Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc)

PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814

www.beesnorth.com.au

Newsletter No 5, June 2024

In this Issue

Next Meeting: Backyard Bees

Sunday16 June 2024 @10 am

@ Mark and Maria's

17 Macquarie St, Jensen

Bring a chair - tea coffee and nibbles available.

Free chats with experienced and novice beekeepers.

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries - Update 27 May 2024

Movement restrictions remain in place

With surveillance ongoing after the detection of varroa mite (*Varroa jacobsoni*) and Asian honey bee (*Apis cerana*) at the Port of Brisbane, an updated Movement Control Order (MCO) has been issued as a precautionary measure to minimise risk of varroa mite spread, effective immediately.

The updated MCO replaces the previous order enacted on 26 February 2024 and applies to all beekeepers who (a) have hives in or (b) have had hives in, these localities since that date:

Ascot, Balmoral, Banyo, Belmont, Birkdale, Boondall, Brisbane Airport, Bulimba, Cannon Hill, Carina, Carindale, Chandler, Clayfield, Eagle Farm, Geebung, Gumdale, Hamilton, Hemmant, Hendra, Kalinga, Lota, Lytton, Manly, Manly West, Moreton Bay, Morningside, Murarrie, Northgate, Nudgee, Nudgee Beach, Nundah, Pinkenba, Port of Brisbane, Ransome, Shorncliffe, Thorneside, Tingalpa, Virginia, Wakerley, Wavell Heights, Wynnum, Wynnum West.

Beekeepers in these areas must not move any varroa mite carrier (hives, bees and all associated beekeeping equipment) out of these localities with the exception of:

- processed honey or processed beeswax
- new and unused apiary appliances (e.g. hiveware, tools, extraction equipment)
- items being transported under quarantine secure conditions directly to an irradiation facility for treatment
- items that have been inspected and found to be free of all Asian honey bee life stages (adults, larvae, and brood) (dead or alive) and free from contamination with an apiary product
- items sealed and stored for 21 days prior to movement
- quarantine secured diagnostic honey samples for testing at a recognised diagnostic facility
- originates from outside the MCO area and is transiting along major roads through the localities in a quarantine-secure manner and does not stop in the MCO area.

See the MCO for full details and definitions of what can be moved and the requirements that apply to moving risk items out of the MCO.

The updated MCO now does permit movements of varroa mite carriers into and within these localities.

Biosecurity Queensland encourages beekeepers to continue accessing their hives to carry out surveillance and routine hive management.

For information about the varroa and Asian honey bee and what to look out for visit www.daf.qld.gov.au/varroa

You can keep up to date with the latest information about varroa mite at Business Queensland and by subscribing to DAF's bee e-alert.

School of Bees – the Hermit Park State School Beehives

From Frana McKinstry and Ron Newitt

Late in 2015, the Townsville District Beekeepers Association Inc (TDBAI or "The Club") gave a presentation on honeybees at the Hermit Park State School (HPSS). Following from this, Craig Aisthorpe advised that the school had purchased two Flow Hives for the school gardens. Apparently, approval to have honeybee hives at the school was conditional on involvement with the local bee club for instruction in the management of the hives.

Early in 2016, the TDBAI submitted a proposal to Craig, outlining the basic requirements and costings. The proposal was accepted, so starting an ongoing relationship between HPSS and the TDBAI.

Since the hives have been on site, the TDBAI have used them for demonstration purposes at Club meetings and Open Days held on school grounds, during staff development and conference events, and of course to the students.

The original intention was to involve some senior students in the ongoing hive management, but with staff changes and timing constraints this has not been possible.

The hives have had a chequered history, there have been swarms which have needed retrieving, they've been subject to Small Hive Beetle and, unfortunately, American Foul Brood which resulted in one hive being euthanised. One also fell over during some extremely wet weather, but this didn't bother the bees.

Frana and Jon McKinstry were the main hive management team, for in-school and club demonstrations as well as routine management and honey extraction between times. Ron and Doris Newitt have since taken over the hive management, extracting and delivering the honey to the school, organising honey jars and hive hardware as required, and generally being busy bees.

From The Ed: Many thanks for the hard work in keeping these hives running, educating and inspiring students, and generally showing the general public how to maintain hives. I did hear that one eager person used copious amounts of smoke one day which set off some fire alarms and alarmed the neighbours. The Fireys were called and some explaining to authorities had the situation sorted, meanwhile the bees went about their beesiness undisturbed.

