Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc)

PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814

www.beesnorth.com.au

Newsletter No 11, December 2022

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- Bees on the Internet, bee trivia,
- Shop prices : http://www.beesnorth.com.au

Next Meeting is Next Year February 2023

TDBAI wishes all our Members, families and friends, a peaceful and cool Christmas and New Year.
May your bees be bountiful and peaceful too!

Top 5 Honey Recipes for Christmas

https://www.geesbees.ca/post/top-5-honey-christmas-recipes

1. Paula Roy's Honey Roasted Nuts
2. Mulled Wine
3. Honey Lavender Shortbread
4. Honey Spice Gingerbread Cookies
5. Pear with Prosciuto, Blue Cheese and Honey

Wash those bees, shake those bees

From Roger Winton at Biosecurity Queensland

I'm sure that most members of the Townsville and District Beekeepers Association, with the exception of some recent newbies, would well and truly remember Biosecurity Queensland's National Varroa Mite (*V. jacobsoni)* Eradication Program which ran for 5 years as a result of 3 successive Asian honeybees (AHB) introductions via the Port of Townsville in 2016, 2019 and 2020 respectively.

In hindsight we were considerably lucky, unlike the problems New South Wales beekeepers are currently having with their Varroa mite (*V. destructor*) on European honeybees (EHB). Townsville's mite problems were minor compared to our southern counterparts. However, the Port of Townsville is consistently deemed to be a high risk of re-introduction, we need to be on high alert for those possibilities. It may only be a matter of time before we have another AHB incursion and another Varroa Mite Response (VMR).

During our eradication program there was a heightened level of interest to test our community hives and many beekeepers were included within this long-term testing regime. This requirement has not lapsed and rather than a 6-week testing cycle, we now need to test community hives twice a year during Spring and Autumn. Accordingly, I urge upon beekeepers to step up and test their hives for pest and disease, including varroa mites. For reporting and recording purposes, Biosecurity Queensland (BQ) is required to submit samples for verification for Queensland's declarations of area freedom. This is necessary to support our claims for market access. I have been tasked with coordinating and collecting samples from community hive surveillance in Townsville.
Testing can be by way of alcohol washes, drone uncapping, sugar shakes, frame inspections and sticky mats (for those who have BQ distributed bottom boxes with adapted sticky mat trays). Hive boxes that have a beetle base sliding tray trap system can also be used for a no chemical sticky mat treatment. I have a supply of sticky mats for these tests which are available upon request.

I can assist with those that are wanting to test their hives and happy to demonstrate techniques learnt from VMR. 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.

It is vitally important that beekeepers report all negative test results and not just when they suspect something is wrong. This negative data is essentially 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.

Thanks everyone.
Rog from BQ.

Club Christmas party a rowdy and well catered for celebration

Around 30 members were entertained at the Bohle Barn on Sunday 4 December for our annual break up function. The Club had a tab operating which kept the conversation jolly and LOUD!, (sorry, I must be getting old) and the meals were yummy and varied. We had a private function room that housed us all in one area and allowed the guests to mingle. President Nick made a short speech thanking the active Committee and officials – it has been a huge year of community engagement for the Club. The ScoMo Minister of Everything – Frana – awarded the annual "Queen Beatrice Award for Dedicated Hard Work" to our long serving Librarian Beryl Smart (John Carr has the trophy and will return it soon), and Lindsay Trott thanked the hard working officials and Committee, and especially all The Shop volunteers and management – such a great service that The Club offers.

There was a Santa "look a like" Competition, and the winner was the one of the Boyd Gangwho looked cutest in Rudolph's headgear

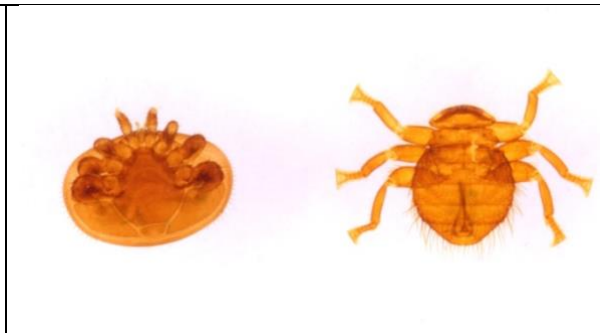
The Braula fly or Bee Louse – another bee pest headed our way

Article by Dr John Carr

This is an interesting insect – and not a louse. This is actually a fly – the Braula fly (*Braula coeca)*

These can be found on any bee but prefer the queen bee and this is where the fly is most likely to found hanging onto the queen. The fly is wingless. The larvae can damage the appearance of the brood, but this is largely cosmetic. The adult appears not to clinically affect the adults and generally the fly is ignored.

