

# Townsville and District Beekeepers Association (Inc.)

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

PO Box 1115, Aitkenvale QLD 4814



Newsletter No 9, September 2019

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**Next Meeting: Club Shop Shed,  
3/38 Rendle St, Aitkenvale  
2:00 pm, Sunday 15 September**

**Bees Wax Wrap Workshop and Sausage Sizzle  
from 10:30 am for registered attendees**

Bring a chair – and a plate of arvo tea if you can  
Coffee, tea, milk, cups, conversation etc provided free

## Junior beekeepers taste the rewards of their hard work with their first harvest

Story and photos from Erin Bell



Getting the girls bedded down at their new home.

The interest in bee keeping started with my oldest son Riley (8) who heard about beekeeping from his grandad. My dad used to keep hives about 30 years ago. Riley and my other son Sam (6) came up with a plan to earn money and buy their own hives. They did up a flyer offering their services for yard work and door knocked our neighbours and family asking if they needed any chores done. They mowed yards, washed wheelie bins and caught geckos (yes that's a job!). It took about 6 months but they made enough money to buy their own hives!



Check the smile on this happy customer

In the meantime, they went to the library and borrowed every book they could find on bee keeping. They also joined the bee keeping association and attended the demonstrations on how to split a hive and spin the honey. Riley poured through the Australian bee keeping manual and they decided what type of bees to choose and what kind of hive.

The boys were very fortunate to receive a big boost from Club member and bee keeper Sonya Corkery from Bushland Beach, who gifted them their first brood box, Bee suits, frames, hive tools and some beetle traps. This was an enormous help in getting the boys started (as was her wonderful advice).

Finally, after all their hard work and commitment, Riley and Sam purchased two hives about a month ago. I'll never forget the pride on their faces when the hives were dropped off. Riley looked at me and said "we did it!". One of the hives was already heavy with honey when the boys purchased it, so a couple of weeks later, they collected their first harvest of honey. My dad donned his bee suit once again to show the young guns how it was done! The whole family got involved and by the end, there was honey EVERYWHERE but we had a wonderful time and the boys had collected 12.5kg of honey.

They have now started selling the honey to family and friends - they've named their little business "Bell Brothers' Honey".

**This young beekeeper is almost the same size as his bees**



We are very grateful to the TDBAI Club for their wonderful advice and support. We have learnt so much already and have only just scratched the surface. Watching the boys pursue beekeeping, I've seen them work hard, learn new things, make new friends and push themselves out of their comfort zone. I've also seen their pride in accomplishing their achievements along the way. This pursuit has brought a lot more to our family than just honey, and I couldn't be happier.

Kind regards  
Erin Bell

Ahhhh, the sweet reward

**Ed's Comment:** Great to get a "good news" story occasionally instead of doom, death and destruction of bees.

Its inspiring to hear of younger people getting the buzz early in life, as it's an entry in to much more than just bees. Beekeepers develop knowledge of rainfall and weather patterns, temperature extremes, blooming times, plant id, pests, and a whole new appreciation of our environment - a life long interest. Congrats to all involved.

Club members- do you have someone that you can mentor who is new to beekeeping. It can be a very rewarding experience for both parties



## ***The anatomy of the bee is fascinating***

Jon McKinstry has been brushing up on his bee anatomy and making it easier for us to identify bee body parts.

With honey bee anatomy, every element has a clear, well-defined purpose. The bee's anatomy reflects the differences in roles between the worker, drone and queen bees.

All honey bee bodies are divided into 3 sections – the head, the thorax and the abdomen. Each section serves its own purpose and supports the functions of the attached body parts.

The head features eyes, antennae, mandibles and a very functional, yet tiny, brain.

