

# Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc)



PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814

[www.beesnorth.com.au](http://www.beesnorth.com.au)

Newsletter No 7, August 2022

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## Next Meeting

Sunday, 21 August 2022 10 am  
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

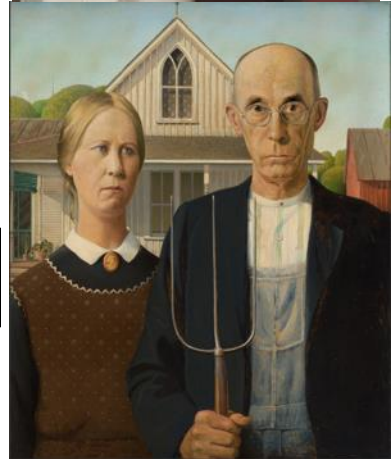
The Club Shop will usually open 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month.  
Please check the website for details

## CLUB MEMBER PROFILE - Steve & Carla Kersnovske.

We've been in the Townsville and District Beekeepers Association since July 2014. We came with no beekeeping experience and were looking for bees to increase the pollination of our garden on Riverway Drive in Kelso. Well, 8 years later, our love for Bees and Backyard Beekeeping has grown from strength to strength. We were very active in the club for the first 5 years, including running a monthly club meeting at our place in November for 3 years running, and Carla had a stint as Club Secretary. We intend to become more involved with the club again as we move towards retirement.

A few things about Carla and me.....well bee stings don't bother me much, I don't swell up much, so I don't wear protective beekeeping gear, except when a hive has become unusually aggressive. So, we always aim to breed and keep calm, healthy, and productive bees. Our success and desire are to give everyone access to Bees, we have done this by selling our bees (Nucs) to beekeepers, mentoring new beekeepers that we supply bees to, and managing other people's hives. Along with enjoying the bees we have and the honey they produce, we have made the first steps to starting a small business called 'Townsville Backyard Beekeepers' to continue our beekeeping journey.

When considering 'your' beekeeping journey, our advice would be to align yourself with a Mentor who will increase your beekeeping knowledge and give you plenty of things to consider when deciding what type of beekeeper, you want to be. We had Mr Graham Smith, RIP, as our mentor. Graham was one of the beekeepers that helped start this wonderful club. My other piece of advice to new beekeepers would be don't overlook 'Hive Hygiene'. Understand the ways you can transfer disease from one hive to another. AFB is harsh enough in one hive, transferring it to other hives, can be devastating. There are a few hygienic practices that can prevent this from happening, a couple are, cleaning your hive tools before using them on other hives, and reducing the transfer of frames from hive to hive.



We have a couple of native stingless beehives, but our passion truly lies with honeybees. Our HIN is K1024, and we have distinctive yellow and red coloured hives. We have bees at home, as well as the Community Gardens in Railway Estate, and the Bolton Clarke Aged Care Village in Rowes Bay, with about 15 hives all up, and plenty of Nucleus Hives (Nucs) for sale, they are always on the go.

Spot the happy beekeepers on the right.  
Apologies to Winslow Homer (Artist)  
<https://www.artic.edu/artworks/6565/american-gothic>

We use a combination of different types of hives, both 10-frame timber and polystyrene, along with 'full depth' and 'ideal' size boxes and frames. We even have a 'long-lang' hive, flat like a coffin, that holds up to 50 full-depth frames. We use wired frames with Tobin & Son Bee's Wax Foundation, as we find the quality and thickness of each sheet is 2<sup>nd</sup> to none.

I think a regular inspection routine is a key to good hive health. Obviously strong hives have a greater ability to ward off pests and diseases. Having said that, oil trays or oil traps incorporated into the *bottom board* and reduced hive entrances seem to be an effective control for small hive beetle, as is squashing every one of these little buggers you find in your hives. When beetle numbers increase 'Apithor' or pesticide traps are the go. When we started beekeeping, someone said to us 'this will be the hobby you have that pays for itself', well this has proven true, many times over, not without hard work, but doing something you love lessens the work. I hope you enjoy your beekeeping as much as we do, and if you think we can help, then don't be afraid to reach out to us.



