

Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc.)

www.beesnorth.com.au



PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814

Newsletter No 1, February 2020

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Next Meeting: **Note the new time**

10:00 am Sunday 16 Feb, 2020

3/38 Rendle St, Aitkenvale,
includes a free sausage sizzle

Bring a chair – and a plate of arvo tea if you can
Coffee, tea, milk, cups, conversation etc provided free
No need to visit Bunnings - Sausage sizzle included

Backyard beekeeping with Ruth and Wayne

Ruth and Wayne Bromham have been keeping bees for about 5 ½ years at their West End home (see photos on right). They thought they would just have one hive, but as many beekeepers soon realise, “you just can’t stop at one”. Ruth runs the show while Wayne is away on work trips, and together they harvest and spin the honey. They both agree that it’s a good idea to maintain more than one hive, in case one hive goes weak or you want to re-queen and need some eggs to try to raise a new queen, or you need uncapped brood to promote the acceptance of a newly purchased queen. Life, and your hives, will be better off if you have ready access to another healthy hive to “borrow” brood and reserves from.

A brief summary of the Bromham’s activities:

- run up to 12 hives, depending on recent swarm activity (some gains and some losses!)
- average of 50+ kgs honey/year from the 2 frame hives
- harvest 2-3 times/year
- spin and replace stickys on same day – no need to store full honey frames for later spinning, nor need to save stickys in fridge or freezer
- stored and labelled frames go back to same hive as a disease prevention procedure
- queens are sourced from Graeme Armstrong and Denmar Apiaries
- label their own jars and sell honey locally (West End P.O. has some)
- their garden has many herbs, vegies and flowering plants – basil, citrus, ponytail, pepper, bay leaf, tomatoes
- cassia trees provide a big flush of yellow pollen and nectar
- wax melting in oven in a strainer, with paper serviette as a filter and blue silicon tray underneath to collect melted wax (see below right)
- melt wax at no more than 70 deg C in an electric oven and do not leave the kitchen – NEVER IN A GAS OVEN!!! – and check with the kitchen chief before you do this, as you may find future access to the kitchen blocked if there are any “mishaps”
- candles using 100% beeswax and a wooden wick – helps beeswax keep burning



Wayne has modified one of his Nuplas plastic hive boxes to enable viewing of the brood through some thick pieces of Perspex in cut outs in the side and rear sections of the brood box (see above on left). This enables a quick and easy way to glance at the brood and get a general impression of brood box bee numbers without opening the hive. We saw the queen wander past and give a royal wave when we visited, perfect timing. Talk to Wayne or Ruth at one of our Club meetings if you are interested in any of their methods and would like to know more.

Vale Doug McBride

Life Member and long term previous Treasurer Doug McBride passed away in December 2019. Doug’s health had been failing for a few years and he suffered some serious setbacks recently. The Club offered our sympathies to Doug’s wife, Sonya, and family.

Club Library now on-line

Most members will know that the club has an excellent library that will enhance the skill levels of all beekeepers from novice to the most experienced! The collection includes wonderful books covering beekeeping at all levels, excellent books on plants and floral resources relevant to beekeepers, as well as books on Australian native bees. The library also has videos and magazines.

Getting access to the library is now a whole lot easier with a representative collection of books available for your perusal on-line at <http://www.beesnorth.com.au/pages/wsonly.htm>.

This is a members-only area so you will need to log in to view its contents. If you haven't as yet registered your log-in credentials, please do so by following the registration link in red letters! If you'd like some of these books brought along to the next club meeting, please send an email to Beryl our Librarian (smartberyl@gmail.com).



Well done Ray Berkelmans - our IT man who lives on the Gold Coast – this will make it easy to see what's available from our well stocked library.

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.

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

Swarm Contact List:

Please advise 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.

Sonya Verburgt - Gulliver - 04 0853 0991

Steve and Carla Kersnovske - Kelso 0417 344 419

Ben Taylor, Douglas/ Riverside Gardens - 4728 4992/ 0428 186 000

Sharene Dougall, Bluewater - 0415426903

Tito Parigi - Magnetic Island - 0418 796 951

Ronelle Nord, Alice River – 0417752622

Duane Saltmer Alice River - 0400 339 508

Adrian Kirby Kirwan - 0403 443 141

Swarm List Please contact Biosecurity : 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.

The arguments for and against importing more European bumblebees in to Tasmania

The Ed has been holidaying in rural Tasmania, where there seems to be almost as many large European earth bumblebees (*Bombus terrestris*) as European honeybees (*Apis mellifera*).

