Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc)



PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814

www.beesnorth.com.au

Newsletter No 2, March 2024

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- Shop prices at : http://www.beesnorth.com.au

Next Meeting:

Sunday 17 March 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

Latest on Varroa – now detected in Brisbane – but has Varroa jacobsoni mite jumped ship????

Last month we reported that Queensland had not reported any Varroa from North the NSW border. Unfortunately, that is now not the case and we have Varroa detection in the Brisbane Port. This new detection was *Varroa jacobsoni*, a mite from Asian honeybees (*Apis cerana*). See article below.

A single Varroa jacobsoni mite has been detected in the Port of Brisbane. (Supplied: Biosecurity Queensland)

Around the port, the bee industry is in lockdown as Biosecurity Queensland investigates if the mite was carrying other viruses or pests, where it came from, and if it spread. From there, authorities will decide if it is possible eradicate the mite to once again. Shown to jump between bee species, Mr Le Feurve was hopeful the mite would not be a significant issue for apiarists. "The single mite was found in a European honey bee colony, so that is alarming, But to date, there hasn't been a huge impact from *Varroa jacobsoni* globally on European honey bees." Mr Le Feurve said.

The detection site is about 1,500 kilometres away from the nearest Asian honey bee outbreak in north Queensland, and there was little chance the two would meet.

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

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



Drone uncapping and visual checking for Varroa is as simple as....

This is how you do it......





More than a 'rescue'

From Ray Berkelmans on the Gold Coast

This story is about a native bee 'rescue' I did recently. It was my first in about 8 years. **Ed** and I did a few native rescues before then in Townsville, but I don't think we ever got a hive to survive out of any of our attempts. We were green and we were butchers, ouch..., but that was the truth of the matter! Have I learnt from my mistakes? We'll see....

My wife Mary heard from an old friend in Brisbane that her mum (Mrs D), who lives in a retirement complex, had flying insects that were bothering her. They were on her little balcony in a pot plant and she had sprayed them multiple times with insecticide, but they just kept coming back. She mentioned it to her carer who said: "No, you mustn't spray those, they are native bees - they are good!" Coincidentally, Mary had given her old friend 2 jars of my honey the week before, one of which made it to Mrs D. She adored the honey and instantly thought of me when she heard that these pesky little blighters were BEES! Well, that is how I got to be there and attempt their re-location into a box and thence to my place on the GC.

I found the colony had made a home between two pot plants – the outer pot was

a large glazed ceramic pot and the inner a runna-da-mil plastic pot. I wondered how the bees managed to survive there because the pot would have been watered regularly and, presumably, the nest at the bottom would have gotten pretty sodden. All that was visible to me was a tiny slit between the rims of the two pots with multiple little heads flush at the entrance, a few bees keeping guard and the odd bee coming and going. A long line of sticky wax/resin surrounded the entrance, leading me to suspect that these might be *T. carbonaria*. *T. hockingsi* are now very common in SE Qld and from all reports make up the majority of removals from council water meter boxes. I was chuffed to think these might be good-ol-fashioned 'locals'.

A bit of prising and grunting got the two pots separated. As I lifted the inner pot out it became clear how this colony had managed to survive the watering. They weren't at the bottom; the nest was between the walls of the two pots. It was also clear that this was a fairly young colony. The brood, honey and pollen pots and support structures barely made more than a handful. The bees looked a bit thin on the ground too, but as I mentioned, there might have been some adverse circumstances contributing to that. At least the brood pattern confirmed my 'carbonaria' suspicion: it was very regular. Not quite spiral, but the shape and size of their enclosure might have prevented them from truly expressing themselves. Anyway, I was committed by now, so I scraped what I could into my little box. I had some drain holes in the front corners and let the spilt honey drain into a small jar for about 20 minutes.

I then stapled the two halves of my boxes together and taped up the seam to prevent unwanted intruders. The front got the obligatory doughnut of wax/resin around the entrance hole. That seemed to work in enticing the bees to land and check out the box. To further encourage the bees to enter their new home, rather than mill around the familiar smells of the old pots, I temporarily re-potted the plant and took both pots away for a few days until after I collected the box and relocated the colony to my place.

