



Monthly Newsletter

Issue 209 July 2022

Upcoming Events and Notices

This Club Day: 2nd July

Next Club Day: 6th 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 continue 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

- Winter jobs
- Seasonal planning
- Demonstration on how to wax frames

Preparing your hives for winter - articles

[Help your hives get through winter](#)

Back catalogue article in "The New Zealand Beekeeper" by club member Paul Martin.

[Getting sorted for winter](#)

Back catalogue article in "The New Zealand Beekeeper" by John Berry.

Apriarists Advocate
back catalogue [HERE](#)

July Club Day Duty Roster

Set Up Hall From 9am	Peter H & Brett Smith
Set up in Kitchen 9am & Set up Lunch	Sue Young & Karin De Beer
Wash up Kitchen from Lunch	Sue Young & Karin De Beer
Pack up / Clean Hall From 12-30	Jos Von Dyk & Morgan C

All 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.

A reminder that WBC has a Facebook page open to members. If you click on this [LINK](#), you will need to put in your membership number and we will approve your request. A great forum to ask questions and see what is going on in other people's hives.

News from last Club Day

Club Day Summary 4 June 2022

The AGM was held at the start of club day. Approximately 50 members attended.

This was Paul's last AGM as President. He was thanked for the big effort he has put in over the years doing a great job for the club.

Barbara kindly came back and presented the NPH and WBC finance reports. We thanked her for continuing to do that for the club.

Nick Watkins was voted in as President. Dave Pennington, Adrian Tonks, Morgan Clair and Jos van Dyke were welcomed onto the committee. The rest of the committee is: Paul Martin, Suzie Scourfield, Heather Rye, Mike Poynter, Sarah & Pieter Kallis, Celia Watkins and Vincent Lane.

After the AGM we joined our guest speaker Patrick Dawkins on Zoom from his home in Marlborough. He is the founder and principal contributor to [Apiarists Advocate](#). Nick chaired the event with his astute questions.

Here is a summary of what was discussed:

- Patrick was a Stuff sports reporter. His wife Laura started beekeeping 5 years ago and Patrick joined her working for a honey producer. They were made redundant after MPI changed the honey export standard and prices slumped, almost overnight. They then went out on their own as beekeepers and as well started Apiarists Advocate. They originally bought hives off existing apiarists and then made-up numbers by splitting. Laura trained as a queen breeder which helped with making the splits - started with 4 hives and year on year went from 20 to 70 to 170 hives.
- Apiarists Advocate started in 2019 partly because of their attending the ApiNZ conference in Rotorua. It now has 1100 subscribers. They want to eventually get 8000 apiarists signed up. They're getting good support from loyal advertisers, which is a good result given the current tough times in the industry. The monthly issue has gone from 11 pages up to 30 pages now.
- Kanuka is Patrick's big crop (in Marlborough). Non-manuka honey has now climbed back up from \$3 to \$5/kg. A further gradual price improvement is expected. Conversely manuka honey is currently not selling so well.
- In the latest Apiarists Advocate issue Bay of Plenty honey storage facility Manuka Orchard has set up a honey trading website (www.manukaorchard.com) which acts as a portal where honey buyers, wherever they might be in the world and no matter the size of the order, can browse the inventory of honey for sale stored at Manuka Orchard. It is a way to directly connect the consumer with the producer.
- A series of Apiarists Advocate slides were shown detailing the journey so far. It is now online, to better reach the audience. There continues to be a printed version which can be ordered online and used as a reference. Every 6 months they plan to put out a 'summary edition' of the previous 6 months issues (50 pages for \$29).
- Where to from here for Apiarists Advocate – hard to know at this stage. Possibly more development of the website to be more of a hub for beekeepers. Have already put in a free advertising section (classified ads) e.g. hives for sale. Patrick feels the longer you have been around the scene the more trust you get. He tries to present a balanced story. Big producers are still cagey when it comes to sharing information. We could end up like the kiwifruit market which has a central hub to merchandise their produce.
- Negatives of the industry: (1) varroa control which has been impacted by people leaving the industry for economic reasons and abandoning hives (2) Economic viability for apiarists (3) Manuka honey not moving which stops money flowing which affects the whole industry.

