

Townsville & District  
**BEEKEEPERS**

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

ASSOCIATION  
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**Newsletter No. 7: July 2025**

In this Issue:

- Our Townsville display and Raffle winners
- QBA Conference report from Miles
- Heat treatment for Varroa?
- Club activities
- Varroa workshop
- Meeting Minutes (General & Committee)
- Shop details – NEW sell, swap, shop and coffee

**Next Meeting:**

**2pm Sunday 13 July 2025**

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

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

***“Our Townsville” on 15 June***

What a fabulous day at “Our Townsville” at Anderson Park. Our native bee display was hugely popular, along with the Flow Hive raffle. We couldn't have done this without Mark, Maria, Ron, Doris, Jon, Sharon, Edie and Carla.



## Who won the TDBAI Raffles for the Flow Hive and Flow Hive Super Lifter?????

Bee Club Raffle:

Flow Hive Super Lifter

Tickets, \$5 ea or 3 for \$10... See more



Flow Hive "Classic" retails for \$979.00  
Tickets, \$5 ea or 3 for \$10... See more



### The raffles -

The Flow Hive was won by Michaela Seaden who has since joined the club. The Hive Lifter was won by Lyn Withey, a current member. Sorry about that Lindsay, maybe next time.

We're having a **new style of meetings** - no waffle around reports etc, just straight into practical work.

### Sunday July 13, 2 pm at Hermit Park SS:

- Hive opening
- Smoker lighting
- Practice queen marking
- Drone uncapping
- Q&A

*Please advise what you would like to see happen at future meetings.*

We have a number of people wanting to **host beehives**, one in Annandale and some at Black River & Bluewater. Let me know if you're looking for a site. Also, we have a member looking for a site for two hives in the **North Ward/Belgian Gardens** area - anyone willing to offer space?

### Report from the QBA Conference by Miles Furnas

*TDBAI assisted some attendees at the Conference so that all members could stay up to date*

#### Thoughts on Day 1 (19 June) of the 121<sup>st</sup> Queensland Beekeepers Association meeting

It was clear well before arriving that *Varroa* was going to be a major subject of talks and discussions throughout the meeting. I was not disappointed.

#### Morning session 1

A significant portion of the first morning session was devoted to QBA organisational matters and updating talks by industry and government organisations involved with the beekeeping industry. Potentially difficult times lie ahead for all Queensland beekeepers due to the arrival and spread of *Varroa*. The emphasis is now on monitoring the spread of *Varroa* and managing it in the long term. Testing has shown that an alcohol wash is the most accurate method for detecting *Varroa*. Sugar shaking, unfortunately, is less effective and still results in significant mortality of the bees involved.

A book on the history of the Capilano Honey Ltd. company was launched (\$15). The company had its origins on the Gold Coast in the early 1950's.

#### Morning session 2

Dr Cooper Schouten gave the first of several talks by students and researchers from the Southern Cross University Bee Lab. Dr. Schouten has been successful in building a strong and energetic bee-related group at SCU. Dr. Schouten talked about *Tropilaelaps*, a south Asian mite which also infects honeybee colonies. There are four species of *Tropilaelaps*, two of which parasitize honeybees. It is known to be endemic in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. *Tropilaelaps* is highly fecund and appears to be less susceptible to miticides than *Varroa*. As *Tropilaelaps* is much smaller than *Varroa* and is almost exclusively associated with larvae in the brood comb, rather than adult bees, it presents real problems for detection and monitoring as it is likely to be missed when using *Varroa* monitoring methods. We have been warned.

Dr. Lewis Bartlett (SCU) gave a very eloquent talk on matters related to the dynamics of *Varroa* infestation and apiary management. He pointed out that *Varroa* is a somewhat "weird" parasite as it has a relatively long lifespan matching the lifespan

of its host. Dr. Bartlett made a number of interesting points: Environment, not management, is still the main driver of bee colony health. In an environmental setting, both feral and managed colonies get sick. Feral colonies are not inherently “healthier” than managed colonies. However, large-scale “industrial” beekeeping may introduce some unanticipated risks to bee populations. He made the interesting point that queens that mated more times, with males having a wider range of genetic qualities, tended to produce stronger colonies than queens who had mated with few or a less diverse group of males (One thinks of Mae West: “When I’m good, I’m good. When I’m bad, I’m better.”). One of the effects of the *Varroa* infestation has been a decimation of feral colonies which potentially reduces both the number of drones and genetic diversity of drone populations available for mating. Rather than being competitors or a “problem”, feral colonies are likely an important source of drones and genetic diversity. Efforts to manage (focus) the genetics of commercial bee populations may ultimately reduce queen productivity. Because of *Varroa*’s high infectivity and propensity to re-infect treated colonies, even small numbers of “bad” colonies can determine the *Varroa* status of apiaries. In an important technological breakthrough, it was shown that VEET hair-removal strips are highly effective in de-capping sections of brood comb to allow inspection of larvae therein for *Varroa*.

