



**"HELPING BEEKEEPERS KEEP BEES"**

Monthly Newsletter

Issue: 220 July 2023

## Upcoming Events and Notices

**This Club Day: 1<sup>st</sup> July**

**Next Club Day: 5<sup>th</sup> 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

This Saturday's club meeting is going to be a mead making demonstration. There are a few prizes up for grabs (you must be 18+ years and you need to be there in person to enter the draw!) A sponsored mead brewing kit from UBrew4U and a couple of secondary prizes of demijohns and airlocks! Hope to see you there!

### August Club Day

We will have Dwayne Hill from the AFB Management Agency coming to talk and we will also have the local AP2 hive inspectors come too so everyone can meet the people doing inspections.

We have also extended the invitation to the members of the Waipu bee club to join us. This is a good opportunity for the importance of inspecting of AFB for our community and area.

### Beekeeping News

Apiarist's Advocate June 2023 Issue

### Club Day Duty Roster

Set Up Hall From 9am	Sharon
Set up in Kitchen 9am & Set up Lunch	Sue & Lorna
Wash up Kitchen from Lunch	Karin & Morgan
Pack up / Clean Hall From 12-30	Jos

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.

### FRAME CLEANING

Tai's Frame Cleaning Service \$1.50 per frame.

For more info contact Tai Pullen  
020 415 815 64

[taipullen9@gmail.com](mailto:taipullen9@gmail.com)

516 State Highway 1 Otaika  
Whangārei

# News from last Club Day

## Club Day - 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2023

- What to do in April?
- Wax Rendering Demo
- Video time
- Nic Nac's Section
- Re-waxing frames demo
- Members talk
- LUNCH
- Hive Time

Note: Hand out roster for names

*'Helping Beekeepers Keep Bees'*

## What to do in June?



## What to do in June?

- Feed if needed syrup (2:1 sugar to water) or dry
- Reduce hive size
- Clean hiveware
- Re-wax frames
- Repairs

## Rendering Wax Demo



*'Helping Beekeepers Keep Bees'*

## Video Time



*'Helping Beekeepers Keep Bees'*

## What to do in April?

- Harvest Honey
- Varroa treatment!
- Feed (2 parts sugar to 1 part water)
- Disease checks
- Wasp control
- Winter down

## Nic Nac's Section



## Bulletin

- Roster for club day jobs
- Facebook - Whangarei Bee Club

## Member Talk Time



*'Helping Beekeepers Keep Bees'*

We had a demo on how to render wax from Suzie and Nick showed us how to re-wax plastic frames using the rendered wax.



## Video Time – click on the links to view

[Beekeeping Basics with Bruce Clow - Melting Wax - YouTube](#)

[Trev's Bees - Recycling your Honey Bees wax with a solar melter. - YouTube](#)

# NPH 2023 Season report (From Morgan Clair)

## Callouts

Thinkwater visits: 1 for sump pump seal replacement. Total visits:1

Gas/plumbing company? Visits: 1 to check califont and advised it was recirculation pump, 1 to replace recirculation pump. Total 2 visits

Boutlje pricker: 1 extra visit to reinstall pricker (extra to all the service and repairs previously reported)

Electrician visits: 1 pricker 1 water recirculation pump reconnect 2 frame spinner

## Consumables

Materials used totals: x2 pkts disposable gloves, x1 pkt disposable aprons, x5l diesel, x30kg LPG, x1 pkt vacuum bags, x2 5l Bleach containers. Honey labels/Tutin jars/sample jars/buckets (multiple)/x7 drums, x2 \$20 phone top ups

## Extraction hours and earnings

135hrs approx. total over 7 weeks/ 19hrs per week approx.

