

# Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc.)

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

PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814



Newsletter No 9, October 2020

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- Bees in the News, varroa, bush access for hives?
- Competitive beekeeping
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- 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 18 October, 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

## *Pink ladies at work*      *Sandylee's hive – Part 2*

**The Ed:** Sandylee Hutchison started her hive from a nuc only a few months ago, but it must be something that has got her hive ahummin'. Maybe it's her pink shoes, or the pink colour scheme, maybe the bees like the pink suit that is available shown here on Beeeatrice, or is Beeyonce.

Words and pics from Sandylee Hutchison.

Hi Lindsay,

I opened my flow hive for an inspection this morning and thought I'd send you Part 2 if you wanted any of it for the next newsletter. Time to open the hive for an inspection and see how it's progressing.

I was very pleased to take the roof and lid off and find the ladies very busy working in the flow super (see pic at right with a bevy of very busy bee bums hard at work). The flow super was placed on the brood box 3 weeks ago!!!!. One flow frame is almost fully filled with honey and capped, while all the other flow frames are in different stages of being worked.



The Pink Lady Motel

When I inspected the brood box I found it very full and busy. There were a couple of beetles in the trap, but no damage in the hive. Frames are full of eggs, larvae and food stores - such a busy box but the bees were settled and not much smoke was needed. See pic lower right for fresh eggs resting peacefully in the bottom of their cells.

Still waiting for the first jar of honey but it doesn't seem too far away now..... let's see how the next inspection goes!

Great success Sandylee, and thanks for the article.

Look at this Flow frame (below) that has only been in place for 3 weeks. Some folks try for 12-18 months before they can coax their girls to start laying down honey stores in new honey supers. Those pink shoes are in the frame again!

Heads down – bums up, hard at work



A sight to gladden the heart of any beekeeper – single eggs at the bottom of the brood cells. This means the queen is laying and these unhatched eggs are less than 3 days old.



## Sweet partnership key to success in varroa fight

From Deborah Rule at BQ in Townsville

Keepers of European honey bees (EHB) in Townsville play key role to play in the fight against the spread of varroa mite. The National Varroa Mite Eradication Program has worked with local apiarists since the first incursion of varroa mite (*Varroa jacobsoni*) to Townsville in 2016, testing privately owned hives for the mite on a rotating schedule.

The initiative not only provides confidence that varroa mite has not jumped host to European honey bees, but is also an opportunity for program staff to spread the word about the invasive pest. The program aims to test 100% of sites within 2.5 km of the port, 50% of sites within 5 km of and 25% within 10 km. Presently, some 31 hives are tested every six weeks.

On the first day of testing, officers will place a sticky mat and miticide strips into the brood box. They will return a few days later and remove both items that will be examined in the laboratory for signs of mite. The NVMEP supply a brood box and bottom board for this purpose and include a stopper for when the sticky mat is not in use.

It's important to note that a negative result provides important evidence for the program that varroa mites are not present and that importantly, they have not spread to European honey bees.

Miticide strips are disposed of as per regulations and all tools and beekeeping equipment are thoroughly sterilized after each use.

Two Senior Field Officers, who are experienced beekeepers themselves, carry out the process. Hive manipulation is kept to a minimum and unusual finds are reported to the beekeeper immediately. Once a year, officers will take a small amount of honey from the brood box for residue testing. As there is no test available for honeycomb, it is recommended honeycomb from the hive is not consumed. Program manager Rob Stephens said the success of the managed hive monitoring program was down to the good relationship between beekeepers and BQ staff.

"The NVMEP is fortunate to have some well-respected local beekeepers working for the program who work side-by-side with hive owners to carry out testing," Mr Stephens said. "As well as providing valuable data for our program, the beekeepers, especially those new to the world of keeping bees can pick up valuable skills in hive manipulation and be educated on hive health – it's a win-win."

