



## Monthly Newsletter

Issue 187 August 2020

### Upcoming Events and Notices

This Club Day: 1<sup>st</sup> August

Next Club Day: 5<sup>th</sup> September

#### 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.

#### August Club Day - Speaker

We have a guest speaker flying up from Christchurch – Marco Gonzalez who is the AFBPMP National Operations Manager (American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan).

[Click here to see AFB staff](#)

#### Honey competition – September Club Day

Entries must be in a square plastic standard 500ml jars which can be bought from the club.

The Categories are:

Light honey liquid	Light honey granulated
Medium honey liquid	Medium honey granulated
Dark honey liquid	Dark honey granulated
Novelty Wax item	
Honey based product (appealing to 1 of 4 senses)	

**Please note our bank no longer accepts cheques.**

**Online payments can be made to Kiwi Bank account: 38-9007-0657110-00**

#### Club Day Duty Roster

<b>Set Up Hall From 9am</b>	Volunteer needed
<b>Set up in Kitchen 9am and Set up Lunch</b>	Muriel
<b>Wash up Kitchen from Lunch</b>	Muriel
<b>Pack up / Clean Hall From 12-30</b>	Suzie

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 4th July 2020

### AGM

Paul chaired the AGM which started at 10-05 and finished at 10-30am. Barbara presented the Treasurer's report for WBC and NPH. Paul presented the President's report.

### Updates

Our postponed Honey Competition will now take place on 5<sup>th</sup> September. Entries must be in the square 500g jars you can buy at club days. We have four sponsors: Beequip; Farmlands, GBC and PGG Wrightson.

Competition classes remain the same as last time:

- Granulated Honey (light medium and dark classes)
- Liquid Honey (light medium and dark classes)
- Novelty wax item
- Honey based product (appealing to one of the four senses)
- People's choice award

Judges will help with honey class allocation on the day e.g. liquid honey must have no crystals at all. Last year's 'helpful competition hints' will be sent out closer to the time.

**Please note our bank no longer accepts cheques. The WBC bank account number will be put on our website for online payments.**

### Nic Nacs

Bryce explained and demonstrated his equipment for fluidising granulated honey – so it can be jarred easily through a honey gate.

The bucket of honey is placed on a hotplate inside a polystyrene box for a couple of days (with occasional stirring). The hotplate is insulated from the bucket with paper or cupboard - refer to Suzie's pictures (attached). Hotplates can be bought from a brewing shop e.g. UBREW4U in Robert Street.

An alternative method is to wrap the honey bucket in some form of insulation (e.g. foil or fibre thermal insulation sheets). Place it on a thin metal bridge joining two 6x2 planks (on edge) and heated with a 60W bulb (under the piece of metal sheeting).

Other suggested fluidising options were:

- Put the bucket in an old fridge which is then wrapped in an electric blanket
- Put the bucket in a spa bath for a couple of days

A chest freezer heated to 35 / 36°C. Once it's fluid then turn off the heat and leave for a day. This will 'squeeze' out any air bubbles from within the honey. The same process is used in glass blowing.

Thanks, Bryce, for sharing these nic nacs!



## News from last Club Day (continued)

### Mike & David

Mike has lost some hives from varroa but those that survived have done well.

David is putting oxalic towels into hives where he sees varroa sign but is mindful of the cooling effect of a damp cold paper mass on the hive's temperature at this time of year and leading into Spring. The trade-off is being disease free. A hive which has high varroa numbers ('varroa bomb') can spread to others nearby. Mike noted that a varroa can mimic the smell of its host bee after just 20 minutes which allows it to be more easily adopted and transported to other hives. Tricky beasts.

Warmth is the key to hive survival. We have previously discussed the use of EXPOL polystyrene insulation to better insulate the outer spaces of the box(es) over winter.

By now you should have removed the queen excluder in a two-box winter hive. The queen will move to where it's warmest and you can then replace the excluder. This way you will know where the queen is when Spring arrives and numbers increase.

Hives at Dave's warmer sites close to town with multiple floral sources are doing well. He has seen queens laying a lot more in the past week.

Discussed the merits of 'open communal feeding' with sugar syrup / honey. Could work if no bees from other apiaries are within range. May promote robbing of weaker hives and is potentially a vector for spreading AFB, particularly if using honey.

Now is a good time to carry out AFB checks on old brood that hasn't emerged – less bees around so easier to see what's going on.

Taiwanese Cherry is starting to flower although August is when it should be in full bloom.

