

Whangarei Bee Club INC

Newsletter



February 2017, Issue 146

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

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



Image from www.massey.ac.nz

For many gardeners any summer weed with a yellow flower on a long stalk found in lawns, gardens and overgrown waste areas is a "dandelion". Beekeepers, on the other hand, train themselves to spot the difference between true dandelion and catsear. One easy way to tell them apart is the dandelion has a thick flower stalk that is tubular, i.e., hollow, whilst the catsear flower stalk is spindly and solid. Both species yield a valuable nectar the bees actively seek out.

The differences lie in the pollen. Dandelion yields a good quality "vivid orange pollen" whilst catsear pollen is "bright orange" (Walsh.) Walsh goes to say this about catsear: "The pollen...is a poor source of protein, apparently [with] abnormal chemical constituents, as the bees reared on it lack vitality and quickly die". Cape weed is another introduced species resembling both catsear and dandelion, but tends to yield pollen and nectar a little earlier in the season. The pollen is unsurpassed according to Walsh.

<http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/learning/colleges/college-of-sciences/clinics-and-services/weeds-database/dandelion.cfm>

<http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/learning/colleges/college-of-sciences/clinics-and-services/weeds-database/catsear.cfm>

<http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/learning/colleges/college-of-sciences/clinics-and-services/weeds-database/cape-weed.cfm>

"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. The web references provide excellent photographs, some of which are from proprietary sources such as plant shops.

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Upcoming Events and Notices

This Club Day
4 February
Same place, same time

Check out page 3

Thank you
John
for this month's
contribution



Next Club Day
4 March
See you there☺

Notice from Danny Vendt

Did you make a purchase, but forget to pick it up?

In mid-2016, items were bought and paid for, but not picked up.

If you think it might be you who made the purchase, please contact Danny and let him know what you purchased and how much you paid, so that you can pick up your items.

News from last Club Day

WBC Inc - Club Meeting 7 January 2017

Fifteen new attendees including nine visitors.

Club notices: February invoices will cover to June at which time new membership cards will be issued.

You will keep these cards - they won't be handed back each club day as they are now.

As mentioned last time there will likely be an oversupply of honey in the market early in the season. NPH will keep club honey for later in the season when prices should increase as supply decreases. NPH will wait to see how the season unfolds before setting the price it pays you per kilo of honey.

Mitch is extracting now. Your supers will need to be in the hot room for 24 hours prior to extraction. The cost is \$15.50 + GST per box (3/4 or full size). All extracted honey is tutin tested (\$38.15 incl GST per person). You can buy buckets from the Plant. A full size super should give 20 - 25kg honey. An MPI video on tutin was shown and samples of tutu branches were displayed at the Club for recognition.

The two Davids discussed re-queening and outlined the genetics of queen mating, with help from Mike Fox. The difficult Spring may have affected the quality of the mated queens. So far it had been a difficult season - patchy.

Try to put 3 new frames in your brood boxes per year - don't put cleaned frames back in the brood box, put them in the honey box. There is 5 weeks of the season to go. Wax moth eggs can be killed by freezing. You can put propolis mats in anytime, as long as the hive is strong. Change the mat when half full.



Make sure there is a water supply for your bees in this dry weather.

Check drone brood for signs of varroa. David P uses Mite Away (store at 16 - 27C). Check for wax moths and weak hives.

If you want to split to increase hive numbers it is best to do it while the honey flow is on, not after the end of February.



Extraction prices

The extraction prices for the 2017 year are as follows:

Extraction per super (this includes supers, even if partly filled with frames)	\$15.50 plus GST
Tutin test	\$33.17 plus GST
E-Certs	\$173.19 plus GST



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 Dec 2016

Operating account	4,784.79
Savings account	14,999.63
Total funds at 20 Dec 2016	19,784.42

Plus income from

Membership fees	950.00
Book sales	225.00
Hive sales	800.00
Interest received	22.29
	1,997.29
	21,781.71

Less expenditure

Bank fees	2.00
Hall hire	65.00
Licences	47.44
Website	23.00
RWT on interest	7.36
	144.80
Total balance at 20 Jan 2017	21,636.91

Made up of

Operating account	6,622.35
Savings account	15,014.56
	21,636.91

News/sites to check out

Worst honey season in 20 years:

<https://www.odt.co.nz/business/farming/beekeeper-s-say-honey-season-worst-20-years>

Honey production down 30% in Canterbury:

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/88722933/honey-production-in-canterbury-down-30-per-cent>

How to catch a hive:

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/88215979/couple-on-their-best-beehaviour-after-swarm-spotted>

Quake hits beekeeping sector:

<http://www.ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/item/11368-quake-hits-beekeeping-sector>

The weapon to wipe out wasps:

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/nelson-mail/news/87865462/The-weapon-to-wipe-out-wasps-The-story-of-Vespex-Wasp-Wipeout>

Bees play part to ensure onion seed ready to harvest:

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/88382496/bees-play-part-to-ensure-onion-seed-ready-to-harvest>

Poor summer plays havoc with honey collection:

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/88466147/poor-summer-plays-havoc-with-honey-collection>