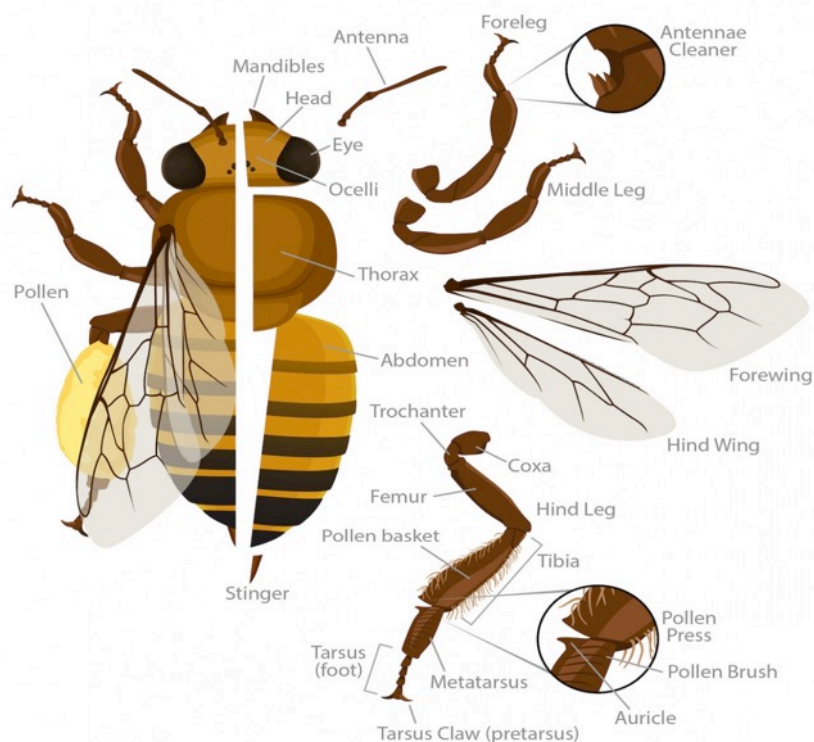
The thorax is the base for the legs and the wings.

The abdomen contains the stinger, wax glands and reproductive organs.

The bee's exoskeleton "external skeleton" is formed by a hardening of the outer skin shortly before the bee hatches. This skeleton is largely covered in a layer of hair to aid the bee in gathering pollen and regulating body temperature.

Exoskeleton – An external skeleton that protects and supports the bee's body. This is opposed to an endoskeleton which is an internal skeleton manifest in humans and other animals.

More next month, Jon McKinstry



## ***Heater bees keep the hive warm and influence what jobs the workers will perform***

Source: <https://www.telegraph>.

The secret of honey bees' success has been discovered living deep inside their hives - a special type of bee which acts like a living radiator, warming the nest and controlling the colony's complex social structure. The "heater bees" have been found to play a crucial, and previously unappreciated, role in the survival of honey bee colonies.

Using new technology that allows scientists to see the temperature inside the bee hives, researchers have been able to see how heater bees use their own bodies to provide a unique form of central heating within a hive. These specialised bees, whose body temperatures are considerably higher than other bees in the colony, not only keep the hive warm but also control the social make-up within a colony.

Bees, and other social insects such as ants, share jobs within a colony so each individual has specific role that benefits the colony as a whole. Heater bees are responsible for maintaining the temperature of the brood nest in a hive, where young bees, known as pupae, are sealed into wax cells while they develop into mature bees. Heater bees work to subtly change the temperature of each developing pupae by around a degree and this small change determines what kind of honey bee it will become. Those kept at 35 degrees C turn into the intelligent forager bees that leave the nest in search of nectar and pollen. Those kept at 34 degrees C emerge as "house keeper" bees, conducting chores such as feeding the larvae and cleaning the nest.

Professor Jürgen Tautz, head of the bee group at Würzburg University, in Germany, said this allows the heater bees to control what sort of job a bee will fulfil when it matures and so ensure there are always enough bees filling each role within the colony.

"Each bee in a colony performs a different profession – there are guard bees, nest building bees, brood caretaking bee, queen caretaking bee and forager bees, which are the ones we are familiar with as they leave the colony. "By carefully regulating the temperature of each pupae, they change the way it develops and the likelihood of the role it will fulfil when it emerges as an adult."

By beating the muscles that would normally power their wings, heater bees increase the temperature of their bodies up to 44 degrees C – nearly 10 degrees hotter than a normal bee. They then crawl into empty cells within the brood nest, transmitting heat to the surrounding cells where the bee pupae are developing. The waxy cells also help circulate the heat around the rest of the hive.

In the past beekeepers have seen these empty cells as undesirable and have attempted to breed queens that did not leave them empty, but Professor Tautz now claims they are an essential part of ensuring the health of a bee colony. The heater bees, which can number from just a few to many hundreds depending on the outside temperature and size of the hive, also press themselves against individual cells to top up the temperature of each pupae to ensure it develops into the right kind of bee.

Professor Tautz added: "The old idea was that the pupae in the brood nest were producing the heat and bees moved in there to keep warm, but what we have seen is that there are adult bees who are responsible to maintaining the temperature. "They decouple their wings so the muscles run at full power without moving the wings and this allows them to raise their body temperature extremely high. "Their body temperature can reach up to 44 degrees centigrade. In theory they should cook themselves at that temperature, but somehow they are able to withstand this high temperature. "By creeping into empty cells, one heater bee can transmit heat to 70 pupae around them. It is a central heating system for the colony.

