



ASSOCIATION
PO Box 1115
Aitkenvale. Qld. 4814



www.beesnorth.com.au

Newsletter No. 2: February 2025

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Next Meeting:

2pm Sunday 16th February 2025

Michael Hooper Park, Deeragun

**Bring a chair. Tea, coffee and nibbles available.
Free chats with experienced and novice
beekeepers.**

Varroa Update

Check out the Beesnorth website for some information and pictures of the Asian Honey Bee.

<https://beesnorth.com.au/asian-bees/>

Look out for swarms and unusual looking small bee activity and contact our local rep Carla for help in getting an ID or taking samples.

Don't forget about the Varroa sugar shake inspections.

Carla says she looks forward to supporting our Queensland beekeepers in her role as Varroa Development Officer.

She is based in Townsville, and you can contact her at:

0467 236 135 or Carla.Kersnovske@daf.qld.gov.au



Carla Kersnovske

Varroa Development Officer – National Varroa Mite Management Program (NVMMMP)
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

T 0467 236 135 E carla.kersnovske@daf.qld.gov.au W www.daf.qld.gov.au
9-15 Langton St, Garbutt, QLD 4814
GPO Box 1085, Townsville, Qld 4810
Customer Service Centre 13 25 23 (from interstate use 07 3404 6999)



Do the sugar shake and check for these blighters!

Contact Carla, Roger Winton or Rob Stephens immediately if you see any Varroa mites.

Rob Stephens Plant Biosecurity & Product Integrity

M 0407 374 232 E robert.stephens@daf.qld.gov.au

Fill in the [Bee 123 form](#) even if you don't see any mites – a negative result is what we all want to see.



JUNIOR BEEKEEPING

Kristine Walker and Kerri Walton

Harvesting Honey 2024

Olivia wanted to do her special interest badge for Cubs and she picked harvesting honey for her subject



Olivia prepared by getting into her bee suit with smoker in hand. She went through all the steps from taking honey from the hive, spinning, bottling, labelling and selling it. She then had to give a presentation to her Cub group. Olivia was awarded her Special Interest badge. Because of all the work Olivia put in to doing her badge a copy of her presentation was sent to Scouts Australia. Special thanks to Mark, Maria, Doris, Ron & Pop.

Story and photos from Kristine Walker and Kerri Walton



Swarm Adventures New Years Day 2025 by Beryl Smart



2025 started as per normal with a morning cuppa on the patio only to be surrounded by louder than usual buzzing from my bees. On investigation, the number of bees flying around and above the hive suggested this was much more than their normal orientation flights. So, what to do ...well, first finish the cuppa and see what happens. Luckily the small tree across the road was the tree of choice for them to settle in, so, I thought this should be an easy job for a novice....yeah right! Long story short, efforts to rescue them were unsuccessful despite the help of Ry Cordwell and a few hours spent in the heat. Later that afternoon they decided to move a few houses down the street. Despite getting them into a full depth box, I didn't have a lid, so a piece of ply was put on top, but this didn't keep them contained completely (so many were hanging off the sides). By this time, it was getting dark, so warning flags were placed around the box and we hoped things would look better in the morning. Surprisingly, they were still there in the early morning, but still not contained. An emergency call was made to queen bee Frana and with the help of Lou and Al, they corralled the wayward bees and transferred them to the top bar hive at the club compound. At checking today, they are doing well in their new home. Just as they were finishing off the transfer, I spotted another swarm in a nearby tree which was a lot easier to retrieve.

I learned a lot through this experience - one thing being the importance of being prepared with all the equipment you will need to do the job in a safe and timely manner. A big thank you to Frana, Lou and Al for coming to the rescue, and Ry for all his help on New Years.



Swarms and Rescues by TDBAI President Frana

Generally speaking, Jon and I don't do swarm collections or hive rescues/relocations as we have enough to go on with, so leave these to others. However, occasionally we do take them on. The first was a large swarm in Annandale, easy to collect as it was very low to the ground. We put them into a ready prepared Styrofoam box (part of our swarm kit) took them home and transferred them into a brood box dropped off by one of our members. The bees were very quiet, and the entire operation was completed within a couple of hours. Some sugar syrup in the morning to encourage them to draw out the comb, as the continuing rain will be washing nectar from any remaining flowers.



The second effort was collection of a colony that had set up in a possum box. This was located about 4m up in a tree and presented a bit of a challenge, mainly in waiting for some decent weather! Wet set up a couple of ladders, tied at each end for security. We then had to cut away some vegetation then pull the box away from the tree – this was easy as the timber was wet and somewhat rotted. The heavy box then lowered to the ground and taken home. The whole operation was less than an hour. The next step will be to pull the possum box apart and transfer the comb to a brood box. Many field bees missed out on the relocation, but they will disperse over the next couple of weeks.