News from last Club Day (continued)

- Positives of the industry: (1) ApiNZ research is now looking at other floral sources, other than manuka (2) Honey prices are slowly increasing. You can better plan your season if the price is known and you have contracts in place.
- Patrick has learnt to manage his time. He loves beekeeping. Happy this time of year with 3 months off with the hives shut down. This allows him to focus on publication. He builds family time into the business. Tends to work more on the magazine in the evening and on rainy days.
- Questions: Bryce asked whether the magazine could be used to improve communication between beekeepers in an area e.g. timing of varroa treatments, AFB issues. Patrick thought it would be too difficult to coordinate treatments because of different management motivations e.g. pollination.
- How to encourage communication: (1) call people up (2) call Apiarists Advocate if you have an idea (3) the magazine also uses freelance writers (4) need beekeepers to come up with new ideas they would like to share.
- Key points from Patrick's presentation: (1) Apiarists Advocate is free (2) Please support Apiarists Advocate advertisers (3) Puts filters on the various views he receives (4) Communication is what it's all about.

End of a very good Zoom meeting.

Nic Nacs

Bryce showed us his homemade setup using jacks to raise the upper honey super(s) to allow easier, pain free (from a bad back), access to brood boxes. He also sees the bees are less excited due to less honey smell generated.

Nick showed us how to use '[EasyCheck](#)', for gauging varroa numbers. It can be bought from Ecrotek. It is a ready-to-use varroa mite shaker. Follow these steps:

Shake once to wet the bees (200 – 300 brood bees) and then open the container and add fluid (alcohol or detergent) up to the upper line on the outer container.

Shake the container gently for 60 seconds.

Hold the container up to the light and count the mites.

Icing sugar can be used instead of liquids and this doesn't kill the bees.

Adrian said he uses one of the Systema products to achieve the same result.

Jos mentioned a queen capture device he uses.

General

Nick talked about the trial Biosecurity New Zealand has started to monitor the [small hive beetle](#) (should it arrive in the future). Go to their website for details. If it does arrive it could spread quickly if not detected in time. A mature beetle can cover 15km quickly. MPI are wanting 10 Northland beekeepers to participate in this trial. Here are the details that have been supplied to us:

Beekeepers are only required to place one trap in a hive and location of their choice. If members are interested, then I will just need a residential address to post out a surveillance kit.

- Small hive beetle is not present in New Zealand.
- The aim of this project is to increase beekeeper awareness of SHB, trial this surveillance method, and to proactively engage with beekeepers across Aotearoa.
- The project will run for one year, with quarterly check-ins with participants via email. We will also send participants a brief survey about their experience with the project later this year.
- By taking part in the project, you will be sent a SHB surveillance starter pack. The pack includes SHB traps, a Bee ID Pest ID Guide, a SHB vinyl sticker to place on your hive (with a QR code and weblink to our project web page), a trap placement instruction sheet, a 0800 Pest & Disease Hotline fridge magnet, and a sticker.
- The MPI SHB project page (click [HERE](#)) includes all the information on the project too, including how to identify and get in touch

News from last Club Day (continued)

Member Talk Time

Connie talked about the management of the Extraction Plant in this her first year in charge. Also talked about the [level 3 beekeeping course](#) she teaches at NorthTec every second Saturday. Connie plans to run the Plant again next season - she would appreciate us picking up our extracted supers as soon as possible.

Bulletin

Please put your name in the job roster sheet if you can help.

Small hive beetle surveillance project.

Invasive hornet – one lesser band hornet has been found.

[WBC Facebook](#) page for members. Post if you want e.g. AFB, varroa, small hive beetle trial, nic nacs etc.

Hiveware for Sale:

Stuart Hamilton has hiveware for sale (see list below) To order phone or email Stuart: Ph: 021 488 770 stujhamilton@xtra.co.nz

All prices are excluding GST

PRODUCT	EACH	10 or more	Per 100
Full Depth Super KD UT Kitset*	18.50	18.00	17.50
Full Depth Super KD UT Assembled*	23.00	22.50	22.00
Full Depth Super KD Metalexed Kitset*	24.50	24.00	23.50
Full Depth Super KD Metalexed Assembled*	29.00	28.50	28.00
¾ Super KD UT Kitset*	16.50	16.00	15.50
¾ Super KD UT Assembled*	21.00	20.50	20.00
¾ Super KD Metalexed Kitset*	20.50	20.00	19.50
¾ Super KD Metalexed Assembled*	25.50	25.00	24.50
Floor/Base KD UT Kitset**	16.00	15.50	14.50
Floor/Base KD UT Assembled**	19.00	18.50	17.50
Floor/Base KD Metalexed Kitset**	19.50	19.00	18.00
Floor/Base KD Metalexed Assembled**	23.00	22.50	21.50
Feeder KD UT Kitset*** (5 litre)	9.00	8.50	8.00
Feeder KD UT Assembled***	11.00	10.50	10.00
Feeder KD Metalexed Kitset***	12.00	11.50	11.00
Feeder KD Metalexed Assembled***	14.00	13.50	13.00
Hive mat KD UT Kitset****	8.50	8.00	7.50
Hive mat KD UT Assembled****	10.50	10.00	9.50
Hive mat KD Metalexed Kitset****	9.50	9.00	8.50
Hive mat KD Metalexed Assembled****	11.50	11.00	10.50