For more information on managed hives or the NVMEP, please call Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or email: [varroa@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:varroa@daf.qld.gov.au)

## Is beekeeping a competitive sport?

This article first appeared in American Bee Journal, Volume 160 No 4, April 2020, pp. 431-433

**The Ed:** Rusty Burlew from the USA has a very interesting blog and has written an amusing article about getting hooked on beekeeping. Much of this applies, in particular to some of our Club members. It's interesting to read that varroa mite tipped the balance for her to reduce the number of hives she kept. I have included only the first part of the article here. Read the whole article at:

[https://www.honeybeesuite.com/is-beekeeping-a-competitive-sport/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=news\\_from\\_the\\_hive&utm\\_term=2020-09-22](https://www.honeybeesuite.com/is-beekeeping-a-competitive-sport/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=news_from_the_hive&utm_term=2020-09-22)

### Rusty says:

After months of study, you finally take the plunge and buy your very first wooden hive. You sand the sweet-smelling boards until they feel like silk beneath your fingers. You browse the paint aisle of your local home improvement store and spend far too much money, buying colours that spark your imagination, colours with names like Peony, Key Lime, or Meyer Lemon. Once it's complete, you place your gleaming hive on the lovingly built stand and install your first colony. Everything is perfect until your mentor says you really should have two hives, just in case you need some brood or want to raise a queen. The **two-is-better-than-one advice** from experienced beekeepers makes sense, so you buy another hive, another colony, and repeat the entire process. Now your setup is to die for. In fact, you revel in your flawless apiary until the moment you realize your bees are about to swarm. Quickly you buy two more hives. You decide they really don't need sanding, so you just paint them to match the others. Just in time, too. You manage to catch the first swarm and split the second colony proactively. You're already up to four colonies in your very first year!

In a few days, you notice that the swarm trap hanging in your old maple tree is attracting a lot of attention. You run right out and buy a fifth hive just in case, slap on a coat of partially congealed paint, and balance the hive on some cinder blocks. Just in time again. Your trap enticed a swarm on the run, so now you're up to five.

### Bees happen

We constantly read the bad news. Headlines remind us that honey bee Armageddon is just around the corner, and we try to stay apprised of the burgeoning panoply of new threats. We read anxiously about each novel combatant poised to take down our bees. We attend lectures and classes, surf the net, and buy books, forever trying to prepare for the next assault.

But despite the naysayers, bees happen. No matter how you try to control the number of hives, it continues to multiply. We watch our little backyard apiaries expand, regardless of the news. Those who promised their partners "just a hive or two" to pollinate the vegetable garden and make a little honey for the family find themselves with more hives per acre than a California almond orchard.

When our backyards become overly intimidating, when we begin wearing veils to take out the trash, we seek friends and family who might be willing to park a hive on their property. We promise them honey and they agree. As soon as we can buy a pickup, we deliver a hive or perhaps two — if they said yes to one, certainly they wouldn't mind two — to their homes. Now we have an outyard! How cool is that?

Does it stop there? Of course not. It never stops.

In fact, it gets completely out of hand before we realize what's happening. Like the delicately swaddled infant that morphs into an insolent teenager, the tiny backyard apiary evolves into an albatross, hindering our every move. It requires monitoring, maintenance, surveillance, healthcare, equipment, and heaps of dollar bills. Days off are spent not with the family but with bees, vacations are scheduled around swarm season, and the retirement nest egg is raided for mite meds and electronic monitoring devices that can measure everything from colony weight and humidity to sound and temperature.



Sticky mat testing for varroa mites is performed by experienced BQ staff.

Here is the first of my permanent hive stands. I was sure it was the only one I would ever need. All photos by Rusty Burlew



#### **Outgrowing Reason**

Most of us have been there. Like so many others, I began beekeeping with one hive and quickly added a second. At that point, I coerced my engineer husband into building the hive stand of my dreams, a structure that holds my hives 18 inches off the ground and includes a roof to protect them from some of the northwest rain. It's anchored in the ground with concrete and capable of holding a couple thousand pounds. The best feature was it could accommodate three hives — if for some reason I ever got that many — with three hive perches bolted to the stand itself so they couldn't slide off. It was a dream come true.

My built-in hive stand was a showpiece — greatly admired by my beekeeping friends. It did everything I needed it to until I wanted a second one to take three more hives, and then a third to accommodate my nine. After that, Rich threw together a few single stands out of scrap lumber, and

then a few more out of twisted second-use boards. After that, it was up to me.

Next came my first outyard and, with it, the requisite pickup truck. And then I needed a couple more bee suits so the friends hosting my hives could mow their lawn on occasion. The time and money to maintain my few hobby hives were becoming an issue. I promised myself that on no account would I ever add up the expenses. Some things are better left uncalculated.

For me, varroa mites were the last straw, the stubble that took down the camel.

