

# Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc)



PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814

www.beesnorth.com.au

## Newsletter No 5, June 2023

### In this Issue

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- "Our Townsville" mega display
- Copping it sweet, Bee Babette in town
- Purple hive, Varroa and checking your hive
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- TDBAI Club officials
- Bees on the Internet, bee trivia
- May meeting postponed to 25 June at HPSS
- Shop prices : <http://www.beesnorth.com.au>

**Next Meeting:**  
**Sunday, June 25 @10 am**  
**Hermit Park State School**  
**McKimmin Rd - entrance off Surrey St**

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 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month.  
Please check the website for details

## Huge Honey Month of May/June for TDBAI Volunteers

From the TDBAI Committee

Hi Bee Club members

Firstly, a huge thank you to the volunteers who attended the multiple events over the month, at last count there was a total of 14 events that we have had volunteers or representatives attend, with many more booked for the next few months.

Oddly, it seems to be the same group of people attending each time, please lend a hand to the busy people running these events.

Bunnings days:

Mothers Day stall at Bunnings Domain on Saturday 13 May

World Bee Day

Saturday 20 May 9am - 12 noon

World Bee Day stall at Bunnings Domain

World Bee Day stall at Bunnings North Shore

World Bee Day activities at Queens Gardens 10-3 pm Sunday 21 May

Dr Kit Prendergast : Bee Bonking Bingo 27 May

Sunday 11 June

"Our Townsville" event at Anderson Gardens 9-4 pm.

The QBA Annual Conference is being held in Toowoomba on Thursday 15 - Friday 16 June. The TDBAI club is an affiliate of the QBA – and the Committee agreed in having some club members attend. Reports will be included in Newsletters and at meetings.

Jo Martin from QBA was in Townsville for the Purple Hive project opening on Sunday 15 May and met up with TDBAI Committee members in order to connect, answer questions and generally spread the word around QBA's activities.



Townsville & District  
**BEEKEEPERS**  
ASSOCIATION INC

NO NATIVE BEES

**BUZZ-TASTIC**  
COMMUNITY EVENT

Sunday  
May 21  
10am  
to 3pm

QUEEN'S GARDENS, NORTH WARD

MARKET STALLS HONEY BEE DEMO NATIVE BEE DEMO KIDS ACTIVITIES FACE PAINTING FOOD COFFEE & LOTS MORE

## Another mega showcase for TDBAI and Townsville beekeeping at "Our Townsville"

Anderson Gardens was the venue for a gigantic display of everything Townsville and of course, TDBAI featured strongly. Thanks again to our merry band of consistent volunteers and helpers. It was a great display with live European and native bees, crafts, honey for sale and more.



## Copping it sweet on World Bee Day

### World Bee Day: Townsville officers pollinate interest in sweetest of hobbies

QPS Media on May 20, 2023 @ 8:00am

When a mass of wriggling furry black and yellow creatures landed in Sergeant Brett Gatehouse's back yard two years ago, he considered taking drastic action – with a stick, a hose or even a can of insect spray.

Instead, he phoned a friend and learned that the seething blob was no threat, just a valuable swarm of honey bees looking for a new home.

It was Sergeant Gatehouse's introduction to the fascinating world of apiary – beekeeping – that is celebrated on May 20, World Bee Day. Assured that the swarm was not dangerous, his alarm turned to fascination and soon developed into a hobby that grows ever sweeter.

"Bees swarm when the queen leaves the hive and all the workers and nurses surround her to keep her safe while the scouts go out and look for a suitable home," Sergeant Gatehouse said.

"They gather on a branch or a fence post and huddle together like a big soft pineapple. You can gently shake the queen into a box and they just flop down after her in clumps like wet concrete. "They are not aggressive; their only focus is on protecting their queen. This is not at all what I thought bees were like. I got interested and decided to get a hive of my own."

Sergeant Gatehouse has been a Communications Coordinator in the Townsville Police Communications Centre (PCC) for the past four years, but the previous 20 years were spent as a detective.

Attuned to watching the body language of people, he became fascinated with the intricate and deliberate communication strategies employed by the bees. "You watch them for an hour and you start to understand their communication," Sergeant Gatehouse said. "The waggle dance, the flight paths – it all makes sense. They've got social structure and clear communication. It's quite exciting."