329 supers extracted total over 23 orders (55+ done pre-opening no charge)

Total 329 supers at \$8.50 = \$2796.5 total paid

Average \$399.50 per week/ \$199.75/19hrs per week

## Repairs completed (separate to past reports)

- Pricker reinstalled and settings adjusted
- Frame spinner – odd weighted baskets removed x2. Sensor cleaned ( removed and cleaned with spray)
- Water recirculation pump replaced
- Sump pump seal replaced

## Repairs to be completed

- Frame spinner sensor and control electrics to be replaced (frame spinner working intermittently) Parts on order.
- Plumbing leaks on tap inside extraction plant and hose in drum room
- Extraction plant windows leaking (MPI audit also mentions\*)
- Extraction plant and hot room roof leaks through light installations
- Front door lock (currently locks and unlocks itself with movement)
- Extraction plant floor needs resealing (2part epoxy onsite already)
- Storage container door needs re-riveting repair (next to hot room)

## Maintenance/improvement suggestions

- Label all switches
- Laminated instructions on wall for each machine/ outdoor holder for sign in folder
- Lengthen centrifuge airline for easier removal and cleaning
- Footpath around behind of building to prevent slips/trips/falls
- Detailed machinery operating and cleaning manuals
- End caps for lines/plumbing
- Regular cleaning (once fortnightly) of floors and walls during off season

## Overall review

Extremely hard season on bees, beekeepers and extraction plants alike.

Multiple breakdowns/hold ups requiring on the spot troubleshooting to continue extracting. (Hot water failing mid extraction, frame spinner failing multiple times mid extractions etc.)

To keep the mould at bay we had a heavy clean down procedure at the end of each day extracting including scrub and mop floors and wipe down all non-connected (nothing connecting to honey lines) surfaces with hot water and heavy bleach mix.

To ensure the best possible extraction rates, frames had to be checked all season for 'splashback', which occurs on one side of frames that sit in baskets that have had previous repairs (previous repairs being larger bars out into the baskets which crush the comb during spinning and cause honey to stick to the frame).

Overall, a lot of crystallization and wax moth seen throughout the season. Total of 5 supers brought in were not extracted due to both reasons (all from 1 order). While this was tolerated this season due to how delayed the plant was in opening and understanding it was just a bad season, everyone was warned it would not be so welcome in a normal season.

The plant ran a lot smoother with 2 people, especially with the breakdowns and small numbers of extractions being completed, it meant less time was spent at the plant overall and collections could be made without the plant having to stop extracting.

Almost everyone that visited the plant followed all the health and safety rules very well including wearing all appropriate shoes and hi viz as well as signing in.

For the upcoming extraction season, this is officially my notice as extraction plant manager.

I am happy to train and help where possible, whoever we hire for next season and intend to have some clear machinery operating instructions completed over the winter as well.

Special thanks to Heather and Jos for being on call (and answering) whenever needed, couldn't have gotten through the season without their help.

## Introducing the hive nappy

Winner of the NZ Apiculture innovation award 2022

The hive nappy is a 100% pure wool mat (10mm+/-) that fits above the top brood box over winter, place it on top of a queen excluder & below the top feeder or if no feeder under the inner hive lid.

\*wool naturally absorbs moisture from the atmosphere (reducing condensation)

\*damp wool releases energy as heat

\*no more ventilation to remove condensation, no more drafts that make cold bees, no more ventilation gaps that encourage robbing

\*wool is antibacterial & antimicrobial so healthier hives

\*decrease costs, less stores consumed to maintain cluster temperature = less labour, less feeding, less fuel

\*condensation dripping down the feeder entrance or off the inner hive lid gets absorbed by the hive nappy & can't drip on the bees, frames or stores.

\*increases hive survivability

\*100% compostable and sustainable

RRP \$5.00 NZD



Interested? Get in touch with Anne via email.....

