

Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc)



PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814

www.beesnorth.com.au

Newsletter No 10, November 2022

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- Club Shop relying on volunteers and polite customers
- Bees on the Internet, bee trivia, Club officials' contacts
- Shop prices : <http://www.beesnorth.com.au>

Next Meeting is AGM

Sunday, 20 November 2022 @ 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

Help stop the spread of the African Tulip Tree

Words and photos from Clubbie Roslyn McGregor

Craig Balnaves and myself (Ros McGregor) have been members of the Club since early last year and have an *Austroplebeia australis* hive.

Many of you will have read about African Tulip Trees (*Spathodea campanulata*) being toxic to our native stingless bees. Additionally, these trees are extremely unstable during cyclones and are classified as a Category 3: restricted invasive plant under the Biosecurity Act 2014 (see DAF factsheet for further info).

On behalf of the Club, Craig and myself recently applied, and were successful in acquiring a Townsville City Council grant to remove 4 large African Tulip Trees from the Aitkenvale area and plant a native shrub/tree in its place. We would like to thank the Club and Townsville City Council for their support of this project.

As part of this initiative, we have also been pounding the pavement in Aitkenvale and Mundingburra, placing flyers in resident's letterboxes offering to assist with the removal of small African Tulip Trees located on their property. Considering African Tulip Trees can grow 24m in height this is one environmental weed that is much easier to tackle sooner rather than later. As this pilot program gains momentum, we are hoping it will be expanded to other Townsville suburbs.

We are asking for the assistance of Club members to complete a TCC application for tree removal form if you see an African Tulip Tree on council land. Furthermore, if you see an African Tulip Tree in a neighbour's yard, please have a chat to them about the environmental impact of this weed.

The bees will thank you for it!

Cheers, Roslyn



Image to left: Craig and a happy resident after the tree was removed from their property.



SUPPORTED BY



Left: a dead native bee in an African Tulip flower

Ants!!

By Dr John Carr

We all love our Ants, or do we? Bees hate the ants. While they are also relatives – both being insects, the love stops there. In Townsville we are blessed with a number of species of ants. But the green tree ants (*Oecophylla smaragdina*) are particularly vicious and certainly are more than happy to attack little old me, let alone my bees.

The last 2 weeks we have had a major warfare being fared in the back garden. My natives and Europeans have had some serious issues!

The victims



The native bees being attacked



The European's being attacked

The native bees could be taken by only a couple of ants – being smaller. The Europeans took 6 or 7 ants to grab and then restrain and kill the bees by a combination of tiring, biting and injecting poison.

The honeybees also indicated stress on their hives by 'dysentery' whereby the bees defecated at the entrance rather than always from the hive.

This is indicated by the arrows. The hive can also become more aggressive to any stranger.



The villains!



The Green Tree Ants are everywhere, certainly down in Balgal and make fantastic nests for themselves in trees and shrubs out of leaves woven together with silk. They are not going to be driven away.

Note the guard ant behaviour, very aggressive. This nest is relatively new as the leaves are still green. They will soon adopt the dry brown leaf design which is more commonly seen.

Treatment and control

1. Make the entrance smaller.

Our *Tetragonula hockingsi* do make a relatively small entrance to their hive. Their major ant control measures are 'inside' the hive with the long walkway they make before the brood area. But other Meliponines do a fantastic job of making their external entrance ant proof. We can mimic this by closing-up the honeybee entrance and this gives the guard bees more chance to protect the hive.



In Malaysia their stingless bees can make fantastically long external entrance tubes

2. Ensure no plants are touching the hive giving the ants easy access to the entrance area. This is good biosecurity



Ensure you have a hive stand. A normal hive is placed inside a tree off the ground. Ensure no plant leaves are touching the hive providing easy access by ants. Note plants grow quickly, as shown on the right, and can overwhelm the hive defenses.

3. Ensure the hive stand is clean and have them standing in water or vegetable oil



Clean ground around the hive stand and the 'legs' are in a can with water. This acts as moat, reducing the ant's ability to make it up the legs of the hive.

