

Upcoming Events and Notices

This Club Day: 1st April

Next Club Day: 6th 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 continue 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

Club President, Nick will be presenting updates on what is happening in the hives and in the beekeeping industry currently.

May Club Day

AGM and Honey Competition, feel free to use last years' honey if you have not extracted this season



Apiarist's Advocate

Auckland Flooding Soaks Hives and Club HQ

In the Wake of Disaster

The impact of Cyclone Gabrielle on New Zealand, February 12-14, was catastrophic and a national state of emergency was declared. Naturally, many beekeepers and their businesses were caught up in the carnage. The destruction included entire businesses as honey extraction and storage sheds, thousands of hives, beekeeper's homes, vehicles and belongings met disaster. We survey the damage up and down the east coast of the North Island and ask, where to from here?

Club Day Duty Roster

Set Up Hall From 9am	Help needed
Set up in Kitchen 9am & Set up Lunch	Sarah & Ella Kallis
Wash up Kitchen from Lunch	Sarah & Ella Kallis
Pack up / Clean Hall From 12-30	Help needed

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

- Club President, Nick gave an update on how the season has been for him as a commercial beekeeper. Including what is happening across Aotearoa. Honey production down 90% in North Island. Discussion of reducing hives for winter and the risk of AFB.
- Paul Martin gave an update from APINZ, this included information on Storm Relief/assistance from IRD.
- Trademark Mānuka case dropped, but new case brought about. Reports of overseas honey claimed as Mānuka is failing testing.
- Wasp control discussed – including a beetle that feeds on wasps being released. German and common both problematic for bees. Discussed how to spot nests (mostly in ground) and treatment options.

Club Day – 4th March 2023

- A hard season!
- What to do in March?
- Nic Nac's Section
- Members talk
- LUNCH
- Hive Time

Note: Hand out roster for names

'Helping Beekeepers Keep Bees'

1

A hard season!



2

The Weather

- Heavy rainfall & cyclone
- Widespread damage
- Poor sunlight hours
- Hard on the bees

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How does it effect the bees/beekeeper?

- Access! Roads blocked by flooding, slips or fallen trees
- The bees have collected very little nectar for the season
- Feeding maybe required
- Diseases can be more prevalent (Such as chalk brood, nosema etc)
- Hives blown over or washed away

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What are your stories?

- How has the weather and season effected you?
- Do you have something you can share with the club?

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A hard season cont.

- Little to no honey (with some exceptions)
- A long swarming season (like a perpetual spring)
- Poor winter stores

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What to do in March?

- Harvest Honey – if any (be cautious of stores)
- Varroa treatment!
- Feed (it is early but may be required)
- Disease checks
- Wasp control
- Re-queen and early winter down

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Harvest techniques

- Escape boards (easy)
- Blowing
- Brushing

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Varroa Treatment

- Varroa numbers can be extremely high if you haven't treated across summer
- With large amounts of brood there is ample food for the varroa
- In my experience – treating early Autumn once honey is harvested is best.
- If using oxalic keep up on applications (oxalic is a management technique not a treatment)

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Feed

- Check the stores
- Very little nectar flow for most areas – Especially if we are to have more wet weather
- Feed 2 to 1 (winter feed)

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Disease checks

- With bad weather and a down turn in the industry could bring more spreading of AFB
- If hives in your area were damaged by weather they can be easily robbed out.
- Winter down disease check.

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Wasp Control

- Now is a good time to do wasp control
- Hawkeye wasp bait (buy online)
- Vespex (approved user)

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Re-queen & early winter down

- Good time to requeen with more stable weather for mating
- Good to have a strong/young queen going into winter
- Early winter down can reduce feed costs and management time.

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AFB Recognition Course

- 25th Feb – McKay Stadium – 9am
- Full course \$100
- Refresher \$30
- Register on the Management Agency website afb.org.nz
- You can now also do the course online

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Nic Nac's Section



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Member Talk Time



'Helping Beekeepers Keep Bees'

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Bulletin

- Honey competition – May club day!
- Roster for club day jobs
- Facebook – Whangarei Bee Club
- If you are in need of help due to recent weather let us know. The Waipu club has also extended words of support and a helping hand if anyone is in need.

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PREPARING FOR HONEY SHOWS helpful hints and tips

Categories:

- Granulated Honey: Dark, Medium & Light
- Liquid Honey: Dark, Medium & Light
- Novelty Wax Item
- Honey Based Product -appealing to at least 1 of 4 senses (sight, smell, taste, touch)



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 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.

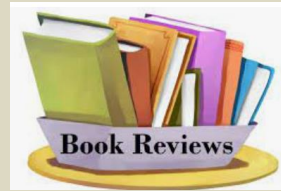
Faults which downgrade

- 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 (often entries are 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 is sufficient to take it down.



Book Review from John Beauregard

The Best from Albert's Boot

The club's extensive library is a great source of information for new and long-time members. Albert Wedge brings a selection of titles to every club meeting and you are welcome to check them out.

