

Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc.)

www.beesnorth.com.au

PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814



Newsletter No 8, September 2021

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Club Member Profile - Simon Wever

Who's next on the Club Member Profile?

Words and photos from Simon Wever

Simon wrote: G'day Lindsay, Thanks very much for all the work you put into the newsletter, I really enjoy reading it. I rarely go to meetings any more as I'm extremely time poor so I thought I better fill out this profile and see if anyone in the club still remembers who I am.

Name: Simon Wever HIN: W1124 Suburb: Alligator Creek
Native or/and European bees: Only European at this stage. No of hives/area of hive locations? One hive but aiming

to expand to a second hive when conditions allow

Type of hives? Nuplas Type of foundation? I have a little bit of everything in my hive. Brood box is all timber super is a mix of different brands/styles. I'm hoping to slowly standardise to all new version Nuplas frames

Beetle protection? I've had ENORMOUS problems with hive beetle this year. I had lived in Heatley for all of my beekeeping career until moving to Alligator Creek around Xmas time 2020. Hive beetles were almost non-existent in the suburbs but out at Alligator Creek my hive has been absolutely smashed by them. I've been working hard on getting my hive back up to strength all year and have only just gotten on top of the problem after about 6 months. I have the Nuplas vented base with the tray underneath that I use sunflower oil in as standard. Other things I've done this year have been to use Apithor traps consistently and I've also installed fly screen over the vents on the Nuplas tropical lid. It occurred to me that beetles can easily come and go out of these vents yet the bees are unlikely to guard the top of the hive as opposed to the main entrance at the bottom of the hive I also want to look at inoculating my soil with nematodes that attack hive beetle larvae next wet season.

Year commenced beekeeping? 2015 Who was your mentor? Frana and Jon

Who is involved in your household? Is anyone allergic/sensitive to stings? My partner Cassy helps me spin honey but otherwise it's all me. Cassy's father is allergic to stings so she plans to get around to having herself tested one day rather than finding out the hard way.

What has been your biggest success? / failure? / mistake? / biggest lesson? Apart from the lengthy story about hive beetles mentioned above, my biggest challenge for quite some time was continually losing queens and bees to swarming. In the end the key seemed to be to give the hive more direct sunlight. I had built a nice insulated roof over my hive thinking that I was doing them a favour but Frana suggested more sunlight might be a good idea and I'd also noticed a feral hive at JCU in the trunk of a tree that was completely exposed to the midday sun. It occurred to me if those bees chose that site themselves then they must like the hot sun. I don't recall losing any more queens to swarming since taking the roof off my hive.

What would you do differently if you had to start beekeeping again after a disaster like fire/AFB/Varroa/cyclone: Funny you should ask, my property at Alligator Creek is actually prone to flooding and my hive is currently on a hive stand that is one metre above the ground which means I work on a little step ladder. It's not particularly safe or convenient for me but hopefully safe for the bees. Starting again I think I'd just like more standardised equipment, even single frame the same rather than the ridiculous range of different products that I currently use.

Do you sell/barter/give away honey? Absolutely. My preference is to barter and like Lindsay, I have a couple of people who will swap fish for honey. I'll obviously sell or give away if bartering isn't an option.

How much honey does your average hive produce? Unfortunately I don't really have an average. I recall getting 0kg in an entire year back during the drought (2016?) but other years with more rain I've gotten around the 50kg mark pretty comfortably.

Do you make any other products from your hives? Yes. I have been making mead since before I had my own bees. I've also made a few Braggots which is a type of honey beer. My most recent attempt scored a very impressive 40 out of 50 points at the QLD Amateur Brewing Championship. I also give away wax to anyone willing and able to make wax wraps.

Do you volunteer for the Club at Open days, markets, school events, public displays?

Would you like to participate? I've volunteered in the shop once. Unfortunately I just don't have the time to contribute as much as I'd like. Who knew having a full time job, being on call every second week and also setting up a hobby farm would be so time consuming?!