Note honey easily absorbs smells and if you use engine oil in the cans, this can affect the taste and smell of the honey.

4. Bait the hive with meat laced with insecticide

Place an ant bait from the supermarket around the hive stand. The ants will collect the bait and take it back to the hive which will kill the queen. Although I have tried to watch this the nest I identified did not die. But the ants stopped coming to the hive on three occasions with both European and native bees being attacked by ants.

Comments from the club members and any other tricks please share.



Feral European honey bees to be eliminated in push to eradicate Varroa in NSW

<https://www.beeeculture.com/feral-honey-bees-to-be-poisoned-in-nsw-varroa-mite-hotspots/>

Authorities will begin baiting feral bees in a single red eradication zone next week, more than three months after varroa mite was detected at the Port of Newcastle.

Key points:

- The baiting program will target feral European honey bees in varroa mite hotspots in NSW
- Feral bees are the same species as those in managed hives but nest in tree hollows and other enclosed spaces
- Authorities say destroying feral bees in red zones is a crucial step in successfully eradicating the parasite

While destroying feral hives has been a key part of the NSW government's varroa mite eradication strategy, the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) said it had been unable to do that while there were managed hives in the zones.

"Managed hive bees will pick up the bait and then go into their nest and then the managed hive gets killed, there's no way then of identifying whether there was a live hive or a dead hive sitting there," chief plant protection officer Satendra Kumar said.

The DPI will use the insecticide fiprinol in baits to attract the feral European honey bees, which take the poison back to their hives.

The baiting program will start in the 10-kilometre red eradication zone of Jerry's Plains in the Hunter region, where all 19 managed hives in the zone have already been euthanised.

Dr Kumar said the baiting stations would be monitored and could be in place for up to 12 months.

"We'll do our first round then we'll come back [for] a number of rounds and if you're no longer attracting any bees then that's an indication there's no longer any bees present," he said.

The DPI will continue euthanising managed hives in other red zones before opening those up to feral bee baits.

A huge task

A leading bee expert said all feral bees in the red zones must be destroyed if eradication of varroa mite in Australia was to be successful.

Bruce White OAM, who worked for the NSW DPI as an apiary officer for more than 40 years, said the challenge was to find every feral bee colony in the state's red zones.

"There's a massive amount of feral bees in that area so DPI, to eradicate varroa from this state, needs to kill every feral bee in every red zone to prevent the spread of varroa reinfesting hives in the future," he said.

Mr White said there was still a lot of bee activity in areas where managed hives had been killed, and said he had witnessed bees working blossoms in areas where hives had been destroyed.

He said there used to be as many feral honey bees as managed bees in NSW.

"Our flora is very suitable for honey bees because of the eucalypts having a lot of hollows in them, and bees are cavity dwellers so therefore there's a lot of feral bees," he said.

"And the evidence is where many species are supposedly all being killed, there's still a lot of bees being observed on flora."

Dr Kumar said he did not think the roll-out of the feral bee baiting program had come too late because authorities were yet to find any mites in feral nests.

"But having said that, there's every likelihood, especially in the areas where the infestations of varroa mite were high, that there might be some bees carrying the mite and therefore we want to make sure that we've got rid of those feral hives and bees," he said.

Feral honey bees spotted at the top of Mt Gower, Lord Howe Island

Story and photos from the Ed's daughter Alana Homewood

"Foreign Bee Correspondents" Julian and Alana Homewood (nee Trott) travelled to Lord Howe Island to check in with local beekeeper Jack Schick (from Sea to Summit Expeditions) to see how things are going. (The Ed had an interview in the Newsletter with Jack back in 2018 or 2019 ???).

Jack is a fifth generation Lord Howe Islander (that means, his family has been there approx. 175 years), who also runs hiking and fishing tours.

Julian and Alana hiked up Mt Gower (at right) with Jack - a stunning and somewhat treacherous hike up the contours of Mt Richberg, across the saddle of two mountains with fresh flowing streams and then onto the rocky cloud forest summit of Mt Gower.



