



Varroa jacobsoni alert – letter to all registered beekeepers from BQ

New Surveillance and Prevention and Control Program now in place

Dear registered hive owner,

As you may be aware, a feral nest of Asian honey bees confirmed to be carrying varroa mites (*Varroa jacobsoni*) was detected and destroyed at the Port of Townsville in May. Genetic testing on this colony proved it to be unrelated to any previous detection in Australia, including a 2016 Townsville incursion, which was subsequently eradicated by my team. The National Varroa Mite Eradication Program recognises the significant role the bee industry plays in our national economy by ensuring Asian honey bees detected within the Townsville region are destroyed and sampled for the presence or absence of varroa mites.

What does this mean for me?

A Surveillance Program and Prevention and Control Program for the *Varroa jacobsoni* that imposes obligations upon those who keep European honey bees is now in place within the Townsville area under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. A copy of these programs is available at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au

[For obligations imposed on a person under this program please refer to the attached extract from the Prevention and Control Program for varroa mite \(Varroa jacobsoni\) under the Biosecurity Act 2014 – 2019 Incident](#)

Play your part

Departmental program officers will continue monitoring a number of managed European honey bee hives and working with bee keepers to guard against the potential spread of the mite to the European honey bee.

You should conduct your own surveillance (sugar shaking, drone uncapping or alcohol washing), and report this on the managed hive surveillance form available at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au and return the form and/or samples to Biosecurity Queensland (BQ).

A public information program to raise awareness of the Asian honey bee and varroa mites will roll out to the greater Townsville region shortly. As a registered hive owner, you can also assist in preventing varroa mites spreading by reporting sightings of feral colonies, swarms, Asian honey bees, or hives showing symptoms of exotic pests to **BQ** on **13 25 23**.

If you would like more information about this program, or to arrange a demonstration of bee health monitoring techniques, please contact us.

Further information is available online at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au and by subscribing at <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/news-media/newsletters/biosecurity-news>

Yours sincerely

Stephen Anderson

Program Leader, National Varroa Mite Eradication Program

Biosecurity Queensland (BQ)

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)

Appreciation from community groups

We have received another Letter of Appreciation for our support. The Townsville and Thuringowa Country Music Assoc thanked us for supporting the Country Music and Lifestyle Festival, @ Toombys Wonderland, 1486 Hervey Range Road, Alice River



Dear Sonya and Bees North Members

We have just enjoyed another annual Country Music Lifestyle Weekend at Toombys Wonderland. The weather was beautiful (albeit a bit fresh at night). The location was superb, the music outstanding and of course we couldn't put a value on the great company we shared during the weekend.

In saying that, it would be remiss of us not to acknowledge your contribution to that success. Our members and supporters who assist with donations and carrying out the work are invaluable and enable us to keep making these gatherings possible.

Thank you to Bees North Members for having your display at our recent event.

Kind regards

Executive Committee

The 2nd Australian Native Bee Conference

Integrating beekeeping, crop pollination, hive products and research

- St Leo's College, University of Queensland, St Lucia, Brisbane
- Thu 5th Dec – Sat 7th Dec 2019
- Bee Identification Workshop on Sun 8th Dec 2019

Register on line

Field Trip

The field trip will take us to a farm on the Sunshine Coast on the afternoon of Thursday

5th December 2019. At the farm you will see hive shelters for communal housing of stingless bee hives. You will observe methods for hive propagation. We will discuss placement and management of hives on farms. The farmer will give his perspective on stingless bees for pollination. Lunch will be provided. Cost is \$60. Make your booking as an Extra on the registration form.

Keynote speakers

Cristiano Menezes, Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA). Biology and management of stingless bees.

Eduardo Almeida, University of São Paulo, Brazil. Taxonomy, phylogenetics and evolution of bees using morphology and molecules.

Margarita Lopez, Penn State University, USA. Factors causing bee declines and strategies for bee conservation.

Laurence Packer, York University, Canada. Author of "Keeping the Bees".

Sandra Rehan, York University, Canada. Bee biodiversity and social evolution.

Our IT Manager Ray Berkelmans attended the 1st Conference last year, and he says it was fantastic.



What's your style?

https://magazine.unsealed4x4.com.au/en_US/15156/219742/when_nature_calls_-_let's_talk_crap.html

Errrr, hmmm.

