



Townsville & District

# BEEKEEPERS

ASSOCIATION

PO Box 1115  
Aitkenvale. Qld. 4814

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



## Newsletter No. 8: August 2025

In this Issue:

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- President report
- Varroa workshops, Good vibrations
- Newsy articles, Club activities
- Meeting Minutes
- TDBAI Club office holders
- Shop details – sell swap, shop, and coffee

## Next Meeting:

**2pm Sunday 10 August 2025**

**Hermit Park State School  
Entrance off McKimmin St**

Bring a chair. Tea, coffee and nibbles available.  
Free chats with experienced and novice beekeepers.

## ***My honey smells like dog poo!!***

*No, not this one*

### **From The Ed**



I could smell it from the back of the hives, and I thought I had trodden in dog poo, but no, the smell was coming from the hives. The Editor made a harvest from 2 hives on Melton Hill near the CBD last month. A curious and unfortunate smell hung around the frames and the harvested honey, so I went “digging”, so to speak, to find out more about the possible cause of my malodorous honey.



The aroma of honey is often a fragrant, floral, sweet waxy smell. Poo smelling honey is not attractive, nor a good selling point. What makes honey smell bad?

### **Some smelly culprits:**

- AFB is a highly contagious and destructive bacterial disease (*Paenibacillus larvae*) produces a recognisable smell of sour milk, sulphurous or fishy smell and the aroma is used in detection methods by sniffer dogs and air sampling devices equipped for the disease detection. The spores remain viable in honey, wax, propolis, the soil, unwashed clothing etc. The spores can be viable for up to 40 years! Its easily identified by doing the “matchstick” test. Insert a matchstick into a sunken capped larvae and if it comes out stringy or ropey and brown and goeey, you almost certainly have it. This is a notifiable disease to DAF
- SHB larvae contain a yeast (*Kodamaea ohmeri*) that ferments honey and makes it runny, which then contaminates the whole hive, often leading to the hive absconding – a “slime out”. The smell is a fruity, sickly sweet citrusy odour. The yeast can be a human pathogen for immunocompromised people, so take care when cleaning up slimed out hives. The yeast also has an odour resembling the alarm pheromone in bees, which in turn attracts more SHB.
- Fermenting unripe honey– wild yeasts from flowers can ferment honey either from uncapped honey in the comb or from harvesting and storing unripe honey with too high water content – around 20% or less is desirable for storage. Think of how you make fermented honey mead – raw honey + water + any wild yeasts around. Flow Hives can allow harvesting of honey before it’s “ripe”, so ensure your honey is capped before turning the tap.
- Chalkbrood - Although I haven’t heard of any smell associated with it, maybe because it’s a dry fungal infection (*Ascosphaera apis*) and the dry larval carcasses don’t create a soggy smelly mess. Apparently there can be a sulphurous smell in advanced stages of infestation.
- Floral source – apparently there are several flower types that result in smelly honey. Around Townsville, paperbark tree (*Melaleuca*) flowers have a strong burnt honey smell that permeates the hive and honey. There are numerous reports of foul smelling honey in the USA.

Rusty at Honey Bee <https://www.honeybeesuite.com/stinky-honey/> suite says:

“Every autumn a large number of beekeepers report stinky honey. The source of the smell is nectar, most probably from plants in the aster family, including goldenrod and small daisy-like flowers that grow in clusters. When your bees start to dry this nectar into honey the smell can be overwhelming and somewhat startling. It’s just not the odour you expect from your sweet bees.”

So, with the reassurance that my poo smelling honey might be from the pollen and nectar sources from nearby plants and not from diseased hives, I did some more "digging". There are many representatives from the Asteraceae family which includes goldenrod and many daisy like plants that are declared weeds in Townsville. Golden rod is listed as a serious invasive weed in Brisbane, but not so much in Townsville

<https://weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au/weeds/golden-rod>

However, JCU website has this extensive list of Asteraceae, or daisy weeds in Townsville

<https://www.jcu.edu.au/discover-nature-at-jcu/plants/plants-by-family-inc-nq-weeds/asteraceae>.