## ***Have you shaken your bees with sugar lately?***

Biosecurity Queensland ask that we keep up the "Sugar Shake" procedures whenever we can on our hives, so that negative reportings of Varroa mite keep coming in to their monitoring program. Negative Varroa mite results are vital to the program to demonstrate our hives are being examined, but no mites detected. There is a lot of other monitoring and surveillance going on, now focused around Townsville Port, and Rob Stephens will give the Club an update soon on the new program starting this month.

Let's be on the front foot with detecting any nasties appearing in our hives – these Varroa and AHB will keep arriving by boat – but we have to be vigilant.

## Gratitude from a commercial beekeeper to TDBAI during AHB and Varroa incursion

Simeon Valkenburg wrote a post on our Facebook page recently

August 15 at 11:02 PM

Dear members of Townsville & District Beekeepers' Association Inc.

I have met many of you before, but there are probably many of you I have not met yet.

Thank you to Sonya Verburgt for inviting me to join your group.

I am a commercial beekeeper from South Australia. I run 1000 hives in partnership with my brother Paul Valkenburg.

We always believed that the members of the Townsville Beekeepers' Association were never properly recognized for their invaluable work saving the whole of the Australian industry from the incursion of Varroa Jacobsoni mite.

So thank you all. We rely on many guys like you to help safeguard our industry.

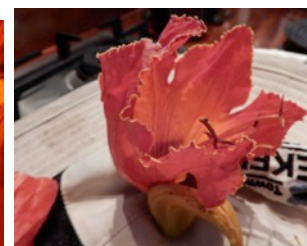
I look forward to engaging with your group.

Simeon Valkenburg.

**Ed's comment:** The Club assisted Biosecurity Queensland during the previous incursion. Rob Stephens, Stephen Anderson and the team from DAF organised the whole show, and our Club provided access to hives and bees, and assistance wherever we could. The response to the 2016 AHB incursion has now been completed after 3 years and no new AHB or Varroa being detected. Unfortunately Biosecurity Queensland found a new incursion at Townsville Port in May 2019 and the process of monitoring and surveillance has started again.

## Do African Tulip flowers kill European as well native bees?

The Ed found 2 of his hives on Melton Hill with hundreds of dead bees on the ground and some dying bees with extended tongues on the landing board – a poisoning of some sort. There is a large flowering African Tulip nearby, so the suspicion is that this might be the cause. See dead native bee in a flower from the tree near my hives on the right. 10% of the flowers had a dead native bee in them!!!!



## From DAF Biosecurity Queensland

The African tulip tree is native to tropical Africa. It is popular as an ornamental garden tree or street subtropical parts of Queensland due to its showy, red tulip-shaped flowers. African tulip trees are a serious environmental weed in Coastal Queensland, where they are highly invasive and form dense stands in gullies and along streams, crowding out native vegetation.

Bob the Beeman calls it "**A Killer on our Streets, in our Yards and Bush**" see Bob Luttrell, Bob the Beeman (B Ag Sc) : <http://www.bobthebeeman.com.au>

African tulip trees are extremely harmful to native stingless bees and a public safety hazard (when these trees are planted along footpaths, their dropped flowers can create a slippery walking surface). The tree will reproduce via seeds and suckers and is very capable of spreading from a single planting. Areas most at risk include gullies, areas of vegetation around waterways and disturbed rainforest. Removal of African tulip trees is highly recommended, particularly when they are in close proximity to natural areas.

### Legal requirements

African tulip tree is a restricted invasive plant under the Biosecurity Act 2014. It must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit. The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive plants and animals under their control. This is called a general biosecurity obligation (GBO). At a local level, each local government must have a biosecurity plan that covers invasive plants and animals in its area. This plan may include actions to be taken on certain species. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information. It is listed as one of the "**Top 100 World's Worst Invaders**" in the Global Invasive Species Database.

