

Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc.)

www.beesnorth.com.au



PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814

Newsletter No 9 September 2016

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Next Meeting:
Mid-day Sunday, 18 September 2016
Burdekin Gun Club
Bring a chair, hat, sunscreen- BBQ food provided
Contact: ronald.i.rapson@team.telstra.com

Directions and arrangements for next meeting and BBQ at the Gun Club

Head To Ayr from Townsville along Bruce Highway, cross the Haughton River bridge, 1 km after crossing the river, turn right. At around 7.5 km, there's a sweeping bend to the right, stay on this road (Haughton Up River Rd). Travel approx 11 Km, turn left onto Browns Rd. Follow for 13.5km (will cross Pelican Rd) to "T" intersection with Ayr-Dalbeg Rd. Turn left at the "T" intersection. Burdekin Gun Club is 1km on LH side.

Meeting will start with a traditional Aussie BBQ lunch (sausages, bread, tomato sauce onions) provided by the Club. Bring any special dietary requirements or chateaubriand for yourself. Virginia Muspratt will have several hives to inspect, there is a bit of open space to kick a footy, some sun shelter, and toilets.

Our local Queen breeders and Club members, Graeme and Adele Armstrong, might be available to attend. Great opportunity to talk to them about breeding techniques and what makes a good Queen.

Please indicate if you are attending this meeting for catering purposes by leaving a message with Ron Rapson; ronald.i.rapson@team.telstra.com

AHB update and Press Release

Queensland Government, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, 31 August 2016

More volunteers join Townsville bee hunt in bid to eradicate Varroa mite

Four industry volunteers, as well as Trevor Weatherhead, Executive Director of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, have joined Biosecurity Queensland in Townsville this week as they continue to hunt for any more Asian honey bees. The industry volunteers are working with local beekeepers to conduct surveillance of managed hives for Varroa mite and assist with general surveillance activities throughout the Townsville search area.

AHBIC Executive Director Trevor Weatherhead said it was a positive move for the industry volunteers to see first-hand the Asian honey bees in the field, and to be able to take this knowledge back with them to educate beekeepers in their local areas. "These field observations will complement the training these volunteers have received while in the area," he said. Varroa mite response coordinator Dr Ashley Bunce said the last confirmed detection of an Asian honey bee nest was at Hyde Park three weeks ago and Biosecurity Queensland's surveillance teams had been concentrating their efforts in this area. We also presented an update on our Varroa mite response at the recent monthly meeting of the Townsville District Beekeepers Club with about 40 beekeepers attending," Mr Bunce said. "Our presenters led a discussion on various surveillance techniques and also gave a practical demonstration. Following that, visitors to the annual Townsville Plant and Garden Expo held at Riverway at the weekend also received information about the eradication campaign from Biosecurity Queensland staff and local beekeepers. It's estimated more than 4,000 people visited the event, many of whom learned how they could be part of the eradication effort. "We are reminding Townsville residents to keep reporting bees to us on **13 25 23**, especially if it is a swarm or nest, or even a couple of unusual bees."

Varroa mites have been found on Asian honey bees at Townsville Port and Annandale. Varroa mites have the potential to significantly damage the Australian bee industry, disrupting honey production and pollination services.

For more information visit www.daf.qld.gov.au or call 13 25 23. **Media:** Mark Hodder 3087 8598

Beelining with a bee box - how to track down a feral hive

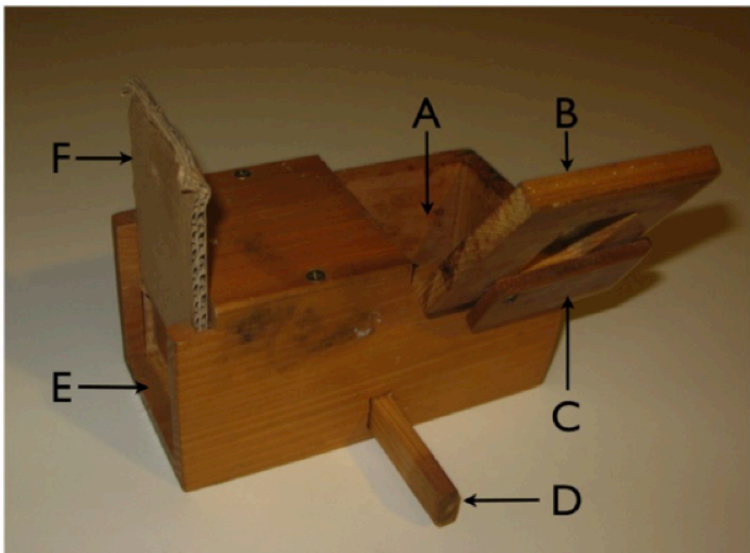
<http://www.coloss.org/beebook/1/misc-methods/4/2/6/2>