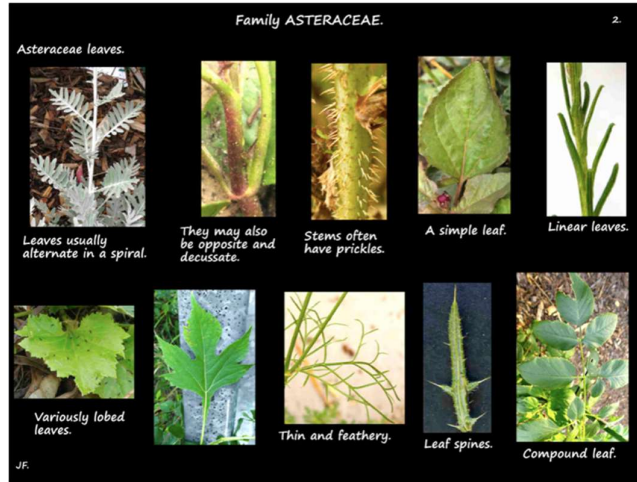
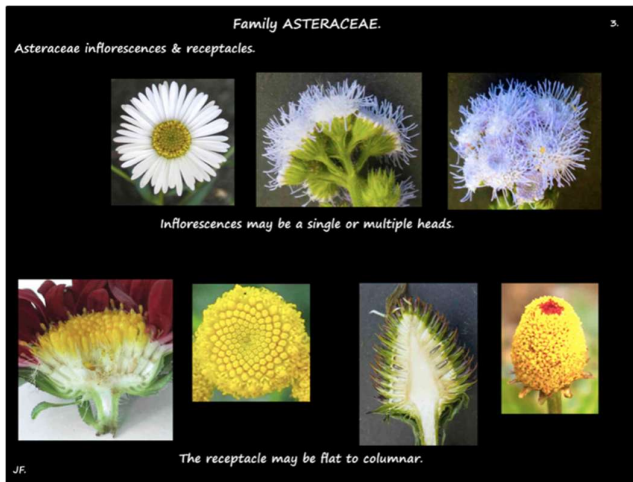
Melton Hill and surrounds has heaps of Singapore daisy,

Japanese sunflower (see right) and others in the daisy family like Starburr, siam weed, Flaxleaf fleabane, cobblers pegs and of course "Stinking Roger" in the list caught my eye.



Wikipedia (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asteraceae>) tells me that Asteraceae, despite my displeasure at causing my honey to smell like poo, it is economically important family, providing products such as cooking oils, leaf vegetables like lettuce, sunflower seeds, artichokes, sweetening agents, coffee substitutes and herbal teas. Several genera are of horticultural importance, including pot marigold, coneflowers, various daisies, [fleabane](#), [chrysanthemums](#), [dahlias](#), [zinnias](#), and [heleniums](#). Asteraceae are important in herbal medicine Knapweed and sunflower and some species of [Solidago](#) (goldenrod) are major "honey plants" for beekeepers in the USA. *Solidago* produces relatively high protein pollen, which helps honey bees over winter.

Flowerheads and leaf types of Astereraceae are shown below <https://www.botanybrisbane.com/plants/asteraceae/>



So, despite many of the daisy family being unwanted weeds, these are useful and commercially important plants. But where does this leave me and my 50 kgs of poo smelling honey that tastes great, but I probably shouldn't try to sell to an innocent purchaser. Apparently, the smell does dissipate a bit with time, and some people like strong smelling food - like parmesan and blue vein cheese, durians etc.

There's hope for my honey still!

And as always, when working with bees, you learn a lot about the world around you when you go chasing solutions down the old rabbit hole of the internet.

Cheers  
**The Ed**



## President's report

It's been a very busy month for many members and for the club as a whole. Several of our key members are away at present and we're definitely missing them! We've attended some events, in particular St Benedict's Eco-fest which was bigger and better than ever. As always, our stand got a lot of attention. Jon & Frana visited the Elliott Springs site to finalise the installation of native bee hives and to conduct a workshop for the locals, this relates to a grant the club received early in 2024.