European bees were seen foraging on the top of Mt Gower - were these from Jack's hives?

Jack said no, that there are likely feral bee hives on Mt Gower - a product of an out of date industry on the island where the seed supply company Yates used bees to pollinate flower and vegetable seed.

Jack says he has had a bad honey season this year - a combination of foul, rainy weather due to a second La Niña year, and lack of flowering plants (namely, Blackbutt *Cryptocarya triplinervis* and Scalybark *Syzygium fullagarii*) has meant the bees have not had a lot of food or opportunity to forage. But what of the bees feeding from the famous Kentia Palm? Yes, Jack replied the bees do forage on the pollen of this palm. (Kentia Palm



Howea forsteriana is endemic to Lord Howe Is and is the world famous "Parlour Palm" so common in European lounge rooms of the late 1800's.)

It was a great experience to meet and chat with Jack - a man seasoned with the salt and bounty of the earth and sea.

Jack is a very knowledgeable beekeeper and tour guide with knowledge beyond the bounds of what may be in a textbook or travel guide. Check him out for some great stories – bees and otherwise, if you go there.

Ed's comment: In the previous article above I reported on the baiting and eradication of feral honey bees in NSW. Imagine having to climb Mt Gower to track down feral honeybees – it's an exciting and pulse quickening climb with a spectacular view and unique micro climate of mosses, ferns and rainforest plants.

Jack is a long time beekeeper, guide and entrepreneur from Lord Howe Is. He caught his first swarm of feral honey bees many years ago as a young lad who didn't fully understand the dislike that honeybees have for black clothing, and rubber items. Young Jack and his mates found the swarm but didn't have any white cotton bee suits, so they ran home and got the only long clothing they owned – black rubber wetsuits!!!!!! Apparently they received a fair amount of attention from the very ramped up bees, hopefully the wetsuits were thick enough to protect them from the stings. They set up the hive in some reconstructed timber fruit boxes, and the love has been mutual between bees and Jack ever since.

Alana and Julian at the top of Mt Gower



Dave Schlipaliua from DAF gave a biosecurity presentation with a Varroa update at the October General Meeting.

And Frana McKinstry has headed back to NSW to assist with the eradication of hives that are in the threatened infected area.

Ukraine and Russia – National flowers - sunflower and chamomile – can they ever bloom in peace again?



What happened to my new Queen????

The Ed does not have great success introducing new Queens (60-70% success rate), despite doing all the usual recommended things, like inserting a brood frame as well with uncapped larvae to encourage the queen to stay. Here is a summary of my conversation with Steve Kersnovske who tried to help me get a better success rate:

“I suppose the key things in my mind are:

1. Make sure there's no type of Queen already in the hive (Virgin Queen, Queen or Laying Worker)
2. Mask the pheromone that exists in the hive. I usually use apple cider vinegar, by spraying the top of the brood box (onto the top of the brood frames)
3. Make sure the Queen cage is inserted into the hive to give it the best opportunity for the Queen to escape once the sugar plug has been eaten by the bees. The entrance of the Queen cage needs to point upwards at a small angle, so as any bees that die in the cage, don't block the entrance.

This is the location and angle I use.....hope that helps. See right.
Beekeeping certainly keeps us on our toes.....just when you think you're on top of it, something unusual happen.”

When I mentioned to Steve that I get better success by putting the new queen in a split and creating a nuc, he suggested that I could then merge them together. However, I would have to wait until the nuc was bigger and stronger than the hive to be merged with -otherwise carnage!

Steve added: “I've had plenty of dramas with a Laying Worker. I suppose the bees were convinced that she was the Queen. They're impossible to find, so dumping all the bees out of the hive some distance away, seems to work best.”

If you are having an issue or problem with bees, write me a note and maybe our experienced beeks can help out, and we can all learn from the exchange of ideas and info.

PS: Ha ha. I checked the hive with the missing new queen again today and found a few eggs, no queen but a **whopping big uncapped queen cell** in middle of frame. At least she left her calling card before she went AWOL. It's a waiting game now.