Any stories you would like to tell? I think I've told enough already ☺

Cheers, Simon

Next Meeting and Open Day: Sunday, 19 September 10:00 am

Michael Hooper Park, Deeragun

Bring a chair and something tasty. Tea, coffee, milk available

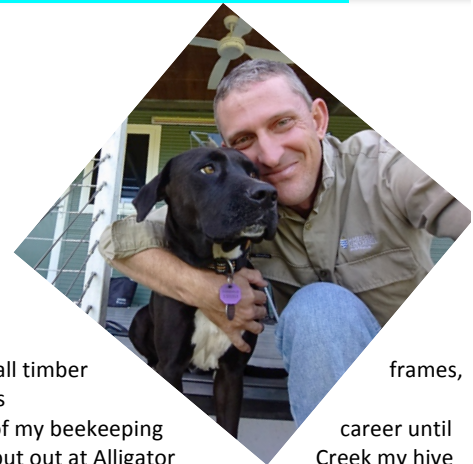
We will be using current COVID safe procedures, as appropriate

Open Day starts after the meeting

2021/22 Memberships now due

Pay by Bank deposit and include your surname in the payment details to:

Townsville and District Beekeepers Association BSB: 633000 Account: 141466078



frames,

Creek my hive



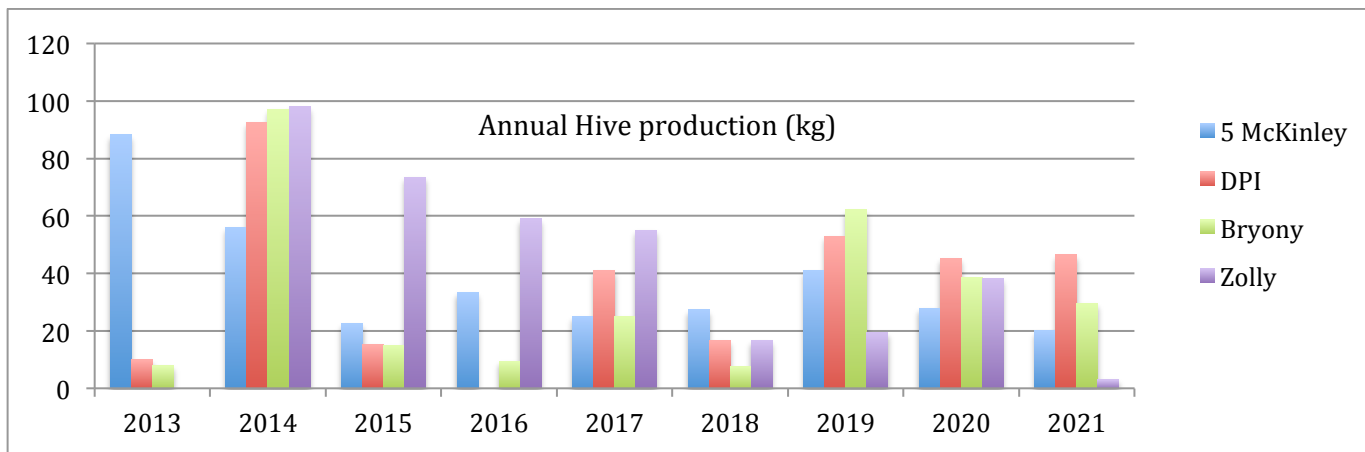
Simon's lonely looking hive out in the paddock.

8 years of hive production data from North Ward

From Lindsay Trott

In last month's Club Member Profile, Lindsay indicated that his average annual hive production was less than he hoped for. Well here is the data for calendar year production from my 4 hives - in XL format, and graphical. The year 2014 looks like it was the bumper season for me in North Ward.

Hive Name/Year	5 McKinley	DPI	Bryony	Zolly	Annual Avg
2013	88.2	10	7.8		35.3
2014	56	92.5	97	98	85.9
2015	22.5	15.3	15	73.5	31.6
2016	33.5	0	9.5	59	25.5
2017	25	41	25	55	36.5
2018	27.3	16.5	7.5	16.7	17
2019	41	53	62.1	19.5	43.9
2020	27.8	45.1	38.7	38.2	37.5
2021	20	46.5	29.5	3	24.8
Total Hive Avg	37.9	35.5	32.5	45.4	



Remember those Helpful Bee Hints from Alan Ziegenfusz? --- Read on

Alan recommended this detergent for cleaning up suits and equipment used in beekeeping, but he didn't mention that on the back label it has this warning pointed out by Dennis Boyd that you shouldn't use this stuff to clean aluminium beetle traps. The end result is not very pretty – black oxidised stuff.

