

Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc)



PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814

www.beesnorth.com.au

Newsletter No 2, March 2022

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- Member profile - Mark Finn, Club VP
- Vale Neville Porter
- New Library books, Ukraine bees, Open Day
- Club Shop looking for polite customers
- Bees on the Internet, bee trivia stuff
- Club officials' contacts
- New Shop prices now listed on the website:
<http://www.beesnorth.com.au>

Next Meeting:
Sunday, 20 March 2022 10:00 am
Michael Hooper Park
Deeragun

The Club Shop will open 1st Saturday of the month.
Please check the website for details
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: Mark Finn – Vice President

HIN: F130

Suburb: Jensen

Interest: European

Number of hives: 5 European hives

My interest in bees began when I was about 15 years old. My family lived in Garbutt and our old neighbour, Bill James, introduced me to the good, the bad, and the ugly sides of bee keeping. After a while, I branched out and, with the assistance of my father, started developing my own hives. I chased down a couple of swarms and would also get wild hives from the bush.

It was at this time I met the girl who would eventually take pity on me and become my wife. My other interest at the time was fishing, - she really was a tolerant girlfriend. Traipsing through the bush looking for bees or being on the deep end of a drag net (we did have a fishing license) was probably not everyone's idea of a romantic date. Over time we did build up quite a few hives but Maria started having serious reactions to bee stings so we parted ways with the bees.

Fast forward 30+ years, I was talking to my grandsons about all things bees and Riley and Sam, 7 and 5 at the time, expressed interest in getting a hive. I was very happy to encourage them, mainly because I found keeping bees makes you look at the world differently, becoming more aware of surrounding trees, flowers, the seasons. Riley and Sam purchased 2 hives (with help from their other grandad) which are at the boys' place. One day while Maria was gardening, she realised she was surrounded by bees anyway and so encouraged me to get some hives of my own.

I feel this exercise has been really educational for the boys. Not just for the bee keeping skills, but also for their awareness of the environment around them and for managing the financial side of having bees. It has also been great for this old grandad, who, since being made redundant from Queensland Nickel in 2016, had become a bit of an introvert (or so Maria kept telling me!).

The bee club, apart from helping with the practicalities of bee keeping, has introduced us both to a lot of lovely people.

Thanks Mark – who is up for their profile in the next Newsletter?

Ed's Comment: Welcome Mark – our new Vice President who generously offered to join the Committee and assist with running the show.

Very relieved to hear you didn't have to choose between your good wife Maria, and the bees!

Mark's grand kids, Riley and Sam, featured on the front page of our Newsletter a while back. They were very eager young beekeepers reaping the benefits of some motivated grandparents.

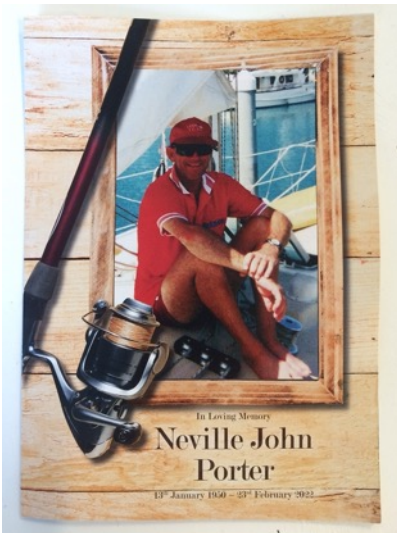
Check the Club website for previous issues of our Newsletter stored there for your reading pleasure.



Mark with something from his backyard that was probably eating some of his delicious bees.



Looks like beekeeping is a family affair at Mark and Maria's.



Vale Neville Porter

A few words for Neville from our Club previous President Mick Olsen.

We first met Neville and Nadia when they wanted us to remove a nest from an old tree and place into a hive for them. We were unable to do this as the brood was too far down for me to reach. We gave Neville and Nadia a swarm after they bought their gear and joined the Club. Nadia was definitely the beekeeper, and Neville was the support in the background.