[https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/52846/IPA-African-Tulip-Tree-PP64.pdf](https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/52846/IPA-African-Tulip-Tree-PP64.pdf)

<http://bobthebeeman.com.au/african-tulip-tree-ebook.asp>

## The Adorable Custom of 'Telling The Bees'



[https://www.amusingplanet.com/2019/04/the-adorable-custom-of-telling-bees.html?m=1&fbclid=IwAR1PkZO6pLJ2xGDsUYgigqohkR-z7f33LjMGNOHw53hB6i16iYCSPI\\_VNA](https://www.amusingplanet.com/2019/04/the-adorable-custom-of-telling-bees.html?m=1&fbclid=IwAR1PkZO6pLJ2xGDsUYgigqohkR-z7f33LjMGNOHw53hB6i16iYCSPI_VNA)

*The bee friend, a painting by Hans Thoma (1839–1924)*

There was a time when almost every rural British family who kept bees followed a strange tradition. Whenever there was a death in the family, someone had to go out to the hives and tell the bees of the terrible loss that had befallen the family. Failing to do so often resulted in further losses such as the bees leaving the hive, or not producing enough honey or even dying. Traditionally, the bees were kept abreast of not only deaths but all important family matters including births, marriages, and long absence due to journeys. If the bees were not told, all sorts of calamities were thought to happen. This peculiar custom is known as "telling the bees".

Humans have always had a special connection with bees. In medieval Europe, bees were **highly prized** for their honey and wax. Honey was used as food, to make mead—possibly the world's oldest fermented beverage—and as medicine to treat burns, cough, indigestion and other ailments. Candles made from beeswax burned brighter, longer and cleaner than other wax candles. Bees were often kept at monasteries and manor houses, where they were tended with the greatest respect and considered part of the family or community. It was considered rude, for example, to quarrel in front of bees.

The practice of *telling the bees* may have its origins in Celtic mythology that held that bees were the link between our world and the spirit world. So if you had any message that you wished to pass to someone who was dead, all you had to do was tell the bees and they would pass along the message. Telling the bees was widely reported from all around England, and also from many places across Europe. Eventually, the tradition made their way across the Atlantic and into North America.

The typical way to tell the bees was for the head of the household, or "goodwife of the house" to go out to the hives, **knock gently** to get the attention of the bees, and then softly murmur in a doleful tune the solemn news. Little rhymes developed over the centuries specific to a particular region. In Nottinghamshire, the wife of the dead was heard singing quietly in front of the hive—"The master's dead, but don't you go; Your mistress will be a good mistress to you." In Germany, a similar couplet was heard—"Little bee, our lord is dead; Leave me not in my distress".

*A widow and her son telling the bees of a death in the family. Painting by Charles Napier Hemy (1841–1917)*



## Bees in the News

### Poor old bees are being marched out into the field of battle to sniff out bombs

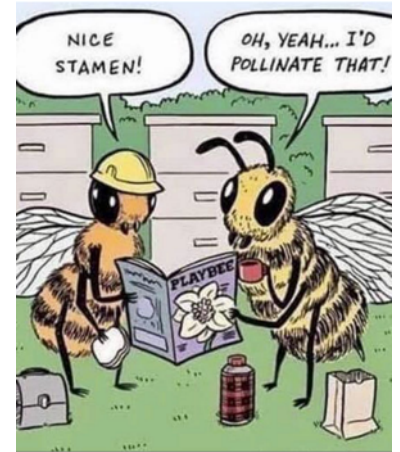
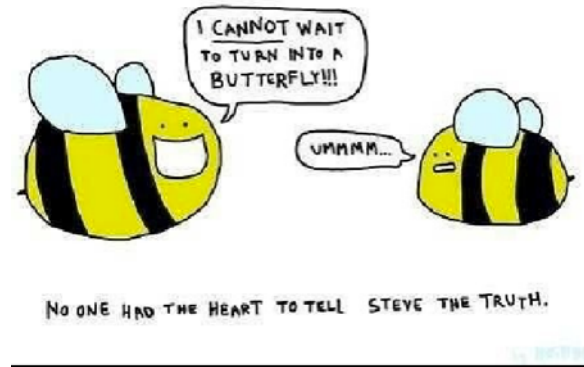
<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/world/the-times/bombs-and-illicit-drugs-are-nectar-to-a-trained-honeybee/news-story/f047130e0c2e93d138232bea50f5ee61>

Sniffer bees are able to seek out drugs, explosives, pesticides and radioactive metals, according to a British academic who is training them to locate landmines. Honeybees will be ready for deployment searching out the mines in between five and 10 years and have already been trained to identify other dangerous or illicit materials.

Ross Gillanders, a senior researcher at the University of St Andrews, releases bees near suspected minefields to pick up traces of explosives. Bees are trained using a Pavlovian association between the odour of explosives and sugar water to train the bees to think the scent belongs to nectar. The bees can then detect explosives from distances of up to a couple of kilometres. When they are sent out, they settle almost instantly on the spot where the bomb is hidden. The system would save people from risking their lives on the detection of bombs and landmines. Results are confirmed within about 24 hours before the bees are trained and sent to hunt out the mines. "At the moment we know they can detect the landmines from about 100 metres' distance but that should go up to kilometres. It should happen immediately once they're trained and released," Dr Gillanders said.