### Afternoon session 3

Propolis (Dr. Trong Tran, SCU) – Propolis ain’t just propolis. Propolis collection, largely for medicinal and cosmetic use, is a multi-billion-dollar industry globally. Individual chemicals from the very wide range found in plant resins may have anti-bacterial, anti-inflammatory and other useful properties. The chemical properties of propolis, vary regionally with the plant communities which supply the resins. Interestingly, the propolis collected in Queensland is “closest” chemically to propolis collected in Taiwan and Okinawa (Pacific propolis) rather than propolis collected in southern Australia (NSW, Victoria – Poplar propolis). Most everybody produces “brown” propolis. Brazil, a major propolis source, also produces both a “green” and a “red” type of propolis because of the plant communities in particular regions. The plant resins in raw propolis are separated from the beeswax component by extraction with a warm lipophobic solvent (water-accommodating, for example, alcohols). If you want to try this at home, use vodka.

Georgia Moore (SCU) gave a very interesting talk on chemical fingerprinting of honeys, particularly “Manuka” honeys. She is part of a very active group of chemists at SCU working to develop methods to trace the floral inputs to regional honeys, both as a tool to investigate the ecology behind honey production, and importantly, to develop quality control methods to validate the source(s) of named honeys. “Manuka” honey is produced from the nectar of *Leptospermum spp.*, a shrub found in New Zealand (1 species) and across southern Australia (ca 80 species). While the Kiwis claim Manuka as their own, equivalent honeys can be produced from Australian shrubs. Some Australian *Leptospermum* species, in fact, have higher levels of the active antibacterial compound (methylglyoxal - MGO) than the New Zealand species. Commercial validation of Australian “Manuka” is somewhat hampered in that the New Zealanders have patented the most straightforward analytical method for measuring leptosperin, the key diagnostic marker chemical in “Manuka”. However, the SQU group has come up with a new analytical method for measuring leptosperin. As part of their work, the SCU group demonstrated that Leatherwood honey also has a distinct chemical signature, making it possible to test whether commercial “Leatherwood” honeys are what they say they are.

### Commercial Displays

Two things stood out for me. There were two vendors selling remote instrumentation for monitoring environmental conditions in hives. As electronics shrink, better sensors are developed, batteries improve and mobile phone coverage & quality increase, it is possible to monitor one or many hives in real time over long periods and transmit the data home. No *Varroa* sensors yet, but who knows.

One vendor was selling very interesting “*Varroa* cookers” to rid or reduce *Varroa* numbers in infected hives without the use of chemicals. Apparently, *Varroa* mites have a lower thermal limit (ca. 40C) than bees and bee larvae. The “cookers” resemble large orange Esky’s. Frames (10 or 20 depending on the model) are slotted in and then are heated up to 41.5C for 2 hours to kill the *Varroa*. Sensors in the “cooker” maintain uniform and safe temperatures. I can see that there might be a throughput problem at an industrial scale, but smaller-scale apiarists wanting to maintain a “no chemicals” status could find them handy.

### ***Varroa Controller heat treatment – 6 July Zoom meeting with the developer***

From the website: <https://www.varroacontrolleraustralia.com.au/> - the information below is from the developers.

“The *Varroa* Controller is a device for the heat treatment of the capped bee brood, with a proven treatment of 97%. Considering that 80% of the mites are located in the brood, this substantially reduces the *Varroa* numbers in a colony. The principle of heat treatment with the *Varroa* Controller is based on the different heat resistances of bee brood and *Varroa* mites. The capped brood frames (after brushing all adult bees) are hung into the device and heated to a temperature that is lethal to the mite while the pupae develop unharmed.

At the same time, the device automatically ensures the correct humidification and ventilation.

Unlike other hyperthermia treatments, it doesn’t treat the whole colony, which is inefficient and causes unnecessary stress for the bees trying to keep the temperature down.”

Does it work in the tropics? It would be great if we could keep the *Varroa* threshold numbers below the need for miticide treatment, just by heating the brood frames.

