

The CROSS-POLLINATOR

Issue 21, May 2021

Newsletter of the
Australian Native Bee Association



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

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

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Original articles, new information and news
from the world of native bees



Australian Native Bee ASSOC

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A Tetragonula stingless bee frozen in time as it hovers and approaches a flower. Image Geoffrey Dutton, see more on page 5.

The **Australian Native Bee Association Inc** promotes the conservation and sustainable use of all Australian native bees. ANBA achieves that by providing resources, disseminating information, supporting members and communicating with stakeholders.

Disclaimer The Cross-Pollinator is a forum to people to express their views and observations. The author of each article is responsible for the statements expressed within; their opinions are not necessarily those of the ANBA.

Message from the Management Committee

Happy world Bee day, for 20th May.

Your ANBA has become a research provider having recently taken on two externally funded projects. Both projects focus on the recovery of native bees in bushfire affected areas. The first will assist solitary bees in Western Australia. The second shifts the attention to stingless bees on the mid-north Coast of New South Wales. Read the details of the first project off the blocks on page 8 of this Newsletter. Details of the second project will be revealed in the June issue.

Winter is knocking at the door and bee activity is dropping. Many of us are redirecting our focus from the bees to their housing. Enjoy building boxes, making mud bricks and collect bamboo for next season.

Our membership continues to grow and has raced past another milestone of 600 members. Another branch has also joined: welcome Coffs Harbour. Many thanks to Monica Rich for steering this group into existence, read

more in the Branch News section.

As the Association grows, so is the length of The Cross-Pollinator. Let us know if you have any comments or constructive criticisms.

Did you know that the links in this document are live? The blue underlined text is hypertext that if clicked will take you directly to the online location. The email addresses are also hot-linked so if clicked will open your email and you can start your correspondence to that person.

We hope to provide mentorships to newbees. If you would like to be partnered up with a more experience buddy, ask your branch chair for help.

We are currently ordering gear for field days, including marquees, banners, leaflets. If any branches have any need to such material, please let us know. We have a budget for such expenses.

Warm regards from the Management Committee: Tim, Dan, Ian, Peter, Lachlan, Steve, Kit, Toby, Dean, Diane, Martin, Mark, Ian, Neil and Tony

Australian Native Bee Association Inc., Management Committee

All members of the Management Committee would be happy to hear from you with questions, suggestions etc.

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Mid-north Coast Branch Representative: Diane Norris, diane.beewild@gmail.com

Coffs Harbour Branch Representative: Monica Rich, Monicarich00@gmail.com

Native Bee Workshops, events, seminars & products

Members of ANBA are invited to promote their events, services and products in the Cross-Pollinator.

Please send details to comoff@australiannativebee.org.au.

Monthly live online events of the Australian Native Bee Association

The June meeting comes from the Brisbane branch, on Sunday 6 June, at 1 pm, Brisbane time. by The main event will be a talk by Greg Coonan "Keeping Australian Native Stingless Bees"

Abstract: Greg's presentation covers his journey from getting his first hive and becoming instantly addicted to becoming an experienced practitioner. He discusses the advice given to new and potential native beehive owners. Followed by an outline of the native beekeeping practices that work consistently well.

Greg Coonan is passionate about fishing, grandchildren and native stingless beekeeping, in no particular order. The image below captures aspects of these loves.

When he retired in 2015, he had the time and energy to grow and expand on his native beekeeping hobby into a hobby/business to become semi-retired. A key focus of his hobby business continues to be helping others gain the knowledge and confidence to keep native stingless bees. When talking about his hobby he will often tell people that, by turning his hobby into a hobby/business, it has given him the opportunity to meet really nice people from diverse backgrounds and interests on a daily basis. Starting these people on their native beekeeping journey

is rewarding and has helped him to make new friends some of whom have helped with the preparation of his book for which he is grateful. Greg is author of a 2021 book titled: "Keeping Australian Native Stingless Bees". (See a review of this book on page 9 of this issue.)

