

# Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc.)

[www.beesnorth.com.au](http://www.beesnorth.com.au)

PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814



## Newsletter No 7, August 2021

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### Next Meeting:

**Sunday, 22 August 10:00 am**

Michael Hooper Park, Deeragun

**Clean up Day at the Park on Sunday 8 August, 9:00 am:**  
**Volunteers needed**

Bring a chair and something tasty. Tea, coffee, milk available  
We will be using current COVID safe procedures, as appropriate  
Free chats and discussion after the meeting

## Club Member Profile - Newsletter Editor Lindsay Trott talks to his bees – and himself

### Who's next on the Club Member Profile?

Name: Lindsay Trott      HIN: T624      Suburb: North Ward

Both: Native and European bees. The natives are just nice to sit and watch and don't take up much time, whereas I run 2 hives at McKinley St, 2 hives at Willmet St. At each location one of those hives is a Biosecurity Queensland (BQ) monitoring hive.



I started beekeeping in 2014 with a nuc and some sage advice from long time Clubbie and beekeeper Dan Donovan, and assistance from another Club newbie Ray Berkelmans. I guess Ray and I mentored each other by virtue of our wide reading, asking questions of Dan, and chatting to other Clubbies, and by trial and many errors.

I am the beekeeper in our house, as my other half, Heidi, reacts strongly to stings.

I started off making my own full depth Langstroth timber hives; sanding, treating three times with toxic copper naphthanate, waiting a week in between each coat, undercoating, and then applying 3 coats of gloss Enamacryl. It's an expensive and time-consuming process, but you do learn the tradition of making timber hives and the dimensions involved, and you learn why things are done a certain way. I am gradually moving to Nuplas plastic hives as they do not need painting and do not rot. They are however heavier and more slippery compared to timber. I started using plastic foundation (washed, rinsed, rinsed, and rinsed again, and then coated in wax), but have started crossing over to beeswax foundation due to the bees taking to it much faster and using the whole frame for brood and honeycomb.

I took up bees after retiring from marine research, and have really enjoyed learning about the social structure within the hive and what are the main influences on raising a happy, productive hive – it seems nothing is guaranteed and you always have to expect the unexpected when opening a hive. Beekeeping is also a great way meet people, as you can just barge in on someone you don't know who has bees, or at a honey seller at a market stall, and start a great conversation like you are long lost friends. Conversations about bees at dinner parties have been limited to 5 minutes only at our place. I am fascinated by the simple chemical signals (pheromones) that control the behaviour of queens, drones and workers, and the chemistry of nectar, pollen and honey. Ray Berkelmans has furnished me with wifi connected hive scales so that I can check my hives remotely every 10 minutes for hive weight, humidity, temperature and barometric pressure – this just adds to the constancy of me fretting/celebrating about my bees in my daily consciousness.

I have made lots of mistakes and learned heaps along the way – just look back at some of the previous Newsletters on our website for a laugh at some of the "Bee Bloopers" sections. One of my favourites was shifting 2 hives by 5m in my backyard using the "no more than 1m at a time" method. (See the March 2015 Newsletter).

"Why not use wheelbarrows and just shuffle them along 1m at a time at night" said I.

Great idea until the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> mornings when it dawned on me, and the bees, that there was a hive in the wheelbarrow 1m back at the previous night's location. Massed angry bees in the morning with no way to sort it out – and then it rained – heavily – and the wheelbarrows started to fill up. What I would do differently is the "easy method" of just shifting the hive to the desired location and putting obstructions over the hive entrance, like palm fronds and sticks that make the field bees re-orient their GPS systems when they emerge in the morning. You can use this method for 2m or 200m or 2km moves, its great. Another blooper was trying to resurrect a collapsed 3 box hive at night without suiting up properly, and using flashlights.....**don't do it**, wait till the morning.



I have been part of the successful Biosecurity Queensland Varroa mite eradication program which gave me an inside understanding of the huge effort it take to detect, track, trace and eliminate an invasive insect (Asian honey bee) carrying a destructive passenger (Varroa mite) that would change Australia's agriculture industries, and our hobby, forever. The BQ program needed to understand many different aspects of bee biology, and a fortunate and unusual behaviour of one of the bees' predators (vomiting Rainbow bee eaters) to succeed. To defeat your enemy you need to know how it operates and find a weakness. (I think that's something along the lines of SunTzu – The Art of War. <https://www.shortform.com/blog/sun-tzu-art-of-war-quotes/>)

My hives are a bit erratic in production depending on whether I have had problems with queens staying put, and I seem to be having less than a 40% success at re-queening, despite doing all the recommended preparations. I initially averaged 50 kg honey /year / hive but seem to be getting less in the last couple of years – rain?, weather?, flowers?, poor queens?, poor management?. I sell some honey to pay for queens, give a lot away for presents, and tried making mead a few times. I have started bartering some honey for fresh fish from a friend, which is a great change from giving it all away.

