

Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc)



PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814

www.beesnorth.com.au

Newsletter No 6, July 2023

In this Issue

- QBK meeting Toowoomba
- Club members – Lake Katwe Uganda
- VARROA!!
- Bee Blooper
- The antenna cleaner
- MORE unwanted guests – *Apis florea* and *Eurovarroa sinhai*
- Club events
- Bees on the internet
- Library corner
- Shop

NEXT Meeting:

Sunday, 20th August @10 am
Michael Hooper Park
Deeragun

Bring a chair and something to share at morning tea.
Tea, coffee, milk, sugar, cups, hot water will be available.
Free chats with experienced and novice beekeepers are available.
The Club Shop will usually open 1st Saturday of the month.
Please check the website for details

Queensland Beekeepers 119th Annual General Meeting and State Conference Toowoomba held on the 15th and 16th June 2023



On the 14th of June Nick Smith, John Carr and I flew down to Toowoomba to attend the Queensland Beekeepers Association (QBA) 2023 State Conference. This 3-day event was very informative with Academics from the USA and others from Australia giving talks on a variety of topics on all things about bees. It comes as no surprise that the main topic of discussion was Varroa and the management of this pest. The members from Townsville were a bit surprised that we were discussing management instead of eradication. John raised some valid points on how he believed this should be handled and was given support from the Townsville crew. There were numerous suppliers at the conference, and I had the opportunity to talk to many if not all of them looking for new and improved products. I was given samples of pollen substitute to trial, which I have given to random club members for some feedback, and I have used this and found the bees love it. I will wait for the other members' feedback before any decision is made to purchase this product. One of the suppliers Nick and I

chatted to was Ben Gibbs from HivelQ who has graciously donated a hive to the club for us to put it through its paces in the FNQ climate. The 3-box hive comes in one box and as it is polystyrene all exposed surfaces need to be painted. I painted the hive with 3 coats of water-based exterior paint (must be water-based) and then proceeded to assemble it. Assembly was straightforward and in no time was completed and ready to go. There is minimum weight in these things, and I believe the thermal properties of this design may be of benefit to us in our climate, however only time will tell. I currently have a Nuc and am only waiting for this to build out when I will transfer to the Hive IQ. This hive will be homed at my place until such time the club's enclosure at MHP is completed, which by all accounts will be done soon.

Mick Olsen



Club Member Profiles

This month we head out of the state to a new member in Uganda.



Working with Lake Katwe Sub- County United Beekeepers Association (LAKASUBA) a community based organisation offers beekeeping services and other conservation promoting platforms like environmental conservation, ecotourism, climate change mitigation programmes, apitourism and other services in Kasese-Uganda. Cris realized that beekeeping is a self-employable skill and can be implemented mostly by the potential youths worldwide. The Lake Katew group has improved the livelihood of local beekeeper for community livelihood improvement through doubling the profits of

beekeepers from bee products produced and mother nature conservation. The bees pollinate the finest fruits, seeds and vegetables that economically sustain local farmers and promotes biodiversity conservation. "Bee stings are life boosters and important to human body functioning though painful." Ed... not entirely sure. Would rather not get stung!





By Cris Mongly Kaseke. info.lakasuba@gmail.com

Varroa Beekeepers Call to Action – time to step up Townsville!

Vigilance required to check for Varroa mites - it's our responsibility.

We need to record our NEGATIVES. It is vital to demonstrate that Northern Queensland is free of any Varroa. Unfortunately, the outbreak in New South Wales continues out of control with new infectious premises being found progressively extending the exclusion zone. Elimination of hives in the elimination zone continues to be slow.