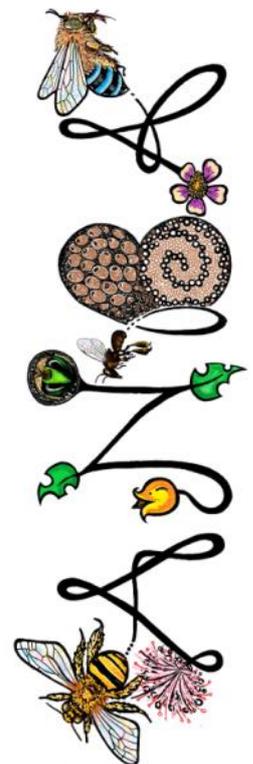
All are welcome to attend in person, \$5 fee for non-members. NOTE NEW VENUE: Bulimba Community Centre, 1 Barramul St, Bulimba, Brisbane. We will attend to some branch business following the talk from 2-3 pm.

ANBA members can attend virtually by joining this meeting, a link will be sent by email prior to the event.

World Bee Day

This year World Bee Day is Wed 20 May 2021. The themes are Food security, Biodiversity and Ecosystem health, so this event is much more than lauding the European honey bee, and it runs over a whole week. On Sunday 23 May, ANBA is staging an information at the Northey Street Organic Farmers Market <https://www.worldbeeday.org.au/listing/world-bee-day-at-northey-street-organic-farmers-market/>. Come along to learn all about the important role that bees play on Earth. Taste bee products and purchase bee-friendly plants. See the inner workings of native stingless bee hives. Northey Street Organic Farmers Market, 16 Victoria St, Windsor QLD 4030

Sunday 23 May, 6 – 11 am



Native Bee Workshops, events, seminars & products

Members of ANBA are invited to promote their events, services and products in the Cross-Pollinator.

Please send details to comoff@australiannativebee.org.au.

Commercial Workshops

Beezotted Events

Beezotted is the Kimberley for 2 months, where we will facilitate Australian native bee talks at "Incredible edible Broome" in the coming weeks- see their notice board for event details.

Beezotted will facilitate school performances in Broome and Kununurra including performing Matthew's bee story at the Kununurra Community centre's play group and talking bees with the Young at Heart group in July - see their notice board for details.

Native Beekeeping 101 workshops by Ian Driver at A Green Soul Native Bees

A Green Soul Native Bees runs introductory workshops in Teneriffe, Brisbane, covering both solitary and stingless bees. Workshops include presentations and information on native bees, hive splitting demonstration, honey tasting, information on building bee hotels and a kit to take home to make your very own bee hotel. Hives and other bee products available for sale on the day. For further information refer to the Workshop Brisbane website <https://www.work-shop.com.au/event/native-bee-keeping-101-9/>.



Ian, a Green Soul, delivers a workshop

NaturallyGC- Australian native bees: diversity, conservation and keeping.

A workshop by Dr Toby Smith, Bee Aware Brisbane at Currumbin, Queensland. Saturday 12 June 2021, 10.30am - 1.30pm.

The stunning diversity of Australia's native bees and their role in the environment; and how to keep stingless bees in a hive, propagate them and extract honey. Please click on the links to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/naturallygc-australian-native-bees-diversity-conservation-and-keeping-tickets-113843334478>

This event is suitable for ages 15 and over only. NOT suitable for young children. But following is an event suitable for ages 5 and above. Parents must stay to supervise children during this workshop. Please register for both children and adults.

A workshop by Dr Toby Smith, Bee Aware Brisbane at Upper Coomera, Queensland. Saturday 26 June 2021, 11.30am - 12.30pm.

Introducing the amazing world of Australian native bees: diversity, bee lifecycles, nests, and their important role in pollination. See live stingless bees in hives with viewing windows. Please click on the links to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/naturallygc-busy-bees-kids-tickets-113840812936>

Workshops by Sugarbag Bees

Sugarbag Bees offer seminars and workshops presented by Drs Tim Heard, Francisco Garcia and/or Tobias Smith. If you want to learn more generally about bees, especially stingless bees and beekeeping, come along to half and full day workshops held in various venues in Qld and NSW. The workshops are a mix of photographic slideshows and practical sessions. You will learn how to divide hives and extract honey and use the bees for pollination. Attendance price varies. See here for an extensive series of educational events in Qld and NSW: <https://sugarbag.net/events>

Events by Little Bee & Me

"Bring Native Bees to your Garden". Saturday 29th May 830-1pm half day workshop and farm tour at Tullamore Farm (Kerry, Qld), includes farm tour, freshly harvested farm produce for a morning tea fruit sampling, tea/coffee, and native bees! Email billosull@gmail.com for more details or visit the facebook events pages <https://www.facebook.com/LittleBeesSecretGarden>

Owl & Bee High Tea on Wednesday 30 June at Little Bee's Secret Garden. Three sessions (9am; 12noon, and 3pm), scheduled, showcasing our region's best fresh produce. Tix available at www.littlebeessecretgarden.com

Native Bee Workshop with Kit Prendergast

Come learn about what native bees live in the City of Bayswater, and how to attract them into your garden

Our native bees are a rich and diverse component of bio-diversity. Find out what bees might be in your area, and how we can help protect our pollinators.

