

# Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc.)

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

PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814



## Newsletter No 7, August 2020

### In this Issue

- Honey and Bananas, yum – but with bees?
- SHB and yeast
- Unique sugar in native bee honey
- Product reviews
- Bees in the News
- No General Meeting Minutes – no July meeting
- New Members, Club officials contacts
- New Sugar shaking form and jars
- Club Shop – New price list

## Next Meeting: with COVID19 spacing Hermit Park State School

Use the Mc Kimmin Rd entrance

Sunday 23 August, 10:00 am

Bring a chair and morning tea to share. Coffee, tea, milk, cups etc provided

## Annual Membership Fees \$30 due now

Pay by Bank deposit and include your surname in the payment details to:

Townsville and District Beekeepers Association BSB: 633000 Account: 141466078

## Have beekeepers gone bananas?

From Rusty at <https://www.honeybeesuite.com/have-beekeepers-gone-bananas/>

**Ed's comment:** This is a US based blog, so keep that in mind when reading about the threat of bears and raccoons.

Every few years we raise a new crop of beekeepers who want to feed bananas to their bees as a winter supplement. The forums are filled with anecdotal stories of bees thriving on ripe bananas while overcoming every imaginable pathogen and parasite. A recent Instagram posting explained that the potassium in bananas will help the bees flex their wings, and the gases released from ripe bananas will kill pathogenic spores. A similar posting on Facebook claims bananas will kill Nosema, varroa, and chalkbrood, and a link on Twitter claims your bees will live up to nine times longer on a winter diet of bananas. Of course, no studies are cited.

In my wildest imagination I cannot fathom why someone would toss a banana in a bee hive. First of all, if it were that easy to control all the pathogens and parasites, we wouldn't be having a problem. But putting bananas in a bee hive—especially a winter hive (in the USA)—is worse than doing nothing at all.

If you read beyond the wild claims, you will find other beekeepers who didn't have such good results. Some found rotten banana drippings raining down on their colonies. Others found that bananas attracted every opportunist you can imagine, including beetles, ants, armies of unidentified larvae, mice, and voles. Outside the hive, the scent of bananas attracted raccoons, opossums, and skunks. Can bears be far behind?

But to my mind, the worst thing about bananas is their fibre and ash content. The fibre content depends on the type and age of the banana, and riper bananas have less fibre than green ones. But the ash content remains constant and can rank up there with dark honeys, the kind that many beekeepers remove from the winter colony.

Ash is the indigestible part of food that accumulates in the honey bee gut. It is composed of a variety of substances, including calcium, phosphorus, potassium, sodium, magnesium, iron, iodine, zinc, and sulfur. When bees are flying, this does not create a problem because the bees can defecate whenever they want. But in the winter months when flying days may be weeks or even months apart, the ash continues to accumulate. At a certain point, if the bees can no longer contain it all, they are forced to defecate inside their hive. We call this honey bee dysentery. Although not caused by a pathogen, honey bee dysentery creates unsanitary conditions that can spread any diseases carried by individual bees. In addition, the foul smell caused by dysentery can mask normal hive odours, such as pheromones, that are used for honey bee communication.

Beekeepers who must face long and cold winters with a limited number of flying days try to restrict the bees' exposure to foods with high ash content, including dark honey or pollen supplements with high ash content. The last thing they would do is add food—such as bananas—which are known to have high ash.

Naturally, beekeepers want the best for their bees. But it is too easy to equate a good human diet with a good bee diet. They do not correspond. For adult bees, the primary food resource is sucrose, the main ingredient in most nectar. The bees immediately break this down into the simple sugars glucose and fructose, which they store as honey. Since refined white sugar is also sucrose, there is absolutely nothing wrong with feeding it to bees. They simply break the sucrose down into simple sugars and consume it or share it. And refined white sugar has an added benefit for winter bees: it is almost totally free of ash. While sucrose will not kill Nosema, varroa, or chalkbrood, neither will bananas. All of us can learn lots about honey bees by observing how wild colonies survive without intervention. Even though the juice of raw fruit sometimes attracts honey bees in a dearth, fruit is not a substantial part of any honey bee diet. And as far as I know, it is never a part of the crucial winter diet.

In my opinion, you should save the bananas for your breakfast cereal and keep all fruits out of your bee hive. Both you and your bees will be healthier for it. Bananas are not good for bees. Save them for your breakfast cereal says Rusty.