I have been the Newsletter Editor/writer since 2015 and enjoy the challenge of researching material to fill up the Newsletter each month. It's a bit of a disappointment to see that there are over 450 members and yet I only get input from a handful of members – a bit like the handful of active Club members who provide so many of the benefits for all who belong to the Club – like the Club Shop, presentations, mentoring, stalls, info displays, swarm removals, Open Days, school visits and presentations. Get involved, its worth it.

## Helpful Bee Hints from Alan Ziegenfusz

I get asked what detergent I use to clean up my suits, I use this detergent on the right for every thing, all natural, no phosphate or dyes, cheap as chips, goes a long way, even good for clothes, the good Dr John Carr should use it for his bee suite as it does not irritate the bee's sensitive noses. (See separate photos of bees giving John's suit a pasting at the July Club meeting).



Alan gravity filters his bulk honey on the left "bucket to a bucket" with the water tap into bottles. See below for the tap details.



Water taps from Bunnings I use on my honey buckets to bottle honey, no leaks as they are a water tap.



Alan saw this in the Townsville Bulletin recently. Apparently it's a Paris high fashion statement. Hmmmm, it might work well with a pair of long pants and boots.



### Club Library on display

Our Club Librarian, Beryl Smart showing off her wares – all for you to borrow, but please return those old borrowings so that other Clubbies can access them.

The club has a great library and is always expanding our selection of books. From books for the complete novice to the citizen scientists among us! Books cover native bees, European honeybees and other members of the bigger bee family. There are also magazines such as the 'Beekeeper' which can all be borrowed (and returned).

### Free webinars to view

These webinars are presented free of charge by the British Bee Vet Association, to benefit global bee awareness to beekeepers and veterinarians <https://britishbeevets.com/bbva-webinars/> Click on the above link for access.

**European Foul Brood** by Dr Chris Palgrave  
**Biosecurity and Apiculture** by Dr Colas Vidal Naquet  
**The Genetics of the Irish Honey bee** by Dr Jack Hassett



### John Carr's mad bees go for Club members

John's angry bees had been giving him trouble recently, so after the July meeting, he asked Frana to check them out for him. A few interested Clubbies thought they would wander over with their cuppa and watch – but not for long!

Check the number of bees in front of John and on his suit on the left, and on the right, the rapid retreat of Clubbies Miles and Alan Z, already at 20m who also got a taste of bee, but not a taste of honey. The Ed also got a sting just for taking the photo.



## Preparing the plastic foundation so the bee's enjoy them!

Frana and Sandylee show the difference in hive foundation

Frana and Sandy gave a very interesting talk on the use of pre-formed plastic foundation in our frames at the Club meeting in April.

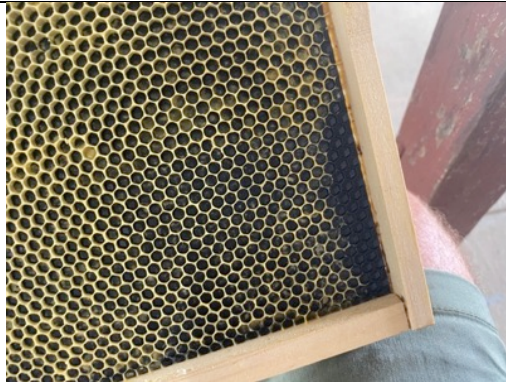
The simple summary is you have to make the plastic foundation interesting for your bees. The bees tend not to use the plastic foundation without some encouragement.

It is absolutely vital to remove the smell/taste of the raw plastic and then ensure all of the plastic foundation with evenly coated with wax.

Frana and Sandy had some great examples of where a failure of "workmanship" resulted in partial use of the plastic foundation.



The frame nicely covered in drawn wax



But even here note the corners have been missed



The frame is not covered with sufficient wax so the bees only use the piece properly prepared



Poorly prepared plastic foundations can lead to interesting bracing which can make honey extraction messy and difficult. And spilt honey inside the hive is never a great idea!

One final trick with plastic foundations, cut the corner out so the bees can more easily move around the hive.

## Objectives of the Club

The objects of the TDBAI association are listed for your info —

- 3.1 To increase the knowledge of bees and bee culture.
- 3.2 To increase the standard of beekeeping among beekeepers.
- 3.3 To assist in the study of subjects allied and relevant to apiarist activities.
- 3.4 To afford advice and assistance to beginning beekeepers, particularly in overcoming their early difficulties.
- 3.5 To arrange lectures, discussions, demonstrations and field days for the benefit of members.
- 3.6 To assist members in obtaining suitable apiculture materials, bees and equipment.
- 3.7 To promote, encourage and support appropriate experimental work connected with beekeeping.
- 3.8 To promote knowledge and understanding of natural honey resources that may assist in the protection of honey-producing flora.
- 3.9 To work with government, semi-government and non-government agencies for the benefit of members of the Association.
- 3.9 To collect, produce, publish and disseminate information on beekeeping to members and to the wider community.

