

Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc)



PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814

www.beesnorth.com.au

Newsletter No 3, April 2022

In this Issue

- David Turnbull LifeTime Member award
- Club activities Open Day, Eco Fiesta
- Dr John slices a bee
- Club Shop looking for polite customers
- Bees on the Internet, bee trivia stuff
- Club officials' contacts
- New Shop prices now listed on the website:
<http://www.beesnorth.com.au>

Next Meeting:

Sunday, 24 April 2022 10:00 am
Club Shop
3/38 Rendle St, Aitkenvale

The Club Shop will usually open 1st Saturday of the month.
Please check the website for details
Bring a chair and something tasty. Tea, coffee, milk available
We will be using current COVID safe procedures, as appropriate
Free chats and discussion after the meeting

David Turnbull awarded a Lifetime Membership

President Nick, Treasurer Frana and ex-President Alan visited David Turnbull recently to award him with a Lifetime Membership of the TDBAI in recognition of his long association and active involvement with the Club. David is not travelling too well at present, and doesn't get to the Club meetings that he so keenly attended in the past. David's generous and well thought out advice was always welcomed by newbees and more experienced bee keepers. Personally, I valued David advice as I knew that it came with some solid experience and careful observation in the ways of bees. As a Committee Member, David offered strong guiding principles for the smooth running of the Club and planning for the future. Congratulations David, well deserved.

The Ed.

**No Club Member Profile this month –
please send me some info?**



Club activities hotting up in next few months – get involved

Lots activities coming up where Volunteers are needed to support The Club

[Eco Fiesta](#) , Bee Club Open Day, Bunnings display days, school and community presentations, World Bee Day – see below for details

Volunteers needed for Bee Club Open Day 21 May – and before for preps

Our club is holding an Open Day on Saturday 21 May, this event is the first of two weeks of activities in conjunction with TCC, ending with Eco Fiesta in June. We will be highlighting all things bee-related, covering honeybees, stingless bees, and solitary native bees. As part of this initiative, TCC has contracted the TDBAI to supply 300 solitary bee hotels. We have started accumulating the materials to make these but will need assistance from members in the following:

- donating materials
- preparing materials for hotel construction
- construction/assembly of hotels

Log and tree branch offcuts up to 250mm diameter and timber blocks (untreated) are needed, also timber for framing and backing of 'house' style hotels.

We propose to hold a couple of working bees for assembly, you would need to bring some tools (drill, drill bits, drop saw etc). No experience necessary, all volunteers welcome. See our Facebook page for some photos of the first workshop day at Frana and Jon's place.

Check this link for examples of solitary bee hotels, we will be preparing other prototypes. Also, if you prefer to make and donate a couple of hotels in your own time and place, that is welcome too.

Bee Hotels:

https://mcusercontent.com/3e58ed5f92f9006c61eab71e0/files/434ffa41-f445-e8c9-5d82-1f74a3f3b6df/Native_Bee_Hotel_pix.docx

Regards to all.....Your Bee Club Committee

Ukraine's national flower – the Sunflower and Russia's national flower – Chamomile

My bees wax food wrap says it all. The Ed



Another bee themed mozzie coil holder from Alan Z

We hope all the bees are well and truly tucked up at home and in bed by the time the mozzie coils come out. Did you see the pottery coil holder in last week's Newsletter?

Alan Z bought this one at the Renegade Markets 2 weeks ago. Its rather ingenious in that the weight of the coil allows it to spin around on the metal pin and bead. This means the burnt ash is lower down in the bowl and drops in without blowing around causing a mess. Brilliant – and a nice bee pattern too! Cheers, from Alan Ziegenfusz



Club outreach activities at Bunnings recently

A fun morning was had by members of the bee club at our two local Bunnings at Domain and next door to our new club house at Deerragun.

The event sparked the interest in load of kids. We were also serenaded all the time from first light, before 8am! to close. The kids enjoyed watching the stingless bees at work and some tasting their honey. A busy time but good for public interactions.

We thank Bunnings for their ongoing public support and all the help the Bunnings staff gave us to pull off the event.