Sun, 13 June 2021, 11 – 12 am

City of Bayswater Civic Centre, Morley, WA 6062

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/native-bee-workshop-with-kit-prendergast-tickets-155569852617>

Products

Duttons Native Bees

Hi all. I'm Geoffrey Dutton of Duttons Native Bees, Brisbane. My native stingless bee collection consists of 3 types of social native bees which I keep mostly in man-made hives and a few log hives. After planting and observing my gardens, I have managed to attract other solitary bee species as well. As well as a hobbyist native bee keeper I have a new complementary hobby of macro photography! I am now proud to offer my collection of images for sale. I am excited to share my prints transferred onto metal sheeting. As a way of giving back to the community, 100% of profits this year will be donated towards buying a native beehive (sourced from reputable suppliers) for a

school. Every print sold your helping contribute towards buying a native beehive and educating the next generation of school children.

Image sizes price (including postage) and donation amount:

150 x 100 mm, Price \$10 = Donation of \$6

200 x 150 mm, price \$18 = Donation of \$12

285 x 200 mm , price \$25 = Donation of \$15

Good gift idea. Prints can be predrilled in corners if requested and attached to beehives.

Prints will be updated over the time, check at Duttons Native Bees on Facebook, or email duttonsnativebees@hotmail.com for further enquiries.

A spread of printed metal plates. See the front page for a closeup of Geoffrey's fine photography



Research highlights

Cities have great potential to provide a habitat for different groups of pollinators

Green infrastructure in cities may serve as a refuge for insect pollinators, especially in the light of an ongoing global decline of insects in agricultural landscapes. The design and maintenance of urban green spaces play a crucial role for nesting and foraging opportunities. This study investigated the abundance and diversity of pollinator communities in different urban park types in designed, standardized vegetation units. They linked the visitation rates to the structural composition of the park types in flower beds and insect-pollinating trees. To gain a comprehensive understanding of the interaction between plants and pollinators, the researchers calculated a plant-pollinator network of the recorded community in the investigation area. The urban community gardens had the highest abundance of pollinator groups comparable to a rural reference site. Tilia trees contributed significantly to the ecosystem service of pollination in investigated green spaces with a high supply of nectar and pollen during their flowering period. Recreational parks had comparably low visitation rates of pollinators. They recommend using near-natural design and maintenance to create a wide range of flower diversity. Parks in urban environments are key habitats for pollinators.

Citation and link to read the full article: Daniels B, Jedamski J, Ottermanns R, Ross-Nickoll M (2020) A “plan bee” for cities: Pollinator diversity and plant-pollinator interactions in urban green spaces. PLoS ONE 15(7): e0235492. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0235492>

Representatives of differentiated pollinator groups



Tilia (linden) trees are a great source of nectar and pollen for wild bees in Europe, image by Andreas Avester

Solitary bees			<i>Apis mellifera</i>	
small wild bees (incl. small Megachilidae)	large Megachilidae	all other solitary wild bees	<i>Apis mellifera</i>	
				
cf. <i>Heriades truncorum</i>	cf. <i>Anthidium manicatum</i>	cf. <i>Andrena flavipes</i>		
Bumblebees		Hoverfly		
<i>Bombus terrestris</i>	all other bumblebee species	<i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>	all other hoverfly species	
				
	cf. <i>Bombus hypnorum</i>		cf. <i>Helophilus pendulus</i>	

Citizen science, the pros and cons

Citizen science is great for raising awareness in the community, but the accuracy of data collected by untrained recorders is low, according to this study.

