FROM THE BEEHOUSE – WINTER 2014

Welcome to the winter 2014 edition of our beekeeping Newsletter! This Winter Issue is a bit late – sorry and we hope it is not too late to be of use to you! In this issue we are dealing with construction and assembly of beekeeping equipment. Winter is a great time to get all the gear ready and into shape for the start of the season.

We are having rather difficult weather for our bees here in South- East Queensland. The dry autumn followed by a very dry winter with a couple of good frosts here at Crystal Waters has upset flowering. Some Beekeepers a little further north and west report the worst conditions they can recall. In some case trees have flowered but are not producing any nectar and little pollen. The Teatree has been good along the coast – no rain meant the bees could work the flowers and it has resulted in a good yield for some – the best since late last year. Lack of pollen and nectar generally will reduce the number of swarms but it will also mean that it will be challenge to make splits. If there is some honey in your hives do not over-harvest. Make sure there is plenty left behind for your bees. Make sure that your bees have access to water at all times. If you are offering the bees an open source of water make sure that they have a safe landing spot. Generally bees will land at the edge of a pond and "suck" the water through sand or moist mud.

Honey prices have been on the rise as honey is in short supply. One Apiarist (from Beechworth Honey) asked customers to reduce consumption. We have been lucky here with some modest flows and at this stage we have been able to keep up with demand – just. We entered our honey in the Maleny and Nambour Shows and won the First price in Maleny and the Second in Nambour. I know nothing about entering in Shows and was told that there are quite strict conditions and that I would have done "much better" if I had stuck to the rules. Maybe something to look at before the show season starts next year.

I regularly hear of bee losses due to AFB (American Foul Brood) . This is of major concern to all Apiarists as a case of AFB means the bees have to be killed and the hive burned. There are no short cuts. We need to make it our business to know what AFB looks and smells like. Hygiene is a large part of avoiding AFB but there is also a share of bad luck involved as this is a disease which is very easily spread.

SHB (Small Hive Beetle) numbers have been low of late. Dry conditions are not ideal conditions for their breeding. Do not become complaisant and make sure that you check your traps regularly. As soon as the weather warms and the rain returns they will be back in force.

We are still selling bee gear at very competitive prices. Have a look at the price list at the end of the Newsletter.

We are offering Another Beekeeping Workshop on the 13. September (only a few places left) and probably another one in October. *Let us know if you are interested!*

I wish you good rain and plenty of honey in the season ahead

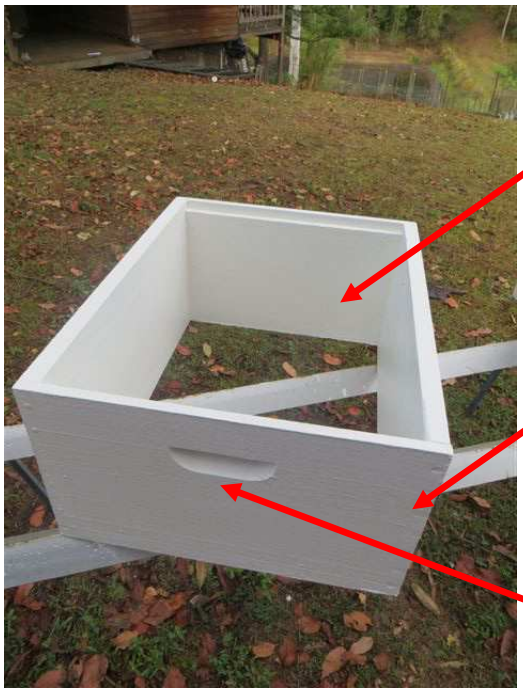
Max and Trudi Lindegger.

Bees / Hives for sale or wanted!

I have often requests for hives from people wanting to start up. If you have any hives or beekeeping equipment for sale , please let me know and I will pass the information on

ASSEMBLING YOUR BEE GEAR

Before assembling your boxes or any other wooden parts, we recommend that you paint the parts all over with a quality undercoat or paint. Acrylic is OK and light colours are best.



WARNING: Ensure that the four handgrips are on the outside and facing up the right way.

