

Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc)



PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814

www.beesnorth.com.au

Newsletter No 4, May 2023

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- Bees on the Internet, bee trivia
- May meeting postponed to 16 June
- Shop prices : <http://www.beesnorth.com.au>

Next Meeting: Postponed

Sunday, 16 June @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 after the meeting
The Club Shop will usually open 1st Saturday of the month.
Please check the website for details

Member profile – all the way from wildflower WA!

Name: Noni Ward **HIN:** HP3 **Area:** Coorow, WA (the wild flower shire)

Native or European bees? European bees **No of hives:** 10 in Coorow

Type of hive: Langstroth. 5 frame boxes set out as swarm boxes, 10 frame singles for maturing swarms, doubles for working hives, triples to help keep wax moth out and working hives.

Type of foundation: wax for all brood, and some plastic for honey - but some wax for honey, also wax foundations made not bought, usually done on a rainy day

Beetle protection: no beetle protection **Year commenced bee keeping:** 2014

Mentor: the internet initially - with the videos on Skeps, all 8 of them - and ventured further into other videos, and trial and error on my part. Dr John Carr was coming over to see the piggery and brought a bee suit with him one year...I don't remember the year...as he had been coming to see us for quite a few years before my bee keeping adventure. We would go round all of my hives and take a peek inside. Sometimes he would take honey and or frames of honey to the shop we sell through in the Swan Valley. The Shop is called “Albion on Swan”....they sell wines as well. John wrote a book on bees health and gave me a signed copy.

My hubby helps spin the frames out and that's about all he does. He likes the plastic frames so he can set the electric spinner flat out. Wax foundation does not tolerate this speed.



Biggest success: getting a bulk order for a business that incorporates honey into ice cream in Perth city.

Catching swarms in early spring....and lots of them, this is something John has not seen till 2020 and was amazed -no suit and no smoker!! Bees in trees split and seem to come to my place....caught 16 in 2021 and 10 stayed...and 6 moved on...see what happens this season...great way to increase your hive numbers.

I don't go to the city to pick up city bees, **as I only travel 100km in any direction for a swarm.** If people have trouble with bees in sheds or bbq stands or letter boxes or cable drums I collect those.

Lesson: wear a bigger suit to get around being stung on the face. Having your throat swell along with your face from ear to ear is not fun and not being able to talk and only dribble is very scary. Keeping zyrtec tablets in the house and toothpaste makes bee keeping a pleasure.

What would you do differently after a fire: I had a fire start from a lightning strike back in summer 2020...I had one hive on the boundary of bush and it was engulfed by fire. After the fire was out and the box was cool I collected the box but the bees had died on the top of the frames. It was a double brood box and nearly ready to harvest. I lost the bottom board, the frames in the bottom brood box, the front of the brood box but the honey was in the top box. I found the honey out but it was very smokey and the frames were just full of smoke.

I have the smokey honey away. Some people returned with comments...good for a marinade but not good for anything else. I could not get rid of the smokiness out of the rest of the box so put it in a heap and burnt the lot, wax as well....it was just horrible.

Do you sell/barter/give away your honey: I sell my honey through “Albion on Swan” in the Swan Valley...I got an invite into the shop some years ago when the owner of the shop was doing some electrical work on the farm. I had 30kg of honey in jars in an old kitchenette that had creamed naturally. He said...it won't sell there....my reply.... No, I guess not.....His reply was bring the honey to the shop when next I was in the city....the Chinese bought it in their droves.

I barter a little.....I give a little away....but mostly sell it. I have been sending to the USA for a few years as well

How much does your hive produce....we are not greedy when it comes to robbing hives. We generally harvest only once a year....but if time permits twice a year, taking 20kg per hive. We also do honey comb, so sell full frames. We have liquid honey and creamed honey...

Do you make any products from your hive: No..no time for anything else.