Several methods are used to locate feral hives, and this one using a portable device called a bee box is an old design. Locating a honey bee colony using a bee box (see photos below) uses the homing instincts of field bees to guide you to the hive. The bee box pictured allows you to trap individual honey bees rather than allowing bees to find a feeding station. One can trap a number of bees in a section of the box and using glass and trap doors manipulate them into a second section in the box, a section that contains bait material, such as honey, honeycomb or sugar water. When a beeline is established, one can close the lid of the box and carry the bees trapped with the bait along the path to the colony then stop, open the box, and allow the bees to establish new beelines. Refer to the procedure described below and Fig. 24 for the methodology of using the bee box.

- 1 Trap individual bees from flowers in chamber A.
- 2 Darken chamber A, open divider (D), open window (F), and allow bee into chamber E.
- 3 Close divider and repeat until enough bees are captured into chamber E.
- 4 Place bait in chamber A.
- 5 Close window to chamber E, allow light into window (C) to chamber A, and open divider (D). The bees will eat from the bait. Allow 10-15 min for bees to consume the bait.
- 6 Open lid (B) to chamber A and allow bees to travel to their colony and back to the box.
- 7 Replenish bait and wait for enough bees to visit so that a beeline is established.
- 8 Close foraging bees in chamber A and follow path of bee line.
- 9 When needed, stop and open chamber A and allow a new beeline to form.
- 10 Repeat and keep following the beeline to the colony's nest.

Pros: bees can be caught directly from foraging sources; the box is transportable and bees can be carried along and new beelines can be established during your search for the nest.

Cons: the major limitation to this technique is the size of the bee box and quantity of bait that can be provided to the bees, limiting the number of bees that will establish a beeline. If there is ample forage in the field, the bees will not readily recruit to the small amount of comb and bait used for the bee box. This technique does work in times prior to or after major blooming periods.



An example of a bee box.

(A) Chamber used to trap bees on flowers and establish bee lines using bait.

(B) Lid to chamber A to trap bees.

(C) Window cover to allow light in or darken chamber A. Allowing light in will attract bees toward chamber A while chamber E is darkened.

(D) Sliding divider between chambers A and E. Opening and closing the dividers allows or blocks bees from moving between chambers.

(E) Chamber to store bees while trapping individuals in chamber A.

(F) Sliding window cover to allow light or darken chamber E. Allowing light in will attract bees to chamber E while chamber A is darkened.

Ray B shows the way with his beeline box - bees go in here with the bait, open the dividing door and let them see the sun, open the perspex door and wait for them to come back, and then follow them home - easy!



Hermit Park SS hive update

TDBA Inc membership has grown rapidly recently, due in part to the growing interest in backyarding, healthy environments, Flow Hives and a world wide concern for the single most important pollinator of our food, and not to forget the yummy honey. The Club benefits from the use of the Hermit Park State School grounds for our meetings as part of a deal to provide training and support to HPSS students and staff, and to help maintain the hives owned by the school. We have featured an article in a previous Newsletter where Dave B was marched off by the Fire Brigade to deal with alarms raised by school neighbours due to the unusual amount of smoke coming from the school (an overzealous hive smoker obviously).

At our August meeting Jon and Frana M reported on progress:

We opened the hive at HPSS in order to look for full honey frames, and to transfer frames into the school's new Flow Hive. The hive was full to bursting, I doubt another bee could have fitted in, and, if left any longer its likely they would have swarmed. Luckily for all observers this is a very quiet hive with Graeme S and Steve K working without any protective gear. The queen was easily visible, this was certainly helped by having a large white dot on her back.

To begin with, Dan D. removed the frames (at great speed) and passed them to Frana M for storing into the container. Steve K assisted, and Graeme S was on hand offering practical advice during the transfer. In all; ten fully capped frames were removed yielding over 30kg of honey. Eight frames with brood were put into the Flow Hive brood box, the Flow Hive super was added using three of the Flow cartridges with regular stickies in between. As the standard frames are filled and capped, they will be replaced with the remaining Flow cartridges. The original brood box and lid were left nearby in order to allow the remaining bees to make their own way back into their new home.