Neville was always quick to make a joke and was very easy to have a yarn with. I had limited time with Neville but Naomi and myself were both honoured to be invited, and to attend the celebration of Neville's life recently.

Condolences to the family, and we will continue to support Nadia in her beekeeping endeavours.

Logging, bushfires hamper beekeepers' ability to satisfy increasing pollination demand

Gippsland beekeepers fear they are not being heard in forest management discussions, and as a result, some patches of the forest will have "no value for decades".

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2022-02-02/gippsland-balancing-logging-beekeeping-bushfire-risk/100797606>

Key points:

- Beekeepers are trying to keep up with increasing demand for pollination services
- One beekeeper says poorly managed bush adds to the challenge
- Some areas of East Gippsland have been logged and then burnt, with a bad outcome for bees

That's the concern of Ian Cane, a third-generation beekeeper who has been involved in the industry for most of his life.

He said some parts of the bush that were logged and then hit by the Black Summer bushfires had suffered major structural changes.

He described two different types of structural change, one of which was when the bush that grew back after logging was significantly different to what went before it.

Standing in a regenerating coupe [area of logged trees] that had burnt, Mr Cane said some parts of the bush undergo a secondary structural change, where the regrowing bush is damaged by fire.



A patch of logged and burnt bush. The logging coupe on the left shows very dense regrowth. (ABC Gippsland: Peter Somerville)

"The regen here was 10 years old and has been killed by the wildfire because it's young," he said.

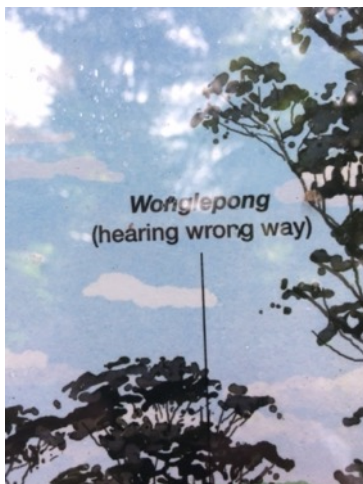
"What should normally happen in these forests is that epicormic shoots would come out and those trees would then develop again and away they'd go."

He said because the fire had been so intense it had killed all the regrowth in this here.

"After the fire, there was literally nothing left except these black sticks but as a last resort, a survival mechanism, these trees are shooting out a number of shoots," he said.

"So, now you've got a multi-stem forest, so a major structural change."

Hard of hearing Editor finds indigenous word "Wonglepong" for his complaint – see below left

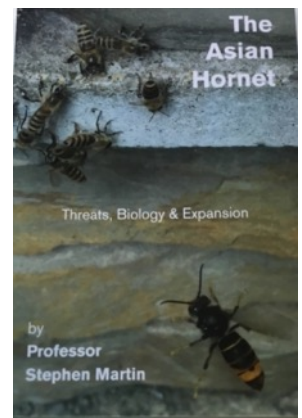
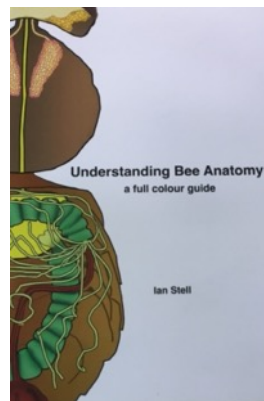
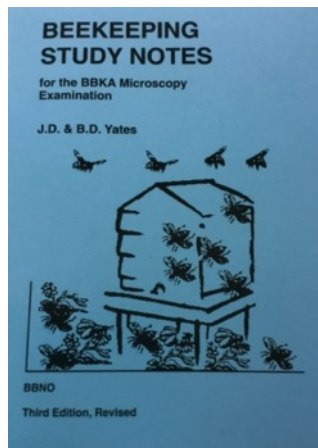
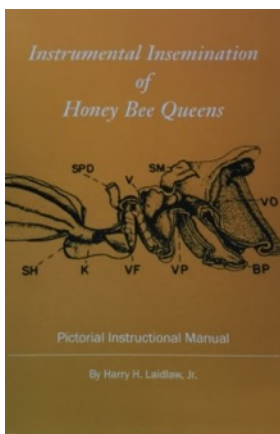
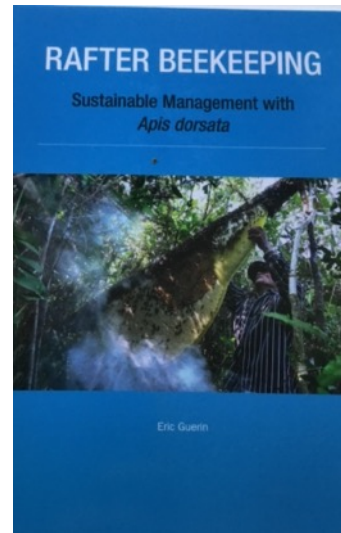
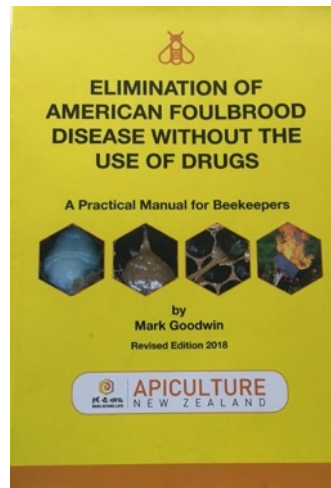


