

Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc)



www.beesnorth.com.au

PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814

Newsletter No 8, September 2022

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Next Meeting

Sunday, 18 September 2022

10 am @ Club Shop

3/38 Rendle St, Aitkenvale

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 1st Saturday of the month.
Please check the website for details

Vice- Presidential mansions for native bees

Words and photos from Maria Finn

Our Vice President, Mark Finn, has been crafting up some very palatial homes for native bees for his grandkids to place in their backyards. Marks' wife Maria sent in these pics and the story:

Mark has been fascinated with the native bees and when he saw a hotel at Frana and John's place he really wanted to make one himself. Then one turned into two and three..... He then decided to make a couple for our granddaughters, 2 girls in Brisbane and 1 in Rockhampton.

The bigger one with the hinged door is for Alanna and Aoife in Brisbane and when they open the little door, they can see the names of all our grandkids, Riley and Sam (they are our junior beekeepers up here in Townsville), Eleise in Rocky and the 2 girls in Brisbane.



Ed's Comment: Who can forget our 2 young newbees Riley and Sam, who worked their fingers to the bone mowing, cleaning, doing chores etc to earn enough money to buy their first hive???? We featured them on the front page of the TDBAI Newsletter No 9 in 2019 showing them on their first honey harvest day. See the boys harvesting their honey at right and below. I wonder how their hive is going now???

The sweet taste of success.



CLUB MEMBER PROFILE??? – None this month – and an apology

Apologies from **The Ed**.

The image of the “American Gothic” that I used last month in the Club Member Profile was not a Winslow Homer work of art, my apologies. The art was by Grant Wood https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Gothic



Varroa volunteer mission to NSW from TDBAI Club members

More Club Volunteers have been helping out in NSW - Dan Donovan, Naomi and Mick Olsen headed South to inspect NSW beehives in the attempt to contain and destroy the most recent incursion. They were working around the Grafton area , but found time to get to the beach (see photo below). **The Ed** has a beekeeping friend in NSW who has expressed their thanks, and admiration for the efforts of all the volunteers.

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

More Varroa volunteers are being requested

Naomi Olsen’s report from her Varroa volunteering trip

My 2 weeks in Grafton FCP

Words and pics from Naomi Olsen

After a long day of travel – flying Townsville to Melbourne to Ballina and then a drive to Grafton – we arrived in Grafton early evening. Day 1 at the Forward Command Post (FCP) seemed chaotic however finally all the paperwork was completed, jobs assigned, and gear gathered, and we were sent out with DPI staff. We were not in a red zone, so we were checking hives and doing alcohol washes and decontamination was an important part of going to and leaving each site. After 2 weeks it is safe to say I have taken in more than my fair share of metho.

The first few days we were checking commercial hives, so there were large numbers all together. Mostly the beekeeper was with us, I learnt heaps from them and they all had sad stories to tell about how the restrictions have impacted their business. All the ones I worked with were very happy to have their hives tested and relieved when there was no sign of varroa.

Testing then started on the blueberry/raspberry/blackberry farms and the hives were more spread out and in smaller lots. This meant lots of walking up and down hills and resisting the temptation to pick the fruit that was ready for harvest.

As beekeepers have not been able to move their hives due to the restrictions some were not in very good condition however all the bees were quiet and calm. As the hives were not going to be destroyed, we had to find the queen prior to shaking a frame into metho and some days this was more difficult than others. It was always a good start to the day if you found the queen in the first hive checked.

Week 2 saw Mick arrive and my peace and quiet was interrupted - they even made us share a room. We started testing hobby beekeepers’ hives – one or two hives at each site – and again everyone was happy to have the testing.



Volunteering for the Varroa surveillance was an amazing experience and I met some incredibly knowledgeable and experienced beekeepers. The DPI staff were lovely, and nothing was too much trouble. There were some great lunch spots (see left), the countryside was beautiful (apart from the leeches and red back spiders), and the weather was perfect for the whole 2 weeks. Mick and I are off again mid-September for another 2 weeks.



If you have considered volunteering, please do so as they are still looking for beekeepers and it will be an experience you will not forget.

Naomi.

Ed’s Comment: It’s great to see no new detections have been recorded for the past several days – see below.

