



Monthly Newsletter

Issue 192 January 2021

Upcoming Events and Notices

Next Club Day: 6th February 2021

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.

Next Club Day – February 6th, 2021

There will be no January club day. The first club day next year will be Saturday 6th February.

The February guest speaker will be Ashley Mortensen.

Ashley began her career as a zookeeper and picked up beekeeping as a hobby. Later she pursued graduate studies in apiculture, which led her to her current role as a senior scientist in the Bee Biology and Productivity Team at Plant and Food Research.

Club Day Duty Roster for February

Set Up Hall From 9am	Terry Barnes & Colin Read
Set up in Kitchen 9am and Set up Lunch	Jenny Barnes & Muriel
Wash up Kitchen from Lunch	Muriel
Pack up / Clean Hall From 12-30	Jim & Barbara

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 5th December 2020

Dennis gave us an overview of the operation of the Extraction Plant.

- Book an extraction time either through our website or by texting Dennis on 022-0634-032 (do not call) – text your name, WBC membership number and number of supers you want extracted. Dennis will get back to you within 2 – 3 days.
- Text Dennis to get the combination code for the lock box on the door of the hot room. This will give you access to the key which unlocks the hot room. Try to get your supers into the hot room a day before extraction. You will need to include any buckets for the honey to be extracted in to, otherwise Dennis has new 15L buckets which you can purchase.
- A harvest declaration form needs to be completed. Access a copy of this through our website. Dennis also has some copies printed out at the Plant which you can use – but you need to know your WBC membership number.
- The Extraction Plant will open on the 18th of December. Dennis can extract small amounts between Xmas and New Year if required. After that the extraction season will be in full swing.
- You need your apiarist number stencilled or written on each super.
- A few bees are ok. No brood or moths in the frames please.
- Honey should be at least $\frac{3}{4}$ capped before you take it for extraction i.e. it is then dry enough to be stable for storage (less than 18.5% moisture content).
- All extracted honey is automatically Tutin tested. If you have extracted privately and want a Tutin test then you will need to ask whoever is welcoming members at the door on club day to get you a Hill Laboratories test form, which includes the new Hill Labs quote number to get the WBC discount.

Nic Nacs

David has found that cornflour sprinkled on top of the hive's top mat stops ants/cockroaches from living there. Particularly handy if there are Argentine ants in the area. Please note that 'maize cornflour' is gluten free so preferable to use that to avoid any gluten cross contamination with honey frames.

David & Paul

David explained and later showed how to wax plastic frames. You can use either a brush or roller and try to keep the indents themselves as wax free as possible – you do not want to fill them up with wax.

Paul described how to add foundation to a wooden frame. This process is detailed in 'Practical Beekeeping'. The wax foundation needs to be well bonded to the wires of the frame. Paul uses a motorcycle battery as the power source. There was a brief discussion on making your own foundation wax sheets.

Solar wax melters do a good job at processing wax scrapings into clean wax blocks. Ecrotek and others sell them. David uses a very effective home-made version.

A good way to clean metal queen excluders is to put them under glass in the sun and the wax melts off.

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 supers during the honey flow. Plug it up with wax before the robbing season starts.

What appears to be *Nosema ceranae* is randomly around at the moment – maybe old, dirty frames partly to blame?

Observation of several club members suggests dark/aggressive bees are more productive than the

Hive News by Matt Wech.

Matt is on the committee of the Warkworth Bee Club and has been commercial bee keeping for over 16 years. In that time, he has taught hundreds of people beekeeping. Every month he writes an article for the Warkworth Bee Club of what to do and when to your hives. He is generous to share his articles with us. Happy reading!

December/January 2021

Things to do this month

- 10-14 day hive check
- add extra honey super if required

Hive Work

You may notice some hives have very little honey compared to other years, this is due to the amount of overcast cooler days were had in November and early December. Not only did the bees struggle to get out but the manuka struggled to flower strong and when it did it was too cool to release the nectar. Good news, it looks very good for the kanuka, it has become the more reliable crop as the weather often settles after Christmas. October was an exceptionally good month weather wise and good strong hives were able to gather an abundance of nectar which they have carried through.

If your hive has a failed Queen, over half the time a new mated queen is not needed due to a virgin queen being present in the hive. This may be due to the hive swarming or queen cells being removed that the bees have made to replace a failed queen. If a mated queen is introduced most of the time the virgin one will kill it. What I ask people to do is establish if a virgin queen is present in the hive and to add another brood from another hive with eggs. Check that frame after 4-5 days to see if it has queen cells on it. If queen cells are being made there is no queen or virgin queen in the hive, so then you can order a new one or leave a big cell for replacement. When no queen cells are found that means there is a queen in the hive and the bees have no need to make the emergency cells. Keep adding a brood or 2 every 10 day hive inspection until the virgin queen comes on the lay, this will do 2 things, the bees will be able to make another queen cell if the virgin queen fails to mate and also it will keep the nurse bee numbers up in the hive which will be needed to feed and raise the young.

