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From the President

It's Saturday July 16, and it's the President's birthday. I was born dead-set in the middle of winter and the last couple of days have reflected the thought. I've noticed the bees aren't too keen to get out and into it either, even though there seems to be an abundance of flowering occurring.

Congratulations to Janet and Steven. Their venue was perfect for the last meeting and the idea of holding the flow hive session and committee meeting early worked very well. I'm just sorry that Janet had to suffer through the flu on the day. Thanks again.

The year is passing quickly and it won't be long before the 2017 AGM is upon us. It's probably a good time to start having a think about taking on a committee position next year, or to discuss nominations with other members who you think may be suited to a position.

See you all at the next meeting.

Tony. 16/7/16

Last Meeting

The last meeting was held at Janet and Steven's storage sheds, Hillside Storage, on the outskirts of Lismore.

The earlier start for flow hive discussions proved to be quite popular and will continue into the next meeting.

Conducting the meeting earlier (over morning tea) also proved to be quite successful. Some of the topics discussed are listed below:

- The 2017 Colonel Pulling competition in Ballina. The Ballina RSL looks to be the likely venue at this stage;
- Tony has started to bring along beekeeper registration forms to the monthly meetings;
- The Primex field days – Thanks to members who donated their time for this event;
- The second Learn Beekeeping Course for 2016 is now fully booked. Tony is starting to take names for 2017 course(s);
- The possibility of holding a combined meeting with the Mid North Coast Club this year, perhaps in August;
- Aiming to have a list of venues for the 2017 monthly meetings organised by the end of this year. Greg McPhee offered to take on this task.

Hive inspections were undertaken after the general meeting. The new polystyrene hives were demonstrated by Steven. There was also an opportunity for members to inspect brood combs for the presence of AFB.

Steven's hive stands were pointed out by a few members. They are simple in design, but seem to be quite effective. Rather than trying to describe them with words, a picture has been included below.

Thank you to all the members who brought along items for the raffle and morning tea/lunch.



Flow Hive Discussions



Demonstration of a Polystyrene Hive



Steven's Hive Stands

New Equipment

Stephen and Janet Fowler carry most common beekeeping equipment, including a range of

extractors, both manual and electric. They also carry a range of jars and pots for honey sales.

A reminder that opaque 20 litre buckets with lids are now available.

Please contact Stephen or Janet for further details (see the Equipment Officer contact details above).

Hives and Nuclei

Some members are looking for hives and nuclei. Please contact Stephen Fowler if you wish to supply colonies.

Steritech

The most recent load of equipment which was sent to Steritech has been irradiated and returned. Please contact Brian Window or Stephen Fowler regarding your upcoming Steritech requirements.

Learn Beekeeping Course

The final session of the first Learn Beekeeping Course for 2016 was completed on Saturday 9 July. The session included uncapping/honey extraction and box/frame construction.

The second course for 2016 will commence on Saturday 6 August, in Lismore. This course is fully booked. Contact Tony Lamont regarding expressions of interest for 2017 courses.

Townsville Varroa Mite Incursion

There has been plenty of coverage in the media about the recent Asian honey bee (*Apis cerana*) and Varroa mite incursion in Townsville.

In summary, a colony of Asian honey bees was found in a container stand at the Port of Townsville. The colony was destroyed, but Varroa mites were found on two of the bees and in worker comb. It is possible that the colony may have been there for up to two years.

Restrictions on the movement of bees/equipment was imposed by Biosecurity Queensland, along with a surveillance program in the Townsville area. No further colonies of Asian honey bees have been found thus far.

The graphic below was put together by Dr Toby Smith from the University of Queensland, who kindly gave permission for its reproduction in our newsletter.

This shows that there have been many arrivals of Asian honey bees in Australia since 2007. Interestingly, three different species have been involved – *Apis cerana* (the Asiatic honey bee, this being the species found recently in Townsville and which is also established in the Cairns region), *Apis dorsata* (the Giant honey bee) and *Apis florea* (the Dwarf honey bee). The Townsville incursion is the fifth time that Varroa mites have been found in Australia since 2012.

Toby gives a good summary of Asian honey bee and Varroa mite arrivals in Australia in a 4 July post on his Facebook page, which can be found at the link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bee-Aware-Brisbane/107974596042728>

The mites found in Townsville were identified as *Varroa jacobsoni*, not *Varroa destructor*. *Varroa jacobsoni* have been found reproducing on European honey bee brood in Papua New Guinea, where it is wide spread. *Varroa destructor*, the

species of mite which has been responsible for so many colony losses overseas, has not been detected in Australia.

The links below have been included for those members who are interested in further reading about the Townsville incursion and Varroa mites.