Citation and link to read the full article: Falk S, et al. (2019) Evaluating the ability of citizen scientists to identify bumblebee (*Bombus*) species. PLoS ONE 14(6): e0218614. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0218614>



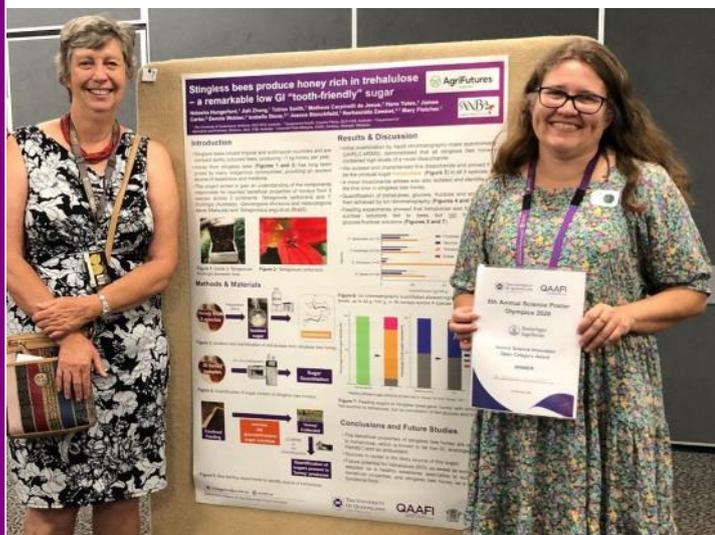
Help us find out which plants are best for all our bumblebee species. Take a photo of a bumblebee on a plant and submit it to BeeWatch www.abdn.ac.uk/research/beewatch



Labels for the images: Early bumblebee, Tree bumblebee, Red-tailed bumblebee, Garden bumblebee, White-tailed bumblebee, Buff-tailed bumblebee, Common Carder.

What is Trehalulose and why is it important?

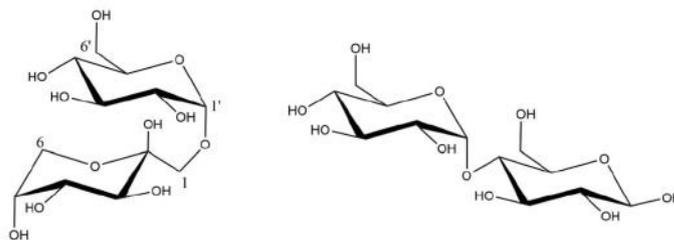
The results presented in the articles in the previous issue on the physical properties and chemical composition of stingless bee honey are essential background information required to get our honey endorsed as a Standard Food. In the meantime, another research direction has unveiled a super-exciting hidden secret, that our honey also contains a unique and a biologically active sugar with health benefits: trehalulose. This discovery is a game-changer that further elevates the value of our product. Trehalulose also provides a marker for authentication allowing identification of fake honey. Mary Fletcher and her colleagues are continuing their work in this area with a current project looking at how much of this sugar is present in the honey of different species of stingless bees kept in different environments. But here we summarize their results to date



Mary Fletcher and Natasha Hungerford were instrumental in this research. Another important person on the team is Norhasnida Zawawi (Nida) from Malaysia. Nida has presented to the Brisbane branch and remains part of our ANBA honey subcommittee.

Trehalulose is a major component (between 13 and 44%) of honeys of five different stingless bee species. Stingless bees (Meliponini) occur in tropical and subtropical regions. Like Apis honey bees, all 500 species of stingless bees are highly social insects that store honey. Stingless bee honey has a long history of traditional indigenous use with a range of purported therapeutic properties. Several studies have confirmed that the composition of stingless bee honey is different to that of Apis honey, but no rigorous identification of potential therapeutically active compounds has been done and few bioactive components have been identified. But that has suddenly and dramatically changed with the discovery of Trehalulose. The discovery of this sugar involved some high-powered scientific instruments. UPLC-MS/MS analysis showed the honey was clearly a disaccharide but did not match any of

the initially available disaccharide standards. Previous analysis of stingless bee honeys has suggested that the disaccharide present was the glucose-glucose disaccharide maltose. However, the improved resolution and mass spectral data provided by UPLC-MS/MS method demonstrated that the disaccharide present was not maltose. MS/MS fragmentation confirmed that it was instead a glucose-fructose disaccharide. The researchers then isolated the disaccharide by preparative HPLC and confirmed the identity of the disaccharide as trehalulose. 1D and 2D NMR analysis of the isolated disaccharide enabling the unambiguous assignment of the unknown honey disaccharide as trehalulose, glucose-fructose disaccharide joined by an α -(1 \rightarrow 1) glycosidic bond.



Chemical structures of trehalulose (left) and maltose (right). Trehalulose is a major component (between 13 and 44%) of honeys of stingless bees.