Read the full article at: <https://mypolice.qld.gov.au/townsville/2023/05/20/world-beekeeping-day-townsville-officers-pollinate-interest-in-sweetest-of-hobbies/>



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

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

From Roger Winton at Biosecurity Queensland, article modified by The Editor

Now that autumn has passed and winter is upon us, here is an update to the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program (NBPSP) and beehive surveillance that was conducted by Biosecurity Queensland (BQ) as a requirement to meet Autumn's milestone.

I previously outlined NBPSP milestone details in the March 23 newsletter and in December 22.

Sadly, my message as to the importance of this work may have been lost and the need for all European Honeybee (EHB) beekeepers within the greater Townsville beekeeping community to undertake and report their hive testing has gone unheeded.

Townsville, in particular the Port of Townsville, is consistently deemed to be of a high risk and as such we need to be on high alert for the possibilities of re-introduction of serious bee pests (such as varroa mite) and diseases they can carry. We need to meet our/your requirements/obligations for best-practice bee biosecurity.

In December's newsletter, I outlined updated NBPSP requirements for ongoing community hive testing in Townsville post National Varroa Mite Eradication Program (NVMEP). I mentioned that during our successful eradication program (for *V. jacobsoni* on Asian honeybees) there was a heightened level of interest to test beehives in our community and that many Townsville beekeepers were included within this long-term testing regime.

This requirement remains, however rather than a 6-week testing cycle, we are now required to test community hives twice a year during Spring and Autumn. To meet our community hive testing commitments, we require European honeybee hives belonging to registered beekeepers, rather than just relying on the six sentinel hives which are located in vicinity of the Port of Townsville.

In March's newsletter, I called upon Townsville beekeepers to assist BQ to meet Townsville's requirements to test 20 EHB beehives.

To refresh your memories, my words were with Autumn fast approaching, we need to start testing our hives for pest and disease, including varroa mites. For reporting and recording purposes, BQ is required to submit samples for verification for Queensland's declarations of area freedom. This is very important in light of NSW Varroa mite (*V. destructor*) situation. In order to fulfil BQ's requirements under the NBPSP Autumn milestone, I am requesting 20 samples from tests conducted from around the greater Townsville area.

Testing can be done by way of alcohol washes, drone uncapping, and /or sugar shakes. Sticky mat testing can be done for those who have a BQ distributed bottom box (with adapted sticky mat tray) or hive boxes that have a beetle base sliding tray trap system. Sticky mat treatment will be a chemical free test. I have a supply of sticky mats for these tests which are available upon request. I can assist with those that are wanting to test their hives and happy to demonstrate techniques learnt from the NVMEP. Please give me a call on 0459 810 628 to discuss how you can help to meet your General Biosecurity Obligation for testing and reporting. If you do your own testing, then please also give me a call to arrange a collection of filter paper(s) from your sugar shake or alcohol wash.

I'm disappointed to report that not one sample or any request to assist with beehive sampling was received with BQ since March. Not one.

Thankfully though, I did receive some feral EHB swarm/nest samples during this period, and I sincerely thank the swarm collector involved. Those samples received from the Port of Townsville vicinity are vital to check the health & freedom from biosecurity risks of unmanaged bees close to our mostly likely point of entry.

In April, I contacted our sentinel hive owners and arranged for another round of sentinel hive testing. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank these owners (Steven, Lindsay, Sonia, Ruth & Clare) plus a few other beekeepers in the Port of Townsville vicinity (Bill, John, Davey, Diana, Taryn) who made their hives available for testing. To these beekeepers, your ongoing assistance is greatly appreciated. To those few who have more than one hive, I even doubled up at a couple of places to boost my numbers. With 13 hives tested, and no further submissions from any Townsville beekeepers, I fell short of my 20-hive testing target.

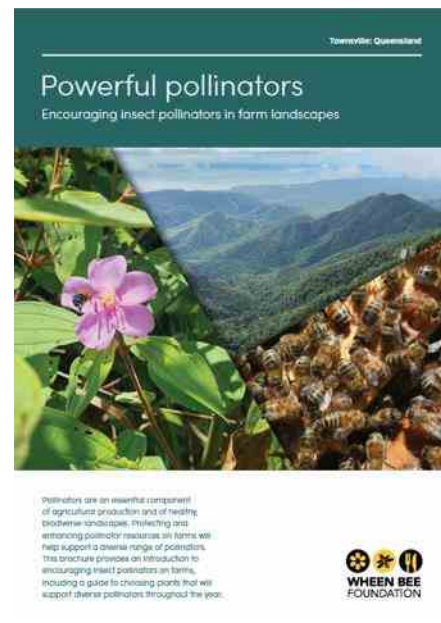
Cheers  
Roger Winton

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

<https://www.wheenbee.foundation.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:



## Purple Hive, Purple Hive, dah dah, dah.....

Article from Roger Winton at Biosecurity Queensland

No..... its not the Prince song about Purple Rain, it's a bit of new high tech gadgetry to watch out for bee pests such as Varroa mite. In a Queensland first, the Purple Hive Project was launched at the Port of Townsville on 15 May 2023 to bolster Queensland's varroa mite preparedness and surveillance capabilities. The project is a collaborative effort between B Honey Australia (BEGA), Vimana Tech, and Port of Townsville Limited.

