

Monthly Newsletter

Issue 195 April 2021

Upcoming Events and Notices

This Club Day: 3rd April

Next Club Day: 1st May

Whareora Hall 10.00am

What to bring:

- Your **Membership card** to show at the door
- **Cash** for the produce table
- **Produce** for the produce table
- **Library books** you have borrowed
- **Bee suit** (Club has some for members to use also)

Directions:

From SH1, turn off to *Kensington*. Turn left onto *Mill Road*, then right at *Whareora Road*. Keep on this road until it joins *Pataua North Road* and carry on for a few more minutes.

The hall is on the right. Please **do not** park on the road, use the paddock adjacent to the Hall when the car park is full.



Apiculture NZ Conference and Trade Show 2021

*Healthy Bees,
Healthy Industry,
Healthy Future*

24 - 26 June 2021
Rotorua Energy Events Centre

Register Today.

[Click here to register](#)

April Club Day

Wintering down.
Honey Competition tips - note that liquid honey should stay liquid if stored in the freezer, but this is honey type dependent

Club Day Duty Roster

Set Up Hall From 8.30am	Muriel
Set up in Kitchen 9am and Set up Lunch	Bev Bristowe, Sue Young
Wash up Kitchen from Lunch	Bev Bristowe
Pack up / Clean Hall From 12-30	Jane Atkinson

All of these jobs are easy and require very little time and effort, please sign up on the roster at Club Day. A big "THANK YOU" for your help.

News from last Club Day

Club Day Summary 6 March 2021

Paul started this club day with the latest industry updates:

1. Glyphosate in Honey

Japan has created a new barrier to importation of honey by lowering the acceptable concentration of glyphosate in honey to 0.01mg/kg. If more than 5% of tested samples do not comply then the border will be closed for our honey into Japan. Ironically, glyphosate-based herbicides are not banned in Japan. China, our largest honey customer is looking at doing something similar and the rest of the world is watching developments.

All NZ honey bound for Japan will be tested under the ApiNZ protocol. Japan will accept our testing results. The cost of testing will be on the honey producer.

The bigger issue is being driven by consumer perceptions. There is more to come on this. In the meantime, try to avoid spraying Roundup and other glyphosate-based herbicides around your hives. At present there is no proven commercial alternative to glyphosate. It is in the process of being banned in the EU (2022/3) and banned already in some US states, Vietnam and a dozen other countries. It is not clear what those countries are using as alternatives - diquat (Reward™), pelargonic acid (Scythe™), glufosinate (Finale™ and others), are being used, but how efficacious they are is difficult to determine.

[WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: GLYPHOSATE](#) – article from Analytica Labs

2. HiveHub

This replaces the clunky ApiWeb AFB website. It went live on 11th March. You should have received an email with a unique login. Follow the link to complete [HiveHub](#) registration. If you did not get an email, then you are not registered (check your Spam/Junk email folder first). If this is the case, go to the 'AFB.org.nz' site to register. There will be an App available by April. We can expect more enforcement for non-registered beekeepers. The goal is the elimination of AFB.

Trevor Clifton carries out AFB inspections if you don't have a DECA (Trevor Clifton puwerahoney@gmail.com). DECA training courses are timetabled on the AFB website.

3. Tutin

Summer droughts are the biggest risk factor – bees will go looking for any source of nectar-like material, in this case the excreted sap / honeydew from Passion Vine Hoppers feeding on the Tutin bush. It does not harm bees but in sufficient quantities in honey it can be fatal to us. After Xmas is the risk time for tutin honeydew. All honey extracted through our Plant is [tutin tested](#). We have had two positive tests so far this season. Some articles of interest online: [The Trouble with tutin](#); [Understanding tutin](#)

Honey Competition Update

The date is the 1st of May. As mentioned before, entries are in standard 500ml plastic jars which are available from the Club. 'Honey Competition Tips' are included in this newsletter.

Our sponsors are PGG Wrightson, Golden Bay Cement, Farmlands and Beequip – thank you to them for supporting this competition.

There will be six honey classes, plus a novelty wax item class, a honey-based product class and the People's Choice Award.

Extraction Plant

To book an extraction:

- Log on to our website (<https://www.whangareibeeclub.co.nz/>) and follow the instructions, or
- Text Dennis (022-0634-032) to book an extraction time.

You will need to complete and sign a 'Harvest Declaration & Extraction Document'.

News from last Club Day

Autumn Hive Preparation

There is still time to extract your honey. Leave winter stores for your bees (approximately a box of honey per hive).

Treat for varroa now.

Manuka Health's varroa treatment regime is:

- Bayvarol (a milder treatment than Apistan) is used in Spring
- Remove the Bayvarol by November and put in Oxalic strips until mid-April
- Then Apivar for winter protection (using a mesh base only).

Re-queen if needed.

Start reducing the size of your hive down to one or two boxes – as the daylight hours decrease so do the bee numbers. Check for AFB. Ensure the colony is strong pre-winter.

[Article from Kiwimana](#) on "How to prepare your bees for Autumn."