Art & Adventure of Beekeeping, 1975, Ormond Aebi, 184 pp including an index. The club's copy was a gift of the Chapman-Taylor family.

For a time in the 1970s Ormond Aebi and his father owned the Guinness Book of Records title for the greatest amount of honey taken from a single hive: 183.6kg (404 pounds.) This hive, in California, had a curious origin, as befitting its rather curious keeper. Aebi discovered a tiny cluster of thirty worker bees of unknown origin simply lying on the ground in his garden. They were protecting a queen with evident superior qualities. He hived this cluster where he discovered it and within a day a further 300 bees were attracted to this nucleus. From these dubious beginnings, combined with a lot of TLC, this hive grew and grew and grew to a hive consisting of one brood box and nine 3/4-depth honey supers.

I suspect this beekeeping author experiences more "adventure" than most others would choose for themselves. His principal means of subduing bees is not with smoke but by talking to them. Aebi seems to have a fondness for ladders (how else to manage a hive of ten boxes!) particularly when collecting swarms from difficult locations.

Aebi's favoured method of collecting a swarm from the branch of a tall tree:

1. Place your ladder on the tree branch adjacent to the swarm. If the branch is spindly you might need to secure the top of the ladder to the branch with a short length of rope.
2. Put on your bee suit and roll up the right sleeve to the armpit.
3. Climb up the ladder carrying a hand saw. Hold the branch with your right hand next to the bee cluster. Continue holding the branch whilst you reach across your body and saw through the branch with your left hand. You now have the detached branch with the bees in your grasp.
4. Drop the saw.
5. Holding onto the branch, lower it so that it is hanging vertically by your side.
6. The bees have a natural tendency to climb. When the swarm has climbed upward onto your bare arm you can safely release the now-bee less branch. This can take a while.
7. Climb down the ladder and hive your swarm in the normal fashion. Having a helper can be useful at this point.
8. Climb the ladder again and unfasten the rope securing the ladder to the branch stub.

Clearly this is an interesting book, to be read more for the style and the adventure than for its beekeeping content.



APICULTURE
NEW ZEALAND

Social signal learning of the waggle dance in honey bees

The honeybee waggle dance has long been recognized as a behaviour that communicates information about resource location from a foraging worker to her nest mates. Dong *et al.* show that this complex dance is in part learned by young bees as they observe more experienced bees (see the Perspective by Chittka and Rossi). Specifically, bees that were not exposed to the dances of their older counterparts displayed more angle and distance errors than those that had a “tutor.” Although experience increased angle and direction accuracy, untutored bees were never able to recover accurate distance coding. Thus, as with birds, humans, and other social learning species, honeybees benefit from observing others of their kind that have experience.

Many backyard beekeepers aren't in it for the honey

Beekeeping isn't the kind of thing you can learn on YouTube. It takes real training, the right equipment — and plenty of patience.

Click on the title to read more



FRAME CLEANING

Tai's Frame Cleaning Service \$1.50 per frame.
For more info contact Tai Pullen 020 415 815 64
taipullen9@gmail.com
516 State Highway 1 Otaika Whangārei

SWARM COLLECTION:

Video competition winners

Congratulations to the Rotorua Honey Bee Club! Check out their fantastic video [here](#)



APICULTURE NZ CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW 2023 Rotorua 29,30 June

The Apiculture NZ Conference and Trade Exhibition is the largest annual gathering of beekeepers, honey producers and pollination experts in New Zealand. It is an opportunity to learn, share and celebrate our industry.

Beyond the frame: where to next for the NZ apiculture sector?

This year's seminars and workshops will explore next steps in apiculture science, markets and practices.

[Register here](#)

For Sale

Self-levelling hive stands (takes 2 hives) \$150 each.

Pneumatic box/super brander offers

See/ring Nick 02102981621 or

Ken 09-437 7067

Financial Statement

Whangarei Bee Club Incorporation

Opening Bank Balances as at 20 February 23

Operating Account	40,166.88
Savings Account	407.62
Total Funds	<u>40,574.50</u>

Plus Income From

New Members	110.00
Interest-01	1.04
	<u>111.04</u>
	<u>40,685.54</u>

Less Expenditure

Bank Fees	1.20
RWT-01	0.47
Web Site - OnLine designs	48.30
Whareora Hall Hire	80.00
APINZ - Yearly Sub	253.00
L Child - Club Day Pizzas	185.00
S Young - Club Day Tea Coffee & Biscuits	20.18
	<u>588.15</u>
	<u>40,097.39</u>

Total Balances as at 20 March 23

Operating Account	39,689.20
Savings Account	408.19
	<u>40,097.39</u>

Other News and websites to check out

All UK honey tested in EU fraud investigation fails authenticity test

Beekeeping in New Zealand - Market Research Report

New insecticides to target honey bee enemies

Bees teach their babies how to dance

How does the world's first vaccine for honeybee's work? "It's like magic"

Significant, but not biologically relevant: *Nosema ceranae* infections and winter losses of honey bee colonies

Cyclone Gabrielle: Up to 6000 beehives washed away or damaged in Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti

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:

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