

Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc.)

www.beesnorth.com.au

PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814



Newsletter No 8, September 2020

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- Bee sting cure for breast cancer?
- Steve builds a sugar feeder
- Product reviews
- Bees in the News
- No General Meeting Minutes – no August meeting
- New Members, Club officials contacts
- New Sugar shaking form and jars
- Club Shop – New price list

Next Meeting: with COVID19 spacing

Hermit Park State School

Use the Mc Kimmin Rd entrance

Sunday 27 September, 10:00 am

Bring a chair and morning tea to share. Coffee, tea, milk, cups etc provided

Annual Membership Fees \$30 due now

Pay by Bank deposit and include your surname in the payment details to:
Townsville and District Beekeepers Association BSB: 633000 Account: 141466078

Sandylee builds a hive

Ed's comment: Club member Sandylee Hutchison told me that she was unsure whether to write up her experience in assembling and installing her nuc in the Flow Hive, but I reckon she "nailed it", so to speak. Looks like it's going great guns already. There are a few little pieces in the Flow Hive kit that do not immediately look like they belong anywhere, but Sandylee persevered, and is now our resident "expert" – just check with her for advice. Thanks Sandy, and I reckon the "girls" will appreciate the hot pink paint job. Words and photos from Sandylee.

What a thrill to finally have the 5 boxes of my flow hive and beginners kit arrive. See the "bits" on the table in the photo on the right above.

A few days were spent assembling and painting the hive as well as working out what "getting a Nuc" involved. Assembly was super easy but each moving part needed to have the paint fully dry BEFORE full assembly - yes dismantled hive AFTER learning this the hard way. Left the hive in situ to allow all paint to settle and be sure it's in the right spot. See photo on right.

"Getting a NUC" is a lot more involved. They aren't just sitting and waiting for Newbies to pick up... it takes time for one to become available, then settling the frames and bees into the brood box and transporting said box full of bees in the back of the car - not for the faint of heart.. LOL. Not to mention handling at the other end and waiting for the dreaded "first sting" to finally occur. Note: took a few more days for this first sting to happen.

A huge thank you needs to be repeated throughout this narrative to the Bee Club and most especially to

Frana for all the information and continually answering 101 questions.... I've got more questions but just learning to ask slower LOL. I was able to accompany Frana when she and Jon inspected some hives, and this was such invaluable hands on learning....what did I learn?

- I had been handling my frames and hive like it was all made from eggshell and that was totally unnecessary.
- Bee stings, while a short stab, aren't really that much of a problem.
- Knowing what "drawing out" and "eggs" and "brood" etc and seeing it for yourself are 2 different things.
- I was capable of handling my hive now and feel less of a gummy.

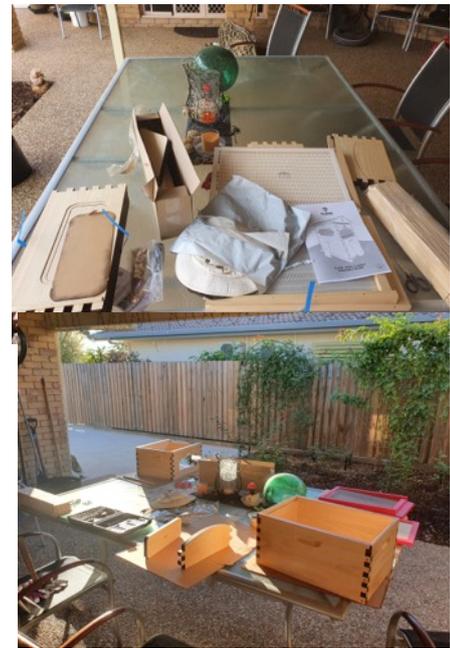
A good many hours have been spent sitting and watching my hive full of bees - learning all the while. These amazing critters go about their business, paying little attention to anything else, and it was only a short time before the brood frames were fully worked and I was able to place the super on top (I am quite chuffed I'm learning the terminology LOL).

I have 2 dogs and it took the 1yr old 4 weeks to get too close and get stung - he has not returned. My 10 week puppy took longer to become interested but she stuck her face against the entrance - luckily only 2 stings - but is not keen to go near "the corner"!! They learn LOL.

The girls are busy working the flow frames in the super (there was a little trick to try and it worked) and every time I take the end cover off the super is full with busy bees. No honey stores to see yet but it's only been a week or two. Now is the loooong wait for the super to have honey stores sufficient to share with me.

Still so much more to learn, but what an interesting hobby beekeeping has proven to be.

Sandylee Hutchison



Nuc inserted and growing well. Silver bullet oil trap on the side.