Regarding grants, we received funding via two grants, one to put bee-themed books into ELCs and schools, and another to put native bee hives into ELCs. Both projects are well underway, and we are continuing to apply for grants for other purposes.

**Varroa mite** - Carla has had her contract extended to the end of the year, she is still conducting the varroa workshops and is available for personal visits. Please take advantage of this – varroa WILL come to Townsville eventually and we need to be prepared. On that note, we had applied for a grant from Bravus at the beginning of the year to buy a Varroa Controller machine, it was unsuccessful, however I was contacted by them a couple of weeks ago, asking if we still wanting the funding and it is now going ahead.

Dean & Helen Bryant (Brymac Native Bees) have held native bee workshops in Innisfail, Ingham and Ayr. Several members attended these and took the opportunity to buy up, especially at the Landcare Nursery in Ayr. We've asked them to make a Townsville date for their 2026 schedule.



Australis Austroplebiea

While at the Ayr workshop we were notified of a swarm at Kalamia Sugar Mill, very convenient as we were very close by. Checking the site involved an induction and required PPE – the only available boots and shirt were about 20 sizes too big. By the time we got there, the swarm had moved on but had left traces of wax behind, at least we got to have a good conversation about the process.



There have been some cancellations of scheduled events, notably the Rollingstone Pineapple festival on 23 August, due to the withdrawal of use of the 'parking paddock'. The Scouts event at Bluewater due to low numbers and the TCC/Landcare tree planting event at Lou Litster Park due to asbestos being found on site.



NATIONAL  
**Varroa Mite Management**  
PROGRAM

**Free information session :  
For Townsville & District Beekeepers  
Association, mentors**

Join us to gain valuable insights into:

- how to monitor your hives effectively
- reporting hive health checks using Bee 123
- integrated pest management plan
- management practices
- the importance of record-keeping
- spread of varroa mite in Queensland

**Information session details**

**Cost:** Free  
**Date:** Wednesday 13/08/25  
**Location:** 3/38 Rendle St, Aitkenvale  
**Time:** 6 pm - 8 pm  
**Facilitator:** Varroa development officer for North Queensland, Carla  
Call 0467 236 135 or email [carla.kersnovske@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:carla.kersnovske@dpi.qld.gov.au)  
**RSVP:**

[www.varroa.org.au](http://www.varroa.org.au)

**For more information about varroa mite in Queensland:**

- head to [www.dpi.qld.gov.au/varroa](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/varroa).
- email [varroa@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:varroa@dpi.qld.gov.au)
- subscribe to the [bee e-alert](#).

It's important to remember that support is available from our varroa development officers. They are on hand to provide free advice to all Queensland beekeepers and assist with early detection and integrated pest management. Email [varroa@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:varroa@dpi.qld.gov.au)

As your local VDO, Carla is available for workshops, one-on-one training and demonstrations. Another option may be to get a small group of like-minded beekeepers together and we can discuss as a group, what we would like to do as a collective in the future. Feel free to reach out to Carla by calling 0467 236 135 or emailing [carla.kersnovske@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:carla.kersnovske@daf.qld.gov.au)

***Do the alcohol wash and check for these blighters!***

Contact Carla or Rob Stephens immediately if you see any Varroa mites.

**Rob Stephens** Plant Biosecurity & Product Integrity  
M 0407 374 232 E [robert.stephens@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:robert.stephens@daf.qld.gov.au)

Fill in the [Bee 123 form](#) even if you don't see any mites – a negative result is what we all want to see.

The areas of infestation can be seen on the [varroa mite surveillance map](#).

## ***Upcoming varroa mite workshops on Magnetic Island***

### ***Are you a beekeeper on Magnetic Island? Don't miss this opportunity!***

The National Varroa Mite Management Program (NVMMP) is offering free information sessions for beekeepers on Magnetic Island. Designed to equip both recreational and commercial beekeepers with essential skills to understand and manage varroa mite (Varroa destructor) in hives, the session will focus solely on this significant pest of honeybees.