Varroa detection by using DNA technology PCR. This will allow the presence of Varroa to be confirmed by swabbing the landing pad of any hive. An update was provided by a meeting on line on the 23rd of June attended by Dr John Carr. As part of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Biosecurity Innovation Program, the National eDNA Reference Centre (NRC) have developed novel species-specific assays designed for the detection of two invasive bee species: the Asian honeybee (*Apis cerana*), and the Dwarf honeybee (*Apis florea*), and two bee mite species: Varroa destructor and *Varroa jacobsoni* in bird pellets produced by the widely distributed rainbow bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*). Results show that laboratory-based testing for the presence of all targeted species in bird pellets was successful, and that eDNA-based surveillance could greatly complement biosecurity monitoring responses in the event of active incursions.

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:

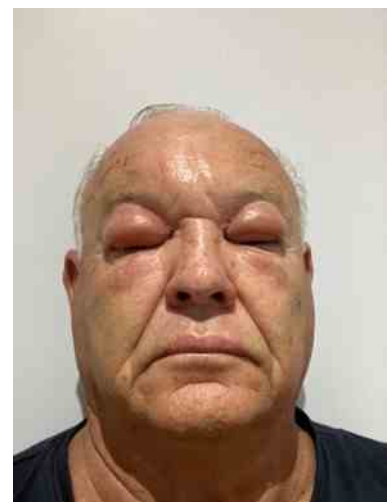


Bee Blooper – Ouch, that's gotta hurt.

From Lindsay Trott/ Absentee??? Editor

The Editor has been bee mentoring and managing some hives for a friend in North Ward for a couple of years.

Unfortunately for him, his reactions to bee stings have progressed beyond the “..oooh that looks nasty”, to”Holy Blisters Batman, time to see the doctor”. He obtained an EpiPen for his own safety, but I advised him that his beekeeping days were over. The clincher for getting out of bees came for him when he received 3 bee “kisses” just as he was about to drive out West towing the van, for an extended break. “No worries” says my mate, “ I have an EpiPen, somewhere around here, now where did I put that thing, and how do I use it”. Time was dragging a little for my mate and he was starting to feel a little woosy, but he located the EpiPen and proceeded to slam it into his thigh. Not having read the instructions beforehand (a



bit like blokes reading the map after getting lost), he managed to have the EpiPen the wrong way around, with needle facing upwards and his thumb firmly planted on the end.

Ouch! might be a word that was muttered amongst a few other expletives. If you have seen the exposed needle of an EpiPen you will know that these are not your delicate, small bore, short diabetes needles (no offense to diabetics intended). The needle penetrated his thumb and came out the other side near the quick but missed the nail....ouch! indeed.

He sensibly offered to be a quiet passenger and not drive for a few hours on the way out West.

I guess my advice is, if you think you need an EpiPen, make sure you know where it is - at all times, and read the instructions BEFORE you need it. I hope I never have to use one of these things.

There are several reports of serious injury from accidental discharge of EpiPens. See correct procedure below and a poisons report article of risks – as in, take care to avoid finger sticks.

There are 2 brands of epinephrine injectors available in Australia, EpiPen and Anapen

How to use an EpiPen

<https://www.allergy.org.au/hp/anaphylaxis/adrenaline-injectors-faqs>



How to use an Anapen

<https://www.allergy.org.au/hp/anaphylaxis/adrenaline-injectors-faqs>



Poisons report on injectors:

<https://www.poison.org/articles/epinephrine-auto-injectors>

The “King of Sting” Justin O.Schmidt has died.

By [Richard Sandomir](#)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/03/science/justin-o-schmidt-dead.html>

Published March 3, 2023 Updated March 7, 2023

Studying the venom of bees, wasps and ants, he was stung hundreds of times and famously ranked the stings in a colourful pain scale index.

Justin O. Schmidt, an intrepid entomologist who measured the agony of insect stings by allowing himself to be stung hundreds of times in creating a renowned and vividly descriptive pain scale that ranked them, died on Feb. 18 in Tucson, Ariz. He was 75.

His wife, Dr. Li Schmidt, said the cause was complications of Parkinson’s disease.