By Sandy Burlew

## ***Legal Petition Urges U.S. Forest Service to Protect Native Bees, Stop Rubber-stamping Commercial Beehives on Federal Lands***

Conservation groups filed a formal legal petition today urging the U.S. Forest Service to stop allowing the placement of hundreds of commercial honeybee hives on national forest lands without proper environmental review.

Honeybees, which are not native to the United States, are important agricultural crop pollinators but have been shown to transmit diseases to native bees. They can also outcompete native bees for pollen and nectar, their only source of food. Yet, over the past decade, the Forest Service has approved permits for at least 900 hives, which could house up to 56 million honeybees on Forest Service lands on the Colorado Plateau alone. A request is pending for an additional 4,900 hives on just one national forest in Utah.

Today's administrative petition urges the Forest Service to end the practice of labelling the apiaries as minor special uses, which the agency can invoke to bypass the mandatory environmental review needed to properly consider the impacts of apiary permits.

"Stress on native bees is inevitable when an apiary with dozens of hives, each hive housing 10,000 to 60,000 honeybees, is parked on a national forest," said Mary O'Brien, Utah forest programs director and botanist with the Grand Canyon Trust. "Scientists have documented adverse outcomes for native bees over and over, but it's 'out of sight, out of mind' to the Forest Service. This is how we lose species." A single honeybee apiary of 40 hives consumes enough pollen in one month to feed more than 1.3 million native bees. Many beekeepers aim to have 80 or more hives in an apiary.

Just last month scientists revealed that the western bumblebee has experienced a 93% decline in the past 20 years. Many of the approximately 3,600 species of native bees in the United States are in decline. Native bees are also important pollinators in agricultural areas and are essential in natural areas. With many native bee species already in decline, competition from commercial honeybees presents a significant threat. Native bees are also imperiled by climate change, pesticides, habitat loss and disease.

"The Forest Service must stop recklessly commercializing public lands that provide essential habitat to thousands of rare native bee species, many of which live nowhere else on Earth," said Lori Ann Burd, director of the Center for Biological Diversity's environmental health program. "While I'm deeply sympathetic to the plight of honeybee keepers whose bees and livelihoods are imperiled by pesticides, we can't let commercial honeybees threaten the continued existence of rare and imperiled native bees."

Honeybees were introduced to the United States from Europe centuries ago and are now ubiquitous in crop pollination and for honey production. However, due to heavy pesticide use and a lack of suitable food resources, beekeepers are increasingly seeking pesticide-free forage areas to place apiaries, including Forest Service lands. In addition to directly jeopardizing native pollinators, the presence of honeybees on national forests may also harm rare and threatened plants that depend on specialized native pollinators.

"We have an incredible diversity of native plants that have evolved alongside their native pollinators and need their native pollinators to thrive and survive," said Tony Frates, conservation co-chair of the Utah Native Plant Society. "Introducing vast numbers of honeybees on to our public lands can pose a grave threat to these plants, and their pollinators, and we hope the Forest Service will take this petition seriously so that these threats can be properly addressed."

Utah is a major biodiversity hotspot for native bees, hosting about a quarter of all species found in the United States. National forests on the Colorado Plateau serve as important refuges for them. As Forest Service lands in this region, and across the country, experience increased pressure to allow honeybees to pasture, concerns over impacts to native flora and fauna have increased.

"This petition is asking for simple, common-sense protections for essential pollinators," said Rich Hatfield, senior conservation biologist for the Xerces Society. "Allowing nonnative animals to forage broadly across the landscape without considering potential impacts to our native plants and animals is not sound land management given the existing evidence that shows the effects that honeybees can have on our native bees. Solutions that help beekeepers must not further endanger the already struggling native bees on which our national forests depend."

Native bee declines are part of a larger crisis faced by insect populations. Studies from all continents show declines in the diversity, abundance and biomass of insects.

**Source:** <https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/legal-petition-urges-us-forest-service-protect-native-bees-stop-rubber-stamping-commercial-beehives-federal-lands-2020-07-29/>

**Ed's comment:** In Queensland, apiarists must obtain a permit for placing hives in National parks (about \$100/year/site), but the fees have been waived until Jan 2021 in recognition of the hardship following fires, droughts etc recently. <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/niche-industries/beekeeping/permits-national-parks>

There are some serious moves to restrict European bee hive placements in some WA locations due to some adverse effects on wildlife in that state, especially on tree hollow nesting species of cockatoos and parrots. <http://museum.wa.gov.au/explore/online-exhibitions/cockatoo-care/feral-bees>

## French ban on pesticide harmful to bees upheld

<https://www.courthousenews.com/top-eu-court-swats-challenge-to-bee-minded-pesticide-rules-in-france/>

The European Court of Justice backed 2018 French legislation banning the use of neonicotinoids, which have been linked to colony collapse disorder, despite finding it more restrictive than existing EU regulations.