The bumblebee is believed to have been illegally smuggled into Tasmania from New Zealand in the early 1990s. They were first observed in Hobart and spread rapidly across Tasmania over the following 14 years. They may have originated from as few as two queens, making the population inbred and genetically weak.

The Federal Government has recently agreed with a Senate committee recommendation to use Tasmania's feral bumblebee populations for a two-year trial for pollination purposes.

<https://www.goodfruitandvegetables.com.au/story/6089132/government-supports-bumblebee-crop-trial-in-tasmania/>

<https://www.theadvocate.com.au/story/4739392/inquiry-gives-bumblebee-trial-go-ahead/>

But there are grave fears of problems from other quarters, with implications for the mainland

<https://invasives.org.au/blog/tasmanian-bumblebee-decision-defies-the-evidence/>

The tiny Tasmanian tomato industry, producing just 0.04% of Australia's tomatoes in 2011-12, has been lobbying to overcome the legal impediment to use bumblebees in Tasmania's greenhouses. It is suggested that the tomato industry is more interested in bumblebees coming to the mainland, which can be made more achievable by legalising them in Tasmania

<https://www.aussiebee.com.au/bumblebeedebate.html>

The European earth bumblebee closely resembles our Great Carpenter bee (*Xylocopa aruana*). The bumblebee is large, fat and very hairy. Worker bees may be 8 mm to 22 mm in length while queen bees are up to about 25 mm. They are black with one yellow/ochre band across the thorax and another across the abdomen. The tip of the abdomen is also buff or white. The Australian native Great Carpenter Bee females are 13–18 mm long with a bright yellow thorax and a black abdomen. Unlike the bumblebee, the abdomen of the female Great Carpenter bee is shiny and hairless. Male Great Carpenter Bees are about the same size but are completely covered with yellow brown or dull olive hair. <https://www.aussiebee.com.au/bumblebeeid.html>

European earth bumblebee – left
See white tail and yellow stripes



Australian Great Carpenter bee- right



Newbees Workshop in November was a big success – according to the Newbees and the old hands

Sonya Verburgt organized, and hosted our first co-ordinated “hands-on” workshop for newbees at her place in November 2019. Lots of Club volunteers helped out by bringing equipment to show and demonstrate, Master Chef and President Mick Olsen and Jon McKinstry were on hand to turn out some tasty BBQ treats for lunch and several ladies prepared salads and arvo tea treats. Other Clubbies turned up just to lend a hand. The attendees took home their own assembled and wax embedded frames, and they were able to get up close and personal with some bees, and able to get many of their questions answered. The feedback from all who attended was very encouraging and we will run another of these in 2020.

Sonya was awarded the Club’s “The Queen Bee-atrice Award” for 2019 in recognition of her hard work, organising events and generous offers of the use of her home, hives and backyard for meetings, volunteering at public events and hosting and organising the recent Newbees workshop. Sonya is pictured here receiving the perpetual trophy from The Ed.

See photos below from the day (Credites: Frana???) where young and old, newbees and old hands got together to share some bee stories. Also, some of our highly trained Volunteers preparing food - Joan Ruddell and Mick Olsen at the BBQ



PS - Lost hat at Workshop

Heidi Streiner lost track of her dearly beloved cream floppy sun hat when changing into a bee suit at the Workshop. Did anyone take it home by mistake, or hand it in to the head teacher for lost property?? It did not have her name on a label inside – tsk, tsk, tsk. Please Contact The Editor if you find it.

Xmas cheer at The Bohle Barn on Dec 8



Our final social event for 2019 was the Xmas lunch get together at The Bohle Barn. It was a well attended event, and a lot of fun - with a bonus when one of our group won the meat tray. Who won the Elton John tickets???

Festive Xmas tee shirts were on display with Ruth and Frana, see photo on the left.

“ABC of Beekeeping” available from the Club Shop

Good for introduction to beekeeping or even just to be reminded of what’s happening inside the hive. Check them out at The Club Shop - \$25



Sign of the times – at least they weren’t INSIDE!!!



Targeted surveillance activities will ramp up to prove Townsville is free of varroa mite

MEDIA RELEASE: Queensland Government, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, 09 January 2020

Key points:

- Targeted surveillance activities will ramp up to prove Townsville is free of varroa mite
- Varroa mites could significantly damage the Australian bee industry and agricultural sector, disrupting honey production and pollination services.
- Australia is the only inhabited continent in the world to be free of varroa mite

Main story:

Surveillance activities will ramp up in Townsville to prove the area is free of varroa mite.