## "Rubbermaid" Bee Vacuum

<http://bylers.tripod.com/beevac.htm>

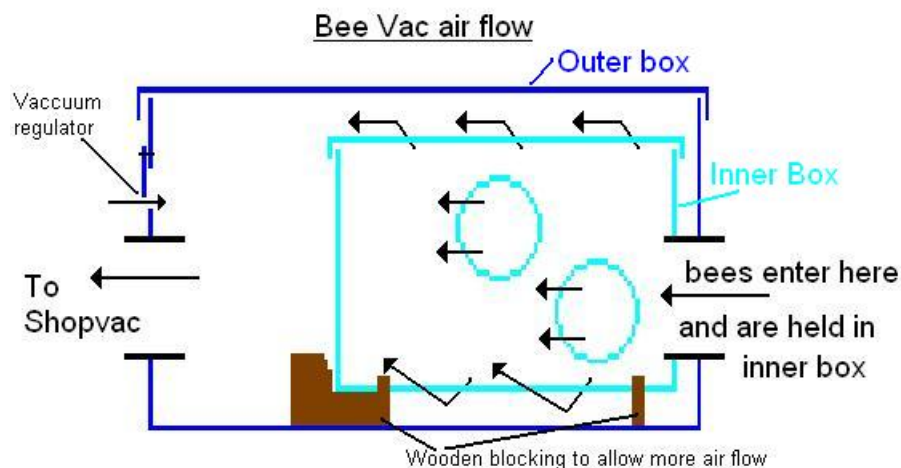
Article by Jon and Frana McKinstry

Necessity is the mother of invention. A long time ago, Frana & I were asked to remove bees from a difficult site. Normal extraction was not practicable and so we got online and downloaded plans for a "beevac" from beesource.com.

We use clear plastic containers so we could see the bees inside. Ours came from Overflow. The resulting BeeVac is based on Matthew Westall's originals plans. It worked great and was worth every penny.

The design is a "box in a box". The outer box is connected to a domestic vacuum cleaner, which creates a vacuum inside the box. The inner box has several "panels" with openings covered with screen. There is a tube "fitting" that extends from inside the inner box, through a hole in the outer box and is connected to a domestic vacuum cleaner hose that actually vacuums up the bees.

The bees are vacuumed through the hose and into the inner box. Once inside the inner box, they are trapped because all the holes are covered with screen except the hole they entered by and there is enough vacuum at that hole that they cannot escape that direction. There is enough opened (and screened) surface area on the inner box and the vacuum force is spread out enough that bees can climb around on each other and do not get sucked up against the screens.



We like this design because we can view the bees the whole time. The container boxes are lighter than wood, and don't require as much work to build. I made two inner boxes, so when one looks fairly full of bees, I can remove it, cover the open end with screen, insert the next inner box and capture more bees! Bees are remarkably docile after being vacuumed.

We vacuumed the bees off one or two pieces of comb, then removed those pieces of comb and tied them into frames, which then were placed into deep super boxes. We repeated until there were basically no bees crawling in the old hive. We estimate we left less than 10 bees! To release the bees in their new hive, we put an empty deep super on top of a deep brood box containing their own comb, placed the inner box of bees on top of the frames, opened the inner box lid, and placed the telescoping lid over top. This way, the bees had to pass through all of their own comb before they could leave the hive. The bees accepted their new home and even the queen had been safely moved! The only drawback with any BeeVac is the need for electricity in order to run the vacuum.

Jon & Frana McKinstry

## Australian company Flow Hive awarded international award for high environmental standards

B Corp have awarded Flow Hive a gong for sustainable production with over 80,000 Flow Hives sold around the world.

<https://bcorporation.net/directory/beeinventive-pty-ltd%20>

Flow Hive said:

"We've improved our timber sourcing and waste by manufacturing in-house, enabling us to control the entire process and manage our waste and environmental outputs.

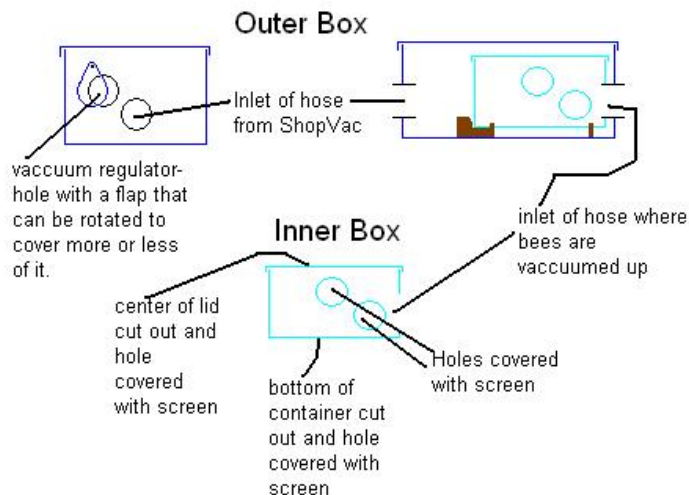
Minimising impact by exclusively running on solar, our laser manufacturing and powering of our warehouse is carbon neutral.