From the NSW DPI Varroa mite emergency response website

Thursday 1 September <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/emergencies/biosecurity/current-situation/varroa-mite-emergency-response-accordion-panel-1423982>

🐝 Varroa mite emergency response daily update 🐝

🐝 No new detections

🐝 Euthanasia operations continue in the Eradication zones. Affected beekeepers will be contacted directly by NSW DPI Authorised Officers to make arrangements as the operation progresses.

🐝 The response team understands the challenge of this task and thanks the community for working with us.

🐝 A reminder that the Reimbursement Program for registered beekeepers impacted by biosecurity operations to control the Varroa mite is now open. Links for applications will be provided by an Authorised Officer when they visit premises.

You can read more about the Reimbursement Program via the Reimbursement link at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/varroa

For more information on the Varroa mite response visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/varroa or call the hotline on 1800 084 881.

Oh no!!! synthetic “milk”, cow free “meat”, and now it’s bee free “honey”!

<https://www.bee-culture.com/bee-free-honey-attracts-investor/>

Don't get rid of the beehives just yet. This could take a while, and it might not taste any good.

A sample of Bee-io's wide variety of honey varieties (photo credit: Bee-io)

Upwards of \$30 million dollars in investment

money is on the line in a new deal between Bee-io and an unnamed investor.

The foodtech industry has supplied consumers with a healthy supply of animal-free animal products for years. Bee-io, a start-up that has developed a way to produce bee-free honey, is one telling illustration of the amount of money investors are willing to pour into the burgeoning market.



This week, the company entered into the early stages of an investment with

an international investor who intends to put \$30 million into the company. The identity of

the investor has yet to be revealed, but according to Bee-io, it is “a company with international business that includes, among other things, activity in the US and Latin America.”

The two parties have signed a nonbinding memorandum of understanding that represents the initial steps toward sealing the deal. It also includes the unnamed investor's commitment to raise at least \$6m. by means of a rights issue to the company's existing shareholders. Assuming the investment goes through, Bee-io intends to use the funds to advance its research activities, develop future products, establish a dedicated plant for the production and marketing of cultured honey in the US and accelerate the penetration of international markets and additional territories.

“This investor has an excellent reputation, extensive experience and international business, and the connection between the two parties will create a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts,” said Bio-Honey CEO Ofir Dvash, whose surname is the Hebrew word for honey. “Combining forces with an international strategic investor will enable the company to grow rapidly [and] to take advantage of the significant opportunities we identify in the global market.”

Bee-io's so-called “cultured honey” is produced under laboratory conditions using natural nectar derived from plants. Thanks to the company's nectar production technique (a tightly held trade secret), the company is able to produce a remarkably wide range of honey varieties and strains, each with up to 100% of its nectar derived from a single type of plant.

Honey production

In nature, it is almost impossible to produce honey that uses pollen from one type of flower. However, Bee-io is poised to break new ground, potentially offering products such as 100% eucalyptus honey (a variety that typically only contains 20% eucalyptus nectar) and more exotic varieties, including citrus or Manuka honey.

“I have no doubt that this investment, as it matures, will be one of the main moves that will lead to the creation of a very significant value for bio-honey in the coming years,” Dvash said, adding that it would allow his company “to realize even more strongly our vision of eliminating man's nutritional dependence on the bee, releasing the bees into nature and producing accessible quality honey, anywhere and anytime, at a fair price for the consumer.”

[Bee-free honey attracts big-time mystery investor – The Jerusalem Post \(jpost.com\)](https://theconversation.com/not-like-udder-milk-synthetic-milk-made-without-cows-may-be-coming-to-supermarket-shelves-near-you-189046?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest)

https://theconversation.com/not-like-udder-milk-synthetic-milk-made-without-cows-may-be-coming-to-supermarket-shelves-near-you-189046?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest
[from The Conversation for August 30 2022 - 2387023845&utm_content=Latest from The Conversation for August 30 2022 - 2387023845+CID_e6672ed969d2dd83a30f372f9b877986&utm_source=campaign_monitor&utm_term=Not like udder milk synthetic milk made without cows may be coming to supermarket shelves near you](https://theconversation.com/not-like-udder-milk-synthetic-milk-made-without-cows-may-be-coming-to-supermarket-shelves-near-you-189046?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest)

Don't wear black fluffy clothes near your hives – I said luv, I said sweetie, I said don't....

