

Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc)



PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814

www.beesnorth.com.au

Newsletter No 11, December 2023

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- Reader input/feedback??? Where is it???
- Shop prices at : <http://www.beesnorth.com.au>



Keep your eyes peeled and your hives checked for these blighters – now loose in NSW

Contact Roger Winton or Rob Stephens immediately if you see any.

Rob Stephens Plant Biosecurity & Product Integrity
M 0407 374 232 E robert.stephens@daf.qld.gov.au



Queen Bee-atrice Perpetual Trophy Award for dedication and hard work to the Newitts



This year's Queen Bee-atrice Award was presented to Doris and Ron Newitt by President Nick, seen here at the Annual Christmas Lunch at The Bohle Barn. Last year's awardee, Librarian Beryl Smart, reluctantly offered up the highly prized perpetual trophy for the new recipients. Ron and Doris are always around in the background of the Club to help out with displays, Open days, shops, working bees (plenty of those around). Our Club depends on the efforts of relatively small band of volunteers, like Ron and Doris, who give their time and support for our routine and outreach activities. Congratulations, and thanks for your dedication to the Club.



Christmas lunch at The Bohle Barn

Queen Bee-atrice has laid up some crochet brood by the look of this lot below



Eucalyptus caesia (gungurru) in flower

How could a bee ignore all that pollen and nectar?



Flavoured honey in the deli shop



***Townsville will be hosting the QBA and AHBIC conferences in July 2024
– get involved and help our Committee set up and welcome the attendees.***

You will learn heaps from the beekeepers coming to town.

- Find out from commercial beekeepers how they keep their hives humming.
- Learn how to deal monitor for Varroa
- Chat to some fellow beeks.
- See the latest in hive technology
- Get some freebies from the stalls?? – maybe.
- Offer some hospitality to our visitors.
- Get involved – chat to a Committee member to see how you can help out, even for just a few hours.

AHBIC Queensland Conference and AGM 2024

<mailto:https://honeybee.org.au/event/queensland-conference-and-agm/>

July 11, 2024 - July 12, 2024

Rydges, South Townsville

QBA Conference

<mailto:https://qbabees.org.au>



Bees on the Internet

The beekeepers who don't want you take up beekeeping

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/19/business/beekeeping-companies-colony-collapse.html>

From Slovenia, the home of World Bee Day, the highest number of beekeepers per capita and where UNESCO added beekeeping as a “a way of life” to the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (the same list that enshrines France’s connection to the baguette) comes this plea from beekeepers that too many beehives in urban areas is a bad idea, and anyway, the message to “save the Bees” is trying to save the wrong pollinators.

Are you of “beekeeping age”?????

<https://www.beeeculture.com/beekeeping-in-your-50s/>

Apparently there's a trend: if a person in their 40s or 50s, looking fit, ripped, rugged, with a confident bearing, a certain ease in their skin, appears on TikTok, there'll be a swarm of comments underneath saying “beekeeping age”.



Too much Urban Beekeeping??

NEWS PROVIDED BY [3Bee / Milan](#)

Urban beekeeping is experiencing rapid growth. The romantic image of bees fluttering among skyscrapers, returning nature to paved cities, is quite appealing. A recent study by Nature has shown that “we found large increases in hives numbers across all cities from an average 6.48 hives per km² (3139 hives in total) in 2012 to an average 8.1 hives per km² (6370 in total) in 2018 and observed that available resources are insufficient to maintain present densities of beehives, which currently are unsustainable.”

Also, according to data from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), between 2011 and 2021, the number of beehives worldwide grew by 26 percent, increasing from 81.4 to 101.6 million. But is urban beekeeping really the panacea we all believe it is for urban biodiversity and sustainability?

Limited Space: A Hostile Environment for Bees

Cities represent complex territories for bees. Although some green spots offer refuge, the urban environment often provides limited space and floral variety, making it challenging to sustain a significant number of hives and substantial honey yields. The lack of a wide variety of flowers and plants from which bees can gather pollen and nectar is a significant obstacle urban beekeepers face.

Competition with Wild Bees: A Threat to Biodiversity

Cities are not only home to domestic bees but also a variety of wild bees and other pollinating insects. Introducing urban hives can thus spark competition for food resources between domestic and wild bees, risking the survival of native species and reducing overall pollinator biodiversity.