My delicate nature prevents me from reporting more, but you can go the web site and investigate the details. Alan Z sent this in to possibly assist with those moments when you are "out bush" attending to hives and you need some advice attending to the call of nature.

WHAT IS YOUR **BUSH POOP** STYLE?



The Squatting Frog



The Lean On Me



The Cliffhanger

Beginners Workshop for Club Members

The proposed date is Saturday 30th of November, 9am-3-4pm at 47 McLean street. Gulliver.

Suggested cost is \$50 person, Includes:

- morning tea
- lunch - sausage and burger, can of soft drink.
- 2x frames, wired and waxed to take home.
- ability to assemble own box, lid, bottom board.

In background it would cover:

- lucky door prize (assembled box, lid and bottom board from demos)
- frames, wire and wax for participants
- volunteer vouchers \$10 per volunteer (capped @ 15)
- screws, nails from assembling frames, boxes etc.

What do we need?

- work stations - frame assembly, wiring and wax. (thinking x 6 tables, I have about 8 with access to more)
- work station for box , lid and bottom board assembly.
- **Volunteers x 15** (may be participating in multiple things) please let Sonya V know your availability.
- Chef extraordinaire
- Joan has offered to help with morning tea etc.
- gazebos
- pedestal fans
- Chairs (byo)
-

Native bee rescue by Alan Z

Alan sourced this hive from a sprinkler box at the round a bout in Thompson St, Mundingburra near the school (see above right). He did a split of this hive in July and it is now in the TCC Sustainability Centre at Rowes Bay and going well. 3 weeks ago he went back and cleaned out the box and placed any brood, pollen cups and honey plus some old structure in a roofless box.

As can be seen (right) they have taken off and built new structure and stored some honey (far right). This hive will be ready for removal shortly. Alan Z and Mick O have been developing rapport with TCC who have agreed to advise the Club of native bee hives in inconvenient locations for removal.

The Club is offering to purchase native hive boxes from the Upper Ross Mens Shed, rehouse the bees, and donate them at no cost to schools around Townsville.

Words and pictures from Alan Ziegenfusz



The deepest pockets will win the battle for manuka honey

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/the-deepest-pockets-win-the-battle-for-manuka-honey-20190917-p52s7c>

Australian honey industry stands to forgo up to a billion dollars in export revenue following an audacious bid by the New Zealand government to prevent Australian beekeepers from marketing their products as "manuka". The New Zealand government has taken an unusual step into the private sphere to support a group of domestic honey producers seeking to register the term "manuka honey" as a certification trademark in China, which would effectively lock their competitors out of the world's biggest trade market. High grade manuka sells there for up to \$400 per kilogram.

But the Australian government has declined to intervene on behalf of local beekeepers who are fighting the Kiwis' claim to exclusive use of the term in China. Agriculture Minister Bridget McKenzie said her office was "seeking clarification" from the NZ government.

Manuka is the honey produced when bees collect nectar from *Leptospermum scoparium* trees, which are commonly known as "manuka" in New Zealand, Tasmania and southern Victoria, and in other parts of Australia as jellybush, tea tree or goo-bush.

Sunshine Coast University chemist Peter Brooks, who heads the Honey Research Lab, said New Zealand had the market advantage over Australia because of its reputation for manuka honey but it was scientifically incorrect to say that New Zealand was the only country that could produce the product.

"It's come down to court cases and whoever has the deepest pockets and the most money wins," Dr Brooks said.

New Zealanders pioneered the commercialisation of manuka and have attempted to shore up their market position as the Australian honey industry caught on. The MHAS has applied for certification marks in the United States, the United Kingdom and China on the basis that "manuka" is a Maori term. The US intellectual property office has rejected the application. The UK trademark registry granted the certification mark last year and the Australian industry is challenging the decision. Dr Brooks said if the Chinese application was successful, it would give NZ a monopoly and allow them to increase their prices.

"New Zealand, with support from their government, has deeper pockets than us and they're currently winning the international battle."

Ms McKenzie said she would continue to take every opportunity to raise Australia's safe, clean and green credentials with its trading partners.