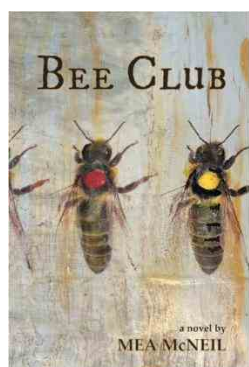




Bees on the internet

Bee Club – the book, and maybe even the movie!!

<https://www.beeeculture.com/bee-club/>



Bee Club, a novel by M.E.A. McNeil, tells the story of a disparate group attracted to the importance and intrigue of their bees. Whatever little else they have in common, they find themselves bound together like kin to these undomesticated creatures – from the curious hobbyists to the entomologists delving into the mysteries of Apis down to the veins in their wings. Some keep bees to eke out a livelihood, like an elderly Finnish woman; some to heal, like the vet from a VA beekeeping program to treat PTSD; some for the spirit, like the woman who extols the beneficial vibrations of a buzzing colony; some for adventure and a few bucks, like the trio of friends that cram into a vintage Airstream to count frames of migratory bees for almond pollination. And then there is the bee-phobic teenager, with nowhere else to go.

There, in the Northern California countryside, the club is a microcosm of the joys and anguish of the wider beekeeping world. The beekeepers confront the reality of loss — facing pests, pathogens and poor forage and their own irreconcilable ways of dealing with it all. Whatever the opinions of those who tend their boxes, the bees are independent; they mingle their genes and their problems. The narrative follows, at bee's-eye level, the lineage of one queen bee with a genetic advantage. Here is an engrossing and witty story, accurately detailed by a long-time bee journalist. It is as much about bees as their hovering people.

Who wants to write our Club history - of a disparate group attracted to bees????

47 Million Bees – the movie

<https://vimeo.com/869691951>

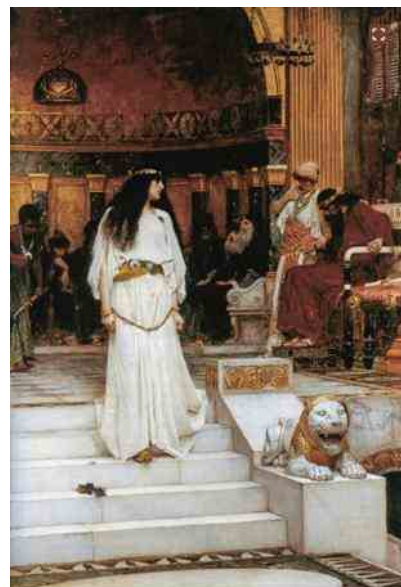
'47 Million Bees' is the story of biologist Paola Vecino and her work to preserve the native Iberian honey bee in Spain. Paola has spent her life studying and working with bees and now heads up the 'Smart Green Bees' project. Collaborating with bee keepers across the country, the project is set to reintroduce 47 million honey bees across 900 hives. The aim is to boost biodiversity through the power of these super pollinators.

Spain is Europe's country most at threat from desertification, which continues to threaten the future of the native *Apis mellifera iberiensis*, a subspecies of western honey bee native to the Iberian peninsula. In the film Paola tells how extensive agriculture and monocultures continue to threaten the success of this vital native species and her plan to save them.

Mariamne, King Herod's Wife, was Kept in Honey for 7 Years after her Death

<https://www.labrujulaverde.com/en/2024/02/mariamne-king-herods-wife-whom-he-kept-in-honey-for-seven-years-after-ordering-her-death/>

This is a gruesome, and long, winding story. King Herod is accused being a necrophiliac in this article, but you will have to read to the last page to find out about this whodunnit.



Mariamne Leaving Herod's Judgment Seat, painting by John William Waterhouse. Credit: Public domain / Wikimedia Commons

How a Nation of Beekeepers Protects Pollinators

<https://reasonstobecheerful.world/slovenia-beekeepers-protecting-pollinators/>

Slovenia, a Central European country of two million inhabitants, over 11,000 of whom are beekeepers — the highest amount per capita in Europe. With its own indigenous Carniolan honey bee and over 230 years of beekeeping tradition — Anton Janša, the first beekeeping teacher at the Habsburg court, is considered a pioneer of modern beekeeping — Slovenia is a world leader in the field.



Painting apianes is a traditional art form in Slovenia. Credit: Archive of the Slovenian Beekeepers Association

Slovenia championed the creation of World Bee Day in order to support their green credentials and protect bees worldwide.

Painted beehive boxes - a popular tradition in Slovenia, depict religious, ceremonial, historical, and fanciful scenes.