“After officially informing the commission of the need to take urgent action, a member state may take interim protective measures,” the Luxembourg-based court wrote in a ruling only available in French.

In July 2018, the French government passed a regulation banning the use of the pesticides: acetamiprid, clothianidin, imidacloprid, thiacloprid and thiamethoxam. The use of those chemicals was already restricted by EU law under a 2013 regulation that was expanded in 2018. But the French regulations went further, banning their use outright while existing regulations allowed for their use under certain conditions.

The French Crop Protection Association, an agricultural lobbying group, filed suit at the Council of State, arguing that the French government hadn't properly informed the EU it was planning to deviate from the EU rules. Under rules in the 27-member political and economic union, countries must harmonize their laws to ensure common standards across the internal market. EU member states may derogate from EU law under certain circumstances, including in emergency situations.

The First Chamber of the Court of Justice sided with France's government.

“The communication includes a clear presentation of the elements attesting, on the one hand, that these active substances are likely to constitute a serious risk for human or animal health or for the environment and, on the other hand, that this risk cannot be satisfactorily controlled without the urgent adoption of measures,” the five-judge panel wrote. Representatives for the Crop Protection Association did not respond to a request for comment.

Scientific studies of neonicotinoids have found that they confuse bees, making them disoriented and unable to find food sources or even their way back to their hives. A study published earlier this year in the journal Science found that Europe had lost 17% of its bee population between 2000 and 2014. This isn't the first time the EU's attempt to protect bees has ended up at the high court. In 2018 the court upheld the validity of the 2013 restrictions, finding the regulations justified to protect pollinators.

As the latest case returns to the French court for a final decision, France could be backtracking. French MPs voted last month to reintroduce the use of neonicotinoid insecticides to help combat damage being done to the country's sugar beet industry by yellow disease. The infection, spread by aphids, has devastated this year's crop.



Beekeepers and apiarists dressed up as bees demonstrate outside the Palace of Westminster in 2013 ahead of the European Commission vote on the proposal to ban bee-harming neonicotinoid pesticides. (AP Photo/Alastair Grant, File)



## Frana's junk shop find (left)– what a beauty

Did it have a full complement of honey to go with it?

## Is it a bee? Is it a pig?

Spotted by The Ed at a Yandina Market stall on the Sunshine Coast recently. A chimera of bee/pig?



## Mead

**The Ed:** Interesting article sent in by Secretary Waldon. I have selected just a small part to whet your appetite.

The Ed recently made his first batch of mead for his daughter's wedding (remember how the word honeymoon came into use) using his own honey and a sachet of champagne yeast from the local brewshop. I am reliably informed that it tasted better than the Moët that was also on offer. (Reliability not to be relied on too heavily!). Does anyone want to have another mead competition and tasting?

[https://issuu.com/squareupmedia/docs/fto23/s/10846051?utm\\_source=2020W40\\_subscribers&utm\\_campaign=Digest&utm\\_medium=email](https://issuu.com/squareupmedia/docs/fto23/s/10846051?utm_source=2020W40_subscribers&utm_campaign=Digest&utm_medium=email)

"At 9,000 years old, mead is the world's oldest alcoholic beverage. It might be best known today as the nectar of the Greek gods and the potent stuff that fueled Norse heroes in Viking epics, but this ancient alcohol is a global phenomenon, invented multiple times by many different peoples. It was used in Mayan rituals, enjoyed in India, brewed by the Chinese, Ethiopians and the Xhosa. Mead is ubiquitous. It knows no single origin, and is associated with no single culture: It's been enjoyed by everyone from Polish peasants to Egyptian pharaohs. But until recently, it was rare to spy the beverage in the LCBO.

Mead can be sweet, dry, carbonated, naturally effervescent, and becomes even more complex when mixed with fruit, grains and herbs.

TRADITIONAL MEAD: Made with water, honey and yeast (also called honey wine).

MELOMEL: A mead fermented with fruit (cysers and piments are types of melomels).

PYMENT: A mead fermented with grape juice.

CY SER: A mead fermented with apple juice.