AGM will held at November Meeting

Nominate now to become an active member of you Club , or just become an occasional volunteer at the Club activities. Get involved and help make your Club more dynamic.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017 NOMINATION FORM OFFICE BEARERS / MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

I, of

Being a member of the above named Association hereby nominate

..... of

To be..... (position) for Townsville & District Beekeepers Association Inc during the year 2017 / 2018

Nominated by:
(Signature)

Seconded by:
(Signature)

Dated:

Note: Form to be returned to TDBA Secretary before AGM

Cut along dotted line

TOWNSVILLE & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017 PROXY FORM

I, of

Being a member of the Association, appoint

Of

As my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the above named Association to be held on 22 October 2017, and at any adjournment thereof

Signed this day of 2016

.....
(Signature)

This form is to be used: - In favour of the resolution ./ - Against the resolution

TDBAI General Meeting - 15 August 2019 – Minutes

Meeting Opened 2:00 pm at Rendle St Shop

Chair: President Mick Olsen

Minute taker: Editor Lindsay Trott

Welcome guests: Mick O welcomed around 8 visitors from various suburbs, 3 from Ingham, others from Black River and Charters Towers.

Apologies: ?

Attendance book circulated:

Iain Gordon thanked Sonya Verburgt for organizing and running the wax wrap workshop held just before the monthly meeting. Around 20 participants enjoyed a productive morning and took home some early Xmas presents. Mick O and Naomi O were Master Chefs again and produced a gourmet sausage sizzle for the participants.

Previous Minutes: Previous minutes were read and accepted: Moved Iain Gordon /Seconded Sonya Verburgt.

Treasurer:

- Very healthy financial state again with around \$16K in bank, \$11K in deposits, \$8K in expenditure and \$7K in shop sales, with \$1.5K on the card last month. Main expenditure was on hardware and jars. Reminder that the shop is stocked and maintained for financial members of the Club. It is run by volunteers in their own time, and new volunteers are always welcome to help out for a couple of hours on the 1st Saturday each month. Please request your supplies politely by email to shop@beesnorth.com.au. The shop is not open at other times unless a special arrangement has been made. New items in stock are a lid opener, a bucket drainer and digital luggage scales, but my favourite was the fancy queen catcher and marking cage at \$8.

Librarian:

- Always a good range of publications and videos and magazines to borrow, but please return what you borrow promptly. Rare Fruits book from Ian Pavetto now in the Library. Club sells Native Bee book by Tim Heard for \$25 and Beekeeping by Robert Owen for \$35.

Secretary: No mail in

Newsletter:

- Request from The Ed for personal stories to report to fellow members. Mick O described collecting a swarm at a house nearby only to find it was the neighbours swarm – oops.

General Business:

-AFB was not detected in the slow hives at HPSS – a great relief. AFB has been positively ID'ed and notified to BQ at Roseneath, Jensen and Kelso this year. Stay alert and check your brood.

-Workshop ideas were canvassed – wax wrap workshop just completed, other ideas under discussion and input from members welcomed. Suggestions : frame and box construction, foundation assembly, queen marking.

-Code of Practice for Qld beekeepers now current and outlines beekeepers obligations to maintain healthy bees and report and act in accordance with the Code (check the DAF website) and in the Biosecurity Manual. These are obligations, not compulsory statements.

-DAF update from Brad Hough (BQ). The Varroa eradication program that started in 2016 has now finished and been declared a success for that incursion. Unfortunately a new incursion was detected in May 2019, and a new program has commenced. Ask Club member Carla K and/or a BQ program officer to demonstrate the Sugar Shake or Ethanol was method for reporting on your hives. Ask for a free kit to do the tests. The reporting of negative results is a great way to demonstrate we are top of things and it has not become established. If moving hives out of the TCC area, you need to get a clearance from BQ to establish it is free of Varroa. Swarm list personnel and other collectors of swarms – please make sure you notify BQ and take around 300 bees in EtOH and deliver to DAF in Garbutt. Townsville will be in “eradication” mode till the end of the year, and then move on to the next phase of monitoring. Andre Ygosse has been replaced by Roger Winton as the Apiary Officer for the region. A new PR and info program is about to be launched for the current Varroa program. Mick O discussed sugar shaking method and drone scratching method.

- Many schools and info programs continue to get bee talks from members. Mick O and Fran M have been out to Kirwan High, Belgian Gardens, doing JCU Vet Science demos, we couldn't do the TCC Sustainability Day (too many competing requests), and a request for Mental Health Day in Bowen 26 Oct. Sonya will be hosting NQ Retirees at her place on 27 Sept.

- Bowen Bowls is set for 26/27 Oct. A fun weekend by all who join in, with Cairns and Mackay reps attending and competing in the barefoot bowls games. Discussion of all things bee, with honey and mead tasting.

