

# Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc)

PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814

[www.beesnorth.com.au](http://www.beesnorth.com.au)



## Newsletter No 10, November 2024

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- Queen cells what they mean
- Bees on the internet
- Update on Red Dwarf Honey bees
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- Club questionnaire – can you complete one?
- Shop prices at : <https://www.beesnorth.com.au>
- Christmas Dinner 8<sup>th</sup> December

## Next Meeting:

**Christmas Dinner 8<sup>th</sup> December Bohle Barn**

**The next meeting not until February 9<sup>th</sup>  
Have a great Christmas and New Year  
Break**

**There will be a special newsletter to Varroa following  
the meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2024**



NATIONAL  
**Varroa Mite Management**  
PROGRAM



The NVMMMP workshop is coming up, on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November and it is a very good starting point for all beekeepers to get information about varroa mite. This will be the only workshop for Townsville, we should all take advantage of this opportunity. I know varroa mite is not here yet, but it is a good time to get into the habit of monitoring and record keeping, so when we get varroa we are somewhat prepared. There is a lot for us to learn about Varroa and the earlier we start to get prepared the better it will be for us in the long run.

### **This FREE one day workshop includes:**

Understanding Varroa mite and its impacts  
The importance of monitoring and thresholds  
Integrated Pest Management and Varroa mite  
Chemical treatment options including organic options  
Brood location, frame rotation and management.  
Good record keeping and more!



The varroa mite (arrow) under the wing of a worker

<https://events.humanitix.com/townsville-varroa-management-training-workshop>

### **The program of the day:**

Introduction and meet the trainers  
Varroa mite management and overview  
Varroa mite symptoms  
Monitoring for Varroa mite

#### **Morning tea**

Determining mite load/threshold  
Varroa mite control options  
IPM  
Cultural Methods  
Mechanical methods

#### **Lunch**

Varroa mite control options  
Chemical methods: – Synthetic chemicals/non-synthetic chemicals – Maximum residue levels –  
Non approved treatments –  
Instructions/permits/SDS – Effectiveness  
monitoring  
Record keeping  
Q and A session

#### **Close**

And remember our Carla is here to help all of us.

*I am here to help and support you, whether through practical demonstrations, discussions or Q&A sessions on Varroa. We can meet at your apiary, a café, in a group or one-on-one.*

You can contact Carla on 0467 236 135 or email: [carla.kersnovske@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:carla.kersnovske@daf.qld.gov.au)

**Xmas Lunch Sunday 8 December at Bohle Barn**

**Get your calendar sorted and be there. RSVP to [tsvbeeclub@gmail.com](mailto:tsvbeeclub@gmail.com)**

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

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

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

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

## Where are the queen cells and what do they mean?

- Queen play cell: The worker bees will practice developing queen cells with a structure called a “play cell” which is an enlarged cell outside the main frame structure but without an egg or developing larva inside.
- Swarming Queen cell at the bottom of the brood frame:
- Superceding queen cell: A cell which is hanging from the middle of the brood is often an emergency superceding cell.



Queen play cell



Swarming queen cell



Supercedure structure

## Bees on the internet



Studies on a variety of insects, including Bumblebee Queens which overwinter in the Northern Hemisphere seem to like to hibernate in toxic soils in preference to clean soils which are not full on poisons. In a paper published in the journal *Science of The Environment*, it is believed the pesticide rich soils would reduce predators and competition. Indeed, some of the laced soils actually seem to enhance survival.

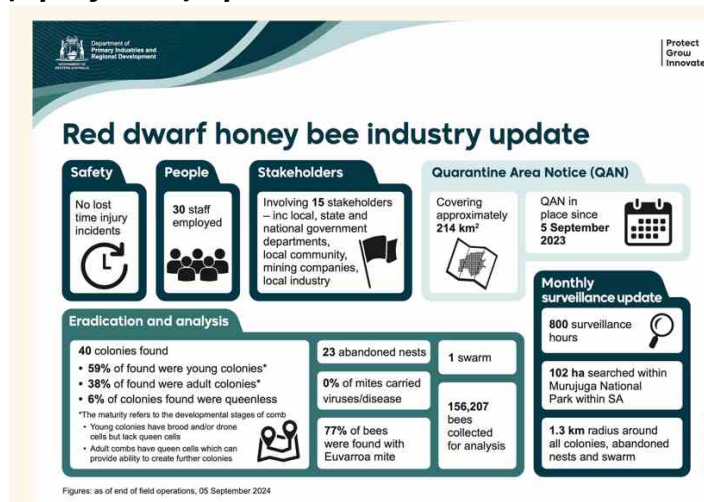
Picture left from the New York Times Article

## From our own bumbeebes in Tasmania

Scientists are equipping Tasmania's Buff-tailed Bumble bees (*Bombus terrestris*) with microcameras and radio transmitters to explore their environmental impact and crop pollination role. This large-scale study, through Hort Innovation's Frontiers program with Western Sydney University, will leverage advanced technology for precise data collection, offering growers valuable insights and tools. This is another invasive species from New Zealand in 1992.