My hives are scattered across our farm as we have approximately 5000-6000 acres of natural bush that surrounds us, plus our little bit of bush. My bees seem busy every day except for rainy days. We have Summer, Spring, Autumn and Winter flowers and I never need to feed my bees. I only ever take 8 frames of honey to spin out. I do a few splits here and there and I take a frame of brood if a hive is a little small or even queenless. I don't re-queen, I let the bees cope with this in their own.

I have swapped honey (12 years old) for cattle in the past. It was beautiful honey, almost black in colour. There are no commercial bee keepers near us and we see very few problems. Dr John Carr has lots of photos of my place. If you wish to have a look, ask him to show you. I am a long way from Townsville.

Noni Ward, TDBAI Club Member

Ed's Comment:

Thanks Noni for that report on your very independent beekeeping adventure. Travelling 100 km to collect a swarm in someone's BBQ seems a big deal to us over here in Townsville, who balk at a 10 km trip. Congratulations on your success with selling your different honey varieties into the market. I understand why your honey is so prized, as you are on the Coral Coast in the middle of all those WA wildflowers.

<https://www.coorow.wa.gov.au/coast-to-coorow/visitor-information-wildflowers.aspx>

Easy peasy swarm collection – almost

Story and pics from Naomi Olsen

While we do not need any more bees, I responded to a request on Facebook to collect a swarm. It looked like an easy collection and should not take any time at all. When we arrived the swarm was in a low tree and all that was required was to hold the box underneath and shake. All went smoothly until it was discovered there was no tape for the top of the box. We had a sheet, so we tied this around the box to hold the bees in one general place as they were finding every little spot to get out.

It was not long until we noticed that the bees had found their way out of the sheet and were all in the back of the car. By the time we arrived home they were escaping out of the car. I opened the back and of course they swarmed again up to the highest branch of a tree. What started out as a nice easy collection was turning into a major event. By this time Mick had thrown his hands in the air and was quite vocal and retired to have a refreshing drink.

Rather than leave them, we asked our son very nicely if he would like to climb up and cut the branch so we could lower it down and put them in the box. He grudgingly agreed and borrowed an 8-metre trestle from next door. I did volunteer to go up however this was vetoed very quickly. He was able to get sort of close to the branch and started sawing, however, the whole branch hit the ground and the bees again swarmed off to a fence.

Finally we were able to collect all of them and put them into a nuc. What was supposed to be a quick easy job turned into quite the show and took hours.



Why your beeswax go dark – and what are those dark capsules in the old brood comb?

From Rusty Burlew at Honey Bee Suite

https://www.honeybeesuite.com/whats-the-best-and-highest-use-for-dark-beeswax-combs/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=news_from_the_hive&utm_term=2023-04-19

Why do you have so many dark beeswax combs in your hives and what should you do about them? Can you safely extract honey from dark combs?

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Dark brood combs are normal and natural

A newly secreted brood comb is an exquisite achievement. The white or cream-tinted cells gleam in the sunlight and smell heavenly. Is anything in beekeeping more exciting than seeing a new swatch of pristine honeycomb and inhaling its essence?

Unfortunately, beeswax combs do not stay that way forever. Just as new cars lose their alluring aroma, so do waxen combs.

Darkness seeps in little by little

Dark beeswax combs don't happen overnight. The darkness seeps in slowly, barely noticeable at first. But one day, you look at a comb and think, "Gross!" You wonder how it got that way and how safe is it for your honey bees?

The darkest combs are the ones used for brood rearing. It turns out that the process of brood rearing is a dirty business. Similar to infant rearing, you have food stains, dirty diapers, fingerprints, microbes of all sorts, dust, dirt, and grime. No matter how often you clean every surface, you need to repeat the process constantly



Some really old brood combs that need replacing. The Ed's hive on the left and MrsP's on right

Worker Bees and Their Dirty Feet

Worker bees are known for having dirty feet. As they walk around the inside of the hive, they track pollen and hive debris across the surface of honeycombs. Comb honey producers—who especially don't want combs with footprints on them—have a special name for dirty bee tracks: "travel stain."

The gooey process of brood rearing

A cell begins as an empty space with an egg stuck in the middle, but it soon becomes a factory. You may think the first bit of garbage will be an eggshell, but it's not. The eggshell of a honey bee dissolves instead of cracking like a bird's egg.