The fly eggs can be killed by freezing the frames and box but while this is possible often impractical.

	
Braula coeca – the Braula fly.	Varroa and Braula side by side – you can see they are very similar in size.

Braula steals food from the mouth of the bee. The eggs laid on the honey capped cells will hatch others will not. The larvae will burrow into the capping giving them a cracked appearance. One important aspect is that the Braula fly is about the same size as a Varroa mite as they are similar in size, but the Braula is an insect with 6 legs, Varroa as a mite has 8.

Excluding Tasmania, Australia was free of Braula fly but it has been recently reported in New South Wales (7/9/22) and Victoria (20/8/22). This is still a reportable pest in Queensland. However, if you see something that looks like Braula fly please immediately report to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline 1800 084 881. Especially in this age of Varroa awareness.

Cheers, Dr John Carr

Varroa mites produce unique detectable vibrations

By Harriet Hall, Nottingham Trent University

Dr John Carr has obtained a copy of the paper presented by Harriet Hall which outlines novel methods for detecting Varroa mite in a bee hive. It seems they actually cause unique vibrations that can be measured by small sound detectors. This makes detection and treatment a whole lot easier and more efficient.

Dr John has asked our Chief Librarian, Beryl Smart to place a copy in our ever expanding Library. Interesting stuff! Have a read.

Aussie researchers develop test for early detection of AFB

Protecting honey bees from deadly American foulbrood threat with new faster, cheaper test by La Trobe University
https://phys.org/news/2022-10-honey-bees-deadly-american-foulbrood.html

Credit: Pixabay/CC0 Public Domain

American foulbrood (AFB) is an infectious disease of honey bee larvae that can have severe detrimental impacts on bee populations, including the destruction of hives, if unmanaged.

Professor Travis Beddoe, head of the Agricultural BioSolutions Laboratory at La Trobe University, said the test could have implications both in Australia and around the world.

"The test we've developed is much cheaper and faster than those currently available, which could lead to much earlier detection," Professor Beddoe said.

"Early detection of AFB allows beekeepers to quarantine hives early, and destroy them, therefore preventing infection into other hives.

"The detection method we have developed is sustainable, and can reduce both the incidence of AFB outbreaks, and the continued transmission risk at a large scale," Professor Beddoe said.

"Serious infectious diseases like this one put at risk not just honey production, but a whole range of other food crops, which rely on bees as pollinators."

AFB is a very hard-to-treat disease caused by spore-forming bacterium Paenibacillus larvae, which, due to the bacterial spores being resistant to freezing and very high temperatures, can stay dormant for 50+ years. When it infects honeybee colonies, as it has done in Australia, those colonies and equipment need to be destroyed.

Currently, if a hive is suspected of harboring AFB, a sample of honey is sent to an accredited lab for testing, with each test costing around $50. The test involves early detection of subclinical prevalence—catching the disease before it can spread to other hives.

The new test involves extracting DNA from honey bees or larva by bead-beating in buffer and then placing aliquot into a reaction mixture for 30 minutes. A positive result can be detected by increased fluorescence due to dye binding to amplified DNA.

The research was conducted as part of Australia's premier bioscience facility, AgriBio—a facility located at La Trobe's Bundoora campus, supporting the agricultural sector to improve productivity, be climate resilient and fight disease.

Blooper of the month by Lindsay Trott

From The Ed. (Why is it always me???)

As no-one has offered any bee faux pas for this month, I thought I would fess up about my recent drama. Here's the brief version.

Hive going downhill for 3 months, queen escaped upstairs twice, even after replacing queen excluder, capped drones laid in amongst my lovely new fresh honey frames. Finally, I had to act after finding the only new brood was all capped drones – no queen, no eggs and no uncapped workers could be found. Sounding like a drone laying worker to me, and that situation is hard to requeen, and I was about to go away for a few weeks – what to do????? Aha says I, combine this dodgy hive with the good one beside it using the newspaper sheet in between the super boxes method. Easy peasy, done.

Come back some weeks later and , uh oh, Houston we have a problem!. Lot of dead bees on the ground at front- not a good look. Opened the top box to reveal carnage – thousands of dead bees, SHB starting up and some wax moth maggots – dead drone larvae still in the comb – total devastation.

