



## Monthly Newsletter

Issue 206 April 2022

### Upcoming Events and Notices

This Club Day: 2<sup>nd</sup> April

Next Club Day: 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### April Club Day.

NOTE: The Honey competition has been postponed until later in the year as we hope to have more members interested in entering.

This club day we have Nick talking to members about

- Nosema/Nosemosis. What is it? How to prevent it?
- We will also look at Feeding - A closer look

#### Club Day Duty Roster

Set Up Hall From 9am	Help needed
Set up in Kitchen 9am and Set up Lunch	Help needed
Wash up Kitchen from Lunch	Help needed
Pack up / Clean Hall From 12-30	Carlo Lang

All 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

Nick Watkins ran club day with a presentation on preparing your Hives for winter and what to watch out for, his presentation slides are below.

After this, Nick led an in-depth training session out at the hives.

## Autumn

PREPARING FOR WINTER & WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR.

1

## Varroa

- ▶ Common for high Varroa numbers/counts this time of year
- ▶ What treatment to use? What did you last use?
  - Synthetic Chemical Families - Flumethrin/Fluvalinate (Bayvarol/Apistan)
    - Amitraz (Apirar/Apitraz)
  - Organic Acids – Oxalic Acid – Vaporizing, Staples/paper towel w/ Glycerine
    - Formic Acid – Formic Pro (MAQS)
  - Essential oils – Thymol (Apiguard/ApilifeVAR<sup>®</sup>/Thymovar) – Warm temperatures recommended
  - Other – Drone frames/food-grade mineral oil

2

## Resources (Food & Water)

- ▶ What is still in flower in your area (if any)?
- ▶ How much stored food is in the hive?
  - Average colony needs 16kg to 24kg to get through winter
  - Do you need to feed?
  - Do you need to supplement with pollen substitute?
- ▶ Most areas have a local water source for the bees however you may want to provide a source for ease of supply.

3

## Robbing

- ▶ Robbing guards & entrance reducers
  - Hive Gate
  - Mesh or screens
  - Mouse guards (galv. entrance reducer)
  - Wooden entrance reducer
  - Disc type entrance reducers
- ▶ Covering hive/supers when working hive (extra hive mat, propolis mats, damp towel/sheet)
- ▶ Feeding techniques
  - Feeding late in the day
  - Smoke all hives before feeding
  - Feeding the entire yard

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## Pests

- ▶ Wasps (Common & German) – Mid/Late summer to Autumn
  - Wasps are in search of large amounts of protein (bee brood), they will also steal honey for carbohydrates.
  - Available treatments - Vespex (protein) & Hawkeye (protein & sugar)
  - Check if you have wasps in you area with fish (fresh is better)
- ▶ Mice & Rats – Autumn/Winter
  - Rats and mice get into the hive for warmth and food. They make a mess of the comb and can sometimes be found dead in the hive.
  - Entrance reducers
  - Poison and traps
- ▶ Argentine ants – All year round (especially bad in autumn/winter)
  - Argentine ant can decimate hives by stealing food and brood, they can also spread viruses the worst being Deformed Wing Virus
  - Treat with Vanquish (use in appropriate bait stations)
  - Put hives on stand with oil/grease wells/moats

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## Consolidation

- ▶ Reducing the size of the hive (number of supers)
  - Consolidate frames down (remove empty frames)
  - Put the right frame in the right place. Make food available to the cluster.
  - Consolidation can be progressive.
  - Reduce venting
- ▶ Is the colony suitable for a full super? Would it do better in a nuc box?

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## Q & A

- ▶ Any questions
- ▶ Demonstration on hives

7

## Bulletin

- ▶ Club is looking for new committee members
- ▶ Whananaki South Site available Andrew Marks – 0272 459 335
- ▶ Bees in schools – Tahiti position/s available

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# Warre Hive keeping – by Morgan Clair

So now we know WHAT a Warre hive is, today I want to dive into WHY.

Why would you go to so much effort with a custom hive such as the Warre?



1) Emile Warre 9/03/1867 - 20/04/1951

A young Abbot (monk), by the name of Abbe Emile Warre (pictured below),

responding to the obvious decline in beekeeping in France since his youth, Warre began experimenting with around 350 hives and 12 different designs.

With various designs and the aim of producing a hive that was simple, economical, bee-friendly but still assured surplus for the beekeeper.

The end result was dubbed “the people’s hive” or what is now known today as the Warre hive.

An important part of Warre’s method to note is that he specified the hive only be opened once a year, open specifically meaning that its heat and atmosphere is let out (this is why boxes on a Warre are added to the bottom of the hive and not the top). As such, all Warre hives in NZ should be worked as “modified” Warres – meaning, we must check them more regularly by law, but also, the frames must be removable (not usual in a classic Warre).

As in nature, the bees will build downward and as they do, the brood nest will move downward into freshly constructed wax. The wax above is then used for honey storage. The brood never become chilled when boxes are added, because empty boxes below the brood nest do not have a negative effect on its temperature. When honey is harvested from the top of the hive in the fall, the oldest wax is removed from the hive at the same time.

The theory behind managing hives in this way is that it doesn’t disturb the bees as much and the hive is more in line with how the bees would settle and work naturally in the wild (smaller dimensions, boxes being added to the bottom and the hive overall, artificially resembling a tree as much as possible) while still providing us with a surplus of honey.

