

Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc)



PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814

www.beesnorth.com.au

Newsletter No 8, September 2023

In this Issue

- Varroa – it's spreading - East Coast and West Coast
- New bee books for kids, Bees for Development
- Check your hives for Varroa, Blooper of the Month
- Bees on the Internet, bee trivia, Pineapple Festival
- AGM Voting form, TDBAI Club officials
- Reader input/feedback???
- Shop prices at : <http://www.beesnorth.com.au>

Next Meeting:
Sunday, September 17 @10 am
Michael Hooper Park,
Isaac St, Deeragun

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

Varroa on the move, now threatening Victoria and several more locations in NSW

The initial detection and subsequent eradication program in NSW appears to be losing the battle with several more locations added to the infected list. Total eradication zones for destruction of hives (red) with pink inspection and restricted movement zones surrounding them in photo artright.

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/emergencies/biosecurity/current-situation/varroa-mite-emergency-response>

Varroa is now threatening Victoria after the almond pollination season in Sunraysia and Riverland received hives from NSW and Queensland. See below for the 0-10 km total eradication area (red) and the 10-25 km restricted movement zone (pink) for bee hives now enforced in Victoria due to the alarming spread of this pest.

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/pest-insects-and-mites/priority-pest-insects-and-mites/varroa-mite-of-honey-bees/varroa-mite-current-situation>

My understanding is some of those hives are now headed back to Queensland – after they have been examined for mites. But the hives sent to Sunraysia and Riverland were examined for mites before they were allowed into the almond growing area. What hope do we have that these hives will not bring Varroa into Queensland??



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 – Hive testing is due again...

With the arrival of Spring, Townsville beekeepers are being urged to check their hives for pests and disease, in particular for Varroa mite testing.

Biosecurity Queensland (BQ) needs to submit 20 community hive samples to meet the requirements under the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program (NBPS) for the Spring milestone. Under the NBPS for reporting and recording purposes, testing in Townsville is carried out twice yearly during Spring and Autumn.

BQ is required to submit samples from hive testing in the Townsville area for verification for Queensland's declarations of area freedom. This is very important in light of NSW Varroa mite (*V. destructor*) situation and since Townsville is considered to be a high-risk area in view of previous Asian honey bee and Varroa mite (*V. jacobsoni*) incursions.

Testing can be done by way of alcohol washes, drone uncapping, sugar shakes or sticky mat testing. But we need your negative samples, and especially samples if you see anything suspicious.

I can assist with those that are wanting to test their hives and happy to demonstrate techniques learnt from the NVMEP. Sticky mat testing can be done by beekeepers 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. I have a supply of sticky mats for these tests which are available upon request. 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 do need your filter paper(s) even if there is nothing suspicious on them as these will count towards our target of 20 samples.

As with any testing that is being carried out, a reminder that every time you do inspect your hive(s) that this should also be reported in Bee123.

I will be contacting our sentinel hive owners soon to arrange for another round of sentinel hive testing.

Rog from BQ.
Roger Winton
Mobile 0459 810 628.

But wait, there's more - Red Dwarf honey bee with a different Varroa mite arrives in WA

Just when you thought *Varroa destructor* on the East Coast was enough concern for beekeepers, there's another bee with a different mite on board (*Eugarroa sinhai*). This looks a pincer movement of mites from both West and East Coast.

Quarantine Area to support red dwarf honey bee eradication response

https://www.bicwa.com.au/?utm_campaign=8a503e14-b10d-4e72-a092-03ba5fba3fd5&utm_source=so&utm_medium=mail&utm_content=4ed5963b-2f0f-4833-a81f-ef571f857476&cid=3614c88f-6584-4095-a050-42d4743860e1

DPIRD Media Statement 5 September 2023



A Quarantine Area has been declared for the Burrup Peninsula to help stop the spread of the exotic pest, red dwarf honey bee.

There have been confirmed detections of the pest at 10 sites on the peninsula by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and the Federal Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (DAFF).

Bee keepers with hives, equipment or those who have collected swarms on the peninsula are not permitted to move them outside the Quarantine Area to prevent the pest from spreading.

