

Monthly Newsletter

Issue 197 June 2021

Upcoming Events and Notices

This Club Day: 5th June

Next Club Day: 3rd July

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.

June club day we will be having our AGM (agenda on right), before carrying on with our normal club day.

Please come along and help us to ensure the ongoing success of the Whangarei Bee Club.

Bee Basics – Thank you to member Brian Angliss for compiling some interesting facts for beginning beekeepers. You can find it on the Facebook page and on the [WBC Resources page](#), you will need to log in to access it.

Whangarei Bee Club Inc. **AGM June 5th, 2021 Held at** **Whareora Hall**

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	Phil & Julia Brady
Set up in Kitchen 9am and Set up Lunch	Bev Bristowe, Muriel
Wash up Kitchen from Lunch	Bev Bristowe, Muriel
Pack up / Clean Hall From 12-30	Vince

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 1st May 2021

This club day we had the annual honey competition as well as a guest speaker. Paul noted that Maureen would not be the judge this time, due to a mix up in dates, but we had Heather (WBC Treasurer) who is Maureen's prodigy, as our judge. Ably assisted by Muriel and Vince. The judging began at 9-30am.

Paul then introduced our guest speaker, Lisa Forester, who is the biodiversity manager from the Northland Regional Council.

Here is a summary of Lisa's talk Titled: Gumlands for Bees

Lisa worked for the Department of Conservation (DoC) for over 20 years as a regional botanist, then moved to the Northland Regional Council ([NRC](#)) as their biodiversity manager around 12 years ago. She currently has a team of 8 which is growing due to central government regional policy requirements.

[Gumlands](#) are now very rare habitats. They used to cover much more area (300,000Ha has reduced to about 1000Ha now). They are a mix of wet and dry heathland, of which they are a type. Most are in Northland. They are very infertile quite acidic soils suitable for stunted woody plants, including manuka. They can range from well drained to seasonally waterlogged. They are home to rare flora and fauna.

Over 100 years ago they helped drive our northern economy where Kauri gum was the 'gold' of the north. Thousands of people were employed in the gum industry at its height.

Gumlands normally form on gently sloping ridges where ancient kauri forests once grew. Over thousands of years the kauri dropped acid litter causing nutrients and organic material to leach (wash) out of the soil leaving behind a hard, white silica pan (base). This pan set like concrete acting as a barrier to water draining away so a wetland formed on top. Because Gumlands are on ridges and rely totally on rainfall they are usually parched dry in summer and saturated in winter. A layer of peat will usually form and permanently wet hollows may form peat bogs. Destroying or ripping the clay pan that underlies the Gumland with machinery will mean that the pan leaks water downwards causing the Gumland to become drier in winter. The vegetation may then become weedy or change to shrubland.

Fires are a feature of Gumlands causing further loss of nutrients. Gumlands are often not recognised as wetlands because they are on hilltops.

Gumlands are home to an unusual community of plants and animals, many of which are now rare, that have adapted to survive in harsh infertile environments. Once very common in Northland, most Gumlands have been cleared and developed.

Gumland is often confused with scrub but a closer look will reveal a unique community of plants many of which are shared with acid, infertile bogs. Stunted, short manuka may be dominant. A search on the ground and along track edges will reveal a treasure trove of native orchids, tiny ferns and sundews, some of which are very rare.

Gumlands are increasingly important for beekeeping due to the high quality manuka honey they can produce. Hives are most often helicoptered in to avoid the need for damaging tracks/roads.

Gumlands are prime habitat for the Northland green gecko, North Island brown kiwi and North Island fernbird. Black mudfish and endemic Northland mud fish sometimes live in wet hollows and gum holes. The many species of native bees can be seen (small black bees often living in cut banks). The most common bird seen is often the fern bird.

Changes in fertility will cause vegetation to change and pest plants to grow more easily, e.g. gorse, hakea, broom, woolly nightshade and acacia. Some weeds – such as gorse – fix nitrogen and increase soil fertility further, doing even more damage.