Timber may have tight knots and small imperfections away from ends (standard Grade)

* **FD Super** 240 x 509 x 409 x 21 **¾ Super** 185 x 509 x 409 x 21

** **Floor price** is for 50 x 50 H4 bearers - add 0.75 cents for 50 x 75 bearers and \$1.00 for 100 x 50 bearers- risers are 10mm- length bottom board 575mm

*** **Plastic feeder** is not included - price is for wood-ware only

**** **Hive mat** is 21mm thick with 4.8mm hardboard. Hardboard is not Metalexed in Metalexed option .For 25mm thickness add 50 cents per unit.



FRAME CLEANING

Tai's Frame Cleaning Service \$1.10 per frame. For more info contact Tai Pullen 020 415 815 64 taipullen9@gmail.com 516 State Highway 1 Otaika Whangārei

AFB checks

Trevor Clifton is available for AFB checks; he does charge for this service. Email: puwerahoney@gmail.com Ph:0274330155

Bayvarol for sale

The club has some Bayvarol strips for sale. Ask at the sales table on club day. Stop your bees looking like this:





APICULTURE
NEW ZEALAND

Bee kind: winter flowers that nourish bees

Question:

Which flowering plants are good for feeding bees over winter? My garden is short on flowers when summer is over. Could you suggest some trees and shrubs that will cover the gap?

Answer:

It is a lot harder to find good flowering plants for bees over winter. But the bees are also out and about less. Mostly bees reduce in numbers and stay in their hives during the coldest months, so the requirement for bee food is much less too.

Gisborne beekeepers facing challenges

Bee industry heads met with Gisborne beekeepers this week to discuss challenging issues such as bee health, the decline in honey prices, pollination as a service option, bee diseases and much-needed funding for research. Avneesh Vincent reports, click on title to watch video report



"Holy moley, Loretta! Not only is it still there, look what it did to the end of my stick!"



APINZ - Digital Photography Competition

Don't just sit around thinking about it, get out and take some photos!

ApiNZ's annual photo competition is back with a range of exciting apiculture-related categories to choose from, including a new category for beekeeping businesses that want to show off their 'office' (apiary site/s).

Prizes will be awarded for the best close-up, scenic photo, portrait, essay prints and 'Oh Darn!' moment.

Find out more and enter [here](#)

Apiculture New Zealand set for national conference and trade exhibition

Hundreds of beekeepers and others from the bee industry will gather in Christchurch next week for Apiculture New Zealand's two-day conference and trade exhibition.

This year's theme will be sharing the knowledge and load towards a better future.

The conference will start at Te Pae Conference Centre on June 30.

Winter is coming - Preparing your hives for cold weather

Much like us, bees prefer to spend winter snuggling up for warmth, staying indoors, and eating as much as they can. But they can't do that without adequate food, a warm hive, and protection from the elements. Click on the title to find out more.

Financial Statement

Whangarei Bee Club Incorporation

Opening Bank Balances as at 20 May 22

Operating Account	31,627.10
Savings Account	404.99
Total Funds	<u>32,032.09</u>

Plus Income From	5,105.25
New Members	265.00
Club Day Cash Sales	16.00
	<u>5,386.25</u>
	<u>37,418.34</u>

Less Expenditure	
Bank Fees	1.20
Web Site - OnLine designs	42.55
Whareora Hall Hire	80.00
H Rye - Club Day Exps - Pizzas	153.34
AFB Levey	51.87
Ean Brown - Xero Fees	340.93
	<u>669.89</u>
	<u>36,748.45</u>

Total Balances as at 22 June 22

Operating Account	36,343.46
Savings Account	404.99
	<u>36,748.45</u>

Other News and websites to check out

US academy honour for Otago scientist

Honey bees join humans as only known animals that can tell the difference between odd and even numbers

Beekeepers alert to honey bee thefts in Canberra region

Scientists evolve a fungus to battle deadly honey bee parasite

NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPING CALENDAR - JULY

Deadly virus is causing honeybee colonies to collapse all over the world

Kapiti Island buzzing with honey

New Zealand honeydew honey has excellent antioxidant properties

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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