The Varroa Controller – is a means of dealing with varroa under the capped cells, as compared with all other treatments which only deal with phoretic mites.”

Here are some of the advertised benefits of the Varroa Controller process

**No Mite Resistance**

As this is a short & targeted treatment, the mite is not able to build resistance.

**Clean Honey & Wax**

No need to worry about chemical build up tainting your products.

**Flexible Treatment Time**

Frequency and timing not as restricted as with other options.

**Safe for the Bees**

No queen loss, weakening of colony or compromised drone fertility.

**No Missed Nectar Flows**

And no need to find storage for supers during treatments.

**Cost-Effective**

A one-off investment rather than



**Eds note:** My understanding is the heat treatment kills any uncapped larvae but does not kill any of the phoretic varroa (free living on bees outside the capped cells). We need to clarify this point and I may be incorrect in that opinion.

The TDBAI Committee will look into the purchase of one or two of these, hopefully funded by a grant.

## Varroa is now in.....

*Please find below correspondence from DPI.*

There are now 95 infested premises with varroa mite (*Varroa destructor*) across 10 local government areas in Queensland, highlighting how quickly varroa mite can spread. The areas are:

- Lockyer Valley Regional Council
- Somerset Regional Council
- Brisbane City Council
- Quilpie Shire Council
- North Burnett Regional Council
- City of Gold Coast
- Moreton Bay City Council
- Redland City Council
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council
- Ipswich City Council.

As you are aware, in early March Varroa destructor was detected for the first time in Queensland. Since this time, it has been found in multiple commercial and recreational apiaries in the Lockyer Valley, Somerset, Quilpie, North Burnett, Gold Coast and Brisbane City Council areas.

Now that the pest is in your local area, Biosecurity Queensland would like to kindly request your beekeepers conduct a hive health check and report the results to the Bee 123 form.

Recently we have found a number of beekeepers reporting negative results through an alcohol wash, but have positive results when drone brood are uncapped. Because of this we recommend presence testing of varroa mite through an alcohol wash and drone brood uncapping if it is present. For information visit [www.dpi.qld.gov.au/varroa](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/varroa).

Monitoring for varroa mite monthly is now vital! We need your help to slow the spread of varroa mite in Queensland and you can help by:

- being educated and trained in early detection and integrated pest management techniques
- monitoring hives monthly and reporting results to the Bee 123 form, even if no mites are found
- using decontamination practices between apiaries and always come clean and leave clean
- undertaking a pre-departure hive health check and a hive health check at all subsequent new locations
- using barrier systems when varroa mite is present to help protect your own and neighbouring apiaries
- using the varroa mite surveillance map to inform your decisions on new hive locations and tracking its spread
- applying integrated pest management practices appropriately.

If varroa mite is found in your hive, it is your general biosecurity obligation to report it to Biosecurity Queensland and manage the risk posed to the broader beekeeping industry. For further information about general biosecurity obligations, please see the attached factsheet for Queensland beekeepers.

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](#).

## ***From the Internet***

### ***Colony losses exceed 60% in USA***

<https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2025.05.28.656706v1>

#### ***Abstract***

Commercial beekeepers in the US reported severe colony losses early in 2025, as colonies were being staged for their critical role in the almond pollination season in California.

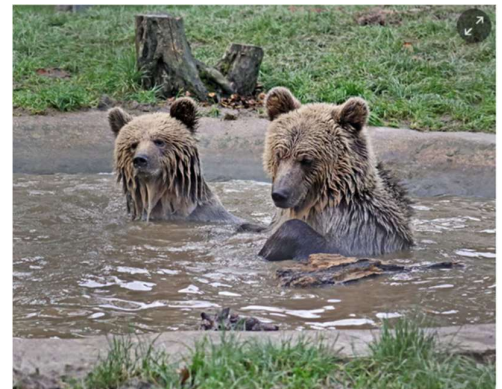
Average reported **losses since the preceding spring exceeded 60%**, with substantial variation among operations. Many colonies were still actively collapsing in January, 2025, when pooled and individual samples were collected then screened for levels of known honey bee pathogens and parasites. Deformed wing virus strains A and B, along with Acute bee paralysis virus, were found at unusually high levels, either in pooled colony samples or in individual bees exhibiting shaking behaviors and morbidity.

