

Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc)



PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814

www.beesnorth.com.au

Newsletter No 3, April 2024

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- Club questionnaire – can you complete one?
- Shop prices at : <http://www.beesnorth.com.au>

Next Meeting:

Sunday 21 April 2024 @10 am

Michael Hooper Park,

Isaac St, 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.

The Club Shop will usually open 1st Saturday of the month.

Please check the website for details

QBA Cairns Varroa Mite Workshop Mar 8, 2024

From the President - Nick Smith

Approximately 80-90 beekeepers attended the workshop held at the Rydges Cairns on Friday March 8. The attendance ranged from various local commercial and hobby beekeepers including 10 members of our Club making the journey North to attend the workshop.

The workshop was very informative and shed great light on the proactive work happening not only by our champion Jo Martin from the QBA also Biosecurity QLD to keep Varroa out of QLD and ensure we are ready for the dreaded day that *Varroa destructor* enters into our state. Rob Stephens (Biosecurity QLD - Varroa Mite Eradication Program) presented a complete overview of the current situation within NSW and also the latest Port of Brisbane *Varroa jacobsoni* incursion from *Apis cerana* (Asian honey bee) colony found. Rob provided an overview of the transition to management and what that looks like for QLD beekeepers. Knowing Rob Stephens and Jo Martin are heavily involved in this program gave great confidence we will have a prompt response when QLD has its first positive results of *Varroa destructor*.

Having 2 international speakers chat to beekeepers around management of varroa was very insightful and overall taken very well with many issues raised during the Q&A around North QLD's seasons and climate and applying varroa control in the heat. Many beekeepers left feeling confident that we will have time in the North to prepare but also concerned about management from initial costs of chemicals through to maintaining Varroa in our climate.

Overall, an absolutely fantastic event by the QBA and huge thankyou to Jo Martin, Rob Stephens and the guest speakers Nick Taylor & Tom Nolan as well as Dan from Ecrotek. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to our northern neighboring club, Cairns & District Beekeepers' Association for their financial contribution which allowed the QBA to bring the roadshow to the far north of the state, and yes we will have our opportunity at the upcoming QBA State Conference held in Townsville this July. Further information will come in relation to tickets for TDBAI members.

Jo Martin - QLD Beekeepers Assn State Secretary - QBA Introduction and Overview

Given the rapidly changing pests and disease landscape, I urge all beekeepers where possible to support the honey bee sector at three levels. Local, State and National. Your local club, the QBA and AHBIC will all have a major role in the transition to management program for *Varroa destructor* and at the present time we will need to garnish the support of all beekeepers to provide us with the means and the capacity to fill-the-gaps the QBA & AHBIC have identified in the National Transition to Management Plan. If 'the plan' is new to you I urge you to visit the QBA Varroa Mite portal to learn more about the National Plan. [Click here to visit our portal.](#)

The easiest way to support these organisations is through a membership. [Click here to learn more about QBA membership.](#)

At a state level, the QBA oversees the interests and welfare of more than 10,200 beekeepers registered in Queensland and we've got big plans to provide meaningful enrichment and practical support to our sector as we collectively navigate the new era of Australian beekeeping.

The QBA is committed to protecting the future of the beekeeping industry in Queensland. The Management Committee of the QBA represents its members, and greater industry, and continues its direct liaison with government, media and the general community.

Membership with the QBA isn't just about working in unison to preserve and protect the interests, welfare and the future of beekeeping in Queensland, membership is about uniting with like-minded individuals, people who share your passion for bees, and people who are eager to support the association in our efforts to protect the beating heart of our industry and the very future of food security.

At the QBA we're determined to improve on the present, and provide the security for tomorrow. It is our aim to deliver confidence, security, sustainability, strength and resilience to our members and greater industry.

The work we complete today will brighten the future for our children. Our beekeepers of tomorrow.

We warmly welcome beekeepers from all backgrounds to consider membership with the QBA. Membership with the QBA starts from as little as \$50.00 per year for Associate members.

TDBAI members who attended the Cairns workshop



Keep your eyes peeled and your hives checked for these blighters!

Contact Roger Winton or Rob Stephens immediately if you see any.