NB: We checked the hive a week later to ensure the bees had taken to their new home. They were all present including the queen, and had already started working on the Flow frame cartridges. The stickies that had been in place only a week were already completely full of nectar. A happy and productive hive!

Ed's Note:

TDBA Inc ran a well attended Flow Hive workshop earlier this year for newbees and experienced beeks alike. Contact the TDBA Club members at a meeting if you need advice or help setting up a new hive or a Flow Hive - we can help you overcome teething problems and show you how to maintain a healthy hive. See example below.



Left: Newbee Cristi M proudly posing beside her new Flow Hive.



Above and Right: Cristi M getting help to transfer frames and bees from the starter nuc over to the Flow Hive brood box.



Left: Gradually introducing new blank Flow Hive frames that were pre-washed, rinsed and pre waxed into the Flow super in between drawn and filled honey frames from the nuc box. Notice there is a Flow frame with established drawn frames and bees on either side to encourage migration to the new frames. Progress has been slow, but has picked up recently with empty Flow cells filling up with nectar and a crescent of new caps on cells.

Bee gentle with my Bees please - Volunteer hive inspectors have arrived in Townsville to help us with the eradication of AHB and Varroa

Dan D is pleased to report that the inspection of 3 of his hives within the AHB/Varroa incursion zone has gone very smoothly. No mites were detected with the drone comb scratching technique, and both the sugar shake and alcohol wash techniques were carried out on site - with no evidence of mites. Dan reported that his girls were handled gently and with professional skill by the "young bloke" (probably over 50 years old eh Dan??). The volunteers from down South are here to assist with managed hive inspections within the incursion zone. It's a bit like volunteer firefighters coming up to try and help us put this Varroa fire out - so please welcome them and give them all the assistance you can - our beekeeping futures depend on a timely eradication of both AHB and Varroa.

Representing the TDBA is Club Member Nikki Y, who is assisting the volunteers and DAF to carry out the hive inspections around town. Nikki needs more Club members to offer their hives for this free and helpful inspection, please contact her to sign up: nikkityoung@internode.on.net or 0448 800 139.

Ed's note: I just had 3 of my hives inspected and it was an interesting and useful exercise to see the sugar and alcohol tests, and drone scraping performed by some experienced hands. Very interesting conversations with some of the volunteers too.

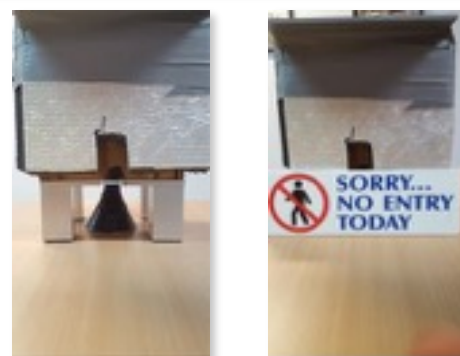
Spreading the word (not AHB or Varroa) at the Plant and Garden Expo

The Ed in full battle gear and swipe net, spreading the news to Townsville City Council garden experts and anyone else interested enough to talk to him at Riverway on 27+28 August.



Mystery object - what is it?

It's a native bee box being prepared for an education from a hole in a concrete driveway. The blackened funnel is to encourage the bees to come up through the new insulated box during daylight hours and to use the heavily insulated box as their new hive. The little rascals apparently made a side entrance and avoided the funnel after 3 months - back to the drawing board! The sign at the entrance reflects the frustration of the disappointed new owner.



New disease affecting native bees!!

Be on the lookout for a newly described disease of native bees that resemble AFB in European honeybees. Bob Luttrell had an article in a previous Newsletter - it's called Shank's Disease and is named after the lady who is working on it in Brisbane. Go to the Plant Health Australia website and Newsletters to get more info. Be careful swapping hive equipment and splitting hives.

Club T-shirt and bucket hat available

Get your orders in for the new Club shirt (\$30 each) and hat (\$10 each prices for Club members only).

A variety of sizes in M or F ranging from S,M,L,XL, to XXL. One colour only in T-shirts, but a variety of colours for the hats. The T-shirts have a honeycomb pattern as the background and look pretty sharp.

Please get your order form from the Club Shop Stewards Dan and Chrystal Horne: smith2horne@hotmail.com



Bowls Comp and get together planned for 4-6 November.