Affected bee keepers are asked to contact DPIRD's Pest and Disease Information Service (PaDIS) to advise of hives in the area.

Workers, residents, businesses and visitors to the Quarantine Area are required to report observations of unusual bees to the PaDIS hotline or via the department's MyPestGuide Reporter app to support surveillance.

Red dwarf honey bee, which is a vector for numerous exotic bee pests, is native to South Asia and parts of South East Asia and has spread to the Middle East and Africa.

To date, the surveillance program has identified an exotic brood mite (*Eugarroa sinhai*) associated with red dwarf honey bee – not to be confused with the varroa mite (*Varroa destructor*), which is the focus of a major eradication effort in New South Wales.

Chief Plant Biosecurity Officer Sonya Broughton said the Quarantine Area would support an efficient and effective biosecurity response and called on all bee keepers and the community for support.

"DPIRD and DAFF have been collaborating for several weeks to eradicate red dwarf honeybee and its mites, which pose a threat to the environment, the honey industry and the agricultural sector," Dr Broughton said. "Bees play an important pollination role so it is important for commercial and Recreational bee keepers to adhere to the Quarantine Area requirements.

"The local community and visitors to the area play an important role in the first line of biosecurity defence by reporting sightings of any unusual bees. "It is crucial to report observations of unusual bees as quickly as possible to aid the response effort."

Red dwarf honey bees are smaller than European honey bees, just seven to 10 millimetres in length, with a reddish-brown abdomen and black and white bands.

The social pest lives in small colonies, characterised by an exposed single vertical comb, which can be built in native vegetation or on structures.

Reports of unusual bees or colonies on the Burrup Peninsula should be made immediately to

DPIRD's Pest and Disease Information Service on 9368 3080, email padis@dpird.wa.gov.au or via the MyPestGuide Reporter app.

For more information about the red dwarf honey bee and the biosecurity response, visit www.agric.wa.gov.au/red-dwarf-honey-bee.

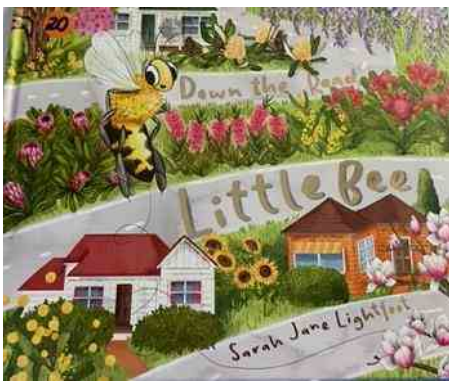
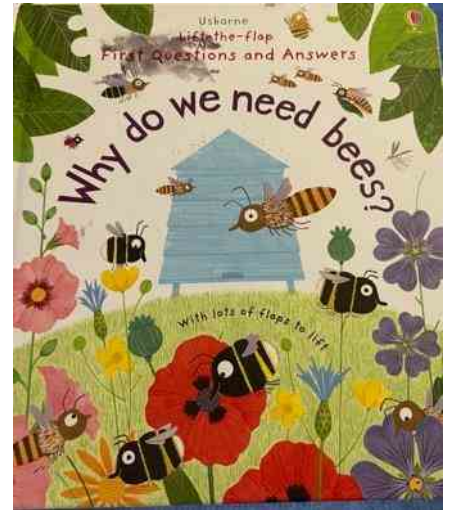
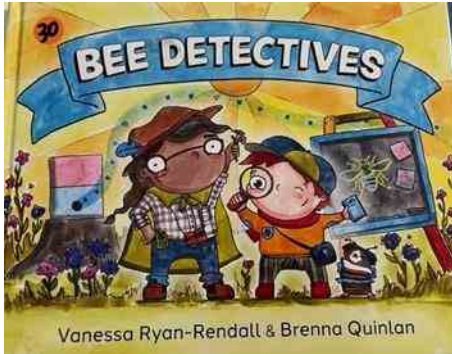
Locals and visitors to the Burrup Peninsula have been asked to report sightings of the pest red dwarf honey bees immediately as part of new Quarantine Area requirements to aid a biosecurity response.