Steve giving a frame of his bees a good, up-close inspection – with no suit or veil!!

Cheers, Steve & Carla Kersnovske  
1576 Riverway Drive, Kelso, 0417 344 419



## Varroa volunteer mission to NSW from TDBAI Club members

Volunteers Dan Donovan, Louise from Warwick, Frana McKinstry, Doris Newitt, Mick Olsen, Ron Newitt and Daven Priddle made up a team of well rugged up volunteers to go and inspect NSW beehives in the attempt to contain and destroy the most recent incursion - originally centred around Newcastle, but now detected in several other locations.

Thanks for a big effort to help our NSW beekeepers – and Australia.

## More Varroa volunteers are being requested

**Frana wrote:**

We just had a call from NSW DPI for volunteers to travel to NSW to assist in the Varroa detection & eradication program.

This time, it's in the almond areas of Griffith and Balranald.

Two time periods,  
Sunday 7 -14 August  
Sunday 14 - 21 August  
or both

Return flights, meals and accommodation will be covered. If interested and available, let me know asap.

Frana 0401014948 <https://forms.gle/6LxfPSB24pWuKlWi9>



## US honeybee colony losses in 2021-22 approach 40%, Canada losses were nearly 50%

JULY 27, 2022 BY THE BEE INFORMED TEAM <https://www.beeeculture.com/half-of-canadian-colonies-are-dead/>

The preliminary report noted that the previous year losses in 2020-21 were 51%

Although the total number of honey bee colonies in the country has remained relatively stable over the last 20 years (~2.6 million colonies according to the USDA NASS Honey Reports), loss rates remain high, indicating that beekeepers are under substantial pressure to offset losses by creating new colonies every year. In the last 16 years of the survey, our results have highlighted large variability in colony loss rates, not only among beekeeping operation types and locations, but also from year to year.

To obtain more information about the Bee Informed Partnership's annual national Colony Loss and Management Survey, visit: <https://beeinformed.org/citizen-science/loss-and-management-survey/>.

## Millions of bees headed for Alaska die on the airport tarmac in Atlanta, USA

<https://www.ktoo.org/2022/04/27/millions-of-alaska-bound-honeybees-die-atlanta/>

Several hundred kgs of Alaskan bound bees were offloaded from their air transport at Atlanta airport and left on the black tarmac during 30 Deg C plus heat. Many bees died, and volunteer beekeepers came to rescue the survivors and assist with cleanup.



The container with the bees on the left, and right, volunteers rescuing the survivors.



## Something to cheer you up – a cute “Blu Bee”

Here's a photo of The Ed's niece in a warm and buzzy bee suit, warming up in the sunshine down South. Her name is Blu (no “e”), and I reckon she makes a great “Blu Bee”.