Rob Stephens Plant Biosecurity & Product Integrity

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

For a Queensland point of view, questions, comments and answers varroa@daf.qld.gov.au



Do bees notice a total solar eclipse?

The Department of Biology, University of Wisconsin conducted a survey during the recent total solar eclipse that crossed over parts of the USA. They were asking beekeepers to monitor bee activity and even check on waggle dances during the eclipse.

Go to <https://broodminder.com/pages/beeclipse> 2024 to find out what happened. Let The Ed know.

FAT BEES - SKINNY BEES - a manual on honey bee nutrition for beekeepers

A report for the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation

By Doug Somerville Livestock Officer (Apiculture) NSW Department of Primary Industries, Goulburn

RIRDC Publication No 05/054 RIRDC Project No DAN-186A

Review by Jon McKinstry. Publication available from the Club Library

A summary of this enlightening research publication is provided below, and you may want to click the link and download the full publication.

Very interesting reading..... Cheers Jon McKinstry

Executive Summary:

Some facts about bee nutrition-

1. Nectar flows stimulate hygienic behaviour
2. Total protein in pollen is the most important factor = > 25% protein = excellent pollen < 20% protein = poor quality pollen
3. Fats in pollen act as strong attractants to foraging bees
4. Vitamins are unstable and deteriorate in stored pollen
5. Beekeepers should seriously consider providing sugar syrup to bees as a means of manipulating bee behaviour
6. If field pollen is scarce, the colony will cease rearing drone brood

Nectar:

- Nectar consists of sucrose, water, some enzymes and minerals.
- In ripening honey, moisture content is reduced to between 12-21%.
- The colony will obtain most of its water requirement through nectar.
- Honeys with high glucose (dextrose) levels (eg Canola) will candy more rapidly than honey with high fructose (laevulose) levels (eg Yellow Box – E.melliodora).
- Dark honey generally has a richer mineral profile than light honey.

Pollen:

- The principle compound of pollen is protein which is necessary for a honey bee colony's survival and success, although the ratio between the different amino acids is very important.

Protein:

- 20-25% crude protein (CP %) in pollen is considered the minimum level.
- With low amounts of pollen or pollen below 20% CP, the area of brood in the colony will be reduced.
- 2 Kg pollen @30% CP = 3 Kg pollen @20% CP. The demand for pollen within an Australian bee hive could be as much as 100 Kg per year.
- Protein is made up of amino acids. The 10 amino acids that are essential for honey bee nutrition are: Threonine, Valine, Methionine, Isoleucine, Leucine, Phenylalanine, Histidine, Lysine, Arginine and Tryptophan.
- The main limiting amino acid in pollen collected by bees is Isoleucine. Much eucalypt pollen is significantly lower in this amino acid than in introduced species.

Fat:

- Fat refers to lipid which is composed of fatty acids, sterols and phospholipids.
- Normally bees get sufficient fat from pollen.
- The most important fat for brood rearing is cholesterol.
- Fats in pollen act as strong attractants to foraging honey bees.
- Eucalypt pollen has a very low fat level (1 – 2 %) when compared to Brassicas (eg Canola, Wild Radish) that range from 6- 20 %.
- One research project reports that linoleic acid in pollen inhibits growth of bacteria that causes European Foul Brood (EFB) and American Foul Brood (AFB).
- A number of other fatty acids are also known to have anti-microbial properties.

Minerals:

- Little is known about the mineral requirements of honey bees.
- Excessive levels of minerals can limit brood rearing.

Vitamins:

- Vitamin B complex is essential for most insects including honey bees. Pollen is an excellent source of these vitamins.

Do African Tulip flowers kill European as well native bees?

The Ed found 2 of his hives on Melton Hill with hundreds of dead bees on the ground and some dying bees with extended tongues on the landing board awhile back – a poisoning of some sort? There is a large flowering African Tulip nearby, so the suspicion is that this might be the cause. See dead native bee in a flower from the tree near my hives on the right. 10% of the flowers had a dead native bee in them!!!!



From DAF Biosecurity Queensland

The African tulip tree is native to tropical Africa. It is popular as an ornamental garden tree or street tree in tropical and subtropical parts of Queensland due to its showy, red tulip-shaped flowers. African tulip trees are a serious environmental weed in Coastal Queensland, where they are highly invasive and form dense stands in gullies and along streams, crowding out native vegetation.