Business from the floor:

- Iain G spoke about the 2 unsuccessful attempts to get the film “The Pollinators” up and running, another one happening.

- Ian Pavetto asked about school talks and Frana M and Mick O described some of their adventures with the kids dressed in bee suits with smoker ablaze and a display frame of bees to amaze the kids. Smokers are OK in a total fire ban apparently.

- Frana M spoke of the grants schemes available for local communities, one from Phillip Thompson, the LNP Federal Member for Herbert. Club is applying for a grant to purchase 100 stackable chairs, an OHP and a trailer to carry the lot to schools and meetings. Another scheme is offering assistance with running community based programmes like field days. Call for input from members.

- question from the floor about whether a feeding station in the bush attracts bees – probably.

- Membership fees are due now. \$25/year for single or family – great value. October will see non financial members purged from mailing list.

- Iain G asked about access to spinners from Club but new ones are only \$140 from the shop and owning your own will prevent cross contamination. Club encourages the use of your own gear, disposable gloves, sterilizing hive tools etc.

- Dan Donovan and Jon McKinstry were thanked for getting a new member set up with bees

Next meeting: 20 Oct will be a General Meeting, 17 November meeting will be the AGM.

Meeting Close: 2:00 pm followed by coffee, tea, cake and discussion.

Committee Meeting Minutes: Sunday 22 March 2019 at West End Hotel

Opened 12:00 pm

Chair: President Mick Olsen (MO)

Minutes: Editor Lindsay Trott

Present: Waldon Edwards, Frana and John McKinstry, Alan Ziegenfusz, Sonya Verburgt, Iain Gordon, Tom and Joan Ruddell, Beryl Smart, Ian Goulevitch

Apologies: Carla Kersnovske, Michelle Hasted

Previous Minutes: Accepted, moved Ian G, 2nd Beryl S

Business Arising:

- MO received quotes for name tags to be worn at official business, designs were previously discussed and two designs were offered for committee and/or members at around \$12/tag, Frana M suggested only committee wear tags – Unanimous.

- MO suggested that we decline the offer of a permanent meeting space at Pallarenda due to space restrictions and inability to maintain bee hives on site. Location would suit occasional meetings.

Correspondence:

- Sharon Marks from CV was advised of our decision to not pursue Pallarenda as a permanent meeting location.

- Banking letter received from Country Banking? Regarding loans
- Letter sent to "Oasis" (PTSD Defence survivors group) offering support for bee keeping mentoring activities to be held at the old DPI site at Oonoonba – waiting for response. We would offer activities on voluntary basis. Iain G asked if funding might be available from DVA who provide assistance with other activities, MO explained the difference in funding and jurisdiction and no funding available.
- Frana M discussed issues around searching for a club house. TCC can own land and lease the site to clubs who can raise funds, borrow etc to construct club house.
- MO discussed background work he has done to investigate leasing land, borrowing funds and building a shed (\$60-80,000), or relocating a transportable or demountable building (AUSCO quoted \$552,000). MO waiting for quote on 2nd hand demountable. MO has spoken to TCC and identified a block of land at Deeragun that has toilet and power connected. TCC can lease land for \$1/yr to tenants, discussions around what happens in 30 years to building if no club, or default on payments. Discussion followed about other suitable meeting places.

General Business:

