

Bees in international aid and development projects - "Bees for Development"

<http://www.beesfordevelopment.org>

Bees help people out of extreme poverty. We help the most disadvantaged people to become beekeepers, always using local bees and local skills. Founded in 1993, Bees for Development was the first organisation to articulate the reasons why beekeeping is such a useful tool for alleviating poverty while helping to retain biodiversity. We focus on simple methods of sustainable beekeeping, always using local bees and local materials. We have helped many thousands of remote and poor families to earn essential income to meet their basic needs. We encourage farmers to make simple, low-cost beehives so that more people can harvest and sell honey, turning natural resources into sustainable livelihoods with great benefit for the wider environment.



Based in Monmouth in the UK, Bees for Development has now worked in more than fifty countries world-wide. In addition to our own projects, we undertake beekeeping project work on behalf of, and provide advice to, the World Bank, United Nations FAO and IFAD, EU, DFID, USAID and other international organisations.

Bees for Development currently manages projects at community and national levels in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana and Uganda, some funded by donors such as DFID, however our work is primarily supported by funds raised specifically for this work by Bees for Development Trust.

Sharing beekeeping knowledge & advice

We provide information free of charge to beekeepers in poor countries – [Bees for Development Journal](#) and [Teaching and Learning Boxes](#) are sent to readers in 130 nations, sharing knowledge and advice, and our website includes an open-access [Information Portal](#), maybe the largest web-based resource on bees and beekeeping world-wide.

Learning from our world-wide experience of intensive and extensive beekeeping practices, we are a proponent of beekeeping practices that recognise current scientific understanding of the honey bee colony as a superorganism. We have developed innovative, practical courses in the UK which emphasise science-based, natural approaches to beekeeping.

More info: [Download a copy of our 2016-2017 Impact Report](#)

Ed' Comment: you can even go on a "Bee Safari" holiday to tour the projects:

<http://www.beesfordevelopment.org/our-work/beekeeping-safaris/>



Beekeeping partnership recognised with national award - but no, unfortunately it's not for Townsville's efforts

BeeAware Newsletter Edition 406, March 2019

<http://planthealthaustralia.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/j/BEA635115CD8E1CE2540EF23F30FEDED/A61E1A509504630CF990754F028F0E8F>

Agriculture Victoria's Apiary Program was honoured with the 2019 Australian Biosecurity Award (Government Category) at the Australian Biosecurity Awards ceremony in Canberra last night.

The award recognises the long-term partnership between Agriculture Victoria and the beekeeping industry, which was put into practice in June 2018 when an exotic bee parasite, Varroa mite, was detected at the Port of Melbourne.

A joint State Quarantine Response Team was activated at the time to support Agriculture Victoria's response to the detection. This included extensive beehive surveillance by the 150 private beekeepers across Victoria who have been trained, and are nationally accredited, to be deployed as field team members in the event of an incursion or detection of exotic bee parasites or diseases.

Ed's comments: Just a question?, does anyone know of any official acknowledgement of Townsville's efforts in dealing with our Asian honey bee and Varroa incursion? Anyone I speak to from down South seems to not know anything about our (hopefully successful) battle with the double scourge of AHB and Varroa pest. To our DAF and BQ partners, - have you received any gongs for working with the TDBA Inc members and volunteers who came up from Southern states to help out?? Let us know and I will put it on the front page.

Hygiene management in beekeeping - Barrier Management System

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n13Cp9HBfJw>

Articles sent in by Alan Ziegenfusz

As Alan mentioned, this video clip shows how a commercial beekeeper with hundreds of hives has simplified his hygiene procedures to keeping 4 different coloured and numbered boxes - red, yellow, green and blue - and all frames are colour coded as well. All similar coloured items are kept together and remain with that box or location. No mixing of frames or boxes is allowed. As Al says: if he can do it for hundreds of hives, hobbyists should be able to do it with two or more hives. Note: he mentions AFB and wax moth, and this procedure has kept him free of both.

Bee spit makes great glue

<https://www.nowscience.co.uk/single-post/2019/03/31/Bee-Spit-and-Flower-Oil-Glue>

Researchers at Georgia Institute of Technology are looking at a bee spit and flower oil mixture of ingredients as a model for a bioinspired glue because of its unique adhesive properties and ability to remain sticky through a range of conditions. Bees transport pollen between plants, and they also bring balls of it back to the hive for food. These "pollen pellets," which also include nectar and can account for 30% of a bee's weight, hang off their hind legs like overstuffed saddlebags. As has been found in previous research, the force necessary to dislodge a pellet was about 20 times more than the force a bee typically experiences while flying. The binding ingredient is bee saliva!!!