Bob the Beeman calls it **“A Killer on our Streets, in our Yards and Bush”** see Bob Luttrell, Bob the Beeman (B Ag Sc)^[1]:
<http://www.bobthebeeman.com.au>

African tulip trees are extremely harmful to native stingless bees and a public safety hazard (when these trees are planted along footpaths, their dropped flowers can create a slippery walking surface). The tree will reproduce via seeds and suckers and is very capable of spreading from a single planting. Areas most at risk include gullies, areas of vegetation around waterways and disturbed rainforest. Removal of African tulip trees is highly recommended, particularly when they are in close proximity to natural areas.

Legal requirements

African tulip tree is a restricted invasive plant under the Biosecurity Act 2014. It must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit. The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive plants and animals under their control. This is called a general biosecurity obligation (GBO). At a local level, each local government must have a biosecurity plan that covers invasive plants and animals in its area. This plan may include actions to be taken on certain species. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information. It is listed as one of the “Top 100 World's Worst Invaders” in the Global Invasive Species Database.

https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/52846/IPA-African-Tulip-Tree-PP64.pdf
<http://bobthebeeman.com.au/african-tulip-tree-ebook.asp>

PS: The Ed later found out someone had been spraying Roundup on the roadside near the hives. They have stopped spraying and the deaths have stopped.

Bees on the internet

A roundup of interesting articles on the internet about bees.

Most Members will probably not have read, or remember the unbalanced, biased article I included and commented on way back in the October 2021 Newsletter. I thought it worthy of another run due to the discussions about “saving the Bees” and the possibility of “Beepocalypse” due to Varroa.

1. Honey bees Have Increased 85% In The Last 60 Years – (Ed’s comment: balanced reporting? or feeding your own bias)

By Hank Campbell | <https://www.beeeculture.com/honey-bee-increase/>


“A new analysis finds that if there ever was a “Beepocalypse”, it hasn’t been during this century.

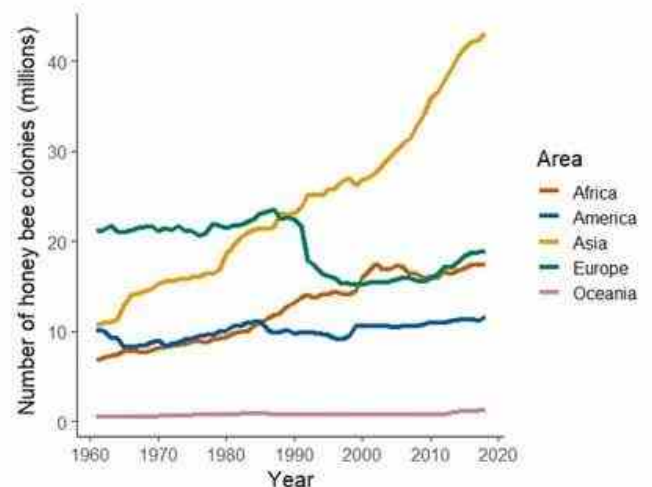
A new analysis using data since 1961 found that the number of managed honey bee colonies has risen by 85%. Managed colonies are the only way to create reasonable estimates, that is how surveys of losses are done annually, but in the past activists trying to create a new fundraising target leveraged blips in averages to claim that a Colony Collapse Disorder was being caused by...farmers.

You know that averages are created so that high and low outliers are not exaggerated in importance. Anyone scaremongering that a number on a survey is lower than the average of previous years is insulting the public, but that is what happened. Anti-science activists also ignored that bee colony collapses – inexplicable die-offs of bees in large quantities – have been recorded for as long as records have been kept. Over 1,100 years. Ask a bee expert what the top three perils bees face are and they won’t say pesticides, they will answer ‘varroa, varroa, and varroa.’ Nature is out to kill everything, including us with COVID-19 today and bees with parasites forever.

The big jump has been in Asia, which has lower environmental standards and more pesticide use than anywhere else in the world. Good luck protesting a communist dictatorship, activists.