Central Queensland Club and Cairns Club are planning for 4th-6th of November for a get together and bowls competition. in Townsville with TDBA. Details to be announced soon, but mark you calendars

TDBA Inc Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes 21/8/2016, Hermit Park State School

Present: as per Attendance Book

Apologies: Connie N, Kirsty S, Ray B, and others from emails

Minutes of previous Meeting: taken as read, Moved: Dave T, Sec: Dan D

President's Welcome:

several newbees attended and identified – Pres. requested experienced members to mentor the newbees.

Previous Month's Business:

Display banners are ordered and will be here next week, new shirt design was paraded and selected – available soon (\$40/shirt), hats with selected design TBD, Neil E displayed a safety warning sign that is required for large apiaries but not required for backyarders, Frana M reported about the new bumper sticker “Bee- have yourself”, Bee-eater issues and possible control methods (fake owls, buckshot, loud sounds, arm waving) were discussed.

Correspondence:

ABK is in Library and available for borrowing, newspaper items collected.

Treasurer's Report:

Opening balance at 1/08/16 was \$10,032.56, and after month's transactions (bulk purchase of equipment at Conference, banners) we have \$6,260.83 in the bank.

Shop Report:

gear selling well, Daniel H is making up a frame and a foundation jig for the Club

Library Report: Kirsty S away

Newsletter Report:

Special thanks to Tracey B for handling recent Newsletters, Editor needs your input to trottlindsay@gmail.com

General Business:

Info on how to become a honey taster will be circulated, AFB alert circulated to Club members, several hives around town recently fallen to the infectious disease and a warning to get help early, AFB kit tests available for free from Club, Frana M encouraged newbees to not be intimidated by current bee alerts and warnings – seek help from Club.

Guest Speakers:

Roger Winton, LCC for the Varroa Mite Response Team in Townsville gave a detailed talk about progress on AHB and Varroa, the restricted zones for bees and equipment, requested volunteers to help for visiting hive checkers, 25 people want Biosecurity hives, 27 feral European honeybee swarms/hives destroyed, 4 AHB discoveries so far and all related to the same incursion at Townsville Port originating in PNG.

Rob Stephens, from DAF and Biosecurity gave an update on AHB surveillance, the balloon with pheromone traps, the need for more alcohol wash test or at least sugar shake tests for mites, restricted bee movements, need for a permit to transport gear through zones, need for volunteer assistance with team coming to do managed hive inspections.

Darryl Ryan, from Ipswich Bee Club gave an informative talk on Flow Hive developments and stayed around to answer questions for newbees and the Flow Hive doubters amongst us.

Business from the floor:

Dave T tabled his amendment to be discussed and voted on, Sec: Jon M.

Dan D spoke passionately on the need to have Qld beekeepers aware of the disease and health issues related to top bar and Warre hives, not a good idea with the current AFB, AHB, Varroa incursions, he will give a presentation at a meeting soon.

Frana and Jon M serviced the Hermit Park SS hives while at the meeting, see article in this Newsletter.

Meeting closed: 4:15 pm

Please see the following change (next page) to the Model Rules for electing Committee Members. This is for general discussion before putting to the AGM in October, submitted by Dave T, Sec: Jon M. It will be put up for Discussion and voting before General Business at the AGM.

The Club needs a shed - can you help?

Like most hobbyists, we need somewhere to store all our “stuff”. Can you help us find a dry, secure, accessible location to store frames, hive boxes, smokers, jackets, foundation, etc. We need about 6m x 6m x 2m high. It has to be **accessible** to get the gear in and out, and dry!!

Do you have a work location that might allow a container to be stored?? or a store room under-utilised - we could possible even pay \$\$\$ for storage (but has to be reasonable).

Give the Committee Members a call or raise your hand at the BBQ at the Gun Club (maybe raise both hands and shout - “don't shoot”).



Amendments to Model Rules.