I let Mrs D have a little taste of the honey that dribbled into the jar and she was totally enthralled. I mentioned how good it was on ice-cream and the next thing I found myself donating the rest of the jar to Mrs D who happens to be a bit of an ice-cream tragic. But to her credit, she did share it (and the whole story of the native bee rescue) with the lady downstairs as well as her carer and who knows who else in the retirement complex. The truth is, as so often with older members of our community, this was so much more than just about bees. It was the highlight in Mrs D's week and month. She dined out on this story, even hosting multiple visits from neighbours to view the hive before I came to collect it.

A part of me now feels that I probably should have left it there. Mmmm..., this story might have longer to go yet...

Ray B Gold Coast

Ed: Great story Ray, and pleased to see you have a new dedicated bee devotee.

Bee rescues can often be the biggest excitement in the lives of some residents. Our bee rescue and swarm collectors in Townsville are our Clubs' ambassadors and a communication channel to the

public. Please act respectfully (don't treat the residents as dummies!) and leave the site with the public gasping for more info about our winged workers (and maybe a jar of honey to sweeten the deal).

Interested to hear that our Northern T. hockingsi is now a common species for removal down in SEQ.



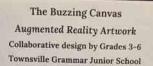




Townsville Grammar Junior School students go high tech with Augmented Reality bee artwork

President Nick Smith attended the launch of this creative use of advanced technology recently. "The Buzzing Canvas" display event featured some fancy visual tricks and computer aided enhancement of the artwork featuring bees. Wow, I'm feeling like my pencil and paper creations are stone age compared to what these youngsters are creating.





Step into the captivating realm of this artwork, a collaborative creation by the imaginative minds at Townsville Grammar Junior School. Grades 3 - 6 joined forces to curate an immersive experience that seamlessly blends creativity with cutting-edge augmented reality technology.

Within this unique masterpiece, the buzzing life of each bee comes to life through the hand-drawn artistry of Grade 3 students, expertly complemented by the watercolour expertise of their peers in Grades 4-6. The result is a compelling visual narrative that not only enchants the senses but also endeavours to spark curiosity and cultivate awareness about the indispensable role bees play in our ecosystem.

Beyond its visual allure, this artwork serves as a call to action, compelling us all to direct our attention to the pressing environmental challenges our world confronts Join us in celebrating the impactful work of Townsville Grammar Junior School's budding artists and their commitment to raising awareness through their passion for art and technology.





Flower of the month at Singapore Airport

No, its not a gigantic "Singapore Daisy", these are sunflowers on the roof of the Sinagpore Airport. The airport has a fantastic display of orchids inside the airport, and these flowers on the outdoor rooftop area, just near the fully enclosed "smoking area". The smoke escapes and kind of contaminates the outdoor fresh air, but the sunflowers continue to do their thing. These are the national flower of Ukraine.

Plenty of bees were out there abuzzing.



Small hive beetle strikes again!

From Ray Berkelmans on the Gold Coast

Dear Ed

As you know, 2022 wasn't a good year for bees down this way in SEQ. I lost 3 of my 6 honey bee hives to small hive beetle (SHB). I believe it was a result of 3 years of near-continuous, moist soils which is ideal for successful SHB larval pupation and build-up of adult populations. If truth be told, another 2 of my 6 hives would have gone the same way if it wasn't for the Nerang River flooding and physically washing those hive away. Basically the flood saved the inevitable!

To climb back from my SHB disaster, I built a concrete plinth to house my future hives, complete with aluminium channel around the perimeter to prevent the beetle larvae from crawling to the soil. See photo of the "Bee Bunker" at right.



So, was it a success?

All I can say is so-far-so-good for the honey bees. Not quite for the native bees though! This week I had my first native bee colony (*T. carbonaria*) succumb to SHB. For me, this is the first native colony in 9 years that I lost this way. How the beetle got in, I do not know. Native bees have very good strategies to keep invaders out, especially given their extraordinary ability to bite and harass, as well as their construction of long and well-defended entrance tubes. Sadly, in this case, it wasn't enough.

Contributing to the problem, at least in my case, is that my native bee hives don't really get opened up and inspected, unless it is time to split the hive. Even then, there is no 'inspection' as such because I try to add new bottoms/tops as quickly as possible in order to avoid as much disturbance as possible. But even if I did spot a SHB problem, what could I do about it?

