



Monthly Newsletter

Issue 185 June 2020

Upcoming Events and Notices

This Club Day: 6th June

Next Club Day: 4th July

Whareora Hall 10.00am

What to bring:

- Your **Membership card** to show at the door

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.

Covid19 Level 2 Meeting Protocol

We are excited to be able to host an actual meeting after weeks of isolation. The Committee has come up with a plan to ensure we are still practicing safely.

Please take note of the following:

- There will be someone on the door to mark off people's names on our member list as they enter, so that we have a record of people present.
- There will be no invites/potential new members this time.
- Everyone is to use hand sanitiser as they come through the door, this will be supplied.
- Sadly, there will be no cuppa and no lunch. BYO if you want, but we should be finished before lunchtime.
- We will set the seats out so that there is 1m between each seat. Please encourage social distancing within the hall.
- If you are sick or have been sick in the last 14 days, please stay home
- We are likely to be wrapped up by 11.30 and will go straight into hive-time for those wishing to. We will all have to remember social distancing out there; it just means it will take slightly longer to show things as everyone will have to space at least 1m apart.

Stay home if you're sick



Wash and dry your hands



News from last Club Day

Paul welcomed everyone to our first ever virtual club day. We had 31 people participate in the Zoom meeting.

Updates from Paul

Restrictions on beekeepers due to COVID-19: commercial beekeeping is an essential service as long as social distancing rules are being monitored. Beekeeper's can travel in cabs with one other person. Hobbyists are not considered essential however they can attend to bees open animal welfare front. APINZ website has updates.

Extraction plant: it has been a busy season, and all has gone well. The plant is now closed for the Winter. The club would like to thank Dennis for all his work,

AGM was postponed due to COVID-19, we will aim to have this as soon as possible Incorporated Societies Association would like us to have this by June, but they can understand if we're not able to. We have some new members seconded onto the computer committee: Rodney Heron, Suzie Scourfield, Sarah Kalis & Pieter Kalis.

Honey Competition we will see how events unfold and will endeavour to reschedule. In the meantime, put your honey in the freezer to keep. Even if we don't have the competition until next year it will still be fine and will defrost well to be able to be entered.

Marco Gonzales is in charge of AFB enforcement, he was scheduled to be our guest speaker in June, we have postponed him until the August Club Day, he will talk to us about the work he does around enforcement.

David & Paul Show

Plenty of feeding going on lots of sugar tanks around. Tahi are all over the place and David sees most of their apiaries with 2 to 3 boxes high, he thinks they are leaving the honey on. David's hives are very hungry he has no honey left. Some are still pulling in nectar but not storing it will, some are still bringing in pollen. There is very little brood, and the queen seems to have gone into winter mode with low levels of laying. David is feeding honey in frames and some raw sugar; he is closing everything right down to keep them cosy. It is definitely time to reduce entranceways, the smaller the entrance the easier it is for them to defend it. Don't keep large hives, reduce number of boxes down to help them keep warm.

David is amalgamating hives that are weaker with a stronger hive. He puts the weak hive on top of the strong hive with a queen excluder in between and uses air freshener to prevent them from fighting.

Paul has heaps of wasps and they have robbed out one of his hives. Paul had taken out his blue "[HyfeGate](#)" tunnels so unsure if that would have helped the wasp problem.

Question & Answer session:

Q: Is it better to use paper towels or the strips of Oxalic acid treatment for varroa?

David thinks the strips would be better over the winter months as the wet towel could help to cool down the hive with the large surface area. He says just rip up the towel and dangle the strips down around brood area. David used the paper towels on all his hives 6 weeks ago and has just been around to check on them again and saw no sign of varroa. He has decided not to put any towel on now. Paul's comment was if brood levels are low then the number of varroa in the hive will be low as there is little brood for the varroa to breed on. David reminded us that we are 6 weeks away from the shortest day and that very quickly after this queens increase their laying. David will start putting on paper towel treatment after that.

News from last Club Day

Q: Which is best form of feed to give bees?

David: honey is best to feed, warm syrup is next best, then raw sugar.

Q: Have people noticed many wasps and what can we do about them?

There are a lot of wasps about. It seems that wasps are not feeding on protein at the moment and so it is difficult to poison them. VespeX is the protein-based poison but they are not interested in it at the moment. Don't put out any poison in sugary water as bees will take this too.

The best medicine to combat wasps is a strong hive with small entrance holes.

Q: Would you treat varroa with oxalic all winter?

David did treat last year and all was OK. But remember the towel is a soggy damp thing that can reduce temperature in the hive. Paul commented beekeepers around the country tend to reduce oxalic acid treatment in winter due to a decrease in temperature for it to work effectively. Strips can be evaporated quicker than towel on top and maybe better in the wintertime.

Q: How to help hive stay warm in winter?

Kiwimania suggested a top board with entrance below top feeder could help. David has some old school feeders that have this outside entrance. Frame feeders are better if the hive is weaker and struggling to keep warm in winter.

Expol polystyrene can be good but if a hive is only 3 or 4 frames there not enough bees to keep hive warm and alive.

If you have a weak queenless hive and no brood it would not make it through the winter and less you take a frame of brood from a strong hive and leave it queenless, introducing a Queen later in spring.

Q: When is good time to start thinking about splitting a hive?

Start planning now for any hive splits in spring. Have all your gear ready to go now. If the weather is good you could start in early September. You need to look for a critical mass of bees and plenty of drones for good mating, or lots of drone brood as by the time a queen hatches out the drones will be out too. Make sure you only split strong hives. A nuc should have at least 2 frames honey, 1 frame brood and 1 frame pollen.