However, when the bees find the explosives but no reward of nectar they quickly realise that they have been duped and cease to detect the explosives, he added. "They get used to it so they realise after a couple of days that they have been hoodwinked. Every few days you have to retrain them but hopefully by that time they have found the explosives." He said that another drawback of working with bees was that they could be unpredictable. During one field trial he was swarmed and left with 20 stings on an ankle that was not covered by his beekeeping suit. "They seemed to know where to go for — it was the only part that was exposed," he said. He works in a team with a scientist who used bees to map part of the exclusion zone around Chernobyl after the nuclear disaster, measuring caesium levels in the pollen they collect.

### Some bee humour from Iain Gordon



### And if you are into John Cleese, Rowan Atkinson and bee silliness

Youtube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGFz9gt0-Fc>

### Don't take honey into Maryland, USA if you don't want to go to jail

[https://www.beekeeping.com/catch-the-buzz-dont-bring-honey-into-maryland-if-you-dont-want-to-go-to-jail-and-caffeine-really-doesnt-bother-stingless-bees-really/?utm\\_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm\\_campaign=aca4ecad28-Catch\\_The\\_Buzz\\_4\\_29\\_2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=](https://www.beekeeping.com/catch-the-buzz-dont-bring-honey-into-maryland-if-you-dont-want-to-go-to-jail-and-caffeine-really-doesnt-bother-stingless-bees-really/?utm_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm_campaign=aca4ecad28-Catch_The_Buzz_4_29_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_content=)

It's a long and sad story about the USA system of jailing people and asking questions later, but here's the short version.

Blake returning to USA from Jamaica picks up 3 jars of his favourite honey and gets frisked and then accused of importing methamphetamines in his honey jars because the drug sniffer dog stopped and sniffed him. He spent nearly three months in jail before all charges were dropped and two rounds of law enforcement lab tests showed no controlled substances in the bottles.

### Turkish bears know a thing or two about premium honey

[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/aug/29/turkish-beekeeper-finds-thieving-bears-prefer-premium-honey?CMP=share\\_btn\\_link](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/aug/29/turkish-beekeeper-finds-thieving-bears-prefer-premium-honey?CMP=share_btn_link)

Ibrahim Sedef, an engineer from Trabzon, north-east of Ankara on the Turkey's Black Sea coast, struggled to keep his bee hives out of the hands of local bears, despite building storage houses and metal cages. Over three years he estimates he may have lost more than \$10,000 worth of honey. Food decoys, including apples, failed to divert the intruders. So he decided to set up recording equipment to track the bears and inadvertently embarked on animal testing of a different kind.

Sedef set up four bowls; three contained different types of honey – flower, chestnut and Anzer (a high priced specialty honey) – and one had cherry jam. He wanted to see which one the bears preferred.

The footage revealed they had very expensive taste. Their favourite, Anzer honey, is believed to be the most expensive honey in the world. It is produced from the nectar of 90 flowers that grow only in the mountains of the Anzer plateau.

In addition to being delicious to bears, some believe Anzer honey has healing qualities for a long list of ailments, including stomach pains, hair loss and wound treatment. It can sell for as much as \$300 (£250) a kilogram. Despite his losses, Ibrahim Sedef is philosophical about his hungry visitors. "Despite all this, when I see the footage, I forget all the harm they have done to me, and love them," he said.

# **TDBAI General Meeting - 18 August 2019 – Minutes**

Pallarenda Conservation Park

**Meeting Opened** 2:00 pm

**Chair:** President Mick Olsen

**Minute taker:** Editor Lindsay Trott

**Welcome guests:** Mick O acknowledged that it was Vietnam Veterans Day. Welcomed around 10 visitors from various suburbs. Bruce Wallace was present with a Beetle Buster Base Board for SHB treatment. See a Youtube clip of how it works.

**Apologies:**

**Previous Minutes:** Previous minutes were read thru and accepted: Moved Frana M /Seconded Iain G

**Secretary:** No mail in, Mick O spoke of Operation Compass - a program to help defense veterans adjust to civilian life by offering opportunities – this one is to offer beekeeping training at old Oonoonba Primary School grounds.