BOCHET: A burnt-honey mead made from caramelizing the honey prior to fermentation.

SESSION MEAD: A low-ABV style of mead."

## Beechworth Honey supporting Australian beekeepers

See their blog and email news about aspects of the Australian honey industry at: <mailto:news@beechworthhoney.com.au>



## TDBAI stall at Strand Night Markets

Thanks to the Club Members who helped set up and staff the stall at the Strand Night markets recently. Here's a pic on the right, of a honeycomb frame with a light behind - a little bit of honey in the middle.



## Bees on the internet

### A roundup of interesting articles on the internet about bees

1. Beekeeper in the USA who does bee rescues and removals in her skimpy black lycra!!!  
[7 https://apple.news/ApmY2dncTi6kbz6LG206Mw](https://apple.news/ApmY2dncTi6kbz6LG206Mw)
2. Aromatherapy for bees. Bees perform better at pollination if they have been previously "scent trained" to the crop.  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/21/science/bees-pollination-scent.html>
3. ABA Newsletter: <https://beeaware.org.au/subscribe-to-newsletter/>  
Some newsy articles of interest to beekeepers.

## 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 by Thursday **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)



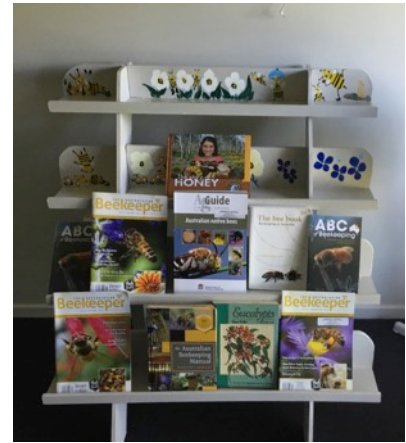
## News from the library

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

1. Beginner Beekeeper Course for Club members is **ON!!!!**

The beginner beekeepers course will be held on the 7th November 2020. It will be limited to Club members, and numbers according to Covid restrictions. We may be able hold another course on Friday 27th or Saturday 28th November depending on interest.

Cost: \$50 per person or \$100 for family (2x adults & 2x Children) - this includes education sessions, morning & afternoon tea, lunch and 2 assembled (by you) full depth frames to take home.

Date: 7th November 8am - 3pm, (tentative 27th or 28th November)

Place: 47 McLean street, Gulliver

Cost \$50 per person or \$100 per family (2x adults & 2x Children)

What to bring: Chairs, drinks(it will be held outside for all sessions, hot & sunny),beekeeping attire, hats etc.

Volunteers: asking for volunteers to help on the day: taking education session, hive inspections. box and frame assembling. and kitchen bitches

Need: Gazebos and pedestal fans.

Please reply to [sonyavverb@optusnet.com.au](mailto:sonyavverb@optusnet.com.au) or 0408530991, with name, how many attendees and preferred date.

2. President Mick is making progress in pursuing options for a meeting place/Clubhouse with TCC.
3. Keep your eyes on your brood- AFB has been reported from a hive in the Townsville region. Remember to contact BQ if you detect it, and contact a Club member who can help you identify the disease, and advise you about how to deal with it. TDBAI is one of the only amateur clubs (to my knowledge – The Ed), who have a sterilising unit that can treat contaminated hive hardware - Thanks to Club members Jon McKinstry, Alan Ziegenfusz and others who built the whole set up.
4. Mick Olsen gave a presentation to the Probus Club on 5 October at Tom's Tavern. Mick presented slides with issues related to good hygiene procedures, threats, diseases, pests and management of hives, and I am sure his enthusiastic delivery will get some new members headed our way.

## AGM postponed to 15 November

We had decided to hold this years AGM on the 18th Oct however due to circumstances beyond our control, independent financial audit not completed, we will now have the AGM on the 15th Nov. The location and time will be posted on our website.

In the interim I would ask that any member sitting on the fence about joining the committee please use this time to give serious consideration in doing so. If you would like your ideas on how the club should proceed into the future than I strongly encourage you to take part in the process of shaping our great club, whether you are a new bee-keeper or an experienced bee-keeper your input is invaluable.

I would also like to call on all experienced bee-keepers to put your hand up to assist new bee-keepers in your area as in a buddy system. I am more than willing to assist those that need a hand and if anyone could help out please let me know so we can compile a list of people by suburb to assist those getting started in the awesome hobby of bee-keeping.