[https://www.horticulture.com.au/hort-innovation/news-events/media-releases/2024/high-tech-spy-gear-to-uncover-the-secrets-of-bumblebees-in-tasmania/#msdyntrtid=n9CUWRiPhG18hAIS\\_QP6F\\_gRd-6fChtqD82WSqDqTYo](https://www.horticulture.com.au/hort-innovation/news-events/media-releases/2024/high-tech-spy-gear-to-uncover-the-secrets-of-bumblebees-in-tasmania/#msdyntrtid=n9CUWRiPhG18hAIS_QP6F_gRd-6fChtqD82WSqDqTYo)

## Red dwarf honeybee (*Apis florea*) update on the actions in Western Australia



## Native bee honey now legal to buy and sell (repeat)

[https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2024-08-23/native-stingless-bee-honey-food-standards-approved/104249950?utm\\_source=abc\\_news\\_web&utm\\_medium=content\\_shared&utm\\_campaign=abc\\_news\\_web&utm\\_content=mail](https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2024-08-23/native-stingless-bee-honey-food-standards-approved/104249950?utm_source=abc_news_web&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_campaign=abc_news_web&utm_content=mail)

Beekeepers who sold the rare native honey, which retails for up to \$500 per kilogram and are rich in bioactive ingredients were operating in a grey area and did not have the law on their side but all that has changed.

## Stay tuned for Part 2 of Tito's adventure with bees in the next Newsletter from the regular Editor

Members!!!! Write us your bee story – this is not Facebook or whatever – we will not criticize or mock you. We all want to hear how your adventures are going, what's happening in your backyard, successes and failures.

## Minutes of General Meeting TDBAI of August meeting 2024

(apologies, this missed the September issue)

Jon sent his apologies. We thank Charlie for providing great bread!

There have been some great public meetings including Mates4Mates

Presentations to high schools and the Pineapple festival in Rollingstone are planned.

Upcoming Elliott Spring Workshop with native bees.

Varroa transition continues with new staff being engaged leading to the workshop on November 17<sup>th</sup>

Frana gave some great demonstration of Drone Comb boards and the group discussed Drone Uncapping as a Varroa control measure.

One interesting fact, it takes 7kg sugar to make 1kg of wax and this is important when considering wax collection vs replacing comb after honey extraction.



## General meeting & AGM 13 October 2024

### Minutes

Meeting opened 2.06pm by Frana McKinstry

1. Visitors - Frana welcomed new visitors.
2. Minutes from previous minutes approved by Ron and seconded by Doris
3. Presidents Report – absent
4. Treasurer's Report presented by Lou (attached) – accepted by Al Cooney.
5. Club Shop – Ron and Mark – Stock slow in arriving into Townsville
  - a. Stock quantities to be reviewed
  - b. Large quantities to be pre-ordered preferable.
6. No library report – encouraged members to borrow books.

### AGM

Minutes of 2023 AGM tabled.

1. Treasurer Report – Annual Report tabled by Lou and accepted by Ron (Report submitted is the audited report)
2. Presidents Report – Submitted by Frana (Acting VP)
3. All positions declared vacant, election process chaired by Wendy Aspery

President: Frana – Nominated by Bery Smart – 2<sup>nd</sup> Marie

V President: Alan Cooney – Nominated by Frana, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark

Secretary: Liz Hennig (SN), 2<sup>nd</sup> by Frana

Treasurer: Lou Clark (SN), 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark

Equipment Stewards (Shop) Ron and Mark (SN), 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ron

Membership Officer: Frana (SN), 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ron

Librarian: Beryl Smart (SN), 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doris

Newsletter Editor: Lindsay Trott (SN), 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doris

Asst Editor: Lesley Barr (SN), 2<sup>nd</sup> by Maria

Bio Security: John Carr (SN), 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alan

Events Coordinator: Shandelle O'Reilly (SN), 2<sup>nd</sup> by Frana

Native Bee Rep: vacant

Website IT Social Media: Vacant

Committee members (Self Nominated)

Greg Skellern

Doris Newitt

Maria Finn

Carla Kersnovske

Blake Steward

Wendy Aspery

2<sup>nd</sup> by Frana

AGM concluded at 2.27pm

General meeting resumed

1. No meeting scheduled for November – instead a varroa workshop will be held on Sunday 17 November – Townsville RSL at Charters Towers Rd. 9.00 – 3.00pm - Worthwhile in attending to stay abreast of Varroa.
2. Dec 8 Bohle barn Xmas get together.
3. Next meeting will be in Feb 2025
4. Email from Ravenswood – Beekeeper would like assistance – Frana to co-ordinate.