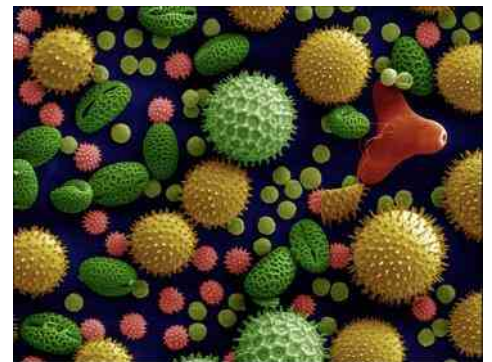
In conclusion, there is an urgent need to act to regenerate biodiversity in cities. We need to work on solutions that can ensure the well-being of all pollinating insects, particularly wild ones. Urban beekeeping is not the solution and this approach goes beyond merely creating a green illusion without delivering real benefits to urban sustainability. So, what can we do in this regard? The necessity for targeted and effective measures to make our cities greener is clear.

Where did that honey come from? – pollen ID lab re-opens – at a price

<https://www.beeeculture.com/pollen-id-lab-reopened/>

Palynology is the subject name for the study and identification of pollen. Pollen ID is used in many countries as a means to determine the authenticity, or otherwise, of honey that claims to be “Manuka”, or leatherwood, or from a particular region of a country. It shows which flowers are the source of the nectar for the honey – unless of course you have adulterated your artificial honey with pollen gathered from a different region to make it sell for a higher price. But who would do that???? Plenty, apparently.

Anyway, if you want the pollen in your honey to be ID’ed in the USA, then it will set you back at least US\$250 a pop. Do we have a palynology lab in Australia?



Should we call them Prokopovych hives instead of Langstroth hives?????

<https://www.beekeeping.com/petro-prokopovych/>

Ukraine is a beekeeping nation and so it is apt that the Father of the Hive hails from there. Petro Prokopovych is recognized worldwide as the founder of commercial beekeeping and inventor of the first moveable hive frame (Prokopovych called these frames sleeves). The wide adoption and commercialization of the Langstroth Hive via U.S. Patent Number 9300 on October 5, 1852 drove Prokopovych's Hive into obscurity, or did it? A brief history sketch is needed to understand how long beekeeping has been practiced here.



Translation
a – Board with slats
b – frames on board with slats
B – Prokopovych frames



Interesting view regarding Varroa resistance from Simon Mulvaney on Change.org

https://www.change.org/p/imported-honey-must-be-banned-or-labelled-with-country-of-origin-eg-china-argentina/u/32114260?cs_tk=AnJfMzFDyptOKrFmZmUAAxicyvNvQEABF8vOfk4tgbvzFUKnT3edppqI4=&utm_campaign=e50fec1913be4765b72180ff56134cee&utm_content=initial_v0_6_0&utm_medium=email&utm_source=petition_update&utm_term=cs

NOV 21, 2023 —

Wild honeybee colonies in Newcastle, Kempsey and the Central Coast NSW are thriving despite having high varroa mite counts.

Even in the previous redzones left to nature the wild colonies are so abundant they are throwing out healthy swarms.

Some beekeepers speculate our wild colonies are decedent from Russia and already have mite resistance. Others suggest we have a weak strain of varroa without the virus's.

There is still not one documented hive loss of an Australian hive due to Varroa mite.

After over 100 million dollars killing bees the @nswdpi have conceded that varroa was here a lot longer and farther reaching than they let the public know but are yet to apologise for all the traumatic errors that saw billions of bees killed and much of NSW contaminated with fiprinol.

Australia is still at risk of importing viruses that accompany varroa like deformed wing virus. So we still need to be vigilant not to import viruses through the importation on queenbees or drone sperm.

Listen to experts discuss the varroa debacle below.

<https://youtu.be/KClk2RQUVq4?si=oJm4gNanASwsUw4X>

PS: **The Ed** does not endorse any views expressed in articles sourced from the Internet. Please check the veracity of any statements in articles.

Bees seek out a balanced diet

<https://www.beekeeping.com/bees-balanced-diet/>

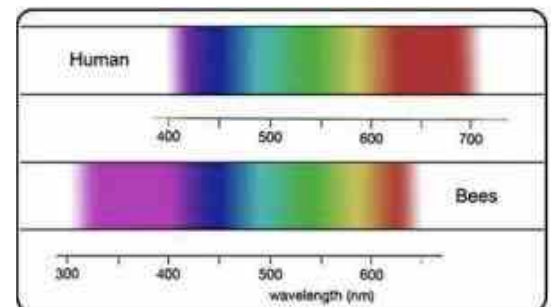
A study of managed bumble bees and honey bees on a blueberry farm finds that most of the pollen they collect comes from other plants, suggesting that supplementing crops with a diversity of nearby plant types makes for healthier bees.