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



## Article By Dr John Carr from the BBVA Newsletter Issue 5, July 2022

### **Varroa destructor identified in New South Wales, Australia**

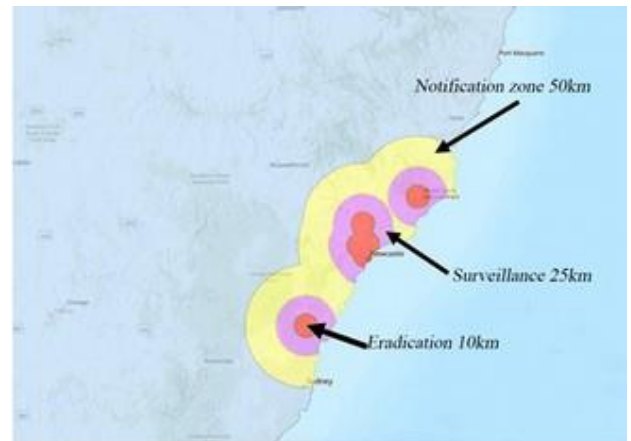
JOHN CARR, APIAM ANIMAL HEALTH, TOWNSVILLE, QUEENSLAND. BBVA MEMBER

Since the western honey bee, *Apis mellifera*, was introduced to Australia in the 1820s, their bees have remained free of parasitic Varroa sp mites. However, on the 22nd June 2022, Varroa destructor was found in 2 sentinel hives in Newcastle port, New South Wales. On further investigation, it was also identified in managed hives about 3 km away. While this was not the first incursion of Varroa sp into Australia, the situation is extremely concerning. Previous incursions have been *Varroa jacobsoni* from the eastern honey bee, *Apis cerana*. Classically, these incursions come from ships from Papa New Guinea. It was quickly eliminated, but the surveillance period of 3 years was intensive.

Unfortunately, on this occasion, the highly pathogenic *Varroa destructor* mite has been identified and is now out in the community. This indicates that the parasite has been there for a few months at least. The authorities and bee industry are working flat-out to understand the epidemiology of this incursion.



The June 2022 incursion of *Varroa destructor* to Australia



Detail of the response with the Exclusion, Surveillance and Notification Zones on 30/6/2022

Varroa are being identified by sugar testing, although I am concerned that the investigation is not happening quickly enough. At the time of writing, bees are still alive in the exclusion zone some 7 days after identification. There is little point in beekeepers being allowed to check their hives with sugar testing inside this zone; instead beehives should be sealed on the first evening and the hive killed as soon as possible. The dead bees can be easily examined later. There are many feral hives in this area and the authorities need to resolve the managed hives quickly and then worry about the hundreds of feral hives.

### **TDBAI hosted a Varroa Mite Awareness and Testing Training session:**

**6pm, Tuesday 5 July, 3/38 Rendle St , Aitkenvale (Club Shop)**

In light of the recent incursion of Varroa Destructor in NSW, now is a good time to understand and implement processes for testing for pests and disease in your *Apis mellifera* hives. Your bee biosecurity obligation as an Australian beekeeper is to undertake a sugar shake test a minimum of twice a year and record the results. This is a simple surveillance method to detect external parasites such as Varroa mites, Tropilaelaps mites and Braula fly. It does not kill the bees being sampled.

Varroa mite (*Varroa destructor* and *Varroa jacobsoni*) is a serious, exotic parasite of adult European honey bees and their brood.

The mite occurs in beekeeping countries throughout the world and has recently been detected in Australia. There are several surveillance projects for early detection of an incursion of varroa at and near shipping ports.

Beekeepers are encouraged to test their own hives for varroa using the simple sugar shake (or roll) test. When varroa mites are dusted with pure icing sugar, the fine granules stick to their feet and they can no longer grip the surface they are clinging to. The dusting of adult bees with icing sugar causes mites to fall off the bee into the white sugar where they are more easily seen. This simple sugar shake detection method is now used by many beekeepers throughout Australia.

The collection of bees from hives may agitate them, including guard bees. People inexperienced in handling bees should first understand safe handling techniques before opening a hive. It's essential that you wear protective clothing when collecting bees for the sugar shake test.

## How to do a drone de-capping for Varroa inspection

Emma and Andrew from Biosecurity Queensland are part of the heightened vigilance in Townsville during the Varroa incursion in NSW. See the photos below for how to do a drone scratch and inspect for the little blighters. Apparently it's easier to see the dark red mites on the plump white drone larvae, than when the mites are on dark adults' bodies.

1. Take a brood frame with drones. 2. Scrape out the drones with your scratcher. 3. Examine drones for mites - Yum yum.



## Bees on the internet

A roundup of interesting articles on the internet about bees.

1. **Male honeybees ejaculate ejaculate themselves to death if heatwave hits 42°C** Tom Sanders Metro News

*A dead drone honeybee which suffered a sad fate (Picture: UBC Beekeeping / Emily Huxter)*

One more thing to worry about in the heatwave we're facing is the gruesome death of honey bees, who have been found to suffer a difficult fate when it gets too hot.

