

Whangarei Bee Club INC

Newsletter



August 2017, Issue 152

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

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



www.weedbusters.org.nz

There are nearly 1000 Australian species of wattle, mostly in the *Acacia* genus, a handful of which was relocated to New Zealand during colonial times. Many of them have become invasive, and late winter-early springtime reveals the extent of the invasion within native bush

when wattles can showily flower. The yellow flowers—pale in some species and quite vivid in others—yield pollen liberally which honey bees readily exploit. A few wattle species provide nectar as well and, interestingly, some of this nectar arises where a leaf joins the stem rather than from a flower.

<http://www.weedbusters.org.nz/weed-information/acacia-dealbata/59/>

This column detailed gorse in the August 2016 newsletter. 2017 appears to be a so-so year for this invaluable pollen source.

"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
5 August

Same place, same time
Check out page 3

Next Club Day
2 September

See you there 😊

This Club Day

Special guest speaker

Dr James Sainsbury

from Plant & Food Research

will be joining us to discuss the following topics, with plenty of time for questions:

-Integrated Varroa Control

-Nosema

-AFB

News from last Club Day

Summary of Whangarei Bee Club Meeting 1 July 2017

Presidents News and Updates: Paul Martin gave an overview of the Committees thoughts for the Club going forward for those members who were not at last month's meeting.

He also gave an update on the Myrtle rust situation. It has been found in Northland, Taranaki and Bay of Plenty areas so far with restriction on movement of specific plant species in place in Taranaki. It has been found predominately in Ramarama and Pouhutuakawa species. Myrtle rust is a fungal infection. These are generally less active in winter so be very vigilant in spring as the weather starts warming up. So far there has been no trace of Myrtle rust found in bee hives.

An update was given on MPI's definition of Manuka honey. MPI has been reconsidering its definition after discussion with the honey industry. They advised the feedback date is set for 11 July but it is expected this will be extended.

The directors of Northland Pure Honey Ltd have had a meeting to begin planning for the next extraction season and what needs to be done to get the plant ready. Mitch is stepping down as the extraction plant manager so the directors are looking for someone else to take on this role. A working bee may be needed at a later date but they will confirm this later.

Paul had approached Mark Goodwin to be the Guest Speaker at next month's meeting. He is unable to make it so referred this on to a colleague. Paul is hoping to get the plant and food scientist involved in bee research who would give a presentation on integrated varroa control, nosema and AFB.

Knick Knack Section: David Herbert showed a robber deterrent he was working on to stop wasps robbing hives. It is a small wooden block which fits at the entrance of the hive.

There was also discussion about methods to divide a hive into two sections to help keep smaller bee clusters warm over winter.

David and David Hive Time: David Pullen advised some hives are very weak and are starving. These need to be kept warm so use cardboard/hardboard on either side of the cluster to help keep them warm and together in a small area. Other hives are still going really strong. The weak hives may be a repercussion of a bad season with weak queens now being felt.

Keep an eye on the hives and feed those that need it over the next couple of months. Hives will soon start on building up brood so they can quickly chew through their food. David Herbert advised he is currently feeding a 30sugar/70 water mix of sugar syrup but it depends on each hive. A strong 50/50 sugar syrup put on a weak hive can kill off the older bees and the hive won't have enough young bees to keep it going. A strong sugar syrup mix is fine if you are feeding a strong hive.

David Pullen discussed the use of Miteaway for varroa control. It doesn't appear to be any good if used early autumn/winter. This is because it can hit a hive quite hard, affecting the brood, which is reducing this time of the year. It is better used in early spring when the queens are building up brood numbers. David Herbert advised Apivar is also causing some concern as he noticed the bees seem to avoid the strips therefore reducing its effectiveness.

Wasps are still a problem and can quickly rob out a hive so keep an eye out for these and take measures to reduce their access to the hive.

Condensation in a hive can be a problem, especially if the hive is weak. This can be reduced by raising the back of the hive so it has a slight slope to the front allowing any condensation to drain. You can also put a matchstick in each corner under the hive mat to allow airflow to reduce condensation. David Pullen also suggested the use of propolis mats which he said helps with this, but don't use on a weak hive.

Frames that get quite black and thick should be moved out of the brood chamber and replaced with drawn comb. Drawn clean comb on extracted frames are good for the brood chamber. Do not use frames with undrawn comb if possible. To reuse the plastic frames with dark comb, these can be scrapped, water blasted and then rewaxed.

Another method is to put them in the freezer for a while, then take them out and twist the frame a bit. As the wax is brittle this should break off and can then be water blasted.

A roster for helping out at club day will be kept up at the front of the hall so if you are able to help please put your name down.





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 June 2017		
Operating account		6,248.50
Savings account		18,088.39
Total funds at 20 May 2017		24,336.89
Plus income from		
Membership fees	4,864.30	
Book sales		
Interest received	22.32	
		4,886.62
		29,223.51
Less expenditure		
Bank fees	1.60	
Hall hire	65.00	
Licences	47.44	
Club provisions	220.21	
Website	23.00	
Office Exp - Printer Ink	149.13	
RWT on interest	7.37	
		513.75
Total balance at 20 June 2017		28,709.76
Made up of		
Operating account	10,606.42	
Savings account	18,103.34	
		28,709.76

News/sites to check out

Honey to ease allergies:

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/94748283/using-honey-to-ease-seasonal-allergies>

Beekeepers worried about lead poisoning:

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/94795918/local-businesses-worried-about-lead-poisoning-from-gun-club>

Which flowers are best for bees:

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/life-style/homed/garden/94172357/qa-which-winter-flowers-are-best-for-bees>

Harm on bees from insecticides unclear:

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/94267790/overseas-studies-on-insecticides-mixed-local-growers-say-go-without>

Environmentally-inspired board game - 'Flight of Pollen':

http://www2.nzherald.co.nz/the-country/news/article.cfm?c_id=16&objectid=11889468

Beekeeping software the big winner:

http://www2.nzherald.co.nz/hamilton-news/te-awamutu-courier/news/article.cfm?c_id=1504325&objectid=11893058