The National Varroa Mite Eradication Program, led by Biosecurity Queensland, kicked into action in July 2019 following the discovery of a nest of Asian honey bee (*Apis cerana*) at the Port of Townsville, which were later confirmed to be carrying varroa mite (*Varroa jacobsoni*).

Program manager Rob Stephens said with no more Asian honey bees found, the program will now transition to Proof of Freedom phase.

"This means more targeted surveillance activities including sweep netting, aerial pheromone trapping, Rainbow bee-eater pellet sampling, bee lining and setting up feeding stations as well as industry awareness and community engagement activities," he said. "January is usually a time when bees are more active, especially if there is rain to promote flowering vegetation. "So it's very important that we identify if there are any remaining nests quickly." Varroa mite is a tiny parasite that could have serious consequences for the pollination of crops and honey production if it were to spread to Australia's population of European honey bee.

Mr Stephens said community help is especially important as the Program works to prove Queensland is free of varroa mite. "Australia is the only inhabited continent in the world to be free of varroa mite and we want to keep it that way. The local community has been terrific at keeping an eye out and reporting sightings of bees to us. We have received more than 270 calls since July when our response officially first began and we need that to continue. So the message remains: report unusual bees, nests or swarms to 13 25 23 immediately and we'll follow up. Like our European honey bee, the Asian honey bee will forage on flowers but are smaller, not as hairy and look darker and glossier. Look for bees clustered into a swarm or nests in small hollows like trees, eaves, letter boxes and compost bins."

For more information visit www.daf.qld.gov.au or to report unusual bee activity call 13 25 23.

Media contact: Deborah Rule 0436 916 667. Deborah summarised some stats statistics in relation to Eradication Phase from 1 July to 31 December 2019:

- More than 28,550 Rainbow bee-eater pellets collected and tested from 2537 locations around the city.
- Up to five office staff supporting 15 operations staff who spent more than 4220 hours in the field conducting surveillance activities including:
 - 210 pheromone-treated balloons (used to check for the presence of drones)
 - 135 managed hive inspections
 - Maintenance and twice daily observations of four feed stations
- 271 reports of bees were received from members of the public
- 3117 letters were mailed to select households and businesses
- 11,441 calling cards letterboxed to suburbs surrounding the Port of Townsville
- Our social media campaign reached more than 96,000 people within the Townsville postcode range

ABC Catalyst program reveals the threats to our bees

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INltCyR5hdE> Oct 17, 2016

Sent in by Alan Ziegenfusz

The world is experiencing a global bee crisis, and with bees responsible for almost a third of the food on our plate, this is a crisis that could affect us all. In the winter of 2013, areas of Europe lost up to 53% of their bee population. Similar decline has been recorded in the US. Astonishingly, Australia is the only country in the world where the bee population continues to thrive. As commercial beekeepers are pushed out of business abroad, Australian bees are exported to pollinate foreign farmlands. However, the fate of Australian bees hangs in the balance. It seems that the bee crisis is intricately tied to the way we have changed our planet. Catalyst investigates how modern agriculture methods, increasing diseases and the impending threat of the deadly varroa mite could destroy the last safe-haven for bees on the planet. See the ABC Catalyst S15 Ep11 Honeybees on the Youtube link above

'Like sending bees to war': the deadly truth behind your almond-milk obsession

Annette McGivney in Flagstaff, Arizona, Wed 8 Jan 2020 17:00 AEDT (Modified by The Ed)

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/bees>

Like most commercial beekeepers in the US, at least half of Dennis Arp's revenue now comes from pollinating almonds. Selling honey is far less lucrative than renting out his colonies to mega-farms in California's fertile Central Valley, home to 80% of the world's almond supply. But as winter approached, with Arp just months away from taking his hives to California, his bees started getting sick. By October, 150 of Arp's hives had been wiped out by mites, 12% of his inventory in just a few months. "My yard is currently filled with stacks of empty bee boxes that used to contain healthy hives," he says. This shouldn't be happening to someone like Arp, a beekeeper with decades of experience. But his story is not unique. Commercial beekeepers who send their hives to the almond farms are seeing their bees die in record numbers, and nothing they do seems to stop the decline.