The down side of keeping bees in Chinese suburban areas:

Police called on Chinese couple for keeping thousands of bees in high-rise

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/society/article/3004351/police-called-chinese-couple-keeping-thousands-bees-high-rise>

by [Linda Lew](#). Published: 7:33pm, 2 Apr, 2019

Both articles sent in by Miles Furnas.

Police were called after a couple in eastern China ignored their neighbours' complaints about the thousands of bees they kept on the balcony of their high-rise flat. The unnamed couple from the coastal city of Ningbo, Zhejiang province, installed a beehive on the balcony of their flat to use their stings for medicinal purposes, but the population expanded rapidly to around 10,000 bees, according to *Ningbo Evening News*.

"To other residents in the complex, this is a ticking bomb. What happens if someone gets stung, have you thought about that?" a police officer was quoted as telling the wife, who was at home when the police visited on March 29. Neighbours had been complaining for more than a year about bees congregating outside their flats, with the swarm's droppings staining clothes hung out to dry. Property management staff called the police after failing several times to persuade the couple to remove the insects, the newspaper reported.

"Being stung is not a big deal. I've been stung a few times and nothing happened," the woman was reported to have told police. "We have grown attached to these bees, we don't want to move them," she said, explaining that she and her husband regarded the insects as pets.

She agreed to remove the bees after being warned by police and threatened with a fine of between 200 and 500 yuan (US\$30 and \$74). The hive where thousands of bees were kept on the balcony of a high-rise flat in eastern China, to the annoyance of their neighbours.

"Bee treatment" has become popular in recent years as a form of traditional Chinese medicine. The insect's sting is used to treat illnesses such as rheumatoid arthritis by being applied to the affected joints. However, there is a lack of research on the effectiveness of such treatment.

Commenters on China's social media site Weibo criticised the couple, describing them as selfish. "You can even keep dinosaurs if you want, but only on the condition you do not affect other people," a user from Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region wrote.

Ed's comment: Interesting that you can keep dinosaurs on your balcony in China - but probably only small ones.

Amateur beekeeper in China loses 60,000 bees to poisoners at gated community

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/society/article/1958554/amateur-beekeeper-southwest-china-loses-60000-bees-poisoners>

Management warned owner to relocate the hives after some residents complained of being stung in their homes. An urban beekeeper in southwest China was astonished to find his 60,000 honeybees poisoned to death at his home in a gated private residential compound overnight after reports of neighbours being stung, mainland media reports.

The 65-year-old amateur apiarist, surnamed Wang, arose to find his six hives smashed and all his bees dead on Saturday morning at the Riverside Forest residential community in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan province, according to the *West China City Daily*.

The wife of the beekeeper, Wang, inspects the damage in their garden. Photo: West China City Daily
An urban beekeeper in southwest China was astonished to find his 60,000 honeybees poisoned to death at his home in a gated private residential compound overnight after reports of neighbours being stung, mainland media reports.

The 65-year-old amateur apiarist, surnamed Wang, arose to find his six hives smashed and all his bees dead on Saturday morning at the Riverside Forest residential community in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan province, according to the *West China City Daily*.

The wife of the beekeeper displays the smashed hives containing tens of thousands of poisoned bees. Photo: West China City Daily.

The management office of the community and residents there said the incident occurred after Wang ignored their requests to relocate the bees after many of them complained being stung occasionally. Having kept bees for more than 20 years, Wang moved into his new home in the city from an outlying village in March, bringing with him six hives he had kept for years. Photo: Weibo

Ed's comment: It's always wise to check with neighbours before installing a beehive right on your fence, or near a door to the neighbour's house that has lights on at night, or near your own windows and doors if you have no flyscreens. Also, make sure you provide water on your own property, especially if there is a pool next door.