Please feel free to share this to anyone who you think might be interested.

With the recent arrival of varroa mite in Queensland, it's important to stay informed with the latest strategies and tools to manage this pest. Whether you're a commercial or recreational beekeeper, these information sessions provide the knowledge and confidence you need to tackle varroa mite management.

Join us to gain valuable insights into:

- the pest's biology
- how to monitor your hives effectively
- reporting hive health checks using Bee 123
- management practices
- the importance of record keeping.

**Cost:** Free

**Date:** Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August

**Location:** 55 Mirimar Cr, Arcadia

**Time:** 10am – 12pm

**Facilitator:** Varroa development officer for North Queensland, Carla

**RSVP:** Call 0467 236 135 or email [carla.kersnovske@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:carla.kersnovske@dpi.qld.gov.au)

**Please RSVP** to confirm your participation.

I will also be available for one-on-one engagements after the workshop

For further information regarding workshops in other regions of Queensland, please contact us via email at [varroa@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:varroa@dpi.qld.gov.au)  
Regards

Carla Kersnovske M: 0467 236 135 E: [carla.kersnovske@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:carla.kersnovske@dpi.qld.gov.au) W: [www.dpi.qld.gov.au](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au)

Varroa Development Officer (National Varroa Mite Management Program), Biosecurity Queensland

## *I'm picking up good vibrations – a study of buzz pollination*

Approximately 6% of flowering plant species possess flowers with anthers that open through small pores or slits. Extracting pollen from this type of specialised flower is achieved most efficiently by vibrating the anthers, a behaviour that has evolved repeatedly among bees. Here I provide a brief overview of the study of vibrations produced by bees and their effects on pollen release. I discuss how bee morphology and behaviour affect the mechanical properties of vibrations, and how floral traits may influence the transmission of those vibrations from the bee to the anther, thus mediating pollen release, and ultimately bee and plant fitness. I suggest that understanding the evolution of buzz pollination requires a study of the biomechanics of bee vibrations and their transmission on flowers.

<https://nph.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/nph.15666>

### Honey Bee signal Frequency Table

Signal Type	Produced by	Frequency (Hz)	Function	Notes
<b>Piping - Wings together</b>	Scout in Swarm	100-250	warming up signal to cluster 1 hour before departure	<i>Sounds like revving car engine</i>
<b>Buzz</b>	Colony	200	Ambient sound	
<b>Piping-Waggle dance</b>	Forager	200-350	recruiting	<i>vibration substratum and airborne</i>
<b>Quaking</b>	Unhatched Virgin queen	200-350	Request protection	<i>Long series, airborne and vibration (thorax). Wings don't vibrate.</i>
<b>Piping</b>	Young bees	210-240		
<b>Buzz</b>	Workers	309	ventilating	
<b>Tooting</b>	Emerged Virgin queen	350-440-550	Announce emergence, combat rival queens	<i>Long syllable + short syllables, airborne and vibration (thorax)</i>
<b>Piping</b>	Workers	320	Asking for food	
<b>Piping</b>	Forager	330-430	unloading	<i>vibration /substrate</i>
<b>Hissing</b>	Colony and guards	330-390-500	Queenless colony or disturbed	
<b>Whooping</b>	Workers	355	Stop recruiting	
<b>Piping -Wings apart piping</b>	Forager	~400	Foraging information	<i>Sounds like sheep</i>
<b>Piping</b>	Scout	407	Stop signal for scout bees	<i>pressing against other, vibrating, <b>short</b> signal</i>
<b>Piping</b>	Workers	451	Excitement before swarming	<i>pressing against other, vibrating, <b>Long</b> signal</i>
<b>Intruder Alert</b>	Guards	~500	Warn colony	<i>Soothes after recorded playback</i>
<b>Piping</b>	Scout	2000 peak	Swarm guiding	

This is not an exhaustive list. Signals vary with sub-species and colonies. Recorded values are also subject to gear limitations and ambient conditions<sup>5</sup>. Lower ranges ( below 100Hz) are more difficult to record and analyse. Communication also involved pheromones, or combination of behaviours. ©Olivier malric 2025

## ***Jon McKinstry receives award for inspiring future beekeepers***

Jon and Frana are part of a team of TDBAI Club members who are regularly on the road providing mentoring, displays and information to the public, schools and events. Good to see the student representative at St Benedicts providing John with a memento of appreciation at their recent bee information day.