Research reveals they can literally ejaculate themselves to death in extreme heat. When male worker bees are subjected to very high temperatures their bodies begin to convulse, which forces them to ejaculate their abdomen-sized penis-equivalent out of their body and die from the shock. To a casual onlooker it may look like the bee spontaneously exploded, but new research has shown there to be a bizarre sexual component to this final act.



Bees try to maintain a body temperature of 35°C, and if things get as hot as 42°C then half of drones will die within six hours. With immense heatwaves rocking Europe, scientists are looking at developing new ways to cool them down and prevent deaths from heat exhaustion. Dr Alison McAfee, a postdoctoral fellow at UBC's Michael Smith Laboratories focusing on bee health, said: 'When drones die from shock, they spontaneously ejaculate. They have this elaborate endophallus that comes out and is about the size of their own abdomen. It's pretty extreme.'

McAfee says she was first alerted to the phenomenon after noticing a high level of bee deaths following a heat wave in British Columbia during 2021. Beehives typically maintain a temperature of around 35°C, and although the Columbian bees should have been able to cope with the temperature, the excess heat ended up killing many of them off.

'We know that after six hours at 42°C, half of drones will die of heat stress,' Dr McAfee said. 'The more sensitive ones start to perish at two, or three hours. That's a temperature they shouldn't normally experience, but we were seeing drones getting stressed to the point of death.'

2. **Red perspex lid keeps SHB at bay – apparently**

Sheets of red Perspex are reportedly keeping SHB numbers down in some US hives. Easy to make a version and try this at home.

See an example in use on a hive on the right.



[https://www.honeybeesuite.com/red-plexiglass-lids-for-small-hive-beetles/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=news\\_from\\_the\\_hive&utm\\_term=2022-08-09](https://www.honeybeesuite.com/red-plexiglass-lids-for-small-hive-beetles/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=news_from_the_hive&utm_term=2022-08-09)

### 3. **What are those dark brown capsules left over when melting brood frame wax???? It's a poo cocoon – not silk!!!**

[https://www.honeybeesuite.com/do-honey-bee-cocoons-really-exist/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=news\\_from\\_the\\_hive&utm\\_term=2022-08-10](https://www.honeybeesuite.com/do-honey-bee-cocoons-really-exist/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=news_from_the_hive&utm_term=2022-08-10)

The food digested by the bee larvae during its development is stored for use during the earlier pupal stage. Spinning a cocoon is one of the first things that happens as the larval stage comes to a close. Inside the newly capped brood cell, the larva does a somersault similar to the forward rolls you did in elementary school. As the bee rolls forward, it produces four substances. The silk glands, which are in the mouth, secrete a clear substance in long strands. In addition, three more substances are excreted from the anus: one is clear, one is yellowish, and one is faeces.

As the larva somersaults within the brood cell, the cocoon materials exude from the bee's body. But unlike a moth, butterfly, or solitary bee, the cocoon sticks to the inside of the brood cell. While you might imagine a butterfly cocoon being like a mummy case, the cocoon of a honey bee is more like wallpaper: they hang it up and leave it there. Honey bee cocoons stay behind in the honey comb.

After the pupa develops into an adult, the bee emerges from her natal cell, leaving the cocoon behind. Glued to the brood cell, the cocoon will not release. The faeces is wrapped tightly within the other cocoon substances, nature's way of assuring faeces does not contaminate the inside of the brood cell.

Since the cocoons stick forever inside the comb, we never see a cocoon that looks anything like those produced by solitary bees or other insects. What we can see, however, is the forever darkening colour of brood combs after successive generations of bees have left their cocoons and faeces behind. The people who measure such things say that the inside of brood cells actually gets smaller over time, due to the build-up of multiple cocoons and metabolic waste.