Differences between these two analyses suggest that direct collections of morbid bees provide a superior diagnostic for causal viruses, a suggestion borne out by confirmation of symptoms and morbidity following isolation and new inoculations. Since these viruses are known to be vectored by parasitic Varroa mites, mites from collapsed colonies were in turn screened for resistance to amitraz, a critical miticide used widely by beekeepers. Miticide resistance was found in all collected Varroa, underscoring the urgent need for new control strategies for this parasite. While viruses are a likely end-stage cause of colony death, other stressors such as nutritional stress and agrochemicals may have also played significant roles.

### ***Bears eat a week's worth of honey after escape from Devon enclosure***

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/devon>

Two European brown bears escaped from their enclosure at a wildlife park – and went straight for a picnic, consuming a week's worth of honey from the attraction's food stores. Mish and Lucy, both five years old, enjoyed a selection of snacks before being safely returned to their enclosure by the keeper team at Wildwood Devon, near Ottery St Mary. The park insisted there was no danger to any member of the public at any point, but as a precaution all visitors were escorted to a secure building.



### **Crochet project for those skilful enough to follow the directions**

This project looks like it has reproduced all the life stages of the brood box, - with the queen, workers, eggs and larvae. Someone has been paying attention to their hive while crocheting away. Is this an Intelligent Design? No drones?, they must have been down the pub!



### **The Surprising Mental Health Benefits of Beekeeping**

[https://reasonstobecheerful.world/mental-health-benefits-beekeeping/?utm\\_source=Reasons+to+be+Cheerful&utm\\_campaign=c89c13d342-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2024\\_09\\_01\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_89fb038efe-c89c13d342-380359241](https://reasonstobecheerful.world/mental-health-benefits-beekeeping/?utm_source=Reasons+to+be+Cheerful&utm_campaign=c89c13d342-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2024_09_01_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_89fb038efe-c89c13d342-380359241)

Army veterans, stressed college students, disconnected youth and people in need of a diversion from the everyday concerns and problems have all benefited from this beekeeping course in the USA.

“There’s a sense of kinship and community to be found in caring for a hive. Dutcher, the beekeeping instructor, sees it this way: Relationships can be fraught for people who have had complicated experiences with other human beings in the past. But connections with non-human beings can be simpler and set the stage for growth. The organization keeps their cohorts intentionally small, between five and seven members, so everyone has the opportunity to build a relationship with the bees if they’re interested.



Beekeeping also offers a sense of purpose, which can be empowering for anyone going through transition, Ingrao says, whether that’s returning from military service or navigating a tumultuous experience at home. “Beekeeping is an identity,” he says. “You are a beekeeper. And it’s recognized by the public.”

“Bees are a perfect example of what a community should look like,” Guzman says. “A bunch of people getting together to make something better and bigger than themselves that other people can keep building on.”

### **Backyard beekeeping - is it killing native bees??**

#### **The Environment Institute**

<https://www.facebook.com/TheEnvironmentInstitute/posts/our-bee-researcher-dr-katja-hogendoorn-believes-killing-feral-honey-bee-colonies/10158060310171277/>

Our bee researcher, Dr Katja Hogendoorn believes killing feral honeybee colonies and discouraging backyard beehives in greater Adelaide, in a bid to reduce native bee food competition.



"Before you take up backyard beekeeping, have a thought about the effects on urban biodiversity. And if you like honey, it is cheaper for you, and better for the environment, to buy it from a beekeeper at a local farmers’ market."  
<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/.../2b8c4e853e1e00df766e89...>

I see Dr Kit Prendergast...“The Bee Babette” from USQ, who is a native bee researcher, has recently posted articles supporting this finding of competition between natives and Europeans. Maybe get out of Europeans and into natives?

Opposite: one of Mark and Marias’ very appealing native bee hives

**Dr John Carr sent in some interesting items, below**

**Artificial ‘power’ pollen could make life sweeter for honeybees  
Protein muesli bars for bees?**

Honeybees could be given a boost after scientists developed nutritious “power bars” to combat food shortages caused by a dearth of wildflowers. Honeybee deaths in the United States hit a record high last year, with commercial beekeepers losing 62 per cent of their colonies. One solution is to offer bees a replacement “honey muesli bar” – and a supercharged pollen patty was developed.

Read in The Times of London: [https://apple.news/Ae\\_LeACNmRQ2szeAV7xUhDg](https://apple.news/Ae_LeACNmRQ2szeAV7xUhDg)

**Lighting the smoker!**

Essential when you, a stranger, visits hives to examine them for their health. But the bees do not know you and the smoker is your defensive shield. Even the most experienced bee keeper can be impressed with a vet who can lite the smoker! But can you light the smoker. Use traditional jute bailing twine – not plastic traditional with Jute twine or string.