At Bunnings Domain



Bunnings North today. Thanks to all our volunteers who made both locations a great success



Hardworking Volunteers at Jon and Frana's making Native Bee boxes for Eco Fiesta



And some of the output – ready for painting

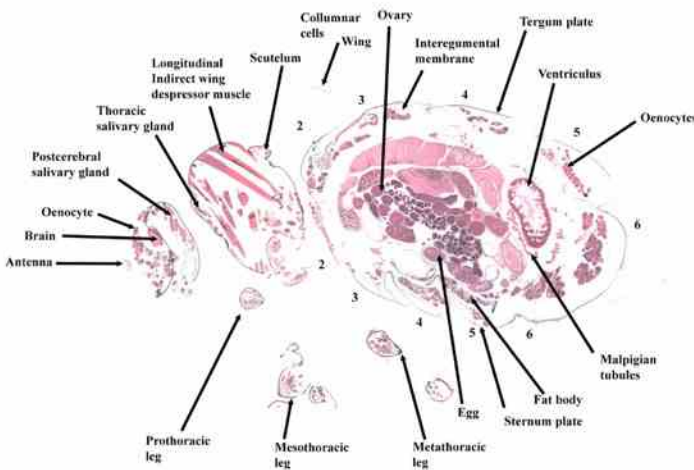


A slice of bee anatomy from Dr John Carr

Tetragonula hockingsi – our stringless sugar bag bees.

The queen runs the show, although with *T. hockingsi* there are awaiting princesses in the wings, unlike with Europeans!. The queen is clearly recognised by her large size and bloated abdomen. An insect body is protected by strong stiff cuticle plates. In the queen these plates are actually seen to be open to allow for the development of her ovaries.

The pictures show the queen side view and then a cross-section, stained to reveal her internal anatomy and workings.



Bees on the internet

A roundup of interesting articles on the internet about bees.

Coffee tastes better with birds and bees. https://apple.news/AKYIgm3ckTYSZ_n_CqQkbbQ

A ground-breaking new study finds that coffee beans are bigger and more plentiful when birds and bees team up to protect and pollinate coffee plants. A groundbreaking new study finds that coffee beans are bigger and more plentiful when birds and bees team up to protect and pollinate coffee plants.

Without these winged helpers, some traveling thousands of miles, coffee farmers would see a 25% drop in crop yields, a loss of roughly \$1,066 per hectare of coffee.

That's important for the \$26 billion coffee industry—including consumers, farmers, and corporations who depend on nature's unpaid labor for their morning buzz—but the research has even broader implications.

The forthcoming study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences is the first to show, using real-world experiments at 30 coffee farms, that the contributions of nature—in this case, bee pollination and pest control by birds—are larger combined than their individual contributions.

"Until now, researchers have typically calculated the benefits of nature separately, and then simply added them up," says lead author Alejandra Martínez-Salinas of the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE). "But nature is an interacting system, full of important synergies and trade-offs. We show the ecological and economic importance of these interactions, in one of the first experiments at realistic scales in actual farms."

Chill-Bee Calming Perfume – ha ha – fooled me!

Our friendly beekeeping suppliers at Ecrotek (sales@ecrotek.com.au) sent this message a few weeks ago, on a certain date - April Fools Day, but I was ready to place my order. Imagine if it really worked? Calming perfume in three different aromas, sell me some now!



Honey tasting day at Sunshine Coast Beekeepers Group

Now that's a tasting overload. Hopefully there were no diabetics in the room.

Queen bees have way more sex than we thought, study finds

By Holly Richardson

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2018-07-12/queen-bees-mate-with-many-more-drones-than-previously-thought/9981786>

Queen bees mate with dozens more males than previously thought and some of these drones father more appealing future queens, according to entomologists at North Carolina State University.

Despite humans' close relationship with honey bees for thousands of years, our knowledge of their behaviour and genetics is still patchy.

Textbooks from the Victorian era to the 1970s told us a queen bee mates with only a single drone, but in the past few decades that number has gradually been creeping up.



Millions of bees lost in NSW and Queensland floods

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2021-05-05/lost-millions-of-bees-apiarists-devastated-post-floods/100114468>

A sight you would not like to witness.



Around 6,000 beehives across the Mid North Coast have been destroyed. (ABC Rural: Kieran Sunderland)



Hundreds of honeycomb frames infected with small hive beetle will be burnt. (Supplied: Dr McQueen-Richardson)

Remember the Shop etiquette – *politeness* is a key component to success

To all visitors to our Club Shop – please be respectful, patient and polite to our Volunteer shopkeepers. We seem to be getting some aggressive and impolite attitudes from some customers. Please arrive with a smile, a dose of patience, and remember your manners.