Article by Rusty at the blog site: Honey Bee Suite: <https://www.honeybeesuite.com/have-beekeepers-gone-bananas/>

Franca McKinstry sent in an article by Ian McLernon from Bee2Bee Beekeeping Supplies <[ian@bee2bee.com.au](mailto:ian@bee2bee.com.au)>.

Ian describes how bananas have a volatile chemical that resembles the alarm pheromone released by bees when they sting you. The chemical has a strong penetrating odour that resembles both a banana and a ripe pear, and is commonly used as a banana flavouring in both food and perfumes. If you receive several stings in one area of your body, apparently there is a smell of bananas which is the alarm pheromone released by stinging bees, and is attracting more bees to come over and attack you. Ian also recommends against eating bananas while beekeeping.



**Ed's Comment:** It was an interesting experience recently when The Ed and Peter Gurr placed a whole banana in his hive last month. The whole peeled banana was placed on top of the super in a recently swarmed hive, with original queen still in residence, but with bee numbers dramatically reduced post swarm, and chalkbrood affecting recovery. The idea was to offer the hive some moisture, some sugar and possibly an incentive to eliminate the chalkbrood, as this remedy had been reported anecdotally by a couple of Clubbies. But then we hadn't read the articles above, ooops. However, Peter's bees devoured the entire banana in 4 weeks. Not even the peel was left behind!!!

See photos on right for the amount of banana removed in 4 days (above right) and 4 weeks (below right). Yes folks, that's the entire banana gone. Hmmmmm, maybe bees DO like bananas?.

And yes, that is an SHB in the foreground (top right) –probably the greatest risk to putting whole fruit in the hive. The Ed.

***Have beekeepers gone bananas?..... continued.....***

### ***Small Hive Beetle (SHB) and yeast team up to damage hives***

**Ed's Comment:** Here is a good reason why you don't want to place your compost bin too close to a bee hive, as the rotting fruit invites SHB to come visiting. SHB love bananas and other rotting fruit, so The Ed doesn't recommend putting whole fruit in the hive. The following article relates to the USA.

Bee hives, with their regularly arranged honeycombs and permanently busy workers may seem like the picture of order. But look closer, and hives are often abuzz with secret codes, eavesdropping spies and deadly alliances.

African honeybees are victimised by the parasitic [small hive beetle](#) (SHB). The beetles move through beehives eating combs, stealing honey and generally making a mess. But at worst, they are a minor pest, for the bees have a way of dealing with them. They imprison the intruders in the bowels of the hive and carefully remove any eggs they find. In turn, the beetle sometimes fools the bees by acting like one of their own grubs, and gets a free meal instead of imprisonment. In Africa, both species have found themselves in an evolutionary stalemate. But in 1998, American beekeepers spotted the beetle in hives of their local European-descended honeybees. These insects are gentler versions of their aggressive African relatives, and in them, the beetles found more vulnerable victims.

In the last decade, SHB has spread through hives on the East Coast of the USA, causing much more destruction than they normally get away with. In some cases, the damage is so severe that the bees are forced to abandon their hive. As the bees suffer, so do the economically vital crops they pollinate. Now, scientists from the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology and the University of Florida have uncovered the secrets behind the beetle's destructive ability.

Small hive beetles hunt down beehives by hijacking their communications. When bees are stressed or confronted by threats, they release alarm pheromones into the air to alert their hive-mates of impending danger. But the beetles can also detect these chemical signals and use the bees' own early warning system to locate their hives. Baldwyn Tonto and colleagues found that the beetles are sensitive to much lower levels of these pheromones than the bees themselves are, and can detect a much wider range of airborne chemicals from the hive. With their superior senses, the beetles can home in on beehives before the bees themselves can sense the alarm. But that's not the whole story. Tonto found that honeycombs infested by beetles, but free of worker bees, were emitting a strange smell. It mimicked the bees' alarm pheromones and strongly attracted even more beetles. But it wasn't coming from the parasites themselves. Instead, the source of the smell was a type of yeast that hitches a ride with small hive beetles into the bees' home. Tonto found that the fungus was fermenting the pollen collected by the bees, and releasing chemicals that closely mimic the beetle-attracting alarm pheromones.