But after that, trash begins to accumulate. The worker bees make thousands of visits to each larva, excreting royal jelly at first, and later delivering bee bread. As the workers travel back and forth, they leave debris: dust, pollen, and splatters. All of these stick to the pristine waxen combs and give them a hint of color.

Later, as the larva spins a cocoon, it empties its intestine of all the food waste from eating so much. This excrement gets woven into the fabric of the cocoon so it doesn't contaminate the developing bee.

Cocoons stay in place forever

The faeces-containing cocoons get pressed against the waxen cell walls as the pupa grows. And when the pupa emerges as an adult, the cocoon stays inside the cell, forever glued in place.

The cocoon, faeces, and hive debris darken the wax, making it light tan at first. But then the worker bees prepare the cells for the next round of brood rearing. Although they can't remove the cocoon layer, they clean and polish the surface.

Because any pathogens in the faeces become locked in the cocoon layer, the new larvae stay safe. As a final touch, sometimes worker bees smooth the inner cell surface with a layer of propolis, something that makes it even safer—and darker.

Multiple cocoons add layers of darkness

Each new round of brood rearing adds more layers of debris and makes the brood comb a bit darker. The frame in the top photo shows a comb that has raised many bees, but it still has plenty of life left.

Beeswax combs near the edge of the brood nest often stay clean longer than those in the centre. That's because nurse bees use the centre of each frame more often than the ends.

When brood rearing is just starting in the spring or tapering off in the fall, the outermost combs may remain empty or they may get filled with honey. Because honey does not produce dark combs the way brood does, these combs can look much cleaner for a long time.

Management of dark combs has changed

In the olden days of beekeeping, dark beeswax combs were a prized possession. Why? Because bees love the odour of used combs. Stories of beekeepers using combs for 25 years are not uncommon, even though the diameter of the cells gets smaller as more layers accumulate. However, with increases in global trade, we have many more pathogens living in beehives than we did 50 or 100 years ago. Some of these pathogens—collected from around the world—can persist in brood combs and be passed to a new crop of bees. Today, many beekeeping authorities advise that we replace black combs after about five years. This simple step will reduce the pathogen load inside a hive.

It can also reduce pesticide build-up. Because many pesticides are dissolved in oil-based carriers, they are easily incorporated into beeswax. Over time, even slight amounts of pesticide can accumulate in beeswax and sicken baby bees that are raised there. These include pesticides brought in by worker bees or introduced by the beekeeper for mite control.

How to rotate frames to remove dark combs

Beekeepers have many methods for removing used combs. Many beekeepers use a four- or five-year rotation.

For example, in a four-year rotation, you would replace one-quarter of your frames each year. Then, at the end of the four years, all the frames will have been replaced. In a five-year rotation, you would replace one-fifth of your frames each year.

When I do this, I replace the darkest frames each year and write the year on the new frame. However, you don't actually need to write the date. You will find that some frames don't get much dark comb, and you can leave these in service longer if you like.

The advantage to a multi-year rotation is that you don't have years when the bees need to start the season with zero pre-built combs. Instead, the bees build some new combs every year, which is not an overwhelming task.



Clean brood wax and bees

Combs of honey are unlikely to get dark

Combs used exclusively for honey get a bit darker with use, but they don't have the build-up of pollen, propolis, faeces, and cocoons that brood combs get. You can use these longer because they are less likely to contain pathogens.

If you are concerned about pesticide build-up, you can rotate the honey frames the same way as the brood frames. In that case, writing the date on the top bar helps to keep you organized.

People often ask if it's okay to use honey from dark combs. The answer is yes. The dark color has little effect on the color or taste of honey and the antimicrobial effects of honey keep it safe. You can be sure that much of the commercial honey we eat every day came from old and dark combs.