Turn the LED lights on and bees can get to work sooner and more efficiently

<https://www.beekeeping.com/leds-improve-pollination/>

Bees can see and navigate better under broad-spectrum LEDs compared to HPS (sodium). Bees can see from 300nm to 650nm, which includes UV, blue, and green regions of light until the beginning of the red part of the spectrum. This differs from humans, who typically see 390nm to 750nm.

Using LEDs under plastic greenhouses enhances the UV spectrum and helps the bees see better, and pollinate better.



Blooper of the Month? Send me your blooper for totally anonymous recognition- honestly!

Did you hear about the poor newbie who painted their new hive box with oil based paint and didn't wait for the paint to dry properly and the fumes to evaporate. The poor nuc that was placed in the newly painted hive passed away within a few days.

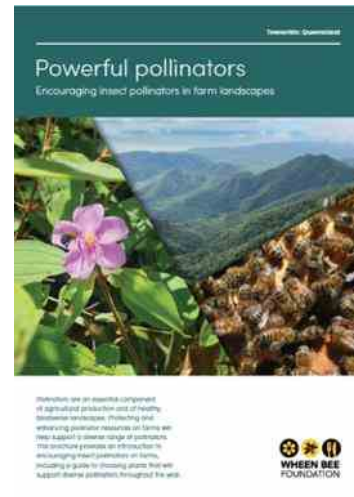
Bees operate with a complex set of chemical cues that influence their behaviour, but petrol based mowers and whipper snippers, bushfire smoke, deodorants, after shave, sunscreen lotions etc can upset them. Give your bees clear untainted air if you want them to be happy.

Download your free copy - how to promote insect pollination in our Townsville region

<https://www.wheenbeefoundation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/SF001-X-24.1-Pollinator-Guide-Townsville-QLD.pdf>

What a great guide to what, where and when to plant in order to attract all those vital insects, like European bees, butterflies, moths, hoverflies, native bees and flies.

Sponsored by:



Hive testing is part of every beekeeper's "Biosecurity Entity" obligation

From Robert Stephens at Biosecurity Queensland

The detection of Varroa mite in NSW serves as a timely reminder that beekeepers should be inspecting their hives every 16 weeks and reporting their results via the Bee123 survey form. It is vitally important that beekeepers report all negative test results and not just when they suspect something is wrong. This negative data is essential for showing the effort that your industry is going to and helps us provide evidence that Townsville is free of Varroa and other bee pests and diseases.

It's vital all beekeepers act now and look for varroa by using the alcohol wash and drone uncapping method, then report your surveillance results (including negative data) to the Bee 123 portal.

The only way Australia can eradicate and prove freedom from Varroa is through nation wide surveillance activities.

Rob Stephens Plant Biosecurity & Product Integrity M 0407 374 232 E robert.stephens@daf.qld.gov.au W www.daf.qld.gov.au

Postie delivers some native bees

Jon McK on the right adjusting a letter box to attract the native bee swarm away from the letter box some time. Waiting for the delivery of some native bees. Maybe they will come by "Air Mail"?

No wonder those Kiwis have trouble saying their vowels – all smoked up!!!!



Do you see anything wrong with the smoker direction on this? Frana found this curious design in NZ recently,..... cough, cough.

From the Club Shop volunteers

Hi Bee Club members

Update - our website is up again, you can place your orders via beesnorth.com.au

Next shop opening is first Saturday of the month.

Location: 3/38 Rendle St, Aitkenvale

Time: 9am - 10:30am

Collection at other time by arrangement and when volunteers are available.

If you experience difficulty accessing the web site for orders, please use the following email address to contact the club for shop purchases and other queries - tsvbeeclub@gmail.com

Remember the Shop etiquette – politeness and patience are key components to success

To all visitors to our Club Shop – please be respectful, patient and polite to our Volunteer shopkeepers. Please arrive with a smile, a dose of patience, and remember your manners.

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 time.