I shovelled up all the dead'uns, scraped down the daggy frames, discarded all the dead larvae, and chucked the capped the honey.

Talked to Frana who reckons I mistook my drone laying worker for a drone laying queen who had run out of sperm and who was still in the recombined hive. The presence of the old queen prevented any friendship, handshakes, back slaps and "come on in friend" type behavior, instead they went hammer and tong on each other and raised the temperature in the ensuing battle and stinging that the drone larvae and honeycomb got cooked. At last inspection the bottom stronger hive had survived and appears to be OK. Phew.

Moral to the story: make sure your drones are from laying workers and not a fading queen before you try to requeen or recombine with another hive.

And: Old dogs can – and need to - learn a few new tricks.

Above: Sure signs of a problem – lots of bees outside and dead on the ground

Carnage on the inside

Shovel loads of dead bees

Bees on The Internet

1. *Poisonous NZ honey* https://www.mpi.govt.nz/food-business/honey-bee-products-processing-requirements/managing-tutin-contamination-in-honey/

Tutin is a toxin sometimes found in honey. If you're a beekeeper in NZ, or if you pack honey for sale or export, you must show that your honey does not exceed maximum levels of tutin. Tutin is a plant toxin found in tutu (Coriaria arborea) plants. It is poisonous to people and other mammals. Symptoms of tutin ingestion in people can be mild (giddiness). But they can also be severe and lead to coma or death.

Passion vine hopper insects feed on tutu plants and produce honeydew which contains tutin. When bees collect this honeydew, the honey they make can contain tutin. The main risk period is from January to April, and affects honey in most of the North Island and the top third of the South Island. The Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code sets the maximum level for tutin in both honey and honeycomb. The maximum level of tutin allowed is 0.7 mg/kg.
All honey for sale or export must comply with the limits set out in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code. Appropriate measures to meet these limits must be taken by: beekeepers, packers of honey and hobbyist beekeepers who donate or barter honey.

Beekeepers need to keep a record to show how their honey complies with the tutin in honey food standard.
They must also provide this information to anyone extracting and packing their honey. There are 5 options for showing how tutin is managed:

- laboratory testing
- placing honey supers onto hives after 1 July and harvesting honey from those supers by 31 December the same year
- situating hives where the foraging radius does not have a significant quantity of tutu
- situating hives in the bottom two-thirds of the South Island (below 42 degrees south)
- demonstrating low risk in areas by targeted testing of honey over several years.

If you are a beekeeper who produces honey only for your own use, the Ministry for Primary Industries recommends that you also follow the tutin in honey food standard. Note that donating or bartering honey is a form of trade. If you do either, you must comply with this standard.

2. *Honey really is the best medicine*

https://academic.oup.com/nutritionreviews/advance-article/doi/10.1093/nutrit/nuac086/6827512?login=false

Honey gets a great rap from wellness gurus, who talk up the sticky stuff's healing properties, while nutritionists tend to write it off as just another sugar. In between these two extremes, scientists have been slowly beavering away on countless research papers that give a more measured view of how and why honey might be good for us. No single paper will win the argument. But in the last couple of years, researchers have been looking at the accumulating evidence in systematic reviews and meta-analyses of various clinical trials.

As we reported in 2020, Oxford University scientists, in a systematic review of 14 randomised controlled trials, found that honey is one of the few treatments for symptoms of upper respiratory tract infections (URTIs) that actually works. URTI are coughs and colds and "influenza-like illness". These are the wearying winter bugs – not actual flu or bronchitis. The common cold is what it is. You feel a bit off, clog up during the night, fill a dozen hankies and you get over it.
Too many of us take our colds to the doctor, demanding antibiotics that won't work – except to support the rise of the superbug. The more effective treatment is sitting in your pantry.

As the scientists put it, honey is "superior to usual care" for the improvement of URTI symptoms – particularly cough frequency and cough severity.
In fact, their paper suggests that honey isn't merely the best option, it may be the only sensible option – but that conclusion is subject to gold-standard testing in the form of randomised double-blind clinical trials against a placebo. And there's some urgency in gaining that definitive stamp of approval,

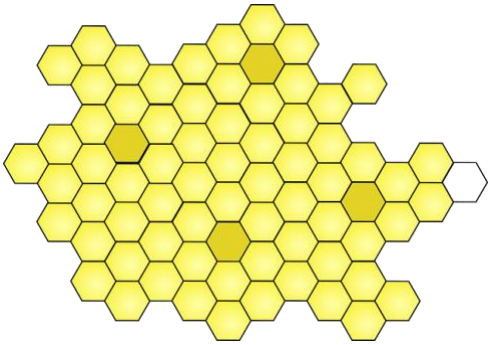
A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down … because the medicine is a spoonful of sugar and an anti-microbial. Photo: Getty

As the researchers advise: "There are currently very few effective options that clinicians can prescribe for URTIs … Other medications for URTIs are ineffective and can have harmful side effects."
The Oxford meta-analysis is supported by a number of experiments with parents and their children that found honey does a better job alleviating coughs than popular remedies such as the cough suppressant dextromethorphan and the antihistamine best-known as Benadryl.