## ***Stingless bees as effective managed pollinators for Australian horticulture***

Key research provider: University of Western Sydney

<https://beeaware.org.au/archive-news/stingless-bees-as-effective-pollinators/> <https://www.horticulture.com.au/growers/help-your-business-grow/research-reports-publications-fact-sheets-and-more/ph16000/>

### **What's it all about?**

This is a project in the Hort Frontiers Pollination Fund. It is examining Australia's native stingless bees for their suitability as alternative pollinators to honey bees in horticulture crops. While honey bees are excellent pollinators in many situations, their availability as both managed and wild pollinators faces various threats. This includes Varroa mite, which could lead to the collapse of wild honey bee populations if it establishes in Australia. The industry therefore needs to consider alternative pollinators, investigate their performance in different crops, and find better ways to propagate and deploy them.

The leading alternative pollinator candidates are stingless bees, which live in large colonies like honey bees, pollinate a wide variety of plants, and can be kept in managed hives. There are indeed a growing number of stingless beekeepers, and stingless bees are already used in macadamia farms. Managed stingless bees may therefore have wide but underdeveloped potential for crop pollination. Stingless bees (particularly *Tetragonula* species) are also used in crop pollination in several Asian countries, including in India and Thailand, so there is good scope to exchange knowledge and expertise on bee biology, husbandry and deployment in horticulture.

In looking at stingless bees, this investment is conducting studies across range of fruit and vegetable crops – testing first if the bees visit the flowers and transport the crop pollen. Where they do, the effectiveness of stingless bee pollination and its impact on crop set, yield and quality is set to be examined. For the most promising crop/bee combinations, the project team will then conduct studies of the potential of stingless bees to be effective managed pollinators in glasshouse conditions.

Trial hives for the project are established in the National Vegetable Protected Cropping Centre at Western Sydney University, which is run under this Hort Innovation Vegetable Fund project.

Specific crops involved in field work include:

- Almond
- Avocado
- Lychee
- Macadamia
- Mango
- Vegetable crops in both field and glasshouse conditions.

### **Project update: May 2022**

The project team analysed 2021 fieldwork data from Darwin mango farms, revealing differing daily patterns of floral receptivity, nectar provisioning, and pollinator visitation. The peak activity of stingless bees, hoverflies and blowflies aligned with floral receptivity, illustrating their role as major pollinators.

A study on wild stingless bees and managed hives on the East Coast of Australia revealed a strong regional genetic structure to *Tetragonula carbonaria*, the main species used for managed pollination. This is important when considering moving hives between regions.

Foraging patterns of stingless bees in macadamia orchards were analysed, revealing high variability between hives. Findings suggest that foraging rate is a better indicator of hive strength and performance. Further findings on the hive strength found that hives take about 30 days to recover after splitting, suggesting hives should not be split within 30 days of crop flowering as this will significantly reduce pollinator foraging activity.

A new experiment was established on hive placement in macadamia orchards to determine the best locations for ensuring cross-pollination. Analysis was undertaken on crop constancy of stingless bees to avocado, macadamia and lychee with results indicating stingless bees preferred macadamia overall, and lychee during flowering. However, stingless bees foraged almost exclusively on avocado where there were no alternatives.

### **Project update: August 2021**

While there were some impacts due to COVID-19 restrictions, most work continued as planned with only some delays experienced due to factors such as laboratory access limitations.

### **Pollination in mango orchards in the Northern Territory**

The team carried out extensive fieldwork on mango pollination and NT stingless bees, leading to several new findings. As in 2019, the stingless bee *T. mellipes* was the most abundant mango flower visitor (56 per cent of all visits), followed by a hoverfly *Mesembrius bengalensis* (29 per cent). Honeybees were very rare (1 per cent). *T. mellipes* both carried and deposited (onto stigmas) more pollen than *M. bengalensis*, making it the most important pollinator overall.

