

Monthly Newsletter

Issue 186 July 2020

Upcoming Events and Notices

This Club Day: 4th July

Next Club Day: 1st August

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.

July Club Day

- We will have our yearly AGM
- Tips on getting ready for Spring
- We should be at level 1 so back to our normal club day agenda. You will be notified if this is not the case.

AGM

The postponed April AGM will now be held at our next club day on July 4th. It only runs for 15 - 20 minutes. After that it's a normal club day. The WBC and NPH financial statements for 2019 are available to view in the members area of our [website](#).

Agenda:

Welcome; Apologies
Approval of last AGM minutes
Finance Report; Reviewer's Report; President's Report
Election of Officers; General Business

Club Day Duty Roster

Set Up Hall From 9am	Volunteers needed
Set up in Kitchen 9am and Set up Lunch	Elaine, Kirsten, Sarah & Lily
Wash up Kitchen from Lunch	Elaine
Pack up / Clean Hall From 12-30	Volunteers needed

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 6th June 2020

Updates

Paul outlined Covid-19 protocols for the meeting.

We remembered our club member Mark Laybourn who passed away recently.

Paul gave a presentation covering wax moths. Here is a summary of it:

- Galleria mellonella, the 'greater wax moth' or honeycomb moth is a moth of the family Pyralidae. G. mellonella is found throughout the world. It is one of two species of wax moths, the other is the 'lesser wax moth'. G. mellonella. They have four life stages: egg, larvae, pupae and adult. Generally, eggs are laid in the early spring and the moth undergoes four to six generations annually.
- Eggs are laid within the hive, and the larva that hatch tunnel through the honeycombs that contain honeybee larva and their honey stores. The tunnels they create are lined with silk, which entangles and starves emerging bees, a phenomenon known as galleriasis. Tunnels also result in obvious destruction of the combs.
- Wax moths prefer dark warm spaces so it's a good idea to over-winter your bee boxes in a light cold / breezy area. David noted that storing boxes in cold draughty places on their sides does work. Alternatively, freezing is an effective way to kill wax moth larvae, but it doesn't prevent re-infestation unless you are able to keep the frames in frozen storage until they are put back on the hive. If not, then store them in sealed bags after the freezing process.
- Thymol placed in stored stacks of boxes also helps to repel moths. Moth infestation can be worse with wooden frames – there are more cracks for eggs to be laid in.
- Wax moth trap - mix these ingredients together in a bottle with the cap off:

1 banana peel

1 cup of vinegar

1 cup of sugar

1 cup of hot water

- [Watching out for Wax Moths](#) click on link to read the article by Ecrotek

David & Paul

The hives David has checked have been doing well so far. He is feeding honey back to them when required. Warm up frozen honey frames before putting them back on. There is no specific amount of honey to leave on a hive for over-wintering bees. Dependent on a few different factors. Be aware of your hive's honey stocks – lift the front from time-to-time to gauge the weight of the hive. If it's getting too light then feed sugar syrup, or honey frames if you have them to spare. Queens stopped laying early this autumn. Queens are tuned into daylight hours so will be laying again sometime after the shortest day (21/6/20). Big bee numbers should be back by the end of August.

If needed David will be putting on oxalic acid towel strips for varroa control, after the shortest day, however the dampness caused by glycerine in the towel strips is an issue over these colder winter months. Spring and autumn are the varroa treatment times. Varroa numbers should be at their lowest this time of year.

Some Mānuka and Puriri are still flowering now.

The location of hives makes a big difference to their wellbeing over winter- the warmer the better. Paul noted that there were 300,000 registered hives in 2000 and in 2020 that has risen to approximately one million, so competition can also be a major factor in hive health, as some of our members have experienced.

Paul has not been impressed with the Thymol wafers (Thymovar) he has been using for varroa control. They get propolised a lot which means the bees don't like them. He will instead try oxalic acid this Spring.

News from last Club Day (continued)

There was a discussion on the behaviour of queens over winter – whether we alter to some extent that behaviour by feeding 1:1 sugar syrup and/or honey. Does that influence their laying schedule or are they only tuned in to environmental signals / triggers?

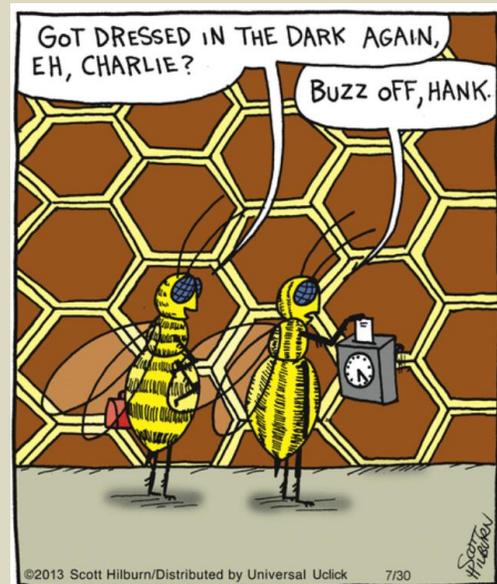
Note that AFB can be spread by sharing honey between hives.

You can control ant numbers on your hive mat by squashing their eggs and leaving the residue there. Also sprinkle on some cinnamon. As well ants don't like formic acid (Mite Away varroa strips). Lots of wasps still around. Hive defence is important so make the entrance as small as possible (e.g. use a half brick to cut the entrance down to two bee widths).

