

Townsville & District  
**BEEKEEPERS**  
ASSOCIATION

<https://beesnorth.com.au>

### Newsletter No.2: March 2026

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### Next Meeting:

**2pm Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March**

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

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

### Feature article

#### ***How an annual ‘wedding flight’ of 1,000 virgin queens is ensuring the revival of Europe’s dark bee***

[https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/feb/23/dark-bee-species-belgian-beekeepers-honeybees-aoe?CMP=Share\\_iOSApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/feb/23/dark-bee-species-belgian-beekeepers-honeybees-aoe?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other)

Every summer, 1,000 virgin queens descend on the Belgian town of Chimay. During the “wedding flight”, a male attaches to the female. His endophallus (penis equivalent) is torn off and he falls to the ground and dies. Mission accomplished.

Beekeepers come and pick up their fertilised queens in small colourful hives, driving them back home, sometimes more than 300km away. They will use the genetic material gathered in south [Belgium](#) to build new colonies in the Netherlands, France and Germany.

The point of this annual pilgrimage – which started in 2000 – is to spread the genes of the endangered European dark bee (*Apis mellifera mellifera*), the native subspecies of the honeybee (*Apis mellifera*), which evolved to live alongside the flowers and climate of this region. It is one of at least [24 honeybee](#) and conservationists argue it is the only one that should be here.

Beekeepers can reserve a place over the summer in the [Maison de l’Abeille Noire \(dark bee house\)](#), rather like booking a camping spot. During their two-week visit, young queens will mate with up to 20 males, collecting millions of sperm. This reserve can last for several years in a pouch in her abdomen.

Hubert Guerriat, a biologist and beekeeper, founded the South Hainaut beekeeping school in 1983. Photograph: Christophe Smets/The Guardian

The difference between farming dark bees and hybrid, or cross-bred, honeybees is like looking after a Scottish highland cow versus an intensive dairy cow, says Hubert Guerriat, a Belgian beekeeper and biologist who has been working with dark bees for 40 years and has been pivotal in driving the species’ return. “They are not the same animal.” Nature is like a high-precision watch. You can’t swap in one bee for another. Pollinators are not interchangeable



The European dark bee, the native subspecies of the honeybee, has evolved to live in the colder climates of parts of northern, central and western Europe. Photograph: Wirestock, Inc./Alamy

[subspecies](#),



For thousands of years, dark bees were widespread in the colder, humid parts of northern, central and western Europe. But their fortunes changed in the mid-20th century, as beekeepers imported hybridised bees, which could produce greater quantities of honey. This caused [“irreparable” damage](#) to the native honeybee population. The dark bee mates with these other bees, and in doing so risks disappearing as a distinct subspecies.

Today, their populations are extremely fragmented, clinging on in parts of Scandinavia, France and Spain. They were [thought to have gone extinct](#) in the UK but were rediscovered just over a decade ago.

In 1983, Guerriat created a beekeeping school to train local keepers to look after the dark bee and to stop the spread of the hybrid honeybee. Now beekeepers across 30,000 hectares (74,000 acres) covering Chimay and Momignies are only allowed to keep dark bees. He estimates there are 50 to 100 participating beekeepers, with plans to extend the protected zone. One of them is Isabelle Noé, who is a cheesemaker with more than 100 hives. She started her colony in 2017 in the back of an old Aldi supermarket van retrofitted into a shelter for hives, with a little office for propagating queens. Last year was an exceptional year for beekeepers and Noé harvested a tonne of honey.

Generally, these beekeepers produce less honey (as dark bees form smaller hives and take less pollen from plants) but there are fewer bee losses and fewer inputs, in terms of feeding the bees sugar over winter. There is also a special market for [“miel de noire”](#). Last year, Noé produced a tonne of honey, with each 250g pot selling for €4.50 (£3.90). Lip balm, candles, sweets and throat syrup made from honey are among the other products dark bee keepers sell.

The western honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) is the world’s [most important](#) single species of pollinator in natural ecosystems but, increasingly, [evidence suggests](#) it is having a damaging impact on wild pollinators and other bee species. Beekeepers across Europe wanting to produce honey in a more ecological way are looking to switch to a native subspecies, with Guerriat describing it as “the only way to get closer to more sustainable beekeeping”.