Honouring our high-standard QC means that imperfect timber components are repurposed as Scratch & Dent products.

We upcycle our offcuts to produce the Flow Pollinator House – 100% of profits returned to conservation and pollinator protection projects.

We use certified organic cotton in our beekeeping suit kits – using significantly less water and chemicals than conventionally grown cotton."

## Rubbermaid container BeeVac



We found that the key to keeping the bees healthy was to regulate the vacuum. If it is too high, they were sucked into the inner box too hard and they were injured. If the vacuum was too weak, they weren't sucked into the hose and were able to crawl back out they way they went in. We added a vacuum regulator on the end of the outer box. We cut a round hole and then fastened a flap of material that can be rotated to cover more or less of the hole. If I notice that the bees are not being sucked into the hose, I close the flap a little. If they seem to be hitting the inside of the inner box too hard, I open the flap a little more.



## Bees on the internet

A roundup of interesting articles on the internet about bees.

1. **High class honey taster.** Jessica Locarnini is one of a small but growing number of honey sommeliers around the world Her palate can distinguish nuanced flavours and terroir; she can detect faults and adulteration. But unlike a restaurant sommelier who recommends wine to guests, Locarnini works in the field of honey.

The Melbourne-based marketing professional has trained with – and received official certification from – the American Honey Tasting Society to detect hundreds of different aromas in the sticky, viscous liquid and even distinguish what sort of flowers bees have foraged on.

She is now working with beekeepers to develop language around Australian honey collected in native forests, and advising chefs on the right honey for the right dish. <https://www.beeculture.com/honey-sommelier/>



2. **Saudi Arabian Honey farms.** Honey, an essential part of the breakfast ritual for many Saudis, is one of the most popular products from the Kingdom's southern highlands. For hundreds of years, the mountains of Asir have produced some of the finest varieties of honey.

The mountains are known for their climatic and geographical diversity, with thousands of trees and flowering shrubs providing an ideal environment for nature's cultivators, bees. The Sarat Asir mountains are ideal for beekeeping in the Saudi summers, due to the precipitation and moderate weather.

In winter, beekeepers move their hives from the mountaintops to the Tihama plains in order to achieve ecological balance and protect bees from harsh conditions.

Bees can also produce larger quantities of honey due to the availability of honey plants and trees, such as the sidr, sumra, talh, salm, darm, sharm and shouka.

Honey production is gaining extra attention from the government, which has launched several projects to encourage beekeeping.

The projects hope to train Saudi youth to pursue beekeeping as part of a campaign to promote the culture of beekeeping in the Kingdom in line with the Kingdom's Vision 2030 plan to diversify the labor market. <https://www.beeculture.com/saudi-arabia-honey-farms/>



3. **Dutch honey bees resistant to varroa mite imported to Australia to help guard against the pest.**

The queen bees are progeny bred in the Netherlands. The foreign queen bees have special traits to protect them against the blood-sucking varroa mite. The pest has ravaged bee colonies around the globe, and Australia is the only continent still free of varroa. They're the first successful importation of bee genetics into Australia in 15 years. What's more, these Dutch queens have special traits that give them some defence against *Varroa destructor*, a blood-sucking mite that has ravaged bee colonies around the globe. Australia remains the only continent still free of varroa mite. Despite stringent measures around the nation's entry points, most believe it will inevitably breach our biosecurity defences.

It is present in New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and South-East Asia. Feral beehives infected with the parasite can easily hitch a ride on any of the thousands of container ships that dock our ports. So the \$100-million-a-year apiary industry, backed by the horticultural industry, is on the front foot.

Some produce, such as almonds, avocados and melons, is entirely dependent on honey bees for pollination. It's the first time in 15 years bees have been imported into Australia

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-07-16/bee-imports-to-protect-against-varroa-mite/100289356>



A varroa mite, a common pest that can weaken bees and make them more susceptible to pathogens, feeds on a honey bee. (Supplied: Alex Wild, University of Texas.)

Dr John Carr made this observation on the importation of foreign bees for their hygienic behavioural genetics:

"While this is interesting, there is no such thing as bees resistant to Varroa ticks. It is like saying people resistant to mosquitos.

However, the bee can have better hygienic behaviour and reduce the impact of Varroa on the hive. But the importation of bees from abroad is more likely to introduce novel pathogens and it is interesting that this is first importation for 15 years.

The Dutch were not the first to look at hygienic behaviour and we have not explored or examined our own genetic resources for genetic behaviour regarding the bees' natural defences. Enhancing and selecting for bees with good hygienic behaviour will increase our bees natural defences against pathogens we do have in Australia, for example: *Ascospaera apis* (Chalkbrood) and (*Paenibacillus larvae*) American Foul Brood."