Justin O. Schmidt with a tarantula hawk wasp. He ranked its sting a 4 on the pain scale (the most severe): “Blinding, fierce, shockingly electric.” Credit...Robert



Dr. Schmidt, who brought a joyful exuberance to his work and gained a measure of pop culture fame from it, spent his career investigating the biochemistry and lethality of bee, wasp and ant venom, and how they used their natural weaponry to deter predators. And he suffered, willingly, for his research: He was stung, sometimes on purpose, more than 1,000 times by his count.

“Humans are fascinated by stinging insects,” [he wrote in The Conversation](#), a non-profit news website, in 2016. “Why? Because we have a genetically innate fear of animals that attack us, be they leopards, bears, snakes, spiders or stinging insects.”

Dr. Schmidt got over that fear. He studied stinging insects professionally for more than 40 years and wrote hundreds of peer-reviewed papers, earning the sobriquet “king of sting.” His 2016 memoir, “The Sting of the Wild: The Story of the Man Who Got Stung for Science,” brought him renowned for his colourful [Pain Index for Stinging Insects](#), which he began in 1983.

He ranked, from 1 to 4, the pain caused by the stings of 80 types of bees, wasps and ants that he had encountered, and gave vivid descriptions of what they felt like.

Anthophorid bee, Level 1: “Almost pleasant, a lover just bit your earlobe a little too hard.”

The bullhorn acacia ant, Level 1.5: “A rare, piercing, elevated sort of pain. Someone has fired a staple into your cheek.”

Red-headed paper wasp, Level 3: “Immediate, irrationally intense and unrelenting. This is the closest you will come to seeing the blue of a flame from within the fire.”

Bullet ant, Level 4: “Pure, intense, brilliant pain. Like walking over flaming charcoal with a 3-inch nail in your heel.”

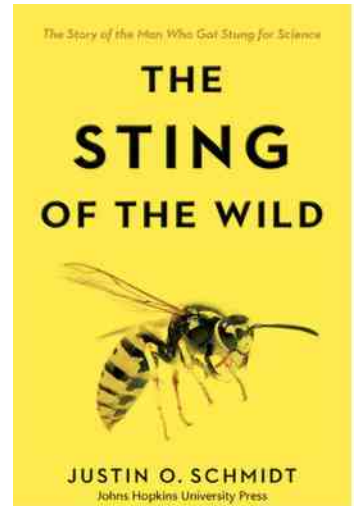
“When Schmidt recalls a certain agonizing sting, a memory that remains vivid decades after the pain has faded, he’s not just spinning a tale,” Avi Steinberg wrote [in a profile of Dr. Schmidt in The New York Times Magazine](#) in 2016. “He’s documenting a theory about how sting pain functions: as a deterrent, whereby it creates a memory of pain that stays with a predator for life.”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schmidt_sting_pain_index

Note: Keen Newsletter readers will remember the chart of the human body generated by this bloke which was included in the monthly newsheet some years back, showing the most painful parts of the body to be stung by a bee.

No prizes for where the most painful sting occurred!!

This guy revealed all for the benefits of science, maybe.



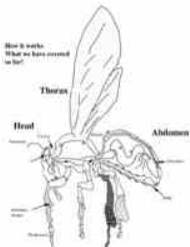
How it works. The Antenna Cleaner

What we have covered so far

The sting apparatus swing mechanism

The **Nassanov Gland**

And Today the **Antenna Cleaner**



The Antenna Cleaner: This is a clever structure on the front legs (prothoracic). The cleaning structure is composed of a series of tight strong hairs and a locking mechanism. This is able to clean the antennae of large and small particles down to about 5µm. The human respiratory system cleans the air into the lungs down to 3µm, so this gives an indication of how clean the bee’s need and get their antennae. There is evidence the bee could clean down to 1µm using adhesive chemicals in the cleaner system but this has to be further investigated.

All of our bees have the similar/identical design to the system – after all they are cousins.