3. ***Do honey bees blow wax bubbles, or can they make hexagons?***

by Rusty Burlew

https://www.honeybeesuite.com/how-honey-bees-make-hexagons/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=news_from_the_hive&utm_term=2022-12-01



Many elaborate theories explain the six-sided shape of honeycomb, but the real answer may arise from soap bubbles.
The science of soap bubbles:

The most plausible theory is that honey bees do not actually build hexagons. Instead, they build wax cylinders that conform to the shape of their bodies. They take the secreted wax flakes, soften them with their mandibles, and assemble them in a tube around themselves. For worker cells, they build a size that just fits.

Small bees build small cells and larger bees build larger cells.
The flattened areas result where two cells touch each other. The most obvious example can be seen in soap bubbles. Wherever two bubbles touch, a flat wall is formed between them. Imagine building row after row of tightly packed cylinders. If you warmed them up so the walls flowed like liquid, they would develop flat sides wherever they touched, just like soap bubbles.

Heat changes circular cells to hexagonal:
Researchers now believe that as the cells are constructed they are warmed by the bees' bodies which causes the common sides to flow together and form a flat wall. Because they are closely packed, the rows form a series of hexagons that we recognize as a honeycomb.
In their paper, "Honeybee combs: how the circular cells transform into rounded hexagons" (2013), B. L. Karihaloo, K. Zhang, and J. Wang report that the transition from round sides to flat can happen in just seconds, depending on the temperature of the wax.

Other cell shapes are common in a colony:
Some of the most compelling evidence for the soap-bubble theory can be found not in the perfectly-shaped cells but in the imperfect ones. For example, wherever the cells are not tightly packed, such as at the intersection of worker cells and drone cells, you can find many other shapes. Four- or five-sided cells are not uncommon in this area. Some look quite random, stretched in odd ways in order to meet another cell.
Also telling are the shapes of supersedure cells and swarm cells. Since queen cells are built separately and do not touch other cells, they remain cylindrical. Even queen cells that are started on hexagonal foundation soon depart from the embossed shape and become cylindrical.
Many social insects build hexagonal cells:
In nature, honey bees are not the only insect to build hexagonal nests. Some of their kin, including various wasps, also build hexagonal cells—proof that the hex shape is not exclusively a honey bee thing.
Rusty
Honey Bee Suite

4. *Among Hurricane Ian's victims were tens of thousands of honeybee colonies*

By Mary Jo DiLonardo

https://www.beeculture.com/hurricane-ian-100000-colonies-lost/
When Hurricane Ian tore through Florida earlier this fall, among its victims were tens of thousands of honeybee colonies. With vegetation uprooted and feeders wiped out, the bees were left with no food source.

Tankers of Sugar Syrup and Pollen Aided 1.7 Billion Bees Affected by Hurricane Ian. Greater Good Charities
"Early estimates are that tens of thousands of hives have been destroyed along with many of the feeders used by beekeepers," Brooke Nowak, vice president for people and plant programs at Greater Good Charities, tells TreeHugger.
"The storm also wiped out much of the natural forage used to feed pollinators leaving the bee populations who did survive at risk of starving."
In order to help the bees survive, Greater Good Charities hastily organized an emergency delivery of five tanker trucks of sugar syrup and thousands of pounds of pollen replacement to beekeepers in the state.

5. *Newly discovered native bee has a dog like snout*

https://mymodernmet.com/leioproctus-zephyr-discovery/?fbclid=IwAR2Jh04mdQ4_uDsxYzOvBj9HHLy3-S-YHKX-sNnBAP2625znIKSGXSLxCJI
Every scientist dreams of naming a new species and Dr. Kit Prendergast from the Curtin School of Molecular and Life Sciences in Perth, Australia, recently got that chance. The ecologist was surveying native bee species at Perth's Kings Park botanic garden when she came across an unusual bee with a distinct snout.
Taken aback by what she'd seen, Dr. Prendergast started scouring photos of native bees and looking at specimens in different museum collections. To her surprise, she wasn't able to find much. In fact, taxonomists at Perth's Western Australian Museum told her that it was probably a new species.