Roller decapper works a treat

Seen in action at Ray B's on the Gold Coast. Works well and generates none to little cappings wax. Cleaner extraction and cleaner honey – bonus.

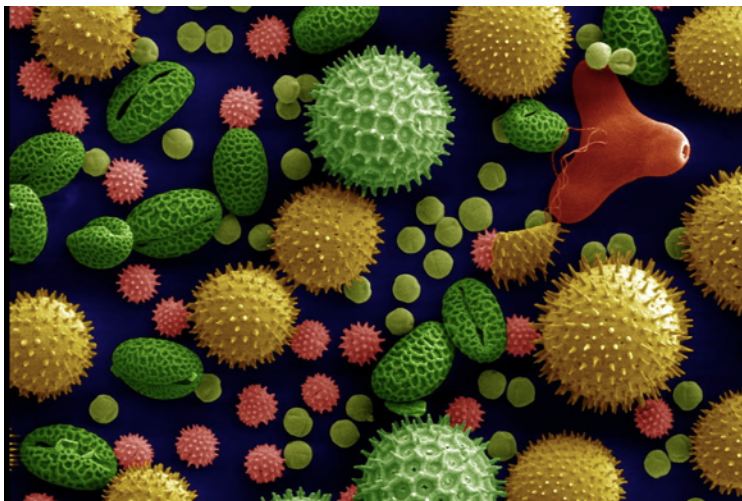


New books in the Club Library available for you to borrow – and return!

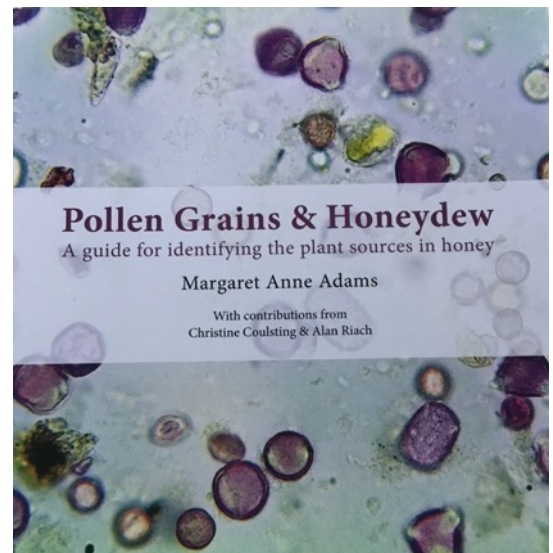


Another Library Book available from Beryl at our Library

You could become a palynologist by studying this book. Palynology is the study of pollen grains. Check these pollen grains in the photo below.



