

Whangarei Bee Club INC

Newsletter



July 2017, Issue 151

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

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



www.weedbusters.org.nz

In Northland *Hakea* is a genus comprising three small Australian tree and shrub species originally used as hedging but now escaped and considered invasive weeds by Weedbusters and Northland Regional Council. All three species favour roadsides, wasteland and burnt-over areas,

and are closely related to *Banksia*, reviewed last month by Jim Collinson.

Spiny hakea, sometimes known as needlebush, is a strategic mid-winter nectar and pollen source for honey bees. The honey is pale amber and of mild taste, rather peppery when eaten straight off the comb. Willow-leaf hakea, also an invasive weed species, flowers in the spring.

<http://www.weedbusters.org.nz/weed-information/hakea-sericea/59/>

https://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/media/Html/hakea_sericea.htm

"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

1 July

AGM

Same place, same time -
Check out page 3

Next Club Day

5 August

See you there ☺

APICULTURE NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND TRADE EXHIBITION

Rotorua 9th-11th JULY 2017



Anyone interested in the bee industry is welcome. If you are interested in attending, you can find more details at:

<http://apicultureconference2017.co.nz/registration/>

News from last Club Day

Summary of Whangarei Bee Club Meeting 3 June 2017

Myrtle rust update – MPI is still trying to eradicate it but it looks increasingly like it is here to stay (35 confirmed cases so far). Pohutukawa and ramarama affected so far. No further cases confirmed in Northland. If you suspect you've seen it, take a photo and report it to MPI. The Australian experience has shown that myrtle rust spores have never been found on honey, therefore hives have been left alone.

Manuka definition – MPI has admitted their DNA test is not working and they are taking another look at it. It appears that MGO may denature pollen DNA. They are still open to consultation on what the definition should be.

Strategy session update – “helping beekeepers keep bees”. The services the Club should provide are:

- Honey extraction
- Access to experts from within the Club and invited guest speakers (quarterly)
- Help with – interpreting regulations, rules, hive health, new products / ideas
- Provide a beekeeper community voice, website, newsletter, access to ApiNZ
- 'Hive time' - to see how others work a hive
- Anything else?

Club day activities:

- Quarterly guest speakers – who? Suggestions welcome.
- Knick-knacks section (standing item)
- Honey taste competition (once a year)
- Three people to run 'hive time' (the third being a Club beekeeper, a different person each Club day)
- Additional contributions to the newsletter would be much appreciated



Feedback from members:

- Good idea to have Club mentors for new beekeepers
- Hive help
- Club to make submissions on relevant environmental issues
- Get experienced Club members to carry out AFB checks for members who have not yet been trained to recognise foul brood
- Resurrect the wax dipper
- Honey taste day – what honey is related to what flowers
- More training days
- Experiment with our hives – e.g. other/different hive products for varroa control
- Explain the relationship between NPH and WBC
- Open day at the Extraction Plant for members
- Alternate David & David presentations with other members
- Need to streamline the reporting of tutin test results

Helper Roster (for Club Day) – month by month

- Set up the hall
- Setup lunch
- Wash up in the kitchen
- Pack up and clean the hall

David Herbert – what's happening in the hives this time of year

- Feed your bees dry or liquid sugar when required
- Remove any queen excluders so the queen doesn't get abandoned
- Discussion on willow dew honey – poor tasting and best to leave it as winter stores for the bees

Jon Hampson noted that there will be a workshop on the 29th June on manuka planting on farms. It will include commercial beekeepers.



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 May 2017		
Operating account		2,459.46
Savings account		18,072.95
Total funds at 20 May 2017		20,532.41
Plus income from		
Membership fees	4,040.00	
Book sales	45.00	
Interest received	23.04	
		4,108.04
		24,640.45
Less expenditure		
Bank fees	2.40	
Hall hire	65.00	
Licences	47.44	
Club provisions	158.12	
Website	23.00	
RWT on interest	7.60	
		303.56
Total balance at 20 June 2017		24,336.89
Made up of		
Operating account	6,248.50	
Savings account	18,088.39	
		24,336.89

News/sites to check out

Warning, screaming bees:

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11870524

Informative apiculture event:

<http://business.scoop.co.nz/2017/06/22/informative-and-hands-on-apiculture-event-set-to-inspire/>

Deadly bee disease rampant in Whanganui:

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/the-country/news/article.cfm?c_id=16&objectid=11867604

Beekeepers bolstered by Aussie myrtle rust:

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/93236990/kiwi-beekeepers-bolstered-by-aussie-experience-with-myrtle-rust>

Geneticist creates mānuka honey test:

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/93189609/otago-university-geneticist-creates-manuka-honey-test-to-prove-its-the-genuine-article>

AKL Council sprays near community garden:

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/93640144/auckland-transport-sprays-near-community-pollinator-garden>