Very decorative and busy hive in place in that "corner" of the backyard.

Honeybee venom rapidly kills aggressive breast cancer cells

By Nicolas Perpetch

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-09-01/new-aus-research-finds-honey-bee-venom-kills-breast-cancer-cells/12618064>

Venom from honeybees has been found to rapidly kill aggressive and hard-to-treat breast cancer cells, according to potentially groundbreaking new Australian research. The research was published in the journal *Nature Precision Oncology* recently. It found honeybee venom was effective in killing breast cancer cells. Researchers say the discovery is exciting but there is a long way to go

The study also found when the venom's main component was combined with existing chemotherapy drugs, it was extremely efficient at reducing tumour growth in mice. The research was conducted at Perth's Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research by Dr Ciara Duffy as part of her PhD (see photo on right). Dr Duffy hopes the discovery could lead to the development of a treatment for triple-negative breast cancer, which accounts for 10 to 15 per cent of all breast cancers and for which there are currently no clinically effective targeted therapies. She said the honeybee venom had proven extremely potent.

"We found that the venom from honeybees is remarkably effective in killing some of these really aggressive breast cancer cells at concentrations which aren't as damaging to normal cells," Dr Duffy said.

The research showed a specific concentration of the venom killed 100 per cent of triple-negative breast cancer and HER2-enriched breast cancer cells within 60 minutes, while having minimal effects on normal cells. Dr Duffy harvested venom from honeybee hives at the University of Western Australia, as well as in Ireland and England.

She said a component of the venom called melittin had the killing effect. The researchers reproduced the melittin synthetically and found it mirrored the majority of the anti-cancer effects of the honeybee venom.

"What melittin does is it actually enters the surface, or the plasma membrane, and forms holes or pores and it just causes the cell to die," Dr Duffy said. The researchers also discovered within 20 minutes the melittin had another powerful effect.

"We found it was interfering with the main messaging or cancer-signalling pathways that are fundamental for the growth and replication of cancer cells," she said. It effectively shut down the signalling pathways for the reproduction of triple-negative and HER2 cancer cells.

Dr Duffy also examined the effect of melittin used in combination with existing chemotherapy drugs such as docetaxel. She found the holes in breast cancer membranes caused by the melittin allowed the chemotherapy to enter the cell and worked extremely efficiently in reducing tumour growth in mice.

Dr Duffy did not want to use words like breakthrough or cure, stressing this is just the beginning, and much more research needs to be done.

"There's a long way to go in terms of how we would deliver it in the body and, you know, looking at toxicities and maximum tolerated doses before it ever went further," she said.

Ed's Comment: What a fantastic discovery, but you would have to ask "what took so long to discover this". After all, honey is reportedly the panacea for everything that ails a body, and bee sting therapy is "believed" to prevent arthritis, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (a.k.a. ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease), Multiple sclerosis (MS), Eczema, Psoriasis. In other words, bee venom is reputed to be a very active biological agent, and is available from every backyard beekeeper in the country.

So how has this easily obtainable venom remained an unknown medication for so long? And has any survey been done on the frequency of breast cancer in female beekeepers?? Interesting to find out if there is a lower incidence.



Steve Laguna makes his own sugar syrup feeder

From Steve Laguna

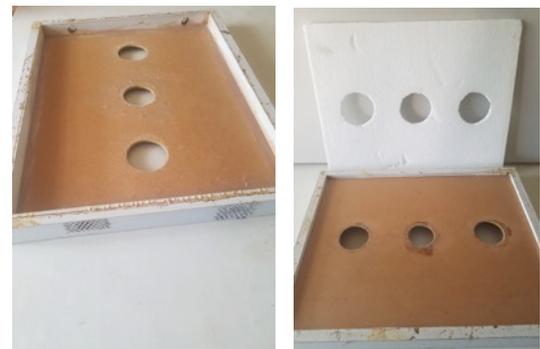
There was some discussion somewhere earlier about different types of bee feeders and thought I would share one that I made. It is a variation of what I saw on "A Canadian Beekeepers Blog". I think that it would suit a hobbyist. I swap off the standard lid on the hive and replace it with this one. When I am done I just swap them back. This allows you to monitor how much the bees are drawing off and the jars can be refilled without accessing the hive. I put a little smoke into the hole as I lift the empty jar from the holder and I put a solid lid in its place while I refill the jar, I do all 3 jars at the same time. I found that there is almost no activity on the screen if the jar has been empty for a day.