Photo by K.S.Prendergast

From the Club Shop volunteers

Hi Bee Club members
Update - our website is up again, you can place your orders via beesnorth.com.au
Next shop opening is first Saturday of the month.

Location: 3/38 Rendle St, Aitkenvale
Time: 9am - 10:30am
Collection at other time by arrangement and when volunteers are available.
If you experience difficulty accessing the web site for orders, please use the following email address to contact the club for shop purchases and other queries - tsvbeeclub@gmail.com

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

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

Email orders will be given priority and serviced – but walk in orders may not be completed.
Pre-order by email before midnight on the Thursday before shop opening to shop@beesnorth.com.au; please do not send your order to info@beesnorth.com.au

Golden Rules for the Club Shop:

Please follow this guide:

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

Native bee Newsletter – join the group and check out some great info and photos

The CROSS-POLLINATOR - Newsletter of the Australian Native Bee Association

Original articles, new information and news from the world of native bees. The Association has branches in Sydney, Brisbane, Wide Bay and Gladstone, but no Townsville branch?? Are there enough interested native beekeepers to get one "flying"?

Check out these sites: https://australiannativebee.org.au/
https://www.facebook.com/Australian.Native.Bee.Association/
https://www.instagram.com/australiannativebeeassociation/

AGM and Meeting Minutes for November 2022 General Meeting

General Meeting - Minutes taker: Nick Smith

TDBAI meeting November 20 10.00am at Michael Hooper Park, Deeragun

The meeting started at 10.10am and was opened by Nick Smith, the President.
Welcomed members and guests. Welcomed 8 new members to the club.
Discussed the year we have had and gave thanks to members who volunteered to the Varroa eradication program.
Update on the current Varroa eradication program by Mick Olsen.
Discussed shop, stock and the next shop day December 3.
Website & email issues were discussed and we are addressing them.
Library report by Beryl Smart. Provided overview for new members.
The meeting closed at 10.27am.

Annual General Meeting November 2022

Minutes taker: Nick Smith
Chair: Mark Finn
Meeting started at 10.28am and was opened by Nick Smith, the President.
Annual Financial Report: Mick Olsen declared financial accounts open. Report available to review after meeting.
Accept Financial Report: Moved Alan Ziegenfusz, 2nd Mark Finn

Handed to Chair, Mark Finn the Vice President. Declared all club positions open and needing new nominations for existing and some new committee positions - Membership Officer, Editor Assistant & Shop Assistant.

Meeting closed at 10.55am

New TDBAI Office holders and Committee

Position	Name	Nominated	Seconded
President	Nick Smith	Alan	Mick
Vice president	Mark Finn	Mick	Beryl
Secretary	Liz Henning	Naomi	Mark
Treasurer	Derek	Mick	Nick
Assistant Treasurer	Frana McKinstry	Ron	Derek
Newsletter Editor	Lindsay Trott	Mick	Nick
Assistant Editor	John Carr	Nick	Ron
Membership Officer	Frana McKinstry	Nick	Mick
Shop Manager	Mick Olsen	Maria	Doris
Shop Assistant	Alan Z	Paul	Liz
Native bees	Nick Smith	BS	MO
Librarian	Beryl Smart	Mark	Naomi
Website/Social Media	Mick Olsen/Nick Smith	Beryl/Liz	Mick/Naomi
Native Bees	Nick Smith	Mick	Naomi
Committee	Miles F	Liz	Doris
Committee	Danny K	Nick	Mick
Committee	Maria F	Naomi	Ron
Committee	Naomi O	Mick	Nick
Committee	Doris N	Derek	Beryl
Committee	Ron N	Nick	Naomi
Committee	Paul P	Mick	Mark

Welcome to our New Members

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

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

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

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

Membership fees can be made electronically to:
Name:- Townsville and District Beekeepers Association BSB:- 633000
Account:- 141466078
Refer :- Please make sure you add your Surname so that your membership can be signed off.

Email contacts for the Office Holders 2020/21

You can use these email contacts for the Office Holders, and hopefully they will have figured out how to access them and will respond ASAP.
president@beesnorth.com.au, treasurer@beesnorth.com.au, shop@beesnorth.com.au,
And for all web and membership enquiries : info@beesnorth.com.au

Swarm Contact List:

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

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
Like us on Facebook