Above: Ron and Doris Newitt teaching the next generation of bee botherers

Eco Fiesta on Sunday 2 June was a big hit – here are some pics from the day

TDBAI assembled a fantastic array of educational material and displays, books, merchandise, live native and European bees, playground and members' honey, wax and products for sale. Even Hannah Moloney , the "Pink haired lady from Gardening Australia" paid our display a visit.

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

Contact 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

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

Three for Bees, 31 May-1 June – done and dusted

EcoFiesta on 2 June - a great success

Rollingstone Bee-Centric Day 22 June

Mates4Mates 4 July

QBA Conference, 10-12 July

TDBAI Members encouraged to attend and learn about the state of the art of beekeeping.
50% Club Members discount applies, see the rego form at
https://members.qbabees.org.au/event-5629389

St Benedict's Ecofiesta, 18 July

As per previous years, several members attend and manage bee club display table.

Grants

A number of grants have been advertised, we need a dedicated member or three to make application for these as they arise.

Flower of the Month

Red flowering gum

Photos of 2 different *Corymbia ficifolia* plants or red flowering gum with heads down -bums up bees having a grand old time.
From The Ed's daughter , Carla Trott in Sydney.

Photos from Facebook pages:

From Facebook – no comment from The Ed on the left hand photo.

On the right - Multiple eggs to a cell, or eggs on the side of the cell wall make you absolutely sure you have laying workers. The Ed has seen 3 and 4 eggs to a cell, but this mass of eggs in each cell takes the cake- laying workers are an almost unrecoverable situation. Tell me your stories. The ED.

Bees on the internet

A roundup of interesting articles on the internet about bees.

Electric harp plays a nasty tune for Asian hornets

https://reasonstobecheerful.world/electric-harps-protect-honey-bees-from-asian-hornets/

Asian hornets first arrived in France from China in 2004, having hitched a ride in a shipping crate. Back in their Asian homeland, they predate a diverse diet of other creatures, including honey bees. The honey bees indigenous to those territories have evolved strategies to evade the marauding hornets over time. But the hornets' invasion of Europe caught local honey bees defenseless. According to one estimate, an Asian hornet can decapitate, dismember and feed the vulnerable European honey bees to their larvae at a rate of 30 per day.

The hornets have been causing chaos in apiaries across western Europe, penetrating deeper into the continent every year. First France fell, then Spain, Portugal, Italy, Britain, Austria, Germany, Belgium and others. One scientific analysis estimated that up to 29 percent of France's bee colonies could collapse every year as a result. Other countries came to similar conclusions. This not only increases the cost of honey production, but also places entire ecosystems at risk as a result of the reduced pollination activity, in which honey bees play a significant part. And this threat is no longer contained within Europe. In August 2023, scientists confirmed that Asian hornets had flown into US airspace for the first time.

Although the harps take different forms, each one is made of some sort of large frame, which is then "strung" with conductive metal wires. These are then connected to a source of electricity, often solar panels, so that the wires conduct simultaneously positive and negative charges. When a hornet flies through, its wings touch the wires on either side, completing a circuit, and thereby delivering a fatal current of electricity. Beekeepers then place the harps around their hives in positions along the hornets' frequent flight paths.

Podcasts for beekeepers who want to learn about the latest developments in bee health.

https://mailchi.mp/5938e4b5baff/beekeeping-today-podcast-10327294?e=03dfa77775

There's podcasts about bee genetics and how they affect bee health and survival, one on why hives go cranky, and another on how the US is coping with Varroa and trying to stay ahead of the ability of Varroa to change.

Plastic bottle Beekeeping

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ItlOFLTUAs

Here's a novel way to rear bees. Some fascinating ideas and suggestion on here. Raised many questions for me, but then I am an old traditional beekeeper. Hmmmm, beekeeping in transparent plastic bottles – that's novel.

Pollen in the air

https://qz.com/emails/quartz-obsession/1851328247/pollen-natures-bounty

Photo: Reuters (Valentyn Ogirenko)

The pulse of pollination

The flora and the fauna of the world rely on pollination, or the art of flower fertilization. You can find its impact right on your dinner plate: One in three bites of food you eat is the product of pollination.

Palynologists — the official name for pollen scientists — will tell you the act of pollination is simple. A plant can be self-pollinating, which means it fertilizes itself, but it's more often cross-pollinating, which means it needs an agent to bring the pollen to another plant of its species. That's where pollinators come in. Those can be the birds and the bees, yes, but also butterflies, beetles, and bats. Wind and water act as pollinators, too, when they pick up and carry pollen on their own streams.