BUT - Big Warning

He did point out that you probably should never use this other stuff in the photo on the right in your home garage to clean anything!!!!, even though it sounds pretty good at cleaning aluminium.

Dennis Boyd says It is so good at eating stuff that it also eats your skin, nail, bones and muscle. And if you splash it on your hands some have had to have their fingernails pulled out and flushed to get rid of it, as it just keeps eating away at your flesh.

This stuff has **Hydrofluoric** and Sulphuric acid in it.

Best to stay away from it.

And Dennis says when storing gloves, don't put them away with honey, wax or propolis on them as the cockroaches love to nibble at this and you end up with holes in your gloves - ouch



And, an update from Dr John about his angry bees after re-queening

Check the last Newsletter for photos of Club members being chased and harassed when Frana and Dr John took a peek in his angry hive at Balgal Beach at the Club meeting. John said:

Small update following my aggressive bees

No change over the week

We re-queened a week later

Week later bees much happier - or at least we were much happier with them

Stopped chasing us

Therefore, not genetic has to be chemical hormones from the queen

John Carr



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



101 Things to do with your Bee Smoker:

#1 in the series (Reprinted from an old Club newsletter) by Lindsay Trott



And you thought you could only pacify bees with your smoker.

Since 1990, researchers have been investigating how water-soluble components of smoke are effective in breaking seed dormancy and enhancing plant seed germination. The humble bee smoker has been used a standard piece of this highly sophisticated experimental set-up (see photo).

There are now several commercially available smoke extracts available to help you boost germination of seeds, one is called unimaginatively "Australian Smoky Water".

It all looks a bit sus to me, a bit like an OJ bottle and a piece of garden hose, hmmm.

Source: An effective system to produce smoke solutions from dried plant tissue for seed germination studies. Applications in Plant Sciences, 2(3), 2014. J. Coons, N. Coutant, B. Lawrence, D. Finn, S. Finn.

<https://bsapubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.3732/apps.1300097>

We are told that Jon McKinstry is preparing an investigative report on the good and bad points with different bee smokers, and why you should go for a particular type. Jon has been smoking for quite a while now, and knows the ins and outs of the business. Stay tuned, as it will be in one of the next Newsletters

Ian Goulevitch takes a hit with a total SHB "slime out"



Ian thought his hive was doing OK only a couple of weeks before he took this photo of the bottom of the hive. Yes folks, that's total SHB maggot larvae. Ian took a movie, but it was too gut wrenching to watch the seething mass, so I have just included a still from the "Horror Movie".

Remember that SHB larvae contain a yeast in their tummies that ferments the honey and causes it to run out of the honeycomb and all through and over the brood comb. If it gets as serious as in the case of Ian, the bees evacuate the hive. The yeast can infect humans too, so people should take care when cleaning up the mess, especially immunocompromised folks.

When to stay and fight, and when to run - if it's a disaster – Run!

From Jon and Frana McKinstry

There is something about disasters. As a disaster unfolds, those involved often watch the event unfold in slow motion.

While time seems to slow down, the event continues to unfold without any chance of intervention. Now - Seconds from Disaster...

"Here love, can you just give me a hand to lift this honey super off so that I can have a squiz in the brood box.

Should only take a sec". Now it probably would have been prudent for the vertically challenged helper to quickly ascertain that the heavy honey super was going to be lifted down into an adequate space that was suitable for it. A snug, even tight fit space, may have suggested more space would have been better.

"Right ho, I've cracked the super and can you help me lift it down". Now honey supers can get heavy, very heavy. A vertically challenged person has the added disadvantage of lifting at about head height on a three tier super.



Shortly into the operation – “oops! I don't think the super is going to fit”. It is now hovering over the narrow, too narrow, opening and the strain on the diminutive arms was showing. Disaster was brewing. “lift it back up and we will make more space”. It was never going to happen. ‘My hands are slipping from the handles’. Now the honey super was full of honey and bees. When it fell, it knocked the rest of the hive and yes, there was now enough space to put the honey super but the bees were on the ground with honey frames, brood frames and lots and lots and lots of very angry bees.