This is the first documented occurrence of this unusual disaccharide as a major component of honey, and indeed the first significant natural occurrence in any food. Trehalulose was previously known only from microbial cells and the honey dew of sweet potato whitefly. Trehalulose is 70% as sweet as sucrose.

Trehalulose is a naturally occurring but rare isomer of sucrose but has a much slower rate of release of monosaccharides into the bloodstream than sucrose. This disaccharide is therefore highly beneficial in having both a low insulinemic index and low glycemic index. Trehalulose can help in controlling blood sugar levels for diabetes, glucose intolerance and obesity prevention. In addition, Trehalulose does not cause tooth decay and a highly active antioxidant. These properties may be central to the reported beneficial health properties of stingless bee honey.

The presence of trehalulose as a distinguishing disaccharide in these stingless bee honeys provides a marker for authenticity. Specific marker compounds are used to authenticate high value mānuka honey. Trehalulose represents an ideal indicator of authenticity to be incorporated in the development of relevant stingless bee honey standards.

Read the full paper here: Fletcher, M.T., Hungerford, N.L., Webber, D. et al. Stingless bee honey, a novel source of trehalulose: a biologically active disaccharide with health benefits. *Sci Rep* 10, 12128 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-68940-0>.

Native Bee news

Bee hotels to boost bees after bushfires

The ANBA is delighted to announce that we have been successful in securing the Federal Government's Bushfire Recovery Grant! The project, titled 'Bee hotels to boost bees after bushfires' will be the first in the world to use bee hotels to augment bees in areas where fires have destroyed their nesting habitat. The project, devised by Kit Prendergast, involves both intensive on the ground surveys as well as an Australia-wide citizen science effort equipping people across the country in fire-impacted areas with the knowledge and skills for boosting bee populations with supplementary habitat in the form of bee hotels. Kit as well as Rachele Wilson will provide presentations and assistance to community members on the community bee hotel monitoring.

Bee hotels are artificial nesting substrates that mimic the pre-made holes and cavities in trees created by wood-boring beetles that cavity-nesting bees, such as most Megachilids and Hylaeines, and some Euryglossines, nest in. Intense fires can destroy the natural nesting substrates, and whilst flowers may bloom following fire, it can take years for trees to get old enough to be populated by diverse assemblages of wood-boring beetles. Nesting habitat is a vital part of the equation for recovering pollinators, for even if they can move into fire-affected landscapes and forage on flowering regrowth, they will be unable to establish without nesting resources. Cavity-nesting bees are known to be most affected by fires from research conducted in other countries (research has not been conducted in Australia to date), tied to the destruction of the nesting substrates they require. Our study will be the first of its kind to trial bee hotels as a recovery option. They have been used effectively to date to boost native bee populations in agricultural landscapes, with success.

Kit will be undertaking a comprehensive activities in the southwest western Australian biodiversity hotspot. Here habitat has been burnt, and whilst they are not so large as to mean recovery is impossible, the ability for native bee populations to re-establish is hampered by the lack of nesting substrates. Bee hotels will be installed in August and monitored monthly during bee activity season to check occupancy, and observing bees visiting flowers in the surroundings to determine if the cavity-nesting

taxa are present in the area (so as to be able to gauge the effectiveness of the bee hotels, distinguishing between not being used, vs. the cavity-nesting species not being present), and provide an estimation of whether their numbers are increasing following the installation of bee hotels. Three fire-affected sites will serve as controls, where no bee hotels are installed, to enable a comparison of whether bee hotels are significantly boosting bee populations.

We are also enlisting Australians to join in our recovery efforts! Kit Prendergast's ebook, "Creating a Haven for Native Bees" on evidence-based bee conservation which includes details on effective bee hotel design and the preferred flora, will be sent to Men's sheds and Landcare groups in fire affected regions, along with a prototype bee hotels. We would like citizens in or near fire affected areas to install bee hotels and when visiting the sites to take a geo-referenced photo of bee hotels and upload to an iNaturalist project "Bee hotels to boost Australian bees after the bushfires".

Stay tuned, as Kit will create a Facebook page "Bee hotels to boost bees after bushfires." We will be keeping everyone posted about our project, and hope to see your involvement too!