Creative uses for dark beeswax combs

Beekeepers find many uses for old dark beeswax combs. Depending on your level of patience, here are some creative ideas:

- I know several beekeepers who render dark comb for candles and other crafts. However, rendering dark wax is time-consuming and doesn't yield much. But if you have lots of time and filtering material, go ahead and experiment. Candles made from dark comb have a much deeper color than those made of light comb, even after filtering. However, they are great for emergency lighting and patio use when the color doesn't matter.
- I like to use black combs for fire starters. I spread the heated wax over newsprint and roll it into sticks for starting a wood fire. You can also melt the wax and mix it with wood chips or sawdust.
- You can make so-called swarm charms by soaking old rags with melted black brood combs. Tie these to a long rope, throw the rope over a limb, and pull the rope until the charm is 10 or 12 feet in the air. During swarm season, swarms find these to be attractive places to land while the scouts search for a new home. Once they land, simply untie the rope and lower the swarm into a box.
- Pieces of the dark comb are great for luring swarms into a bait hive. I just put a frame of old dark comb in the bait hive or nuc box, and wait for the bees to find it. I've caught many swarms with just one frame. After the bees move in, I exchange the dark comb for a new one.
- Melt and filter dark combs for use on a workbench or in your woodshop. Beeswax is great for lubricating fasteners and the color doesn't matter.
- Make and store dark and filtered beeswax in cubes. You never know when it might be just what you needed. I often use a cube of beeswax to hold pinned insects until I'm ready to move them into permanent storage. The wax holds the pins upright and, once again, the color doesn't matter.

Embrace the possibilities

Instead of worrying about dark comb, think of all the bees that your colony raised in it. That gorgeous golden comb was sacrificed for an excellent cause, and now you can use it for something else.

Just remember those old dark combs arose from successful beekeeping. Bring them on—the more the better.

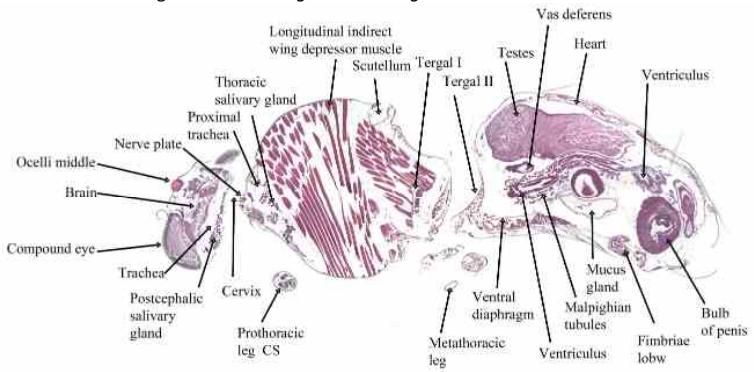
Rusty from [Honey Bee Suite](#)

Fire. Two very dramatic pictures of a poor hive at the edge of a fierce wildfire in WA.



Stingless bee section

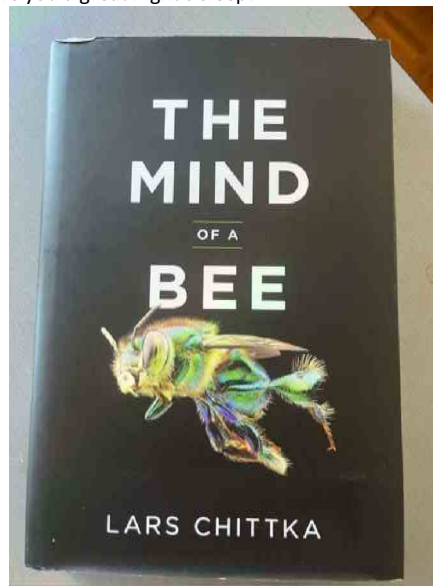
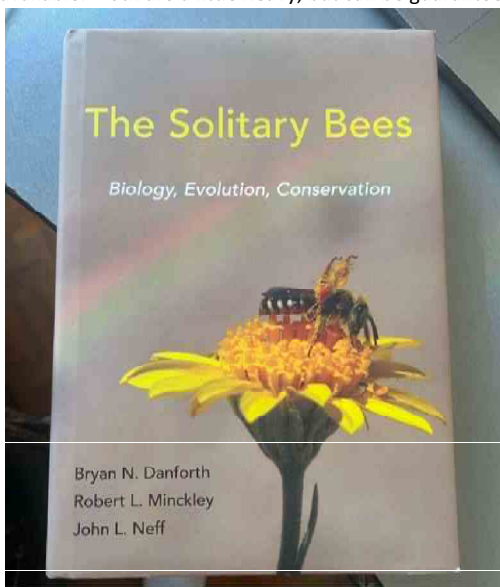
As we are getting a new king, I thought we could look at the drones in our Stingless bees *Tetragonula hockingsi*



