

TOWNSVILLE & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOC INC.

Issue No. 8 SEPTEMBER 2017

KNOW YOUR HIVE

With AFB (American Foul Brood) among us, we can not express enough how important it is to detect any signs and symptoms of this terrible disease. If anyone within the club is unsure of what to look for or needs a little help, please let someone within the club know. We are all more than happy to assist anyone!

BQ (Biosecurity Qld) are also available for any assistance, information and testing. See Andrew Ygosse!

NEXT MEETING....

Will be held at Dan & Crystal's place on Sunday the 17th September at 10am (note time change from last meeting) @ 9 Seabrook Circt, Bushland Beach. Nuc transfer!

Plant & Garden Expo

A great BIG thankyou to all of you that helped support the club over the weekend of plant and garden expo. It was really appreciated. Especially those of you who are new! Very exciting! Without our wonderful volunteers, we would be without a club. Again, really appreciated.

Also, a thank you to BQ for inviting us to attend and share their space. It all went well, with many books selling super fast! It is great to see that people are still interested in getting into bees!



Ed: Seems the Sunday shift had time for coffee and cake??



Minutes of Club meeting @ 9am

Sunday 20/8/17 club meeting at Sonya Verbrught Mclean st Gulliver

As always all are welcomed and visitors to the meeting, Attendance book was completed

1/ minutes as per club mag, will these be accepted as was inserted into the club newsletter

That they reflect the last meeting. Confirmed – Frana Mckinstry, Seconded – Carmel Gage

2/ Treasury – club is quite financial – if you want the finer details they can be obtained from the treasurer.

- Currently the books are being readied to be sent to the accountant for confirmation that all is correct and accounted for.
- The AGM (15 October 2017) will have all financials published for viewing as per club rules.
- We have a had a lot of stock in the shop sold over the past month, and we have had to order
- In a lot of new stock, timber ware, Apithor traps, bottles, smokers,

3/ The club Has had 2 volunteers for the secretary position. Thank you to Pauline Biffen & Bronwyn Jarret.

With the October meeting will be the AGM and we will require some more members to join the committee to help the club. Fresh ideas and more help will continue this club forward thru 2018.

4/ Garden expo – 2days with bio security 26 &27 August. Thank you to the club members who volunteered their time, especially the new members. It was a great display to the community about all things Bees, and also under the shade of the big rain trees was a good location.

5/ native bee course was a success with 25 people each day. A lot of knowledge was passed on by Tobias and club members. Thanks to the club members who brought along logs and hives to be relocated into their new homes.

6/ Townsville City Council has a Sustainability centre at Rowes Bay and has asked TDBKA to come along and be part of the sustainability centre as they could see our club being another important part to what they are trying to achieve. Firstly train their staff on site about Native Bees. We are in the Process of organising how to build Bee hotels for native bees at the centre as a first course. Frana and Jon are organising the first session.

Good to have the council on board with us as other areas are having trouble with their local councils.

7/ Christmas Lunch for December will be again at the Aitkenvale Hotel 10/12. Will be looking to get numbers sorted by the November meeting.

8/ Our temp editor Shazza is always looking for newsy articles and photos send these to editors email address editor@beesnorth.com.au , If found on the Net or books / magazines provide the reference Title , date , page number for copyright purpose. First edition was well done.

9/ 5 new books have been purchased from The NSW DPI, All related to Bees from their TAFE publications section, 2 titles are new and the other 3 have just been updated .

10/ Rob Stephens and Andrew Ygosse talked about the current work that bio security are doing in regards to the Asian honey bee and the varroa mite .

11/ next meeting is 17/Sep at Dan & Chrystals house at Bushland beach. @ 2pm

October AGM Hermit park

General Business

1/ Peter Woolley & Jon McKinstry talked about the bottom boards and the use of Aluminum mesh they have been trialling for small hive beetle.

2/ Green ants – how they can destroy a whole hive and move in and use the box as a nest. As Andrew Ygosse from Bio security has stated poisons have information on the label that they have been tested to remove certain pests and not to be used as a poison to kill others.

Formal part of meeting closed at 9:30.

Workshop to open hives was cancelled as AFB was present.

A talk was given by Sonya Verbrught & Frana McKinstry on their experiences on finding AFB in their hives. A lot of questions was asked and having bio security members on hand gave their insight on the past few weeks as well with the AFB. Currently we believe 19 hives have been destroyed in the Townsville area.

Graham Armstrong was asked questions in relation to AFB and to give his commercial operator view as well on the best prevention methods that he uses. Graham's experience and advice was welcomed by all.

Side note - AFB has been found in Victoria amongst the hives for the Almond pollination, over 100 hives have been destroyed.

If members need help with their hives to check for AFB or anything else , don't hold back , club members are all willing to help, we are all just a phone call away.