“All the beekeepers who use foreign bees contribute to the disappearance of the native bee,” says Guerriat. “Nature is like a high-precision watch. You can’t swap in one bee for another, and that is what we are doing when we buy in foreign bees. Pollinators are not interchangeable, just like you can’t put random parts inside a Swiss watch.”

At the same time, conservationists are [restoring wild populations](#) of dark bees in the forests, which will help strengthen the gene pool of farmed dark bees. Originally, they would have nested in cavities inside large trees, but many of these have since been chopped down, so ecologists are putting in log hives to replicate their idealised habitat. Protecting the dark bee is “also a way to contribute to the resilience of our forest ecosystem”, [says Estelle Doumont](#), who studies conservation biology at the University of Liège.

The hybrid queen bee lays a great many eggs, even in winter, which means she requires a lot of food, whereas the dark bee queen is more robust and lays fewer eggs, resulting in smaller worker bee populations in the hives. “This means the European dark bee’s needs are much lower, allowing it to more easily withstand periods of bad weather [which prevent foraging],” says Guerriat.

In today’s climate, this has become a big asset. Dark bees are more resistant to cold, humidity and sudden climate changes – some even made it through [the last ice age](#) in France. In 2024, a rainy summer meant a poor crop for hybrid honeybees, but it seems the dark bee was less affected, according to Guerriat’s beekeepers. In recent years there have been record mass honeybee [die-offs](#), with beekeepers in the US losing on average 60% of their colonies, most likely due to parasites and disease. Research suggests honeybees of local origin are [more resilient](#) against disease than imported ones.

Equally, they could be more resistant to Asian hornets, which [threaten honeybee production](#) across Europe. Dark bees are better able to remain in the hive at the end of the season during September and October when Asian hornets are most active, which may help them avoid being eaten. “It’s just a deduction based on the black [dark] bee’s lifestyle, and it remains to be proven,” says Guerriat.

As beekeepers grapple with climate breakdown, invasive species, parasites and disease, the dark bee is a reminder that local biodiversity can prove to be the most resilient.

“In apiculture, you have to explain to people how to work with dark bees. With time they find that it is a beautiful bee,” says Guerriat.

## **Presidents Report**

There has been a lot of activity since the last general meeting in February. Two native bee hives were delivered to Ayr as part of the Ross River Solar Farm grant, and three members undertook a presentation to 100 students at the Burdekin Christian College. We’ve almost completed the distribution of books to schools, kindies and waiting rooms across the region, funded by the NQ Gas Pipeline Project. These have been very well received.

More work has been done on the website with our Club Calendar populated for through to December 2026 with meeting dates, shop dates, events and presentations. The calendar will be updated as other requests come in. Please check it out and, as always, volunteers are always welcome at any given time and place.

March has three scheduled events, 13<sup>th</sup> at Home Hill SHS, 25<sup>th</sup> at North Shore SS and the Varroa Controller Training Session on 29<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers appreciated for the first two, and any interested members are invited to attend the training session. Thank you to those of you who have already RSVPd. The time and location will be confirmed shortly.

Blue Card – if you have a current blue card or exemption card, please contact me to have your details linked to TDBAI, Same if you need to apply for a new or renewal card.

We have been commissioned by TCC to make 75 native bee hotels for their new initiative ‘Seeds to Success’ which will include three presentations at selected schools in April-June.

Bees – Keep an eye on your hive as swarming is very common at the moment, and many members are finding their hives are queenless, having swarmed and not been successful in raising a new queen. Do try to keep some extra equipment on hand to rehome a swarm, or split your hive if swarming looks like being imminent. Keep up with submitting results from varroa testing too, negative results are meaningful too.

## **8<sup>th</sup> February 2026 TDBAI meeting summary**

General Meeting

DATE; 8 February 2026

TIME: 2.00 pm

VENUE: Hermit Park State School

Meeting opened: 2.06pm

Welcome: President welcomed Members and Visitors

Minutes of Previous: As published in February’s Newsletter

**Library:** Beryl discussed the range of books held in Library. Books are available for borrowing by Members. Duration 3 months.