I look forward to suggestions, ideas and discussion on this topic if anyone has anything to offer?

Ray B, Gold Coast

Ed: How do our Townsville members keep SHB at bay in the tropics???? Let us know

Australia's invasive Asian honey bees may help researchers save threatened native species

ABC Rural By Megan Hughes

Posted Fri 1 Mar 2024

- In short: The Asian honey bee naturalised in north Queensland from a single swarm, 17 years later there's tens of thousands of colonies.
- Researchers say this population boom from such low genetic diversity offers a silver lining for native species under threat.
- What's next? The scientists are working to determine the full aftermath of what's known as a genetic bottleneck.

It is a survival story worthy of a Hollywood blockbuster — a single Asian honey bee queen, stranded in Australia with nothing but her loyal workers, fights to survive. In a foreign environment, she somehow flourishes, and the swarm grows into as many as 50,000 bee colonies across north Queensland. While a pest incursion would ordinarily be considered an invasive species disaster, how these bees defied the odds could instead prove to be the saviour of native species on the brink of extinction.

But — like with any good story — the plot is complex, and this one could still have a sting in the tail for biodiversity.

Stowaway success

The story opens with a flashback to 2007, to the busy Port of Cairns, where cargo ships, cruise liners and fishing fleets come and go.

From one swarm, there are now more than 10,000 colonies in North Queensland.

Among them is a ship from Papua New Guinea, harbouring the queen and her stowaway swarm of *Apis cerana* — popularly known as Asian honey bees. Only a few make it to shore, and without the genetic diversity to breed a strong colony, they should die out quickly.

But instead, over the next 17 years, they thrive, and the bees are now found in trees, homes, letter boxes and compost bins from Wonga Beach to Cardwell and to the Atherton Tablelands.

Their success poses a major risk to native bee populations as well as the honey and pollination industries but also presents an opportunity to learn more about adaptation and evolution.





Breaking out of the bottleneck

What the bees went through is called a genetic bottleneck, where a species population shrinks dramatically then significantly increases.

Research fellow Ros Gloag, who lectures in evolutionary biology at the University of Sydney, studied the bees' survival.

"Having genetic diversity in a population is important for its adaptive response, its resilience to environmental changes," Dr Gloag said.

"Because natural selection acts on the variation that's within a population."

The bigger the population, the more chance the genes of bees that have adapted to their environment will be naturally selected to pass on to future generations.

Even though the genetic diversity of the bees in Australia was significantly lower than in their home in south-east Asia, Dr Gloag said there was enough for natural selection to work.

"Maybe we do underestimate just how powerful natural selection can be in getting populations to respond even when a lot of genetic diversity is gone," Dr Gloag said the study revealed the population had likely adapted their reproduction and foraging behaviour on a genetic level.

And if they could do it, it may mean threatened native species may be able to do it, too.

Evil queen plot twist

The story of an invasive species thriving in Australia is not a hero's tale, even if it might help native species.

The pests are a threat to both native bees and the European species (Apis mellifera) relied on for honey and the pollination of crops.

Dr Gloag said the two species had been observed trying to cross-breed and while it was rare, there were risks.

"That's what we call reproductive interference ... they try to hybridise with each other, even though they can't," she said. "[It can] transfer pests, pathogens and diseases."

One such pest is the Varroa jacobsoni mite, which was detected at the Brisbane port in Queensland this week.

A different species of mite to the *Varroa destructor* that has plagued New South Wales and Victoria's honey industry, its preferred host is the Asian honey bee.

Australian Honey Bee Industry Council chief executive Danny Le Feurve said the detection of the single mite was concerning.

"It's just another blow for our industry ... another detection of a pest that we don't want," he said.

Detection of braula fly in NSW poses issues for beekeeping industry

ABC Rural By Kim Honan and Lara Webster

Braula flies attach themselves to the head or thorax of a bee where they steal nectar and pollen being fed between bees. (Supplied: NSW DPI)

- In short: The bee parasite Braula fly has been detected in an apiary near Tamworth.
- The wingless fly looks similar to a varroa mite but only has six legs and is less destructive.
- What's next: The DPI says it will not attempt to eradicate the pest from NSW.