**Treasurer:** Very healthy financial state again with \$16K in bank, \$11K in deposits and \$6.5K in expenditure. Mick O explained that a lot of the expenditure was for a fancy portable BBQ for our functions, and it was his decision to buy the more expensive version due to sturdiness, portability and design. Grant of \$2,750 from TCC to support activities at Kalynda Chase Bee Cause Day.

**Club Shop:** New items – digital scales - \$12 and nail openers to protect your painted finger nails -\$5.

Shop open on 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday each month at 3/38 Rendle St, Aitkenvale. Submit purchase requests via email to [shop@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:shop@beesnorth.com.au) and please remember that this is all run by Club members on a voluntary basis, so please assist when you can. Next Club Meeting is on 15 September at the Club Shop preceded by a wax cover workshop run by Sonya V for those who have registered – sausage sizzle to follow, then Club Meeting at 2:00.

**Librarian:** Books and mags available eg Robert Owen beekeeping book also available for \$35 from Club Shop. Please, please check your book shelves for our Library material as there are several very overdue borrowings that other people would like to check out.

**Newsletter:**

**Other Business:** Frana M reported that AFB is still out there stalking hives, with Roseneath, Jensen already reported and now Kelso. The new incident appeared within 2 months of previous inspection and appears to be not associated with bee or human transfer, so 3 independent outbreaks. Hives are to be euthanized and bees, frames and wax burnt and boxes can be sterilised with the Club's steriliser – just ask for assistance and advice. AFB is infectious within the hive but not very contagious between hives, indicating that good hygiene and inspection protocols can help contain problems. Keep your hives healthy is the best advice – stressed hives seem to succumb easier to AFB. Do not feed honey to birds, it is illegal, unhealthy for the birds and is a potential source of AFB spores that can last for decades. Only use sugar syrup in bird feeders. Contact the Club or DAF for advice.

Iain G spoke of what makes angry hives - lots of comment from the floor, suggesting different forage flowers and pollen, genetics of self reared queens, becoming friendly with your hives – more inspections better??, Shadey hives are angrier than sunny hives, and rain, wind, cloud, heat and late afternoon inspections can all cause anger in a hive.

Last weekend saw the Club volunteer at several activities: Country Music Festival, Woodstock Fair and Kalynda Chase Bee Cause Day, where the latter drew 300 people and a sold out raw honey supply. TCC supported the day and will extend to Rasmussen and Mt Louisa next possibly. Upper Ross Men's Shed sold out their native and solitary bee boxes – : **To place an order, please fill in the form below and send to <mailto:upperrossmensshed@outlook.com>** Several school visits have been requested – Oonoonba, Belgian Gardens, Kirwan SS and NQ Retirees – please lend a hand to the volunteers who provide these talks and demonstrations.

Yellow crazy ant is here in Townsville and has spread to Elliot Springs, probably through soil and mulch transport. Government funding for eradication has been cut in 2013, so only private and volunteer groups are focused on them. Baits are available. There is restricted soil movement out of affected area. These ants can bind humans and animals from the formic acid in their spit, they have already decimated the Xmas Is red crabs.

Club will try to get a native bee hive on site at Pallarenda with a viewing panel fr show and tell. Proposal for an education set up for hive in sprinkler box.

Please help the Club Shop volunteers – contact at [shop@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:shop@beesnorth.com.au)

Question regarding the \$80/year BQ levy for commercial beekeepers. Only applies to commercial people with greater than 50 hives, not hobby keepers where it is free.

Local raw honey providers list to be placed on Club website.

Jon M demonstrated a refractometer that measures water content of honey to ensure you don't have unripe (greater than 20% moisture) honey that can ferment.

**Questions from Floor:** Don Newport asked why is his newly capped honey is black and gelatinous – Umbrella Tree has black pollen and can stain honey

Meeting Close: 2:00 pm followed by coffee, tea, cake and discussion. Bruce Wallace demonstrated the Beetle Blaster Base Board and it was sold in 5

minutes – apparently reduces SHB in a hive in very short time

## ***Club Member Kirsty Sugden passed away in mid August***

It was sad news to hear that Kirsty Sugden passed away in August from cancer. Her funeral was a private farewell as per her wishes. Kirsty was a keen beekeeper for many years, and was our previous Club Librarian. She enjoyed the Club activities and hosted several meetings at her house.

Secretary Alan Ziegenfusz sent a message to her family on behalf of the Club.