Drone *Tetragonula hockingsi*



Section down the leg down the microscope. The red structures are muscles (*Apis* section)



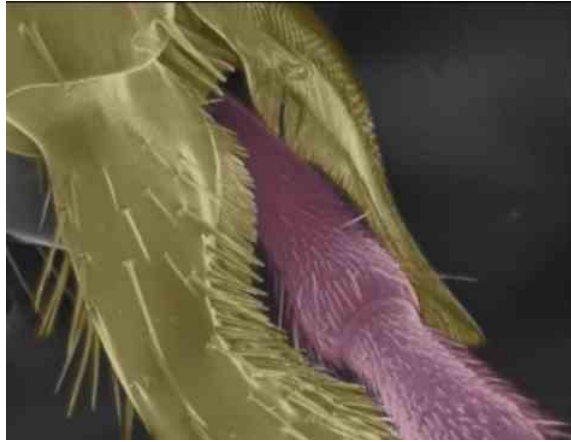
Drone *Apis mellifera*

The bee grasps the antennae at the base with its same side foreleg locking the antenna into the cleaner pulling the leg along to the point of the antenna. If you watch the antenna is often cleaned twice in a row.

The cleaner itself have three various types of hairs all who come together to clean different sizes of particles.



On both the notch and spur as a comb with stiff strong short hairs in a brush made of flexible hairs – setae and then longer hairs around the structure.



The antenna (purple) locked in place in the antenna cleaner (Green) in the ant (*Camponotus rufifemur*)

Hackman, A et al (2015). <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.150129>

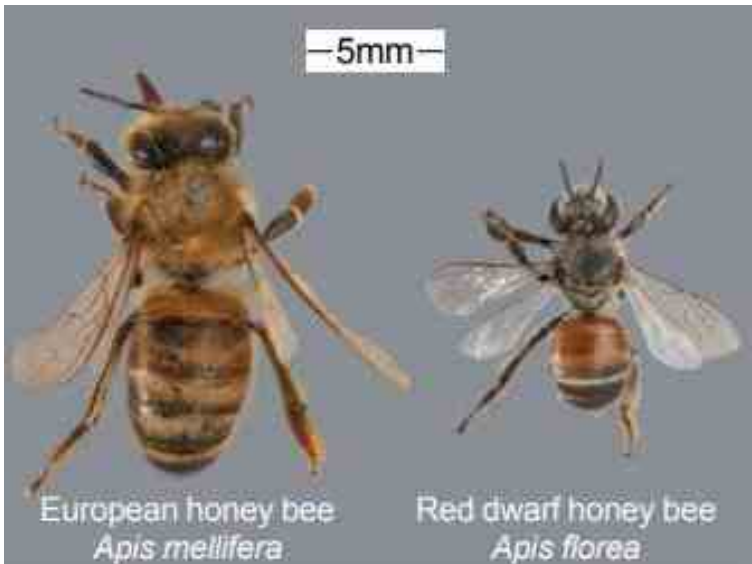
Another unwelcome guests!! *Euvarroa sinhai* AND *Apis florea*.

It's not been a good year for incursions into our great continent.

Detection of *Apis florea* and *Euvarroa sinhai* in WA.

Situation update - 13 July 2023 From WA DPIRD

Apis florea



The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is investigating the detection of the exotic pest red dwarf honey bee (*Apis florea*) on the Burrup Peninsula near Karratha.

In late March 2023, DPIRD received a report from Pilbara Port Authority via MyPestGuide® Reporter of suspect exotic bees observed at the Dampier wharf, Western Australia. The presence confirmed the bee samples as *Apis florea*. Individual bees found on flowering plants in the area and an established nest found in vegetation on a rocky outcrop were destroyed. Native to Asia, the red dwarf honey bee is not known to be present in Australia. Red dwarf honey bees are social bees which live in colonies of at least 3,000 insects.