Pollinators unwittingly take clingy pollen — the bright powder you can spot at the center of a flower — from a flower's anthers (or the male portion of the plant) to another flower, where the pollen will meet the stigma (the female portion). That's how a flowering plant is fertilized, which makes it able to yield fruit, drop seeds, and grow more plants. While we usually think of pollen as a shocking, sneezy yellow, it actually comes in a range of shades: You can find powders in vibrant hues like orange, pink, blue, green, and purple.

Now, though, pollinators may have harder work ahead. Thanks to climate change, our warming planet is expanding growing seasons for pollen producers.

By the end of the century, pollen season in North America could arrive 40 days earlier and last 19 days longer than our current calendar. And it has major implications for public health. Those who suffer from seasonal allergies will face not just a rise in pollen concentrations, but also pollutants that make allergic reactions more potent.

That's not the only way your fellow humans are to blame for your pollen problems — urban developers have taken to planting more ma trees for perceived hardiness reasons. This particular gender imbalance is literally making us ill.

As for why our bodies react so strongly to the tiny granules — it's pretty simple. Pollen in itself isn't harmful, it's just that it's very tiny, very airborne, and very everywhere. Immune systems sometimes log those kinds of invaders as threats and program themselves to get the particles out of your system the minute they appear.

SCUBA diving bees? - Bumblebees can survive underwater

https://www.beeculture.com/bumblebees-can-survive-underwater/

University of Guelph researchers have made an unexpected discovery that bumblebee queens are remarkably resilient to flooding – a finding that sheds light on the extraordinary adaptations of these vital insect pollinators.
The study led by postdoctoral researcher Dr. Sabrina Rondeau and School of Environmental Sciences professor Dr. Nigel Raine marks the first investigation on the ability of bumblebee queens to survive prolonged periods of complete submersion while overwintering underground.

A closeup of a bumblebee foraging on an apple blossom (Photo by Nigel Raine)

Bumblebees are crucial insect pollinators, known for their importance in ecosystems worldwide. During the cold season, queen bumblebees retreat underground to overwinter in small burrows.
Typically, they seek out well-drained soil, often in banks, to hibernate until spring arrives. These soil characteristics likely serve to protect them from flooding, a potentially fatal threat to many terrestrial organisms.
The discovery the U of G team made, detailed in *Biology Letters*, arose from an unexpected experimental error when water accidentally flooded containers housing overwintering bumblebee queens.
"Upon finding the submerged queens, I drained the water from the tubes and the queens were still alive. I was shocked," Rondeau recalls. This led the researchers to delve deeper into this mystery. The study involved exposing commercially-reared bumblebee queens to a range of submersion treatments while they were overwintering under controlled conditions.
Surprisingly, the queens maintained underwater for up to seven days showed no lower survival rates compared to the control group not exposed to water.

Bumblebees display remarkable resilience in flooding. "Flooding is an unpredictable challenge for soil-dwelling species, particularly bees nesting or overwintering underground," Raine said. "This area of research has remained largely unexplored until now, opening many avenues for further investigation."
Bumblebee queens' tolerance to submersion occurs during diapause, a state of suspended growth and reproduction that is characterized by reduced oxygen intake.
Rondeau explained, "Insects breathe through spiracles, not nostrils like humans. During diapause, spiracles can remain closed for extended periods, preventing water from entering the body." Submerged bumblebee queens may also use cuticular respiration (skin breathing), facilitated by trapped air bubbles on their body surface.
The findings underscore the need for further research into the mechanisms behind bumblebee resilience, especially in the context of escalating extreme weather events.
As climate change intensifies, insights from this study could inform strategies for conserving these vital pollinators and the ecosystems they support.

Bumblebees are overheating in their burrows.

"Researchers have been looking at foraging behaviour and fanning to keep the brood cool, but there are very few studies that look at the whole nest," he said. The study argued that nests should be seen as a whole: while some individual bees may be able to cope with heat, if the nest becomes too hot to raise healthy larvae the whole colony will decline.

Dave Goulson, a professor of biology at the University of Sussex, who was not involved in the research, said: "We have known for a long time that bumblebees are cool-climate specialists. Most insects are more abundant in the tropics, but bumblebees are weird in that they are at their most abundant in places like the Alps and Britain." They are big and furry as an adaptation to living in cooler places, he said. "There are even some that live in the Arctic, the *Bombus polaris*. That means an obvious problem with climate change – they are vulnerable to warming."

When nests overheat, he added, bumblebees work to cool them by flapping their wings, "but if the air outside is too hot, that's not goi to help".