We are still in Covid-19 restrictions, please consider the welfare of all

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 and **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

Webinars on bee health and how to vaccinate a hive – are there anti vaxx bees?

From Dr John Carr

The British Bee Veterinary Association is running a series of webinars in April 2022. Our own travelling bee Vet, Dr John Carr will attend some of these and report back with any newsworthy items.

The first one is on 6th April by Prof Dalia Freitak on her work in developing the first ever insect vaccine against American Foulbrood. On April 13th we have Dr Una Fitzpatrick describing the remarkable work of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan which strives to promote the sustainability of bees and other pollinators and how this can be a model for everyone.

Delighted on April 20th to have Prof Stephen Martin describing how bees are fighting back against the scourge of Varroa mites.

How to Vaccinate a Beehive with Dalia Freitak

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan with Una FitzPatrick

Honey Bees Fighting Back Against Varroa with Stephen Martin

Meeting Minutes 20/03/2022

Note taker: Alan Z

Meeting Opened: 10:15

President Nick away, Secretary apologies.

Ex president Mick ran the meeting

Small but good roll up under the shady shed.

Visitors from Alligator creek, Bushland beach, Charters Towers & Mt Louisa.

1/ application for a gambling grant for max of \$100k to build a 30m x 15m shed called the Education Centre for all things Bees. This will be built

where the existing shed is near the toilets at Deeragun at Hooper Park.

- 2/ our friends Hutchison Builders will erect a fenced enclosure on our existing leased site at Deeragun bee park. Inside the enclosure will go up to 10m³ of soil to build up the site to above reasonable flood levels of 700mm. Our educational beehives will be sited on top of the soil.
- 3/ Open day- for May 21st, TCC has a program for the fortnight called 3 B's – Bees, Birds & Butterflies. Our club is the centre of this fortnight with our open day as the start of the fortnight ending with the Ecofest on 5/June. Our club is making 300 solitary bee motels of all different styles, Rasmussen is making 100 & Kirwan state high is making 100 as well. These will be given away at the Ecofest.
- 4/ A clear Perspex hive is being built with a brood box & 1 super as a working display hive. When it is not being used as a display it will have a wooden cover put around it as per a normal hive.
- 5/ shop new items – copies of native bees of Qld have been purchased & are currently being laminated. These will sell for approx. \$20 to members.
- 6/ the beginners kit is selling for \$160 which is good value for new bee keepers for what is included.
- 7/ Librarian Beryl – some new books have been purchased for the club by Dr John Carr. A lot of books have been returned but there are still some outstanding, please return so other club members can have a good read.
- 8/ Treasurers report- No Treasurer as yet so if there are any club members who are accountants or book keepers the club desperately needs you to step up and help out. Frana is Assistant Treasurer & has been running the clubs financials for a long time now & needs a break. Frana has made this club financial to what it is now from \$500 in the kitty to a well resourced financial club it is today.
- 9/ general discussion – great discussion on swarms, catching bees, wax moth & small hive beetle (SHB). No AFB cases have been reported for a while now. The long heat, high humidity has upset a number of hives.

Meeting closed @10:55

Demonstration by Frana on what to do when you remove a full frame of honey from the hive. A 2 frame extractor & various sieves . knives, rollers scrappers were shown on how to use in Townsville to remove the cappings, extract the honey & sieve it clean from the durrige.

Alan Z bought along his basic solar wax extractor, a black plastic tub, alfoil, a large picture frame that fits over the tub. A stand for the box to sit on in the yard & a tray setup inside the box for the comb & wax cappings to sit on, melt down & flow into a flexible plastic baking tray for the cleaned wax to fall in. After being left in the sun for the hour when the meeting was on all of the wax had melted.



Pictured above is Frana M demonstrating the process of scraping and spinning honey frames, and melting the wax.

This is the process that Flow Hives can possibly avoid, or at least minimise*. A bit of hands on in the workings of the honey making process is a good learning experience IMHO. Just standing outside and turning a tap separates you from the marvel going on inside the hive.

*PS Ed's opinion only.

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/>

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 2021/20222

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 Graham Dalby – 0420951929 Michael O'Connell- 0402088080

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 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 Bloopers 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 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::trottlindsay@gmail.com](mailto:trottlindsay@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

DBA 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



Plant Photo of the Month

Acacia dunnii from WA and NT.

t 5 McKinley St, North Ward