QUEEN CELL PRODUCTION TUTORIAL (see right)

Quarry Arts Centre, 21 Selwyn St. Whangārei 0110

Sunday 5th July 9.30am - 2.45pm \$190 pp

Expect hygiene to be a high standard. Tea and coffee provided. Bring your own lunch. The tutorial is aimed at commercial beekeepers and long term hobbyists.

KANUKA HONEY RESEARCH BENEFITS

The kanuka tree is flowering for a couple of weeks longer than normal this season in our area which should result in improved kanuka honey yields.

There has been considerable research on manuka honey which has highlighted its benefits while kanuka honey has also been researched thoroughly.

The research shows that kanuka honey is effective in the treatment of a number of skin related conditions. [click link here](#)

QUEEN CELL PRODUCTION TUTORIALS FOR PRODUCING LARGE NUMBERS OF QUALITY QUEEN CELLS

Maggie James has provided tens of thousands of high-quality queen cells, using the Airborne Honey method to commercial beekeepers throughout NZ for 20 years.

One-off tutorials for commercial beekeepers & long-term experienced hobbyists.

Colony selection, feeding & stimulation, pollen, royal jelly, starter & finisher hives & manipulations, cell bars & frames, grafting, breeder stock, setting up & running polystyrene mini mating nucs & yard, banking queens, incubators, basic biology. Tutorials in simple English, 250+ slides & handout.

NOTE: Covid-19 may force rescheduling of dates etc

9.30 am to approx. 2.45 pm
\$190 pp (GST incl)

Sundays: Other venues considered if demand

7 June: Whitecliffs, Canterbury & Corsons' AFB dog demo

21 June: Rotorua CBD.

5 July: Whangarei CBD

19 July: Hamilton, NZ Beeswax & factory tour

2 August: Kerikeri CBD

**More info, terms & conditions please contact:
Maggie – Phone 027 629 9388 or email mjqueenb@xtra.co.nz**



APICULTURE
NEW ZEALAND

ApiNZ is continuing to update our [COVID-19 web page](#) as new information comes to hand. Our senior policy analyst Phil Edmonds is available to answer any member queries on COVID-19. You can contact him at phil.edmonds@apinz.org.nz

Beekeeper Magazine: ApiNZ is pleased to advise that all beekeepers can expect to receive the hard copy April 2020 journal in their mailboxes very soon, as they were posted out today. You may recall these had already been printed but could not be mailed out because of COVID-19. Our supplier has worked within considerable restrictions to get this to the post.

The AFB levy invoices have been mailed out and are currently with beekeepers for payment by 1 June 2020. They turn up every year, regular as clockwork, and are paid by beekeepers who largely understand it's their responsibility under the National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan to eliminate AFB, one of our most serious diseases.



World Bee Day - 20 May

With World Bee Day being celebrated, our Australian counterparts have reached out to New Zealand friends to share an online screening of the critically acclaimed documentary *Honeyland*. The film, set in the Balkans examines the lives of wild beekeepers, and was nominated for two academy awards earlier this year. For details on the screening, click [here](#)



Govt Budget funding for trades training will benefit beekeeping industry

The \$1.6b trades training package announced in the Budget to boost vocational education is good news for apiculture and the wider primary sector. Apiculture New Zealand's skills and education focus group has been participating in the Food and Fibre Skills Establishment Group Zoom meetings since the lockdown, supporting work underway in the Workforce Development Councils and the Regional Skills Leadership Group development programme. The free trades training for people of all ages is also good news, which will potentially encourage more interest in beekeeping. There will be some beekeeping businesses that are affected by the loss of migrant workers, and this is an opportunity for New Zealand workers to fill the anticipated gaps. The industry has good numbers of beekeepers, but people coming in from other sectors will bring new benefits with transferrable skills.

Financial Statement

Whangarei Bee Club Incorporation

Opening Bank Balances as at 31 March 2020

Operating Account	12,622.93
Savings Account	404.99
Total Funds at 20.4.20	<u>13,027.92</u>

Plus Income From Membership Fees

-	-
	<u>13,027.92</u>

Less Expenditure

Bank Fees	0.40
Web Site	42.55
	<u>42.95</u>
Total Balance at at 20th May 2020	<u><u>12,984.97</u></u>

Made up of	
Operating Account	12,579.98
Savings Account	404.99
	<u><u>12,984.97</u></u>

News/sites to check out

[Taupō honey exports carry on during lockdown](#)

[Scottish honey branded world's next superfood](#)

[Honey Bee Virus Tricks Hive Guards Into Admitting Sick Intruders](#)

[New Zealand resumes exports to China](#)

['Murder Hornets' in the U.S.: The Rush to Stop the Asian Giant Hornet Watch Video Here](#)

[Ingenious honeybees cook invading giant hornets to death](#)

[Star of rags to riches tale Abuzz about maramataka for bee-keeping](#)

[The Bee Whisperers of Slovenia Have a Plan to Save Colonies From Climate Change](#)

[The magic of mānuka oil on Country Calendar](#)

[How beekeepers are keeping food production going despite the sting of lockdown](#)

[Apiarist's Advocate - May 2020](#)

[Scientists Find Honeybees Can Trigger 'Virgin Births' With Just a Single Gene](#)

[Kiwi beekeepers get a buzz from World Bee Day](#)

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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