For the lid I repurposed an old bee escape I made a while ago. I think a hive lid would work just as well. I added 2 extra holes so that the bees would have plenty of access to the syrup and also to increase the amount of syrup I could add, also drilled some vent holes on the sides to replicate the original lid. These are standard mason jars with a composite lid, something I had at home. When the jar is inverted an airlock is formed across the screen. As the bees draw down the syrup, air is slowly let into the jar but the airlock is maintained.

It is important to keep the jar vertical once inverted otherwise, if the air lock is broken, it drains out in seconds. Not ideal if you are above the hive. I used standard fly screen because that's what I had laying around and it worked, but a very fine screen would work even better. Practice makes perfect. The layer of insulation is to help prevent heat loss out of the top of the hive. I have a cover over the top of my hive and this setup fits neatly below it. This also keeps the sun from beating directly onto the jars.

In a video, I used plain water with a bit of food colour to make it easier to see how I fill them and invert them. Sugar syrup would be more viscous and so work better. I just added the video showing how I fill the syrup feeder jar to the "Townsville & District Beekeepers Assn Inc" if you want to see what I mean.

Words and photos from Steve Laguna



How to feed sugar syrup to your bees

By Ian McLernon of Bee2Beekeeping Supplies (ian@bee2bee.com.au)

Throughout the course of your beekeeping journey, there will be a time when your bees need help to survive. Sometimes they just need a little boost. Knowing the right recipe for sugar syrup is essential. Feeding your bees sugar syrup is a common practice! There are 2 main recipe's used to promote different behaviours. These are only guidelines, not rules!

1:1: Brood Rearing and Comb Building. The 1:1 mixture is used to stimulate colonies to rear brood and encourage drawing of comb foundation. 1kg of white sugar : 1L of water is your ideal measurement.

2:1 Food Storage. The 2:1 mixture is used when the colony's honey stores are low. This mixture aims to emulate honey. 2kg of white sugar : 1L of water.

How to Prepare: Heat the water in a container that is large enough to hold your desired mixture. As soon as the water gently boils, remove the container from the heat source. Pour in the sugar and stir until the sugar crystals are dissolved. Never boil the mixture after the sugar is added. The sugar can caramelise, becoming partially indigestible and toxic to the bees. The syrup must be cooled to room temperature before it is fed to the bees.

Contaminated beeswax imported to Australia?

https://www.change.org/p/imported-honey-must-be-banned-or-labelled-with-country-of-origin-eg-china-argentina/u/27623277?cs_tk=AliP5TXuypt0KkQAT18AAxicyyvNyQEABF8BvBKWkbQ2mULOfmLJNRB0vK4%3D&utm_campaign=218668d6083f4e66b943f182f20e75e9&utm_content=initial_v0_4_0&utm_medium=email&utm_source=petition_update&utm_term=cs

AUG 30, 2020

Concerns have been raised about the importation of contaminated beeswax, both as foundation or block, into Australia. AHBIC has written to the Federal Department of Agriculture about these concerns and received a response. The Department advised that as beeswax is not a food then they cannot regulate the importation or even check that it is beeswax. We know as part of the beekeeping industry need to campaign and insist beekeepers and the public to not buy imported beeswax or beeswax foundation.

In the past beeswax from China has been tested and the results confirmed imported beeswax contained several chemicals that were probably introduced during Varroa mite controls and are not permitted in beeswax in Australia. Disturbingly the results also showed there was a high amount of paraffin wax in what was being sold as pure beeswax.

More sting to the fight against varroa mite in Townsville

Dear Townsville Beekeeper,

The National Varroa Mite Eradication Program continues its work to eradicate varroa mites from Townsville. The 2016 incursion of varroa mites has now been formally declared eradicated and the program is well on its way to achieving eradication of the 2019 Incident by mid-2021. As you are aware, a new and unrelated incursion of Asian honey bee infested with varroa mite (*Varroa jacobsoni*) was detected at the Townsville Port just over four months ago. Although concerning, the program detected the infested nest very soon after its arrival, and the national technical committee overseeing the program has agreed that it remains technically feasible to eradicate varroa mite from Australia.

I am pleased to inform you that the National Varroa Mite Eradication Program has received a boost to help it respond to both the 2019 and 2020 incursions. A revised response strategy will see heightened eradication efforts continue over coming months, before the program concludes in April 2021.

The allocation of additional resources highlights just how important eradication efforts are to ensuring Australia remains as the only inhabited continent in the world to be free of the varroa mite. Already, the program has stepped up its surveillance activities including managed hive inspections, aerial pheromone trapping, tracking of floral resources and analysis of pellets from rainbow bee-eater birds.