Keeping Australian Native Stingless Bees – By Greg Coonan

Publisher – Northern Bee Books, ISBN 978-1-912271-77-1

Greg's book is a beginner's guide to Native Stingless Bee husbandry aimed at providing advice for people looking to buy their first hive and also answering the endless question that new beekeepers love to ask.

I enjoyed reading the book, it is easy to read, written in everyday English and avoiding the technical terms that many of us struggle even to pronounce. Greg is based in Brisbane's bayside, his vast knowledge and passion for native bees is well relayed in the book which covers predominately hockingsi and carbonaria, it also includes Austroplebeia australis bees.

There are numerous supporting pictures, albeit the layout of merging several photos into one I found confusing, each would have benefitted from a border.

The book is in two parts, Part 1 sets out what you need to know to become a hive owner. Part 2 covers day to day beekeeping practices and advice with Greg relating his own experiences and knowledge.

Part 1 - Your First Hive

Greg's introduces the three varieties of native bee that are to be found in SE Qld, how hives are built by the bees, the structure and what you would expect to see through the viewing panel.

Greg uses standard OATH designed boxes, the pros and cons of timber choice and thickness are explained for the novice. Advice on where to locate a hive is well explained. The section also gives detailed information on log hives and their maintenance.

There is sound advice on pest and pest control, avoiding liquid nails, transporting log hives and Greg's own experiences with Cadaghi and African Tulip tree both of which he considers relatively harmless to bees.

The book also explains the types of swarms the new hive owner might encounter and reassurance of what to do when swarms appear.

There is a comprehensive table about bee friendly plants and shrubs. Knowing how big a plant will get I think is very useful for people with small or limited gardens.

Part 1 concludes with pictures of Greg's favourite 10 hives, they are a joy to see and would be an instant favourite with any young budding beekeeper.

Part 2 - Native Beekeeping

I really enjoyed the second section because it provides answers and tips that are so valuable to the beginners (and even some of us who are not beginners!)

Tips and advice include when to work with bees, how to be prepared, box design, benefits of observation panels and honey harvesting. There is a lot of detail and information on splitting and educting hives and even a reverse education from a box to a log. When and why splitting and eductions can fail and how to avoid these pitfalls. Greg also talks about hive rescue and has sound advice for the reader.

Part 2 concludes with advice and information on pest control

I would recommend Greg's book to anybody considering or who has just started on their Stingless Bee journey, it is certainly the Highway Code of beekeeping for all "L" and "P" platers and provides an informative foundation for the reader to progress forward.

Review by Peter Stone, 15 May 2021

Keeping Australian Native Stingless Bees



**Bees that are stingless,
disease free and require zero maintenance -
How cool is that?**

by Greg Coonan

Branch News

ANBA supports a network of local branches which help members to conserve, utilize and enjoy native bees. Currently the eight functional branches are based in Brisbane, Sydney, Mid North Coast NSW, Coffs Harbour, Cassowary Coast, Rockhampton, Gladstone and Wide Bay.

See the final page of this newsletter for branch contacts. If you are interested in forming a local branch, go here for more information: <https://australiannativebee.org.au/Form-a-new-local-branch>.

Brisbane Branch News

Two branch meetings have passed since the last Cross-Pollinator: April and May monthly meetings.

April meeting

The April meeting at THECA Chapel Hill was attended by about 24 members in person and another 30 online. The Chair Dean Haley opened the May meeting and welcomed attendees. We launched straight into our main business, the guest speaker, and moved the club business to the end, to work better with online attendees.

Guest speaker: Matthew Middleton, owner/director of Beezotted was the guest speaker for this meeting and presented the topic “My experiences with PNG bees”. Matthew spoke about his experience managing a project in the Markham Valley PNG teaching villages how to manage local native stingless bees that have never really been used before in traditional culture or as a food source. Matthew shared some amazing stories and insights into the challenges and beauty of Papua New Guinea.

General business: We discussed our financial position and upcoming events and meetings.



Above, the April meeting was held under mask restrictions. After nearly 5 years, we have outgrown the THECA hall. Below, our new digs at Bulimba Hall has plenty of room for growth and boasts a huge screen (see Rachele presenting at the May meeting on the next page)



Brisbane Branch News (Continued)

May meeting

The May meeting at our new venue the larger air-conditioned, more central, and with better parking Bulimba Community Hall was attended by about 25 members in person and another 11 online. Our committee pulled together to make this meeting a success. Ian Driver organised the new venue. Jennifer Shea printed name tags. Greg Shea provided technical backup, so the live feed fed fully.