A recent survey of commercial beekeepers showed that 50 billion bees were wiped out in a few months during winter 2018-19. This is more than one-third of commercial US bee colonies, the highest number since the annual survey started in the mid-2000s.

Beekeepers attributed the high mortality rate to pesticide exposure, diseases from parasites and habitat loss. However, environmentalists and organic beekeepers maintain that the real culprit is something more systemic: America's reliance on industrial agriculture methods, especially those used by the almond industry, which demands a large-scale mechanization of one of nature's most delicate natural processes.

Honeybees thrive in a biodiverse landscape. But California's almond industry places them in a monoculture where growers expect the bees to be predictably productive year after year. "The high mortality rate creates a sad business model for beekeepers," says Nate Donley, a senior scientist for the Center for Biological Diversity. "It's like sending the bees to war. Many don't come back."

California's \$11bn (£8.4bn) almond industry has grown at an extraordinary rate. In 2000, almond orchards occupied 500,000 acres. By 2018 that had more than doubled – almond groves in the Central Valley now blanket an area the size of Delaware, producing 2.3bn lb (1m tonnes) of almonds annually sold around the world. The average American eats 2lb (900g) of almonds every year, more than in any other country. US almond milk sales have grown 250% over the past five years to reach \$1.2bn, over four times that of any other plant-based milk, according to a 2018 Nielsen report.

These enormous orchards can't function without bees



Jodie from the NVMEP team floating a pheromone dosed balloon over trees to attract Asian honey bee drones



Dennis Arp stands for a portrait near a colony of honeybees outside Rye, Arizona. Photograph: Caitlin O'Hara/The Guardian



During the 19th and early 20th centuries, beekeepers earned a modest living selling beeswax and honey. But in the late 20th century there was a titanic shift. When cheap imported honey began cutting into Arp's profits in the 1980s, he decided to send some of his hives with a beekeeper friend to pollinate almonds in California. With that strategic move, Arp joined the growing ranks of migratory beekeepers in the US who still sell honey, but mostly travel the country from one pollination site to the next with stacks of bee boxes in tow. In the early 1980s, when Arp was just selling honey, he would lose about 5% of his hives per year to disease or weather conditions. Around 2000, Arp's bees started dying in greater numbers.

First, he experienced a nearly 100% loss of his hives from an infestation of tracheal mites. Then he had to cope with the intrusion of Africanized "killer" bees. And finally, what he still considers the bane of his business, a parasitic mite called *Varroa destructor* literally sucked the life out of his bees. The mite feeds on the bee's plump body, destroying the insect's immune system and other vital functions. If Arp doesn't apply regular chemical treatments for the mites, his colonies will die.

Now Arp finds himself in a vicious circle: he is constantly battling to keep enough bees alive to meet the requirements of his almond contract. But if he was not pollinating almonds, maybe his bees would be healthier.

This year Arp's bees, like more than two-thirds of the United States' commercial honeybee population, will spend February in the **toxic chemical soup** of California's Central Valley, fertilizing almonds one blossom at a time. Pesticides are used for all kinds of crops across the state, but the almond, **at 35m lb a year**, is doused with greater absolute quantities than any other. One of the most widely applied pesticides is the herbicide glyphosate (AKA Roundup), which is a staple of large-scale almond growers and has been shown to be lethal to bees as well as **cause cancer** in humans.

On top of the threat of pesticides, almond pollination is uniquely demanding for bees because colonies are aroused from winter dormancy about one to two months earlier than is natural. The sheer quantity of hives required far exceeds that of other crops

– apples, America's second-largest pollination crop, use only one-tenth the number of bees. And the bees are concentrated in one geographic region at the same time, exponentially increasing the risk of spreading sickness.

"Bees are exposed to all kinds of diseases in California," says Arp. "There can be hundreds of thousands of hives from multiple beekeepers in one staging area. It is like letting your bees go into a singles bar and then they have unprotected sex."

The almond business has been good to Arp – last February, for instance, he installed 1,500 of his hives in one grower's orchard at \$200 per hive – so he is reluctant to make a direct connection between the constant health challenges with his bees and the time spent every spring in the almond groves. "The bees like working on the almonds," says Arp. "But it obviously exposes them to risks."

Now he routinely loses 30% or more of his bees a year, mirroring national statistics. In any other industry, the death of a third of your workforce would cause an international outcry – but this staggering loss is now considered the normal cost of doing business.

"The bees in the almond groves are being exploited and disrespected," says Patrick Pynes, an organic beekeeper who teaches environmental studies at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. "They are in severe decline because our human relationship to them has become so destructive."