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/2a/Misc_pollen_colorized.jpg



Hive caddy for your tools and smoker

Peter Gurr had this caddy made up for his hive paraphernalia. A good project for the more handy persons amongst us. Note that the smoker is kept outside the box with flammables like oil for beetle traps, and gas lighter for the smoker



Bee Club Open Day 21 May

Our club is holding an Open Day on Saturday 21 May, this event is the first of two weeks of activities in conjunction with TCC, ending with EcoFiesta in June. We will be highlighting all things bee-related, covering honeybees, stingless bees, and solitary native bees.

As part of this initiative, TCC has contracted the TDBAI to supply 300 solitary bee hotels. We have started accumulating the materials to make these but will need assistance from members in the following:

- donating materials
- preparing materials for hotel construction
- construction/assembly of hotels

Log and tree branch offcuts up to 250mm diameter and timber blocks (untreated) are needed, also timber for framing and backing of 'house' style hotels.

We propose to hold a couple of working bees for assembly, you would need to bring some tools (drill, drill bits, drop saw etc). No experience necessary, all volunteers welcome.

Check this link for examples of solitary bee hotels, we will be preparing other prototypes. Also, if you prefer to make and donate a couple of hotels in your own time and place, that is welcome too.

Bee Hotels:

https://mcusercontent.com/3e58ed5f92f9006c61eab71e0/files/434ffa41-f445-e8c9-5d82-1f74a3f3b6df/Native_Bee_Hotel_pix.docx

Any questions . . . ?

Regards to all
Your Bee Club Committee

From Dr John Carr – who recently visited Ukraine

Could I ask if we could put a sunflower and Chamomile on the home page website.

The Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) is the state flower of Ukraine and the Chamomile (*Matricaria recutita*) is the state flower of Russia.

I have worked for many, many years in Ukraine and I just cannot believe this is a war with the Russian people. I have great friends in Russia also.

And the bees of Russian and Ukraine are not fighting!

I have just left Ukraine after visiting some bees. This is a bee hotel – see photo, below right, where you can sleep in the shed above the hives and listen to the bees drone on all night). It's in Lviv Ukraine about 10 days ago. I wonder whether it is still there???



Ed's Comment: 47th Apimondia cancelled – the international meeting of bee keepers, industry and researchers has been cancelled. The holding of the 47th International Congress of Apimondia in the Russian Federation was planned to be held on September 5-10, 2022.

Bees on the internet

A roundup of interesting articles on the internet about bees.

1. Flesh-Eating Bees Renounced Pollen for Rotting Meat

A bizarre species of tropical bee has evolved to eat dead animals. By Isaac Schultz



..or this?



Vulture bees feed on raw chicken in Costa Rica. Photo: Quinn McFrederick/UCR

Some bees have developed a taste for carrion, in a delightfully twisted evolutionary turn. These vulture bees, as they're known, feature unique gut microbes that help them digest meat.

A team of entomologists, seeking to learn more about these pollen-eschewing bees, recently set up chicken baits in a Costa Rican forest. They ended up collecting a bunch of vulture bees (*Trigona necrophaga*) and analyzed their guts and genetics in detail.

"These are the only bees in the world that have evolved to use food sources not produced by plants, which is a pretty remarkable change in dietary habits," said Doug Yanega, an entomologist at University of California, Riverside and a co-author of the recent paper, in a university press release.

While ordinary bees have pockets on their back legs to store pollen as they flit from flower to flower, the vulture bees have repurposed the stores as "little chicken baskets," according to study co-author Quinn McFrederick, also an entomologist at UC Riverside.

Besides obvious external features, the team wanted to know what was happening inside the bees. Most bees' guts are occupied by five kinds of microbes that help the animals break down what they eat. So what happens when a species swaps out pollen for raw chicken and nectar for blood?

To figure it out, they collected other bee species that only sometimes eat meat, as well as some that are strictly vegetarian, to compare the bacteria that populate the insects' guts. The carrion-eaters' guts had a distinct microbiome, one built for breaking down meat.