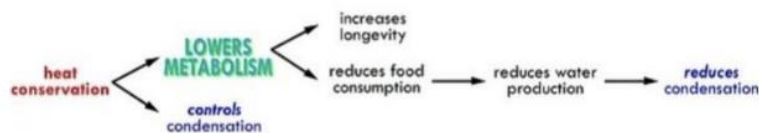


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[www.fleece2fleece.com](http://www.fleece2fleece.com)

[admin@fleece2fleece.com](mailto:admin@fleece2fleece.com)

Anne Reid 64 21 064 0070

IPONZ 787562

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# CONFERENCE & TRADE EXHIBITION 2023

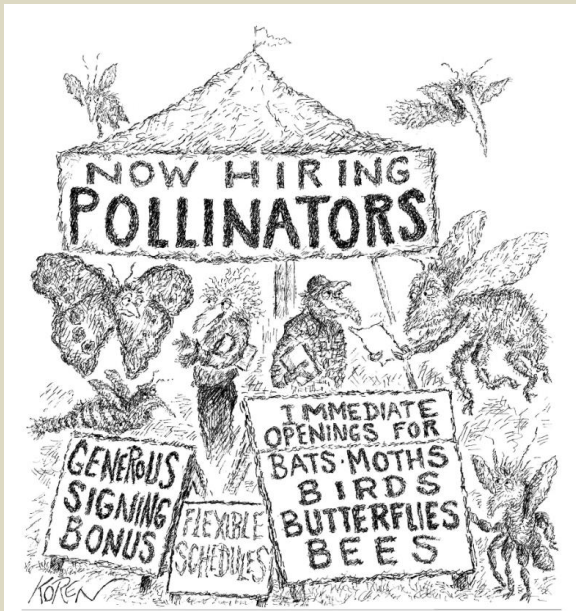
Thursday 29 and Friday 30 June | Rotorua Energy Events Centre

**Beyond the frame: where to next for the NZ apiculture sector?**




[Conference Programme](#)

[Conference Registration](#)



### AFB Courses

Click [here](#) to sign up for our online AFB Recognition Course and Assessments. Online learning will provide great convenience and accessibility to those that are unable to, or find it difficult to, attend our current in-classroom courses. Our online learning platform offers the course content in modules, so you can work through them at your own pace. The cost is \$100 per person to register and access the course content.

If you would prefer to book yourself into a classroom-based AFB Recognition Course, check out our training calendar [here](#). As we cap the number of beekeepers attending, these one day classroom-based courses often fill up quickly so please don't delay – register yourself by [clicking here](#). The cost is \$100 per person to attend.

### How NZ's own law helped Australia win the Manuka Honey trademark war

The recent decision in "one of the most complex and long running" trademark cases in New Zealand was a loss for the country's mānuka honey producers. But it also served to highlight just how ill-equipped our laws are for protecting Māori taonga (treasures) and Mātauranga Māori (traditional knowledge). Click on title to read more

### Almost 40,000 bee colonies lost to varroa mite last year, with losses increasing

The number of bee colonies lost because of varroa destructor mite is increasing every year, with the mite to blame for almost 40,000 colony losses in New Zealand last year, beekeepers and researchers say. Click on title to read more.

### MPI laboratory a global expert on bee diseases

The world authority on animal health has elevated the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)' Animal Health Laboratory (AHL) to the top tier of expertise in 2 major honey bee diseases – a first for New Zealand.

"The designation of our laboratory as a World Organisation for Animal Health reference laboratory for American foulbrood and varroa is an excellent recognition of our status as a world class laboratory," said Dr Richard Hall, a principal scientist at MPI, who will lead the reference laboratory. Click on title to read more

## Financial Statement

Will be updated next month as we transition to our new Treasurer

## Other News and websites to check out

Palmerston North's Bev Williams shares her love of backyard beekeeping

Beekeeping siblings raise funds for former school

10 big secrets of bees

US honeybees suffer second deadliest season on record

Five myths about bees: The truth about these remarkable insects

No change to mānuka honey definition

Honey company battling to get \$150k worth of honey off the broken-down MV Shiling

Opinion: Varroa mites - why beekeepers need to stay vigilant

### 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](mailto: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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