VespeX might still work this time of year, although the wasps are definitely eating honey/sugar.

End of Season Report from NPH.

The 2019/2020 season saw an increase of 27% in extracted supers over last season. It was good to see that almost all beekeepers presented their supers to the hot room free of bees. As the season went on the honey became darker and thicker, obviously reflecting the flowers around during the driest part of this very dry year. Almost all frames presented were fully capped throughout the season which helped ensure that 95% of honey extracted showed the ideal 18% moisture content. There was no brood, and no moth contamination of extraction frames. In conclusion, the range and quality of the honey presented for extraction was exceptionally good.



Best Practice Beekeeping is the brainchild of Dr Mark Goodwin, world renowned Apiculture Scientist, and Sarah Cross, Plant and Food Research Associate. What makes Best Practice Beekeeping so valuable is Mark and Sarah's ability to demonstrate best practice beekeeping methods that are not only based on proven, scientifically backed research, but are also supported by decades of practical experience. Mark and Sarah are also joined by Experienced Commercial Beekeeper, Andrew Stratford, who provides further insight into effective beekeeping operations.

The Best Practice Beekeeping series is available to view through a simple monthly subscription of \$15.95 and a one-off joining fee of \$79.95. As part of your subscription you'll also receive a FREE copy of the companion 'Best Practice Beekeeping' book.

[Register your email address to receive complimentary access to the first 5 videos in the series!](#)

Assure Quality has a new look website. [Click here to take a look](#)

Honey Jars

Just a reminder that you can order your honey jars through the [Whangarei Bee Club website](#) members area. You will need to log in to order. We recommend that you pre-order online if you require a large amount so that we can make sure we have enough stock. You can also still order at club day. Jars will be available for pick-up only on club days.



APICULTURE
NEW ZEALAND

[FUTUREBEES NZ](#)

Improving New Zealand's honeybee stocks through science and industry cooperation

FUTUREBEES is a 5-year project funded by MBIE. The aim of the project is to develop and apply tools to integrate next generation selection to honeybee breeding. In doing so, New Zealand beekeepers will be able to rapidly improve honeybee performance. Led by Professor Peter Dearden at the University of Otago, FUTUREBEES is building a bridge between researchers and the beekeeping industry.

[click here to find out more](#)

Apiarist's Advocate is produced by Patrick & Laura Dawkins, beekeepers in sunny Marlborough at the top of the South Island. Patrick worked as a sports reporter in print media before a change of career to beekeeping in 2016. Patrick's two passions, beekeeping and writing, are brought together in **Apiarist's Advocate**, along with the desire to inform and advocate for New Zealand beekeepers.

[click here to have a look](#)

Bee Pathogen Programme

A large science and industry collaborative study, called the Bee Pathogen Programme, was undertaken by Biosecurity New Zealand from 2016 to 2018 to better understand the effects of disease, climate and apiary management on the health and productivity of New Zealand's honeybees. Research and testing of samples are continuing as a result of the programme, and a further project has been developed.

[click here to read more and watch video](#)

[Local series Honey Wars follows family business in Northland](#)

Local series Honey Wars follows the ups and downs of the fickle honey industry at Tai Tokerau Honey but also the close bonds and teamwork of this whānau-run business.

Honeybees keeping hive mate's parasite-free may be the secret to species survival, say scientists

Scientists studying *Apis mellifera*, the most common species of honeybee, found within any colony there are bees who groom their hive mates to ward off pests. These bees, known as allogroomers, appear to have developed stronger immune systems to carry out their role.

[click here for link to website](#)

200,000 pots of honey to be given to Kiwi families struggling in wake of COVID-19

Families around New Zealand struggling in the wake of COVID-19 are set to receive a sweet care package in the form of wild flora honey.

Fifty tonnes of the sweet spread - a total of 200,000 pots - will be donated by Manuka Doctor and distributed to local community groups and charities by national food rescue service KiwiHarvest.

The move comes as foodbanks have been overwhelmed in recent weeks, with the impact of the coronavirus pandemic causing a spike in the number of those needing assistance.

[click here to read more](#)

A Bee C: Scientists translate honeybee queen duets

Scientists using highly sensitive vibration detectors have decoded honeybee queens' "tooting and quacking" duets in the hive.

[Listen to the sounds of honeybee queens "tooting" and "quacking"](#)

Financial Statement

Opening Bank Balances as at 20 May 2020

Operating Account	12,579.98
Savings Account	404.99
Total Funds at 20.4.20	<u>12,984.97</u>

Plus Income From

Membership Fees	5,140.00
	<u>5,140.00</u>
	18,124.97

Less Expenditure

Bank Fees	0.40
Web Site	42.55
Club Hives Expenses	26.00
AFB Hive Levey	55.32
Hall Hire	80.00
Printer Ink for Name Cards	230.68
	<u>434.95</u>

Total Balance at at 20th June 2020 17,690.02

Made up of

Operating Account	17,285.03
Savings Account	404.99
	<u><u>17,690.02</u></u>

Other News and websites to check out

[Bee Syrup Mixing Chart](#)

[New Zealand's migrant beekeepers wintering down away from home](#)

[Engineering, social work, and beekeeping among training courses subsidised by Government due to Covid-19](#)

[Bees Grooming Each Other Can Boost Colony Immunity](#)

[Kiwis looking to change careers urged to give beekeeping a try](#)

[Cotton proves good number 8 wire substitute in fight against wasps](#)

[Now's the time to #Love Local rural communities](#)

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



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

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