New Members

A warm welcome to

Astrid V.	NORTH WARD
Fred & Kathy S.	KIRWAN
Felicity D.	NORTH WARD
John C.	BALGAL BEACH
Wayne Z.	KIRWAN
Angela Z.	MT KELLY
Colin K.	NOME
Bart C.	AITKENVALE
Adriana U.	AITKENVALE
Craig C.	ALICE RIVER
Lynne V.	PICNIC BAY
Carl V.	PICNIC BAY
Sergy G.	MUNDINGBURRA



Beehive Inspection - Amazing Bees | Beekeeper Section

beekeepers.amazingbees.com.au

Whilst opening the hive helps the beekeeper to relax from the stress of daily modern life, it has the opposite effect on the bees.

<http://beekeepers.amazingbees.com.au/bee-hive-inspection.html>

Routine Checks at the beginning of every Beehive Inspection

The following checks should become start-up routine whenever a hive is opened for inspection; none of these checks require a frame to be lifted out of the hive. The results of these routine checks might change the objective for the subsequent Frame Inspection; if you had planned to look for the queen and her laying productivity and you now have detected a sour odour in the hive, your plan has become irrelevant, you should now inspect the hive to confirm foulbrood instead.

R1. The first thing is a check with your nose, wearing a veil of course. Whilst lifting the lid up, get your nose close above the hive and smell the air raising up from inside the hive. If you can detect a sour or foul odour, like Sauerkraut or foul eggs, it is almost certain that your hive has been infected with a foulbrood disease, either European Foulbrood (EFB) or American Foulbrood (AFB), or both.

R2. Whilst lifting the lid, check the reaction of the bees on top of the hive mat and the frames. If a great number of bees welcome you by lifting up their abdomen, exposing the Nasonov gland and eagerly fanning with their

wings and a gentle puff of smoke does not change this behaviour, it is best to close the hive again and reschedule the exercise for another day. The bees are telling you “we are in a bad mood, leave us alone”

R3. The next thing to check when taking off the lid is to ensure the bee queen is not under the lid, before placing the lid upside down onto the ground. Especially when you have blown smoke into the hive entrance, there is a chance that the queen and some bees try to get away as far as possible from the entrance. By lack of attention to the bees under the lid you risk that the queen wanders off in the grass whilst the lid is placed on the ground.

R4. After having removed the lid and the hive mat, gently blow some smoke from the top down the frames. Listen to the sound of the bees buzzing, it usually is calm buzz – familiarise yourself with that sound. When one day the buzz sounds nervous, noisier and a pitch higher than the calm buzz, it is very likely the colony is without a queen! As a hobby beekeeper with one or two hives it might take many years before you experience the situation of a queenless hive. To confirm the prognosis search for the queen or evidence of her, i.e. eggs and young larvae.

R5. When lifting up the lid has revealed combs built under the lid, it is a clear sign that the bees need more space to build combs. Whatever your reason was for Hive Inspection, add an urgent action item to provide them with more space; i.e. replace some honey frames with foundation or stack a super on with frames and foundation.

Frame Inspection to establish Colony Health Status and Condition

The following checks are done simultaneously when inspecting the frames and are not listed in order of importance as they all are important. Usually, checking frames begins with the 2nd frame from the outside, revealing the honey stores first.

F1. Do the combs contain honey and pollen? Usually the outside combs are full with honey whilst the centre combs contain some honey in the top corners. On combs with brood usually a two or three cells wide line filled with pollen fills the space between the honey and the brood. If there is little or no honey, the bees may require a feed of sugar syrup.

F2. Is there brood in all stages of development? Patches of brood vary in size from little or none on the two outside combs to large areas of brood in the centre combs, often filling almost the entire frame. Check if there is brood in all stages of development, i.e. eggs, small larvae, large larvae, capped cells and young adult bees emerging. If you see plenty of eggs and young brood, that is evidence that the queen is doing her job and there is no need to actually see her.

F3. Is the brood capping regular and slightly convex? Healthy capped brood cells are slightly convex; indication they are full. When the cappings are concave (sunken in), sometimes with little holes through the centre of the cappings, it is an indication of a brood health issue. You need to check for other signs of brood disease to identify the problem.

F4. Do some capped worker cells look like drone cells? When amongst the usual capped worker cells some capped cells are sticking out in length, like bullets, it is likely the queen is getting old or is weakened and is laying unfertilized eggs into worker cells. Not to be confused with the regular drone cells, which look like bullets but are 2mm bigger in diameter. Occasionally newly mated queens lay a few infertile eggs until they have reached their full fertility.

F5. Are the bees depositing a lot of honey among the brood? Usually every centre comb in the brood box contains a large patch of brood with honey in the top corners, if any. If the brood area is broken up by patches of stored honey the bees might need more space; replace some honey frames with foundation or stack a super on with frames and foundation.

F6. Are there no eggs or no young brood? If there are no eggs or young brood it means that there is no laying queen. No reason to panic before investigating further, here a few options:

1. If queen cells are present, the colony might be preparing to swarm and stopped feeding the queen to slim her down, so she is able to fly with the swarm – or – the swarm has already left the hive with the old queen – or -the queen got accidentally killed or lost the last time you opened the hive. However, the bees are in the process of raising a new queen.

2. If there are broken-open queen cells present, in particular with the top neatly cut off, there is probably a new queen in the hive and in a week or two she will start laying.

3. If there are no queen cells, without a queen and with no young brood to raise one, the bees desperately need help. If unsure about the situation, insert a comb with eggs from another hive (without diseases) and check if the bees are raising queen cells on it a few days later.

