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Monthly Newsletter

Issue 180 January 2020

Upcoming Events and Notices

Please note – NO CLUB DAY IN JANUARY **Next Club Day: 1st February See you there 😊**

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.

February Club Day Speaker

The February guest speaker will be Sue Robinson who will talk about beekeeping in the UK. Sue Robinson is an experienced beekeeper who manages Hexham Beekeepers Association apiary. She will talk about her experiences of beekeeping in the UK.

Club Day Duty Roster

Set Up Hall From 9am	Colin Read	
Help in Kitchen 9am and Lunch	Bev Bristowe	Pat MacKay
Wash up Kitchen from Lunch	Graham & Roslyn	
Pack up / Clean Hall From 12.30pm	Uwe	

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the TIME; they just have the HEART." (Elizabeth Andrew)

Please, have the HEART to help where you can.

The club relies on the HELP of all of its' members for it to THRIVE.

Remember that all of these jobs are easy and require a very little time and effort. Please sign up on the roster at Club Day. A big "THANK YOU" to those that help.

News from last Club Day

Club Day Summary 7 December 2019

Honey Flow Management

Paul gave the following suggestions:

Get your varroa chemical treatment strips off before the honey flow starts. Oxalic acid varroa control can still be used during the honey flow if required.

Make a plan for winter feeding before you take the honey off.

Put supers on before you think they are needed, just to be sure. A sheet of newspaper between each empty super you add allows you to add multiple empty supers and the bees will work their way up through the newspaper to the next super when they need more storage space. This gives them a type of ceiling to help maintain the hive temperature.

Some beekeepers 'under-super' (put the empty super under the full one). This technique can give more honey. As your supers fill up you can move frames around to make sure all the frames are filled.

Give the bees ready access to water over summer.

All honey extracted after Xmas at our extraction plant has to be Tutin tested. Dennis will send a composite honey sample away to Hill labs for this.

Putting your wets back on your hive after extraction can encourage another flow of honey.

Use the following methods to remove bees from the supers you are taking for extraction:

- Use a bee escape board for 24 hours prior to removing the super, or
- Brush the bees off the frames or use a blower to remove them

The Extraction Plant is now open. Put your supers in the hot room the day before extraction, arrange this with Dennis. You will need to include any buckets for the honey to be extracted in to, plus your completed 'harvest declaration and extraction form'.

To book an extraction – go to the WBC website or phone Dennis on 022-0634-032.

A reminder the Honey Competition is on again next April and entries must be in the plastic 500g jars on sale at the front desk on club days. It is easier to fill them while your honey is still fresh and fluid.

Time to strike back: Wasp Wipeout:

They're a buzzing annoyance, a painful pest, and a backyard barbecuer's worst nightmare. And even more than that, wasps are a threat to our environment and the economy, costing the country more than \$130 million each year. Now it's time to wipe them out.

[Click here for the article](#)

Committee Members needed

The committee will need at least 2 new members at the next AGM (in April), and a replacement Treasurer. The actual Treasurer role will be a lot less onerous than described in last month's newsletter and there will be experienced support for the new Treasurer. We are lucky enough to have this role shared with Barbara (our previous Treasurer) and she will continue to do much of the technical requirements.

News from last Club Day

David & Mike

Both agree it was a tough Spring with the changeable weather (windy/raining) but has been good since early November.

Honey should be at least $\frac{3}{4}$ capped before you take it for extraction i.e. it is dry enough to be stable.

Manuka has mostly finished and kanuka is now flowering well, as is clover in some areas.

David is still using oxalic acid paper towel strips, which reach down each side of the brood frame, for varroa control in weaker hives.

Swarming tends to stop once the honey flow starts, which it has.

Drone brood – clumps are ok but patchy brood is an indication of a drone laying (old) queen or a laying worker, and you should consider re-queening.

David plans to split after Xmas and through January. Either re-queen or do a 'pauper split'. With re-queening the original queen goes into the newly split box. The original box will either contain queen cells or you can use your hive tool to score a line down from the bottom corner of the cell of a freshly hatched egg and through 3 or 4 cells below it. Do this at several locations, preferably in the middle of the brood.