**Shop:** Ron spoke on behalf of Mark, Maria and Doris.

He acknowledged and thanked the volunteers who help out with Friday packing of orders and the distribution on Saturday. He also displayed some shop items. These included the drone frame which is green in colour, sticky mats and 1lt squeeze jar. All are currently in stock.

**General Business:** Varroa Controller Workshop 29<sup>th</sup> March with 2 sessions. All are welcome. Further details regards venue and times to be advised.

General discuss took place about the health and wellbeing of our hives and the impact of the wet weather. We were reminded that there are other pests besides varroa. We must be alert and check for changes in our hives and take action if in necessary.

Ask another Beekeeper, you are not alone.

As there was no further questions/discussion, Frana changed hats, became our ‘guest’ speaker and demonstrated several different honeycomb frames. A tasting completed the session.

All were invited to stay - have a chat and enjoy the refreshments.

Meeting closed: 3.10pm



## ***Pests, diseases and problems***

### ***Changes to Queensland beekeepers support in Queensland – by Carla***

I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and New Year with family, friends, and of course, your bees.

This will be my final article as the North Queensland Varroa Development Officer. The National Varroa Mite Management Program officially wrapped up on 6 February 2026, and all Varroa Development Officer (VDO) positions concluded on 30 January 2026. While this chapter is closing, support for Queensland beekeepers is very much continuing. The Varroa Mite Innovation & Resilience Initiative (VMIRI) is in operation until 30 July 2027, remaining available to help beekeepers navigate the challenges of varroa mite management.

If you need assistance or have questions, you can reach the VMIRI team at: [✉ varroa@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:varroa@dpi.qld.gov.au)

Two of Queensland’s former VDOs have taken on new roles within the VMIRI program and are also available to contact:

Sarah Hickman – Engagement Officer 📞 0436 848 913 [✉ sarah.hickman@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:sarah.hickman@dpi.qld.gov.au)

Tonia Johnson – Bee Biosecurity Officer (BBO) 📞 0439 269 892 [✉ tonia.johnson@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:tonia.johnson@dpi.qld.gov.au)

[✉ bee.biosecurity@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:bee.biosecurity@dpi.qld.gov.au)

Monitoring still matters. Please continue performing your alcohol washes and drone uncappings and remember to report results through the [Bee 123 form](#). Regular monitoring is one of the most important tools we have to detect varroa early and reduce its impact when it reaches North Queensland.

Currently, in Brisbane, many beekeepers — even those actively monitoring and treating — have experienced significant hive losses due to unmanaged or feral colonies around them. Early detection will continue to help us respond quickly and protect healthy hives before infestations escalate.

One of the VDOs in the southeast, who has had varroa in their region for around four months, shared an interesting trend:

- For the first few months, non-synthetic treatments kept mite numbers relatively low.
- More recently, mite levels have sharply increased, and synthetic treatments are now required.

There are also anecdotal reports of beekeepers who, during their first monitoring check, found mite levels already well above threshold, with early signs of [Parasitic Mite Syndrome \(PMS\)](#). Early and consistent monitoring provides beekeepers with the best chance to avoid this situation.

Thank you all for the support, conversations, and commitment you've shown throughout my time as VDO. Keep looking after yourselves, your bees, and stay connected with each other as we continue preparing for varroa in North Queensland.  
Carla Lisle (Kersnovske)

**Drone uncapping for a quick and dirty Varroa inspection – not as good as the alcohol wash**

### **Club Activities**



Students from the Burdekin Christian College were fascinated by our presentation. As always, the live bees were the highlight of the day. Thank you to Frana, Jon and Gary for their work.



## Internet and Random News

### **Why did my honey crystallise and should I heat it to liquefy it?**

From the website Honey Bee Suite: Rusty [February 20, 2017 at 10:36 am](#)

The relative amounts of glucose and fructose determine whether honey crystallizes. Nectar contains sucrose, glucose, fructose and some other sugars like maltose. After the sucrose is inverted (**Eds Note:** see article in previous TDBAI January Newsletter for all about this sugar splitting enzyme in bee spit!), you would need to figure out the total amount of glucose and fructose in the honey. Glucose crystallizes quickly, but fructose does not. So if your honey has lots of glucose, it will crystallize quickly. Lots of fructose, and it stays liquid.