As a local beekeeper, you are uniquely placed to support eradication efforts and I urge you to continue quarterly sugar shakes or alcohol washes to test for varroa mite. Results – both positive and negative - should be reported to the program on varroa@daf.qld.gov.au. A hive test form is attached for this purpose. You should also continue to report sightings or the removal of feral colonies, swarms, Asian honey bees, or hives showing symptoms of exotic pests to Biosecurity Queensland (BQ) immediately on 13 25 23. Additionally, please be mindful that restrictions imposed by the Prevention and Control Program for Varroa Mite (*Varroa jacobsoni*) under the Biosecurity Act 2014 state that BQ should be notified at least 7 days prior to the movement of live bees or hives out of the Townsville LGA area.

Finally, an online survey to gauge the effectiveness of some program messaging to local beekeepers is now live at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KD7CP5X>. The survey should take no more than 3 minutes of your time and can be completed anonymously.

If you would like more information about the program, or to arrange a demonstration of hive health monitoring techniques, I invite you to contact me on 0476 846 793 or robert.stephens@daf.qld.gov.au Further information is available online at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au

Yours sincerely, *Robert Stephens*

Do a Sugar Shake for varroa and fill in the form (see form at end of Newsletter)

The Ed is pictured at right returning his unharmed bees after doing the sugar shake recently. This method of quickly checking for varroa mite does not harm the bees and gives Biosecurity Queensland (BQ) vital information that the spread is not occurring – a negative is a positive (ie no sign of varroa is good).

Photo from Deborah Rule, BQ



Native bees duke it out over room with a view of Hinchinbrook Channel

The TDBAI was contacted by Queensland National Parks who were seeking advice on what do about a native bee fight that was going on at the viewing platform at the top of the Cardwell range. That's the one with the glorious views of Conn Creek and Hinchinbrook Channel.

The bees had made a home in the hand rail under the interpretive displays (see photos of the view, the hand rail and some of the lost soldiers on the ground after battle). The swarms of little black critters were causing some angst amongst the viewers who thought they might bite, sting, or might be termites or flying ants. So a solution was called for, but hopefully not that big red can of Mortein.

Frana to the rescue!!

She recommended placing a beautifully carved log over the entrance (see exhibit A on right below), wacking up a native bee sign, and hey presto! You have an instant live display of native bees. Frana said "A suggestion for making the entry more prominent, would be to take a piece of burred gnarly timber, trim to shape onto that end of the handrail and glue or screw into place. A pre-drilled hole, or natural hole even better, creates a new entrance. Couple with signage, it would make a feature of the nest and be obvious to all that its supposed to be there."

Great advice, and hopefully whoever wins the battle for the "view to die for" will now have a sumptuous burl log with signage attesting to who the new owners are.

PS. The Ed stopped in on his way to the Tablelands and collected a few of the dead bee samples, so if anyone is good at giving native bees an ID, give me a call. I reckon they may not be *Tetragonula*, as there is no stripe, or colouration I could see, and they were very small, possibly an *Austroplebeia* sp???

<https://www.aussiebee.com.au/tetragonula-and-austroplebeia.html>

Photos from QNP, Frana and The Ed.



The anatomy of the bee is fascinating - Thorax

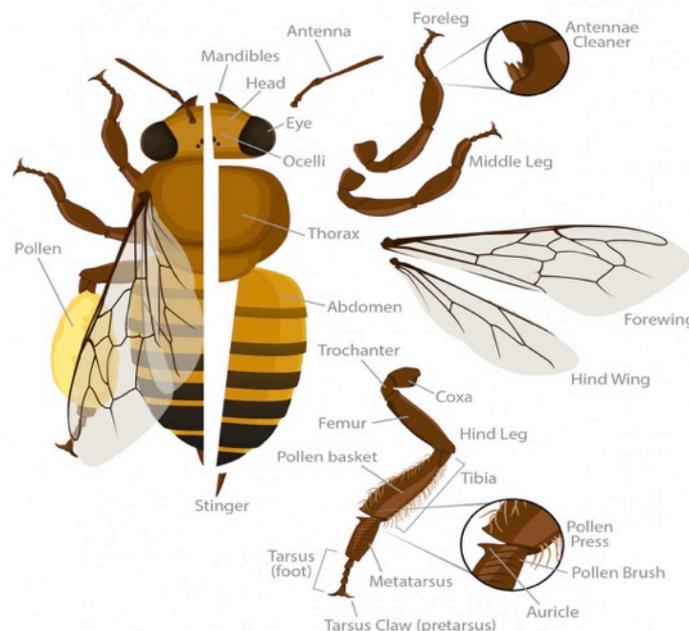
The thorax is the midsection of the honeybee and is primarily focused on locomotion. The thorax features six legs and two pairs of wings. The muscles in the thorax allow the bee to control the movement of the wings during flight. The rapid contractions of the muscles produce the quicksilver movement of the wings.