## What is hygienic behavior anyway? – we asked our resident vet Dr John Carr

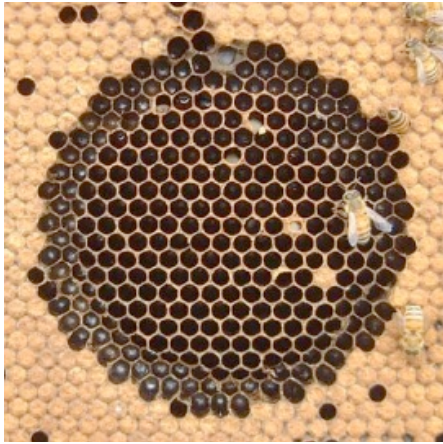
Bees with a high hygienic behaviour appear to be able to protect themselves against a range of pathogens including Varroa, Chalkbrood and American Foul Brood

Utilising a hygienic behaviour examination can be a significant step to controlling Colony Collapse Disorder. It is possible to examine a hive for hygienic behaviour with a 24 hour test.

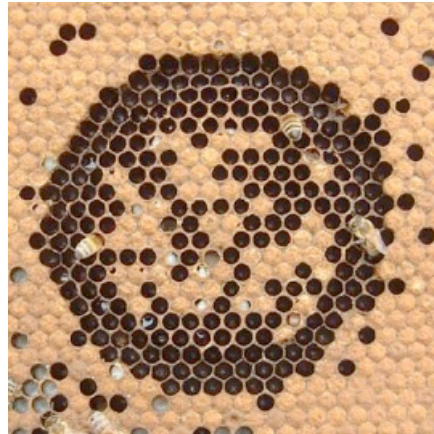
### Technique:

- 1 Identify a frame with a solid area of capped worked pupae (pink eye stage) 15 days post lay.
- 2 Shake the nursery bees from the frame.

- 3 Place the frame horizontally on a solid surface.
- 4 Using a 6 cm circular ring kill all the pupae using a sharp pin penetrating the capping's and pupae. The pupae may be killed by freezing with liquid nitrogen. Or it may be possible to remove the circle/square of pupae and kill by freezing for 48 hours in a freezer and then returning the piece of frame.
- 5 Replace the frame into the hive
- 6 Reexamine the frame 24 hours later
- 7 If 95% or more of the pupae have been removed and the cells cleaned; the queen may be considered "hygienic".



Hygienic bees have workers which remove dead pupae within 24 hours



Unhygienic bees have workers who only partly remove dead pupae within 24 hours

- 8 If the queen is considered hygienic she and her drones should be utilised as part of the future breeding programme

See John's latest bee health book for more details, or borrow it from the Club Library:

**Managing bee health.** 2016. ISBN 978-1-910455-03-6

## ***Remember the Shop etiquette***

*We are still in Covid-19 restrictions, please consider the welfare of all*

Email orders will be given priority and serviced – but walk in orders may not be completed.

Pre-order by email before midnight on the Thursday before shop opening to [shop@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:shop@beesnorth.com.au); please do not send your order to [info@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:info@beesnorth.com.au)

## **Golden Rules for the Club Shop:**

Please follow this guide:

1. Order by Thursday midnight **before** the opening day, by email: [shop@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:shop@beesnorth.com.au)
2. Arrive at the Shop **after** 9:00 am, pay for your order and don't hang around inside the Shop to chat – too many people inside.
3. Non-emailed or late orders may not get any attention if the Shop is too busy.

## ***Native bee Newsletter – join the group and check out some great info and photos***

The CROSS-POLLINATOR - Newsletter of the Australian Native Bee Association

Original articles, new information and news from the world of native bees. The Association has branches in Sydney, Brisbane, Wide Bay and Gladstone, but no Townsville branch?? Are there enough interested native beekeepers to get one "flying"?

Check out these sites: <https://australiannativebee.org.au/>  
<https://www.instagram.com/australiannativebeeassociation/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Australian.Native.Bee.Association/>

## ***TDBAI Club activities***

### ***General Meeting Minutes - Dr John Carr's at Balgal Beach 17/07/2021.***

**Note taker:** Lindsay Trott (LT)

**Meeting opened:** Vice President Iain Gordon (IG) opened meeting at 10:35 am

**Visitors:** New Members welcomed, attendance book signed

**Previous Minutes:** Previous minutes were noted – see previous Newsletter, moved Iain Gordon, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Frana McKinstry. Previous minutes corrected for Beryl Smart being absent, thank you Alan Z. No business arising from the previous minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:** Total Cash Assets \$39K – no formal report

**Library:** Beryl gave a run through of available titles and had books on display. IG promoted John Carr's (JC) bee anatomy book.

**Secretary:** Waldon Edwards resigned as he has moved South. A round of thanks was offered. LT offered to place-hold till AGM.

**Newsletter:** Editor requested articles and local news.

**Club Shop:** Usually on 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month from 9-10 am at 3/38 Rendle St, Aitkenvale. E-mail your requests before Friday. Sales are going gangbusters. Wednesday night opening went well.

**General Business:**

- It is proposed to hold the club's Open Day at MHP in September – Date to be confirmed.