“Run Forrest, Run!” Usain Bolt would not have covered the distance from the event to the back screen door, but then Usain Bolt does not normally have a cloud of angry bees encouraging him to move faster. These angry fans hung about the screen door for quite some time.

The moral of the story is – If you are trying to get fit in a hurry, just drop a super full of bees and all your aerobic exercise will be condensed into that slow developing window of time that accompanies disaster.

Jon and Frana McKinstry

Bees on the internet

A roundup of interesting articles on the internet about bees.

1. Healthy low GI sugar in stingless bee honey

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/08/210824135350.htm>

Stingless bees are found throughout tropical and subtropical parts of the world and produce significantly less honey than their European honey bee counterparts (*Apis mellifera*) which are the world's major honey production species. However, stingless bee honey is highly prized as a specialty food, noted in Indigenous cultures for its medicinal properties, and attracts a high price. Now new research has identified that the *Tetragonula carbonaria* stingless bee, which is native to Australia, is a powerhouse at converting regular table sugar into the rare low GI sugar trehalulose, found only in stingless bee honey and not as a major component in any other food.

2. Human Beekeepers to become redundant to AI controlled machine??

Beewise, an agtech startup, has created the first fully autonomous beehive called Beehome that comes complete with a beekeeping robot that acts as both medic and guardian to complement the natural intelligence of bees.

Beehome utilizes artificial intelligence, (AI) machine learning and precision robotics to rescue and protect the hives bees. The modular commercial AI-powered robotic apiary also has 24/7 monitoring and smart technology that increases pollination capacity and honey production.

Saar Safra, CEO of Beewise says that Beehome is poised to protect the global food supply chain, stem the impacts of climate change and increase sustainability. “If the bees are protected, entire ecosystems are too.”

“When we have a 35% global annual decline of bee colonies that support 75% of crops, the immediate and serious threat to the global food supply is clear. Preventing bee colonies from collapsing allows for more pollination and honey production,” adds Safra.

This autonomous AI-powered beehive from Beewise has 24/7 monitoring

“By completely redesigning the classic 150-year old beehive from the ground up, Beehome can address many inefficiencies that until now have been inherently impossible to resolve, said Safra.

The system is entirely solar-powered and manages 24 hives and automates their operation such as pollination, honey-production and reproduction. The Beehome system includes an automated robotic brood box management system, a computer vision-based monitoring system, AI-based decision making and predictive analytics and automated honey harvesting system and an automated system for pest control, feeding and thermoregulation.



To access the complete article go to;

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jenniferhicks/2021/07/28/here-is-a-fully-autonomous-ai-powered-beehive-that-could-save-bee-colonies/?sh=65ccd0213422>

Open the Door HAL:

"I'm sorry Dave, I'm afraid I can't do that."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wy4EfdnMZ5g>

3. Backfilling: the sign of the swarm

<https://www.honeybeesuite.com/backfilling-the-sign-of-the-swarm/>

From Rusty at the blog site "Honey Bee Suite"

Here is a photo that perfectly illustrates the concept of **backfilling**. You can see that the frame once contained brood in the center with an arc of nectar above and to the sides. But now, most of the brood has emerged and the empty brood cells, which are slightly darker, are being filled with nectar instead of more brood.

When this happens in spring, it means the colony is getting ready to swarm. In fact, backfilling is the most useful indicator of swarming because it happens early enough that a knowledgeable beekeeper may be able to prevent the swarm.

Bees backfill the brood nest to shrink it. Without so many places to lay eggs, the queen slows her egg production and the brood nest contracts. This is important because after the swarm leaves, the brood nest will be small enough that the remaining bees will be able to care for it. Backfilling provides a way of scaling down the entire brood-rearing operation so a smaller workforce can still get the job done.

One of the most effective ways to counter backfilling is to open the brood nest. Opening the brood nest is accomplished by adding empty frames between frames of brood. So while the bees are busy contracting the nest, you go in and expand it. When a breach in the nest occurs, the bees go in and draw comb and the queen fills it with eggs—all of which delays swarming and may prevent it altogether.

To avoid chilling the brood, opening the brood nest should only be done when there are enough bees to cover the expanded nest. However, backfilling normally occurs when a colony is preparing to swarm, which means there are usually plenty of bees and moderate nighttime temperatures.