The Purple Hive is an artificial intelligence-based device, trained to detect the *Varroa destructor* (Varroa mite) in real-time. It features a multi-camera system that images honey bees from the top and bottom as they walk through the hive entrance. The technology uses an algorithm to observe each individual honey bee to determine if *Varroa destructor* is present. The intention is that the Purple Hive will help with early detection and improve the chances of containing and eradicating varroa mite if it is found.

The Port of Townsville has been identified as a critical partner for the Purple Hive Project, as ports have been flagged as high-risk pathways for bee pests to enter Queensland.

Bees can enter Australia on vessels or in freight which can spread pests like *Varroa destructor*, which can kill off honey bees and in turn have a crippling effect on plants that require the pollinators to reproduce.


In addition to this ground-breaking technology, Queensland has been undertaking extensive prevention and preparedness activities since *Varroa Destructor* was detected in the Port of Newcastle in June last year. Rob Stephens is the Program Manager.

The announcement of the Purple Hive project will further enhance Queensland's preparedness and prevention activities. Through the Varroa Mite Prevention and Preparedness Program, the Department manages permitting and compliance requirements for the movement of bees and related carriers into Queensland to mitigate the risk of varroa mite entering Queensland. Early detection improves the chances of containing and eradicating varroa mite if it is found. If you are a beekeeper or know one, *bee* proactive and check your hives for varroa mite. Even if you do not find any mites, we need you to report every check to the [Bee 123 online form](#).

Find out more about the Purple Hive Project: <https://bhoneyaustralia.com.au/townsville/>

Find out more about varroa mite: <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/animal/industries/bees/varroa-mite>



 [Joel Kuperholz](#), co-founder and CEO of Vimana Tech, and hobbyist beekeeper [Sonya Verburgt](#).

### Roger Winton

Senior Biosecurity Officer, Plant Biosecurity & Product Integrity

Mobile: 0459 810 628 Business Information Centre: 13 25 23 Email: [Roger.Winton@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:Roger.Winton@daf.qld.gov.au) Website: [www.daf.qld.gov.au](http://www.daf.qld.gov.au)

## 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.

Despite this and other many other public appeals for beekeepers across the State to undertake hive testing and submit results to Bee123, Townsville recorded only 9 test results since 1 April 2023. There were no recorded test results from the localities of Ingham, Cardwell, Charters, Towers, or the Burdekin regions. We're calling on all Queensland based beekeepers to test for Varroa in April, August and December.

Consistently meeting this testing frequency supports the surveillance and eradication efforts of Varroa. 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

Manager Projects - Varroa Mite Prevention and Preparedness Program (VMPPP)

Plant Biosecurity & Product Integrity M 0407 374 232 E [robert.stephens@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:robert.stephens@daf.qld.gov.au) W [www.daf.qld.gov.au](http://www.daf.qld.gov.au)

## And while we are talking about beekeepers' Biosecurity responsibilities

### Beekeeper fined for breaching biosecurity laws on AFB and EFB

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-02-02/victorian-beekeeper-fined-over-foulbrood-infections/101916864>

A well-known beekeeper from Echuca has been fined after pleading guilty to breaching biosecurity laws, including failing to notify authorities of hives infected with American and European foulbrood.

#### Key points:

- The experienced beekeeper also pleaded guilty to having hives that were not marked with his registration number
- The buyer Bradley Jackson sold the infected hives to has been compensated by the Victorian government
- The prosecution said there was no evidence the foulbrood had spread, but deemed the risk unacceptable

Bradley Jackson was fined \$12,500 and released on a 12-month good behaviour bond undertaking in Shepparton's Magistrates Court on Tuesday. Jackson pleaded guilty to eight counts of breaching the Livestock Disease Control Act 1994.

The court heard 12 hives that belonged to Jackson were found to be infected with American foulbrood, a notifiable bee disease that causes colonies to become weak and die.