## ***Dr John Carr sent in some interesting items, see below*** **Alien Invasions!**

*Apis florea* – the Red Dwarf Honey bee is native throughout Asia. There are three broad groups of Honey bee the dwarf Honey bees who build their single frame hives (left below) around a branch of a tree with the branch going through the hive. The cavity bees who build their hives inside a hole, typically in a tree and the Giant Honey bees who build their single frame hives underneath a large branch.



General view of the left hand side of the hive the worker bees have smoked to reveal the frame



The familiar play queen cells

### *Spread further West to Europe*

*Apis florea* has established a colony in Malta near Birżebbuġa freeport for the first time. Previous reports show the red dwarf species has slowly expanded its territory from Asia to the Middle East and north-east Africa, but until now it had never been reported in Europe. The colony was discovered encircling a tree branch.

The proximity of the colony to Malta's major cargo hub, suggests the bees may have arrived via a commercial vessel.

### ***Ivy bee *Colletes hederæ****

While admiring the garden in October 2024 in East Yorkshire the author stumbled on a bee coming out of the ground which he had not seen before. This was in fact a recent invasive species into the UK (2001 in Dorset) and had now well established itself – *Colletes hederæ* – the Ivy bee.



The bees are solitary but can live in dense congregations. The congregation under examination was 400 head strong. The bees are visible in the autumn for 6-8 weeks, with the males emerging first from late August and then the females a little later in early September. The adults do not overwinter. Mating balls may be seen in September. This new bee to the North of England seems to be causing no alarm but in a bad summer and overzealous bee keepers taking honey could the ivy flow be competed with this new bee species.

### Talking of webs – wax moth infestation – *Achroia grisella* (lesser wax moth)



*Achroia grisella* (lesser wax moth), they can cause serious problems in honey production. The wax moth may also cause damage to the wood of the hive reducing the life of the hive. The larvae may leave sufficient silk making it difficult for emerging bees to escape the cell – this is referred to as Galleriasis.

In *Apis mellifera* there are two wax moth species around the world. *Galleria mellonella* are similar in size to the honey bee. The female is 20mm long whereas the male is 16mm.

Opening the hive which has bees but these bees were all robbing the dead hive

This case is of infestation with the lesser wax moth *A. grisella*. They are slightly smaller and are grey compared with *G. mellonella*. *Achroia grisella* females measure 12mm long while males measure 10mm. The damage to the hive has been termed 'tubular brood'.

#### Clinical signs associated with wax moths in general

When the hive is examined, the caterpillar phase of the wax moth may be seen. Careful examination may reveal the adults flying from the hive. Examination of the hive debris may reveal dead wax moth caterpillars.

Wax moth development requires brood combs or brood cell cleansings. The life cycle takes between one and six months. Adults live 3– 28 days. Females will fly into the hive and lay eggs. The moth is usually stopped from entry into the hive by the guard bees. However, in a stressed hive the guard bees are not as diligent. But even if the hive guard bees are working, if the female cannot gain access to the hive, she will lay eggs in the ground around the hive and the larvae will gain access into the hive themselves. The caterpillars take 18 days before becoming pupae. It is the larvae that cause most disruption to the hive. The larvae eat the capping's revealing bald brood. Despite having the capping removed, the growing pupae will develop normally.

#### Diagnosis

The presence of the caterpillar stages and the webbing covering the frame. Check the hive debris for caterpillar stages. With *A. grisella* the caterpillars burrow straight across the base of the cell creating a 'tubular brood'. They will rarely pass through the centre of the frame. Note wax moth larva have three prolegs at the front and paired prolegs at the back. There are no spines along the back (unlike in the small hive beetle larvae).