Wings: The wings of a honey bee can carry the bee through the air at over 24Kmph per hour. These wings are arranged in two pairs, connected by a row of hooks on the back wing.

The fore wings are much larger than the hind wings, but they both help with flight. Lift off happens because a propeller-like twist is given to each wing during the up and down strokes. Speed is improved by the fast pulsating muscles located in the thorax. Bees have a range of up to 5 Km from their hive, allowing them to expand their area of pollination.

Legs: The honey bee has three pairs of legs which split into six segments, making them very flexible. The front legs are specially designed to clean the antennae, while the rear legs have a section devoted to pollen accumulation called a pollen basket. Each leg has claws for gripping and sticky pads to assist the bee in landing on slick surfaces. Bees also have taste receptors on the tips of their legs. The worker bee has a different set of back legs than the other bees in the hive, containing special combs and a pollen press. These are used to brush, collect, pack and carry pollen and propolis back to the hive.

Pollen Basket: The pollen basket is located the bee's hind legs and consists of hairs surrounding a concave structure. As a bee visits a flower, she grooms herself and brushes pollen sticking to her body toward her hind legs. She then packs the pollen into the pollen basket. To help keep the pollen together during flight, some nectar is mixed in. Finally, the hairs on the pollen basket hold it all in place.



Beechworth Honey supporting Australian beekeepers

See their blog and email news about aspects of the Australian honey industry at: <mailto:news@beechworthhoney.com.au>

Iain Gordon builds a cheap solar wax melter

Bashed up 50l bin, a bit of silver bubble wrap, a couple of bits of cardboard, some bird netting, some parcel tape and a spare piece of glass for the lid! Iain wrapped the inside of the bin with some bubble wrap for insulation, and it goes like a rocket around mid day.



Bees on the internet

A roundup of interesting articles on the internet about bees.

1. **ABA Newsletter:** <https://beeaware.org.au/subscribe-to-newsletter/>
Some newsy articles of interest to beekeepers.
2. **Native smokebush from WA has evolved to allow pollination by ants:** <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-06-19/unique-wa-plants-adapt-to-allow-for-ant-pollination/12350088> Normally, ant secretions would inactivate pollen, but this hardy little bush has figured a way around that.
3. **This bee story might interest you**, about a very independent bee biosecurity officer who has to dodge more than just a yapping poodle
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-06-20/tough-beekeeper-protects-northern-territory-biosecurity/12360868>
4. Another programme for you to listen to on the ABC. On Conversations today (14 August) at 11:00 am there was a very informative discussion with an entomologist with in depth experience with bees from around the world. Some of the interview was taken up with personal aspects but the majority of the discussion was about bees in general. In the latter part of the programme he gave some very interesting insights into the world of native bees in Australia with particular reference to Queensland species. To find the podcast just search for ABC/Conversations. John McKinstry was going to listen to the programme so he will be asking questions next time we get together as a club.
Regards, Waldon Edwards
5. **Please note the reference in this email**, from Marion Weatherhead from the Qld Beekeepers Association, to the Resources tab on their website at, <http://www.qbabees.org.au>, and the ability to access videos and articles relating to all aspects of beekeeping. Had a quick look myself and there are literally dozens of videos and articles available through various links. Happy viewing and reading, Waldon Edwards

Shop etiquette – in this Covid-19 era, please consider the welfare of all members

Email orders will be serviced – but walk in orders will not be completed.

Pre-order by email to shop@beesnorth.com.au; please do not send your order to info@beesnorth.com.au

Wait till after 9:00am to come to the shop; park outside in Rendle St, do not come in to the Shop

Ed's comment: Dear Club members who utilise the fantastic opportunity that our volunteer shopkeepers provide. If we do not wish to see this service reduced or limited we need to show a lot more consideration for those people providing this service. If we burn them out, we might not have this excellent service and convenience. If we do not comply with isolating guidelines, we may not be able to continue.

For your consideration, I outline some current COVID -19

Golden Rules for the Club Shop:

Please:

1. Order **before** the opening day by email: shop@beesnorth.com.au
2. Arrive at the Shop **after** 9:00 am
3. Phone on your arrival, wait for the go ahead to drive to the shop door – one order at a time.
4. Your order will be placed in your vehicle – do not get out of the car.
5. Depart straight away to allow others to do their pick up – do not stop at the Shop to chat about bees
6. Non-emailed orders may not get any attention if the Shop is too busy.
7. Do not panic – wash your hands, don't touch your face.
8. We do not sell toilet paper (Reward for the brave person who wears this dress in public – see photo on right)



News from the library

Next meeting, whenever that may be, come and check out our library collection, have a browse and borrow a book, video or magazine.