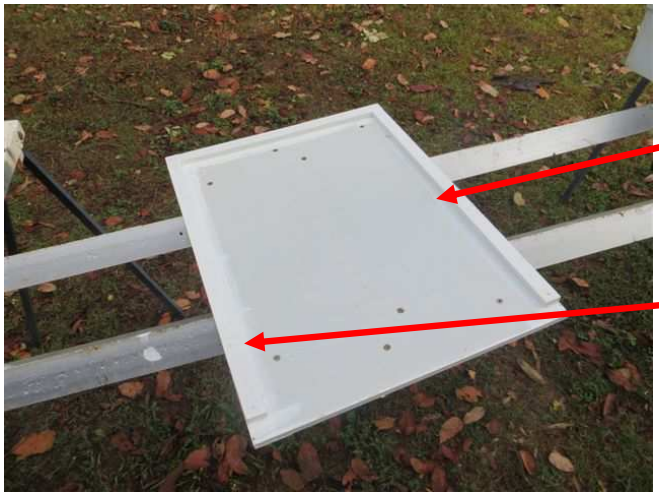
Use quality glue (like "Titebond III") on all contact surfaces. Clamp the four parts tightly and make sure all is square. Nail together.

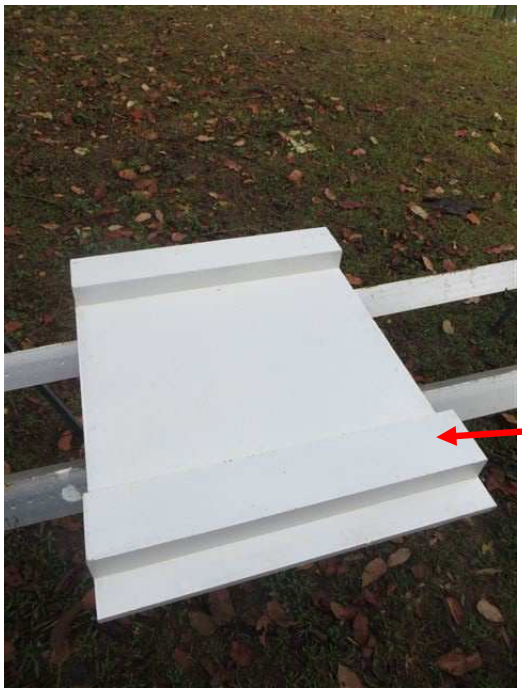
Paint box inside and outside with undercoat or a quality paint. Give the inside one coat of top coat and the outside two coats.

How to Assemble Bottom Boards

Masonite Bottom Board:

We suggest that you give everything a coat of undercoat – not the masonite.





Cleats: Screw from inside and glue (optional)

It is a good idea to give the entire bottom board a coat of undercoat and 2 coats of top coat.

How to Assemble Lids

Masonite (under) smooth side down

Screens on inside

Masonite smooth side down

Paint into corners

Migratory Lid: Paint the ventilation holes in the lid rims, but be sure not to leave any blobs or runs in them.

Paint all parts in the flat. When dry, place the Tempered Masonite lining in position, smooth side downwards (towards the bees) and nail to frame. Paint assembled frame with two coats of paint. Insert the vent grids. Place galvanised lid on top and nail on corners.

In extra hot weather, bees appreciate some shade. Put a large sheet of galvanised iron on your hive and hold it in place with some heavy stones.

How to Make UP "All Wood" Frames

Pre drill holes for eyelets – 3mm.

Insert the eyelets into the end bar holes to prevent the wires cutting into your end bars.

Place the top bar, with the groove facing up, on a bench.

Place a small amount of glue in the hollows at the top and bottom of the end bars. We recommend "Titebond III".

Push the end bars into position on the lugs of the top bar.

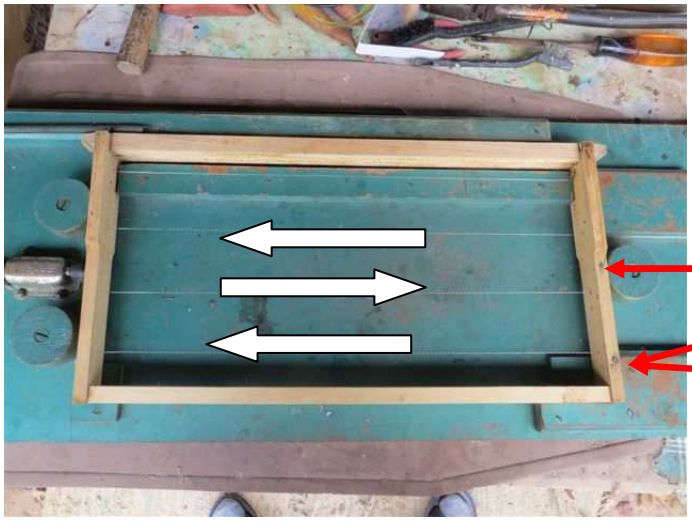
Put the bottom bar into position.