The SHB beetles' keen sensitivity to the bees' chemical messages allows them to initially home in on a hive. As they arrive, they bring the yeast along for the ride and distribute it among the hive's pollen stores. The yeast ferments the pollen and releases chemicals that mimics the bee's alarm pheromone, attracting even more beetles. Soon, the infection reaches critical mass, and the bees are forced to abandon their homes. They leave behind a sizeable store of pollen and honey, ideal breeding grounds for the unwitting partnership of yeast and beetle. But the yeast also exists in Africa, where it is similarly spread to hives by hive beetles. Why does the alliance not wreak such havoc there? Tonto believes that domestication is the answer. Because of years of selective breeding, the European honeybee is a slightly doper version of the African bee - more docile and less prone to swarming. It faces a larger number of pests and problems that prevent it from concentrating on imprisoning invading beetles. And its poor sensitivity to its own alarm chemicals allows the beetle-yeast alliance to gain a strong foothold before the bees recognise the threat. With bee populations [mysteriously dying off](#) across America, the threat of the small hive beetle and its fungal partner may be even more pressing than before.

**Reference:** Torto, Boucias, Arbogast, Tumlinson & Teal. 2007. [Multitrophic interaction facilitates parasite-host relationship between an invasive beetle and the honey bee](#). PNAS 104: 8374-8378.

### ***Native bee honey has a unique sugar that makes it diabetes and tooth decay friendly***

*Science has validated Indigenous wisdom by identifying a rare, healthy sugar in native stingless bee honey that is not found in any other food*  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/07/200722112735.htm>

Examination of honey from five different stingless bee species across Neotropical and Indo-Australian regions has enabled for the first time the identification of the unusual disaccharide trehalulose as a major component representing between 13 and 44 g per 100 g of each of these honeys. The previously unrecognized abundance of trehalulose in stingless bee honeys is concrete evidence that supports some of the reported health attributes of this product.



University of Queensland organic chemist Associate Professor Mary Fletcher said Indigenous peoples had long known that native stingless bee honey had special health properties. "We tested honey from two Australian native stingless bee species, two in Malaysia and one in Brazil and found that up to 85 per cent of their sugar is trehalulose, not maltose as previously thought," she said. Dr Fletcher said trehalulose was a rare sugar with a low glycaemic index (GI), and not found as a major component in any other foods.

"Traditionally it has been thought that stingless bee honey was good for diabetes and now we know why -- having a lower GI means it takes longer for the sugar to be absorbed into the blood stream, so there is not a spike in glucose that you get from other sugars," Dr Fletcher said. "Interestingly trehalulose is also acarigenic, which means it doesn't cause tooth decay."

Dr Fletcher said the findings would strengthen the stingless bee honey market and create new opportunities. "Stingless bee honey sells now for around AUD \$200 per kilogram, which is up there with the price of Manuka and Royal Jelly honey," she said. "The high commercial value also makes it a risk for substitution, where people could sell other honey as stingless bee honey, or dilute the product. "But due to this research, we can test for this novel sugar, which will help industry to set a food standard for stingless bee honey.

"People have patented ways of making trehalulose synthetically with enzymes and bacteria, but our research shows stingless bee honey can be used as a wholefood on its own or in other food to get the same health benefits."

The work of Dr Fletcher and the research team has led to a new project funded by AgriFutures Australia and supported by the **Australian Native Bee Association**. Working with Dr Natasha Hungerford from UQ's Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation and **Dr Tobias Smith** from the School of Biological Sciences the new project will investigate storage and collection, to optimise the trehalulose content of Australian stingless bee honey. Stingless bees (Meliponini) occur in most tropical and sub-tropical regions, with more than 500 species across Neotropical, Afrotropical and Indo-Australian regions.

Like the well-known *Apis mellifera* honeybees, stingless bees live in permanent colonies made up of a single queen and workers, who collect pollen and nectar to feed larvae within the colony. Dr Fletcher said keeping native stingless bees was gaining in popularity in Australia, for their role as pollinators as well as for their unique honey. As well as having health benefits, stingless bee honey is valued for its flavour and is in high demand from chefs.

**Reference:** Mary T. Fletcher, Natasha L. Hungerford, Dennis Webber, Matheus Carpinelli de Jesus, Jiali Zhang, Isobella S. J. Stone, Joanne T. Blanchfield, Norhasnida Zawawi. Stingless bee honey, a novel source of trehalulose: a biologically active disaccharide with health benefits. *Scientific Reports*, 2020; 10 (1) DOI: 10.1038/s41598-020-68940-0

**Ed's Comment:** I suspect you will be hearing a lot more about trehalulose, and if you sell native bee honey, you will surely want to promote the low GI feature of this naturally occurring sugar, and that it does not promote tooth decay!!!. It is interesting to read that this sugar is also found in honeydew from some sap sucking insects. Do the native bees get their trehalulose from the resins and saps that they collect?????