Arp and his son Adam. Photograph: Caitlin O'Hara/The Guardian

The almond board's "**best practice**" guidelines encourage beekeepers to spend as little time in California's Central Valley as possible. Honeybees can travel up to three miles in search of varied forage, so even if the almond grower is doing everything right to protect a pollination investment, the cotton or grape farmer down the road may be spraying bee-toxic chemicals on crops.

Even as almond production has steadily ramped up for decades, the number of commercial hives in the US has remained at a **steady 2.7m colonies** since the early 2000s. With all the challenges beekeepers face, just maintaining the bare minimum is a struggle.



Left: Dennis Arp replaces queen bees in hives that rejected or were missing them

One coping strategy pursued by the almond industry has been to breed **almond varieties** that require only one hive per acre to pollinate, instead of two. And last January, a pollinator protection law went into effect in California as part of the state's "**Bee Where**" initiative. For this program, beekeepers are required to register the location of their hives with the county's agricultural commissioner and farmers must notify the commissioner in advance of any plans to spray pesticides.

Even so, the costs beekeepers incur trying to keep their bees alive are constantly rising. Arp has spent approximately \$50,000 in the past year buying new hives to compensate for the 35% colony loss he experienced last year. He also spends at least \$50,000 a year on mite treatments, not to mention other more aggressive measures the industry is taking just to maintain the status quo. These include splitting robust hives in half, introducing mail-order queens to new hives and fattening bees on corn syrup or on simulated pollen substances called "pollen patties". Experts say that simply working around the pesticide problem isn't enough and that farming itself must be changed from the ground up.

The search for a solution

Hope is being found in a new certification program that, similar to "organic" or "free trade" labels, will help consumers choose products that have been made with bee-friendly methods. The "**Bee Better**" certification program, launched in 2017 by the not-for-profit Xerces Society, introduces biodiversity into almond groves to naturally control pests and nourish honey bees. Xerces is working with almond growers to plant California wildflowers, mustard and clover in between the rows of trees and native flowering hedges along the perimeter of the orchard – a kind of eco-friendly fence to keep bees in the orchard.

Back in Arizona, Dennis Arp and his son Adam are just trying to make it through the next few months with as many healthy bees as possible.

There are days when the costs seem overwhelming, and Arp wonders if he should hang up his honey-stained bee suit. But beekeeping is what he knows best, and he wants to pass the business on to his son. "I don't know how we will pull it off yet," he says. "But we will make it work."

Beehives stand stacked along a blooming almond orchard near Shafter, California. Photograph: Ann Johansson/Corbis via Getty Images



An almond tree blooms near Visalia, in California. Photograph: Ann Johansson/Corbis via Getty Images

General Meeting Minutes and AGM Proceedings

Sunday 17 Nov 2019 at 5 McKinley St, North ward

General Meeting

Chair: President Mick Olsen

Note taker: Lindsay Trott (This was a fast moving meeting - apologies from the note taker for incorrect or misspelt names or details).

Meeting opened 2:00 PM.

Visitors: Large number of Visitors welcomed, details may be a bit stray. Rose from Gnome, Greg, Shanda, Francis and Alex, Gemma, Michelle and Pat from Aitkenvale, Marty from Kelso.

Attendance book circulated

Previous Meeting Minutes: Moved Sonya V, 2nd Keith H

Business Items:

- Mick and Frana have been busy investigating options with TCC for a clubhouse location that ranged from
 - we build our own clubhouse on our own land
 - we build our own clubhouse on shared land
 - we share an existing or new clubhouse with another organization

Meeting to be on 6 Dec with TCC Community Development Officer.

- discussion was held on offering volunteers a \$10 shop voucher for work at the Club Shop
- grant applications were submitted to Phillip Thompson's office for trailer purchase
- St Benedict's school will get native bee hive from a rescue carried out by President Mick.

Treasurer's Report: Very good financial state of the Club reflected by approx. \$19K in bank, deposited \$12K and spent \$6K this month, total in hand including cash from Shop = \$26K. Many members renewals come in late so a small increase expected, most funds are generated by Shop activities. Recent purchase of HIN branding iron to permanently identify hive boxes and frames – cost around \$2K and will be hired out at nominal fee to Club members. Full report available to anyone who wants to have a look. Report : moved Ian G, 2nd Keith ?