Media contacts: Dr Sonya Broughton, Chief Plant Biosecurity Officer or Megan Broad/Jodie Thomson, media liaison +61 (0)8 9368 3937

New bee books suitable for kids in the Club Library

As usual, see our Chief Librarian Beryl if you would like to borrow any of these books, or any of the wide selection on our shelves. Please return the books promptly when you have read them.

I notice that one of these new books is a “touchy-feely” book about bees. Better than a “stingy-ouchy” introduction I guess.



Rollingstone Pineapple Festival 26 August 2023

TDBAI Club members were there to sell some of their wares and talk to the community about bees and honey.



Bees on the Internet

1. Bees for Development – International aid group working for poverty reduction through beekeeping

Our mission is to harness the power of bees to achieve less poverty and more biodiversity. To achieve our mission we every day work towards our strategic objectives:

- Train beekeepers in simple and profitable beekeeping
- Help beekeepers to access fair and reliable markets for their produce
- Further knowledge and understanding about sustainable apiculture
- Share information and knowledge to build capacity
- Connect beekeepers all over the world within our network
- Protect and restore habitats for bees and biodiversity

<http://info@beesfordevelopment.org>



2. Synthetic honey founder makes bold claims about environmental impact of honey bee pollination

<https://www.beeculture.com/beekeepers-are-greenwashing/>

The creator of the “world’s first” plant-based honey replica has described the honey industry as one of the “biggest” examples of greenwashing that exists. Darko Mandich recently appeared on an episode of the Plant Based News podcast with Robbie Lockie. The Serbian entrepreneur is known for founding a company called MeliBio. The company makes what’s thought to be the first ever vegan honey – named Mellody – with the same molecular composition as honey made from bees.

Mandich worked for a number of conventional food conglomerates in Eastern Europe before entering the plant-based space. He specialized in the honey industry, but became increasingly concerned about the huge environmental costs of exploiting bees to create the food. “The biggest impact

that honey production has is the impact it has on our biodiversity,” he told Lockie. “Learning about that was something that was kind of an epiphany moment for me.”



Synthetic honey “Mellody” is said to look and taste just like real honey.

Many people believe that honey production benefits the environment, but this couldn't be further from the truth. Honey comes from just one bee species, the *Apis mellifera* (also known as the western honey bee). Artificially breeding these bees and introducing them to non-native lands wreaks havoc on local ecosystems, meaning other bee species decline. Due to their efficiency at collecting pollen, the honey bees remove natural resources that wild species depend on.

Read more at the full article in the link above

Blooper of the Month

The Ed seems to be able to fill this segment without any help from the rest of the Club. Here's my latest. By the way, I'm sure some of you out there are not blooperless, so how about sharing a story or two?

The Ed had lined up a buyer for a 2 box hive that was absolutely humming. Ed decided he wanted to keep the Hive Doctor base board with the 3 colourful gates, and exchange it for a Nuplas board with the 2 white plastic doors before the sale. No worries. Baseboards switched over, and Ed went away for 4 days. Day of sale arrived and prospective customer and Ed turn up at the hive.....er, what's that funny smell??? Can't see any bees flying??? Ohhhh... Ed had left the 2 white plastic doors closed on the Nuplas baseboard (they are small and inconspicuous) and the poor girls were trapped – 10-15,000 dead and melting bees on the floor. I guess the sale was off, just like the poor bees. The queen survived the massacre, and the hive is rebuilding....slowly, but I am much more careful at looking at baseboards whenever I walk past now.

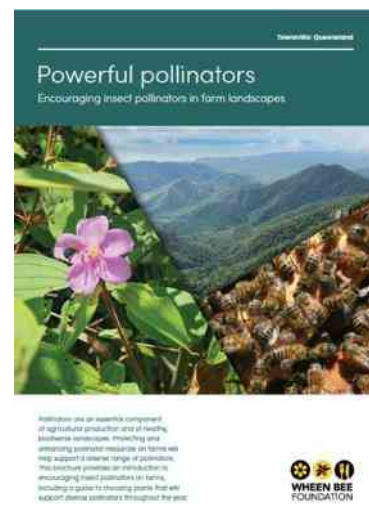
PS: The Ed is offering a prize at the end of year Xmas Lunch to the best Blooper of the Year, get cracking!