General Business:

1. Invitation to help with Mark's hive soon.

Meeting closed at 2:40pm.

### **Acting VP Report** Frana McKinstry

In the absence of our current President, and in my capacity as Acting VP, I'm presenting the report this year. Our club has undergone several changes since the last AGM, with President Nick Smith working FIFO for several months along with the resignation of several key committee members. However, other members have risen to the challenge and with a lot of hard work in the background, our club is again on track and moving forward.

In the past year, as well as our general meetings and shop days, we have had some committee meetings, a Beginners workshop, a QBA workshop in Cairns, several online Biosecurity meetings around the varroa mite, World Bee Day events, meetings with TCC, PoT and other stakeholders around the QBA conference, the QBA Conference itself, a Native bee day in Ayr, 3 for Bees events with TCC, the EcoFiesta, Sustainability Centre event, the Rollingstone Buzz Day, Mates 4 Mates, the Homeschooling group, the Pineapple Festival, several school visits, and last, but not least a meeting with Mens Shed and TCC looking at options for a permanent home.

Of these, the big-ticket item was the QBA Conference in July. The focus of the conference was management of varroa mite into the future. This mite will have an impact on all of us and how we manage our hives. Several of our members attended using the club subsidy for registration, and the entire conference proceedings will be available to all when QBA finish editing the video and put it online. The cost of videoing was covered by a grant obtained by our club.

Other matters, we have finally managed to get our various email addresses up and running properly, as well as having our own internet service. The membership database is still a work in progress, and membership remains steady at over 400 people.

Overall, the past year has been full both behind the scenes and in public activities. From me, a personal thank you to all members, committee or otherwise, for your support and encouragement during these past months. You have all made my acting VP role so much easier and your input has made our club the success it is today. Thank you.

### **From the Club Shop volunteers**

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

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

**Alternatively** you can place your orders via [shop@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:shop@beesnorth.com.au)

Shop opening is first Saturday of the month.

**Location:** 3/38 Rendle St, Aitkenvale

**Time:** 9am – 10:30am Collection at other times by arrangement and when volunteers are available.

### **Remember the Shop etiquette – politeness and patience are key components to success!**

To all visitors to our Club Shop – please be respectful, patient and polite to our Volunteer shopkeepers. Please arrive with a smile, a dose of patience, and remember your manners. We are doing this for fun. It's not a business, its run by volunteers.

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

### **Golden Rules for the Club Shop:**

Please follow this guide:

1. Order **and pay** by Thursday midnight **before** the opening day.
2. Bring your order number and print out of the request with you.
3. Arrive at the Shop **after** 9:00 am
4. Non-emailed or late orders may not get any attention if the Shop is too busy.
5. Please take your purchases and make room for the next shoppers, thanks.



## Future Meetings

December – no meeting

January – no meeting

Sunday 9 February 2025, 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”?

ED: The Townsville branch exists it is just part of general beekeeping!

Check out these sites: <https://australiannativebee.org.au/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/Australian.Native.Bee.Association/>  
<https://www.instagram.com/australiannativebeeassociation/>

## TDBAI Office holders and Committee for 2024/2025

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

And for all general enquiries: [info@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:info@beesnorth.com.au)

## **Swarm Contact List:**

Please advise Lindsay Trott (Editor) [editor@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:editor@beesnorth.com.au) if you wish to be removed from this list. Contact me with your name, phone number and suburb if you want to be added to the list.

### **Swarm Collection – honey bees**

Alex Jenkins **Townsville to Rollingstone** 0459 472 166  
Ben Taylor **Douglas, Riverside Gardens** 4728 4992 or 0428 186000  
Duane Saltmer **Alice River** 0400 339508  
Sonya Verburgt **Gulliver** 0408 530 991  
Sharene Dougall **Bluewater** 0415 426 903  
Phillip Plant **Townsville, Ayr, Rollingstone** 0456191 000  
Bruce Mogensen **Railway Estate/Idalia** – 0427 174 705  
Liz Hennig **Northern Beaches** – 0409067 367  
Ronelle Nord **Alice River, Rupertswood** 0417 752 622  
Tito Parigi **Magnetic Island** 0418 796951  
Patrick Dury Aitkenvale 0419 252 829

### **Native bee removal**

Jon McKinstry **Townsville & surrounds** 0401 014 948  
Bruce Warren **Townsville Area** 0413 395 928

### **Nest Removals from houses, trees and other structures**

Alex Jenkins **Townsville to Rollingstone** – 0459 472 166  
Phillip Plant **Townsville, Ayr, Rollingstone** 0456 191 000

We thank Steve Kersnovske for all the help with swarms but he unfortunately has to retire from this role. We always welcome members' help.

**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](mailto: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

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