"The vulture bee microbiome is enriched in acid-loving bacteria, which are novel bacteria that their relatives don't have," McFrederick said. "These bacteria are similar to ones found in actual vultures, as well as hyenas and other carrion-feeders, presumably to help protect them from pathogens that show up on carrion."

The team thinks that the bees probably began eating meat due to competition for nectar. Whatever the reason, you have to wonder about the new evolutionary trajectory the animals may now be set on—let's hope they don't develop a hankering for humans.

[ps://gizmodo.com/flesh-eating-bees-renounced-pollen-for-rotting-meat-1848112925](https://gizmodo.com/flesh-eating-bees-renounced-pollen-for-rotting-meat-1848112925)

2. UK overrules scientific advice by lifting ban on bee-harming pesticide

Campaigners aghast as emergency exemption on use of thiamethoxam granted due to risk to sugar beet crop.

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/mar/01/bee-harming-pesticide-thiamethoxam-uk-emergency-exemption?utm_term=.621ef9d6024f0b1fcb2b2129af3aaf3&utm_campaign=GuardianTodayUK&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=GTUK_email

An insecticide banned due to its harm to bees will be used on sugar beet in Britain this year after ministers authorised an emergency exemption. The government overruled its own scientific advisers and the decision was called "scandalous" by campaigners.

The neonicotinoid, called thiamethoxam, was banned in 2018 across Europe after a series of studies found it damaged bees. But British Sugar applied for an emergency exemption and on Tuesday the conditions for the exemption were met.

The British Beet Research Organisation said: "

"... flowering crops which would attract pollinators could not be grown in fields treated with the pesticide for **32 months after application.**"

Ed's Comment: Hmmm, that doesn't sound like a very safe chemical to be pouring onto crops accessible to bees and pollinators.

3. Too many urban beekeepers?? <https://www.bee-culture.com/urban-beekeeping-maybe-not-a-great-idea/attachment/21822/>

BY ADELE PETERS

Urban beekeeping is big business: Alvéole, one company based in Montreal, manages thousands of beehives on the rooftops of more than 600 office buildings in North America, at corporations that host bees (and offer free honey) as an employee perk. You can pay other companies to take care of a beehive in your backyard.



The number of hives in cities keeps growing. In Paris, for example, the number of registered hives has jumped up by a factor of eight over the last decade. It's billed as good for nature. But a recent study that looked at the growth of beekeeping in Swiss cities finds that the number of bees is now unsustainable: When the bees fly out to find pollen, there aren't enough urban flowers to support them. And the honeybees may be putting pressure on other pollinators.

In Switzerland, the researchers saw the same trend that's happening elsewhere, with strong growth in beekeeping in almost every city between 2012 and 2018 (in the Swiss city of Lugano, which they studied, the number of hives grew 2,387%). Then they looked at the green space available around clusters of hives. In each city, there weren't enough "floral resources" for the huge number of new bees.

The study doesn't analyze how the surplus of bees might be impacting other wildlife, but it does note that honeybees can negatively impact the number of wild pollinators in an area. In a place like the U.S., where European honeybees were imported for agriculture, they compete with wild bees and butterflies, which are already at risk for other reasons, from pesticide use to climate change.

Adding more green space and pollinator-friendly plants in cities would help. But the study suggests that cities also need to set limits on the proliferation of urban honeybees, with the number of hives allowed in any particular area limited by the amount of green space nearby and enough distance between hives. And companies that are adding bees to make their image greener—something that some critics have called "bee-washing"—might want to rethink their plans.

Everyone got so into the idea of urban beekeeping that now there might be too many urban bees (fastcompany.com)

Look what I got for Christmas – a golden bee hive mozzie coil holder

The Ed got this humdinger pottery mozzie coil holder with golden painted bee and hexagonal holes this Christmas.



How is the new Website handling the Newsletter distribution?

The Editor asked Fran McKinstry if she could find how many people received the last Newsletter. I was interested, as I hardly get any feedback from Members, and very little info from people wanting to contribute. The new website can track activity and Frana provided me with the following data.