## ***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/>

## ***Bees Wax Wrap Workshop before next Club Meeting for those already registered***

Commences at 10:30 at the Club Shop, followed by a sausage sizzle, and then straight into the Club Meeting. ***Make sure you bring a chair.***

Sorry folks, but this workshop is full and sold out .

Sunday 15 Sep, from 10:30 am at 3/38 Rendle St Aitkenvale. Please bring your receipt of payment, or bank transfer notice or see Sonya V on the day.

## Sell/Swap/Buy/Help needed

- Club Member Glen Campbell is looking get a nuc, so when the next one comes up for sale, please get in contact.

- President Mick has metal stands with handy frame hanger (see photo at right) made to order for \$75, mob 0415215595.

- Noel Wallman (Email: [nwallman1962@gmail.com](mailto:nwallman1962@gmail.com)) is interested in having a bee hive in his backyard.

He lives in Rasmussen. He doesn't want the honey, he just wants to have bee's in the garden.

Is there anyone who would like to put a bee hive in his yard. Contact Mob: 0413492040



- Club Member Graham Dalby has 2 hives for sale – preferably to Club members.

2 European honeybee hives –10 frame Langstroth with Bluebees base board and mix of plastic and wax foundation, unmarked queens. Hives in Kelso, cash offer please. First in with a reasonable offer will get them. Contact Graham on 0420 951 929

- Help needed to extract a very strong European honeybee colony in a water tank barrel near a house at Crystal Creek. Phillip Trotter at 0488 172 650 wants to keep the bees and will get all the gear together to transfer them, but he needs some assistance and advice. Call him to arrange a site visit and date.

## 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.

Sonya Verburgt - Gulliver - 04 0853 0991

Steve and Carla Kersnovske - Kelso 0417 344 419

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

Dave Turnbull Annandale - 0458 645 677

Doug McBride, Mysterton - 4775 7465

Sharene Dougall, Bluewater - 0415426903

Tito Parigi - Magnetic Island - 0418 796 951

John Pavetto - 0488414017, and Ian Goulevitch - Hinchinbrook Area.

Ronelle Nord, Alice River – 0417752622

Duane Saltmer Alice River - 0400 339 508

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.

## Club Activities during August

We had several events on during August. All were really well attended and members sold lots of their own honey.

**Country Music and Lifestyle Festival**, @ Toombys Wonderland, 1486 Hervey Range Road, Alice River,

**Woodstock Country Fair & Sustainability Expo** Saturday 10th August.

**Bee Cause Day**, Kalynda Chase Community Garden, Periwinkle Way, Bohle Plains.

**Schools talks coming up at Belgian Gardens and Kirwan State Primary Schools.** Can anyone help for a few hours? Dates to be confirmed.

Many thanks to the Volunteers who turned up to help out – please Contact Sonya if you can help with any of our activities

Contact: Sonya VERBURGT [sonyaverb@optusnet.com.au](mailto:sonyaverb@optusnet.com.au)

## Alan Ziegenfusz sent in his wish list for a Fathers Day present – I wondered if he got one???



**\$39.98**

Price correct as at Sun  
12 May 2019  
10:24:46pm

In stock: Townsville North  
[Show more stores](#)

Contact your nearest store to confirm stock availability

Qty: 1

[Add to Wish List](#)

Wind speed is 75km/h- that will clean the bees of of all that nasty pollen and varroa mite.

Good for blowing bees off comb when you want to harvest.

\$50 extra for an extra battery and charger, as this is a skin only. I already have bought the drill with battery and charger for \$99.

## Bowen Barefoot Bee Bowls – competition and get together with Central Qld Bee Club 26-27 Oct

Planned for 26-27 October in Bowen. Cairns Bee Club also having some people attending. This event has produced some great photo ops for the Newsletter, and competition is pretty fierce out there on the barefoot bowls arena.

Great way to meet some other beeks and hear what they are up to.

Check with the Committee and nominate your team to compete, or just try out this relaxing sport.

## 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.

Andrew KINLOCH - THURINGOWA CENTRAL, Jackie FOLEY – ANNANDALE, Karen FOLEY – ANNANDALE, Sally KELLY-BERG – RASMUSSEN, Joel FEATHER – MILLAROO, Ian FRAZER – KIRWAN, Holly LOURIE - NORTH WARD, Andrew HOSKINS - NORTH WARD, Phillip TROTTER – MUTARNEE, Peter SERRA – BAMBAROO, Bruce WARREN – PIMLICO, Bruno FIGHERA - HELEN'S HILL, Sue McDOWELL - TOOLAKEA

