



Townsville & District

BEEKEEPERS

ASSOCIATION

PO Box 1115
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www.beesnorth.com.au

Newsletter No. 10: November 2025

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- Varroa in Qld
- Internet news, Product Reviews
- Club activities – **No shop in January**
- TDBAI Club office holders
- Shop details – sell swap, shop, and coffee

Next Meeting:

2pm Sunday 9 November 2025

Hermit Park State School
Entrance off McKimmin St

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

This month's feature – All About Mead

President's Report (from AGM)

Firstly, thank you for placing your trust in me as President for the past twelve months. It has been a very busy period with many activities undertaken, projects underway and some changes within the club.

On the small scale, we've made changes to our general meeting format which has been well received. Committee meetings are set for quarterly sessions, and our shop day is now a social event encouraging members to stay for coffee and a chat.

The new website is working well, especially with the membership database included. There is still some work to be done especially with uploading newsletters and migrating the mailing list.

Some members attended the QBA conference in June – their reports have been included in past newsletters. As to activities, we have attended many community events, schools, ELCs and other organisations doing booths and/or presentations.

We've been successful in receiving a number of grants throughout the year for various purposes, including native bee hives, books and purchase of a varroa controller. Grant applications are ongoing.

We've given up the lease on Michael Hooper Park, relocating the hives and we will be dismantling the compound. Alongside this, we are still working toward obtaining a permanent site in a better location – we already have a set of plans drawn up.

Membership is remaining at around the 350-400 mark, which may well decrease as varroa takes a hold,

The most significant item for all of us has been the detection of varroa mite in SE Queensland and it's only a matter of time before it's detected up here. As a club we are hosting varroa management workshops, arranging the purchase of passive management tools, and exploring the various management techniques that are becoming available.

Last month, I attended the Apimondia Conference in Denmark, this was an amazing event with so much to see and learn, particularly about varroa management and the emerging threat of the Tropilaelaps mite, beekeeping is certainly presenting many new challenges.

Overall, the past year has been flat out, both behind the scenes and in public activities, for some of the committee members the Club is a full-time job! From me, a personal thank you to these people, your hard work has made our club the success it is today and without you we couldn't continue. Also, your support and encouragement has made my President's role so much easier. Thank you.

GENERAL MEETING & AGM

19 October 2025 Minutes

Meeting opened 2:00pm

1. Visitors welcomed and welcome packs handed out. As per Attendance book: 22 members attended, 4 visitors and 4 apologies.
2. Minutes from previous meeting (in newsletter) accepted and seconded by Beryl and Doris.
3. No business arising from the Minutes.

REPORTS

CLUB SHOP: Running OK. Suppliers under pressure but orders come through mostly in time for shop day. Contact Ron/Mark ASAP if you are wanting a large quantity of a particular item.

LIBRARY: Books and Magazines available to members to borrow. Please return in an acceptable time frame. Check out the new book on show.

GM PAUSED FOR THE AGM

1. Minutes for the last AGM (13 OCT 2024) tabled - accepted and seconded by Mark and Maria
2. President's Report - Frana
3. Treasurer's Report for EOFY - tabled and addressed by Louise Clark, seconded by Frana and Beryl.
4. All positions declared vacant, election process chaired by Bosko Susic.

President: Frana McKinstry - nominated by Beryl and 2nd by Lou

V President: Al Cooney - nominated by Beryl and 2nd Lou

Secretary: Doris - nominated by Maria and 2nd Beryl

Treasurer: Lou - nominated by Frana and 2nd Jon

The following position all self-nominated and accepted with a show of hands.

Shop Managers: Ron and Mark

Membership Officer: Frana

Librarian: Beryl

Newsletter Editor: Lindsay

Assistant Editor: Leslie Barr (TBC)

Biosecurity Awareness: John Carr

Events Coordinator/ Community Liaison: vacant

Native Bee Rep: Jon

Website: vacant

Committee members: Maria, Carla (Biosecurity Champion), Greg, Liz, Sharyn, Tatiana, Blake (TBC)

AGM Closed 2:25pm

GENERAL MEETING BUSINESS

1. November meeting 9 Nov at Hermit Park State School - Guest speaker - all about Mead
2. Xmas Party 14 Dec at Bohle Barn from 11:30
3. No January Shop
4. No January Meeting
5. Meetings resume 8 Feb 2026. Details to be advised.
6. Jon gave a brief talk on cyclone preparedness, showed his kit.
7. Use of smokers during a total fire ban is not covered in official announcements, but is ok using appropriate care.