The Ed is mentoring “John”, a newbie over at Melton Hill.

In my clearest instructions, and showing painfully by example when I got stung wearing black socks, I warned John about the dangers of wearing dark fluffy clothing near the hive. But did he listen???noooooooooo..... Here is the painful result, 4 days after getting 3 stings in one area of his ankle.

What is it about bees and dark furry things???... a genetic imprint about robber bears???? And don't ask me how that woman in the USA survives wearing sleeveless black lycra work-out shirt and pants while doing hive rescues.

Ouch!!!!



It's swarm season

Time to protect your hives – and not upset your neighbours

There are lots of Youtube videos on how to catch a swarm. Here is one that I liked <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-QJiqKPJx4>

I like the low key approach (cardboard box) and the use of a queen excluder and upside down box to catch the swarm. I liked the use of an entrance ramp that utilises the bees' natural inclination (boom boom) to walk uphill. Many people who have worn shorts or dresses to work on a bee hive will tell you that bees walk uphill. Interesting to watch the bees march into the waiting hive box, even before the queen goes in. It all seems so straight forwards when someone else does it, what could possibly go wrong?

Oh, and why not put an empty super on top of the bottom receiving box to contain the large ball of bees???

https://stock.adobe.com/hu/search/images?k=bee+swarm&asset_id=437249327



Artwork by Wynter

From The Ed

My grand niece Wynter has heard about my adventures with bees and how there is a bit of a crisis going on with Varroa at present. She has drawn me a picture of my bees going in to their hive and inspecting a jar of honey. Apparently Wynter loves her honey on toast in the morning. Thanks for the great drawing Wynter.



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



Article sent in by Dr John Carr from SNGTV – a consortium of European Vets

Review of Varroa resistance to acaricides after several decades of control

Miñon, G.A., Arcerito, F.M., Cooley, H., Landa, G.F. de, Eguaras, M.J., Ruffinengo, S.R., Maggi, M.D., 2022. More than sixty years living with *Varroa destructor*: a review of acaricide resistance. International Journal of Pest Management. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09670874.2022.2094489>

Abstract: *Varroa destructor* is one of the biggest threats to honey bee populations worldwide. Three classes of disparately according acaricidal compounds are currently used to combat infestations: the pyrethroid insecticides, fluralinate and flumethrin; the organophosphate, coumaphos; and the formamidine, amitraz. Unfortunately, these compounds tend to persist in both honey and wax compromising honey bee health and contaminating hive products used by humans. In addition, overuse of synthetic compounds encourages the emergence of acaricide resistance in *V. destructor*. Current evidence suggests that resistance to pyrethroid insecticides in *V. destructor* initially arose in Italy during a four-year period of heavy pyrethroid application. After that, several cases of resistant populations have been reported around the world. New data is needed to track the origin and dispersal of mites resistant to the organophosphate coumaphos, and formamidine amitraz. Little is known about the genetic procedures leading to fixation of acaricide resistance genes, which can vary depending on mite genetics, environmental conditions, and beekeeping management. This review highlights the main aspects associated with the development of acaricide resistance and alternative strategies are suggested to deal with this problematic.

Bees on the internet

A roundup of interesting articles on the internet about bees.

A 20-year-old man in the United States nearly lost his life after getting stung 20,000 times by African killer bees.

Austin Bellamy was trimming a tree last week in Ohio when he unknowingly cut open a bee hive. He accidentally released thousands of African killer bees that quickly swarmed around his head, neck and shoulders, his mother Shawna Carter told *Fox19*. "It looked like he had a black blanket on his head down to his neck, down to his arms," she said. According to the outlet, Mr Bellamy was trimming branches of an overgrown tree while his grandmother Phyllis Edwards and his uncle watched from the ground. Suddenly, he cut into a nest following which bees flew out. As his uncle and his grandmother were also under attack, they were unable to help the 20-year-old. But he was rushed to the hospital after a firefighter helped him down from the tree. Mr Bellamy was airlifted to the University of Cincinnati Medical Center, while Ms Phyllis was taken to an area hospital in an ambulance. He was put on a ventilator and placed in a medically-induced coma. The 20-year-old woke up almost after a week on Wednesday. Doctors expect him to make a full recovery, his family said. Ms Bellamy's mother, Shawna Carter, said that her son had been stung more than 20,000 times and had swallowed about 30 bees. She added that the hospital staff had to "suction" bees out of him. "It was just too much for me to take," she said.