^[1]How successful has nature been in killing bees? It’s actually hard to say because no one can count them. Over 99% of bee species don’t even have hives. We actually don’t even know how many bee species there are. So we use a proxy and do surveys of beekeepers because they count how many colonies they have and you can infer how many bees are in each – on average.

 Number of *Apis mellifera* colonies



Human involvement in their bees business has been good for honeybees. The cow is not extinct only because it was domesticated, and honey, not to mention on-demand pollination for crops like almonds, is big business. That has meant long-term security for honeybees. That is why claims about a beepocalypse brought about because farmers make food affordable, whether from Joni Mitchell decades ago or Jenny McCarthy recently, made little sense. Any science literate commercial beekeeper knows the problem is not agriculture. When your livelihood is bees, you want to keep them alive. No one would be happier than commercial beekeepers if activists were right and all it took was banning some chemical and bees would never die. Yet they will die without help. Science keeps bees alive. There is very little (legitimate) organic honey because the losses are too great due to natural deaths like parasites. If tools to fight nature weren't needed, the market would have spoken and beekeepers spending money on killing diseases in bees would stop spending money and everyone would just sell overpriced organic honey."

Ed's comment: Apologies for the longish rant following, but I am always disappointed by self interested and biased reporting regarding bees. I have included an abbreviated version this article above, as some of the comments were just plain inflammatory – so I left them out. I included the article in the attempt to stimulate a balanced presentation of ideas about bees, however, I don't agree with the suggestion that everything is hunky dory in bee land for non European honey bees, and that farmers and their pesticides and monocultured crops are innocent bystanders. You can get accurate estimates of the numbers of non-social and native bees by doing long term consistent collection surveys. This work has been done in several countries, and the news folks, is pretty bad and frightening, especially if you are a native bee. There has been an alarming decline in native bee populations worldwide. This is due among other things to monocultures and the use of crop pesticides in conventional agriculture. Half of the 570 or so species of wild bees in Germany are at risk of extinction. 75% of the wild bees in Germany nest in the ground, not in countable hives "

<https://www.deutschland.de/en/topic/environment/bees-at-risk-germanys-strategy-for-protecting-bees>

You can get a worldwide eco friendly movement, and people making love songs for the European honeybee. I don't denigrate that passion and the associated care for the environment upon which bees, and us, depend. I haven't seen anything – poems, songs, tributes etc - come up yet for Australia's Great Carpenter Bee, or a leaf cutter bee, or a fire tailed resin bee, or a neon cuckoo bee (check them out – fabulous looking bees <https://www.aussiebee.com.au/thyreus.html>). Native bees hardly rate a mention in most environmental protection orders. They don't produce honey, or earn the big \$\$s from almond, canola and soy and other pollination businesses. And yet some of them are vitally important pollinators – like buzz pollinators for tomatoes, or macadamia pollination, or small specialised pollinators for small flowered fruits. Remember that Australian plant pollination got along just fine for millions of years before European honey bees came on the scene. European honey bees on the other hand are nurtured, split, transported, protected, traded, manipulated and coaxed into massive production numbers. The article above did not mention the colossal and persistently large hive losses (20-40% per year sometimes) suffered during this period of commercially driven increase. Food for thought! What caused that??

I also find it ironic that a journalist in a national magazine representing an entire industry (worth US\$ 300 million just in honey production/year) would write such a one sided article promoting the success of the increasing European honey bee numbers, and use it to criticise and denigrate the groundswell of support for **ALL** bees (including native bees), and the concerns raised about damaging effect that industrialised farming and widespread pesticide use is having on native bees worldwide. Perhaps I should cast my reading net further afield for more balanced reporting than "Bee Culture", the Magazine of American Beekeeping.

Happy to receive and publish civil, courteous, intelligent comments.

PS Just as an example of dramatic bee declines not mentioned in the article above – check out the data and causes on the 89% disappearance of the American bumblebee <https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-bumblebees-plight-why-they-are-disappearing-in-the-u-s-11634992056>
Doesn't rate a mention in the article – why not?????

Cheers

The Ed



Townsville will be hosting the QBA and AHBIC conferences in July 2024 – get involved and attend this vital meeting and help our Committee set up and welcome the attendees. Obviously Varroa will unfortunately be a feature. Learn the latest in IPM systems.

You will learn heaps from the beekeepers coming to town.