Mike splits by evening up the bee numbers in both boxes (the original brood box plus the empty split box). He then puts a mated queen into the queenless box. This means the split box will be up and running straight away and can be moved to a new location if needed.

If staying in the same place you can position the new split and the original box side by side, half of each box over the original hive location. That way they will share the field bees. You can move the boxes slowly apart a few days later.

Ventilation over summer – drill a hole a little off centre in the honey super. David uses a 17mm bit. This allows for better hive air ventilation for cooling and easier access for the bees to the super during the honey flow. Plug it up with wax before the robbing season starts.

Government Minister Shane Jones has called on the Ngai Tahu iwi to support a campaign to secure international property rights over the manuka name.

And it appears the iwi is getting on board, with a Southland kaumatua saying it has put in a "significant amount of money" to protect the brand.

The government has allocated nearly \$6 million to the Manuka Honey Appellation Society which has launched a campaign to stop Australian beekeepers marketing their products as manuka honey.

[Click here to read more](#)

Bee scientist is still buzzing. What is Mark Goodwin up to now?

There is a trace of the Lorax in bee scientist Dr Mark Goodwin.

Just as that character in the 1971 Dr Suess book spoke for the trees Goodwin has spent the past 30 years doing the same for bees.

While health issues prompted Goodwin to step down earlier this year from his role as bee scientist with Plant and Food Research at Ruakura, his passion for the insect is no less dim.

[Click here to read more](#)



APICULTURE
NEW ZEALAND

Imported insect predator to help bees and willow trees to thrive

Beekeepers are keenly awaiting the arrival of a tiny insect from California which preys on the giant willow aphid. They say it will help willow trees survive and provide essential food for bees.

Their response follows approval of the parasitoid insect *Pauesia nigrovaria* by the Environmental Protection Authority.

[Click here for article](#)

A new market for manuka honey

The healing qualities of mānuka are hardly a secret, but Awanui company Mana Kai Honey is developing an entirely new, potentially global market with a remedy specifically marketed as a treatment for animals.

Mānuka ointment, developed by leading mānuka scientist and researcher Dr Ralf Schlothauer, a member of the Mana Kai board, and manufactured by a cosmetics company in Auckland, is rapidly gaining a reputation as a highly effective animal treatment for burns, wounds, abrasions and skin conditions, including eczema, psoriasis and fungal infections.

[Click here to read more](#)

University of Plymouth researchers have found that a mouthwash made from a material bees use to waterproof their hives could help combat high blood pressure and gum disease.

[Click here for article](#)

New to Beekeeping?

5 Important Considerations for Beginning Beekeepers

Beekeeping is a fascinating hobby that is enjoyed by thousands of people across the world. Beekeepers come in all ages and from all backgrounds. Almost anyone can become a beekeeper and you can keep bees almost anywhere.

Are you considering embarking on the road to becoming a beekeeper? If so, you are in for an exciting adventure. But before you rush out to buy your first hive of bees, here are some important things you need to consider. [Click here to read more](#)



Beekeeping 101: Seven Steps to becoming a Beekeeper

So, you are keen on getting into Beekeeping? Well you have come to the right place. This article gives you seven steps to becoming a Beekeeper.

[Click here to read more](#)

Financial Statement

Please note the February Newsletter will have both December and January financial statements included.

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



News/sites to check out

Beekeeping Clubs in New Zealand – A Map of bee clubs around New Zealand. [Click here for link](#)

Australia's Pollination industry buzzing over \$1.5 million AgriFutures grant announcement

AgriFutures Australia has been awarded a \$1.5 million to raise awareness and ensure bee health and longevity across the nation.

Announcing the grant at Symmons Plains on Wednesday, Federal Agriculture Minister Bridget McKenzie said it was essential to take care of the bee population because Australia is one of the few nations that is not affected by the varroa mite, which causes hive collapse.

[Click here to read more](#)

AFB Recognition Courses

Whangarei: 7 March, ASB Stadium, Whangarei 9am. [Click here for more dates](#)

**Thanks to all
contributors of the
Newsletter**

**Wishing all members a
very Happy Christmas
and a Buzzing New Year**



Thanks to our sponsors for their support of the Honey Competition at Whangarei Bee Club:

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