**Trehalulose** is a disaccharide (two sugars bound together) made up of a molecule of fructose bound to a molecule of glucose (the same two sugar molecules are in sucrose). Like isomaltulose, it is a structural isomer of sucrose (same chemical formula, different arrangement) that is present in small quantities in honey. It makes up 50% of sugars in the honeydew of silverleaf whiteflies and is synthesised from sucrose by some bacteria, such as *Protaminobacter rubrum*. Because the fructose and glucose molecules in trehalulose are linked by a slightly different bond than in sucrose, the enzyme that splits sucrose in to the two sugars is not as effective, and it is broken down more slowly than sucrose in the small intestine. This more stable bond also means that it cannot be utilised by *Streptococcus mutans* (the tooth decay bacteria), and it is therefore non-cariogenic (does not promote tooth decay). Its sweetness relative to sucrose has been estimated as between 0.4[8] and 0.7, meaning it does not taste as sweet as sucrose.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trehalulose>

## Product Review – the Uri Geller inspired “no drip” honey spoon

Older readers will remember this bloke's name and game. He wandered the world bending spoons, hypnotising groups, finding lost keys and performing mental telepathy and other “magick” tricks. Sadly, it all went down hill when he was really put to the test, and ticket purchasers at his performances sued him to get their money back after the “magick” was revealed. However, he did create a worthwhile legacy, and here is one of his best known products – the bent spoon.

**What is it?** It's a flat bowled stainless steel spoon with a U shape (maybe a Uri shape??) in the handle near the bowl.

**What does it do?** It allows you to spoon honey out of the jar, and leave the spoon resting on the jar edge to drip off, and not spill the sticky stuff everywhere. It's well balanced and doesn't kick up with honey flying off everywhere.

**Is it worth it?** Absolutely, although mine was a gift from a kind honey fancier who enjoys tasting my home grown product. I would have bought one just for the conversation piece, but Uri would have foreseen that already.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uri\\_Geller](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uri_Geller)

And if you are really into spoons, go here for a feast of 61 different types: <https://worstroom.com/types-of-spoons/>



Nice split of a local *T hockingsi* hive

## ET – phone home

Peter Gurr has deployed a unique but very useful sun and rain shelter over his hive out at Alligator Creek.



## Manuka honey comes to Townsville!!!!

Well, maybe. The Ed purchased some sick and discounted pink form of Manuka shrubs from "a large green shed selling home products" earlier this year in the vain hope they might survive – and, well take a geek at this. Yes, there are not many flowers, but one shrub survived and has many more small flower buds coming along. Wait till the bees find the flowers!!!

Can I label my honey "Manuka infused" or "local honey with hints of Manuka" – here's the hint – not much. Eeehah!, \$300/kg honey here we come

Or, maybe the Kiwis will get in first and ban the use of the word Manuka in Australia if it's not honey from New Zealand – spoil sports.

BTW *Leptospermum scoparium* aka Manuka, is native to Australia as well as NZ. Frana says she has had one bush in for a year and its flowering now too, so maybe Townsville is a good spot for Manuka??



## TDBAI wins gaming grant \$5,000

Frana and members of the Committee have succeeded in winning a grant from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund courtesy of the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation from the profits of the Gaming Industry. The GCBF awards funding to not-for-profit community groups to enhance their capacity to provide services, leisure activities and opportunities for Queensland communities. These grants are for community organisations that do good work for the community – and our community based activities have been recognized. The grant money will be used to obtain an integrated website/database package for activities such as: our nearly 400 club memberships can be properly maintained, the Shop items can be ordered and paid for more easily, and the website can be used for more of the communication traffic.

## New Shop items available

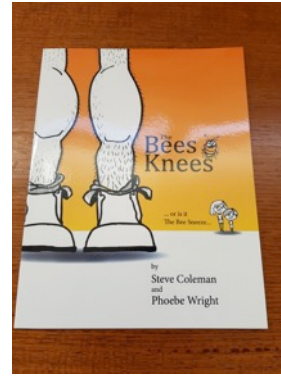
- two new books have been purchased by the club primarily for donating to schools when we undertake presentations. For sale to members as well, POA



Diatomaceous earth, for beetle traps, \$4 per bag



Big blue spatula, ideal for honey buckets, \$10 ea



Fuel for smokers (lavender pellets) – reviewed in the Previous Newsletter, watch out for stray pellets when puffing downwards.



Guardian bee hive entrance, another SHB prevention device, \$15.00 ea

## Bees on film.....



By the "Bee" Gees of course.



Mick Laffin picked up a hitch hiker on his bull bar the other day – a high speed hook up.



"I told him as an expert in the field I strongly recommend wearing it, but he just kept bringing up his 'rights.'"