There are allowable C4 limits in honey partly due to the anomalies of the test and also because there are some natural producers of C4 pathway sugars e.g. manuka and kanuka. Good manuka honey can fail the C4 test. This test is used internationally to detect whether honey has been adulterated by adding sugar (mainly cane sugar and high fructose corn syrup). Most nectar collected by bees comes from plants that use a different process of photosynthesis, referred to as the C3 pathway, producing C3 sugars.

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (NMR) is becoming more widely used in our industry. It can quantitatively analyse mixtures containing known compounds and will give more precise results than current techniques being used to determine C4 sugar content, such as Isotope Ratio Mass Spectroscopy.

### Spring

It will be Spring soon. As mentioned, queens are already laying on better sites. By mid-August there will be lots of bees in your hives, so start paying attention to them from then on because in September/October there can be a dearth of nectar/pollen, weather dependent, and hives can starve out quickly.

Feed pollen patties mid to late August if required.

If you still see wasps about you could narrow the hive entrance to two bee widths so they can better defend the entrance (e.g. use a half brick to partially block the entrance). Paul has been using the HiveGate to control wasps and has been impressed by what he has seen - however the jury is still out on its effectiveness...

You could try catching a wasp at your hive, perhaps chill it to calm it down, then tie a 20cm piece of cotton to its abdomen, release it, and use this to more easily track it to its nest. Has been known to work. [Cotton proves good number 8 wire substitute in fight against wasps](#)

**Whangārei Bee Club** is looking for a volunteer to cut the grass around the apiary once a month just before Club Day. If you are willing and able to help out then please email the club secretary [wbccommunication@gmail.com](mailto:wbccommunication@gmail.com)

### **Auction of surplus WBC equipment in September**

Here is the list of surplus club gear which will be auctioned at our September club meeting. The auction will take place out by the container (weather permitting) while the honey competition is being judged. Items bought at your own risk:

- 1 dehumidifier
- 1 honey heating unit / queen cell finisher
- 6 x ¾ depth boxes (4 with frames – plastic and wooden)
- 4 nuc boxes (3 with lids)
- Cotton rope (8mm) – cotton filler cord used for organic acid fogging
- 1 BBQ (no frame)
- 4 gas bottles (2 are full)
- 50 top feeders (trays only)
- 75 x 1/2kg boxes
- 50 x 1kg boxes
- 3 x 25kg paraffin wax
- 40 plywood top feeder floats
- 30 coreflute bee floats
- 5 large Sellotape rolls
- 5 x 15L square buckets
- 16 x 20L round buckets
- 4 x square lids
- 21 round lids

### **Whangārei Bee Club is now on Facebook!**

We have set up a CLOSED GROUP Facebook page for MEMEBERS ONLY.

[Here is the link](#) where you will need to request to join. You will be asked for your membership number, which can be found on your plastic “credit card” size membership card. The admin team will respond as soon as they can to your request to add you to the group.

PLEASE NOTE: Just like other social media groups, we have a code of conduct that we expect members to adhere to. Please make sure that you read these when you join.

The idea is that members can post questions and the “hive” mind (pun intended!) should be able to help out.

**FOR SALE:** The Bee Club has expired Apistan strips, these will be on sale at a very reduced price on club day. Come and speak to us on the sales table.

**The Big Buzz Festival** Charitable Trust is presenting a fun and unique Kiwi project for summer 2021 that will involve the local community of Matakana but most importantly the wider beekeeping communities of Aotearoa. In fact, on February 14th, 2021 at Matakana Estate, the first ever NZ Honey and Bee Festival - the Big Buzz Festival, will take place in Matakana and we want you to join the buzz!

The Big Buzz NZ Honey & Bee Festival will be a buzzing event for everyone involved, thus we would like to invite your club to join this initiative by letting your club members know about it, by getting in touch and by spreading the word.

Should anyone in your club or wider beekeeping community be interested in having a stall at the Festival we invite expression of interest now. Please note that as we have a limited number of spaces available preference will be given to showcase a wide range of products from NZ. Please check our website for further details.

[www.thebigbuzz.nz](http://www.thebigbuzz.nz)

Instagram @thebigbuzznz

[Facebook page link here](#)

### **Any beekeepers want to put some hives on land at Matapouri?**

We are adjacent to the Whale Bay Reserve and own the hills between the coast and the Matapouri flat land. The farmland is grazed with beef cattle. There are farm tracks which could provide 4wd access to the hill land. We would want to discuss the location of hives with anyone who was interested. We are not asking anything in return - except perhaps a jar or two of nice fresh honey in season.