#### Treatment

In small numbers remove larvae from hive. But often the hive is already destroyed and being robbed. Move to control.

#### Management and control

Air well all stored frames before use. Increase ventilation to the hive. Wax moths do not like light and fresh air. Note you must kill the larva as it can walk/crawl to another hive within 50 metres. Freeze old combs for at least 24 hours. Control with chemicals that do not get into the honey. Do not use 'moth balls' with para- dichlorobenzene (PDB), as this is carcinogenic and can leave residues in wax and honey. After treatment, stack supers outside for at least a week before use. There must be no presence of PDB's in honey sold in the European Union.

Stacked dirty honey or brood supers over winter are an ideal environment for wax moths to multiply. Alternatively, place combs into a sealed box and fumigate with vapours from 80% ethanoic acid (acetic acid). Note cover any metal on the boxes with Vaseline to protect from the acid. Fumigate for at least ten days.

### **Flow Hive crew demonstrate a non-lethal CO<sub>2</sub> detection method for varroa**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cv554svl58M>

I don't know if this is a standardised or approved method for use in Qld, but it's an interesting method for detecting varroa without killing the brood chamber bees. Check it out. You just need some simple kitchen items like a flat plastic storage container, a CO<sub>2</sub> soda fountain and some insect mesh.

## July meeting summary

The July meeting was very successful in the new format – less reporting and more ‘hands on’. We have purchased some lightweight full suits for hive openings at meetings and Ron and Doris have created a welcome pack for visitors. We will also be following up with a phone call to newbees after the meetings.

Ron showed off some of the items bought at the Field Day following from QBA Conference and demonstrated how he sets up comb from a wild hive for brood box installation.



Jon showed how to light a smoker – when he lights them, they go all day! Interesting was the electric smoker, no need to pump the bellows, just press a button.

At the hive opening, there were some beautiful brood frames on show and a demonstration of drone uncapping by Carla as part of the varroa checking protocol.



## Minutes of June TDBAI Committee Meeting

Committee Meeting: 28 June 2025 at 11.30 am

Bohle Barn Meeting Room

Minutes of Previous Meeting (1/3/25) : Mover: Frana Seconded: Beryl

Business from Previous Meeting

Email Addresses Upcoming events

Calendar of events 2025

Website management Permanent Venue

Apologies:

Frana McKinstry, Liz Hennig, Louise Clark, Shandelle O'Reilly, Ron Newitt, Mark Finn, Beryl Smart, Jon McKinstry, Doris Newitt, Maria Finn, Greg Skellern, Carla Kersnovske

Lindsay Trott, Al Cooney, John Carr

Lend Lease grant has been extended till 30 September. Frana to act on this asap.

List of equipment available for loan/hire to be created and listed on the website under Resources

Grant applications for Varroa Controller were unsuccessful, will apply again via BQ. Committee to vote whether to purchase VC outright.

Phasing out of tsvbeeclub@gmail.com, encouraging the use of @beesnorth addresses by relevant committee members

27 July – TCC Tree planting event at Lou Litster Park (behind Officeworks) TCC has provided giveaway bags. Also a good opportunity to promote the club.

No dates set for workshops, several scheduled events resulting from external requests. The next big one is the Pineapple Festival on 23 Aug.

The website is scheduled to go live next week, in time for the July shop day.

Referred the committee to the Sunshine Coast Club site plan and grants process. This is a good starting *point* for our club.

**Grants** : Lendlease - Native bee hives & workshop prior to September 2025 NQGP - Books into ELC & Schools – under way  
RRSF - Native Beehives into ELC & Schools – under way

After input from some members, a new general meeting format is proposed: fewer reports and talking, a welcome and straight into practical and/or educational events/demonstrations to benefit members.

- • Invite guest speakers from other organisations.
- • Provide PPE at meetings.
- • Follow the basic program of Cert III in Beekeeping for ideas.
- • Potential speakers – TCC Parks & Gardens, Fire Ants person
- • Maybe make the meeting every second month.