Early fruit set was found to be positively correlated with stingless bee visitation rate. Research revealed about 75 wild *T. mellipes* colonies in bushland surrounding the orchards, showing how native vegetation supports 'free' pollination services. These wild bees were flying almost 500m to obtain mango pollen, suggesting potential for their use to pollinate under-visited areas of large mango blocks.

### **A long-term beehive design trial**

Investigation of stingless bee visits to crop flowers continued, showing the bees consistently visit macadamia, using it a lot during early-to-mid flowering and less as flowering proceeds further. The team found the bees clearly prefer macadamia over avocado and will travel hundreds of metres to access it, even when avocado is much closer. Overall, stingless bees showed strong activity on lychee and macadamia, but only visited avocado well when preferred crops were absent.

In stingless beehives deployed on Lismore macadamia orchards, the researchers found that the proportion of foragers returning with pollen increases towards the end of the flowering period, but the proportion of macadamia pollen decreases. Variation in the number of foragers returning with pollen is probably correlated with variables such as hive weight, climatic conditions and brood activity, with some of these factors to be explored further.

### **Analysis of the effects of glasshouse 'pollination duties' on stingless beehive health**

Previously, the team focused on the success of stingless bees in pollinating glasshouse strawberries. During this reporting period, they assessed how this pollination service affects the bees, finding that colonies of both species tested (*Tetragonula carbonaria* and *T. hockingsi*) lost weight while in the glasshouse but recovered well (to more-or-less their initial hive weight) when moved back outside with access to a wide range of foraging resources. The team are now assessing how moving hives into the glasshouse affects the bees' gut microbiomes.

Related work showed that stingless bees are not good candidate pollinators for cucurbits, and that watermelon in open fields and polytunnels were mainly visited by honeybees and native halictid solitary bees.

A wide range of laboratory experiments and data analyses was also undertaken to obtain key results from earlier fieldwork periods.

Throughout the year, project updates were shared at events, farm visits, field days, seminars, meetings and through various publications. The team will continue to engage across industry as research progresses.

## **From the Club Shop volunteers**

Hi Bee Club members

**Update** - our website is up again, you can place your orders via [beesnorth.com.au](http://beesnorth.com.au)

**Next shop opening** is Saturday 3 September.

**Location:** 3/38 Rendle St, Aitkenvale

**Time:** 9am - 10:30am

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

July has been a rough month, it 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](mailto:tsvbeeclub@gmail.com)

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

To all visitors to our Club Shop – please be respectful, patient and polite to our Volunteer shopkeepers. 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](mailto:shop@beesnorth.com.au); please do not send your order to [info@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:info@beesnorth.com.au)



### **Golden Rules for the Club Shop:**

Please follow this guide:

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

## **Healthy hive in either 2 or 3 box Nuplas set up for sale - Contact The Ed for info**

Peter Gurr needs to downsize his apiary At Alligator Creek. This healthy hive needs another home. Contact Lindsay 0409 789 162

## ***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 July Meeting***

Nick opened meeting with fabulous attendees of approx 60 plus with a few new members/guests.

Frana gave a brief overview of the club including complications with emails and website including shop orders.

No Library - Beryl sent apologies

Nick discussed the Varroa incursion latest details and a thanks to our members who have volunteered to attend Newcastle and assist DPI with inspections & testing. Nick gave an overview of the past events the club has been involved with. Mick Olsen gave an overview of the week inspecting hives in Newcastle. Roger Winton from Biosecurity QLD also gave an overview of the incursion. Nick handed around the sample of Varroa Destructor for members to view and understand.

Nick Smith/Mick Olsen donated 150 bees and demonstrated how to undertake an alcohol wash followed by a sugar shake test. Nick explained the new Biosecurity QLD reporting app - SURVEY123 to lodged Alcohol Wash, Sugar Shake & Drone Uncapping tests. Nick assisted with members on the day installing the app.

Graeme Armstrong was invited up to discuss complications and the future of queen rearing and breeding for managing Varroa.