The NSW government will not attempt to eradicate an exotic bee parasite from the state after it was detected near Tamworth.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) said braula fly was found during <u>routine</u> <u>surveillance for varroa mite</u> on hives at its Tamworth Agricultural Institute on January 15. Once considered a major threat to the commercial beekeeping industry, DPI manager of plant biosecurity, prevention and preparedness Chris Anderson said it was now considered a minor and insignificant pest.

"There's no scientific or economic justification for attempting to eradicate braula fly from NSW," Dr Anderson said.



Braula fly was detected on one of the alcohol washes conducted on 26 hives at the DPI Tamworth Agricultural Institute. (Supplied: NSW DPI)
The wingless fly, which looks similar to varroa mite but has only six legs, attaches itself to bees and buries its larvae in a hive's honeycomb.
The larvae tunnel through the honeycomb, affecting the look and quality of the honeycomb.
However, Dr Anderson said strategies could be put in place to deal with it.

"You need to ensure that the comb honey is frozen because that kills the eggs of the fly and will prevent it from damaging the comb honey," he said.

Braula fly larvae tunnelling under hive cappings leaves this cracked appearance on honeycomb. (Supplied: Brad Lucas)

Honeycomb value 'decreases significantly'

North Coast beekeeper Di McQueen-Richardson said the detection of braula fly could pose a significant threat to her business. She said the damage the fly caused to honeycomb reduced its commercial value.

Scott Richardson and Di McQueen-Richardson run a honey business at Coutts Crossing. (Supplied)

"It may not be an issue for commercial beekeepers who are just chasing honey, but for those of us who sell honeycomb, it no longer looks so beautiful, and unfortunately customers are fairly particular about the way it looks," Ms McQueen-Richardson said.

"It commands a high price because of the quality and unfortunately if it's compromised the value of it decreases significantly."

Ms McQueen-Richardson said while braula fly did not directly harm bees it could compromise a hive.

"They're fighting for the food sources and resources, so the queen can become compromised, the hives can become weakened," she said.

Pest infiltrated other states

The pest is endemic in Tasmania and Agriculture Victoria confirmed braula fly was now considered established in Victoria following the detection in multiple apiaries across the state in 2022.

Dr Anderson said tracing of last month's detection of braula fly at Tamworth found links to a number of different places in NSW but no interstate links.



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, even for just a few hours.

AHBIC Queensland Conference and AGM 2024

mailto:https://honeybee.org.au/event/queensland-conference-and-agm/ July 11, 2024 - July 12, 2024 Rydges, South Townsville

QBA Conference

mailto:https://qbabees.org.au





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. Sponsored by:



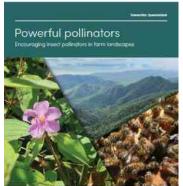
fownsville.qld.gov.au



jcu.edu.au









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.

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 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, 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.

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://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.

Random photos from travels with the ED

The Ed has been guided around Sydney by daughter Carla, and we went to some fabulous places — and so did a few friends who had the surrounds of the Opera House "buzzing' — see right. We wanted something private and more to our style, so look at this posh place I was taken to, the Bar Patron — how appropriate.



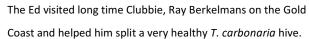
The Happy Hour specials had chili Tequilas and mixed tacos – and the view through that bee themed window was a classic.







A trip to the Blue Mountains had us stopping off for coffee and an apricot Danish at the German Pastry shop. Look who turned up en masse as soon as the cake arrived. How appropriate – the German wasp, or European wasp. There must have been a large ground nest nearby because the wasps turned up in really intimidating numbers very quickly. wikipedia.org/wiki/Vespula_germanica?subject=European wasp









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@beenorth.com.au

TDBAI Office holders and Committee for 2023/2024

		·	
Positions	Name		
President	Nick Smith		
Vice President	Mark Finn		
Secretary	Liz Hennig		
Treasurer	Derek Walker		
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 Awarenenss 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 Skellen
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 <u>Lindsay</u> 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 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 – 0409 067 367

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?

From The Ed.

Send stories and pictures to : $\underline{trottlindsay@gmail.com}$

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.

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