The Chair Dean Haley opened the May meeting and welcomed attendees, especially those attending for the first time. We launched straight into our main business, the guest speaker.

Guest speaker: Rachele Wilson undertakes research on ecological interactions in natural and agricultural landscapes to inform land/animal management. She spoke about DNA metabarcoding to identify pollens or nest materials of plants that native bees have accessed. Rachele shared some remarkably interesting data on the diversity of plants accessed at certain times of the year.

Rachele uses DNA metabarcoding to identify the pollens stored in stingless bee colonies, and in solitary native bee nests. She also used this technology to identify the nest materials used by the solitary bees. Her studies included 4 natural forests, and 3 macadamia orchards in the Queensland areas of Bundaberg and Sunshine Coast over a period of 2 years. She sampled 160 pollen samples from 57 stingless bee hives, and also sampled 2,251 brood cells from solitary bee nesting blocks.

She described the painstaking methods used to capture and collect the specimens and then the work done in the laboratory to identify the various plants. Rachele has been working on this project since 2017 when she first spoke to us at the beginning of her PhD project.

From her results, Rachele gained a deep understanding of the diversity of plants needed to support healthy pollination systems. The key findings were that stingless bees and solitary bees require a diversity of pollen types. Even in orchards which are effectively mono-cultures the bees still invest considerable effort to obtain this variety in their diets. Stingless bees used pollen from at least 6 to 11 species, and require pollen throughout the year. A range of native and introduced plants are important, including shrubs, vines, and particularly trees. Retaining at least some native vegetation is recommended for orchardists, as this native vegetation can provide much needed nutrition to both wild and managed bees.

General business: Dean conveyed some of the items discussed at ANBA Management Committee, including

- Moving native bees outside their natural geographic range
- World bee day events
- Honey bees in nature reserves
- ANBA shirts
- Agri-futures interest in native bees

The new venue was discussed. Acknowledged that it was further for some to travel but also that the space will allow the club to grow, and the facilities are much better. Overall, there was majority support for the new venue.



Next Meeting

The June meeting, on Sunday 6 June, at 1 pm, Brisbane time.

We will deal with branch business following the talk by Greg Coonan "Keeping Australian Native Stingless Bees". Read more and get the details to attend either in person or by Zoom, on page 3 of this issue.

For more info on branch activities, visit our Facebook page **Brisbane Branch, Australian Native Bee Association**, <https://www.facebook.com/bnbeec>.



Branch News

Coffs Harbour Branch NEW!

Coffs Harbour becomes the latest and eighth branch to join up. A meeting of local enthusiastic members held on 1 May voted to form the branch and elected an executive consisting of Monica Rich, James Orr, Alison Beswick, Elaine Bean and Darren Barber.

The branch is keen to raise awareness of the risk of African tulip trees and take action against them. Other future campaigns may include:

- taking on an educational role with local schools
- demonstrating the splitting of a hive
- promoting native bee honey entries in the Coffs Harbour Show

The next meeting will take place at Coffs Harbour Botanical Gardens on Sunday 20th June 2021

This easy walk will run 1pm to about 2.30pm with a branch meeting to follow til 3.30pm.

Share the experience of likeminded people while we explore the natural habitat of the native stingless bee in the Coffs Harbour Botanical Gardens. This experience is not

limited to ANBA members but also visitors interested in becoming part of this community group.

- Please wear a hat, sunscreen, have suitable footwear and bring water.
- Donation of a gold coin at the door to the ANBA Coffs Harbour Branch.

The full programme of walks and/ or talks for the year 2021 is currently being planned, but activities will only be advertised on a monthly basis until covid restrictions are known with more certainty.

For more info on branch activities, visit our Facebook page **ANBA Coffs Harbour Native Bees**, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/756068211719759>

Monica Rich, Representative to ANBA Management Committee, Monicarich00@gmail.com

Members of the ANBA Coffs Harbour executive, Elaine, Alison, Judith & Monica alongside Monica's *Tetragonula carbonaria* hives.



Wide Bay Branch

Wide Bay Stingless Bees, Precision Bees and Bee Prepared held a workshop on the 10th April 2021.

Around 60 people attended. The crowd split between three areas with Adam and Alysia from **Precision Bees** discussing education and pollination, Josh and Marti from **Bee Prepared** discussing splits and transfers from boxes and water meters and Tony from **Wide Bay Stingless Bees** and Wayne and Kobe from **Bee Native** doing log transfers from several species.