Photos: Weibo



The wife of the beekeeper, Wang, inspects the damage in their garden. Photo: West China City Daily



Extreme weather decimates bee populations across Adelaide

<https://www.news.com.au/national/south-australia/extreme-weather-decimates-bee-populations-across-adelaide/news-story/8fc95e8e9ff98ff8a85c2a2c4e1c500c>

Beekeepers experiencing the worst honey season in 30 years are desperately trying to revive hives across Adelaide decimated by extreme weather conditions. Apiarists say prolonged dry conditions and recent heatwaves — including January's record hottest day — have combined to decimate bee populations. They are relocating hives and trapping swarms in a bid to restore bee numbers in urban areas throughout the city. Bees had already been struggling across Adelaide before the city was hit by [record temperatures exceeding 46C on January 23](#).

Two years of relatively dry conditions had left gum trees without nectar, causing bees to starve and unable to fly long distances in search of alternative food sources. There has been a reported 80 per cent decline in honey production statewide, the worst season since 1977.

Ray Berkelmans visited relatives in Adelaide recently and reported that the hive in his parents backyard (see right) was the only survivor out of 40 hives owned by a local beekeeper. The temperature had been above 40 deg C for several days and then hit **47.3 deg C**. Poor bees!!!



Swarm Contact List:

Please advise me if you wish to be removed from this list. Contact me with your name, phone number and suburb if you want to be on the list.

I have not heard yet from the people in pink.

Sonya Verbrugt - Gulliver - 04 0853 0991
Steve and Carla Kersnovske - Kelso 0417 344 419
Ben Taylor, Douglas/ Riverside eGardens - 4728 4992/ 0428 186 000
Dave Turnbull Annandale - 0458 645 677
Doug McBride, Mysterton - 4775 7465
Dan & Drew Donovan, Wulguru- 0428 218 816
Ronelle White , Alice River/ Rupertswood 0417752622
Sharene Dougall, Bluewater - 0415426903
Tito Parigi - Magnetic Island - 0418 796 951
John Pavetto 0488414017, and Ian Goulevitch -Hinchinbrook Area.
Michael O'Connell Douglas/0420 951 929
Graeme Dolby 0402 088 080

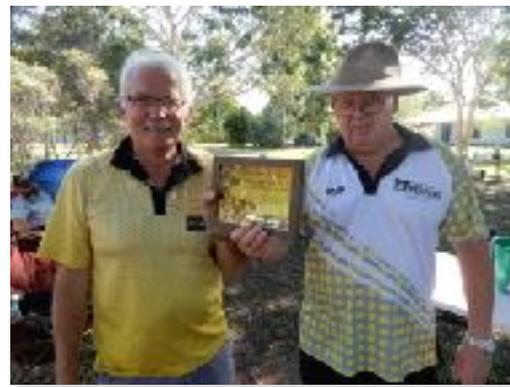
Swarm List Please contact Biosecurity : 13 25 23 for any swarm or strange bee activity in the Townsville region. For all swarm collections, please collect 300 bees or roughly 10% of brood comb and submit to Biosecurity Queensland for pest and disease monitoring.



New marked queen



European bumble bee up to its neck in heaven



Jon McKinstry receiving top honours in the "Smokin'" comp



Dave Turnbull coaxing the smoker



Frana checking a top bar frame at HPSS



Checking a Flow Hive at HPSS

TDBA Inc General Meeting Minutes 17/3/ 2019 at Lindsay and Heidi's place

Chair: President, Mick Olsen

Minutes: Newsletter Editor, Lindsay Trott

Meeting commenced around 2:00 pm

Mick welcomed the 45 or so attendees and highlighted the Visitors so they could be welcomed.

Attendance book circulated

Previous Minutes were accepted: Moved, Graeme Dolby, 2nd Beryl Smart

Treasurer:

Frana M reported a very healthy bank balance of \$14,952.53. Since January, the stock turnover has been huge again, with around \$20K spent on bee gear for the shop, and \$20K as income, as the Club does not charge high overheads to Members. Please make payments by cash on purchase or bank transfer, the new subsidised hats and some long sleeve shirts were on display.

Secretary:

-Alan Z reported on a letter sent to TCC Mayor requesting space for the Club to hold meetings in a Council owned building. We have been put on a wait list. Mick Olsen reported that we had been offered time at the lovely building of Riverside Gardens, above the Rowing Club on a Sunday afternoon at \$9.50/hr, but only for 2 hours, is that enough? There is no storage available and no hives could be maintained there.

-Al Z reported that Eco Fiesta is in Queens Gardens on Sunday 26 May. We usually have a lot of interest, so we need volunteers again to help put on a good display. Come along and talk to the interested public to inform them of the Club's activities and answer bee questions, usually simple, so no degree in bee keeping required. No plastic containers at this year's event, so any honey will need to be in glass jars.