**As a general rule, tree honey has more fructose and stays liquid longer than herbaceous plants like wildflowers.**

**(Eds Note:** I didn't know that!!, and I will be more observant next harvest)

Regarding heat, here's a quote from [Extension.org](#): "Excessive heat can have detrimental effects on the nutritional value of honey. Heating up to 37°C causes loss of nearly 200 components, part of which are antibacterial. Heating up to 40°C destroys invertase, an important enzyme. Heating up to 50°C for more than 48 hrs turns the honey into caramel (the most valuable honey sugars become analogous to sugar). Heating honey higher than 60°C for more than 2 hours will cause rapid degradation. Heating honey higher than 70°C for any time period will cause rapid degradation and caramelization." -John Skinner, University of Tennessee.

Rusty also read that honey used as a wound dressing cannot be heated at all or it loses the main component that heals wounds, which is hydrogen peroxide.

As a rule of thumb, heat and honey is a bad combination.

### **Sydney coffee shop doubles as honey and beehive item shop**

The Ed has been hanging around Sydney over summer and can report back that bees and their produce are big marketing items down here. Check out these items at the Medovik shop in Revesby, in south east Sydney.

The clean and aesthetic shop front

Beehive related items inside. Check out the sugar dispensers from the bees backside! Interesting. And a wooden block set with wooden bees to play with.



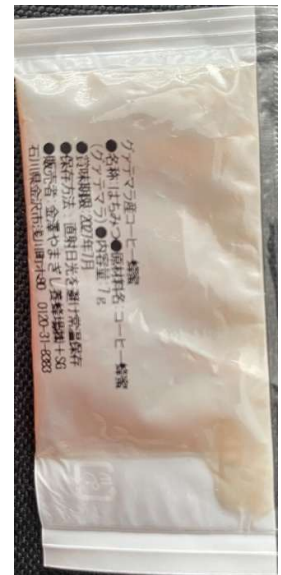
And of course - who could go past a block of Bee venom shampoo soap – nothing like giving your scalp a bit of zing. My question- do people who are anaphylactic react to this kind of product?



### Honey in a bag

In Japan you can buy small, single serve honey sachets to put in tea or on your sandwich or toast. This one contains 7 gm (5 ml of honey).

### Flavoured honeys at the Queen Vic Market in Melbourne



### Heatwaves and Cadaghi seeds and sap – can your natives survive them?

Overheating and Cadaghi sap (*Corymbia torrelliana*) are the probable contributors to the fatalities in two healthy *T. carbonaria* native bee hives during a heat wave in Sydney recently. On the 19<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025 the temperature reached 42.5° C, and the 4 subsequent days reached over 32° C. The owners of the hives were overseas and unable to cool the hives by bringing them inside to A/C or cover them with wet towels.

The two native hives in Sydney had put on over 1.5 kgs in one year and were destined to be strong splits. Unfortunately, Sydney experienced a heatwave in December that appears to have killed both hives before that. Cadaghi trees are in the neighbourhood and some seeds were observed stuck to the outside entrance area, but no more than 10 or so. A Cadaghi seedling tree was growing near the front of one of the hives, with the seed probably carried in by the bees.

The inside story resembled a scene from Pompeii. Hundreds of bees trapped and dead in a tar like propolis lining the inside of the lids, and more stuck in the black batumen on the sides of the hives. The hives were chock-a-block with brood, eggs, pollen stores and honey – not a thing was out of place, except the tarry tomb of the 100's of bees. I used a long hive tool to chip the hard set resin and bees away from the inside lid, and the resin shattered like - well, like set polyester resin. The hive walls are thin plywood, but they were encased in 25mm foam insulation – not good enough I am told.

Around 1 kg of pollen rich native bee honey was rescued from the hives.

See photos below.

From The Ed.



Full brood and stores.  
Black, hard set Cadaghi (?)  
resin on outside of nest.



Left and Right.  
Close-up of full storage pollen and honey pots surrounded by black hard set resin with dead bees inside.