In August 2020 Jackson purchased 70 beehives from Christine Webb following the death of her father, who was a well-known apiarist in the region. Victorian Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions records indicated American foulbrood had been previously detected in Ms Webb's hives, but the court was told Jackson was not aware of the infection when he made the purchase.

The court heard the symptoms of American foulbrood were visible when Jackson sold the hives to another business.

The hives were ordered to be destroyed and the new owner was compensated by the Victorian government.

Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions senior prosecutor Elana Tozer told the court there was "no evidence suggesting that the two diseases present in the accused hives spread to any other". "However, [the issue is] the potential risk, given the highly contagious nature of both diseases," she said. "The diseases would have been present for at least five months prior and if Mr Jackson had of done his diligence he would have observed this." Jackson has 35 years of experience in the apiary industry and is the owner of organic honey business My Dad's Honey.

He also pleaded guilty to having hives that were not marked with his registered brand. For biosecurity reasons, it is a legal obligation for all hives in Victoria to be branded with the beekeeper's registration number.

The sentence comes as authorities in New South Wales struggle to stop an outbreak of *Varroa destructor*, which was first detected in June.

## Bee Babette comes to Town(sville)

We've all heard about 'the birds and the bees', but how exactly do bees bonk?

Learn all about the sex lives of bees, with lots of fun memes and footage from Kit's research. Then put your knowledge to the test with a round of Bee Mating Bingo!

Check out Dr Kit's Youtube movie:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/thebeebabette>

### Poetry Corner

#### The Last Bee

After the last \_ee had \_uzzed its last \_uzz.  
the \_irds and the \_utterflies  
did what they could.  
\_ut soon the fields lay \_are,  
few flowers were left.  
nature was \_roken,  
and the planet \_ereft.

\_rian \_ilston (AKA Brian Bilston)

We've all heard about 'the birds and the bees', but **how** do bees procreate?

Learn about the mating rituals and sex lives of bees, with lots of fun memes and footage from Kit's research.

Then Kit will put your knowledge to the test with a round of Bee Mating Bingo!

6 - 7.30pm Saturday 27 May  
Smart Precinct meeting Room, 143 Walker Street, Townsville

Limited spaces - register here:  
<https://bit.ly/3L5i606>

Supported by Townsville City Council

# Native Bee Log Home of *Austroplebia australis* Moves into Ecosophy Garden as part of Three for Bees

From President Nick Smith

Townsville QLD - The Ecosophy Garden is excited to welcome *Austroplebia australis*, an Australian native stingless bee, to their community as part of the Three for Bees initiative. The bee colony is housed in a sustainably sourced Native Bee Log, a hollow log replicating the natural nesting environment of these unique bees.

*Austroplebia australis*, is an essential species of stingless bees that play a vital role in pollinating native flowers and fruits and orchard fruits and nuts such as mangoes, strawberries, watermelons, and macadamia nuts.

They are also crucial for pollinating grain crops such as sunflowers, fava beans, peas, and soybeans. Adding the Native Bee Log with a *Austroplebia australis* colony will contribute significantly to the garden's biodiversity and sustainability.

Unlike European bees, stingless bees make carefully planned moves where workers construct new accommodations before the new queen and her cohort move to the new palace. The Native Bee Log provides an ideal habitat for the *Austroplebeia australis* colony, allowing them to thrive and expand during the warmer months.

"Beekeepers are thrilled to partner with Council to welcome the *Austroplebeia australis* species to the Ecosophy Garden," NQ Native Bees owner and Townsville and District Beekeepers president Nick Smith said.

"These unique bees play a crucial role in pollinating a wide range of crops and are essential for the health of our ecosystem. We hope that by providing a home for this colony, we can encourage others to support and protect native bee populations."

The Three for Bees initiative aims to increase awareness of the importance of bees and other pollinators in our ecosystem and promote their conservation. The initiative encourages people to plant bee-friendly plants, be soil health-aware, and install a backyard native bee hotel to support native bee populations.

To learn more about the Three for Bees initiative and how to support native bee populations, visit the Ecosophy Garden or Townsville and District Beekeepers.

## More Purple Hive News



## Bees on the Internet

### Royal jelly?

From Dr John Carr

Kate, Princess of Wales was spotted in her beekeeping suit for World Bee Day recently at Anmer Hall, Sandringham. The Royals have a history of beekeeping, with Queen Elizabeth 2 hosting several hives, and Queen Camilla also keeping several hives at Buckingham Palace. Some of the honey is sold at Fortnum and Mason's upper end department store while the money earned is donated to charity.