They migrate, swarm, and abscond readily, making them a major threat for exotic incursions and to the Australian environment. They are a host to a range of bee brood diseases, parasites and viruses that may impact European honey bees. *Apis florea* are characterised by their external and or open nesting habits. Their nest is made up of an exposed single horizontal comb less than 25 centimetres wide that is built around, and attached to, tree branches or other support, including buildings and shipping containers. The bee is easily distinguished from European honey bees by their small size in comparison to the European honey bee, being just 7-10 millimetres in length. They have a red/brown abdomen with black and white bands.

Euvarroa sinhai

Examination of the nest unfortunately detected brood mites (*Euvarroa sinhai*). But these are not infectious to *Apis mellifera* but are another unwelcome guest.

For more information please visit: agric.wa.gov.au/red-dwarf-honeybee.

Club events

Rollingstone Community Centre

Balgal Beach and Rollingstone invited us to their open day to celebrate the opening of the play area and placed the club at the epicenter of the hive of activities at their Beecentric leaning event.

BEECENTRIC LEARNING DAY ROLLINGSTONE!
SATURDAY, 24TH JUNE
9AM - 1PM
ROLLINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE, COMMUNITY CRES.

DISPLAY BY TOWNSVILLE AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION!
BEEKEEPERS
LEARN ABOUT NATIVE AND HONEY BEES!
TASTE HONEY AND BUY SOME TO TAKE HOME!

STALLS TO EXPLORE!
CHAT TO LOCAL BEEKEEPERS!
NATIVE BEE HOTELS TO GIVE AWAY! (LIMITED NUMBERS)
HONEY RELATED FOODS AND CRAFTS!
KIDS INTERACTIVE AREA! KIDS TREASURE HUNT!
LEARN HOW HONEY IS EXTRACTED!
MORNING TEA, LUNCH AND COFFEE VAN!

Thank you so much for your contribution to the Bee Centric Learning Day Rollingstone Community Centre

Op SHOP



KEEP THE DATE

26th August 2023 Pineapple Day Balgal Beach at the Rollingstone Community Centre

Bee Display centre at the Club House

All have a look at our bee display area at the Club house. Looks great. This will be a great addition to the teaching capability of the club. On behalf of TDBAI, we would like to thank Hutchies for their ongoing support of our club.



Bees on the Internet – increasing interest in the gathering information on our hives

<https://agrotimes.ua/tvarinnitstvo/na-kyyvshhyni-vidkryly-it-pasiku-z-10-vulykiv%ef%bf%bc/>



Library Corner

New books to think about

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 - tsvbeclub@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

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, **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.

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/>

Meeting in June 2023

Held at the 25th June 2023 at the Hermit Park School,



TDBAI Office holders and Committee for 2023

Position	Name	Nominated	Seconded
President	Nick Smith	Alan	Mick
Vice president	Mark Finn	Mick	Beryl
Secretary	Liz Henning	Naomi	Mark
Treasurer	Derek	Mick	Nick
Assistant Treasurer	Frana McKinstry	Ron	Derek
Newsletter Editor	Lindsay Trott	Mick	Nick
Assistant Editor	John Carr	Nick	Ron
Membership Officer	Frana McKinstry	Nick	Mick
Shop Manager	Mick Olsen	Maria	Doris
Shop Assistant	Alan Z	Paul	Liz
Native bees	Nick Smith	BS	MO
Librarian	Beryl Smart	Mark	Naomi
Website/Social Media	Mick Olsen/Nick Smith	Beryl/Liz	Mick/Naomi
Native Bees	Nick Smith	Mick	Naomi
Committee	Miles F	Liz	Doris
Committee	Danny K	Nick	Mick
Committee	Maria F	Naomi	Ron
Committee	Naomi O	Mick	Nick
Committee	Doris N	Derek	Beryl
Committee	Ron N	Nick	Naomi
Committee	Paul P	Mick	Mark

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/>

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

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

Charters Towers: Mervyn Yule - 0427 124 126

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.

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 for this to be about a different Club member each month, but it can only happen if at least 1 out of the 400+ members put 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 can't write, and can't 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. Let's 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: trott Lindsay@gmail.com](mailto:trott Lindsay@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!!

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