Photographer Gary Meredith took this horror photo on the right – imagine waking up to that nightmare if you were a field bee on your maiden flight, or a virgin queen heading off on your honeymoon with a bunch of lazy, slow flying drones hovering around you.

I hear that just one of these "bee murderers", sorry - bee eaters, can take 200 bees/day. But just remember that along with BQ, they are part of Townsville's first line of defence against Asian honey bee incursions that might be carrying Varroa mite, so treat them kindly.

<https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/wildlife/2020/06/ag-nature-photographer-of-the-year-2020-animal-behaviour-shortlist/>



© Gary Meredith

## Bees on the internet

A roundup of interesting articles on the internet about bees.

1. ABA Newsletter: <https://beeaware.org.au/subscribe-to-newsletter/>

2. Heavy honey

Lead released in Notre Dame Cathedral fire detected in Parisian honey: <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/07/200729114752.htm>

Elevated levels of lead have been found in samples of honey from hives downwind of the Notre Dame Cathedral fire, collected three months after the April 2019 blaze.

2 Bee Aid

"Bees for Development" is an aid program promoting sustainable beekeeping to combat poverty and to build sustainable, resilient livelihoods. They support beekeepers to maintain environments that are good for bees, for biodiversity, and for people. Keeping bees can make a real difference – for example in Ethiopia, Tadfie obtained her first honey bee colony with their help. She sold 18 kg of honey in the first year – enabling her to buy seeds for her vegetable garden and school books for her children. They work with local partners on community-based projects, and provide a wide-range of information services. Building self-reliance is one of their core values: they avoid interventions which create dependency on expensive inputs. Find out more about their work in: Cameroon, Caribbean, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kyrgyzstan, Uganda, United Kingdom, Zanzibar. <http://www.beesfordevelopment.org>

3 Essential beekeepers

Even during the COVID -19 pandemic in the USA, beekeeping remains an essential service

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2020/jul/11/even-during-pandemic-beekeeping-remains-an-essential-service/>

4 Native bees wiped out in USA (maybe they should stop testing and it will be OK, and all go back to normal)

About 94 per cent of wild bee and native plant species networks lost in USA. Climate change and an increase in disturbed bee habitats from expanding agriculture and development in northeastern North America over the last 30 years are likely responsible for a 94 per cent loss of plant-pollinator networks, researchers found. The researchers looked at plant-pollinator networks from 125 years ago through present day.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/07/200716144740.htm>

5 Jeremy Clarkson buys 250,00 bees

But if he drives his hive like he drives those cars on TV, all hell will break loose, and it does apparently.

<https://www.driving.co.uk/news/jeremy-clarkson-eco-warrior-now/>

6 "Mars Rover" technology might help detect Varroa mite

AI technos have developed a system to scan bees coming and going from the hive and can detect if there are Varroa mites on board.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-07-26/purple-hive-project-aims-to-save-bees/12485018>

## Shop etiquette – in this Covid-19 era, please consider the welfare of all members

Email orders will be serviced – but walk in orders will not be completed.

Pre-order by email to [shop@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:shop@beesnorth.com.au); please do not send your order to [info@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:info@beesnorth.com.au)

Wait till after 9:00am to come to the shop; park outside in Rendle St, do not come in to the Shop

**Ed's comment:** Dear Club members who utilise the fantastic opportunity that our volunteer shopkeepers provide. If we do not wish to see this service reduced or limited we need to show a lot more consideration for those people providing this service. If we burn them out, we might not have this excellent service and convenience. If we do not comply with isolating guidelines, we may not be able to continue.

For your consideration, I outline some current COVID -19

### Golden Rules for the Club Shop:

Please:

1. Order **before** the opening day by email: [shop@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:shop@beesnorth.com.au)
2. Arrive at the Shop **after** 9:00 am
3. Phone on your arrival, wait for the go ahead to drive to the shop door – one order at a time.
4. Your order will placed in your vehicle – do not get out of the car.
5. Depart straight away to allow others to do their pick up – do not stop at the Shop to chat about bees
6. Non-emailed orders may not get any attention if the Shop is too busy.
7. Do not panic – wash your hands, don't touch your face.
8. We do not sell toilet paper (Reward for the brave person who wears this dress in public – see photo on right)



## News from the library

Next meeting, whenever that may be, come and check out our library collection, have a browse and borrow a book, video or magazine.