GUEST SPEAKER: FRANA

Summary by Doris

At the conclusion of the meeting we were informed and entertained by Frana who had recently returned from her overseas trip which took in the Apimondia Conference in Denmark. I, as were others at the meeting, was amazed by her experience.

Approximately 8,200 people were in attendance and they came from 127 countries. The event was over 4 days and included 400 poster presentations, 200 Trade Stands, round table groups, a photo competition and

of course the Opening Ceremony complete with live entertainment. As well as some Field trips and hands-on activities, she also attended a Town Hall reception which was limited to invitation only and considered a real honour.

There were serious discussions around Varroa management and the emerging threat of the Tropilaelaps mite. Both of which are of the utmost importance to us. And there was much, much more. Just ask Frana. I'm sure everyone enjoyed the presentation as much as I did. The next conference is 2 years away and will be held in Dubai. Start saving.

Meeting closed 3:20pm



Xmas break-up lunch
Bohle Barn Hotel
Sunday 14 December
11:30 am
Liquid refreshments
courtesy of your club



Tropilaelaps – the next bad thing

<https://theconversation.com/deadlier-than-varroa-a-new-honey-bee-parasite-is-spreading-around-the-world-264891>

For decades, beekeepers have fought a tiny parasite called Varroa destructor, which has devastated honey-bee colonies around the world. But an even deadlier mite, *Tropilaelaps mercedesae* – or “tropi” – is on the march. Beekeepers fear it will wreak even greater havoc than varroa – and the ripple effects may be felt by the billions of people around the world who rely on honey bee-pollinated plants.

Tropi's natural host is the giant honey-bee (*Apis dorsata*), common across South and Southeast Asia. At some point, the mite jumped to the western honey-bee (*Apis mellifera*), the species kept by beekeepers around the world. Because this host is widespread, the parasite has steadily moved westwards.

It has now been detected in Ukraine, Georgia and southern Russia, and is suspected to be in Iran and Turkey. From there, it is expected to enter eastern Europe, then spread across the continent. Australia and North America are also at risk.

Why tropi spreads so fast

Like varroa, tropi is a tiny mite that breeds inside capped brood cells, the life stages of the honey-bee when the late larvae and pupae develop inside honeycomb cells that are sealed by a layer of wax. The mite feeds on bee pupae and transmits lethal viruses, such as deformed wing virus – the deadliest of the bee viruses. But there are crucial differences.

Varroa can survive on adult bees for long periods, but tropi cannot. Outside brood cells, it lives only a few days, scurrying across the comb in search of a new larva.

Because tropi spends more time in capped cells, it reproduces quickly. A capped cell that contains a female varroa will result in one or two mated varroa offspring emerging with the adult bee. Tropi offspring develop faster inside a capped cell than varroa offspring, so a tropi “mother” may result in more offspring emerging than a varroa infested cell, more quickly overwhelming the colony.

As a result, colonies infested with tropi can collapse far faster than those plagued by varroa.

The new normal – varroa mite in Queensland

Since the first detection of varroa mite in Queensland in March this year, the pest has spread to a total of fifteen local council areas with nearly 242 infested premises reported.

The [surveillance map](#) highlights the affected areas.

Currently there are more than 130 infested premises in Queensland. Some beekeepers may now be on their second round of treatments, depending on mite numbers. This means the rotational use of mechanical, cultural and chemical

options is the new normal for these beekeepers.

Anyone with a hive should be checking for mites monthly and reporting their results to [Bee 123](#), even if no mites are found. For support from your local varroa development officer, email varroa@dpi.qld.gov.au

For more information about varroa mite in Queensland:

- head to www.dpi.qld.gov.au/varroa.
- email 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.

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*

Do the alcohol wash and check for these blighters!

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

Rob Stephens Plant Biosecurity & Product Integrity

M 0407 374 232 **E** 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](#).

For further information regarding workshops in other regions of Queensland, please contact us via email at varroa@dpi.qld.gov.au

Regards

Carla Kersnovske M: 0467 236 135 E: carla.kersnovske@dpi.qld.gov.au W: www.dpi.qld.gov.au

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

Novel treatment for Varroa under investigation

<https://terravera.com/beekeepers>

President Frana is negotiating with the developers of a novel form of non-toxic treatments for bee health and Varroa. We hope to hold either a Zoom meeting or possibly a webinar where we can hear about this development.

Stay tuned, there will be some details soon.