If anyone is interested can they please phone me 021 486 994 or email [john@magicmacros.co.nz](mailto:john@magicmacros.co.nz)  
Val Monk and John Ringer





**APICULTURE**  
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## The 1st N.Z. Honey Bee Research Symposium September 7th 2020

The first N.Z. Honey Bee Research Symposium will be held on-line 7 September 2020. This research symposium is for scientists to present, inform and understand the honeybee research landscape in New Zealand. The intention is to facilitate the flow of ideas and development of productive collaborations. We will incorporate Mātauranga Māori and industry voices and have panel discussions. There is no cost for speakers or anyone to attend the on-line symposium.

For those wishing to submit a scientific presentation for consideration, please click [here](#). The deadline for presentation submissions is 5pm on August 14th. We will inform speakers of their presentation in the following week. There will prizes for the best research talks by a student.

To solely attend the symposium online, please click [here](#). We will close registrations for attendance on September 2nd to allow time to provide attendees with instructions to join the symposium.

### Beekeeping keeps family busy

Westlands Honey is as close as you can get from hive to honeypot.

Owner operators Amy and Andy Westland are based in Kimbell, South Canterbury, where they live and run their beekeeping business.

The couple do all the work from running hives through to extracting, packing and selling the honey. Most of their product is sold to bulk buyers.

Around 840 of their hives are spread through the Mackenzie from Albury to Twizel.

[Click here to read more](#)

### Varroa mite monitor gets the go ahead in Canterbury

A dozen Canterbury beekeepers will be joining forces to counter the constant threat of varroa mite this season, by pooling data from mite-loading tests as part of a project that hopes to pave the way for a national programme

[Click here to read more](#)

### Comvita committed to propolis as Nelson plant equipment goes under the hammer

Its Nelson plant is no more but honey producer Comvita says it is committed to continuing its propolis production in the North Island.

Comvita closed its ethanol extraction plant at Brightwater in March due to "considerable investment" required to keep functioning.

[Click here to read more](#)

### HoneyLab does licencing deal with US company

Health product company HoneyLab is to sell seven of its products in North America through a licensing agreement with American company Taro Pharmaceuticals USA Inc.

The agreement covers the sale of its kanuka honey products for the treatment of cold-sores, rosacea and acne, a bee venom-based cosmetic range and a product for joint and muscle pain.

[Click here to read more](#)

### Demand for natural foods boosts New Zealand honey export

Stronger demand for natural foods during the COVID-19 pandemic has created a boom of honey industry in New Zealand, the national apiculture industry organisation Apiculture New Zealand says.

"China is one of our top three export markets, especially during the past three years when there is a growing awareness among consumers of New Zealand honey products, particularly Manuka honey," said Karin Kos, Chief Executive of Apiculture New Zealand, when mentioning Chinese consumer demand.

[Click here to read more](#)

### US beekeepers fear for their future

Skyrocketing demand for honey has meant that prices in the US have almost doubled over the past decade - so why are American beekeepers struggling to make ends meet?

[Click here to read more](#)

# Financial Statement

Whangarei Bee Club Incrporation

Opening Bank Balances as at 20 June 2020

Operating Account	17,285.03
Savings Account	404.99
Total Funds at 20th June 20	17,690.02

**Plus Income From**

IRD Refund	323.24
Membership Fees-New	575.00
Membership Fees	2,440.00
	3,338.24
	21,028.26

**Less Expenditure**

Bank Fees	5.00
Web Site - OnLine designs	42.55
Whareora Hall Hire	80.00
Pizza's & Milk, Biscuits	186.67
Xero Fees	329.89
	644.11

Total Balance at at 20th July 2020	20,384.15
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**Made up of**

Operating Account	19,979.16
Savings Account	404.99
	20,384.15

# Other News and websites to check out

[CATCH THE BUZZ – CAN WORKER BEES INFECT THE QUEEN WITH VIRUSES?](#)

[Aussie beekeepers at war with kiwis over billion dollar Manuka name](#)

[The Protector of Mexico's Hidden Hives of Stingless Bees](#)

[Apiarist's Advocate](#)

[Why Did My Honeybees Die? \(Video\)](#)

[Group genomics drive aggression in honeybees](#)

[What other things do bees make besides honey?](#)

## 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**



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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