Club Shop: Opens on 1st Sat of the month at 3/38 Rendle St, Aitkenvale – closed over Dec and January. Shed owner Mark has given us more room to store and sell stock – thank you Mark. Big thank you to the volunteers who have helped out during 2019. – it gets really busy and confusing for volunteers with all the discussion and hubbub on Shop days, so please email your order to shop@beesnorth.com.au before the Saturday. This will assist the volunteers and Frana's accounting of cash and purchases and the volllies will be able to make up the order for you and have it ready prior to your arrival.

Library: Easy to see what books/DVDs and mags we have available because Ray B our IT man on the Gold Coast has listed them on the <http://www.beesnorth.com.au> website. Check it out. We have 50 copies of the book "ABC of Beekeeping" for purchase at \$25, and it's appropriate for newbees.

Other Business:

- in 2020 there are plans to run structured hands –on beekeeper workshops, one might be run by Paul Marsh who has Cert 3 in Beekeeping.

- DAF Biosecurity Officer Ronelle Nord gave the meeting an update on how the search for the most recent AHB and Varroa mite incursion is going. The National Varroa Mite Eradication Program (NVMEP) recently discovered AHB wings in the pellets of Rainbow Bee-eaters from near the Townsville Port. There is a now an enhanced high intensity program focused within a 2.5 km radius of the port. 28 wings were detected within 2 pellets, so the bird has obviously stumbled on a nest of AHB. Genetic analysis indicated that this most recent detection is related to the May 2019 nest that was discovered at the port. The nest has not been detected, only wings in Rainbow Bee-eater pellets. It is now 5 months since the May 2019 nest was destroyed, but no sign of live AHB has been recorded. There have been 14 swarms notified to BQ by local beekeepers recently and all have been tested for Varroa mite and AHB – all negative. Alert the public for AHB detections and keep up the sugar shake/alcohol washing monitoring and testing. Be aware that movement of hives from within the 2.5 km should be cleared with DAF first, and movement outside the TCC region should also be checked, bees coming in to the region are fine. DAF has ramped up publicity and notices, fridge magnet show actual size of European and Asian honeybees for comparison. Iain Gordon is pursuing a project with JCU where AHB can be detected by a quick lab test in Rainbow Bee-eater pellets, rather than the laborious visual examination under microscopes.

- TDBAI is running a beginners beekeeping course at Sonya V's place with hands-on experience guided by volunteer club members on 30 Nov, cost of \$50 will get you morning tea, BBQ lunch, tea and coffee, soft drinks and arvo tea, 2 bees wax frames assembled by yourself, lots of talk, and a free jar of honey from Ian Goulevitch. Next year we might get Paul Marsh (Cert 3 Beekeeper) to run a 2 day beekeeping course costing around \$450.

- suggestion that we might move our Sunday meetings to 10 am instead of 2 pm. This is a much cooler and less windy part of the day and might allow more hive openings – under discussion and would welcome comments from members.

- Waldon mentioned that there is a useful on-line newsletter called Bee Aware <https://beeaware.org.au> that highlights bee issues. See the Newsletter for details.

- many reports of queens absconding, some have been pushed out by too much pollen getting stored in the brood chambers, check your brood condition and keep the hive thriving.

Next Meeting is at the Club Shop on Sunday 16 Feb 2020 at 3/38 Rendle St Aitkenvale, starting at 10:am with a sausage sizzle.

Meeting closed 14:40

AGM for 2019

Minutes of previous AGM were circulated, Moved Jon M, 2nd Ian G.

Previous Business:

- AFB sterilisation of hives boxes, lids, bases and wooden frames by Club steriliser can be arranged at cost of \$25/load - \$15 goes to the shed owner for electricity and space, \$10 to the Club. 2 boxes and frames per load.

Secretary's Report: Secretary unavailable and report will be provided next year.

Treasurer's Report: \$104K in turnover (up by \$28K from previous year), \$95K in expenses (mainly stock items), \$18K in stock on hand, gross profit of \$8,750 for FY, books were audited. Moved Michelle H, 2nd Beryl S. Frana M needs an understudy to learn and assist with the Treasurer's role and Membership duties, volunteers??

Other Business:

- President and Committee thanked Alan Z for his previous active Presidents role and now Secretary.

- Committee Members thanked volunteers at our busy public activity appearances, school talks, CWA meetings, JCU Vet training, aged care talks, library displays etc etc, and especially the Club Shop volunteers.

- Members were reminded that a lot of behind the scenes work goes on to keep the Club rolling and accommodate the many requests from outside and inside the Club.