Rusty



Photo courtesy Shady Grove Farm.

4. US homeowners discover 450,000 honeybees have been nesting in walls for 35 years

Alisha Ebrahimji <https://7news.com.au/lifestyle/renovating/us-homeowners-discover-450000-honeybees-have-been-nesting-in-walls-for-35-years-c-3586411>

Published: 07/08/2021 Updated: Monday, 9 August 2021 12:46 PM AEST

Sara Weaver and her husband knew their newest home purchase in Pennsylvania needed some extra love and attention. But what they didn't know is that an estimated 450,000 bees had been living in the walls for almost 35 years. Weaver bought the 1872 farmhouse in Skippack, about 48 km northwest of Philadelphia, in December.

The seller's disclosure mentioned there were bees in the wall. But since the couple bought the home in the winter, she said the bees didn't seem to pose much of a threat at the time of purchase.

The honeybees had been nesting in the home for up to 35 years, an expert said. "On the seller's disclosure it said 'bees in wall' and that was it," Weaver said. "I think because one, we didn't see them and two, we were just so floored that we actually found land in the (school) district that was within our price range that I didn't really ask any questions about those bees. "I didn't think it would be that big of an issue. "It didn't even cross my mind, but when spring arrived that's when we started to see them."

Weaver added that the seller's husband had passed away and she was no longer living in the house. "The condition this house was in was horrendous," Weaver said. "It was so dirty and now that I'm thinking about it, I originally thought it was dirt on the windows that I cleaned but it was probably honey because there were drip marks."

The couple didn't do a home inspection and Weaver admits they probably should have opted for one.



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; please do not send your order to 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
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.

TDBAI Club outreach activities

Club Members have been particularly active in showcasing bees to school in our region recently. Mick Laffin and Jon and Frana McKinstry gave the kids out at Charter Towers All Souls St Gabriels School an entertaining morning with displays, honey, discussions and more.



And Hermit Park State School, where the Club manages several hives and mentors the students in beekeeping. Jon and Frana, again, doing the outreach for some very inspired students who thought the honey tasting was “sweet”.



Phil Plant checked out The Presidents brood quality in his long Lang hive



Stunning bee and flower shots

Ray and Mary Berkelmans on the Gold Coast produced some great flower displays and bee photos. There’s even a native bee and EHB in the bottom of the photos.



Productive Clean up Day at Michael Hooper Park on Sunday 8 August:

Thanks to the Volunteers who turned up and swept, hosed, dusted, cleaned, scrubbed and generally spruced up our temporary meeting place at Hooper Park last month. It was a good setting for the 30-40 people who made it to the last meeting. Very nice and clean venue with plenty of breeze blowing through. The cup cakes provided by ?????? (who was that generous person??) surely would have been prize winners at the Townsville Ag Show.

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>

General Meeting Minutes - Michael Hooper Park, Deeragun 27/8/2021

Chair: President Mick Olsen (MO)

Note taker: Lindsay Trott (LT)

Meeting opened: 10:00 am

Visitors: New Members welcomed and Volunteers for the Cleanup Day were thanked for the cleaned up Park buildings, toilets and surrounds. Visitors were acknowledged and gave a summary of their interests for natives or European bees. Attendance book signed. Nick Smith was introduced and a reference to upcoming native bee workshops noted.

Previous Minutes: Previous minutes were noted and accepted – see previous Newsletter, moved Lindsay Trott, and 2nd by BT?. No business arising from the previous minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Now in new FY, income \$10K, spent \$4K, \$46K in deposit. Nuplas gave \$780 rebate to Club for hive box purchases. Report accepted Moved Darren Hawkins, 2nd by Bev Olsen.

- AGM on Oct 17 will have audited financial books presented

Library: Beryl gave a run through of available titles and had books on display – Heard, EHB, Toft. Borrowed books need to be returned occasionally. John Carr bought books on wasps, mead, Manuka honey etc with part of \$500 budget for year.

Secretary: No correspondence as Waldon cant find the PO Box key. Will need to get another key.

Newsletter: Editor requested articles and local news.

Club Shop: Usually on 1st Saturday of the month from 9-10 am at 3/38 Rendle St, Aitkenvale. E-mail your requests before Friday.

Sales are going gangbusters. New supply of shirts, other new items coming. Please use the web site for purchases – need to persevere.