Delete Rule 19 Insert New Rule 19 (2 Pages)

19 Electing the Management Committee

- 19 (a) (i) This rule commences immediately after the annual general meeting of the club 2017.
- (ii) Every Management Committee member holds office for a term determined in accordance with this rule.
- (iii) Retirement of Management Committee members from their offices takes place as follows:
- (A) At the first annual general meeting after the commencement of this rule, and at the annual general meeting every three (3) years thereafter, the following must retire:
- (i) One Vice-President; and
- (ii) Two ordinary committee members.
- (B) At the second annual general meeting after the commencement of this rule, and at the annual general meeting every three (3) years thereafter the following must retire:
- (i) One Vice-President; and
- (ii) Two ordinary committee members.
- (C) At the third annual general meeting after the commencement of this rule, and at the annual general meeting every three (3) years thereafter the following must retire:
- (i) President;
- (ii) Treasurer; and
- (iii) One ordinary committee member,
- (iv) Retirement from office under this rule takes effect from the time when elections take place or would otherwise take place at the annual general meeting.
- (v) Retiring Management Committee members shall be eligible for re-election.
- (vi) At a meeting of Management Committee members following the commencement of this rule, the Vice-President and ordinary committee members must draw lots to determine the order of retirement for the purpose of this rule.
- (vii) The order of retirement established under this rule applies to each Vice-Presidents' position and each committee members' position thereafter.
- (viii) If in opinion of the majority of the Management Committee members. It is at any time necessary or desirable for any reason to re-establish the order of retirement of Vice-President and/or ordinary Committee Members, then the holder of those positions must again draw lots to re-establish the order of retirement.
- (b) The order of retirement established under this rule applies to the relevant position regardless of how and when the position is filled.
- (c) A member of the Management Committee may only be elected as follows:
- (i) Any two Ordinary Members of the Club may nominate another member (the candidate) to serve as a member of the Management Committee.
- (ii) The nomination must:
- (A) Be in writing;
- (B) Specify the position for which the candidate is nominated; and
- (C) Be signed by the candidate and the members who nominated him or her; and
- (D) Be given to the secretary at least fourteen (14) days before the annual general meeting at which the election is to be held.
- (iii) Each member present at the annual general meeting may cast votes for any number of candidates for each position (not being more than the number of vacancies).
- (iv) If, at the start of the meeting, there are no candidates, or not enough candidates nominated for a position or positions, (other than the position of President) nominations may be taken from the floor of the meeting.
- (v) A list of the candidates' names of each position on the Management Committee, in alphabetical order, with the proposers' and seconders' names, shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the office or notice in the monthly newsletter at least seven (7) days immediately preceding the Annual General Meeting,
- (vi) Where the number of candidates nominated for any one position on the Management Committee exceeds the number to be elected, a ballot shall be taken. For the purpose of conducting a ballot, a Returning Officer shall be appointed by the members present at the meeting. Voting shall be by secret ballot or by show of hands as the meeting may decide. Scrutineers shall, if necessary, be elected to assist the Returning Officer. Where two or more candidates secure an equal number of votes, the Returning Officer shall by means of drawing a lot determine the successful candidate.
- (vii) Where balloting list are prepared, they shall contain the names of the candidates in alphabetical order, and each financial member present at the annual general meeting and being entitled to vote, shall have the right to vote for any number of such candidates not exceeding the number of vacancies.
- (d) The Executive Officers of the Club shall be the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and such other members of the Management Committee as the Management Committee may decide, (hereinafter called the "Executive") who shall meet as often as the President shall deem necessary.

Annual Membership Fees are Due Now

A reminder that your club membership is now due. This can be done electronically,

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.

Amount at this time: \$25.00

Please note that an item will be tabled at the next AGM to increase the membership to \$30.00, where the additional \$5.00 dollars per member will go to the QBA for ongoing research and development in support of the Bee industry.

Welcome new members

Jane O & Dan L	BLACK RIVER	Gayle H	BLUEWATER	Col N	MYSTERTON
Raymond P	ROLLINGSTONE	Neil S	VINCENT	Kate R	ANNANDALE
Linda L	RAILWAY ESTATE	Paul K	LONGPOCKET	John M	BLUEWATER

Hives wanted!!

Native bee hives wanted by:

Contact: vanessa.warrington@jcu.edu.au

Contact: Ron Gladman: 0474 318272

European bee hive placements, ie people who would like to host a hive at their place:

Contact: Aria on 0412 345 362

Contact: j.andersen@westnet.com.au

Contact: Lenore in Douglas on 0401 4588748

Contact: Linda at linray@internode.on.net

TDBA Inc Office Holders for 2015/2016

<u>President:</u>	Ron Rapson	ronald.i.rapson@team.telstra.com
<u>Vice President:</u>	Paul Payne	trapper4812@gmail.com
<u>Secretary:</u>	Connie Navarro	navarroc@bigpond.com
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Frana McKinstry	franajon@gmail.com
<u>Membershio</u>	Frana McKinstry	franajon@gmail.com
<u>Newsletter Editor:</u>	Lindsay Trott	trott Lindsay@gmail.com
<u>Librarian:</u>	Kirsty Sugden	0447 762 686
<u>Equipment Steward:</u>	Daniel Horne	danthemanhorne@gmail.com
<u>Webmaster:</u>	Nathan Size	smiles gardenbags@live.com
<u>Publicity Officer:</u>	Sonya Verburgt	sonyaverb@optusnet.com.au
<u>Committee Members:</u>	Dave Bowtell	spanner1969@gmail.com
	Dave Turnbull	turnbuld@bigpond.net.au

Honorary Members of the TDBA Inc

In recognition of their long term service and support of our Association.