So, it seems 99.8% of our members received the Newsletter, and only 1 bounced, and no abuse was received. So now that I know you got the Newsletter, how about sending me some info, stories, photos, questions etc etc.

February Newsletter analytics

- Audience: Townsville & District Beekeepers Assn Inc
- Subject: February Newsletter
- Delivered: Fri, Feb 11, 2022 6:51 pm
- View email · Download · Print · Share

Opened = 273

Clicked = 95

Bounced = 1

- Successful deliveries 447 = 99.8%

- Total opens 705
- Last opened 2/16/22 2:14AM
- Forwarded 0
- Clicks per unique opens 34.8%
- Total clicks 151
- Last clicked 2/15/22 9:16PM
- Abuse reports 0

Remember the Shop etiquette – politeness is a key component to success

To all visitors to our Club Shop – please be respectful, patient and polite to our Volunteer shopkeepers. We seem to be getting some aggressive and impolite attitudes from some customers. Please arrive with a smile, a dose of patience, and remember your manners.

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 **AND Pay** by Thursday midnight **before** the opening day, by email: shop@beesnorth.com.au
2. Bring you order number and print out of the request with you
3. 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.
4. Non-emailed or late orders may not get any attention if the Shop is too busy.
5. Please take your purchases and make room for the next shoppers, thanks

Meeting Minutes 20/02/2022

Club Shop - 3/38 Rendle St, Aitkenvale

Opened at 10.05 AM

Chair: President Nick Smith NS

Note taker: Nick Smith

President:

- NS welcomed about 20 visitors and new members, plus about 50 members attending
- Brief overview of club for attending new members
- Discussed our big year ahead with events and growth in beekeeping. With Eco-Fiesta we are expecting large membership influx
- TCC Eco-Fiesta - June 5 - TDBAI will be centre stage with large Marquee and bee education/interactions
- TDBAI (NS) working with TCC on Grant applications for event displays, education hives and other items
- Committee meeting notes will be added to website in Members Only page
- David Turnbull to receive Life Membership (Certificate) to be delivered to him at his home this week
- Kids Zone at meetings - Great response to have at meetings for members and their children to engage and educate
- Shop will be open after meeting
- Email cleanup and receiving issues raised. (FM) working on this
- Newsletter will be a link in the email only. No longer an attachment

Assistant Treasurer's Report

- Will be provided on website in Members Only page

Newsletter:

- Need member input

Library:

- Lots of new books and Mags, available to borrow but please return them

Shop:

- No longer a full price list as items keep changing due to rise and fall of market
- Prices are available on individual items through club shop website
- Ensure orders are in by Thursday Evening to give time to pack orders

General Business

- Opened to floor to questions and queries. No response.
- Meeting closed 10:30 am

Opened to a workshop on all components of a langstroth hive (FM).

- Great engagement with new and existing members for approx 30mins

BBQ lunch supplied by TDBAI - Thanks Mick & Naomi for catering

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

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.

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 2021/20222

President: Nick Smith

Vice President: Mark Finn

Secretary: Lindsay Trott

Treasurer: TBA

Treasurer's Assistant: Frana McKinstry

Treasurer's Assistant: Mandy Thomas

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

Newsletter: Lindsay Trott

Assistant Editor: Dr John Carr

Librarian: Beryl Smart

Webmaster: Mick Olsen/Nick Smith

Native bees: Nick Smith

Committee: Alan Ziegenfusz, Lisa Fenoglio Paul Payne, Sandylee Hutchison, Maria Finn, Dan Killoran, Doris Newitt, Naomi Olsen, Dr John Carr

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

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 Bloop 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 this section in the monthly Newsletter and to 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 giving it a go? you don't even 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!! We would love to hear what you have been up to.

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 keep the Club Member Profile articles for the monthly Newsletter rolling.

Here's the questionnaire – fill it out and attach a couple of photos, including one of yourself 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

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: shop@beesnorth.com.au



Townsville & District

BEEKEEPERS



ASSOCIATION