### **Close:**

Followed by tea coffee, discussion

## ***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 People: Please contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 for any swarm or strange bee activity in the Townsville region. For all swarm collections, please collect 300 bees or roughly 10% of brood comb and submit to Biosecurity Queensland for pest and disease monitoring.

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

### Club Member Profiles

From The Ed.

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

I would like to include this section in the monthly Newsletter and for this to be about a different Club member each month, but it can only happen if at least 1 out of the 400+ members puts pen to paper, takes a snapshot and sends in the info to me at the Newsletter desk.

So, how about giving it a go? You don't even have to think about what to say. You just have to write in and embellish a little, tell me funny stories, successes, failures, problems and what beekeeping means to you. Go for it!! We would love to hear what you have been up to.

The TDBAI has over 400 members at last count.

Surely one or two are prepared to fill in a half page questionnaire and take a photo? If you cant write, and cant take a photo, then give me a call and I will come over for a cuppa and a chat and we will be able to extract a story with you for the rest of our Members enjoyment. Lets keep the Club Member Profile articles for the monthly Newsletter rolling.

Here's the questionnaire – fill it out and attach a couple of photos, including one of yourself and send to me [mailto: trott Lindsay@gmail.com](mailto:trott Lindsay@gmail.com)

## CLUB MEMBER PROFILE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name /HIN /Suburb /Native or/and European bees / No of hives/area of hive locations?

Type of hives? / Type of foundation? /Beetle protection?

Year commenced beekeeping? /Who was your mentor? /Who is involved in your household? Is anyone allergic/sensitive to stings?

What has been your biggest success? / failure?/ mistake?/ biggest lesson?

What would you do differently if you had to start beekeeping again after a disaster like fire/AFB/Varroa/cyclone

Do you sell/barter/give away honey? How much honey does your average hive produce? Do you make any other products from your hives?

Do you volunteer for the Club at Open days, markets, school events, public displays? Would you like to participate?

Any stories you would like to tell?

Attach photo please?

That's it!!!! Just fill it out and send it to me, and you will be a rock star in the Monthly Newsletter.

Please provide more than just a one word answer!!

The Ed

**Now this is a honey tasting event  
– can your taste buds survive?**





## **Bear goes on a “trip” after eating “mad honey”**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jan/16/creating-a-buzz-turkish-beekeepers-risk-life-and-limb-to-make-mad-honey>

A disoriented brown bear cub, believed to have become intoxicated after eating an excessive amount of “mad honey”, was rescued in northwestern Turkey’s Duzce province on Thursday. Footage showed the female bear wobbling and whining as she sat belly-up in the back of a pick-up truck, after people rescued the visibly-debilitated animal from the forest.

Mad honey, or “deli bal” in Turkish, is produced in small quantities by beekeepers in the Kaçkar mountains above the Black Sea, the only place in the world other than the foothills of the Himalayas where indigenous species of rhododendrons produce a potent neurotoxin called grayanotoxin.

If bees feed on enough rhododendron nectar, the mud-red honey they produce has a sharp scent and bitter taste – and, for mammal consumers, a potential high. A small spoonful eaten on its own or taken with hot water or boiled milk is enough to induce a mildly hallucinogenic or euphoric state. It is normally taken before breakfast as a traditional treatment for hypertension, impotence and a number of other conditions.

Eighteenth-century Europeans called it miel fou, importing it from the Ottomans to add to ale for an extra buzz. Too much, however, can reduce blood pressure to potentially dangerous levels and induce nausea, fainting, seizures, arrhythmia and, in rare cases, death. Dozens of people a year are admitted to hospital in Turkey for mad honey poisoning.

The afflicted bear was brought to a vet, where she was treated. Officials said the animal was in good condition and would probably be released into the wild in the coming days.

Turkey’s agriculture ministry used Twitter to urge citizens to come up with a name for the bear.



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**Club Members Price Only! - \$160**

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

Plus: The ABC of Beekeeping book



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