Drive one nail in each end of the bottom bar, using a nail punch to give it the last hit and drive it just under the surface of the wood.

Turn the frame right way up, and drive one nail in each end of the top bar finishing off as for the bottom bar. I think a lot of lugs are partially fractured in this operation, and, after some use, eventually break. If the right amount of glue is used, one nail in each of the joins will prove sufficient or use an assembly jig.

Frame Assembly box.

How to Wire Guilframes and "All Wood" Frames



Blue tack here

Start here

Place the frame on the table with the top bar at the top. On the narrow edge of the right hand end bar, about centre of the side bar, drive a 10mm tack or a very small nail, 12 X 1.4, about half way in, and do the same near the bottom hole.

Thread the wire as shown, going through the bottom hole of the right hand end bar to start, and continue following the arrows.

Pull the wire through the top right hand hole for about 8 cm (3inches), wind it securely (4 times) around the tack, drive the tack right in, break the wire off flush. Tack head or wire left sticking out could catch on your uncapping knife.

Start to tighten the wires from the top wire down. To tighten the top wire, pull on the second top wire in the opposite direction to the arrow. Continue down each wire, tightening as you go. For the bottom wire you can wrap the wire outside the frame around a ball point pen to tighten.

Then bend the wire sharply upwards and fasten off around the bottom tack. Drive the tack right in and break off the wire. Make sure no wire sticks up.

The correct tension for wiring frames ensures the wires are straight, but you are not stringing a guitar – they don't have to be tight enough to play a tune.

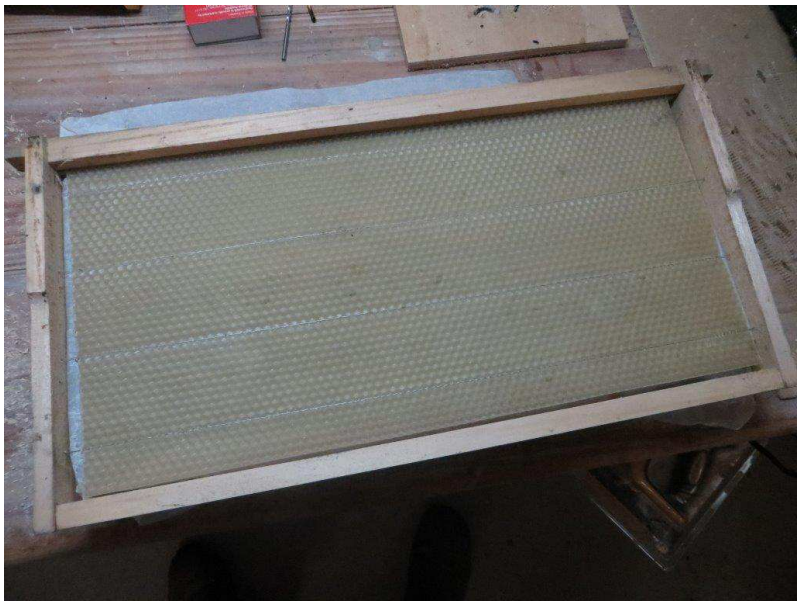
A wire tamer will help you control your wire as you unwind it, and will prevent you losing "the end" when you cut the wire.

An alternative method of tightening your wires is to use a crimper. This ingenious device with special hardened-steel rollers can be used on frames that have just been wired, as well as old frames whose wires have loosened over time.

How to Embed Ordinary Foundation

Stand the frame top bar down on the table, leaning it towards you.