You can see what's available by looking at our new fancy website library listing with photos at :
<http://beesnorth.com.au/pages/Library.htm>

Beryl has painted the new library display shelves, see right, and this will make your browsing experience so much easier and pleasant.



Stay safe everyone, and PLEASE RETURN THOSE BORROWED BOOKS AND MAGS (Ed's highlight).

Librarian - Beryl Smart

TDBAI Club activities

- Beginner Beekeeper Course for Club members is still on hold – date TBC
- President Mick is making great progress in pursuing options for a meeting place/Clubhouse with TCC. Mick attended a Council meeting and made a case for the TDBAI to be able to lease some Council land with a view to keeping some hives on it, and having an option to eventually progress to having a Bee Club clubhouse erected.
- The Club and BQ encourages members to complete the short online survey to gauge the effectiveness of some varroa mite program messaging to local beekeepers. It is now live at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KD7CP5X>. The survey should take no more than 3 minutes of your time and can be completed anonymously.
- Cotters Market and Strand Night Markets – TDBAI was out in force recently promoting healthy and responsible native and European beekeeping. Many thanks to the ever-present Club Officials and Member volunteers who give up their time to promote the Club and get the displays to the places early on a Sunday, late on a Friday and pack up etc etc President and First Lady Mick and Naomi Olsen, Treasurer and Shop organisers Frana and Jon McKinstry, and the small but devoted band of assistants – thanks.



Frana, Mick and "The Pink Lady" at Cotters Market



Above, Deb Rule from BQ was describing the efforts in Townsville to eradicate Asian honey bee and prevent varroa mite from getting established.



Above, Members get a chance to sell some of their honey and other wares at the markets. Sonya V was next door with a wide range of beeswax food wraps, candles, soaps and honey.



Native bee equipment display

General Meeting Minutes: August General Meeting cancelled

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.

Gavin Lloyd Mark Casey Angela Ferguson Glynnis James Joseph Young Janice Spiegelhauer
Mal Barr Garry & Julie Pope

Sell/Swap/Buy/Help needed

I will list items for 2 Newsletters only, unless you let me know otherwise. Please drop The Editor editor@beesnorth.com.au a note to indicate whether the items are required to be listed for a longer period. Do you need help from a Club member with your hive? Let the Editor know, and your request will posted here. Please include name, phone contact, and a brief description of the question/problem and how urgent.

Long standing Club member and previous President Ron Rapson is selling up.

Ron said: After many years of enjoyable bee keeping I am finding with work, the farm and everything else going on just too much and looking at selling my hives and equipment. If any new beekeepers would be interested please let them know.

- At Mundingburra I have 2 hive triples, 1 hive double plus a lot of various stuff from over the years frames etc...
- A lot of honey and wax also if anyone interested.
- 3 hive triples up at Kennedy if anyone up there is interested?

No idea what they are worth now days, so any ideas on what is being charged will help me out I am just way too busy now days to keep up with it all. Happy to work with any newbees interested in one or more hives etc.. time permitting.

Contact Ron Rapson for details.

P 07 4758 8152

M 0419 219 880

E ronald.l.rapson@team.telstra.com

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. Townsville features in Issue 52 due to the latest AHB and Varroa incursion.

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

Annual Membership Fees are due in July/August each year - currently \$30/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.

Email contacts for the Office Holders 2019/20

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 2019/2020

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

Vice President: Paul Payne trapper4812@gmail.com

Secretary: Waldon Edwards secretary@beesnorth.com.au

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

Treasurer's Assistant: Michelle Hasted pexperts@yahoo.com

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

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

Librarian: Beryl Smart smartberyl@gmail.com

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

Webmaster: Ray Berkelmans rberkerm@gmail.com

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

Committee: Ronelle Nord Keith Hunter Shane Grist Tom and Joan Ruddell Michelle Hasted Alan Ziegenfusz

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.

Kelso/Kirwan: Steve and Carla Kersnovske - 0417 344 419 Graham Dalby - 0420951929 Adrian Kirby- 0403 443 141 Michael O'Connell- 0402088080

Douglas/ Gulliver: Ben Taylor - 4728 4992/ 0428 186 000 Sonya Verburgt - 04 0853 0991

Alice River/ Bluewater: Sharene Dougall - 0415426903 Ronelle Nord - 0417752622 Duane Saltmer - 0400 339 508 Amanda Woodcock - 0405784083

Magnetic Island: Tito Parigi - 0418 796 951 Charters Towers: Mervyn Yule - 0427 124 126

Swarm List Please contact Biosecurity Queensland : 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.