## 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.

## New email contacts for the Office Holders 2018/19

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 2018/2019

<u>President:</u>	Mick Olsen	<a href="mailto:president@beesnorth.com.au">president@beesnorth.com.au</a> or <a href="mailto:mick_naomi@bigpond.com">mick_naomi@bigpond.com</a>
<u>Vice President:</u>	<a href="mailto:Paul Payne">Paul Payne</a>	<a href="mailto:trapper4812@gmail.com">trapper4812@gmail.com</a>
<u>Secretary:</u>	Alan Ziegenfusz	<a href="mailto:secretary@beesnorth.com.au">secretary@beesnorth.com.au</a>
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Frana McKinstry	<a href="mailto:franajon@gmail.com">franajon@gmail.com</a> , or: <a href="mailto:treasurer@beesnorth.com.au">treasurer@beesnorth.com.au</a>
<u>Membership</u>	Frana McKinstry	<a href="mailto:franajon@gmail.com">franajon@gmail.com</a> or <a href="mailto:info@beesnorth.com.au">info@beesnorth.com.au</a>
<u>Newsletter Editor:</u>	Lindsay Trott	<a href="mailto:trott Lindsay@gmail.com">trott Lindsay@gmail.com</a> or: <a href="mailto:editor@beesnorth.com.au">editor@beesnorth.com.au</a>
<u>Librarian:</u>	Beryl Smart	<a href="mailto:smartberyl@gmail.com">smartberyl@gmail.com</a>
<u>Equipment Stewards:...</u>	Alan Ziegenfusz and Frana McKinstry	<a href="mailto:shop@beesnorth.com.au">shop@beesnorth.com.au</a>
<u>Webmaster:</u>	Ray Berkelmans	<a href="mailto:rberkelm@gmail.com">rberkelm@gmail.com</a>
<u>Publicity Officer:</u>	Sonya Verburgt	<a href="mailto:sonyaverb@optusnet.com.au">sonyaverb@optusnet.com.au</a> Or <a href="mailto:publicityofficer@beesnorth.com.au">publicityofficer@beesnorth.com.au</a>
<u>Committee Members:</u>	Ian Gordon	<a href="mailto:iain.gordon59@gmail.com">iain.gordon59@gmail.com</a>
	Ian Goulevitch	<a href="mailto:goulevitchi@gmail.com">goulevitchi@gmail.com</a>
	Michell Hasted	<a href="mailto:pexperts@bigpond.com">pexperts@bigpond.com</a>
	Waldon Edwards	<a href="mailto:waldon.edwards@iinet.net.au">waldon.edwards@iinet.net.au</a>
	Tom and Joan Ruddell	
	Carla Kersnovske	<a href="mailto:cke00786@bigpond.net.au">cke00786@bigpond.net.au</a>

## Life Members of the TDBA Inc

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

Dennis ANGER

Graeme & Adele ARMSTRONG

Ken & Marcia CALEO

Dave HOEY

Mike & Jill JAMES

Doug & Sonya MCBRIDE

# Let's all get up and do the "Sugar Shake" - maintain the detection tests for Varroa

Biosecurity would like beekeepers to fill out this 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 into us reply paid or it can be email edit to anyone who wants it and they can fill it out on line and email it back. Carla K will also be visiting everyone who would like to practise with the different self assessment types.



## Managed hive sample collection form

### Details of person completing the form

Inspector/Person(s) attending	BQ Officer	Contractor	Other	Date
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Attach sample no.(s) or barcode
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Attach LIMS number
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>

### Location details

Address

Nearest road  Locality

GPS Location  Latitude  Longitude

(WGS 84, decimal degrees)   °S    °E Contact on site

### Hive details

Number of hives  Comments

HIN

### Surveillance details

	Alcohol wash	Sugar shake	Drone uncapping
Approximate number of bees tested			
Less than 300	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
~ 300	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More than 300	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Results/Detection			
Positive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sample submitted to DAF			
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Office use only

#### Sample receipt and dispatch

Date sample received by BQ  Comments

Sample dispatched to DAF BSL for analysis

No If no, provide reason

Yes If yes, provide date of dispatch and connote number

Sample entered into BORIS by  Date

#### Laboratory results

Negative  Unconfirmed

Date results received  Results and action taken

Result entered into BORIS by  Date

### Privacy statement

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

Please return this form to Biosecurity Queensland at PO Box 1085 Townsville 4810 or by email to [varroa@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:varroa@daf.qld.gov.au)

# 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	<b>Traps</b>	
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	<b>Books</b>	
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](mailto:shop@beesnorth.com.au)



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