

Whangarei Bee Club INC

Newsletter



April 2017, Issue 148

Plant-of-the-Month *Contributed by John Beauregard*

Short articles of interest to Northland beekeepers, especially non-commercial beekeepers



Image from <http://www.nrc.govt.nz/For-Schools/School-information-packs/Mangroves/>

Northland's estuaries and harbours shelter 6300 hectares of mangrove which flowers from February to April, yielding both pollen and nectar. Mangroves depend on insects for pollination and honey bees are major contributors along with native flies, bees and butterflies.

Walsh records mangrove honey having "a most unpalatable flavour, reminding one of fermenting

liquor." On the other hand, Kevin Wallace reports the honey to be an "acquired taste" which he and Melissa don't dislike. The granulation is rather coarse and soft.

This column detailed koromiko (*Hebe stricta*) in the April 2016 newsletter. 2017 appears to be a good year for this valuable pollen and nectar source.



Image from <http://www.nznativeplants.co.nz>

"Nectar and Pollen Sources of New Zealand," RS Walsh, published by ApiNZ, is a principal source of information. The club's library holds a copy of this very useful title. The web references provide excellent photographs, some of which are from proprietary sources such as plant shops.

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Thank you
John
for this month's
contribution



Upcoming Events

This Club Day
1 April

Same place, same time -
Check out page 3

Next Club Day
6 May
AGM

See page 2 for further
details

**APICULTURE NEW ZEALAND
NATIONAL CONFERENCE
AND TRADE EXHIBITION**
Rotorua 9th-11th JULY 2017



Anyone interested in the bee industry is welcome. If you are interested in attending, you can find more details at:
<http://apicultureconference2017.co.nz/registration/>

Notices

---Missing something?---

Would the person who left 16 supers of honey in the hot room at the extraction plant last month, please contact Mitch on 0274328190.

Did you make a purchase from Danny Vendt in mid-2016, but forget to pick it up? If you think the items are yours, please contact Danny.

News from last Club Day

WBC Inc - Club Meeting 4th March 2017

Three first time attendees at the club day.

Paul Martin chaired the meeting and noted that honey yields have been patchy this year, NZ wide. Comvita, the largest in the industry, is 60% down on volumes.

Northland Pure Honey has no buyer(s) for this year's honey yet.

MPI is putting together a manuka standard (next month), therefore buyers are cautious at the moment. The main players have approx 18 months honey stocks but volumes are down this season, therefore prices are likely to stay steady.

The Club's storage shed is almost completed. We may need one more working bee to finish it – yet to be determined.

ApiNZ Update

- The new manuka standard which has so far taken more than a year to put together will be released later in March. The food safety minister recently met with the ApiNZ board to discuss this.
- There are concerns over bee hive overcrowding. Hive numbers have increased from ¼ million ten years ago to ¾ million now. Codes of conduct do exist and are based on common sense and fair play. So far however they are only binding on ApiNZ members. Regional Councils have an interest in progressing by-laws for apiarists – no details available yet.
- Our club committee has agreed we should become a member of ApiNZ (\$230/year). Paul ran a slide presentation outlining why this is a good move. ApiNZ is useful: as a vehicle to talk collectively to government; it funds research eg. biosecurity incursions such as varroa and the giant willow aphid.

Seasonal Bee Keeping Information (David and David)

- Robbing has started (hive against hive). Wasps are here again.
- Good idea to use a bee escape board to clear bees out of the honey super before extraction. Put it on top of the queen excluder for 1-2 days.

- Put varroa strips in once the honey is removed. David P gets good results from 'mite away' (formic acid based with a strong residual vapour).
- Willow honey is around at the moment. It tastes bad and is difficult to extract. Might be best to feed it back to the bees.
- David H grafts queens through to the end of March. David P thought that was too far past the honey flow to allow the new hive to get strong enough before winter, also drone numbers will be down by then.
- Dave H is in the process of developing perforated metal slides as dividers in a box to separate queens. The perforated metal allows for better heat transfer within the box.



AGM in May

As Barbara will be stepping down as Treasurer at the May AGM, someone from the club will be needed to replace her. For details of this position, please see below. Mitch will also be stepping down from the committee and from running the Extraction Plant. Details for this position will appear at a later date.

The treasurer's role is to:

- manage the bank accounts of the Club and Nth Pure Honey Ltd (NPH)
- ensure payments are made to suppliers and taxes by due date
- manage products sold by NPH and monitor prices for any increased costs
- provide financial information to committee and Directors of NPH as required
- manage Xero accounting system and issue invoices for NPH invoices
- forward member queries to appropriate committee members
- provide monthly bank account movements for newsletter
- prepare and file GST returns for NPH
- file the financial statements with the Incorporated Societies each year after the AGM



Call for contributions

If you would like to make a contribution to this newsletter, we invite you to email your submission to

wbccommunication@gmail.com

Club Day

Whareora Hall
10.15am

Bring:

- Cash for the produce table
- Produce for the produce table
- Your loyalty card to show at the door
- Bee suits

Directions

From SH1, turn off to *Kensington*. Turn left into *Mill Road*, then right at *Whareora Rd*. Keep on *Whareora Rd* until it joins *Pataua North Rd* and carry on for a few more minutes. The hall is on the right. Park on hall side of road.

Financial Information

Whangarei Bee Club Incorporation		
Bank balances as at 20 Feb 2017		
Operating account		5,008.42
Savings account		18,029.24
Total funds at 20 Feb 2017		23,037.66
Plus income from		
Membership fees		773.30
Book sales		45.00
Grafting training		150.00
Interest received		20.01
		-
		988.31
Less expenditure		
Bank fees	4.00	
Hall hire	65.00	
Licences	47.44	
Card printer	2,707.31	
Club provisions		
Website	23.00	
RWT on interest	6.60	
		2,853.35
Total balance at 20 March 2017		21,172.62
Made up of		
Operating account	3,129.97	
Savings account	18,042.65	
		21,172.62

News/sites to check out

Hawke's Bay beekeepers experience worst season in 10 years:

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/hawkes-bay-today/news/article.cfm?c_id=1503462&objectid=11809961

Neighbours at war – much ado about mānuka:

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/honey-wars-pollen-war-breaks-between-landowners>

Positive result with NZ colony losses in 2016:

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO1703/S00139/positive-result-with-new-zealand-bee-colony-losses-in-2016.htm>

Gold 'mānuka' rush is driving thefts:

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/326606/manuka-%27gold-rush%27-driving-honey-thefts>

Can honey cure cold sores?:

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/90500253/can-honey-cure-cold-sores-waitara-pharmacy-joins-national-trial>

Former bee-fearer turned apiarist:

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/the-country/news/article.cfm?c_id=16&objectid=11820436