(Ed's comment: For my World Bee Day celebrations I had an inflatable bee balloon decorating the dining room of the Coral Discoverer ship while expeditioning over in the Kimberly region recently. I also bored the diners to their back teeth with tales of how important our little pollinators were to our well being. What did you get up to? Let me know.)

### Apitherapy is all the buzz – book your next hotel stay in the “Apipod”

Reports of people booking at an expensive hotel in order to spend the night sleeping in specially designed cubicles above a 60,000 strong beehive in order to feel the buzz and vibration and smell the aroma of a fully functioning hive. At \$100 a night for singles \$180 per night for couples I reckon I could make a killing with my home set up. Apparently a night in the “Apipod” promotes all the feel good hormones, just like patting a dog or cat, but you won't find me patting my girls.

And you can go to an Apitherapy Conference: <https://www.beeeculture.com/apitherapy-course-conference/>

### Top 10 hints for how to smoke bees

<https://www.honeybeesuite.com/how-to-smoke-bees-10-tips-for-best-results/>

### Manuka honey gas mask to filter out toxins and biological agents

Dr John Carr sent this in, so ask him about it when you next catch him.

### American Beekeeper magazine article says that insecticides are not the real cause of insect deaths!!!!

<https://www.beeeculture.com/crop-protection-myths-debunked/>

Ed's Comment: Apologies for showing my bias, but these “alternate truths” sound a lot like they were written by Donald Trump's re-election team. Apparently, Farmers are so good natured to insects that they are planting wildflower beds around their farms..... Believe it , ..... or not.

#### Myth: Insect deaths are the result of pesticide use

Fact: The decrease in insect populations must be studied from various angles and can be linked to a wide range of causes. Mainly climate change, but also lack of living space (due to a lack of open space and/or hedges, for example), all types of soil sealing (due to construction projects and roads), the introduction of substances into the environment (for cleaning and plant protection), an increase in light sources (due to the constant illumination of roads), an increase in traffic (insect collisions), and a lack of biotope protection (e.g., fewer wetlands) all impact insect populations. Farmers depends on and protect insects and other pollinators that are essential for their crops. Many farmers go to great lengths to provide habitat and forage for insects, such as planting wildflowers around their fields.

#### Myth: Natural is healthy; poisonous substances are chemicals

Fact: Organic food is not inherently more safe or nutritious. While organic pesticides may generally come from natural sources, they can still pose risks to humans and the environment if used incorrectly. And due to the less targeted nature of organic pesticides, farmers may need to use them more frequently and in greater amounts than non-organic pesticides.

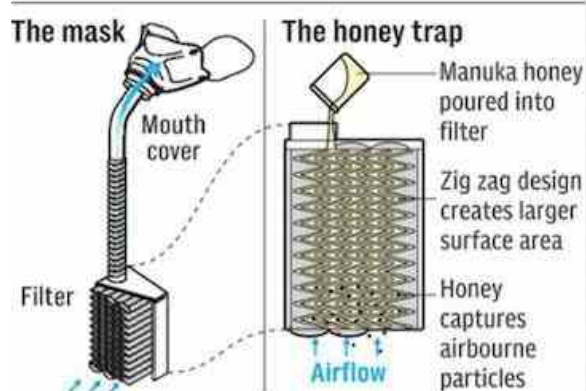
There are numerous naturally occurring compounds that are highly toxic, and there are also many synthetically created substances that are completely safe. Aflatoxins, produced by the natural infection of a plant by a fungus, are some of the most carcinogenic chemicals known to man. In Africa it has been suggested that half the food produced has aflatoxin levels higher than the USA safety limit. However, by employing particular fungicides, the risk posed by this mycotoxin can be reduced. Another example: the heavy metal copper can be applied in organic farming practices. But as the copper builds up in the soil, it becomes harmful to soil creatures like earthworms.

In addition, biological crop protection products, also called biopesticides, represent a broad category of plant protection products that are derived from living organisms. Growers use biologicals to complement chemical products in an integrated pest management (IPM) program, or as stand-alone method, for protecting plants from disease, insect pests and competition from weeds.