Bees on The Internet

1. Bumblebees on the loose and increasing in Tasmania

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-10-10/bumblebees-radio-transmitters-research-insect-tracking/101515280>

The introduced European bumblebees in Tasmania are being fitted with micro transmitters to track their distribution and behaviour. They haven't made it to the mainland yet, but tomato growers and greenhouse vegetable farmers are keen to get their hands on some. Bumble bees perform buzz pollination, which is vital for pollination in some veggies and fruits. Bumblebees differ from honeybees in that each colony only survives one season, and they do not produce honey. They can also sting multiple times without losing their stinger, but are considered more placid than other bees.



New queens mate with males in autumn then burrow underground for winter, emerging in spring to refuel with nectar and find a nest, usually an abandoned rodent nest. They then gather pollen before laying eggs, including new queens. As the workers emerge, they take over all of the tasks and eventually kill the queen, and lay their own eggs.

"There's a bit of conflict at the end of the colony. It's in the workers' best interests to lay their own eggs because they get more of their own genes into the next generation," Dr Makinson said.

- Invasive bumblebees in Tasmania have been fitted with radio transmitters in a trial of insect-tracking technology
- Tasmania is the only state with bumblebees after they were introduced 30 years ago, and they're reproducing far quicker than in Europe and North America
- Bumblebees could have broad appeal for pollinating Australian crops, but researchers are wary of unintended ecological consequences

2. World's first honeybee vaccine

By: [Business Wire](#)

Animal Health, Inc., a biotech company pioneering insect health and immunology, today announced the close of a \$3.55 million seed financing round led by At One Ventures and Veterinary Angel Network for Entrepreneurs (VANE). This is the second seed round of funding and the first including institutional investors, bringing the total raise to \$5.5 million.

The company will use the new funding to bring to market the world's first insect vaccine for honeybees for vaccination against American Foulbrood, the most devastating bacterial disease threatening bee colonies worldwide.

The vaccine that Dalan is developing is non-GMO, has no harmful additives, and is suitable for use in organic agriculture. The platform technology uses a transgenerational immune priming approach whereby the maternal animal passes the information on a disease to the next generation larvae before they hatch. The company plans to use this approach to develop vaccines for other honeybee diseases and invertebrates, such as shrimp, mealworms, and insects used in agriculture.

3. US woman attacks police with bees

<http://abc.net.au/news/us-woman-accused-of-using-bee-swarm-as-dangerous-weapon/101561672>

Rorie Woods opened a bee hive during an eviction, stinging nearby officers and bystanders. (Reuters: Hampden County Sheriff's Office) See right.

A Massachusetts woman has been accused of using a swarm of bees as a dangerous weapon after she allegedly unleashed a hive on deputies trying to serve an eviction notice last week.

Key points:

- Officers say the woman smashed the lid of one hive and flipped it, agitating the bees
- The bees swarmed the area, stinging several officers and sending one to hospital
- The woman has been charged with multiple offences, including disorderly conduct

The incident unfolded when Rorie Woods, a 55-year-old professional beekeeper, drove up to the home in Longmeadow while deputies were in the process of enforcing the eviction notice, the sheriff's department said in a statement on Wednesday.

The residence, outside Springfield in the south-central part of the state, belonged to a man who had been litigating against his removal for years, garnering support of anti-eviction activists, including Ms Woods, a department spokesperson said in an email on Thursday.

When she arrived at about 9:15am local time, towing a stack of manufactured beehives with a SUV, Ms Woods exited the vehicle and tried to open the lids to unleash the bees, the department said.

"A sheriff's deputy tried to stop her, but as the agitated bees started getting out and circling the area, he pulled back," the office said.



The woman put on a professional beekeeper suit to protect herself. (Reuters: Hampden County Sheriff's Office)

She then smashed the lid of one hive and flipped it off the flatbed, agitating the bees, the sheriff said on Wednesday.