- Workshop suggestions were – another of John Carr’s anatomy talks, an experienced beginners course, workshop on pests and diseases, native bee anatomy course with Nick Smith, recognition of native bees and local bugs

**Announcements:**

Positions available with the Club at the next AGM in September:

- Waldon Edwards – Secretary – announced his resignation effective Mon 21/06/2021.
- Mick Olsen – President – Will not be seeking election for another term.
- Frana McKinstry – Treasurer – Would very much appreciate a reduction in her workload.
- JC complemented the Club display and volunteers at “Our Townsville” stall, and recommended that we organise a honey and wax display section for the Townsville Show, we need to get all the info together from the officials. Frana said the Cairns Show had a great display from the local bee Club.
- JC, Frana did more school visits and presentations. Hermit Park SS visit saw 90 stimulated Year 6 kids. They have 2 x Flow Hives which were inspected and tapped for honey. Next week the display volunteers are off to Charters Towers for students – can you help?
- Alan Z reported that Landline on ABC has a program on importing Dutch queens with high cleaning activity to boost Australia’s readiness for Varroa.
- Luke V described an article where bees are being trained to detect COVID- 19 infections in humans.
- Maria showed us her handiwork with home made re-useable face masks that take internal liners, very stylish and available in variety of patterns -\$10.

**DAF/Varroa/AFB:**

- no recent AFB cases since Mysterton, which has been a hot spot for previous outbreaks. Members advised to recognise and treat promptly.
- Sugar shake to be continued- leave the bees in for 30 sec to get sugared up and really angry and activated for cleaning before emptying.

**Other matters:**

- Deeragun club site will be surveyed soon?date? prior to lease being issued – which will be a 5 yr lease initially, with options to extend.
- August meeting will host our Open Day at Deeragun at Michael Hooper Park. Councillor Margie Ryder and the neighbors to the Park will be invited.
- Need a Working Bee at Deeragun on Sunday 8 August at 9:00 am to clean up, volunteers needed. We need a gurney, brooms, rakes, shovels, gloves, shoes, utes and a trailer.
- Electricity is connected and ok – apparently, water is connected.
- Questions about Beetle Buster base board.

**Meeting Closed: 11:19**

Tea/coffee and conversation followed and John Carr’s nasty hive was opened with great excitement to onlookers and bees.

**Next Meeting: Sunday 22 August at 10:00 am** at Michael Hooper Park, Deeragun

**Club Meeting Photos from John Carr**

Also a picture of the discussions after the meeting: Looking at the 'beetle buster' and John’s 'assertive bees", and what to do with a stubborn stingless hive who likes being small, despite being over 3 years old and otherwise healthy!



## **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.

## **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.

## **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 post here. Please include name, phone contact, and a brief description of the question/problem and how urgent.

## **Email contacts for the Office Holders 2020/21**

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, shop@beesnorth.com.au,  
And for all web and membership enquiries : info@beesnorth.com.au

## **TDBAI Office Holders for 2020/20221**

President: Mick Olsen - president@beesnorth.com.au

Vice President: Iain Gordon

Secretary: Open

Treasurer: Frana McKinstry:

Treasurer's Assistant: Darren Hawkins

Treasurer's Assistant: Michelle Hasted

Membership: Frana McKinstry : info@beesnorth.com.au

Newsletter: Lindsay Trott

Assistant Editor: Dr John Carr

Librarian: Beryl Smart

Webmaster: Ray Berkelmans

Publicity Officer/ Equipment Steward: Sandylee Hutchison

Committee: Shane Grist Sonya Verburgt Alan Ziegenfusz Ronelle Ward Tom & Joan Rudell Lisa Fenoglio Paul Payne

## **\*Clean up Day at Michael Hooper Park on Sunday 8 August, 9:00 am: Volunteers needed**

## **\*Next Meeting is at Michael Hooper Park, Deeragun at 10:00 am Sunday 22 August**

**Directions:** Head North on Woolcock St, turn left off Bruce H'way towards Geaney Lane opposite Bohlevale SS, Continue down Geaney Lane, go under The Ring Road (A1) and turn first Right at Leonie St, turn first Left at Maxwell Drive, turn 2<sup>nd</sup> Right at Isaac St and proceed to the end of the street. Hooper Park is at end of Isaac St

The site can also be accessed via Veales Lane - turn left off Bruce Highway, 3rd left into Maxwell Drive, left into Isaac St.

## **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    Michael O'Connell- 0402088080

**Douglas/ Gulliver:**                      Sonya Verburgt - 04 0853 0991

**Alice River/ Bluewater:** Sharene Dougall – 0415426903                      Ronelle Nord – 0417752622                      Duane Saltmer - 0400 339 508    Amanda Woodcock – 040578408.

**Black River through to Rollingstone:** Alex Jenkins - 0459472166

**Aitkenvale:** Pat Dury - mob 0419252829

**Magnetic Island:** Tito Parigi - 0418 796 951

**Charters Towers:** Mervyn Yule - 0427 124 126

Swarm List Please contact Biosecurity Queensland on 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.