General Business:

- MO requested workshop ideas eg hive box assembly, hive doctor equipment, Nick Smith and natives, anatomy with Dr John Carr.
- MO applied for “not for profit” status for Cub which will allow application for more grants
- MO received some doors for the Clubhouse from 4TTT radio, and they will give us free ads on air.
- Old Scout Hall nearby still under inspection and consideration as a Clubhouse - \$15K to purchase.
- MO outlined plan for housing bees on Hooper Park site in an enclosure
- Cr Margie Ryder called in and chatted to Members after the meeting. She is a keen supporter of the Club.
- Open Day is at 11:00 am 19 September at Hooper Park, and will happen after a 10:00am meeting. Will have a Flow Hive demo from Ian G, Nick Smith will split a native hive. 4TTT will do ads, Club will put notices on FB, letter drops, ads at Coles and Woolies.
- LT gave an impassioned speech for the good work of BQ in detecting and eliminating Varroa mite from Townsville, as there are no grounds for doubting or denigrating the recently completed program. Also, no need for any conspiracy theories developing - like with antivaxxers and COVID doubters. We have the a large population of the varroa mite host just to our North, from Port Douglas to Tablelands and to Cardwell.
- John Carr revealed that you need only 1 single Varroa mite to start an infestation, as the female lays both sex eggs and the brothers and sisters can inter-mate to get a population going – creepy!
- Frana M spoke of AFB in Giru and somewhere else??. Members need to know how to detect and deal with it.
- Nick Smith is doing native bee workshops- splitting a log on 5 Sep, 18 Sep workshop at Hooper Park, 9 October in Bowen, Hooper Park 30 Oct. No cost for Club members, there are 100+ interested in workshops
- LT asked about a registration module for Volunteers, Try Events works apparently and use widgets

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.

Meeting Closed: 10:30

Tea/coffee and some spectacular cup cakes along with conversation followed and plans for the Hooper Park discussed, hive location, locking up, security, raised ground for floods.

Club Member Dennis has a son in-law (Brian) living nearby who can act as eyes out for vandals.

Pomelos, glass jars and dried banana powder (B-complete) for chalkbrood control were all given away.

Next Meeting: Sunday 19 September at 10:00 am, followed by

Volunteers need for our Open Day on 19 September at 11 am at Michael Hooper Park, Deeragun

Volunteers needed to help set up and pack up and talk to visitors, please step up and support the hard working core of the Club



Club Meeting Photos from John Carr

President MO addressing the meeting at the clean and breezy Hooper Park site



Cr Margie Ryder is a keen supporter of the Club, seen here with Australia Day Award recipient Frana M at the August Club Meeting.



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.

Michael McKinley	Neville Jeppesen	Greg Tanner	J Thomson Ryan CC	Kelly Bolger	Wendy Eiteneuer
Katie Green	Carl Phillips	Kelly Twine	Scott Willcox	Cathryn Radclyffe	Tanya Lechner
Noni Ward	David Thomas	Natalie Kuwajima	Sharon Pola	Clint Garland	Mark McCloy
				Enrico Roche	

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 be posted 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

***Next Meeting is also our**

Open Day at Michael Hooper Park, Deeragun at 10:00 am Sunday 19 September

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 2nd 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 – 0405784083

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::trottindsay@gmail.com](mailto:trottindsay@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 or Paul: 0459 12732

Great day at the Bluewater Gardening Fair and Flower Show

Report by Dr John Carr

This was a perfect combination - our bees were surrounded by lots of strange flowers. The show was great fun and very popular, especially in the morning. Lots of kids asking questions about the bees on display. The solitary bee hotels attracted lots of attention. Great place to showcase the clubs wares from honey to soap! Mike and I kept the mead samples for ourselves - Club Members only. Club Members sold lots of honey, but probably spent all their proceeds on plants! From the web:



Getting a CT scan on your bees

From Dr John Carr

For those of us who are fascinated by the anatomy and function of the bees, this research paper shows some pictures which are unbelievable using microCT scan. Just like we get in the hospital – but this was a very small machine!

<https://analyticalscience.wiley.com/do/10.1002/micro.2789/full/>



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



Objectives of the Club

The objects of the TDBA 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.