Below. Brood spiral with dead bees, and 500 gm of pollen rich honey



### ***More about heat - coping with Townsville's summer heat***

From Ray Berkelmans, on the Beesnorth website: <https://beesnorth.com.au/keeping-cool-3/>

It is well known that bees have an extraordinary capacity to keep their hives warm in cold climates during winter. They do this by means of "heater bees" which occupy vacant cells or sit on top of brood cells radiating warmth to nearby cells. Heat transfer with the bees inside the cells is estimated to be 2-3 times more efficient than with the bees outside the cell (Kleinhenz et al 2003). Since heating is an energetically expensive operation for bees, beekeepers have spent a good deal of effort finding ways to help the bees along during cold winters, such as indoor hives, passive solar-heated hives, artificial heating, various means of insulation etc.

In the tropics, bees have the opposite problem: keeping cool in summer. As humans, we know that this can be harder than keeping warm in winter. However, once again we can marvel at the mechanisms employed by individual bees to keep themselves and their colony cool. Their primary method is regurgitating water from their honeycrop. This can be fanned around the hive to bring about evaporative cooling. In the last few decades, it has also been discovered that the bees anatomy is optimised for heat loss through the head, enabling it to fly at temperatures of up to 46°C when almost every other insect would die within minutes (Heinrich 1979). More recently, the phenomenon of "shielding bees" was discovered. During periods of intense sun, bees will aggregate en-mass on hot interior walls of the hive to shield the brood and other parts of the colony from excess warming (Starks and Gilley, 1999). Despite these mechanisms, it seems temperatures can easily become too hot for bees if due care is not taken. Even in winter time in the Townsville area bees are known to swarm in dark coloured hives because hive temperatures can creep above 43°C. It was shown that simply by replacing a rusty old lid with a clean white lid temperatures dropped by up to 15°C!

Methods of helping bees along in warm summers has received much less attention from beekeepers and researchers. Lensky and Siefers (1979) experimented with lids held up on corner posts 5cm above the super and compared hive temperatures, swarming impulse and honey production in these hives with those that had closed, unventilated lids. They found that ventilated hives were cooler, had less swarming cells and swarms, and produced 8.4% more honey than unventilated hives. Differences in honey production increased to 33% when hives swarmed. Most beekeepers in the tropics use migratory lids. These are ventilated and typically contain four 25mm round holes, two at each of the short ends. Together with shading your hives (natural or artificial) this is by far the easiest way to minimise heat buildup inside the hives during summer.

Maximum ventilation can be obtained by using a lid constructed with around 50% of the area covered with shade cloth, the rest corflute or some other insulating material. More area of shade cloth may help a little with keeping temperatures down, but will also upset your bees by giving them too much light. They do prefer it fairly dim inside the hive! Despite these arrangements however, hive temperatures can easily get up to 40°C in the Townsville summer if they are exposed to midday or afternoon sun

(Fig 1 shows one way to shade your hive)

If you want to get really fancy, you could fit a lid or a baseboard with a CPU fan which is thermostatically controlled by an electronic temperature controller. In one such experiment where a bottom-board mounted CPU fan was set to kick in at 36 °C, temperatures were up to 4°C cooler than the naturally ventilated hive. As soon as the fan kicked in, temperatures in the fan-forced hive stabilized rapidly and approximated ambient temperatures from around 1pm to 5pm (the danger period!) after which temperatures dropped rapidly.



While these results clearly show that fan-forced hives are considerably cooler than naturally ventilated hives, they are not very practical for the average beekeeper. These experiments do however highlight the need to do everything you can to keep hive temperatures under control in summer. This includes providing your hives with maximum shading and ventilation.

References:

Kleinhenz M, Bujok B, Fuchs F and Tautz, J. 2003. Hot bees in empty broodnest cells: heating from within. The Journal of Experimental Biology 206, 4217-4231

Lensky Y and Siefers H. (1979). The effect of volume, ventilation and overheating of bee colonies on the construction of swarming queen cups and cells. Comparative Biochemical Physiology 67:97-101

Heinrich, B. 1979. Keeping a Cool Head: Honeybee Thermoregulation. Science 205 (4412): 1269-1271

Starks PT and Gilley DC. 1999. Heat Shielding: A novel method of colonial thermoregulation in honey bees. Naturwissenschaften 86:438-440

### **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	
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

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

***Club Member Profile Questionnaire***

Send stories and pictures to :

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