Apimondia 2027 will be held in Dubai, UAE

Given Dubai is a major connection hub, why not schedule a stopover on the way to your next European destination? President Frana reported in from the Copenhagen conference - and it was packed with research, new products and all things bee.

Apimondia 2029 will be held in Leipzig, Germany

If you can't make it to Dubai, then get your lederhosen (leather pants) and dirndls ready (traditional dresses), oh and of course a jolly big stein of good German beer for this Apimondia conference.





Recent events

Another presentation, this time to St Paul's ELC, two group of preschoolers who were very excited to try on beekeeping suits and to play with the mini smoker and hive tool. Teddy Beekeeper Dan was also very popular.

Asian honeybees found in Townsville – stay alert, these characters are still a threat

Clubbie Alex Jenkins went to a swarm call recently in Mount Louisa and found a swarm of Asian honey bees. They have been eradicated and a sample has been taken to DPI.

If you find a swarm of Asian honey bees or remove a hive near the port of Townsville a sample should be taken and delivered to the DPI for testing.



I couldn't have said it better myself, Cedar.....

In an interview with Cedar Anderson, the co-inventor of the Flow Hive talks about getting into beekeeping.

"Once you start looking after bees this whole world opens up. It is a continuous journey of learning, problem-solving, observing behaviour, understanding the seasons and how they interact with the colony. It becomes this beautiful process, "But more than that, the hive becomes a kind of window into the environment. Bees range out in a six-mile radius and bring back nectar from every corner. That pulls you into their world. Suddenly, you are noticing the flowers blooming, the smells in the air, patterns in the weather, the bees become teachers in a way. They connect you to the food system, to your local ecology, and to your own rhythms. It is amazing how often people say, bees changed the way I look at the world." My sentiments exactly.... **The Ed.**

From: Article in The Australian by Damon Kitney

Dr John Carr reports on the reduction in USA science and research funding

From: The New York Times

The 2026 budget proposed by the White House would slash the National Science Foundation by 56.9 percent, the N.I.H. by 39.3 percent and NASA by 24.3 percent, including 47.3 percent of the agency's science-research budget. It would entirely eliminate the U.S. Geological Survey's \$299 million budget for ecosystems research; all U.S. Forest Service research (\$300 million) and, at NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, all funding (\$625 million) for research on climate, habitat conservation and air chemistry and for studying ocean, coastal and Great Lakes environments. The Trump administration has also proposed shutting down NASA and NOAA satellites that researchers and governments around the world rely on for forecasting weather and natural disasters.

Ed: The government funded Agricultural sector is included in this reduction, with bee research organisations, disease detection and reporting, Varroa research teams, staff numbers, data collection and reporting all slashed. All at a time when USA hive losses have approached 60% annually.

From the Internet

"HiveKeepers" invention wins Gold Award for Innovation at World Beekeeping Awards

Melbourne-based HiveKeepers has been awarded Gold for Innovation at the Apimondia World Beekeeping Awards, the most prestigious recognition in global apiculture. Often described as the Olympics of beekeeping, this award represents the highest international honour for excellence and advancement in the field. Held in Copenhagen, Denmark, the World Beekeeping Awards celebrate the most forward-thinking contributions to global beekeeping. HiveKeepers' Gold Award recognises the company's groundbreaking work in developing new technologies that make beekeeping more accessible, sustainable and resilient in the face of environmental change.

“Receiving gold at Apimondia is a career-defining moment, not just for HiveKeepers but for Australian innovation,” said Simon Mildren, Founder and CEO of HiveKeepers.



Mysterious ancient rock art may have been made with beeswax

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/05/mysterious-ancient-rock-art-may-have-been-made-beeswax>

This 500-year-old rock art is among the rarest in the world. Found at a site called Yilbilinji near northern Australia's Gulf of Carpentaria—and depicting a humanlike figure holding a boomerang (right), surrounded by more boomerangs—it's a type of stenciling that involved creating miniature outlines of humans, tools, and other shapes. Similar, much older mini stencils have been found elsewhere in Australia and around the world. Now, scientists think they know how ancient people made them.



Australia's Aboriginal populations have been creating rock art for **at least 44,000 years**. Typically when stenciling, the artist held their hand or other object up to the rock and sprayed pigmented liquid onto it, leaving behind a life-size negative on the wall. But the red-rock overhang at Yilbilinji features much smaller figures: 17 minihumans, boomerangs, and geometric patterns—all too tiny to have been modeled after a painter's hand or a real object. One of the new study's co-authors remembered seeing Aboriginal people using beeswax as a kind of clay for making children's toys resembling cattle and horses. Might the ancient rock artists have used beeswax to form stencils?