They swarmed the area, stinging several officers and bystanders who were nearby. One deputy was taken to the hospital where he was treated. Meanwhile, Ms Woods put on a professional beekeeper suit to protect herself, and she carried a tower of bees to the front door of the home, trying to stop the eviction. At that point, deputies arrested her. "I support people's right to protest peacefully but when you cross the line and put my staff and the public in danger, I promise you will be arrested," Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi said.

Rorie Woods faces multiple charges, including disorderly behaviour. (Reuters: Hampden County Sheriff's Office)

Attempts to reach a lawyer for Ms Woods were unsuccessful. Ms Woods, who lives in Hadley, Massachusetts, about 40 kilometres north of Longmeadow, faces four felony counts of assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon and three counts of assault by means of a dangerous weapon. She also faces a misdemeanour disorderly conduct charge.



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.

July/August/September have been rough months, they opened with Covid, then off to NSW for several of the club members to help with the varroa incursion. On our return, the website and email systems went down and are still a work in progress. As a result, we are behind in filling back orders from the July shop, attending to new member applications and everything in between.

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 your order number and print out of the request with you
3. Arrive at the Shop **after** 9:00 am, pay for your order, **don't hang around inside the Shop to chat** – too many people inside.
4. Non-emailed or late orders may not get any attention if the Shop is too busy.
5. Please take your purchases and make room for the next shoppers, thanks

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 Minutes for October 2022 General Meeting

Minutes taker: John Carr, Deputy Editor

Townsville and District Beekeepers Association meeting 16th October 2022 at 10am at 3/38 Rendle St. Aitkenvale Townsville.

The meeting started at 10.00 and was opened by Mark Finn the vice president.

We welcomed two new members to the club.

There was no treasurers report as we are waiting on a new treasurer but the bank balance is ok.

The library report was healthy with a couple of new books on "The Varroa Mite" and "Feeding bees". Dr Carr even returned a book after 18 months!!

Shop reported that new stock will be arriving in the next couple of weeks.

We welcomed Dave Schlipaliua and Roger Winton from DAF, who presented on biosecurity with a great Varroa update. Dave and Roger provided great update and circulated examples of Varroa to remind the club what we are looking for.

We need keep vigilant and do more sugar shakes and drone uncapping – AND – submitting our reports.

Roger discussed the false positive Varroa from Cardwell which caused some alarm at least.

There were many questions on the Varroa elimination programme in NSW. Especially the current lack of feral hives being checked and the fact there are still 20% of hives alive in the exclusion zone after 3 months.

The proposed change in Braula fly infestation in light of the associated incursion in NSW and Victoria.

The potential threat of feeding Lorikeet's with honey and the potential spread of bee diseases was discussed led by Frana.

The meeting was closed at 11.45.

Previous AGM Minutes on 17/10/2021 at HPSS

Meeting opened 10:45 am

Chair: Paul Payne (PP)

Notes: Lindsay Trott

- MO thanked Naomi and family for support, Committee and volunteers for dedication

Annual Financial Report: Treasurer Frana M declared financial accounts open and have been sent for auditing

Annual income \$160K, expenditure \$148K, stock \$20K, assets \$60K

Shop Purchases: Honey jars \$20K, hardware \$70K, \$11K profit

Books available for inspection after audit

Accept financial report: Moved Beryl Smart, 2nd Lindsay Trott

- PP declared all Club positions open and needing new nominations for existing and some new committee positions - Membership, Native bees, Vice President, President, Secretary, Treasurer

- PP noted that MO is retiring and not seeking re-election

- 450+ Club members so we have large pool, but not many volunteers, Club is an incorporated body and needs a president and a Secretary.

- No written or emailed nominations for Office Holders

- One written nomination for Committee Member –Lisa Fenoglio

- Discussion and suggestions received.