## **Newsletter Editor needs your input – why not tell me your story? Club Member Profiles**

From The Ed.

The Newsletter Editor receives some wonderful stories and photos from some of our Members. And it makes our Newsletter a personal and relevant method of communicating our bee adventures with to all our Members, many of whom cannot get to the meetings or events. Some of these stories are amusing – like The Blooper Series (The Ed seems to feature in a lot of these), Product Reviews, stories from the many events, markets and school visits, information from our more learned members, news about workshops and open days, and so on.

I would like to include a new section in the monthly Newsletter. I am suggesting that this section be about a different Club member each month, but it can only happen if at least 1 out of the 400+ members puts pen to paper, takes a snapshot and sends in the info to me at the Newsletter desk.

So how about it? Its not too much is it?, I will give you the questions – a bit like an interview so you don't have to think about what to say. You just have to write in and embellish a little, tell me funny stories, successes, failures, problems and what beekeeping means to you. Go for it!!

The TDBAI has over 400 members at last count.

Surely one or two are prepared to fill in a half page questionnaire and take a photo? If you cant write, and cant take a photo, then give me a call and I will come over for a cuppa and a chat and we will be able to extract a story with you for the rest of our Members enjoyment. Lets start off the Club Member Profile articles for the monthly Newsletter. I am offering to do the first one next month to show you what I would like to receive.

Here's the questionnaire – fill it out and attach a photo and send to me [mailto:: trottlindsay@gmail.com](mailto:trottlindsay@gmail.com)

## **CLUB MEMBER PROFILE QUESTIONNAIRE**

Name HIN Suburb Native or/and European bees No of hives/area of hive locations?  
Type of hives? Type of foundation? Beetle protection?  
Year commenced beekeeping? Who was your mentor? Who is involved in your household? Is anyone allergic/sensitive to stings?  
What has been your biggest success? / failure?/ mistake?/ biggest lesson?  
What would you do differently if you had to start beekeeping again after a disaster like fire/AFB/Varroa/cyclone  
Do you sell/barter/give away honey? How much honey does your average hive produce? Do you make any other products from your hives?  
Do you volunteer for the Club at Open days, markets, school events, public displays? Would you like to participate?  
Any stories you would like to tell?  
Attach photo please?

**That's it!!!! Just fill it out and send it to me, and you will be a rock star in the Monthly Newsletter.**

**Please provide more than just a one word answer!!**

The Ed

### ***Do you need a hive location on Castle Hill???***

Belinda and Paul West at 25 Francis St, West End are offering a protected, safe, hillside location for hives for pollination services of their vegie garden in return for the occasional jar of honey.

Contact : Home: 4771 6014 or email: [possummagic9@hotmail.com](mailto:possummagic9@hotmail.com) or Paul: 0459 12732

### ***Mick Laffin snaps some very happy bees***

Looks like the Melaleuca was in flower over at Mick's place recently, and the foragers were as happy as....

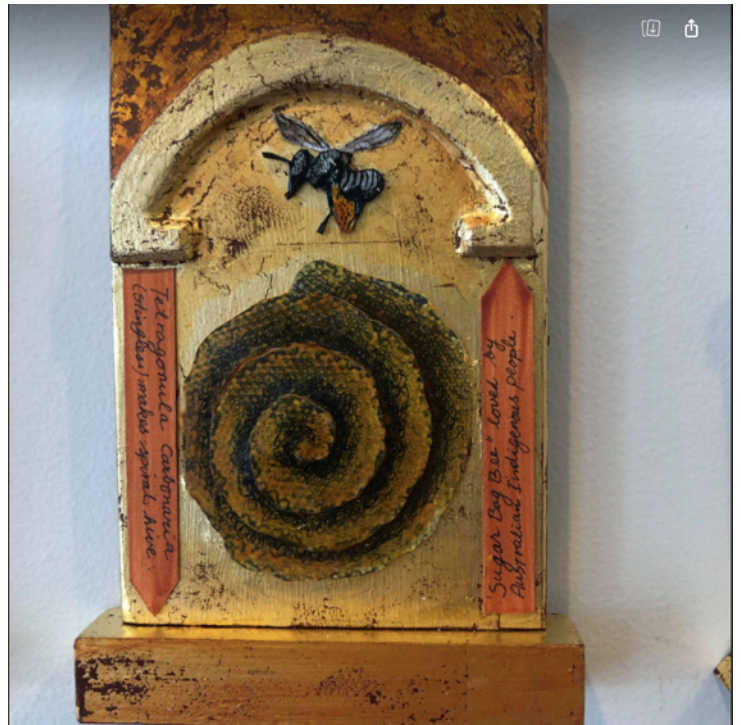


**Umbrella Studio in Townsville is hosting bee themed artworks and workshops at "Hive Alive"**

<https://www.umbrella.org.au/hive-alive/>

Golden Bee group are running the workshops and artwork as part of PUNQ 20/21 from 30 July -8 August 2021 <https://www.umbrella.org.au/punq/>

Golden Bee is a global collective of creative collaborators inspired by literal and metaphoric engagement with bees and other pollinators. The heart of the project contains notions of interconnection, sustainability in all spheres, and the linking of art, ideas and community to further social and cultural progress.