Working with representatives of the local Indigenous Marra people, the researchers attempted to replicate the ancient art using only materials native to the region. By heating and molding beeswax, sticking it to the rock, and spraying it with a white-pigment paint, **they managed to produce rock art exceptionally similar to the originals** found at Yilbilinji, they report today in *Antiquity*. The miniature art may have served a spiritual or ritualistic purpose, the researchers note. Or, they suggest, because many of these stencils are positioned relatively low on the rocky overhang, it may have just been child's play, the ancient equivalent to children scribbling on the walls.

Archaeology, doi:10.1126/science.abc9601

Angry bees in the Western Australia's south-west make stronger, more valuable venom

abc.net.au/news/angry-bee-venom-more-valuable-and-allergenic/100399578

Renowned for its honey and home to many of Western Australia's commercial beekeepers, the state's marri forest region extends from north of Perth to the south coast near Denmark. (Supplied: Dr Daniela Scaccabarozzi)

The venom of angry bees fed on a native West Australian forest diet has been found to be stronger – and with more desirable medicinal properties – than more docile bees.



Key points:

- Research has shown angrier bees in Western Australia's native marri forests produce more medicinally valuable and allergenic venom
- Bee venom is used in medicine and cosmetics and can be worth up to \$US300 per gram
- Despite its value, harvesting venom is difficult and few beekeepers sell it commercially
- By weight, venom is the most valuable product bees produce — worth more than honey, royal jelly, wax, pollen or propolis — at up to \$US300 (\$A419) per gram.
- Venom contains proteins used to treat degenerative and infectious diseases such as Parkinson's disease and

cancers as well as in cosmetic products.

Daniela Scaccabarozzi led the Curtin University research team who collected venom from hives in south-west Western Australia's marri forests.

"We classify [the bees' anger] according to their response to the stimulating devices that collect the venom," she said.

To harvest venom, bees sting glass plates electrified with a few millivolts of power. The venom dries on the plate and can be scraped off without harming the bees. One gram of venom in 20 hives was obtained during a one hour of harvest.

Irish beekeeping and legends

<https://www.myirishjeweler.com/au/blog/bees-in-ireland-myth-law-and-folklore/>

The Irish patron of beekeepers is St. Gobnait of Ballyvourney. Bees hold a unique place in Ireland, so in honour of St. Gobnait, let's take a look at the curious tales of bees and beekeeping in Irish myth, law and folklore.

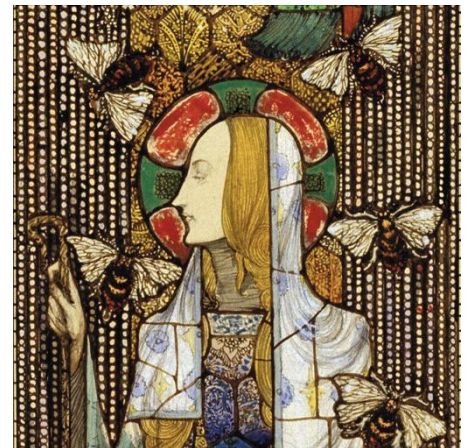
Bees in Celtic Myth

Beekeeping in Ireland is thought to have been practiced for at least 2,000 years, and bees themselves were held in very high regard in ancient Ireland. Tír na nÓg, the land of the gods, was said to have rivers that ran with honey and mead.

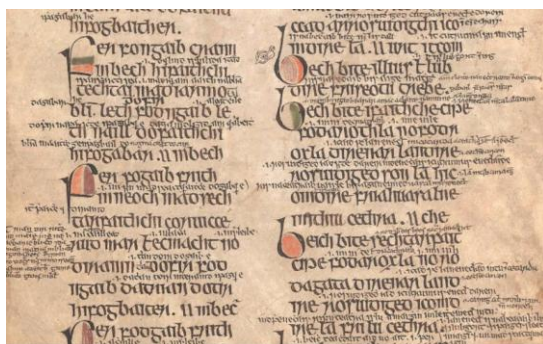
Celtic myth tells us that bees were otherworldly beings, capable of buzzing their way between this world and the next, acting as messengers. It was also said that when a soul left the body it did so as a bee or a butterfly, so woe betide someone who harmed such a creature!