These displays were done several times throughout the day so people could watch and be involved in each session. The day was a great success.

For more info on branch activities, visit our Facebook page **Australian native bee association - Wide bay branch.**, <https://www.facebook.com/Australian-native-bee-association-Wide-bay-branch-112512193439742>

Tony & Sharon, Anthony@widebaystinglessbees.com.au

Adam, Josh, Tony, Kobe and Wayne, some of the presenters at the workshop



Cassowary coast Branch

Cassowary Coast NBA participated in the Feast of the Senses this year along the river but due to the torrential downpour we couldn't see any of it and it did rain the whole event and that started a 1300 mm rain event (or so) for three weeks straight.

The Sarsaparilla flowering was great as was the Golden Penda this autumn if it were not for the rain.

Peter Robertson has completed his first solo sapiens transfer. Jordan Ortt the secretary and Neil Fraser the chair attended the Gordonvale, Holloway's Beach and the Mission Beach markets to promote ANBA membership and sell stingless bee products.

We are hoping for a promotional visit to the FNQ by a ANBA rep. soon (late July) and a project to make a flower farm has begun with the renovation of a neglected block in Martyville near Innisfail.

Rockhampton Branch News

June meeting, Sunday, 13 June 2021, 3pm - 5pm

Chair of the Rockhampton branch, Martin Schlick invites members to his home and a local bush walk. Closed shoes and mosquito protection recommended.

Address: 12 Mountain View Drive, Inverness 4703. Inverness is situated north of Yeppoon, past St Brendan's College.

Please bring a chair, hat, your best joke, follow QLD health directions, sign in on the day, stay home if you feel unwell.

Livingstone shire council Cr Andrea Friend, responsible for Environment, will attend.

Call or email Martin for further information.

Email martin.schlick@googlemail.com, M: 0458 899 535

Gladstone Branch

As mentioned in last issue, we are planning the official unveiling of the Ruth Crosson memorial plaque and native bee information signage in the Tondoon Botanical Gardens. This will complement the log hive donated by our group to the Gardens as reported in last edition. It is now in the program for official opening of 2021 Eco Fest. Samantha Redshaw has been working feverishly behind the scenes to have the sign and plaque designed and printed for assembly prior to the event. We have also successfully applied for a grant through the Gladstone Mayors Discretionary Fund to cover the cost of producing and installing the sign, thank you GRC.

Tondoon Gardens are also in the process of redeveloping their native bee garden area and it is believed the above signage will go a long way towards enhancing this area by educating the public about the benefits of native bees.

In recognition of World Bee Day on 20 May we have been thinking about a couple of activities we could do to promote the benefits of native bees in our community and couple have come to mind.

Donation of a native bee hive to our local Tannum Sands Men's Shed to enhance pollination in their quite substantial vegetable garden. There has been a very keen interest in gardening by a number of their members and we have engaged some others with constructing OATH Hives for anyone wanting to get into bee keeping. We decided to do a hive split at the Shed so that members could see for themselves why we build them a particular way and it may now lead to a better-quality product. Not only does this enhance pollination but the also the education of members about native bees not to mention the physical and emotional benefits to those building the boxes.

One interesting point is that this particular hive that we split is one that was rescued from a broken log not 100m from the location of the Men's Shed and is now the 4th hive to come from this one hive. You could say it has returned home (Photo 1).

Another project that we have been involved in is the establishment of a native bee education tool in the Boyne Island Environmental Centre in partnership with local Rio Tinto Business, Boyne Smelters Limited. As part of this project, we donated a log hive that was rescued from the Boyne Smelters buffer zone last year and has been carefully maintained awaiting placement at the Centre's Sensory Garden so that students can both see and hear the activity as the bees go about their business. In the time awaiting placement it has also been possible to successfully bud a new colony from the log so not all is lost. We decided to leave attachments in place ready for them to connect another education hive if they desire (Photo 2).

Whilst both Mark and Ian have been a little bit preoccupied with other activities, we have been feverishly looking at ways to keep the enthusiasm of our group up and looking for ideas.

For more info on branch activities, visit our Facebook page **ANBA Gladstone Branch**, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/480678232538075>

From Ian Anderson



Photo 1. Men's shed gardeners with their hive



Photo 2. Relocated log hive

Branch Executives and Contacts

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