Find out from commercial beekeepers how they keep their hives humming.

Learn how to deal monitor for Varroa.

Chat to some fellow beeks.

See the latest in hive technology.

Get some freebies from the stalls?? – maybe.

Offer some hospitality to our visitors.

Get involved – chat to a Committee member to see how you can help out

QBA Conference <mailto:https://qbabees.org.au>

AHBIC Queensland Conference and AGM 2024- July 11,
2024 - July 12, 2024



<mailto:https://honeybee.org.au/event/queensland-conference-and-agm/>
Rydges, South Townsville



What to do with all that black goeey slumgum from wax melting

From Rusty at Honey Bee Suite <https://www.honeybeesuite.com/contact-me/>

<https://www.honeybeesuite.com/wednesday-word-file-slumgum/>

Slumgum is a beekeeper's term for the stuff that is leftover after rendering beeswax. While wax from cappings and honeycombs is fairly pure, wax from brood combs contains a wide assortment of stuff which may include cocoons from both bees and wax moths, excrement from bee larvae, mites, pollen, propolis, and bee parts.

After the comb has melted, the slumgum—which is heavier than wax—sinks to the bottom of the container. The majority of wax can be poured off the top and the remainder can be filtered through sieves or cheesecloth. The slumgum is dark brown to black with a unique odor that is not altogether pleasant. It also looks sort of gross.

Regardless of its appearance, slumgum is very attractive to bees especially when it is warm and aromatic. Consequently, some people smear it on the insides of bait hives to attract wild swarms. If you have some leftover, you can also use it as a soil amendment. The slumgum is broken down by soil organisms and the nutrients are then available for uptake by plant roots. And who knows, some of those nutrients probably make it into the plant's nectar and pollen for the ultimate in recycling. What a system.

PS: Beekeepers in the USA also sometimes include some lemon oil to attract a swarm to a swarm box. Has anyone tried this in Townsville????

Check out the honey and wax displays at The Royal Easter Show in Sydney this year

Photos from Carla Trott





Even a honey frame uncapping in a screened cage.

General Meeting Minutes - 17/3/24 at Hooper Park commencing at 10:00 am

Chair: Vice President Mark Finn

Note taker: Doris Newitt

Apologies noted and Attendance book completed.

New Members were welcomed with short introduction. Suburbs represented – Rupertswood, Kelso, Mundingburra, Mt Louisa. Most had purchased hive hardware and looking to set up.

Reports:

Treasurer: Not available, meeting advised of Treasurer's resignation.

Secretary: Not available, apology received

Editor: No report, apology received

Librarian: Quick summary of books, videos and other material available. Reminder of 3 month time limit for book borrowings.

Business arising:

- Bunnings Easter Event 24 March, open to Club to promote bees and sell produce.
- World Bee Day 20 May will be low key this year as focussing on QBA Conference.
- QBA Conference and Open Day 11-14 July
- Rollingstone Pineapple Festival will promote bees and can sell produce

Varroa Workshop in Cairns

Ron Newitt attended, along with several other Club Members.

Ron's report:

Opening Address from Jo Martin (QBA President) included a request for TDBAI to join forces with QBA to form a unified beekeeping organisation throughout Qld. Cost is \$50 per person/year and comes with some advantages – insurance, lobby group, communication etc.

Guest speakers

- Rob Stephens (DPI), his message was to test your bees regularly by sugar shake, alcohol wash, drone uncapping and report to the on line 123 Reporting System. Negative reports are as important as any positive tests.
- Tom Nolan is the North American rep for NOD or Nature's Own Design. Described and explained activity of insecticides available overseas – none of which is currently approved for use in Queensland.
- Nick Taylor talked about NZ Beeswax and how NZ has dealt with the Varroa incursion that started 16 years ago. A very positive presentation.

– Ron's take home message was positive. *Varroa destructor* not yet in Qld, so we have time to implement safe-guards. We have the experience of the rest of the world to call on. The rest of the world has lived with *Varroa* for years and life goes on: we will learn to live with it too.

New Business

Request to modify meeting time and date, for eg 2nd Sunday of the month at 2 pm. This could allow other Sunday activities like church, sport, Sunday lunch, sleep ins etc.