Bees in Ancient Irish Law

Bees make an appearance in the Brehon Laws, one of the earliest forms of written law in Europe, in a section known as "The Bee Judgements" or the *Bechbretha*. Composed in the 7th century, they dealt with all manner of issues related to beekeeping, including the ownership and value of swarming bees, what compensation was owed by the beekeeper to a person stung by one of their bees, and even the compensation owed to a beekeeper if someone's hens ate their bees! We can tell that these were extremely important creatures indeed to be given such attention in the law of the land.



Harry Clarke's design for the Saint Gobnait window, Honan Chapel, Cork
Photo Credit: [Harry Clarke \(1914, Public Domain\)](#)



An excerpt from the Bechbretha in The Brehon law manuscripts held in the Library of Trinity College Dublin.

Photo Credit: [Trinity College Dublin](#)

But then perhaps this protected status is not so surprising when you consider that honey was the only appreciable form of sugar known on the island of Ireland until the Normans brought others in the 12th century.

Bees in Irish Folklore

Given this elevated, and at times otherworldly status, all manner of superstitions arose around bees in Irish folklore. A single bee entering your

house was a sign of good luck or wealth on its way. And it was deemed prudent to keep any bees you were caring for well housed, protected and even respectfully informed of all the important events of daily life!



A painting from 1895 depicting a woman and her son telling the bees of a death in the family

Photo Credit: ["The Widow" by Charles Napier Hemy \(Public Domain\)](#)

If you kept them well, bees would bless your home with honey, mead, and by association, wealth. Honey had a near-magical status and was used in healing and rituals. When turned into mead, it was considered to have greater power still, and was the beverage required to mark big celebrations including ritual feasts and weddings. This led to the banquet hall on the Hill of Tara being known as *Tech Mid Chuarda*, the house of the circling of mead. It was even used in decision making - Mead was infused with hazelnuts, givers of wisdom, and said to grant prophetic abilities to the drinker.



Photo Credit: [Daniel Mennerich \(CC BY-NC-SA 2.0 DEED\)](#)

Bees and St. Gobnait

And after all that, we finally come to St. Gobnait, the patron saint of Beekeepers. Born in the 5th or 6th century in Co. Clare, she was a resident of the smallest of the Aran islands, Inisheer, where she reportedly set up a small church. After having a vision, St. Gobnait returned to the mainland and established a monastery at what is now known as St. Gobnait's Wood in Ballyvourney, Co. Cork. And alongside the church, beekeeping was St. Gobnait's calling.



St. Gobnait's Church on the island of Inisheer. The current church dates from the 11th century, but there are claims it was first founded by Gobnait herself, and that it contains the remains of her beehive hut.

Photo Credit: [Laurel Lodged \(CC BY-SA 3.0 DEED\)](#)

She reportedly held such a strong connection with these creatures, that she was able to set them on thieves or would-be assailants, and used their honey for healing the sick. She is credited with saving the people of Ballyvourney from the plague.

Bees in Ireland today

These days beekeeping in Ireland is more popular than it has been in many years and the appetite for local honey has risen too! Initiatives like no-mow May and the National Pollinator Plan are seeing habitats for wild bees coming back and there is a renewed appreciation of these industrious creatures. We're sure our ancient ancestors, and indeed Gobnait would approve.

Your favourite bee dipped in solid gold for a mere \$180

- 🐝 Real Honey Bee! Magically 'dipped' in 24 karat gold
- 🐝 Contains an actual honeybee, every piece is 100% unique
- 🐝 As seen in @C magazine!
- 🐝 Comes with free collection of, organic bee oasis seeds
- 🐝 Comes with a donation to the Dutch Bee Foundation
- 🐝 Comes with a free, 45 cm gold plated chain
- 🐝 Free tracked shipping within the EU

<https://www.whiterabbitgallery.eu/product-page/real-honeybee-24-karat-gold-plated>



Product Review 1– Lavender stalk pellets for bee smokers

There's more than one way to skin a cat, so the old saying goes, and Club members know that there is more than one way to produce smoke in your smoker – for example, you could use dried lavender stalks.

Many suggested uses of lavender stalks appear on the Pinterest web site: <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/229191068508123551/>

Some uses are listed as e.g. in floral wreaths, to remove doggy smell from the carpet, as firestarters, to make tea infusions, as a dyeing agent, and so on. Two uses not listed in there are as a bee pacifier in sugar syrup when working a bee hive, the other one is for fuel in your bee smoker. Recently, The Club Shop offered trial samples (no loof what looked like pelleted fish food (see pic on right), so I decided to be the guinea pig and try them out.



What is it ?

Dried pelleted waste stalks from lavender bushes that have been harvested for perfume manufacture and oil extraction.

