

The Newsletter of the Northern Rivers Amateur Beekeeping Association Inc.

<u>President</u>	Tony Lamont	66631238	tdlamont@bigpond.com
<u>Vice-president</u>	Geoff Muntelwit	66886128	
<u>Secretary</u>	Shirley Ashman	66283687	ashmcd@tpg.com.au
<u>Treasurer</u>	Peter Dickson-Smith	66492009	pdsbml@bigpond.com
<u>Equipment Officer</u>	Stephen Fowler	66228534	fowlerstephen@y7mail.com
<u>Editor and Library</u>	Brian Window	66242864	brianwindow@internode.on.net

Last Meeting

The last meeting was the Xmas party, which was transferred at the last moment because of a predicted downpour for Ballina to the home of Shirley Ashman and Merv MacDonald on Wardell Road at Dalwood. The rain held off for most of the day, but it was good not to be in the open in a park at Ballina watching it approach.

Thank you to Shirley and Merv for arranging it all as well as hosting the event.

New Equipment

Stephen and Janet Fowler have good supplies of most new equipment at the best prices you can find. They will also get gear for you. Some items such as foundation are difficult to buy at present. Members wanting equipment should make arrangements with Stephen or Janet.

We have members looking for hives and nuclei. Could you let Stephen know if you will be willing to supply any colonies.

Learn Beekeeping Course

The first Learn Beekeeping Course in 2016 will commence in July, and enrolments will be called for closer to that date. Those new members who did the course last year are reminded that if they need assistance or advice to contact one of the course instructors.

Small Hive Beetle

This period of the year is the worst time for shb activity. Make sure that your hives have a strong laying queen, and that there are always plenty of bees to protect the frames that are there.

Here are two pictures from Geoff Manning, the first showing small hive beetle eggs. They are about the same size as bee eggs, but are not in the bottom of the cells.



What about this one; laying worker?

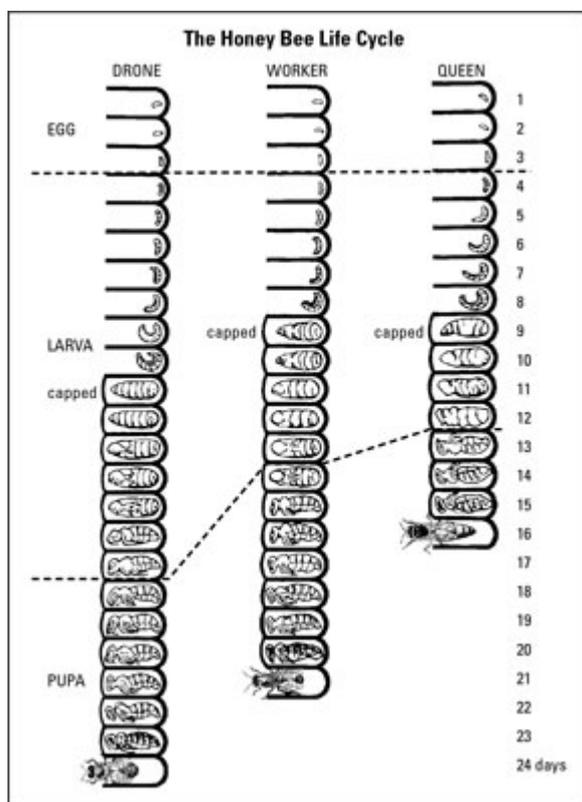
Steritech

The last consignment of equipment that went to Steritech has been returned and distributed to the owners.

If any member is in any way suspicious that a hive has afb, they should get one of the experienced club members to examine the hive. An early diagnosis will help to limit the spread. It is recommended that all beekeepers use a barrier system.

There will be a need to send more equipment to Steritech in the future. Keep any contaminated gear isolated from bees, and let Brian Window or Stephen Fowler know how much you have.

Honey Bee Life Cycle.



This chart shows the daily development cycle of all three castes, from egg to adult. Before they hatch, the eggs lay over, and, when they hatch, the larvae are smaller than the egg, but grow rapidly.

Why are the pupae so much bigger than the larvae when they are capped?

Library

The library has a copy of Robert Owen's book on beekeeping, "The Australian Beekeeping Manual".

Although written primarily for the southern part of Australia (he operates "Bob's Bees", an equipment store in Melbourne, as well as being a beekeeper), it is nearly all applicable to our region, and is one of the better bee books that are in print now. Available on the net from eg Fishpond for about \$40.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Sunday 31st January 2016 at the home of Peter and Paula Slaney, 210 Smiths Creek Road, Smiths Creek, on the other side of Kyogle.

The activities of the day will be " Routine Examination of Hives", and a discussion about "Living with Small Hive Beetle". Bring your bee gear.

The day will start with morning tea at 10 for 10.30am, with plenty of time for socialising. Then, we will have the activities. Lunch will follow at around 12 midday (cost \$5). This will be followed by a club business meeting.

Please bring either a morning tea item or a salad for lunch.

Visitors are always welcome.

Remember to bring your chairs.

Directions

From Lismore, go to Kyogle, proceed through town, and turn left at the bottom of the main drag into the road to Toonumbar Dam through Geneva. Follow this Afterlea Road for about 15 km, until you cross Smiths Creek. About 400m further, turn right into Smith Creek Road. Proceed along Smith Creek road for about 2 km. The Slaney residence (210) is on the right.

Look for the bee signs.