**Committee meetings** – make these quarterly with the date fixed in advance. Treasurer & other relevant reports to be presented at the committee meeting or emailed to members or put online, whichever is most applicable.

A new bank account has been created to hold funds arising from successful grants. Aim is for easier reconciliations. Also a proposal to move \$50K from the general account into the Building Fund account (interest earning) or a term deposit. All agreed. Lou to check into the best option.

Frana will put in a grant application to BQ for Varroa Controller. The committee needs to decide whether to buy one outright, along with other varroa-related equipment (no chemicals).

Ron and Doris proposed a restructure of the monthly shop opening:

- • Make it a more social event with tea and coffee available
- • Have a table with giveaway or sale items (not limited to beekeeping only)
- • Volunteers (Concierge) apart from Shop people will be needed
- • Create a Welcome pack for new members containing relevant information

Following from this, it was proposed that we purchase more stacking chairs and a coffee machine, all in agreement. After some decision around what type of machine Frana offered to bring her Nespresso in to trial. We will make changes to the newsletter and email notifications about the shop day restructure.

QBA reports – Miles, Ron & Doris and Frana to submit these asap. The conference was very well presented and well worth attending. A number of items were purchased or donated, these will be on show.

Mentors for new members – we need to get this happening. Perhaps a direct request to more experienced members.

Add members' phone numbers to the Attendance Book and follow up on visitors & newbies after the meeting – Maria to attend to this.

Varroa management – this is such a big topic, it was agreed to tun a separate meeting focusing on this. Separately from the workshops

We need to discuss how the TDBAI is going to manage varroa when it is detected locally. We need to develop a protocol that will be easy for members to follow, decide what equipment we will have on hand, etc.

Nick Smith hives at MHP. A lot of time & materials have been used on bringing them up to scratch. It was agreed to offer Nick \$100 per double hive. If he accepts then we will register to the club T765.

MHP power box – Frana to contact TCC to get new key. 13 July HPSS

### **Reminders for membership renewal are sent by email – now \$35/p.a.**

Membership fees can be made electronically to:

Townsville and District Beekeepers

BSB: 633 000

Account: 141 466 078

**Please make sure you add your Surname or subscription number so that your membership can be signed off.**

### **Club Shop – now a shop, swap and stop – and sell**

We will have a gazebo set up with new items on show and a coffee machine, so call in or stay on after collecting your order.

A great opportunity to ask questions about your bees, or just to have a chat. We will also have a Buy Swap Sell table, not limited to beekeeping items. feel free to bring things along.

Shoppers – log onto the website and place your order there: Accounts\Shop

Alternatively you can place your orders via email [shop@beesnorth.com.au](mailto:shop@beesnorth.com.au) Shop opening is first Saturday of the month.

Location: 3/38 Rendle St, Aitkenvale

Time: 9am – 10:30am

Collection at other times by arrangement and when volunteers are available.

Email orders will be given priority and serviced – but walk in orders may be completed if time allows. Pre-order before midnight on the Thursday before shop opening time.

Email orders will be given priority and serviced – but walk in orders may be completed if time allows. Pre-order before midnight on the Thursday before shop opening time.



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

## When Bee Foundation

Keep up to date with the latest news and research from the When Bee Foundation which is an Australian not-for-profit charity that promotes awareness of the importance of bees for food security and raises funds for research. Their newsletter provides very informative industry updates as well as education on bees. Check out their page and subscribe to their newsletter [here](#)

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

The Bee Aware 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/>

### Native bee Newsletter – join the group and check out some great info and photos

The CROSS-POLLINATOR – Newsletter of the Australian Native Bee Association

Original articles, new information and news from the world of native bees. The Association has branches in Sydney, Brisbane, Wide Bay and Gladstone, but no Townsville branch?? Are there enough interested native beekeepers to get one “flying”?