#### Myth: Pesticides are making our food poisonous

Fact: Pesticide residues are strictly regulated through so-called Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) and closely monitored (see above). The MRL is defined as the maximum amount of a pesticide residue in or on food that is expected and legally tolerated when a pesticide was applied according to the label instructions that will not be a concern to human health. MRLs are set according to the As Low as Reasonable Possible principle. Some 50 to

### How manuka honey mask works



60 years ago, authorities monitored MRLs to check if farmers have used pesticides correctly. The authorities were checking for label compliance. With the beginning of this millennium, global trade drastically increased and with it the need for standards that ensure the traded food is safe. Therefore, MRLs became a trading standard ensuring that the food is safe for consumption.

The amount of pesticide residues found in food is often used and taken out of context by mainstream media and social media influencers as scare tactics. These claims frequently fail to explain that crop protection products make it possible to produce healthy food for a growing population and in that way significantly improve public health. Strict regulations ensure that we can consume foods like fresh produce without worrying about safety.

Many diseases, deadly fungi, and harmful weeds cannot be controlled without pesticides. EU consumers have many choices in the food they eat. Whether buying organic, non-organic, local, or imported, chances are our food has almost certainly been grown with the help of pesticides and food in Europe is currently the safest it has ever been.

We are here to share current happenings in the bee industry. Bee Culture gathers and shares articles published by outside sources. For more information about this specific article, please visit the original publish source: Crop Protection Myths Debunked Continued ([european-seed.com](http://european-seed.com))

## ***New Zealand loses fight with Australia over mānuka honey trademark***

Intellectual Property Office rules that New Zealand beekeepers' attempt to stop Australian producers using the name did not meet necessary requirements

*Tess McClure in Auckland @tessairini*

Mon 22 May 2023 14.07 AEST

New Zealand honey producers have lost their latest battle to trademark mānuka honey, the latest blow in a years-long fight to stop Australian beekeepers using the lucrative name.

The Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand ruled on Monday that New Zealand mānuka beekeepers' attempt for a trademark did not meet necessary requirements, and the term mānuka was descriptive.

Mānuka refers to a white flowered tree that grows in both New Zealand and Australia – although it is more widely known as “tea tree” in Australia. The bees that browse its tiny pale blooms produce a kind of honey known for antibacterial and supposed health properties – and which fetches a significant price markup on the international market as a result. New Zealand is drowning in manuka honey after a boom in beekeeping.

At the highest concentrations, some New Zealand batches have fetched up to NZ\$2,000 to \$5,000 for a 250g jar at luxury stores overseas. The lucrative nature of the product has been responsible for outbreaks of crime in New Zealand, with fierce competition over access to mānuka forests spurring mass poisonings of bees, thefts, vandalism and beatings.

For more than a decade, however, the two countries have been at loggerheads over the use of the mānuka name – a Māori word, which New Zealand argues is an indigenous treasure, uniquely associated with its own honey production. Pita Tipene, Chair of the Manuka Charitable Trust, said the decision was “disappointing in so many ways”. He said the trust would pause to regroup, before continuing its battle.

“If anything, it has made us more determined to protect what is ours on behalf of all New Zealanders and consumers who value authenticity,” he said. “Our role as kaitiaki [guardians] to protect the mana [dignity] and value of our taonga [treasured] species, including mānuka on behalf of all New Zealanders is not contestable.”

Australian industry players welcomed the decision as a “commonsense outcome” and issued a press release saying they had plans to grow international sales in response to rising demand. Australian Manuka Honey Association chairman Ben McKee said he was “delighted” by the ruling.

“Our product has a long history of being recognised as manuka honey, it is produced like the NZ product is, and it also offers the sought-after antimicrobial properties that consumers around the world value so highly,” he said. New Zealand producers first tried to trademark the term in 2015.

The Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand called the fight “a trans-Tasman tussle of extraordinary proportions” and said in its ruling that it was “one of the most complex and long-running proceedings to have come before the Intellectual Property Office”. The latest decision follows a similar 2021 ruling from the UK to not grant trademark status.

## ***From the Club Shop volunteers***

Hi Bee Club members

**Update** - our website is up again, you can place your orders via [beesnorth.com.au](http://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](mailto: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  
 to [shop@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:shop@beesnorth.com.au); please do not send your order to [info@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:info@beesnorth.com.au)



## Golden Rules for the Club Shop:

Please follow this guide:

1. Order **AND Pay** by Thursday midnight **before** the opening day, by email: [shop@beesnorth.com.au](mailto: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/>

## AGM and Meeting Minutes for November 2022 General Meeting

### New 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 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 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 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::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!!

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



Townsville & District

**BEEKEEPERS**



ASSOCIATION