David H & Paul

Preparing Hives for Winter:

- Now is a good time to feed sugar syrup, if needed, while there are still plenty of summer bees who can do the hard work of processing the syrup, which gives the winter bees an easier ride through winter. Syrup is 2 sugar : 1 water (heated to get it dissolved). In the depths of winter bees have difficulty processing sugar so feed them now if required. However, do not feed too much syrup. Bees need a couple of empty frames, so they have a place to congregate and shiver to generate heat and keep the queen warm. Commercial beekeepers have started feeding already. Sugar syrup can ferment if not processed quickly so do not feed too much at one time (a few litres is enough). Lighter syrups can ferment quicker than heavier syrups.
- It takes 3 - 4 days for wets to be cleaned by the hive bees
- Discussion on carrying one box versus two boxes through winter. One box is easier for them to keep warm. Can use coreflute/polystyrene to make one box smaller if needed, to better insulate the box
- David is following Manuka Health's varroa treatment plan but is replacing Apivar with Bayvarol. Heather uses oxalic acid over winter.
- Spread cornflower on top of your hive lid to keep ants away. Lavender oil also works.
- Discussion on wasp control – HiveGate seems to work. Vespex (protein-based poison so might be too late in the season for that). Turns out wasps are nectar feeders and only feed protein to their larvae, they themselves do not eat protein.
- Reduce entrances now to avoid robbing by wasps and other bees.
- [Article from Kiwimana](#) on preparing hive for winter and [article from Ecrotek](#)

Future of the Club

Our AGM will be held on 5th June. We need some replacement committee members, specifically President and Vice President. Give it a go.

Message from Paul Martin, club president.

This year's AGM is during the June club day (5th June). At this AGM I will be resigning as President, so the club needs you to join the committee, so that we can create succession.

I have been on the committee for almost 7 years, and a number of the committee have been there almost as long or longer than me, so we need more fresh faces. Do not worry if you only have 1 or 2 hives, so do lots of us. We need people with energy, ideas and enthusiasm as well as an ability to organise things well.

Our club is in a very strong position at the moment, as is Northland Pure Honey and the extraction plant; but to enable a smooth transition we need you to join the committee at this AGM.

If you want to discuss things get in touch, otherwise please email your nomination well before the AGM so that we can ensure that the Whangarei Bee Club continues to be one of the best bee clubs in New Zealand.

PREPARING FOR HONEY SHOWS helpful hints and tips

LIQUID HONEY CLASSES: Sort your frames by colour before extracting. Remember excessive heat is the enemy. Even electric uncapping knives darken honey. Correct moisture content is critical. Strain, filter and filter again. Dust and lint will severely downgrade an entry. Check and remove froth or foam. Check for correct and consistent filling height. It is a good idea to change lids on show arrival to avoid travel stains. Polish jars and handle by lid to avoid fingerprints.

JUDGES CONSIDER: colour- correct class, show stewards can assist you here. Aroma, cleanliness, freedom of fermentation, crystals, foam or froth, density/viscosity, flavour, container and general appearance, accuracy and uniformity of fill.

FOR NATURALLY GRANULATED OR CREAMED HONEY CLASSES: firmness of honey, texture and evenness of grain are considered. Appearance in the jar, layering and lack of bloom are all considered.

Preparing liquid honey

- selection – choose the best for: clarity, taste, scent, colour.
- filtering can improve chances. There are many methods, but lint from filters can destroy your chances.
- getting rid of incipient granulation is best done in bulk. Trying to improve just one jar is often very difficult. The effects of heating can change colour and taste. If you must, try a short time in a microwave rather than longer heating.
- pollen in honey is not a fault and can be a selling point in everyday trade, but it can easily be mistaken for granulation by a judge, so it is best to put in really clear looking jars for showing. Too much pollen downgrades your entry.
- removing specks: - using a tube or straw they can be sucked out, but it is better they were not there at all. Many specks come from putting perfect honey into dusty jars. It is easy to wash tea cloths so use good ones and wipe all jars with care.
- bubble problems – filling with the jars pre-heated helps stop air sticking to the sides. Allowing time for bubbles to escape whilst in the settling tank is the best, so prepare in good time, let the honey settle and fill jars slowly. Bubbles under the shoulder of a jar can easily be dislodged using a clean bent wire, then skimmed off later.

Faults which downgrade

- lack of clarity – pollen in clear honey
- **No “bits”:** includes cleaning the jars of dust prior to filling, ensuring that all top foam and associated bits and pieces are removed and not cuddling the cat just before filling your jars. Clean the jar outside
- floaters, (apart from dirt), such as wax specks, little bubbles
- smears on glass, tipped honey on otherwise clean lid
- poor aroma, or the lack of any.
- boring or poor flavour, or the lack of it
- Your honey should be well filtered to start with, pour it down the side of the jar (like a pint of beer) then you can remove the foam when it forms on top and top up the jar
- Jar the week before and keep upright, change the lids when you get to the competition if it may have been tipped up on the way
- Fill to the base of the jar neck, not more or less

Aroma: This will pick up

- “toffee” smell (over heating in melting to liquid honey or pasteurisation)
- Thymol etc from treatment still in hives at harvest
- Over smoked hives at harvest
- Fermentation

Moisture: needs to be below 18.5 (and a number of entries are often a bit high). This affects the keeping quality (i.e. higher moisture content leads to fermentation). Bear in mind your honey will take up moisture from the air in our humid environment if not sufficiently sealed. Overnight (lids off) in a closed-up room or pantry with a dehumidifier was suggested as sufficient to take it down.