The 20-year-old was put on a ventilator and placed in a medically-induced coma.

Comments According to *Newsweek*, an African killer bee is no more dangerous than a regular honey bee. However, if a person is stung more than a dozen times or so, they will start feeling the effects. They may become nauseous. Other symptoms include diarrhoea and vomiting.

<https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/us-man-out-of-coma-after-being-stung-20-000-times-by-african-killer-bees-3305625>

USA domestic honey production continues to fall while imports climb.

Over the last 30 years, U.S. honey production has declined by around 1.4 percent per year while honey imports have grown by 7.6 percent per year, filling the domestic supply deficit. Imports have exceeded domestic honey production since 2005 and accounted for 74 percent of total U.S. honey supplies in 2021. The top three foreign suppliers—India, Vietnam, and Argentina—supply more than 71 percent of imported honey.

Fungus fights mites that harm honey bees

A new fungus strain bred in a lab could provide a chemical-free method for eradicating mites that kill honey bees. *Varroa destructor* mites play a large role in Colony Collapse Disorder, which destroys thousands of bee colonies every year.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/05/210527091441.htm>

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 Saturday October 1.

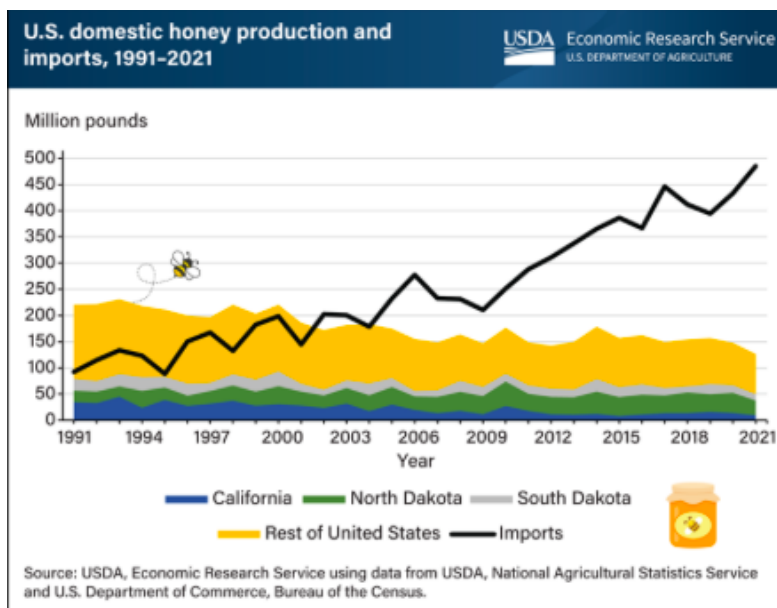
Location: 3/38 Rendle St, Aitkenvale

Time: 9am - 10:30am

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

July/August/September have been rough months, they 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



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; 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, **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/>

Meeting Minutes for August Meeting

Minutes from meeting, MHP 21/8/22, taken by Venessa Porter

Minutes from previous meeting accepted, seconded Ian Goulevitch
2 visitors present.

Club is currently very financial, \$4,000 grant received from TCC for removal of African Tulip trees.

Beryl Smart reiterated the procedures for library borrowing, asked that members treat books with respect, some have been returned damaged. We have some new books relating to native bees.

A vote of thanks from Beryl to Frana for her efforts in resolving the website issues (ongoing).

A vote of thanks to the volunteers who travelled to NSW to assist in the Varroa Response Program, Frana and Ron Newitt told what a great experience this is with so much to be learned.

Q&A session followed.

Mark requested that if any members are aware of abandoned hives to report them to the club so we can check them out.

Shop = new items were displayed, including the 'toilet cistern' nuc box from Nuplas, uncapping fork and Bioforme foundation from Ecrotek.

Discussion on ways of successfully capturing a swarm, a ppt presentation on hive inspections was available for viewing.

The toilet block had been broken into, Jon McKinstry has volunteered to repair this. Still seeking options on the scout halls. No update from Hutchison Builders on completing the compound.

Shop opening days were advised. Refreshments after.

Next meeting: 18 September, 10am at 3/38 Rendle St, Aitkenvale

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

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

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