TC native hive split in Sydney

The Ed's Sydney based daughter and partner were donated a TC hive by TDBAI member Ray Berkelmans on the Gold Coast 2 years ago. The hive survived the 2 day drive to Sydney and reached 5 kg this summer – time for a split.

Here are the action shots, and the happy campers tasting their own native bee honey on a crumpet.



The Blue Mountains Botanic Garden at Mt Tomah near Sydney – bee heaven

A great place for a day out from Sydney for any keen botanist, and heaven for bees of all descriptions looking for some nectar and pollen.

How about 4 bees duking it out for nectar on the vermilion flower of the Grevillea 'Poorinda Royal Mantle', or pollen collecting on the orange coneflower? And what a view from the Visitor and



Information Centre.



Reminders for membership renewal are sent by email – now \$35/p.a.

Membership fees can be made electronically to:
Townsville and District Beekeepers
BSB: 633 000
Account: 141 466 078

Please make sure you add your Surname or subscription number so that your membership can be signed off.

Minutes of General Meeting TDBAI

There was no general meeting in November, instead we encouraged members to attend the Varroa workshop on 17 November. No meetings in December or January

TDBAI looking for fresh blood – join the organisers to help keep the Club active

If you are willing to be more involved with the club, please consider nominating yourself.

From the Club Shop volunteers

Preferably – log onto the website and place your order there: Members Only \ Shop

If you experience difficulty accessing the web site for orders, please use the following email address to contact the club using tsvbeeclub@gmail.com

Alternatively you can place your orders via shop@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 times by arrangement and when volunteers are available.

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. We are doing this for fun. It's not a business, its run by volunteers.

Email orders will be given priority and serviced – but walk in orders may be completed if time allows. Pre-order before midnight on the Thursday before shop opening time.



Golden Rules for the Club Shop:

Please follow this guide:

1. Order **and pay** by Thursday midnight **before** the opening day.
2. Bring your order number and print out of the request with you.
3. Arrive at the Shop **after** 9:00 am
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.

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/>

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/>

E-mail contacts for the Office Holders 2025

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

TDBAI Office holders and Committee for 2024/2025

Position	Name	Contact
President	Frana McKinstry	president@beesnorth.com.au
Vice President	Al Cooney	
Secretary	Liz Hennig	secretary@beesnorth.com.au
Treasurer	Louise Clark	treasurer@beesnorth.com.au
Event Co-Ordinator	Shandelle O'Reilly	
Biosecurity Awareness Officer	John Carr	
Newsletter Editor	Lindsay Trott	editor@beesnorth.com.au
Assistant Editor	Lesley Barr	
Membership Officer	Frana McKinstry	membership@beesnorth.com.au
Equipment Stewards	Ron Newitt & Mark Finn	shop@beesnorth.com.au
Shop Assistant	N/A	
Librarian	Beryl Smart	
Website/social media Officer	Vacant	
Native Bees Representative	vacant	
Committee 1	Doris Newitt	
Committee 2	Maria Finn	
Committee 3	Greg Skellern	
Committee 4	Carla Kersnovske	
Committee 5	Blake Steward	
Committee 6	Wendy Aspery	

And for all general enquiries: info@beesnorth.com.au

TDBAI Committee is involved in many activities – can you lend a hand?

Contact any of the Committee Members to find out how to get involved

Swarm Contact List:

Please advise Lindsay Trott (Editor) 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.

Swarm Collection – honey bees

Alex Jenkins **Townsville to Rollingstone** 0459 472 166

Ben Taylor **Douglas, Riverside Gardens** 4728 4992 or 0428 186000

Duane Saltmer **Alice River** 0400 339508

Sonya Verburgt **Gulliver** 0408 530 991

Sharene Dougall **Bluewater** 0415 426 903

Phillip Plant **Townsville, Ayr, Rollingstone** 0456191 000

Bruce Mogensen **Railway Estate/Idalia** – 0427 174 705

Liz Hennig **Northern Beaches** – 0409067 367
Ronelle Nord **Alice River, Rupertswood** 0417 752 622

Native bee removal

Bruce Warren **Townsville Area** 0413 395 928

Nest Removals from houses, trees and other structures

Alex Jenkins **Townsville to Rollingstone** – 0459 472 166

Phillip Plant **Townsville, Ayr, Rollingstone** 0456 191 000

Remember that Varroa is down South and we don't want it up here – check those swarms.

***Editor needs your input – why not tell me your story?
Club Member Profile Questionnaire***

Send stories and pictures to : trottlindsay@gmail.com

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!! Cheers The E

Blooper of the Month?

Send me your blooper for totally anonymous recognition- honestly