APICULTURE
NEW ZEALAND

Too many beehives, not enough buyers: NZ's great honey glut

Mānuka honey producers have been reaping the profits of selling pots of gold in recent years, but now there is a surplus of non-mānuka varieties as beekeepers' stockpile, hoping prices will recover. The NZ Herald's [Jane Phare](#) looks at why the country is oozing with honey, in this [article](#).

Owner of Taranaki honey company goes on market

The company which owns award-winning Taranaki manuka honey business Egmont Honey is being offered for sale, [read more here](#).

Funding available for anaphylactic reaction to bee venom

Allergy New Zealand recently shared this reminder with ApiNZ on how to access financial assistance following an anaphylactic reaction to bee venom: "Beekeepers may not be aware that the emergency treatment for anaphylaxis to a bee sting is covered by ACC. This covers the ambulance cost, and the person can also claim reimbursement for using their own EpiPen if this is the case. More information is available [here](#).

Anyone who has had an anaphylactic reaction to bee venom should be referred to a clinical immunology and allergy specialist for follow-up including to assess future risk, provide an Anaphylaxis Action Plan, prescription for EpiPen's, and advice on immunotherapy as a treatment." For more information from Allergy New Zealand on immunology check out their [website](#).



The End of the Worker Bees

Bees can smell trouble, study finds

New research from the University of Otago shows some worker bees are able to sniff the parasite out and better protect their colony.

The parasitic mites have been found to feed directly on honey bee fat stores and transfer numerous pathogens to the bee, including the deformed wing virus.

The study says most honey bee colonies of the type found in New Zealand could die within two years of varroa infestation without intervention.

[RNZ Article here](#) and [RNZ audio here](#)
[Otago University article here](#)

Is this the future of retail? Comvita plans to take immersive shopping experience to the world.

Honey business Comvita has opened an experiential store that taps into shoppers' senses to give them a better understanding of bees and honey, [link to article here](#).

The Environmental Protection Authority has approved the **importation and release of the wasp-nest beetle**, *Metoecus paradoxus*, and a hoverfly, *Volucella inanis*, as biological control agents aimed at reducing the invasive German and common wasp population in New Zealand. Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research's Bob Brown is holding a webinar on **Tuesday 30th March, 10.30am – 11.00am** that will cover the science of wasps as well as the new beetle and hoverfly, explain how and why the biocontrol will work, outline any potential risks and benefits, and discuss the next steps in the programme. You can register to attend this webinar [here](#).

ApiNZ's Canterbury Hub is hosting the **Beekeepers' Day Out** on **Sunday 16 May** at Lincoln University. With presentations, trade displays, spot prizes, a silent auction and much more, it will be a great day out. The event runs from 9am to 4.45pm with registrations opening at 7.45am. Tickets are \$65 for ApiNZ members and \$75 for non-members. To register go [here](#). If you have any questions, contact admin@apinzcanterbury.org.nz

Financial Statement

Whangarei Bee Club Incrporation

Opening Bank Balances as at 20 February 21

Operating Account	24,446.36
Savings Account	404.99
Total Funds at 20th February 21	<u>24,851.35</u>

Plus Income From

Membership Fees-New	795.00
Club Day Sales	127.05
	<u>922.05</u>
	25,773.40

Less Expenditure

Bank Fees	1.60
Web Site - OnLine designs	42.55
Whareora Hall Hire	80.00
Pizza's & Milk, Biscuits, Coffee	11.21
Office Exps - Printer Ink	189.92
Queen Bees	150.01
Farmlands - Annual Membership	

	<u>475.29</u>
Total Balance at at 20th March 2021	<u><u>25,298.11</u></u>

Made up of

Operating Account	24,893.12
Savings Account	404.99
	<u><u>25,298.11</u></u>

Other News and websites to check out

['We never expected to be bombarded' – Backyard bees pooing on people's homes](#)

[Beekeeping to brewing: A smooth transition for Christchurch mead men](#)

[Thousands of imported honeybees arrive on Sunshine Coast](#)

[Why are hundreds of thousands of honey bees dying in Lyttleton?](#)

[Honey optimism a 'red herring', say Wairarapa beekeepers](#)

[Bees get a fighting chance](#)

[Country Calendar family spreads the word on honey production](#)

Call for contributions

All you budding writers out there, we are looking for contributions to the monthly newsletter. It can be a one-off article or an ongoing piece. If you have something to add, then please email it to wbccommunication@gmail.com



Thanks to all contributors of the Newsletter



Thanks to our sponsors for their support of the Honey Competition at Whangarei Bee Club:

[Beequip](#)

[Farmlands](#)

[Golden Bay Cement](#)

[PGG](#)

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