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:



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

From Robert Stephens at Biosecurity Queensland

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

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

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

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

From the Club Shop volunteers

Hi Bee Club members

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

Next shop opening is first Saturday of the month.

Location: 3/38 Rendle St, Aitkenvale

Time: 9am - 10:30am

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

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

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

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

Email orders will be given priority and serviced – but walk in orders may not be completed.

Pre-order by email before midnight on the Thursday before shop opening time.

Use this email address: tsvbeeclub@gmail.com



Golden Rules for the Club Shop:

Please follow this guide:

1. Order **AND Pay** by Thursday midnight **before** the opening day, by email: tsvbeeclub@gmail.com
2. Bring your order number and print out of the request with you
3. Arrive at the Shop **after** 9:00 am, pay for your order, **don't hang around inside the Shop to chat** – too many people inside.
4. Non-emailed or late orders may not get any attention if the Shop is too busy.
5. Please take your purchases and make room for the next shoppers, thanks

General Meeting Minutes held on 20 August 2023

Meeting opened at 10.03

Frana opened the meeting

Welcome to:

- Kim – Railway Estate – New member
- Graham – Native bees

Previous Minutes have been read and accepted.

Shop Report: Good sales

More stock ordered

- A reminder that the shop is open only on the first Sat of the month.
- If orders are placed the night before, unlikely to be ready on the day.

Treasurer's Report: EOFY – Closing balance \$52,000 (approx). Income tabled – in and out. Report tabled, accepted and passed.

No President Report

UPCOMING EVENTS

Pineapple Festival 26 August

- 8am for 9 am start
- Volunteers required for setup
- Products can be brought up for sale
- Hive on site demo
- Will open a hive to demonstrate
- Different types of hives will be on display

Varroa detection ongoing:

- Data required on hive checks
- All members to upload their data on bee123 link online
- Questions entails: number of hives onsite
- Then submit
- Negative data required
- Drone uncapping will demonstrate
- Varroa actions are proactive and work is ongoing
- Discussion around hive registrations
- One number per apiary with number visible.

Questions:

- Hive stands availability
- Green ants

Meeting closed at 10.30am, hive inspection followed

Next Meeting: 3rd Sunday of each month – Sunday 17th September at Michael Hooper Park at 10.00 am

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/>

TDBAI Office holders and Committee for 2022/2023

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 : membership@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

- Swarm List People: Please contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 for any swarm or strange bee activity in the Townsville region. For all swarm collections, please collect 300 bees or roughly 10% of brood comb and submit to Biosecurity Queensland for pest and disease monitoring. Remember that Varroa is down South and we don't want it up here.

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

From The Ed.

The Newsletter Editor receives some wonderful stories and photos from some of our Members. And it makes our Newsletter a personal and relevant method of communicating our bee adventures with to all our Members, many of whom cannot get to the meetings or events. Some of these stories are amusing – like The Bloop Series (The Ed seems to feature in a lot of these), Product Reviews, stories from the many events, markets and school visits, information from our more learned members, news about workshops and open days, and so on.

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



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023
NOMINATION FORM
OFFICE BEARERS / MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

I, of.....

Being a member of the above named Association hereby nominate

..... of.....

To be (position) for Townsville & District Beekeepers Association Inc during the year 2022 / 2023

Nominated by:
(Signature)

Seconded by:
(Signature)

Dated:

Note: Form to be returned to TDBA Secretary before AGM

Cut along dotted line

**TOWNSVILLE & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016
PROXY FORM**

I, of.....

Being a member of the Association, appoint

Of

As my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the above named Association to be held on

18 October 2022, and at any adjournment thereof

Signed this..... day of.....2016

.....
(Signature)

This form is to be used: - In favour of the resolution ./ - Against the resolution

Note: Form to be returned to TDBA Secretary