- New Committee and Office Bearers for 21/22

Welcome to the Executive and Committee for 2021/22

Position	Name	Nominated	Seconded
President	Nick Smith	Frana McKinstry (FM)	Beryl Smart (BS)
Vice president	Mark Finn	FM	BS
Secretary	Lindsay Trott	BS	MO (Mick Olsen)
Treasurer	TBA	Jon McKinstry	BS
Assistant Treasurer	Frana McKinstry	MO	Lindsay Trott (LT)
Assistant Treasurer	Mandy Thomas	MO	FM
Newsletter	Lindsay Trott	FM	MO
Shop	TBA	FM	LT
Native bees	Nick Smith	BS	MO
Librarian	Beryl Smart	LT	FM
Website	Mick Olsen/Nick Smith	FM	LT

Committee Members:

Lisa Fenoglio, Maria Finn, Dan Killoran, Dorris Newitt, Naomi Olsen, Sandylee Hutchinson, Alan Ziegenfusz, John Carr

Meeting closed: 11:30 am

A couple of HPSS Hives were inspected, but only supers were checked, it was too hot for bees and people in suits, and for much else.

Coffee, tea, biscuits and a chat was enjoyed by the small group who attended.

Welcome to our New Members

Existing Club Members are encouraged to assist/mentor our Newbees. They have joined the club to learn about bees, so even if you only have limited experience, give them a hand if you can. Invite a Newbee to your hive opening and discuss what's inside the box, let newbies experience hive openings to become more confident, and you will learn more yourself by trying to explain what's going on in there.

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

The BeeAware newsletter is an e-newsletter for beekeepers and growers of pollinator-reliant crops, or anyone else simply interested in beekeeping or the pollination of crops. Each newsletter contains the latest in news, research and development, as well as upcoming events relating to honey bee biosecurity and the pollination of horticultural and agricultural crops. Townsville features in Issue 52 due to the latest AHB and Varroa incursion.

<https://beeaware.org.au/subscribe-to-newsletter/>

Annual Membership Fees are due in July/August each year - currently \$30/p.a.

Membership fees can be made electronically to:

Name:- Townsville and District Beekeepers Association BSB:- 633000

Account:- 141466078

Refer :- Please make sure you add your Surname so that your membership can be signed off.

Email contacts for the Office Holders 2020/21

You can use these email contacts for the Office Holders, and hopefully they will have figured out how to access them and will respond ASAP.

president@beesnorth.com.au, treasurer@beesnorth.com.au, shop@beesnorth.com.au,

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

TDBAI Office Holders for 2021/2022

President: Nick Smith

Vice President: Mark Finn

Secretary: Lindsay Trott

Treasurer: TBA

Treasurer's Assistant: Frana McKinstry

Treasurer's Assistant: Mandy Thomas

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

Newsletter: Lindsay Trott

Assistant Editor: Dr John Carr

Librarian: Beryl Smart

Webmaster: Mick Olsen/Nick Smith

Native bees: Nick Smith

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

Swarm Contact List:

Please advise editor@beesnorth.com.au if you wish to be removed from this list. Contact me with your name, phone number and suburb if you want to be added to the list.

Kelso/Kirwan: Steve and Carla Kersnovske - 0417 344 419

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 / No of hives/area of hive locations?
Type of hives? / Type of foundation? /Beetle protection?
Year commenced beekeeping? /Who was your mentor? /Who is involved in your household? Is anyone allergic/sensitive to stings?
What has been your biggest success? / failure?/ mistake?/ biggest lesson?
What would you do differently if you had to start beekeeping again after a disaster like fire/AFB/Varroa/cyclone
Do you sell/barter/give away honey? How much honey does your average hive produce? Do you make any other products from your hives?
Do you volunteer for the Club at Open days, markets, school events, public displays? Would you like to participate?
Any stories you would like to tell?
Attach photo please?
That's it!!!! Just fill it out and send it to me, and you will be a rock star in the Monthly Newsletter.
Please provide more than just a one word answer!!
The Ed

TDBA Bee Starter Kit - \$160

The Perfect Gift for a budding Beekeeper

Available in Townsville from the Club

Shop:

Club Members Price Only! - \$160

Hive tool, brush, vented jacket/veil, gloves, and smoker

Plus: The ABC of Beekeeping book

Contact: shop@beesnorth.com.au



Townsville & District

BEEKEEPERS



ASSOCIATION