This would also allow for Shop back orders to be delivered in a timely manner.

Meeting Closed: 10:40 am

Members stayed on for a cuppa and socialising.

Committee Meeting Minutes 26/4/2024 at Bohle Tavern at 18:00 pm

Present: Ron and Doris Newitt, Greg Skellern, Beryl Smart, Mark and Maria Finn, Lindsay Trott, Nick Smith, On-line Amanda Coldwell, Lesley Barr

Apologies: Liz Hennig, John Carr

Meeting commenced: 18:15

Chair : Nick Smith

Note taker: Lindsay Trott

- Club Insurance will be renewed by Nick
- Bunnings Easter event was attended by Mark and Maria
- Pineapple Festival 31 August discussed with Amanda and Doris offering details
- St Benedicts Eco Day in July invitation to Club
- Discussion regarding need for more space in the Shop with various options raised. Doris offered some options and costings. Suggestions of rationalising/reducing the amount/range of stock, getting more racks, recommend filling big orders with better forward planning.
- Written and verbal complaints involving behaviour of some members reported by President. These were discussed and the written complaints and an apology noted by the Committee. President noted he will draft a response to the complainants and others involved, and seek approval from Committee for the response. All members present regretted the development that has led to some resignations and loss of dedicated members over the affair.
- Previous issues of Newsletter will be uploaded to the website
- A new website was discussed and will be investigated
- Membership of the Club as Branch of the QBA was discussed and implications for individuals/ Club canvassed. Would mean better insurance coverage, better representation in State wide bee issues (*Varroa* etc), less Club costs for audited books. Club would retain Committee, shop and proceeds. Increase of fees to \$50/yr would be required.
- Possibility of a *Varroa* Info night run by Club
- QBA event coming up 11-14 July, possibility of some subsidised tickets for Club members
- President and Committee agreed the need to improve our operating procedures for dealing with complaints, bad behaviour, as well as planning for meetings and events.
- Mentoring for new Club members raised as an issue and some procedures suggested to assist newbees connect with experienced members.
- General meeting procedures need an improvement, need more bee info and less business info.

Meeting closed: 19:28

General Meeting Minutes TDBAI Bee meeting 16 Feb 23

Meeting opened 10.05am

Chair: Mark Finn

Note taker: Liz Hennig

Treasurer report: Derek presented

Club looking financially good.

Report passed – Amanda second by Ron

Minutes from last meeting presented by Sec – minutes passed and seconded.

Beryl presented the Library Report - Fines to be implemented to members if books not returned.

Port visit presented by Derek and Amanda

Visit to the Port – Hubert Street

Purple Hive – Good location for Saturday Bee Opening Day and combined Trade Show

Bee expo

Accessibility – pretty ideal spot for stalls.

Mat Gazowski (celebrated chef) will be attending – idea to put a stage in.

If members would like a table to sell wares – to notify Amanda. There is power.

Layout to be advised. Putting in an application to the port first

QBA Trade Show, Buzz fantastic and TDBAI

Community groups in South TVL not too keen for Expo TDBAI to investigate community involvement.

QBA Conference 14, 15, 16, 17 July

Buzz Tastic Event

Commercial beekeepers /*varroa* showcases.

Volunteers required

Course for varroa on March 8 in Cairns 3.30-6.30

QBA attendance – costs to be advised – club to subsidise members tickets – around \$250

Nick to apply for funding for demountables....have sent in the application

3 for Bees – May and June

World Bee Day

Rollingstone Festival – Beecentric Day

Pineapple Festival

Ist Responders – Rollingstone - June

Nick asked for suggestions in relation to the needs of the community.

Varroa Session to be delivered by John

Bee dissection

Ron checked in relation for advertising on TTT – have advised that it has lapsed. Derek to investigate.

General business

Derek advised that they are trialling a new system at the shop.

Paid, unpaid, no order – 3 different stations.

General discussion around bees

Meeting closed 10.56am

Blooper of the Month? Send me your blooper for totally anonymous recognition- honestly!

Download your free copy - how to promote insect pollination in our Townsville region.