Use this email address: tsvbeeclub@gmail.com



Golden Rules for the Club Shop:

Please follow this guide:

1. Order **AND Pay** by Thursday midnight **before** the opening day, by email: tsvbeeclub@gmail.com
2. Bring your order number and print out of the request with you
3. Arrive at the Shop **after** 9:00 am, pay for your order, **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

General Meeting Minutes held on 26 November 2023 at The Bohle Barn

Meeting opened: 10.26

Attendees:

Frana McKinstry, Nick Smith, Derrick and Kristine Walker, Ron and Doris Newitt, Alex Jenkins, Mark and Maria, Lesley Barr, Amanda Coldwell, Lindsay Trott, Jaysel, John Carr.

Nick welcomed new committee members.

- QBA conference coming up next year:
 - Short courses practically dealing with varroa.
 - John to see if we can obtain sponsorship.
 - Suggestions to see if session can be filmed.
 - Varroa in the tropics is managed differently to other States. Need a Speaker from a tropical area.
 - Hive management approach can be N.American/main speaker with diff views.
 - Americans have a different approach to their management based on the products used.
 - Nick has met with TCC in relation to the Festival – re-funding and grant.
 - Conference is two days and the festival is the third day.
- AGM – discussed shade sail on the compound. Native bees to be added to the site. Greg to assist with installation of steel posts. Nick to investigate costs.
- Derrick and Nick have looked at demountables for the park – in relation to costs and options.
 - Stock is being over-ordered therefore insurance has increased.
 - Membership has decreased from last year.
 - Frana suggested a reduction in stock
 - Derrick advised that we do \$10 000 worth of sales every month.
 - Website changes to reflect stock control.
 - Alex updating descriptions on website.
- Shop –
 - Overflow site to be considered
 - Potential to use a container
 - Need to move stock from Mick's place.
 - Shop needs space – overflowing
 - Starter kit – full suit or jacket options

- Frana enquired about the honey trailer.
 - At Micks place – needs electrical upgrades.
 - Registration
 - Insurance
 - Asset list – committee members can sight
- Email addresses:
 - Need to be sorted (not sure of context) webmail problems are fixed?? or still an issue.
- Membership group
 - Amanda requesting list of members from Frana for Facebook?
 - Info posts – to update and value add.
- Frana –
 - David Turnbull – passed away two years ago.
 - Recommending that John McKinstry have life membership
 - Frana advised that she has resigned from active duties
 - Disillusioned, felt that she has been let down

Nick to investigate a member area for:

- Notices
- Memberships lists

Action:

- John and Frana to be made life members – John Carr proposed
- Seconded by Doris – NICK to action.
- Life membership badges to be ordered - Nick
- Liz Hennig – to investigate plaques and wording
- To be awarded at our Feb 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.

Subscribe to the Bee Aware e-newsletter and stay up to date

The Bee Aware 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/>

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/>

Annual Membership Fees are due in July/August each year - now \$35/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, editor@beesnorth.com.au

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

TDBAI Office holders and Committee for 2023/2024

Positions	Name
President	Nick Smith
Vice President	Mark Finn
Secretary	Liz Hennig
Treasurer	Derek Walker
Assistant Treasurer (If Required)	N/A
Event Co-ordinator	Amanda Coldwell
QBA Co-ordinator (Temporary Position)	Nick Smith
Community Liason Officer	
Biosecurity Awareness Officer	John Carr
Newsletter Editor	Lindsay Trott
Assistant Editor	John Carr
Membership Officer	Frana McKinstry
Shop Manager	Alex Jenkins
Shop Assistant	Derek Walker
Librarian	Beryl Smart
Website/Social Media Officer	Amanda Coldwell
Website/Social Media Officer	Alex Jenkins
Native Bees Representative	Nick Smith
Committee 1	Naomi Olsen
Committee 2	Danny
Committee 3	Kristine Walker
Committee 4	Ron Newitt
Committee 5	Doris Newitt
Committee 6	Maria Finn
Committee 7	Greg Skellen
Committee 8	Lesley Barr
QBA Festival 2024 Sub Committee 1	Alex Jenkins
QBA Festival 2024 Sub Committee 2	Liz Hennig
QBA Festival 2024 Sub Committee 3	Derek Walker
QBA Festival 2024 Sub Committee 4	Amanda Coldwell
QBA Festival 2024 Sub Committee 5	Nick Smith

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 Kersnovske - 0417 344 419

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

- Swarm List People: 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. Remember that Varroa is down South and we don't want it up here.

Newsletter Editor needs your input – why not tell me your story?

From The Ed.

Send stories and pictures to : trott Lindsay@gmail.com

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.

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