Treasures from the second hand shop

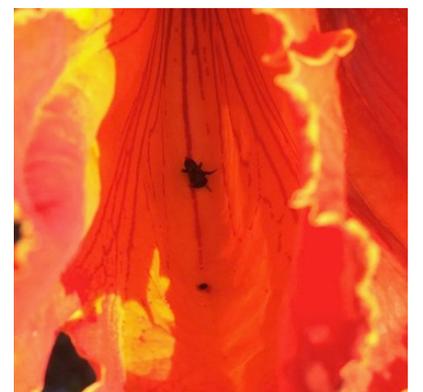


Look what Iain Gordon found in the local second hand shop. 8 inches tall and no chips. It will hold over 1kg of honey.

How much wax from a harvest?

The Ed recently had a 53 kg honey harvest from a mix of 26 Langstroth and WSP frames from 4 hives in North Ward that had been a fair while in the making. Seen on the right is 1 kg of nice clean wax after the wax cappings were processed through a solar melter and a paper serviette as the filter.

Seems to me that wax is a vastly underpriced commodity from our hives, especially when you learn how difficult it is to get the girls to wax up foundation. Plus, the fact that it takes around 7 kg of honey to produce 1 kg wax, in terms of energy conversion. Surely the girls deserve a better price for their labours. Currently the Club shop price is only \$22/ kg - a bargain in my estimation for this solid gold product.



Dead native bee in an African Tulip tree flower. Does anyone else in Townsville find this happening???

New form for "Sugar Shake" results – BQ requesting us to step up on detection tests for Varroa

Biosecurity Queensland would like beekeepers to fill out this new 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 in reply paid, or it can be emailed. Carla K will also be visiting everyone who would like to practise with the different self assessment types.



Varroa Mite Eradication Program

Managed hive test or feral nest/swarm removal form

Please use this form to submit the results of self-assessments and to submit samples from collected feral swarms or nests. Complete the first section and then any other applicable sections. Please use multiple forms if necessary and separate forms for each location tested.

Return forms to, or contact for sample collection – Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: 07 3330 4560

PO Box 1085 Townsville Q 4810 or email varroa@daf.qld.gov.au.

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Address of collection location | |
| Collector | |
| Collector's phone or email | |
| HIN | |

Alcohol wash/ sugar shake (300 bees per hive recommended. Submit sample if anything suspect seen)

| Date tested | Alcohol wash or sugar shake? (AW or SS) | Hive ID and approximate number of bees tested | Anything suspect? (Y or N) | Sample submitted? (Y or N) |
|-------------|---|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Drone uncapping (20 drone pupae per hive recommended. Submit sample if anything suspect seen)

| Date tested | Hive ID and approximate number of drone pupae examined | Anything suspect? (Y or N) | Sample submitted? (Y or N) |
|-------------|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | |

Feral nest or swarm removed and samples kept for DAF to identify and check for varroa (300 bees and several hundred capped brood cells - especially drone brood - recommended)

| | | | | | |
|----------------|--|-----------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Date collected | | Bees submitted? | | Comb submitted? | |
|----------------|--|-----------------|--|-----------------|--|

DAF use only - Analysis by NVMEP

| Case | Sample | Date tested | Tested by |
|-------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| ID result | <i>Apis cerana</i> (AHB) | <i>Apis mellifera</i> (EHB) | Other |
| | | | |
| Varroa seen | | | |
| Recording | Date | | By |

Scan to server, email to varroa (cc to manager and SPO), add to VMI2019 (attach scan to result), file hard copy

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is collecting the information on this form as a record of surveillance activities conducted under the National Varroa Mite Eradication Program. Summaries of surveillance activities may be provided to the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests, formed by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture for the purpose of reporting against the Response Plan for the Eradication of *Varroa jacobsoni* from Queensland – 2019 Incident. Any personal information collected will not be disclosed to any other parties unless authorised or required by law.