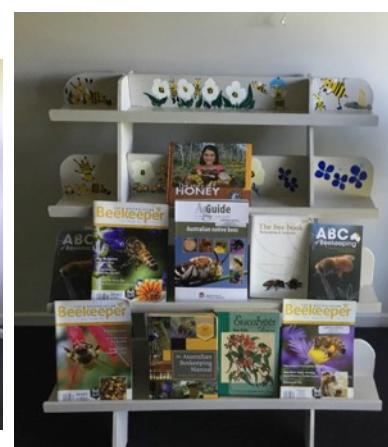
You can see what's available by looking at our new fancy website library listing with photos at :

<http://beesnorth.com.au/pages/Library.htm>

Beryl has painted the new library display shelves, see right, and this will make your browsing experience so much easier and pleasant.

Stay safe everyone, and PLEASE RETURN THOSE BORROWED BOOKS AND MAGS (Ed's highlight).

Librarian - Beryl Smart



## TDBAI Club activities

- Beginner Beekeeper Course for Club members is still on hold – date TBC

- President Mick is still pursuing options for a Clubhouse with TCC

- Visit to Grade 5 at All Souls Saint Gabriels in Charters Towers. Jon and Frana did a bee talk using the smart screen for our PowerPoint presentation. Mick Laffin prepared a frame of bees which just happened to have the queen on it. Was a great hit with the kids.

The presentation was followed by a visit to Joanne and Mick's place where the kids got to do the spinning, see the honey being filtered and also wax foundation making demo. All finished up with gift bags. A great days work.



Mick and Joanne Laffin and Jon and Frana McKinstry out at Charters Towers giving the AGSS kids a very exciting day of bee education. Some really enthused new beekeepers are in the making.

## General Meeting Minutes: No June General Meeting

### Previous Committee Meeting held on "Zoom"

Mick Olsen hosted our first "Zoom" meeting. Here is the Club Secretary Waldon Edwards speaking at that previous Committee Meeting using the wonders of the internet – I think we had around 8 members able to log on – the new way of holding meetings. Waldon reckoned it improved his appearance using the soft gel setting on his video.

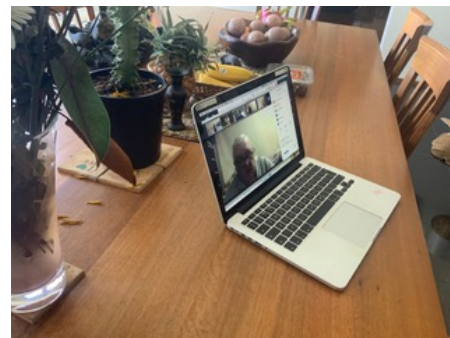
Waldon wrote: Just for the record!

The committee had a social distance meeting via the Zoom platform. While a little strange, the discussion and arguments were just as passionate as ever!

### 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.

Apologies are offered for not including our new members in previous Newsletters, but the Treasurer, Club Shop co-ordinator, membership registrar, enquiries person, queen orderer, nuc organiser, new member enquiries, and public liaison officer are all one person – Frana McKinstry – and she has been a little busy lately.



Philip Plant	Matthew Schenk	Mark Wilde	Melinda Chambers	Amanda Prideaux	Belinda Kugler
Neil Ritchie	Rheanon Fielding	Frank Osborn	Dave Atkinson	Nicole McCartney	

### Sell/Swap/Buy/Help needed

I will list items for 2 Newsletters only, unless you let me know otherwise. Please drop The Editor [editor@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:editor@beesnorth.com.au) a note to indicate whether the items are required to be listed for a longer period.

### Subscribe to the Bee Aware e-newsletter and stay up to date

The BeeAware 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/>

### Annual Membership Fees are due in July/August each year - currently \$30/p.a.

#### Membership fees can be made electronically to:

Name:- Townsville and District Beekeepers Association BSB:- 633000

Account:- 141466078

Refer :- Please make sure you add your Surname so that your membership can be signed off.

### Email contacts for the Office Holders 2019/20

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](mailto:president@beesnorth.com.au), [treasurer@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:treasurer@beesnorth.com.au), [editor@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:editor@beesnorth.com.au), [shop@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:shop@beesnorth.com.au), [publicityofficer@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:publicityofficer@beesnorth.com.au)

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

### TDBA Inc Office Holders for 2019/2020

President: Mick Olsen [president@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:president@beesnorth.com.au) or [mick\\_naomi@bigpond.com](mailto:mick_naomi@bigpond.com)

Vice President: Paul Payne [trapper4812@gmail.com](mailto:trapper4812@gmail.com)

Secretary: Waldon Edwards [secretary@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:secretary@beesnorth.com.au)