The following is from the final chapter of *Beekeeping for All*, by Emile Warré.

*“The People’s Hive does not turn stones into honey, nor will it give you honey without some work. But the People’s Hive saves you a lot of time and several kilograms of honey each winter. In a word, the People’s Hive is practical. It will bring happiness to you and your dear bees, for, in using the People’s Hive, you will certainly provide the most pleasant and logical home for them”.*

**Plant-of-the-Month** (short articles of interest to Northland beekeepers, especially non-commercial beekeepers) by John Beauregard – reprinted from 2017 & 2018

[Lacebark](#), houhere (*Hoheria populnea*) is a fast-growing native whose European name derives from the fibrous inner bark. It does best in good soils with adequate drainage and is an excellent garden specimen if you have the room. Lawrie Metcalf, NZ's premier native plant expert, states lacebark makes an excellent shelterbelt species, growing to about 8 metres.

Lacebark flowers profusely from about March to May, and in “good” years the mass of white flowers will entirely obscure the foliage. Honeybees love it and will produce a modest surplus of very runny honey to add to winter stores. The pollen is off-white in colour. At dawn silvereyes will be in quick for the nectar before the bees wake up and the giant bumblebees you see will be the new queens, bulking up for their winter hibernation.



[Koromiko](#) (*Hebe stricta*, recently renamed *Veronica stricta*) is a handsome native shrub flowering from February to April. It often self-establishes in waste areas but also grows well under cultivation up to 3 metres. It thrives in poor, barren clay soils and loves the light, and will not tolerate shade. It is commonly found along the edges of native bush.

The distinctive flower heads are snowy-white and very attractive to honeybees and bumblebees. If your hives are located close to stands of koromiko, then you can expect a modest surplus of pleasant-tasting autumn honey which the bees will cap and store for winter. The pollen is buff-coloured.



*“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 booklet. There is also a link on the WBC website members area.*





## Recommended read: beekeeping and current affairs

Ukraine is one of the largest exporters of honey in the world, and some attention has been given to its industry recently. However, for those interested in what beekeeping looks like on the ground in Ukraine, ApiNZ can recommend a warmly humorous satire *Grey Bees* published in 2020, about a beekeeper struggling to manage his hives in what was until last week an effective 'no-man's land' in the Donbass region, between Russian-backed separatists and the Ukrainian defence forces.

Written by Ukraine's best-known author, Andrey Kurkov, beekeeper Sergei battles on behalf of his bees, dodging contact with combatants and civilians on both sides of the battle lines, all the while illustrating the strains of sporadic violence and constant propaganda. See more [here](#).

## **VIDEO: Hives for Heroes: Veterans discover the healing power of bees**

Beekeeping has become a source of therapy for returned servicemen and women dealing with trauma.

## **In defence of honeybees**

One of the biggest issues facing honeybees worldwide is the Varroa mite. This mite feeds on an extremely important organ in bees and spreads viruses amongst bee populations, seriously harming hive health.

Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington PhD students Zoe Smeele, Rose McGruddy, and Tessa Pilkington are working with Professor Phil Lester from the School of Biological Sciences to help defend the world's bee populations from Varroa. Rose and Tessa are co-supervised by Dr John Haywood from the University's School of Mathematics and Statistics.

## **Apiarist's Advocate**

News, views and promotions for beekeepers, by beekeepers. Click on heading link to get to website.

## **NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPING CALENDAR**

By Waikato Domestic Beekeeper Association

Jobs in the hive for [April](#)

## **Honey company joins efforts to cull wasps**

Honey company Comvita has joined efforts to cull the numbers of wasps across the country.

Introduced German and common wasps are a damaging pest, invading beehives and eating insects - reducing the amount of food for native birds.

A Department of Conservation programme, [Wasp Wipeout](#), raises funds for bait stations used to control populations.



## **Bee colony deaths increase for seventh consecutive year - report**

Bee colony deaths in Aotearoa have risen for the seventh year in a row, with a new reporting estimating nearly 14 percent of the country's beehives were lost over the 2021 winter

[Bee colony loss survey](#)

## Financial Statement

Whangarei Bee Club Incorporation

Opening Bank Balances as at 20 January 22

Operating Account	32,903.78
Savings Account	404.99
Total Funds	33,308.77

### Plus Income From

New Members	270.00
Club Day Sales	64.00
Renew Membership	60.00
	394.00
	33,702.77

### Less Expenditure

Bank Fees	2.40
Web Site - OnLine designs	85.10
Membership - Sub Farmlands	28.76
Whareora Hall Hire	160.00
Club Day Exps	185.30
APINZ Sub 2.22	253.00
	714.56
	32,988.21

Total Balances as at 20 March 22

Operating Account	32,583.22
Savings Account	404.99
	32,988.21

## Other News and websites to check out

[More than a million honeybees arrive on the Sunshine Coast](#)

[Bee colony deaths increase for seventh consecutive year](#)

[PM's US trip well-timed as trade shifts from volume to value](#)

[NZ signs historic FTA with UK](#)

[Robotic hive management](#)

[Bees and Befuddlement: EIT Hawke's Bay's missing honey mystery](#)

[Honey trap: is there a downside to the boom in beekeeping?](#)

[Penn State Extension educator secures grant to aid honeybees and beekeeping](#)

### 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](mailto:wbccommunication@gmail.com)



Thanks to all contributors of the Newsletter



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