Check out these stunning artworks in traditional religious icon style – anatomically accurate and detailed – and Townsville’s famous artist and their creator Aneke Silver.

# Club Shop Items - 2021 Price List

These prices are only available to current financial members

Starter Kit (Jkt,gloves,tool,smoker,brush,book)	160.00	Wax Embedding tool - roller	15.00
Jacket - Ventilated	90.00	Wax Embedding tool - electric	45.00
Full Suit - ventilated	115.00	Block beeswax, per Kg	25.00
Replacement veil	25.00	Eyelets pkt 50g	6.00
Cowboy hat with veil	12.00	Awl (for picking eyelets)	5.00
Veil	20.00	S/S Wire x 500gm	20.00
Childs full suit - ventilated	80.00	Crimping Tool	14.00
Childs full suit - cotton	60.00	Bucket Bracket	10.00
Vented Pants	60.00	Bucket Opener	10.00
Gloves - pair	25.00	Queen Catcher Clip	3.00
Veil - Native Bee	3.00	Queen Catcher / Marker tube	10.00
Super - 10 Frame, wood	30.00	Frame Gripper	10.00
Super - 8 frame, wood	28.00	Frame Hanger	20.00
Super - Ideal, wood	28.00	Bee Feeders	1.00
Super - WSP, wood	28.00	Spring clips, pair, with screws	5.00
Lid (10 Frame) unassembled	27.00	Spatula (blue)	10.00
Lid (8 or 10 Frame) pre-assembled	35.00	Gate valve - Nuplas	12.00
Base - Ply (8 or 10 frame)	22.00	Gate valve - Parker	30.00
Base - Mesh	35.00	Gate valve O rings - Parker	8.00
Mesh sheet (for base construction)	15.00	Uncapping knife	15.00
Lifting Cleats (Handles, pair)	5.00	Uncapping knife - electric	45.00
Hive Mat - 10 frame	9.00	Comb scratcher	10.00
Clearer Board - 10 Frame	26.00	Strainer	30.00
Nuplas Super (8 or 10 Fr)	40.00	Scales	12.00
Nuplas Super - Ideal	35.00	Extractor - 4 Frame S/S	530.00
Nuplas Lid (8 or 10 Fr)	38.00	Native bee boxes	100.00
Nuplas Base (8 or 10 Fr)	45.00	Bee Haven Native Beehive	420.00
Nuplas 10 Fr set: 1 x super, lid & base	120.00	Honey jars 250gm	0.70
Nuplas cleats (Handles, pair)	10.00	Honey jars 500gm square	0.80
Nuplas oil tray & frame	28.00	Honey Jars Squeeze 550g	0.80
Hive Doctor plastic base (8 or 10 frame)	55.00	Honey Jars 1 kg	1.00
Beetle Buster base (8 or 10 frame)	110.00	Honey Pails - 1 kg	1.20
4 Frame Nuc Box	65.00	Honey Pails - 1.5kg	1.30
5 Frame Nuc Box	70.00	Honey bottle 2.8kg (2 litre)	0.80
Corflute Nuc boxes	28.00	Glass Jars 500g	1.00
Hive tool (S/S)	15.00	Bucket - 20 Litre	12.00
Smoker	38.00	Apithor trap	8.00
Smoker - Beeco	110.00	Silver Bullet trap	8.00
Smoker Fuel (1kg)	5.00	Diatomaceous Earth	4.00
Bee Brush	10.00	Guardian Bee Hive entrance (red)	15.00
Emlok - hive clamp	14.00	ABC of Beekeeping in Tropics	25.00
Hive Handle (galvanised, pr)	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, 10 frame	12.00	Inside the Hive	5.00
Queen Excluder scraper	10.00	Bees Knees	20.00
Frames - Full depth	2.00	Honey Labels (250/roll)	30.00
Frames - Full depth, prewired	4.00	Nutrition Panel labels (per roll)	30.00
Frame/Fdn, Beetek complete, waxed	7.00	Posca Queen marking pen	5.00
Frames - Ideal	1.50	Warning Sign	10.00
Frames - WSP	1.50	Bee Poster	20.00
Foundation - Plastic, full depth	2.10		
Foundation - Plastic, FD, pre-waxed	3.10	Club Polo Shirts S/S	40.00
Foundation - Plastic, WSP	2.00	Club Polo Shirts L/S	45.00
Foundation - Plastic, Ideal	2.00	Club hats with logo	15.00
Foundation - Wax, per sheet	2.40	T-Shirts "Beekeeping it Real"	20.00

## **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 via email:

[shop@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:shop@beesnorth.com.au)