Treasurer: Frana McKinstry: [treasurer@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:treasurer@beesnorth.com.au) or [franajon@gmail.com](mailto:franajon@gmail.com)

Treasurer's Assistant: Michelle Hasted [pexperts@yahoo.com](mailto:pexperts@yahoo.com)

Membership: Frana McKinstry [franajon@gmail.com](mailto:franajon@gmail.com) or [info@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:info@beesnorth.com.au)

Newsletter: Lindsay Trott [editor@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:editor@beesnorth.com.au) or [trottlindsay@gmail.com](mailto:trottlindsay@gmail.com)

Librarian: Beryl Smart [smartberyl@gmail.com](mailto:smartberyl@gmail.com)

Equipment Stewards: Frana McKinstry and Alan Ziegenfusz [shop@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:shop@beesnorth.com.au)

Webmaster: Ray Berkelmans [rberkelm@gmail.com](mailto:rberkelm@gmail.com)

Publicity Officer: Sonya Verburgt [sonyaverb@optusnet.com.au](mailto:sonyaverb@optusnet.com.au)

**Committee:** Ronelle Nord                      Keith Hunter                      Shane Grist                      Tom and Joan Ruddell                      Michelle Hasted                      Alan Ziegenfusz

### Swarm Contact List:

Please advise [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.

**Kelso/Kirwan:** Steve and Carla Kersnovske - 0417 344 419    Graham Dalby – 0420951929    Adrian Kirby- 0403 443 141    Michael O'Connell- 0402088080

**Douglas/ Gulliver:** Ben Taylor - 4728 4992/ 0428 186 000    Sonya Verburgt - 04 0853 0991

**Alice River/ Bluewater:** Sharene Dougall – 0415426903    Ronelle Nord – 0417752622    Duane Saltmer - 0400 339 508    Amanda Woodcock – 0405784083

**Magnetic Island:** Tito Parigi - 0418 796 951    **Charters Towers:** Mervyn Yule - 0427 124 126

**Swarm List** Please contact Biosecurity Queensland : 13 25 23 for any swarm or strange bee activity in the Townsville region. For all swarm collections, please collect 300 bees or roughly 10% of brood comb and submit to Biosecurity Queensland for pest and disease monitoring.

## New form for "Sugar Shake" results – BQ requesting us to step up on detection tests for Varroa

Biosecurity Queensland would like beekeepers to fill out this new form below when they do self assessments, such as sugar shaker, drone uncapping or alcohol wash. The form can be filled out manually and sent in reply paid, or it can be emailed. Carla K will also be visiting everyone who would like to practise with the different self assessment types.

### Varroa Mite Eradication Program

## Managed hive test or feral nest/swarm removal form

Please use this form to submit the results of self-assessments and to submit samples from collected feral swarms or nests. Complete the first section and then any other applicable sections. Please use multiple forms if necessary and separate forms for each location tested.

Return forms to, or contact for sample collection – Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: 07 3330 4560

PO Box 1085 Townsville Q 4810 or email [varroa@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:varroa@daf.qld.gov.au).

Address of collection location	
Collector	
Collector's phone or email	
HIN	

### Alcohol wash/ sugar shake (300 bees per hive recommended. Submit sample if anything suspect seen)

Date tested	Alcohol wash or sugar shake? (AW or SS)	Hive ID and approximate number of bees tested	Anything suspect? (Y or N)	Sample submitted? (Y or N)

### Drone uncapping (20 drone pupae per hive recommended. Submit sample if anything suspect seen)

Date tested	Hive ID and approximate number of drone pupae examined	Anything suspect? (Y or N)	Sample submitted? (Y or N)

### Feral nest or swarm removed and samples kept for DAF to identify and check for varroa (300 bees and several hundred capped brood cells - especially drone brood - recommended)

Date collected	Bees submitted?	Comb submitted?

### DAF use only - Analysis by NVMEP

Case	Sample	Date tested	Tested by
ID result	<i>Apis cerana</i> (AHB)	<i>Apis mellifera</i> (EHB)	Other
Varroa seen			
Recording	Date	By	

Scan to server, email to varroa (cc to manager and SPO), add to VMI2019 (attach scan to result), file hard copy

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is collecting the information on this form as a record of surveillance activities conducted under the National Varroa Mite Eradication Program. Summaries of surveillance activities may be provided to the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests, formed by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture for the purpose of reporting against the Response Plan for the Eradication of *Varroa jacobsoni* from Queensland – 2019 Incident. Any personal information collected will not be disclosed to any other parties unless authorised or required by law.