F7. Are there queen cells present? During the swarming season you may lose a swarm if you do not take preventive action. At other times, queen cells may be the result of the queen being accidentally killed or lost, or the bees may have decided the queen is old and are taking steps to replace her.

F8. Are there holes in some of the brood cappings? A symptom common to all bee brood diseases is perforated cell caps, or cell caps completely opened or removed. It is an indication that something is wrong with the capped brood. Some publications describe this as a symptom for AFB – no reason to panic yet as this symptom is common to all occurrences of dead brood behind capped cells, even chilled brood that died without a disease. When the expected emergence of bees from the pupae is overdue the bees start opening some of the capped cells to investigate. Occasionally you may find there is a perfectly healthy larva inside and the bees hadn't quite finished capping the cell over yet.

F9. Are there discoloured larvae, instead of pearly white? The appearance of healthy larvae is glistening and pearly white. Discoloured larvae indicates a brood disease.

And also

NSW videos

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/bees/pests-diseases/foulbrood-disease/videos>

American Foulbrood and Small Hive Beetle in bees - video ...

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

These videos have been developed to advise on techniques that will assist in the identification and management of these two serious disease and pest threats.

Club email addresses

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editor@beesnorth.com.au

BOWEN BOWLS

The 28th/29th of October. Great family weekend.

Contact Paul: paul@bee2u.com.au asap.



Ed: Under no circumstances do I encourage drinking with having a good fun time. Some may take it upon themselves. Ha ha

Good resources!

NSW Dept of Primary industries

AgGuide – a practical handbook

<http://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/publications>

- 1/ Healthy Bees : managing pests, diseases and other disorders of the Honey bee.**
- 2/ Australian native bees**
- 3/ Bee Agskills**
- 4/ Bees – Queen bee breeding**
- 5/ Honey- Harvesting and extracting**

The club has just purchased these 5 titles from the NSW TAFE publications all relating to bees. Some of these have been updated in the last 12 months and 2 are new titles.

The website has the claim that

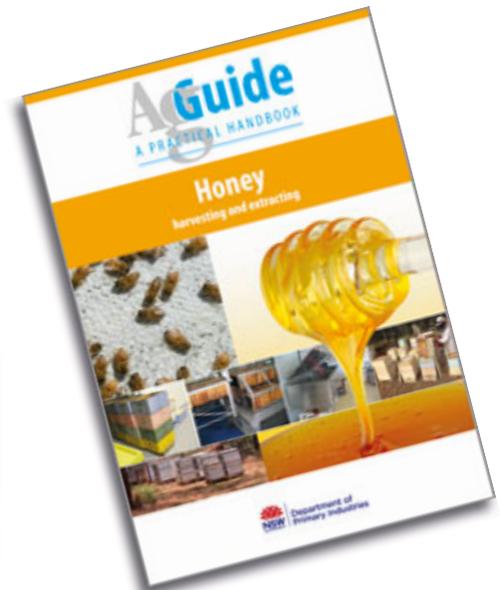
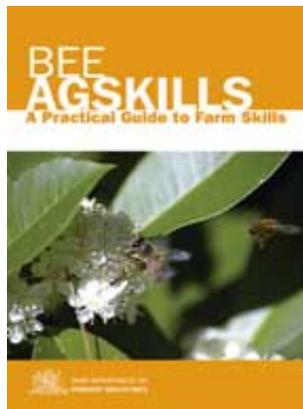
“Tocal books are high quality, accurate and reliable references on all aspects of **agriculture** and **land management**.

They are easy to read with useful illustrations and photographs for practical understanding of the subject matter.”

I totally agree with their statement. The healthy bee's book is very well written with easy to read print. Great colour photography all the way thru the book to compliment the subject. Even though it is a NSW publication the subjects are relevant to QLD as well. At the end of each subject is also a recommendation for further information on the topic.

For the purchase price of each of these titles they are quite cheap for the quality of the publications & the information. I would consider purchasing a copy myself to have on hand for verification of pests & diseases.

Contact our Librarian Kirsty on 0447 762 686 to book out a copy. We have a good library of books, magazines & DVD's to loan.



AGM approaching.... More members are needed

TDBA Inc Office Holders for 2016/2017

President: Alan Ziegenfusz alan.G.Ziegenfusz@team.telstra.com, or :
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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

Honorary Members of the TDBA Inc: Graeme Smith

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. Any swarm or unmanaged nest either kept or reported to a beekeeper, must be sampled with approx. 200-300 bees or 10% of any nest size and given to Biosecurity Qld for recording and sample testing. Feral (unmanaged nests) must include brood comb samples. Contact varroa@daf.qld.gov.au for any information.

CLUB SHOP PRICES – UPDATED

Item	Price		Frames - Full depth	1.90	
Veil - Native Bee	3.00/5.00		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		BeetITra bottom trap	20.00	
Australian Native Bee Book	25.00		AFB Test Kit	0.00	
Club Polo Shirts	30.00				



LOTS-A-STINGS

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

.Dan Donovan: Ph 0428 218 816

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