- MO and Alan Z met with TCC to discuss native bee hive relocations from sprinkler boxes. Discussed prospect of the club purchasing hive boxes from Upper Ross Mens Shed and placing hive into box and donate to schools for a donation from school to the value of the box. Proposed to buy 5 hive boxes now and have them on hand – Alan Z to proceed – Unanimous.
- Sonya V discussed incentives to get more members involved in helping at activities like workshops, shop open days etc. Also how to get more members attend and participate at meetings. A voucher system using Club Shop credit (eg \$5 or \$10 voucher) as a reward for input was suggested. Reward could be optional uptake or not for those who do not wish to accept them. Opportunity to sell raw honey at Club Shop or meetings could be another reward. Other incentives discussed.
- Special day for newbees was suggested (Joan R and Ian G) where the basic elements of beekeeping were demonstrated and explained – frame assembly, box making, wax melting etc, could have a sausage sizzle and last a few hours. Ian G suggested a special levy could be charged for the day and would receive a focused session on beekeeping.
- Meeting space for Club activities raised as a venue for school show and tell sessions so schools could bus the kids to the venue rather than us going all over town.
- Email from Lindsay T outlining discussion with TCC regarding meeting spaces. Most TCC spaces are available for small rental fee, but not long term use and they have limited/no storage and are unsuitable to keep hives. Vincent Community Hall was recommended to the Club and LT is to prepare an EOI for Vincent site for submission and to ask for an inspection of facilities. Poor security was raised as a potential pitfall.
- Rocky Springs option for Club house not being pursued at present.
- MO has a list of grants to apply for.
- Frana M noted that TCC has asked about removing feral bees from trees in Pioneer Park that are annoying residents in new high rise apartments.
- Iain G asked about our ability to coordinate with TCC and attend approved land clearing activities to salvage native hives.
- Implications of leasing of land from TCC was discussed further. Costs of building construction, services and connections, amount of time to complete whole project, lease condition, length of lease, costs of rates and services, loan fees and interest. In case of default – TCC would become the land and building owner. We could apply for grants to help repay loans, conduct raffles, raise membership fees or equipment costs, conduct workshops for profit.
- Raffles and vouchers were discussed as fundraisers – Bunnings vouchers at \$100 and \$200 in hand, or Club Shop vouchers.
- Beryl S reported on progress for library shelving and racks.
- Alan Z reported on funding application to Phil Thompson for \$13,000 for trailer, cover, chairs and OHP, Frana M said there was another program that funded activities for longer term.
- Next Club meeting 20 Oct at HPSS. Oct Newsletter will need to have a notice of AGM on 17 Nov and declare all positions open and vacant. Need nominations.
- AGM on 17 Nov at Carla and Steve K's ? – to be requested
- Xmas Lunch breakup on Sunday 1st or 8th Dec at ?Bohle Barn? – MO to investigate.
- 10 Nov next Committee Meeting
- MO reported Perspex display bee boxes quoted at \$308/ea and we declined offer – AZ said he built a nice one from scraps in the dumpster
- Meeting closed 1:30 pm

Subscribe to the Bee Aware e-newsletter and stay up to date

The BeeAware newsletter is an e-newsletter for beekeepers and growers of pollinator-reliant crops, or anyone else simply interested in beekeeping or the pollination of crops. Each newsletter contains the latest in news, research and development, as well as upcoming events relating to honey bee biosecurity and the pollination of horticultural and agricultural crops.

<https://beeaware.org.au/subscribe-to-newsletter/>

Sell/Swap/Buy/Help needed

- President Mick has metal stands with handy frame hanger (see photo at right) made to order for \$75, mob 0415215595.

- Noel Wallman (Email: nwallman1962@gmail.com) is interested in having a bee hive in his backyard. He lives in Rasmussen.. Contact Mob: 0413492040

- Club Member Graham Dalby has 2 hives for sale – preferably to Club members.

2 European honeybee hives –10 frame Langstroth with Bluebees base board and mix of plastic and wax foundation, unmarked queens. Hives in Kelso, cash offer please. First in with a reasonable offer will get them. Contact Graham on 0420 951 929



- Help needed to extract a very strong European honeybee colony in a water tank barrel near a house at Crystal Creek. Phillip Trotter at 0488 172 650 wants to keep the bees and will get all the gear together to transfer them, but he needs some assistance and advice. Call him to arrange a site visit and date.

- Don Newport Mob: 041 3388 137 has 3x 5 frame Nucs with new queens including the corflute nuc for \$150.00 ea
Plus - A New Beehive with brood box & super. Includes Nuplas base, 2 new full depth painted wooded boxes, steel Queen excluder, new Queen. & all the frames & foundations & bee's. Nothing to do or buy just wait for them to bring the Honey in. \$350.00

Swarm Contact List:

Please advise editor@beesnorth.com.au if you wish to be removed from this list. Contact me with your name, phone number and suburb if you want to be added to the list.

Sonya Verburgt - Gulliver - 04 0853 0991

Steve and Carla Kersnovske - Kelso 0417 344 419

Ben Taylor, Douglas/ Riverside Gardens - 4728 4992/ 0428 186 000

Dave Turnbull Annandale - 0458 645 677

Doug McBride, Mysterton - 4775 7465

Sharene Dougall, Bluewater - 0415426903

Tito Parigi - Magnetic Island - 0418 796 951

John Pavetto - 0488414017, and Ian Goulevitch - Hinchinbrook Area.