-Al Z has been keeping the connection with organisers of the "Bee Cause" day rolling along, to be held at Kalynda Chase community gardens in May – along with Honey Month and Bee Month. Al suggested we move our Club Open day to September to be better prepared for nucs and splits for people keen to purchase, and May is very busy already.

Club Shop:

Vented hats now here with subsidised price of \$15, long sleeve shirts were on display at \$45, new short sleeve \$40, old stock at \$20, corflute bee hive signs \$10, free notepads and brochures on the display stands, and some rusty wire crimpers at \$5

Librarian:

Beryl has several books, ABK magazine, and DVD's, etc on display and for Members to borrow. Please notify Beryl when you return borrowed books and material. Some very old outstanding items on loan, so please check your shelves.

Other Business:

Mick asked for input from Members regarding activities and workshops or other suggestions on locations for meetings.

Suggestions from the floor:

-Club workshop on harvesting/extracting/spinning honey using traditional frames

-Club workshop on SHB and methods of prevention especially after wet season

-Club workshop on how to do splits, re-queen.

-Club workshop on queens, possibly with our local queen breeder Graeme Armstrong who says he can do this when he has his 1,000 hives back in production in Brandon

DAF reported in that they still want alcohol/sugar shakes and drone scratching, and it's only till August that Townsville will be declared Varroa free – a world first, we understand. DAF will help with sampling if you want it.

Al Z suggested that maybe JCU (Vet Science) could develop the skills/accreditation to be able to perform screening or ID for AFB, chalkbrood, EFB and possibly develop a bee unit?? Worth a try!

Questions from the Floor:

-Frana has offered to co-ordinate a queen purchase from Denmar Apiaries in Rocky, arriving next week. She showed some new equipment gathered on her USA travels, such as a plastic honey gate, and an easy and light mesh head only veil. The Americans apparently cant believe Frana can work bare handed or with nitrile gloves. Frana described the close fitting lids in use in USA that have a flush fit on the tops of the frames in the super with no bee space, and traveller sides that fit down around the outside of the box. Frana was taken by the delicious orange blossom honey available.

--Ron Rapson reported a swarm in West End on his way to the meeting – no takers.

-Lindsay Trott pleaded for feedback with Members news and articles for the Newsletter- again. Requested all Swarm List members to notify him of intention to remain on the list.

-Jon McK described some of the news in the ABK magazine (available to borrow) and recommended keeping up to date on snake bite response methods.

Next Meeting April 14 at HPSS

Meeting Closed around 2:50 pm followed by tea, coffee, arvo tea, discussion.

Club Shop had several items on display, there was a honey tasting bench with some fake honey (malted rice syrup) in there too (tasted reasonably good actually), some discussion at the wifi hive in the backyard and some great biscuits and cakes from the attendees.

Eco Fiesta is on, please sign up to volunteer at our stall:

Venue: Queens Gardens

Date: Sunday 26 May, 2019

Time: 9am - 3pm

Eco Fiesta will be **GOING DRASTIC AND BANNING ALL PLASTIC!** So, no plastic honey jars!!!! After lots of feedback from TCC's valued exhibitors (food & markets) and audience over the past 3-4 years we are finally banning all plastic!

This includes plastic cups, cutlery, balloons, bags, straws, plastic drink bottles and food packaging. Please spread the word to encourage the public to bring along their own personal bottles and bags.

Follow up snake bite information from Sunday 17 March Meeting from Richard Hoolihan

Snake Bite Information Video Qld Ambulance Service.

<https://vimeo.com/qascllo/review/208066925/c444e0af1b>

Snake Bite Bandage for members snake bite kits.

<https://www.survivalfirstaidkits.net.au/smart-snake-bandage>

Welcome to our New Members

Existing Club Members are encouraged to assist/mentor our Newbees. They have joined the club to learn about bees, so even if you only have limited experience, give them a hand if you can. Invite a Newbee to your hive opening and discuss what's inside the box, let newbies experience hive openings to become more confident, and you will learn more yourself by trying to explain what's going on in there. New members.