Cheers

Mick Olsen  
President



# **General Meeting Minutes: September General Meeting - Sunday 29/9/2020 at HPSS**

Waldon Edwards note taker.

**President:** Mick Olsen (MO) opened meeting at 10:00 am

**Attendance:** 46 members – 15 Visitors (potentially new members) – 6 Apologies

**President:** MO issued the required Covid-19 warnings and procedures to be followed, emphasized the need to complete the Visitors book including contact details.

**Previous Business:** No effective previous meetings, and matters arising due to lack of minutes from general meetings.

**General Business:**

-Michael Hooper Park – potentially a location for bee Club meetings and activities. Waiting for TCC to clarify if “Material Change of Use” is required. MO read out a copy of the minutes from meetings with TCC.

-TDBAI have received a grant of \$5,000 that will go towards cost of developing a new Club website. Quotes have been requested, and these will be dissected at the Committee meeting on 11/10/2020

-Nuplas, the supplier of our plastic hives, offers a rebate of 3% to clubs on their members’ purchases. The Club has received \$600 rebate on \$20,000 of hive purchases by members – congratulations to members for their support.

- Nuplas is taking forward orders for PINK hive boxes in support of the Breat Cancer Network in Australia. If interested please place your orders through Frana at the Club Shop. The Network will receive \$5 donation for each box purchased.

- Frana advised of some new Shop procedures: all orders to be finalised by Thursday and please be specific about your order. New stock items have arrived and will be posted in the Newsletter.

- AGM at October meeting. Please consider nominating yourselves to assist in the running of the Club.

- Biosecurity Queensland – Roger Wilson from DAF gave a comprehensive report on the status of the varroa programme. He outlined the procedures and processes and gave plenty of insights into their operations. A timely reminder and refresher for all Members and Visitors to remain vigilant and check your hives with sugar shaking and regular observation.

- Beekeepers Beginners Course will be held on 7/11/20. Sonya Verbrugt is organizing, \$50/head and \$100/family. Details to be sent by email.

- Iain Gordon discussed our native bee rescue plan. A standard operating procedure was submitted to TCC. TCC replied with an onerous OH+S procedure requirement which the Club does not have the resources to comply with. The Club will, therefore, not be performing any pre –burn off rescues.

- check your email address and update on the website if necessary – there have been several e-mail bounces from DAF and from Club e-mails.

- Jon McKinstry demonstrated a box lifter tool that makes it easier to separate hive boxes and minimize damage to corners of boxes when they are glued together by propolis. He’s also working on a new base design , particularly the entrance, in order to better combat Small Hive Beetle (SHB). Trials are underway.

**Library:**

- Beryl Smart outlined what publications are available. Several items have been outstanding for a long time, PLEASE return books, mags, etc , so that other members can access them.

**Meeting Closed:** 11.00 am - Followed by hive opening by Jon and Frana.

## **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.

## **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 a note to indicate whether the items are required to be listed for a longer period. Do you need help from a Club member with your hive? Let the Editor know, and your request will posted here. Please include name, phone contact, and a brief description of the question/problem and how urgent.

Long standing Club member and previous President Ron Rapson is selling up.

Ron said: After many years of enjoyable bee keeping I am finding with work, the farm and everything else going on just too much and looking at selling my hives and equipment. If any new beekeepers would be interested please let them know.

- At Mundingburra I have 2 hive triples, 1 hive double plus a lot of various stuff from over the years frames etc...

- A lot of honey and wax also if anyone interested.

- 3 hive triples up at Kennedy if anyone up there is interested?

No idea what they are worth now days, so any ideas on what is being charged will help me out I am just way too busy now days to keep up with it all. Happy to work with any newbees interested in one or more hives etc.. time permitting.

**Contact Ron Rapson for details.**

P 07 4758 8152

M 0419 219 880

E [ronald.l.rapson@team.telstra.com](mailto:ronald.l.rapson@team.telstra.com)

## **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, 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: treasurer@beesnorth.com.au or franajon@gmail.com

Treasurer's Assistant: Michelle Hasted pexperts@yahoo.com

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

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

Librarian: Beryl Smart smartberyl@gmail.com

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

Webmaster: Ray Berkelmans rberkerm@gmail.com

Publicity Officer: Sonya Verburgt 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 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.

## **How many beekeepers does it take to “figure” out what size suit you need?**

This scene was captured at a Club Shop opening recently by Mick Olsen.



# 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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