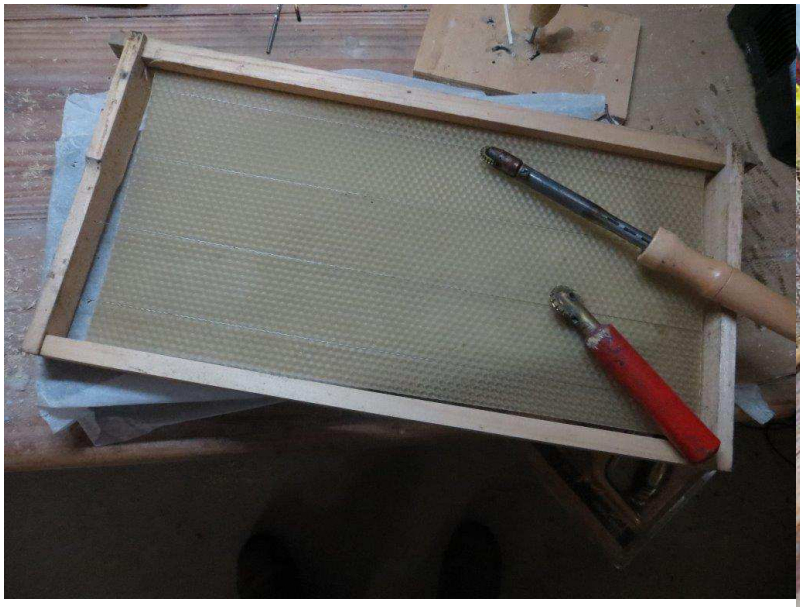
Place the sheet of foundation on the wires, and slide it right down into the groove in the top bar, and by bending it a little, insert it into the groove in the bottom bar. Be sure it is about an equal distance from each end bar. Lay the frame flat on the table with the foundation resting on the wires.



Place the flat side of the embedding board on top of the foundation, and grasping the frame and embedding board together, turn upside down. You then have in order from the bottom, table, embedding board, sheet of foundation and wires.

If using a spur wheel embedder, heat it in hot water, and run it along the

wires to insert them about half way into the foundation.



If using an electric embedder, place the contact of the embedder on the top of a single wire; close the switch with your thumb, then release the switch as soon as the wire commences to sink into the foundation.

It is a good idea to embed your foundation no more than a few days before you put it in the hive. Otherwise it has a tendency to buckle, especially in hot weather.

BeeKeeping Supplies List:

Prices Quoted are for pick-up from "The BeeHouse" @ 59 Crystal Waters, 65 Kilcoy Lane, Conondale. Tel 54944741 to pre order.

Supers:

10 Frame full depth A grade:	$23.00
8 Frame, full depth A grade:	$23.00
10 Frame, ½ depth A grade:	$14.00

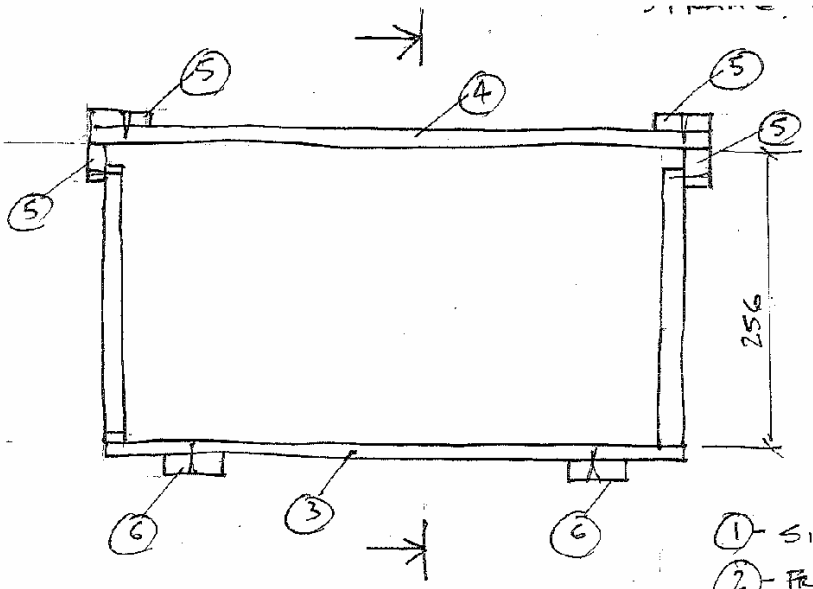
Nucleus:
(5 Frame, complete, A grade)
unassembled includes super,
lid and bottom: $40.00

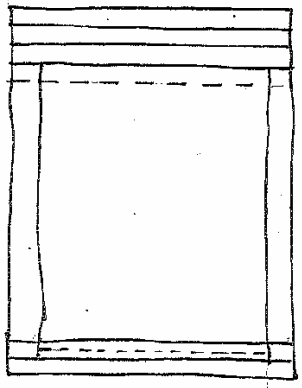
Bottom Board:
Weathertex, Cypress Pine cleats,
Hoop Pine risers: $12.80