# Club Shop Items - 2020 Price List

These prices are only available to current financial members

Item	Price	Item	Price
Jacket - Cotton	60.00	Eyelets pkt 50g	6.00
Jacket - Ventilated	90.00	Awl (for picking eyelets)	5.00
Full Suit - Cotton	90.00	S/S Wire x 500gm	20.00
Full Suit - ventilated	115.00	Crimping Tool	14.00
Replacement veil for vented suit	25.00	Bucket Bracket	10.00
Cowboy hat with veil	12.00	Bucket Opener	7.00
Veil - cotton	20.00	Queen Catcher (butterfly clip)	3.00
Child's full suit	60.00	Queen Catcher & Marker (tube)	8.00
Gloves - pair	25.00	Frame Gripper	10.00
Veil - Native Bee	3.00	Frame Hanger	20.00
		Bee Feeders	1.00
Super - 10 Frame	28.00	Spring clips, ea	2.00
Super - 8 frame	25.00		
Super - Ideal	25.00	Gate valve - Nuplas	12.00
Super - WSP	25.00	Gate valve - Parker	30.00
Lids (8 or 10 Frame)	27.00	Gate Valve S/S	35.00
Lids (8 or 10 Frame) pre-assembled	35.00	Gate valve O rings - Parker	7.00
Base - Ply (8 or 10 frame)	22.00	Cappings knife, serrated	15.00
Base - Mesh	35.00	Cappings knife, electric	45.00
Mesh sheet (for base construction)	15.00	Comb scratcher	8.00
Lifting Cleats (Handles, pair)	5.00	Strainer	26.00
		Scales	12.00
Nuplas Super 10 Fr	40.00	Extractor - Plastic	140.00
Nuplas Super 8 Fr	40.00		
Nuplas Super - Ideal	35.00	Honey jars 250gm	0.70
Nuplas Lid, 8 or 10 Fr	38.00	Honey jars 500gm square	0.80
Nuplas Base, 8 or 10 Fr	45.00	Honey Jars Squeeze 550g	0.80
Nuplas 10 Fr set: 1 x super, lid & base	120.00	Honey Jars 1 kg	1.00
Nuplas cleats	10.00	Honey Pails - 1 kg	1.20
Nuplas oil tray & frame	28.00	Honey Pails - 1.5kg	1.30
Hive Doctor plastic base	55.00	Honey bottle 2.8kg (2 litre)	0.80
Beetle Buster Base (8 or 10)	100.00	Glass jars 500g	1.00
4 Frame Nuc Box	65.00		
5 Frame Nuc Box	70.00	<b>TRAPS</b>	
Corflute Nuc boxes	28.00	Apithor trap	8.00
		Silver Bullet trap	8.00
Hive tool (S/S)	15.00	Diatomaceous Earth per pack	4.00
Smoker	35.00		
Smoker - Beeco	85.00	<b>BOOKS</b>	
Bee Brush	10.00	Managing AFB	0.00
Emlok - hive clamp	14.00	ABC of Beekeeping in Tropics	25.00
Hive Handle (galvanised)	12.00	Australian Beekeeping Manual	35.00
Queen Excluder - Wire (8 or 10 frame)	22.00	Australian Native Bee Book	25.00
Queen Excluder - Plastic	12.00		
Queen Excluder scraper	10.00	Honey Labels (\$5 for 50) or roll	25.00
		Nutrition panel labels (per roll)	20.00
Frames - Full depth	2.00	Posca Queen marking pen	5.00
Frames - Full depth, prewired	4.00	Warning Sign	10.00
Frames - Ideal	1.50	Bee Poster	20.00
Frames - WSP	1.50	AFB test kit	0.00
Foundation - Plastic	2.10		
Foundation - Wax, per sheet	2.40	Club Polo Shirts	40.00
WSP or Ideal foundation (plastic)	2.00	Club Polo Shirts L/S	45.00
Wax Embedding tool	45.00	Club hats with logo	15.00
Block beeswax, per Kg	22.00		

## **TDBA Bee Starter Kit - \$160**

*The Perfect Gift for a budding Beekeeper*

*Available in Townsville from the Club Shop:*

**Club Members Price Only! \$160**

*Hive tool, brush, vented jacket/veil, gloves, and smoker*

Plus: The ABC of Beekeeping book

Contact: Club Shop Stewards: Frana M or Alan Z or email:

[shop@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:shop@beesnorth.com.au)



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### **LOTS-A-STINGS**

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

**Dan Donovan: Ph 0428 218 816**