<https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/services/news-and-updates/animals/news/varroa-mite-found-at-port-of-townsville>

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/about/media-centre/media-releases/detection-asian-honey-bees-townsville>

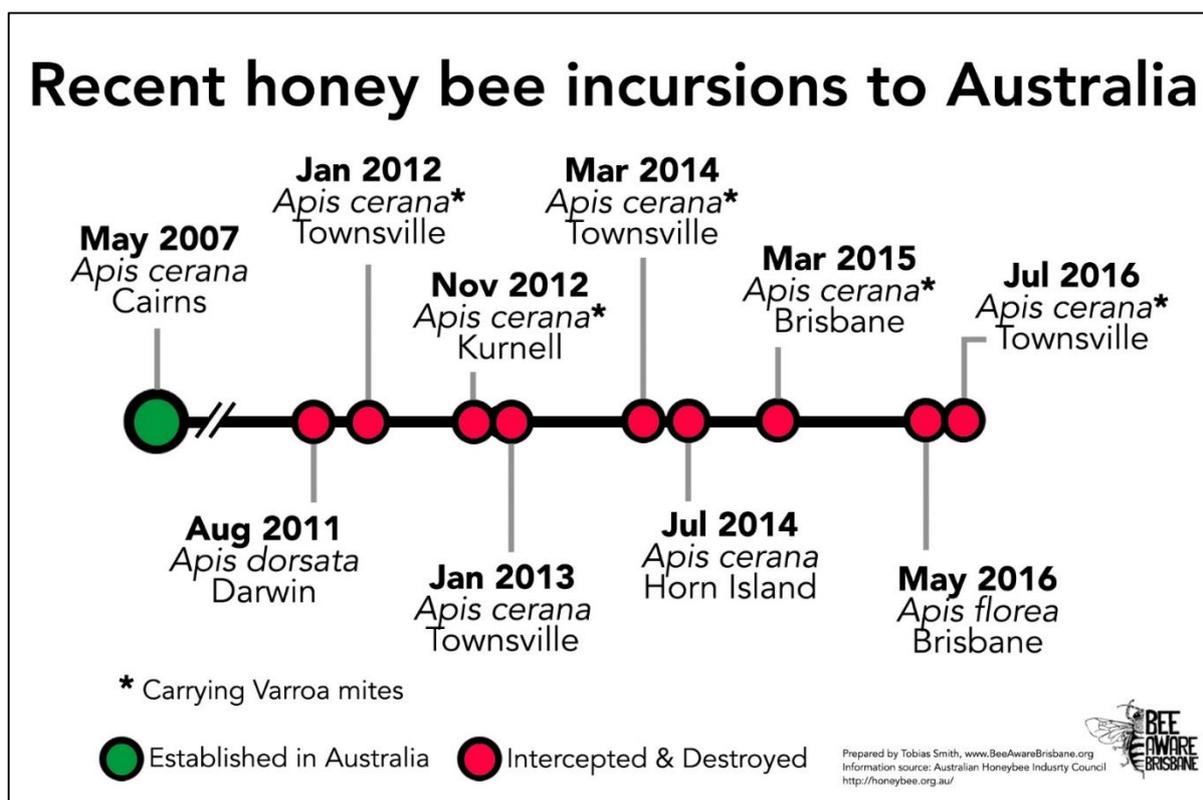
<http://honeybee.org.au/apis-cerana-in-townsville/>

<http://honeybee.org.au/apis-cerana-in-townsville-update/>

<http://www.vision6.com.au/em/message/email/view.php?id=111966&u=13082>

<http://beeaware.org.au/archive-news/varroa-jacobsoni-a-new-pest-threat-of-honey-bees/>

<http://beeaware.org.au/archive-pest/varroa-mites/#ad-image-o>



Courtesy Dr. Toby Smith

They're At It Again!

Munt and Mont are at it again, this time with a second-story swarm recovery in the Lismore CBD.

The picture below was provided by Tony. It shows a nuc that they attached to the exterior wall, to house the trapped-out bees.

Three boxes of bees have been recovered from this job so far. The recovery was thought to be complete, but after removal of the nuc and sealing of the wall, bees were found to be entering the building at another location nearby. A subsequent trap was applied and the job in ongoing.



Swarm Recovery in Lismore

Newsletter Submissions

Thank you to all members who contributed to the newsletter.

Newsletter submissions can be emailed to [Newsletter NRABA@bigpond.com](mailto:Newsletter_NRABA@bigpond.com) by the 10th of each month. Photos are always appreciated.

Gold Coast Show

Information regarding honey entries in the Gold Coast Show may be found at the link below.

<http://www.goldcoastshow.com.au/arts-crafts-including-20s-competition/>

Upcoming Events

31 July, 2016 – Monthly meeting, Woombah.

6 August, 2016 – Next Learn Beekeeping Course.

25 September, 2016 – GCABS Field Day, Mudgeeraba (Keynote speaker, Des Cannon, Editor, Australasian Beekeeper Journal).

21 May, 2017 – Colonial Pulling competition and AGM of the ABA, Ballina.

Next Meeting – 31 July, 2016

The next meeting will take place on 31 July at the home of Maree Givney, 2 Leaping Lizard Lane, Woombah.

The day will start at 9.30 am with a flow hive meeting followed by morning tea and the general meeting, commencing at around 10 am. Lunch will be at around midday, at a cost of \$5 per head.

Planned beekeeping activities for the day include those listed below:

- A bee hive inspection at the home of Sandy Stewart (a short walk from Maree's home), subject to weather;
- A demonstration of Tony's 10 frame maker.

Please remember to bring along either a morning tea item or a salad to share. Raffle items are always appreciated. Bring along your own chairs.

Starting at the Pacific Highway, take the Iluka exit (Iluka Road). Follow Iluka Road for 2.5 km then turn left into Paddymelon Road. Follow Paddymelon Road for about 200 m after which it becomes Leaping Lizard Road. Maree's home is on the right - look for the large Colorbond shed.

Bee meeting signage will be in place.