Club Shop Items - 2020 Price List

These prices are only available to current financial members

| Item | Price | Item | Price |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Jacket - Cotton | 60.00 | Eyelets pkt 50g | 6.00 |
| Jacket - Ventilated | 90.00 | Awl (for picking eyelets) | 5.00 |
| Full Suit - Cotton | 90.00 | S/S Wire x 500gm | 20.00 |
| Full Suit - ventilated | 115.00 | Crimping Tool | 14.00 |
| Replacement veil for vented suit | 25.00 | Bucket Bracket | 10.00 |
| Cowboy hat with veil | 12.00 | Bucket Opener | 7.00 |
| Veil - cotton | 20.00 | Queen Catcher (butterfly clip) | 3.00 |
| Child's full suit | 60.00 | Queen Catcher & Marker (tube) | 8.00 |
| Gloves - pair | 25.00 | Frame Gripper | 10.00 |
| Veil - Native Bee | 3.00 | Frame Hanger | 20.00 |
| | | Bee Feeders | 1.00 |
| Super - 10 Frame | 28.00 | Spring clips, ea | 2.00 |
| Super - 8 frame | 25.00 | | |
| Super - Ideal | 25.00 | Gate valve - Nuplas | 12.00 |
| Super - WSP | 25.00 | Gate valve - Parker | 30.00 |
| Lids (8 or 10 Frame) | 27.00 | Gate Valve S/S | 35.00 |
| Lids (8 or 10 Frame) pre-assembled | 35.00 | Gate valve O rings - Parker | 7.00 |
| Base - Ply (8 or 10 frame) | 22.00 | Cappings knife, serrated | 15.00 |
| Base - Mesh | 35.00 | Cappings knife, electric | 45.00 |
| Mesh sheet (for base construction) | 15.00 | Comb scratcher | 8.00 |
| Lifting Cleats (Handles, pair) | 5.00 | Strainer | 26.00 |
| | | Scales | 12.00 |
| Nuplas Super 10 Fr | 40.00 | Extractor - Plastic | 140.00 |
| Nuplas Super 8 Fr | 40.00 | | |
| Nuplas Super - Ideal | 35.00 | Honey jars 250gm | 0.70 |
| Nuplas Lid, 8 or 10 Fr | 38.00 | Honey jars 500gm square | 0.80 |
| Nuplas Base, 8 or 10 Fr | 45.00 | Honey Jars Squeeze 550g | 0.80 |
| Nuplas 10 Fr set: 1 x super, lid & base | 120.00 | Honey Jars 1 kg | 1.00 |
| Nuplas cleats | 10.00 | Honey Pails - 1 kg | 1.20 |
| Nuplas oil tray & frame | 28.00 | Honey Pails - 1.5kg | 1.30 |
| Hive Doctor plastic base | 55.00 | Honey bottle 2.8kg (2 litre) | 0.80 |
| Beetle Buster Base (8 or 10) | 100.00 | Glass jars 500g | 1.00 |
| 4 Frame Nuc Box | 65.00 | | |
| 5 Frame Nuc Box | 70.00 | TRAPS | |
| Corflute Nuc boxes | 28.00 | Apithor trap | 8.00 |
| | | Silver Bullet trap | 8.00 |
| Hive tool (S/S) | 15.00 | Diatomaceous Earth per pack | 4.00 |
| Smoker | 35.00 | | |
| Smoker - Beeco | 85.00 | BOOKS | |
| Bee Brush | 10.00 | Managing AFB | 0.00 |
| Emlok - hive clamp | 14.00 | ABC of Beekeeping in Tropics | 25.00 |
| Hive Handle (galvanised) | 12.00 | Australian Beekeeping Manual | 35.00 |
| Queen Excluder - Wire (8 or 10 frame) | 22.00 | Australian Native Bee Book | 25.00 |
| Queen Excluder - Plastic | 12.00 | | |
| Queen Excluder scraper | 10.00 | Honey Labels (\$5 for 50) or roll | 25.00 |
| | | Nutrition panel labels (per roll) | 20.00 |
| Frames - Full depth | 2.00 | Posca Queen marking pen | 5.00 |
| Frames - Full depth, prewired | 4.00 | Warning Sign | 10.00 |
| Frames - Ideal | 1.50 | Bee Poster | 20.00 |
| Frames - WSP | 1.50 | AFB test kit | 0.00 |
| Foundation - Plastic | 2.10 | | |
| Foundation - Wax, per sheet | 2.40 | Club Polo Shirts | 40.00 |
| WSP or Ideal foundation (plastic) | 2.00 | Club Polo Shirts L/S | 45.00 |
| Wax Embedding tool | 45.00 | Club hats with logo | 15.00 |
| Block beeswax, per Kg | 22.00 | | |

TDBA Bee Starter Kit - \$160

The Perfect Gift for a budding Beekeeper

Available in Townsville from the Club Shop:

Club Members Price Only! \$160

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

Plus: The ABC of Beekeeping book

Contact: Club Shop Stewards: Frana M or Alan Z or email:

shop@beesnorth.com.au



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