Library corner

Bee up to date – BORROW (not keep) a book from the award winning Librarian

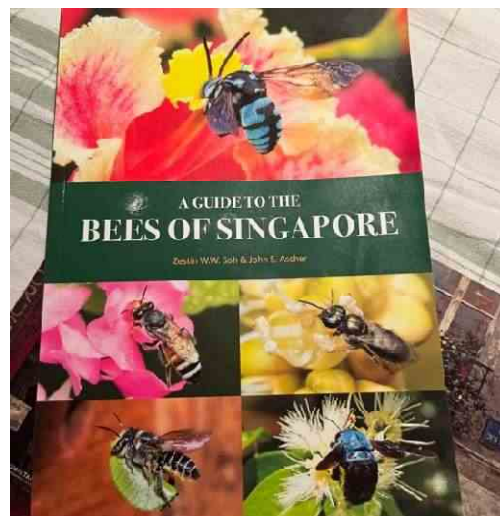
Recent books available. Both are a little heavy, but can be guaranteed to give you a great night's sleep!



Going on holidays!

Don't forget to pack your identification guide to the 'local' bees. The library is full of interesting and even fascinating books on bees. Dazzle your friends with 'oh look at that leaf cutter bee – they are called Megachile and some have difference feet structure than the bees I have at home! I can show you!' You will be the highlight of dinner parties.

Where ever there are bees we have books on them.



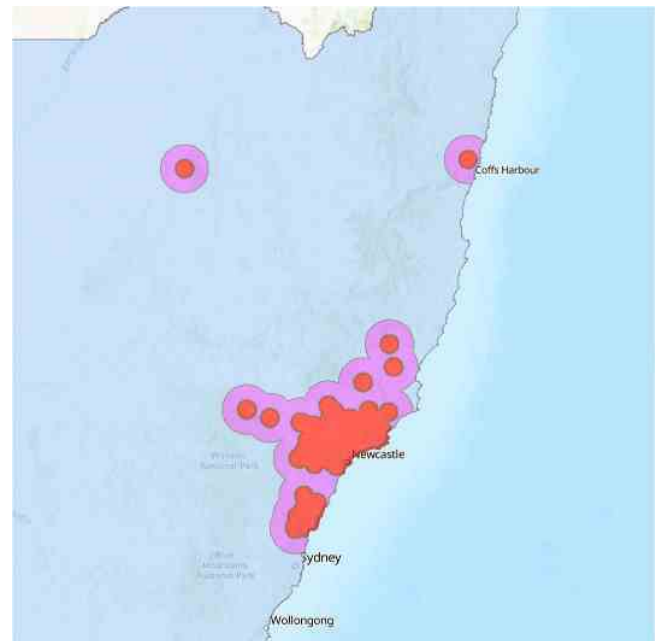
Varroa in NSW update



Drone uncapping an easy procedure – where there are drone cells. Rapidly reveals the presence of Varroa.

A negative test here in Townsville

Map on right
Red Eradication zone 10km
Surveillance zone 25km



The Varroa is still very much there and now we are not getting daily updates or even a date on the map! How are beekeepers in Townsville supposed to keep up to date? Sourced on the 29th April 2023 as late as possible for the newsletter! There has been substantial increase in the affected zone in April and its extending slightly northwards. In the section on Honey bee health in NSW Varroa is not even mentioned!