Dennis ANGER

Graeme & Adele ARMSTRONG

Ken & Marcia CALEO

Dave HOEY

Mike & Jill JAMES

Doug & Sonya MCBRIDE

Club Shop Items - 2016 Price List

These prices are only available to current financial members

Item	Price
Veil - Native Bee	10.00
Veil - cotton	15.00
Veil - ventilated	20.00
Jacket / Round hat	55.00
Ventilated jacket	75.00
Full Suit - Cotton	75.00
Full Suit - ventilated	95.00
Gloves	20.00
Super - Rebated	25.00
Super - Dove tail	26.00
Lids	25.00
Bases	20.00
Lifting Cleats (Handles)	5.00 pair
Spring clips	2.00 ea
Hive tool (S/S)	15.00
Hive tool (Yellow)	8.00
Smoker	35.00
Queen Excluder - Wire	20.00
Queen Excluder - Plastic	6.00
Frames - Full depth	1.50
Foundation - Plastic	2.00
Foundation - Wax	1.60
Beeswax block	10.00 per kg
Eyelets pkt 500/50gm	10.00
S/S Wire .5mm x 500gm	20.00
Bee Brush - Natural bristle	10.00
Bee Brush - Synthetic bristle	8.00
Queen Catcher	3.00
Frame Gripper	10.00
Bee Feeders	2.00
Gate valve	10.00
Capping knife, serrated	15.00
Comb scratcher	8.00
Honey jars 250gm	0.65
Honey jars 500gm - square	0.75
Honey jars 500gm - round	0.75
Honey jars 550gm - squeeze	0.75
Honey jars 1kg round	1.00
Honey Pails 1kg	1.25
Strainers (fit bucket)	80.00
Apithor trap	6.00
Silver Bullet trap	7.00
BeetlTra bottom trap	20.00
TK Beetle mat	6.00
Booklet - Managing AFB	6.00

Please remember the movement restriction on bees around Townsville!!!!

Be careful with the movement of hives and bees. Restrictions are in place on the movement of bees, bee hives, bee products (excluding honey) and used bee keeping equipment within a 10km radius of Townsville Port. This is to prevent any possible spread of Varroa mite. This includes queen deliveries through Australia Post - so get a permit before you decide to go the Townsville Post Office and then drive out of the 10km restriction zone.



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016
NOMINATION FORM
OFFICE BEARERS / MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

I, of.....

Being a member of the above named Association hereby nominate

..... of

To be..... (position) for Townsville & District Beekeepers Association Inc during the year 2016 / 2017

Nominated by:
(Signature)
Seconded by:
(Signature)
Dated:

Note: Form to be returned to TDBA Secretary before AGM

Cut along dotted line

**TOWNSVILLE & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016
PROXY FORM**

I, of

Being a member of the Association, appoint

Of

As my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the above named Association to be held on 16 October 2016, and at any adjournment thereof

Signed this day of..... 2016
.....
(Signature)

This form is to be used: - In favour of the resolution ./ - Against the resolution

Note: Form to be returned to TDBA Secretary

TDBA Starter Kit - \$95

The Perfect Gift for a budding Beekeeper

All available in Townsville (freight free):

Club Members Price Only!

Bee Jackets \$55 Hive tool \$8 Gloves \$20

Smoker \$35 Bee Brush \$8,

All five items sold as a Beginners Kit \$95

Contact: Daniel: Ph. 0437 540 473



TDBA is proudly supported by:

THE AUSTRALIAN BEE-KEEPER MAGAZINE (ABK)

Published monthly Subscriptions \$84 per year.

Available from: Pender Beegoods,

PO Box 7124, Karabar NSW 2620

LOTS-A-STINGS

Raw honey, and pollination services. Will help new members get started with bees

Dan Donovan: Ph 0428 218 816