Check out these sites:

<https://australiannativebee.org.au/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Australian.Native.Bee.Association/>

<https://www.instagram.com/australiannativebeeassociation/>

## TDBAI Office holders and Committee for 2024/2025

Position	Name	Contact
President	Frana McKinstry	<a href="mailto:president@beesnorth.com.au">president@beesnorth.com.au</a>
Vice President	Al Cooney	
Secretary	Liz Hennig	<a href="mailto:secretary@beesnorth.com.au">secretary@beesnorth.com.au</a>
Treasurer	Louise Clark	<a href="mailto:treasurer@beesnorth.com.au">treasurer@beesnorth.com.au</a>
Event Co-Ordinator	Shandelle O'Reilly	
Biosecurity Awareness Officer	John Carr	
Newsletter Editor	Lindsay Trott	<a href="mailto:editor@beesnorth.com.au">editor@beesnorth.com.au</a>
Assistant Editor	Lesley Barr	
Membership Officer	Frana McKinstry	<a href="mailto:membership@beesnorth.com.au">membership@beesnorth.com.au</a>
Shop Managers	Ron Newitt & Mark Finn	<a href="mailto:shop@beesnorth.com.au">shop@beesnorth.com.au</a>
Shop Assistant	N/A	
Librarian	Beryl Smart	
Website/social media Officer	Brenden Driemel	
Native Bees Representative	Jon McKinstry	

<b>Committee 1</b>	Doris Newitt	
<b>Committee 2</b>	Maria Finn	
<b>Committee 3</b>	Greg Skellern	
<b>Committee 4</b>	Carla Kersnovske	
<b>Committee 5</b>	Blake Steward	
<b>Committee 6</b>	Wendy Aspery	

***TDBAI Committee is involved in many activities – can you lend a hand?***

Contact any of the Committee Members to find out how to get involved

***Swarm Contact List:***

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

Or: Lesley Barr [lesleybarr@y7mail.com](mailto:lesleybarr@y7mail.com) 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.

**Swarm Collection – honey bees**

Alex Jenkins **Townsville to Rollingstone** 0459 472 166

Ben Taylor **Douglas, Riverside Gardens** 4728 4992 or 0428 186000

Sonya Verburgt **Gulliver** 0408 530 991

Sharene Dougall **Bluewater** 0415 426 903

Phillip Plant **Townsville, Ayr, Rollingstone** 0456191 000

Bruce Mogensen **Railway Estate/Idalia** – 0427 174 705

Liz Hennig **Northern Beaches** – 0409067 367

Ronelle Nord **Alice River, Rupertswood** 0417 752 622

**Native bee removal**

Bruce Warren 0413 395 928

Jon McKinstry 0401 014 948

**Nest Removals from houses, trees and other structures**

Alex Jenkins **Townsville to Rollingstone** – 0459 472 166

Phillip Plant **Townsville, Ayr, Rollingstone** 0456 191 000

Remember that Varroa is now in Qld and we don't want it up here – check those swarms.

***Editor needs your input – why not tell me your story?***

***Club Member Profile Questionnaire***

Send stories and pictures to :

Lindsay Trott: [trottlindsay@gmail.com](mailto:trottlindsay@gmail.com) Or: Lesley Barr <[lesleybarr@y7mail.com](mailto:lesleybarr@y7mail.com)>

Name /HIN /Suburb /Native or/and European bees /No of hives/area of hive locations? Type of hives? / Type of foundation? /Beetle protection?

Year commenced beekeeping?

Who was your mentor?

Who is involved in your household?

Is anyone allergic/sensitive to stings?

What has been your biggest success? / failure?/ mistake?/ biggest lesson?

What would you do differently if you had to start beekeeping again after a disaster like fire/ AFB /Varroa /cyclone

Do you sell/barter/give away honey?

How much honey does your average hive produce?

Do you make any other products from your hives?

Do you volunteer for the Club at Open days, markets, school events, public displays?

Would you like to participate? Any stories you would like to tell? Attach photo please?

That's it!!!!

Just fill it out and send it to me, and you will be a rock star in the Monthly Newsletter.

Please provide more than just a one word answer!! Cheers The Ed.

***Blooper of the Month?***

***Send me your blooper for totally anonymous recognition- honestly***