10 Frame Lids:
rims, 6mm Weathertex,

Metal cover, Metal Vents:	$21.00
Frames, full Depth, Hoop Pine:	$1.20 each
Diatomaceous earth for SHB traps:	$2.00 each for small bag
Beetle Blaster Traps (SHB):	$2.00 each
Beetle Blaster Traps (SHB):	$18.00 (for 10)
American Hive Tool:	$8.00
Australian Hive Tool:	$17.00
Bee Brush:	$10.00 each
Frame Grip:	$15.00 each
Plastic Queen Excluders: (10 frame):	$10.00 each
Plastic Queen Excluders: (8 frame):	$10.00 each
Thick foundation, full depth: 12 sheets per kg	$1.40 each
Eyelets (3mm):	$2.50 (approx 250 per bag)
Eyelet Punch:	$5.00 each
Frame cleaner:	$10.00 each
Capping Scratcher:	$10.00 each
Smoker (Australian made): Smoker (Chinese made):	$80.00 each $40.00 each
Lemon Grass Oil: Small Large	 $5.00 $10.00
Nutrition Labels:	$3.00 sheet of 48
Electric Uncapping Knife (USA made):	$180.00
Frame Wire Crimper:	$16.00 each
Embedder:	$10.00 each
Nuc’s 4 or 5 frames: Bees available spring & early Summer from our own splits & queens.	$80.00 each

How to Assemble a Nucleus Box



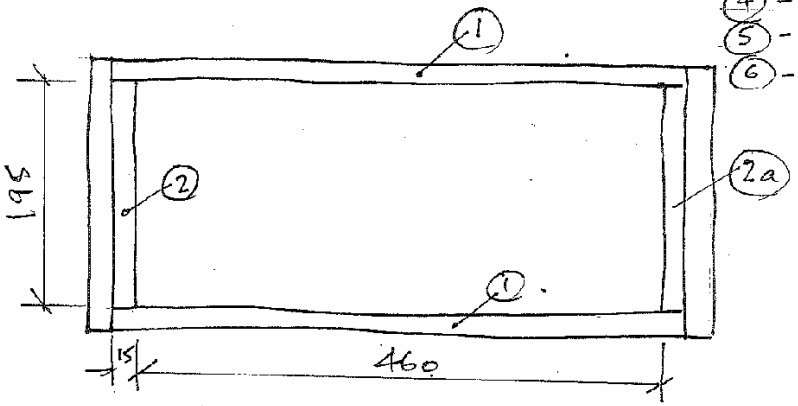


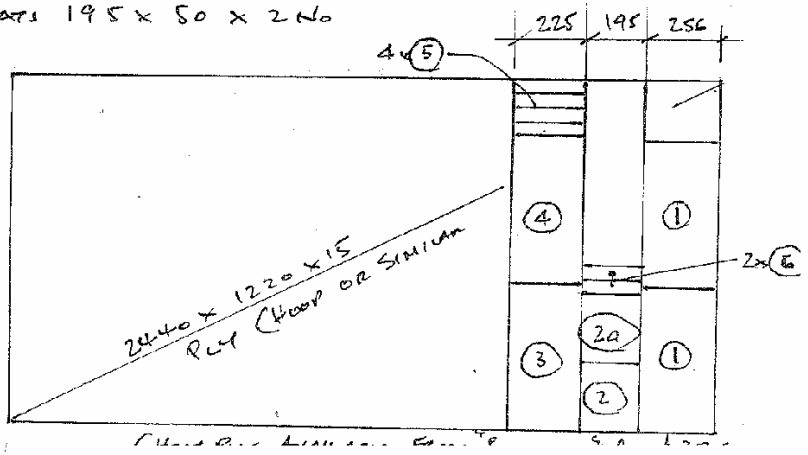
15 mm PLY

1 Sheet 2400 x 1200
Makes 4 Nucs

5 Frame Nuc Boxes
Not To Scale

1 - Sides 490 x 256 x 2 No
2 - Front 195 x 234 x 1 No Back 195 x 241 1No (2a)
3 - Bottom 225 x 490 x 1 No
4 - Lid 225 x 520 x 1 No
5 - Cleats 225 x 50 x 4 No
6 - Cleats 195 x 50 x 2 No





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