Part 1



Place the jute and a very small amount of tissue paper

Part 2



When smoking add some dry grass to make more smoke

Part 3



The smoke is generally cooler than that produced through other products

Part 4



Always remember smoker safety and dispose of the match and warm fuel properly

**Interesting Reads**



This is a compilation by Peter Walker of what is on the internet using Artificial intelligence to write texts on various honeybee diseases. But this also provides the busy vet with a useful resource in alphabetical order

But some of the sections are small and the pictures difficult to see clearly. It is interesting that in the scope of this newsletter American Foul Brood advice is to requeen! And no mention is made that this is a notifiable pathogen in many parts of the world. But this does not distract from a very concise resource.

A collection of chatty and interesting stories which started as contribution to the popular magazine Bee Culture with articles under ‘Bee Vet’. This book is a collection of these articles with some additional super frames!. The book keeps you going with insight and humour.

**Neonics in bird nests points to problems for bees**

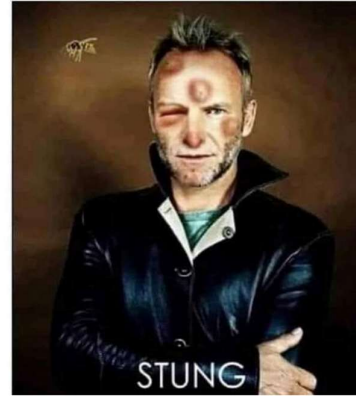
Examination of nests of Blue and Great Tits, birds who use animal fur to line their nests, were found to contain insecticides used as veterinary medicines including fipronil, imidacloprid and permethrin. The study indicated that the nests with higher insecticide concentrations there was also a significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) increase in offspring mortality. While this paper raises the awareness of veterinary medicines in the general environment there is also concern for other wildlife which would include bees. Is this a call for more environmental risk assessment of veterinary treatments.

From: Tassin de Montaigu, C. Glaiser G., Guinchard S and Goulson D (2025?). **High prevalence of veterinary drugs in bird’s nests.** *Science of the Total Environment preprint.*

## Jokes from the Internet

The other day, at a thrift store, I bought an old record album called "Sounds Wasps Make". When I got it home and played it, I said to myself, "This doesn't sound anything like wasp sounds." Then I realized, I was playing the Bee side.

"Don't stand so, don't stand so close to bees...♪♪"



## Check out all these activities and events that you can be involved in

We have frequent requests from community organisations, schools and businesses to present on various bee-related topics, with a number of events coming up over the next 2-3 months.

We are looking for members to volunteer at any that may be of interest. No particular bee experience is necessary, it's about community engagement.

Please let us know which of the following you might be interested in assisting with:

- Thursday 24 July** - St Benedicts EcoFair
- Sunday 27 July** - TCC event at Lou Litster Park
- Saturday 23 August** - Rollingstone Pineapple Festival (a big one)
- Wednesday 27 August** - Lions Club presentation (covered)

## Minutes of General Meeting 8 June at MHP

AGENDA ITEM	COMMENT
Meeting Opened	2.03pm
Attendance	Refer to Attendance Book
Minutes of Previous Meeting	Mover: Graeme W. Seconded: Bosko S.
Business from Previous Meeting	Raffle is under way, Flow Hive & Flow Hive Lifter (purchased with credits). To be promoted by email & at Our Townsville event. Drawn on 30 June. Frana, Ron, Doris & Miles are attending the QBA conference, reports to be provided. Website upgrade under way.
President Report	As above. Garden Corner at Bunnings well received by children and their parents. Doris and Frana learned how to make bee maraccas.
Treasurer Report	Tabled by Lou, total cash assets currently \$82,135.70
Shop Report	Ron advised that June shop was the busiest in a long time. Many jars sold and stock reorder is necessary.
Librarian Report	None – Beryl still away.
General Business	Upcoming events