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/bees>

Bees on the Internet

All honey examined from the UK fails authenticity test

Adulteration of honey with cheap sugar syrup has been exposed in a new investigation by the European Commission, which found 46% of sampled products were suspected to be fraudulent. Ten honey samples from the UK all failed the tests. They may have been blended or packaged in Britain, but the honey probably originated overseas.

Investigators in a European Commission study tested 320 samples and found 147 (46%) were suspicious, where “at least one marker of extraneous sugar sources was detected”.

The report last Thursday by the JRC said honey imported from the UK had a suspicion rate of 100% and “this could be the result of honey produced in other countries and further processed in the UK before its re-export to the EU”.

In 2022, the UK imported more than 38,000 tonnes of honey from its biggest supplier, China, where there is a known risk of adulteration with sugar syrup. Country of origin labelling is not required for a blended product from more than one country, so many shoppers don't know a cheap pot of honey probably originated in China.

<https://www.theguardian.com/food/2023/mar/26/uk-honey-fails-authenticity-test>

Honey yields expected to see significant drop – Apiculture New Zealand

[Honey yields expected to see significant drop – Apiculture New Zealand | RNZ News](#)

Both mānuka and non mānuka values are down and beekeepers are exiting the industry.

Honey yields are predicted to be well down this season compared with the 10-year average of 19,000 tonnes.

Apparently last spring was wet and cold, summer has had too much rain, flowering had been poor, bees hadn't been out foraging and when they had there had been little to feed off. It's one of the worst seasons in 10 years according to one source.

Prices were also down as the honey surplus continued to haunt the sector.

Honey was seen as liquid gold in recent years and people donned beekeeper hats and white overalls and flocked to the industry. The prices of hives soared.

But now both mānuka and non-mānuka values were down and beekeepers were exiting the industry as the margins were just not there.

She expected hive numbers would continue to drop over the next two years.

Hive numbers peaked at 918,000 in 2019 but have now dropped to 731,000 hives in operation for the 2022 season. Those numbers are expected to drop this year.

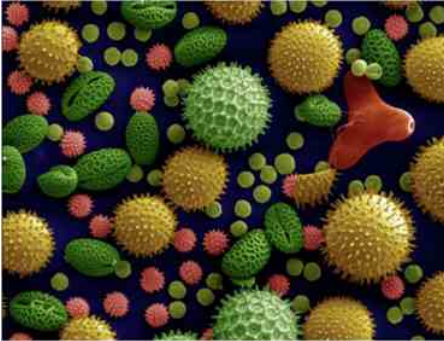
250 million year old pollen suggests UV-B radiation played a role in mass extinction

Key Points:

- New research has uncovered that pollen preserved in 250-million-year-old rocks contains compounds to protect plants from harmful ultraviolet (UV-B) radiation.

- The findings imply plants were forced to load themselves with the sunscreen-like compounds to protect themselves from abundant UV-B radiation.
- Thus, the new study suggests UV radiation played a part in the Permian mass extinction event.

A research team examining 250-million-year-old rocks found pollen that contains compounds that function like sunscreen. The compounds are normally only produced by plants to protect themselves from harmful ultraviolet (UV-B) radiation. The authors say the findings suggest that a pulse of UV-B (due to the destruction of the ozone layer) played an important part in the end Permian mass extinction event.



The Permian mass extinction event is the most severe of the big five mass extinction events with the loss of ~80% of marine and terrestrial species. The prevailing theory is that the event was a response to a paleoclimate emergency triggered by a volcanic eruption that covers much of modern-day Siberia. The volcanic activity drove the release of massive amounts of carbon that had been locked up in Earth's interior into the atmosphere, generating large-scale greenhouse warming. Accompanying this global warming event was a collapse in the Earth's ozone layer.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pollen_-_/media/File:Misc_pollen_colorized.jpg

Colourised electron microscope view of pollen grains

And now, support for this theory comes from the abundant occurrence of malformed spores and pollen grains that testify to an influx of mutagenic UV irradiation, the researchers say.