- Member database needs to go to another level and get optimized for size and activity of Club – new software?

- New shed on own or shared land would cost very significant \$\$\$'s and would commit Club to a financial burden – how to fund this was discussed, by increasing annual fees to \$30/yr??, by special contributions??, grant applications??, cost sharing with another group??-

- Xmas break-up lunch at Bohle Barn on 8th December, sign up now.

- President Mick wished all a peaceful and Merry Christmas.

- All positions were declared vacant : Paul Payne co-ordinated the election process of office holders for 2019/2020.

Electing Officials for 2019/2020

President: Mick Olsen, unanimous, Moved Sonya V, 2nd Paul P

Vice President: self nominated, Paul Payne, 2nd Mick O

Treasurer: Frana McKinley, unanimous, Moved Ian G, 2nd Ian G

Assistant Treasurer: unanimous, Michelle Hasted, Moved Frana M, 2nd Mick O
Secretary: unanimous, Waldon Edwards, Moved Frana M, 2nd Iain G
Webmaster/IT: unanimous, Ray Berkelmans, Moved Lindsay T, 2nd Frana M
Equipment Stewards: self nominated, Alan Z and Frana M 2nd Mick O
Library: self nominated, Beryl Smart, 2nd Mick O
Newsletter Editor: self nominated, Lindsay Trott, 2nd Heidi S
Publicity Officer: self nominated, Sonya Verburgt, 2nd Mick O
Committee Members, all self nominated,
SHANE GRE?????, 2nd Frana M
Keith Hunter, 2nd Frana M
Ronelle Nord, 2nd Mick O
Tom and Joan Ruddell, 2nd Mick O
Michelle Hasted, 2nd Mick O
Alan Ziegenfusz, 2nd Mick O
AGM closed: 3:00 pm

Sell/Swap/Buy/Help needed/ Hive locations

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

Jo Stacey has offered her backyard as a location for a hive. Occasional jar of honey will seal the deal. She lives on the Townsville Port facing side of Cleveland Terrace in North Ward. This may be a useful site for a BQ sentinel hive??? Any interest? Contact The Editor.

Welcome to our many 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 Newbees experience hive openings to become more confident, and you will learn more yourself by trying to explain what's going on in there.

Rose , CARNEY	Quentin , SMITH	Andrew, STILLWELL	Adrian, SLOMAN	
Dave & Leah, FEIERSINGE	Dave & Vicki , HARRISON	Greg & Rorion, STREHL	Shanda, CLARK	
Pat & Michele, DURY	Frances, THOMSON	Leanne, CASE	Reg, WHELAN	Rod & Del, WILLIAMS
Clive, KEAM	Dean & Emily, JERRY	Bob, DONOVAN	Brett, ACHILLES	
Nathaniel , WOOD	Peter & Stephanie, KIRK	Jane , HAINES	Keith, MILLER	

Annual Membership Fees are due in July/August each year - currently \$25/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, treasurer@beesnorth.com.au, editor@beesnorth.com.au , shop@beesnorth.com.au, publicityofficer@beesnorth.com.au

And for all web and membership enquiries : info@beesnorth.com.au

TDBA Inc Office Holders for 2019/2020

President: Mick Olsen president@beesnorth.com.au or mick_naomi@bigpond.com

Vice President: Paul Payne trapper4812@gmail.com

Secretary: Waldon Edwards secretary@beesnorth.com.au

Treasurer: Frana McKinstry franajon@gmail.com or info@beesnorth.com.au

Treasurer's Assistant: Michelle Hasted pexperts@????????

Members: Frana McKinstry franajon@gmail.com or info@beesnorth.com.au

Newsletter: Lindsay Trott editor@beesnorth.com.au or trottlindsay@gmail.com

Librarian: Beryl Smart smartberyl@gmail.com

Equipment Stewards: Frana McKinstry and Alan Ziegenfusz shop@beesnorth.com.au

Webmaster: Ray Berkelmans rberkelm@gmail.com

Publicity Officer: Sonya Verburgt sonyaverb@optusnet.com.au

Committee:

Ronelle Nord

Keith Hunter

Shane Grey

Tom and Joan Ruddell

Michelle Hasted

Alan Ziegenfusz

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.