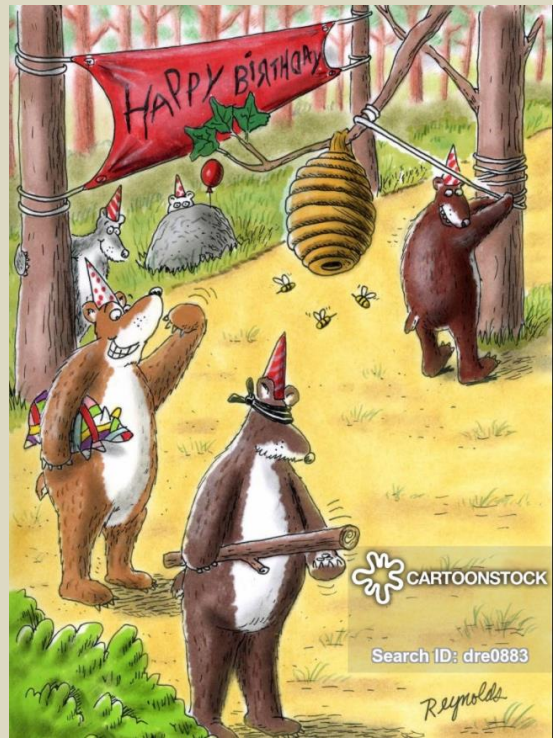
The end of January is a good time to split your hive, if you wish to expand. By splitting this time of the year, you get the maximum benefit of collecting honey for most of the season and creating a new hive. I would not split a hive much after mid-February because they will struggle to collect enough stored honey for winter. Before you split your hive remove the honey supers. In the brood box swap half the brood and honey with bees, preferably without the queen, into a new hive and replace the frames with empty ones from the new hive. Remember to have the brood in the centre of the hive and the honey frames to the side. If you take out every second frame and replace them in order you will automatically achieve this. Place the new queenless hive where the old one is and shift the old hive 1 meter to the side of it. By doing this you should get an even amount of bees over the next day into the hives. For best results, buy a mated queen and introduce her in a queen cage into the new hive, no sooner than 24 hours after. If you are unsure which hive the old queen is in, go through the hives 4-5 days after you have split and the queenless hive will starting to produce young queen cells. There is no harm in introducing a new queen after a week or two but remove the queen cells first. To install the queen in her cage, break off the plastic tag at the candy end of the cage. Push the long narrow edge of the cage into a brood frame, never push the cage into any honey or she can drown. When installing the cage make sure the candy end is uphill, so if any bees have died in the cage. they will not block the exit hole. It takes the bees 1 to 2 days to eat through the candy to release the queen. This allows the bees to get used to their new queen and are unable to kill her with the protection of the cage. The new queen can take a few days before she starts to lay. New hives can also be made with brood and bees from several different hives with a minimum of 3 to 4 frames of brood and a frame of honey with a little pollen. When making new hives or re-queening old hives a lot of young bees are needed, for they are the ones that take care and feed the young larvae.



APICULTURE
NEW ZEALAND

Official Online Pest Register launches

MPI has launched the Official Online Pest Register, an online tool for exporters listing 24,000 biosecurity threats. The register provides accurate, up-to-date information on pest status and will be useful in quickly identifying and managing biosecurity risks. The register can be accessed [here](#).



APICULTURE NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE & TRADE EXHIBITION

We are pleased to confirm the 2021 Conference will be held on Thursday 24 June to Saturday 26 June 2021 in Rotorua at the Rotorua Energy Events Centre

Bee Facts

There are seven species of honey bee in the world, but the most common one, domesticated for honey production and crop pollination, is the European honey bee (*Apis mellifera*).

Learn more about bees [HERE](#)

Apimondia will hold an online conference entitled: '**Back to basics, back to bees**' focused on sustainable beekeeping based over **5 & 6 February 2021**. More information can be found [here](#).

The **Big Buzz Festival** will be held on **14 February 2021** in Matakana, north of Auckland. This free, family-friendly festival will celebrate bees, honey and ethical beekeeping. More information about the festival can be found [here](#).

Apiarist's Advocate – December Issue

[Click here to read](#)

Just a reminder that Whangarei Bee Club is now a shareholder at Farmlands so we as members get the shareholder discount on all their products - not just bee related items.

You will need to show your WBC membership card and quote our Farmlands Account Number: 610123531

[When Murder Hornets Menace Their Hive, Bees Decorate It with Animal Faeces](#). Asian honeybees have exhibited what scientists call a form of tool use to deter attacks by giant predatory wasps. Click on the title to read more and [click here to watch video](#)

Other News and websites to check out

[Honey ranks as Americans' #1 preferred sweetener](#)

[Research suggests introduced wasps are not all bad](#)

[Largest solar install in Central Hawke's Bay at Kintail Honey](#)

[Using research to spread the love beyond just mānuka honey](#)

[Palmerston North students' honey venture signals sweet success after high school](#)

[Bees are back: NSW hives recover strongly after heavy toll of drought and bushfire, and farmers are delighted](#)

[Australian honey, fruit, dairy and vitamin producers on 'high alert' over China tariffs threat, report says](#)

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



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