Ronelle Nord, Alice River – 0417752622

Duane Saltmer Alice River - 0400 339 508

Adrian Kirby Kirwan - 0403 443 141

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.

Bowen Barefoot Bee Bowls – social gathering with Central Qld Bee Club 26-27 Oct

Planned for 26-27 October in Bowen. Cairns Bee Club also having some people attending. This event has produced some great photo ops for the Newsletter, and competition is pretty fierce out there on the barefoot bowls arena.

Great way to meet some other beeks and hear what they are up to.

Check with the Committee and nominate your team to compete, or just try out this relaxing sport.

Female Great Carpenter Bee hatchling –Australia’s biggest bee

The Ed was pruning trees in the backyard and noticed some suspicious holes along the branches. I left the branches in a sheltered place, and when I checked some days later I noticed all the sawdust from the activity inside - look who popped out and flew just past my head with a very loud and low buzz – the B52 of bees. They are capable of “buzz pollination” which is necessary for tomatoes and some other fruits.

<https://www.aussiebee.com.au/abol-010.html>

The 15-24 mm Great Carpenter Bees (*Xylocopa* sp.) are the largest bees in Australia! They cut nest burrows in soft timber such as dead limbs of a mango tree. The females (see photograph below right) have glossy black abdomens and bright yellow waistcoats. Male carpenter bees look quite different, dull brown with spooky green eyes.

The Australian mainland does not have bumble bees, which these bee resemble, only Tasmania has them due to escapees from tomato greenhouses.

Thriving hive ejects resident possums

Iain Gordon spotted this “little” hive (below) growing out of a possum box in a garden on Kings Rd. Looks like it might have been there for quite a while.



Latest batch of bee friendly JCU Vet Students get trained up

Jon and Frana McKinstry collaborate with Dr John Carr from JCU to get the undergrad Vets to experience the joys and wonder of bees, and learn about their anatomy with some hands –on experience. What a buzz for the students, apparently it’s their absolute favourite prac session – better than all those goldfish, budgies and cats!!



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.

Ellyse HINGST, Prue and Heath MILLER, Barry TROTTER, Rod PLATZ, Scott SULLIVAN, John FITZSIMMONS, Blake STEWARD, Kevin MARA, Brock TILLEY, Bevan FECHNER, Karen BELLIS, Adrian KIRBY, Andrew REID

Annual Membership Fees are due in July/August 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, publicityofficer@beesnorth.com.au And for all web and membership enquiries : info@beesnorth.com.au.

TDBA Inc Office Holders for 2018/2019

<u>President:</u>	Mick Olsen	president@beesnorth.com.au or mick_naomi@bigpond.com
<u>Vice President:</u>	Paul Payne	trapper4812@gmail.com
<u>Secretary:</u>	Alan Ziegenfusz	secretary@beesnorth.com.au
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Frana McKinstry	franajon@gmail.com , or: treasurer@beesnorth.com.au
<u>Membership</u>	Frana McKinstry	franajon@gmail.com or info@beesnorth.com.au
<u>Newsletter Editor:</u>	Lindsay Trott	trottlindsay@gmail.com or: editor@beesnorth.com.au
<u>Librarian:</u>	Beryl Smart	smartberyl@gmail.com
<u>Equipment Stewards:...</u>	Alan Ziegenfusz and Frana McKinstry	shop@beesnorth.com.au
<u>Webmaster:</u>	Ray Berkelmans	rberkelm@gmail.com
<u>Publicity Officer:</u>	Sonya Verburgt	sonyaverb@optusnet.com.au Or publicityofficer@beesnorth.com.au
<u>Committee Members:</u>	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	jtrud@optusnet.com.au
	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.



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 Longitude

(WGS 84, decimal degrees) °S °E Contact on site

Hive details

Number of hives Comments

HIN

Surveillance details

	Alcohol wash	Sugar shake
Approximate number of bees tested		
Less than 300	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
~ 300	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More than 300	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Results/Detection		
Positive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sample submitted to DAF		
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<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

Negative Unconfirmed

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 & base	\$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 finding 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

shop@beesnorth.com.au



TDBA is proudly supported by:

THE AUSTRALIAN BEE-KEEPER MAGAZINE (ABK)

Published monthly Subscriptions \$84 per year.

Available from: Jarrah Publishing Pty

Ltd Phone (02) 6584 4338

Email: office@theabk.com.au

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

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

Like us on Facebook

PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale, Q4814

www.beesnorth.com.au