Becs Beehive Supplies sell these for \$25/ 5 kg bag, see : <https://www.becsbeehive.com.au/products/lavender-smoker-fuel-pallets-1kg>

“Handy smoker fuel that works just like incense and smoulders producing nice cool smoke. You do need a hot base working in your smoker before you can add 1/4-1/2 cup at a time. Made from the bi-product of lavender plants when extracting the lavender oil. This stuff is really popular in all of Europe. Try it for yourself.” Easy peasy, I thought.

What do they do?

Just like the blurb says, you chuck them in your smoker after you have a hot base of embers going. They ignite fairly easily, stay alight quite well, and produce clouds of white smoke. Not sure if the bees were drifting off to blissed-out a Zen La-la land, as a few became curious and came over to me for closer inspection.

Are they worth it?

For 5 kg of dried pelletised plant products for \$25 that produce heaps of smoke, I think they are OK. Personally, I found the smell pretty obnoxious, a bit like the Hotel Allen carpet after a Cowboys “at home” game when someone handed out cheap cigars after a big win.

Caution: When puffing smoke downwards, which I do into the brood box while doing inspections, you will need to be **VERY, VERY** careful not to empty a tray full of burning hot embers smack bang into the queen's royal chamber – very easy to do with your first use of these hot pellets – that won't be happening again, but take care as these embers are loose and will roll out of an up-ended smoker and this could be a fire hazard, apart from burning a hole in the brood chamber wax. Maybe a wire gauze top layer in your smoker could be used to prevent them rolling out??

The Ed

Product Review 2– Bees wax Ear Candles

Looking back at articles from the 2020 Newsletters - The Ed must have been in isolation too long and gone COVID mad, looks like too much time Googling for bee stories.

Blocked ears are a common problem, and clearing them with various products and methods, like ear buds, finger nails, bobby pins, alcohol wash, syringes with warm salty water etc etc – these can all be found on the internet.



My GP reckons his extra business from folks getting ear infections from poking ear buds into their ears has funded his kids through school!!! Maybe an exaggeration..... anyway, I saw these and thankfully didn't try them out. By the way, the claim that these work because there is all that black gooey stuff at the bottom of the candle is apparently just the black burnt paper and wax from inside the candle, and not your ear wax that has somehow been mysteriously sucked up by the burning candle. See pics on right and below.

<https://www.healthline.com/health/cosmetic-safety/ear-candling>

Here are some important things to consider:

BEES WAX MELTS AT 62-64 DEG C, did you really think your ear drum and canal would like to have that dripping on them?

DANGERS: burns, perforated eardrums, ear canal blockages that require surgery



Ear candling increases the risk of these injuries: burns to the face, outer ear, eardrum, and inner ear, burns resulting from starting a fire, candle wax falling into the ear and causing a plug or inner ear damage, damage to the eardrum, hearing loss.

Still interested? I have a free packet just for you.

The Ed

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 Shop opening is first Saturday of the month.

There will be no bee shop opening for the month of January 2026.

Please give Ron and Mark a heads up when placing orders for large quantities from the club shop, so we can order extra stock.

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.

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/>

Swarm Contact List:

Please advise Lindsay Trott editor@beesnorth.com.au or trottlindsay@gmail.com

Or: Lesley Barr 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?

Send stories and pictures to :

Lindsay Trott: trottlindsay@gmail.com Or: Lesley Barr <lesleybarr@y7mail.com>

Blooper of the Month?

Send me your blooper for totally anonymous recognition- honestly

TDBAI Office holders and Committee for 2025/2026

Position	Name	Contact
President	Frana McKinstry	president@beesnorth.com.au
Vice President	Al Cooney	
Secretary	Doris Newitt	secretary@beesnorth.com.au
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Event Co-Ordinator	vacant	
Biosecurity Awareness Officer	John Carr	
Newsletter Editor	Lindsay Trott	editor@beesnorth.com.au
Assistant Editor	Lesley Barr	
Membership Officer	Frana McKinstry	membership@beesnorth.com.au
Shop Managers	Ron Newitt & Mark Finn	shop@beesnorth.com.au
Shop Assistant	N/A	
Librarian	Beryl Smart	
Website	vacant	
Native Bees Representative	Jon McKinstry	
Committee 1	Maria Finn	
Committee 2	Greg Skellern	
Committee 3	Carla Kersnovske	
Committee 4	Blake Steward	

Committee 5	Liz Hennig	
Committee 6	Sharon Durham	
Committee 7	Tatiana Stefanos	

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