Goulson said there is already evidence that bumblebees have started to disappear from the warmer edges of their range. "There have been publications showing mountain bumblebees are moving higher as a way to combat warming, but obviously there is a limit to that."

The paper's findings, said Goulson, who has spent 30 years studying bumblebees, are "really depressing". "It is kind of heartbreaking to think that many may disappear." Other studies, he said, suggest that the UK "might lose about half our bumblebee species in coming years, depending on the pace of climate change". Their populations had been declining due to habitat loss, Goulson said. "Now, [with rising temperatures] we have a double whammy."

Photo of bumblebee performing "buzz" pollination. Bumblebees are important pollinators of wildflowers and crops. Photograph: Rebecca Cole/Alamy

And…..

If you can follow this, give me a call, its apparently about bees

Cosmo-Financial Imaginaries: BeeDAO as Infrastructural Art Prototype for Planetary Regeneration

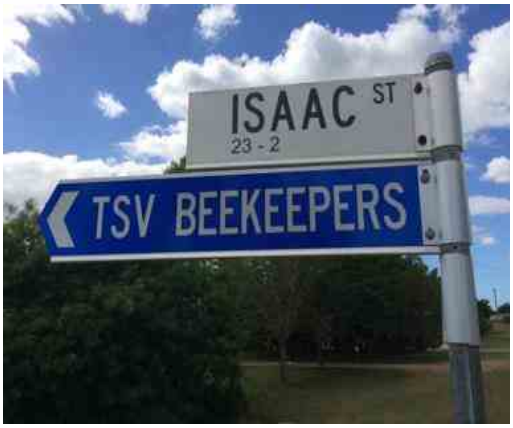
Erik Bordeleau
Lisbon NOVA University

Nathalie Casemajor
Urbanisation Culture et Society, Institut national de la recherche scientifique, Montreal, Canada

The objective of this article is to understand the relationship between artistic experimentation with blockchain and the emergence of new technological imaginaries oriented towards interspecies collective agency and planetary regeneration. BeeDAO stands as a paradigmatic case of an infrastructural art project proposing a cosmo-financial approach. In the context of this special issue exploring the relationship between ecology, economic flows, and electronic infrastructures, the case of BeeDAO allows us to examine new imaginings of value circulation at the intersection of cybernetic dreams and urban ecologies. Our inquiry develops around three axes of analysis. First, we shed light on the artistic imagination of technology, examining how it carries an original cosmo-financial proposal, and to what extent it also depends on pre-established infrastructures. Second, we expose the hopes, tensions and paradoxes characterizing the use of blockchain technology for automating governance processes. And third, we analyze the contemporary redeployment of cybernetic ideology in the context of the search for technological solutions to the environmental crisis. In doing so, we characterize the specificity of artistic practices in the co-production dynamic between collective imaginary, technical infrastructure and socio-cultural context.

Where is the TDBAI Club Meeting Place?????

Follow the sign in Deeragun



Annual Membership Fees are due in July/August each year – <u>now $35/p.a.</u>

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.**

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

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

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.

50% discount for attendance for Club Members

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

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

Update – our website is up again, 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 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.

Future Meetings

June Meeting – Mark and Maria's @ 10 am
July Meeting – TBA, and may be cancelled due to all the other activities like Eco Fiesta, QBA, Three for Bees etc etc
August 11 at 2 pm and location TBA – note new time and 2nd Sunday
September AGM – possibly Sunday 8 August at location TBA

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 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@beenorth.com.au

TDBAI Office holders and Committee for 2023/2024

Positions	Name		
President	Nick Smith		
Vice President	Mark Finn		
Secretary	Liz Hennig		
Treasurer	Louise Clark		
Event Co-ordinator	Amanda Coldwell	**Committee 1**	TBA
QBA Co-ordinator *(Temporary Position)*	TBA	**Committee 2**	Danny Killoran
Community Liason Officer	TBA	**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	Doretti DeGraaff	**Committee 7**	Greg Skellern
Shop Manager	Ron Newitt/Mark Finn	**Committee 8**	Lesley Barr
Shop Assistant	TBA	**QBA Festival 2024 Sub Committee 1**	TBA
Librarian	Beryl Smart	**QBA Festival 2024 Sub Committee 2**	Liz Hennig
Website/Social Media Officer	Amanda Coldwell	**QBA Festival 2024 Sub Committee 3**	TBA
Website/Social Media Officer	TBA	**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 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 Verburgt **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 Mogensen – 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

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 – 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 Ed