Ronelle NORD, ALICE RIVER Angela JOHNSTON, MT KELLY Julie JURSS, BLACK RIVER Carmel AHEARN, AYR
Mitch CAVELL, KELSO Bosko SUSIC, AYR Daniel KILLORAN, KIRWAN Kate & Adam DRURY, ROSSLEA
Robyn MORGAN, BROOKHILL Jeff HOPKINS, BROOKHILL Ira COOKE, BELGIAN GARDENS
Jan STRUGNELL, BELGIAN GARDENS Dominic POZZEBON, BOHLE PLAINS John MOORE, BLUEWATER
Kate WALTON, MOUNT LOUISA Richard HOOLIHAN, GREENVALE
Michael TRELOUR, KELSO

Annual Membership Fees are due in June/July each year - currently \$25/p.a. Membership fees can be made electronically to

Name:- Townsville and District Beekeepers Association

BSB:- 633000

Account:- 141466078

Refer :- Please make sure you add your Surname so that your membership can be signed off.

New email contacts for the Office Holders 2018/19

You can use these email contacts for the Office Holders, and hopefully they will have figured out how to access them and will respond ASAP.

president@beesnorth.com.au, treasurer@beesnorth.com.au, editor@beesnorth.com.au , shop@beesnorth.com.au

And for all web and membership enquiries : info@beesnorth.com.au.

TDBA Inc Office Holders for 2018/2019

President:	Mick Olsen	president@beesnorth.com.au or mick_naomi@bigpond.com
Vice President:	Paul Payne	trapper4812@gmail.com
Secretary:	Alan Ziegenfusz	secretary@beesnorth.com.au
Treasurer:	Frana McKinstry	franajon@gmail.com , or: treasurer@beesnorth.com.au
Membership	Frana McKinstry	franajon@gmail.com or info@beesnorth.com.au
Newsletter Editor:	Lindsay Trott	trottlindsay@gmail.com or: editor@beesnorth.com.au
Librarian:	Beryl Smart	smartberyl@gmail.com
Equipment Stewards:...	Alan Ziegenfusz and Frana McKinstry	shop@beesnorth.com.au
Webmaster:	Ray Berkelmans	rberkelm@gmail.com
Publicity Officer:	Sonya Verbrugt	sonyaverb@optusnet.com.au
Committee Members:	Ian Gordon	iain.gordon59@gmail.com
	Ian Goulevitch	goulevitchi@gmail.com
	Michell Hasted	pexperts@bigpond.com
	Waldon Edwards	waldon.edwards@inet.net.au
	Tom and Joan Ruddell	

Life Members of the TDBA Inc

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

Dennis ANGER

Graeme & Adele ARMSTRONG

Ken & Marcia CALEO

Dave HOEY

Mike & Jill JAMES

Doug & Sonya MCBRIDE

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

Biosecurity would like beekeepers to fill out this form below when they do self assessments, such as sugar shaker, drone uncapping or alcohol wash. The form can be filled out manually and sent into us reply paid or it can be email edit to anyone who wants it and they can fill it out on line and email it back. Carla K will also be visiting everyone who would like to practise with the different self assessment types.



**Queensland
Government**

Managed hive sample collection form

Details of person completing the form

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

Location details

Address

Nearest road Locality

GPS Location Latitude . °S Longitude . °E
(WGS 84, decimal degrees)

Contact on site Phone

Hive details

Number of hives Comments

HIN

Surveillance details

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

Office use only

Sample receipt and dispatch

Date sample received by BQ Comments

Sample dispatched to DAF BSL for analysis

No If no, provide reason

Yes If yes, provide date of dispatch and connote number

Sample entered into BORIS by Date

Laboratory results

Date results received Results and action taken

Result entered into BORIS by Date

Privacy statement

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

Please return this form to Biosecurity Queensland at PO Box 1085 Townsville 4810 or by email to varroa@daf.qld.gov.au

TDBA Bee Starter Kit - \$110

The Perfect Gift for a budding Beekeeper

Available in Townsville from the Club Shop:

Club Members Price Only! \$110

Hive tool, brush, cotton jacket/veil, gloves, and smoker

Contact: Club Shop Stewards: Frana M or Alan Z

info@beesnorth.com.au



TDBA is proudly supported by:

**Fairway
Group Townsville**

Graeme Kent
Senior Accountant,
Business Consultant

Member of CA
Annandale QLD 4014

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Coaching - Taxation - Accounting - Bookkeeping

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Email: office@theabk.com.au

LOTS-A-STINGS

Raw honey, and pollination services. Will help new members get started with bees

.Dan Donovan: Ph 0428 218 816

Townsville & District
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION

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