"We have developed a method to detect these phenolic compounds in fossil pollen grains recovered from Tibet, and detected much higher concentrations in those grains that were produced during the mass extinction and peak phase of volcanic activity," explained Liu Feng, study author and professor at Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology in China.

The compounds would not have been present in the plants if they were not "needed."

"Plants require sunlight for photosynthesis but need to protect themselves and particularly their pollen against the harmful effects of UV-B radiation. To do so, plants load the outer walls of pollen grains with compounds that function like sunscreen to protect the vulnerable cells to ensure successful reproduction," said Barry Lomax, study author and professor at the University of Nottingham.

Elevated UV-B levels can have further-reaching and longer-lasting impacts on the entire Earth system, say the authors. Recent modelling studies have demonstrated that elevated UV-B stress reduces plant biomass and terrestrial carbon storage, which would exacerbate global warming. The increased concentration of phenolic compounds also makes plant tissue less easily digestible, making a hostile environment even more challenging for herbivores.

Information provided by University of Nottingham.

250 M-Year-Old Pollen Suggests Radiation Played a Role in Mass Extinction (laboratoryequipment.com)

Ed's Comment: Those phenolic anti UV-B compounds are pretty nasty tasting to honey bees apparently, so it's probably no coincidence that the process by which honey bees evolved began somewhere between 80 and 150 million years ago, during the Cretaceous Period, long after all that nasty tasting stuff was around.

General Meeting Minutes 16/4/2023

Michael Hooper Park, Deeragun

Chair: President Nick Smith (NS)

Note taker: Editor Lindsay Trott

Meeting Opened : 10:05

- Nick welcomed visitors and members, introduced visitors and requested attendance book signed. Apologies noted.
- refurbished toilet block welcomed and thanks to TCC
- finances from Treasurer Derek showed \$55K in cash, \$90K deposited, \$85K spent (mainly shop items), \$9K in bills (mainly insurance), \$25K in stock in shop
- Secretary Liz – apologies
- Editor Lindsay - still pleading for Newsletter input
- Librarian Beryl – apologies, plenty of new books available, please return when finished
- Shop Mick Olsen - reports \$80 K spent on new stock and shelving, new suits \$135, prices might rise a little after June, ½ and 1 kg glass jars will be ordered
- Mick reported Mates4Mates Workshop to be hosted by Naomi and Mick 16/6 from 1-4 pm, volunteers welcome
- More suits will be purchased for workshops
- Beginners course to be held after Open day , Honey Month and May madness
- Alan Ziegenfusz demonstrated a SS press for wax that would be useful to extract caps honey or whole frame honey without using a spinner. He also showed a small Ozito blower that he uses to clear honey frames of bees and any persistent hangers on from box lids.
- Nick outlined many public events that the Club is organising and hosting such as Open Day and World Bee day 20 May, St Benedict's school 18 May, Ecosophy Gardens 19 May, Rowes Bay Sustainability Day 28 May, Kit Prendergast at Riverside 27 May, Our Council Day 3B's in Queens Gardens featuring the Club and activities, can sell honey but need volunteers
- Lengthy Open Day discussion of details and activities – many items to prepare, services to book, TCC to confirm and provide services and keys etc
- see Facebook page for details of activities and to offer volunteer help
- Amanda showed her leadlight honeycomb artwork and displayed her failed native hive purchase with discussion from members

Meeting Closed: 11:35

Tea and coffee followed but it was a bit too hot to hang around. Around 35 people attended.



Above: Alan Z demonstrating the wax press and handy bee blower
Right: The crowd spread out in the heat
Below: Amanda showed off her leadlight bees and honeycomb, and her failed native hive



Q+A

Who wants a Q+A section in the Newsletter?. If you do, just send me your Q's and I will get a whole lot of A's for you.

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

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/>

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 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, 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::trottindsay@gmail.com](mailto:trottindsay@gmail.com)

CLUB MEMBER PROFILE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name /HIN /Suburb /Native or/and European bees / N° 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

Contact: shop@beesnorth.com.au

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