<https://www.wheenbeefoundation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/SF001-X-24.1-Pollinator-Guide-Townsville-QLD.pdf>

What a great guide to what, where and when to plant in order to attract all those vital insects, like European bees, butterflies, moths, hoverflies, native bees and flies. If you have a similar guide in your area, send it to us it will interest our beekers



Hive testing is part of every beekeeper's "Biosecurity Entity" obligation

From Robert Stephens at Biosecurity Queensland

The Varroa mite in NSW serves as a timely reminder that beekeepers should be inspecting their hives every 16 weeks and reporting their results via the Bee123 survey form. It is vitally important that beekeepers report all negative test results and not just when they suspect something is wrong. This negative data is essential for showing the effort that your industry is going to and helps us provide evidence that Townsville continues to be free of Varroa and other bee pests and diseases.

It's vital all beekeepers act now and look for varroa by using the alcohol wash and drone uncapping method, then report your surveillance results (including negative data) to the Bee 123 portal.

Rob Stephens Plant Biosecurity & Product Integrity M 0407 374 232 E robert.stephens@daf.qld.gov.au W www.daf.qld.gov.au

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. 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 by email before midnight on the Thursday before shop opening time.

Use this email address: tsvbeeclub@gmail.com

Golden Rules for the Club Shop:

Please follow this guide:

1. Order **AND Pay** by Thursday midnight **before** the opening day, by email: tsvbeeclub@gmail.com
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/>

Annual Membership Fees are due in July/August each year – now \$35/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 2023/24

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 2023/2024

Positions	Name		
President	Nick Smith		
Vice President	Mark Finn		
Secretary	Liz Hennig		
Treasurer			
Event Co-ordinator	Amanda Coldwell	Committee 1	Naomi Olsen
QBA Co-ordinator (Temporary Position)	Nick Smith	Committee 2	Danny
Community Liason Officer		Committee 3	Kristine Walker
Biosecurity Awareness Officer	John Carr	Committee 4	Ron Newitt
Newsletter Editor	Lindsay Trott	Committee 5	Doris Newitt
Assistant Editor	John Carr	Committee 6	Maria Finn
Membership Officer	Frana McKinstry	Committee 7	Greg Skellern
Shop Manager	Alex Jenkins	Committee 8	Lesley Barr
Shop Assistant	Derek Walker	QBA Festival 2024 Sub Committee 1	Alex Jenkins
Librarian	Beryl Smart	QBA Festival 2024 Sub Committee 2	Liz Hennig
Website/Social Media Officer	Amanda Coldwell	QBA Festival 2024 Sub Committee 3	Derek Walker
Website/Social Media Officer	Alex Jenkins	QBA Festival 2024 Sub Committee 4	Amanda Coldwell
Native Bees Representative	Nick Smith	QBA Festival 2024 Sub Committee 5	Nick Smith

Swarm Contact List:

Please advise [Lindsay Trott \(Editor\) trottlindsay@gmail.com](mailto:trottlindsay@gmail.com) 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

Alex Jenkins European Honey Bees **Townsville to Rollingstone** – 0459 472 166

Ben Taylor **Douglas/ Riverside Gardens** – 4728 4992/ 0428 186000

Duane Saltmer **Alice River** – 0400 339508

Nick Smith **Townsville & Surrounds – European Honey Bees & Native Bees** – 0438 033 301

Steve Kersnovske **Kelso** 0417 344 419

Sonya Verbrugt **Gulliver** 0408 530 991

Sharene Dougall **Bluewater** 0415 426 903

Phillip Plant – European Honey Bees – Townsville, Ayr, Rollingstone 0456 191 000

Bruce Warren – Native Bees – Townsville Area – 0413 395 928

Bruce Moginsen – European Honey Bees – Railway Estate/Idalia – 0427 174 705 Liz Hennig

– European Honey Bees – Northern Beaches – 0409067 367

Ronelle Nord **Alice River/ Rupertswood** 0417 752 622

Tito Parigi **Magnetic Island** 0418 796951

Mervyn Yule **Charters Towers** – 0427 124 126

Nest Removals from houses, Trees and other structures

Alex Jenkins European Honey Bees **Townsville to Rollingstone** – 0459 472 166

Phillip Plant – European Honey Bees – Townsville, Ayr, Rollingstone 0456 191 000

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

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

Send stories and pictures to : 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!!

Cheers The Ed