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 - 2019 Price List

These prices are only available to current financial members

Item	Price	Item	Price
Veil - Native Bee (camo)	\$5.00	Queen Catcher	\$3.00
Veil - Native Bee (mesh)	\$3.00	Frame Gripper	\$10.00
Veil - cotton	\$20.0	Frame Hanger	\$20.00
Veil - ventilated	\$25.0	Bee Feeders	\$2.00
Jacket - Cotton	\$60.0	Spring clips	\$2.00
Jacket - Ventilated	\$90.0	Frame Nails per packet	\$6.00
Full Suit - Cotton	\$85.0	Mesh (for base construction)	\$15.00
Full Suit - ventilated	\$115.	Gate valve - Yellow	\$10.00
Gloves - pair	\$22.0	Gate valve - Nuplas	\$12.00
Replacement veil for vented suit	\$20.0	Gate Valve – Parker	\$30.00
Cowboy hat-veil	\$12.0	Cappings knife, serrated	\$15.00
Super - 8 frame	\$25.0	Cappings knife, electric	\$30.00
Super - 10 Frame	\$28.0	Comb scratcher	\$8.00
Super - Ideal	\$25.00	Bucket bracket	\$10.00
Super - WSP	\$25.00	Strainer	\$25.00
Super - Nuplas Plastic	\$40.00	Queen Excluder scraper	\$10.00
Nuplas Base	\$45.00	Hive handle (metal)	\$12.00
Nuplas Lid	\$38.00	Wax Embedding tool	\$45.00
Nuplas set – 1x super & lid & base	\$120	Extractor - Plastic	\$140.00
Nuplas oil tray & frame	\$28.00	Extractor - S/S	PO
Nuplas Cleats - pair	\$10.00	Honey jars 250gm	\$0.70
Lids (8 or 10 Frame)	\$27.00	Honey jars 500gm - square	\$0.80
Base - Ply (8 or 10 frame)	\$22.00	Honey jars 550gm - squeeze	\$0.80
Base - Mesh	\$30.00	Honey jars 1kg round	\$1.00
Lifting Cleats (Handles, pr)	\$5.00	Honey Pails - 1 kg	\$1.20
Emlok - hive clamp set	\$14.00	Honey Pails - 1.5kg	\$1.30
Corflute Nuc box	\$20.00	Warning Sign	\$10.00
Corflute - Queen excluder	\$4.00	Bee Poster	\$20.00
Hive tool (S/S)	\$15.00	Traps	
Smoker	\$35.00	Apithor trap	\$8.00
Smoker – Beeco	\$85.00	Silver Bullet trap	\$8.00
Bee Brush - Natural bristle	\$10.00	Apis sticky trap	\$4.50
Queen Excluder - Wire (8 or 10)	\$22.00	Books	
Queen Excluder - Plastic	\$10.00	Managing AFB	\$0.00
Frames - Full depth	\$2.00	Australian Beekeeping Manual	\$35.00
Frames - Ideal	\$1.50	Australian Native Bee Book	\$25.00
Frames - WSP	\$1.50		
Foundation - Plastic	\$2.10	AFB test kits	\$0.00
Foundation - Wax	\$2.40	Club Polo Shirts short sleeve	\$40.00
Beeswax block per kg	\$18.00	Club Polo Shirts long sleeve	\$45.00
Eyelets pkt 500/40gm - packet	\$10.00	Club Hat	\$15.00
Awl (for finding eyelets)	\$5.00	Honey labels (\$5.00 for 50) or	\$25.00
S/S Wire x 500gm	\$20.00	Gate valve O rings - Parker	\$6.00
S/S Wire x 80gm	\$6.00	POSCA queen marking pen	\$5.00
Wire crimping tool	\$12.00		

TDBA Bee Starter Kit - \$110

The Perfect Gift for a budding Beekeeper

Available in Townsville from the Club Shop:

Club Members Price Only! \$110

Hive tool, brush, cotton jacket/veil, gloves, and smoker

Contact: Club Shop Stewards: Frana M or Alan Z

shop@beesnorth.com.au



TDBA is proudly supported by:

**Fairway
Group Townsville**

Graeme Kent
Senior Accountant,
Business Consultant

Marcelline Cr
Annandale QLD 4814

M:0400 607 868 graeme@fwgs.com.au

Coaching - Taxation - Accounting - Bookkeeping

THE AUSTRALIAN BEE-KEEPER MAGAZINE (ABK)

Published monthly Subscriptions \$84 per year.

Available from: Jarrah Publishing Pty

Ltd Phone (02) 6584 4338

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Townsville & District
BEEKEEPERS
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