	<p><b>Thursday 12 June</b> - Rotary Club – <i>Jon &amp; Frana attending.</i></p> <p><b>Sunday 15 June</b> - Our Townsville, <i>discussion around locations, timing &amp; set up.</i></p> <p><b>Tuesday 1 July</b> - Scout Camp event at Bluewater - <i>requested volunteers to attend</i></p> <p>Reminder email about these events to be sent.</p> <p>Varroa update / Bee 123 app – Carla gave an update on the new-style varroa mapping app. This can be accessed via Bee123. There are some excellent pix available of varroa mite in hives (SEQ) which we will obtain permission to use.</p> <p>Maria F. proposed a vote of thanks to the Tropical Health Unit for the prize she won at Ingham Link2Country event. Maria also raised awareness of the risk to all of meliodiosis – this disease can be fatal and is no longer limited to contracting by soil. It can be spread by other means. Shoes, gloves and masks should be worn when working with soil.</p> <p>Seeking outcome on Asian Honeybee Detection at Roseneath; and for apparently abandoned beehives on the Gregory Development Road.</p>
<b>Activity</b>	A quick demo of varroa uncapping and hive checking, however bees were getting a bit annoyed so did not continue.
<b>Next Meeting</b>	13 July - HPSS
<b>Close Meeting</b>	2.38pm

## **Minutes of Committee Meeting 28 June at Bohle Barn**

<b>Meeting Opened:</b>	11.34am
<b>Present:</b>	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
<b>Apologies:</b>	Lindsay Trott, Al Cooney, John Carr
<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting (1/3/25)</b>	Mover: Frana Seconded: Beryl
<b>Business from Previous Meeting</b>	LendLease 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.
<b>Email Addresses</b>	Phasing out of <a href="mailto:tsvbeeclub@gmail.com">tsvbeeclub@gmail.com</a> , encouraging the use of @beesnorth addresses by relevant committee members
<b>Upcoming events</b>	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.
<b>Calendar of events 2025</b>	No dates set for workshops, several scheduled events resulting from external requests. The next big one is the Pineapple Festival on 23 Aug.
<b>Website management</b>	The website is scheduled to go live next week, in time for the July shop day.

<b>Permanent Venue</b>	Referred the committee to the Sunshine Coast Club site plan and grants process. This is a good starting point for our club.
<b>Grants</b>	Lendlease - Native bee hives & workshop prior to September 2025 NQGP - Books into ELC & Schools – under way RRSF - Native Beehives into ELC & Schools – under way
<b>General Business</b>	<p>After input from some members, a <b>new general meeting format</b> is proposed: fewer reports and talking, <i>a welcome and straight into practical and/or educational events/demonstrations to benefit members.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite guest speakers from other organisations.</li> <li>• Provide PPE at meetings.</li> <li>• Follow the basic program of Cert III in Beekeeping for ideas.</li> <li>• Potential speakers – TCC Parks &amp; Gardens, Fire Ants person</li> <li>• Maybe make the meeting every second month.</li> </ul> <p><b>Committee meetings</b> – make these quarterly with the date fixed in advance. Treasurer &amp; other relevant reports to be presented at the committee meeting or emailed to members or put online, whichever is most applicable.</p> <p>A <b>new bank account</b> 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.</p> <p>Frana will put in a grant application to BQ for <b>Varroa Controller</b>. The committee needs to decide whether to buy one outright, along with other varroa-related equipment (no chemicals).</p> <p>Ron and Doris proposed a <b>restructure of the monthly shop</b> opening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make it a more social event with tea and coffee available</li> <li>• Have a table with giveaway or sale items (not limited to beekeeping only)</li> <li>• Volunteers (Concierge) apart from Shop people will be needed</li> <li>• Create a Welcome pack for new members containing relevant information</li> </ul> <p>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.</p> <p><b>QBA reports</b> – Miles, Ron &amp; 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.</p> <p><b>Mentors</b> for new members – we need to get this happening. Perhaps a direct request to more experienced members.</p> <p>Add members' phone numbers to the Attendance Book and follow up on visitors &amp; newbies after the meeting – Maria to attend to this.</p> <p><b>Varroa management</b> – this is such a big topic, it was agreed to tun a separate meeting focusing on this. Separately from the workshops Carla is conducting, we need to discuss how the TDBAI is going to manage this, develop a protocol that will be easy for members to follow, decide what equipment we will have on hand, etc.</p> <p>Nick Smith hives at MHP. A lot of time &amp; 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.</p> <p>MHP power box – Frana to contact TCC to get new key.</p>
<b>Next General Meeting</b>	13 July HPSS
<b>Close Meeting</b>	1.05pm

## **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.**

## **Reserve the date in 2026:**

18 - 21 June 2026 Australian Honeybee Congress in Adelaide, Convention Centre

### **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.*

## **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.

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***

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