News from last Club Day (continued)

You can keep the weeds out by:

- Avoiding fires, earthworks or disturbance that will favour weed invasion.
- Fencing stock out to reduce disturbance and prevent weed spread. Farm animals can spread weeds or open up areas for weeds to move into.
- Washing equipment and farm machinery after working in weedy areas on your land.
- Report Myrtle Rust. Ph 0800809966.

Earthworks are not recommended in Gumlands as this will seriously damage their clay pan. It is illegal to clear them. Avoid making new tracks across them.

Gumlands are a poor source of feed and stock do a lot of damage so it is not a good idea to allow them access or use Gumlands as runoffs. Pugging breaks through peat in wetter hollows and stock browse softer plants.

You may be eligible for a Northland Regional Council [Environment Fund](#) grant for up to 50 percent of the costs of wetland fencing, pest control and planting.

There was a wide range of audience questions for this well received presentation.

Industry updates from Paul

- [Myrtle rust](#)

Has been found on manuka in the Auckland area. Pohutukawa is the second most affected species. There is a myrtle rust mutation in Hawaii that is wiping out their equivalent pohutukawa species. Are bees helping to spread it when they collect pollen and nectar?

- [Glyphosate](#)

MPI are investigating its use – are recommendations for use appropriate, should it be available off the shelf. Honey industry has concerns, particularly in regard to possible future export criteria on glyphosate limits.

- [National Apiculture Conference in Rotorua \(24 – 26th June\)](#)

Lots of great speakers will present (including Paul), with a wide range of topics covered. International speaker presentations will be pre-recorded via video, followed by a live video question and answer session.

- **AFB management agency** has DECA courses in Whangarei on 29th May and 2nd October, both starting at 9am at McKay Stadium, Kensington (details at: training@afb.org.nz)
- **AFB agency** has now updated to [HiveHub](#), which is a much better system than the old ApiWeb which it replaced.

David and Paul

David has noticed a lot of wasps around so close your entrances down to a minimal gap for better defence, also reduce supers down to 1 or 2 boxes, depending on bee numbers.

Good time to check for varroa. Your strips should be in by now, for the recommended period. Some resistance to Bayvarol has been seen again. The oxalic acid / glycerol mix has still not been approved by MPI yet – still working through the licensing process. Home mixing has not been approved yet – components can be sold separately i.e. oxalic acid and glycerol. Unsure if commercial oxalic acid strips are being sold locally, although Manuka Health are buying commercial oxalic strips/staples from somewhere.

David's hives: he has been through more than 100 hives recently and found only 2 with varroa so feels confident with his oxalic towels. Alternating with chemical strips is probably a good idea, maybe Apivar in autumn for 6 – 10 weeks (you will need a mesh base for Apivar so the varroa mites can fall through to the ground).

News from last Club Day (continued)

David is down to 1 or 2 boxes per hive. He has left lots of honey on. Will feed Farmlands sugar syrup to top up if needed. He will try to hold off with feeding until closer to the shortest day because feeding them too much syrup stimulates the queen to lay and so you will need to keep feeding. David keeps the queen excluder on over winter in a 2 box hive because it's easier to manage in Spring if you know the queen is in the bottom box, however you need to be sure there are resources in the bottom box to keep the bees with her over winter.

David noticed that honey he took off a few weeks ago is already crystallised whereas much of his honey from last year is still liquid. Mike noted that honey crystallises quicker if there are air bubbles or pollen grains in it i.e. centres for nucleation. Granulation is possibly also nectar source dependent.

Generally, it has not been a good year for honey production in Northland. Dennis noticed there was less west coast honey extracted this year.

Wasp control: Need a licence to buy and use Vespex. Mike makes his own solution for wasp control (1L sugar syrup + 2 drops Fipronil (insecticide used in Frontline)). Dribbles this on some fruit and puts that on top of the hive lid? Check with Mike before using this.

Honey Competition

Paul thanked our sponsors for donating their generous prizes.

Congratulations to Sheryl Lord and Suzie Scourfield – this year's major prize winner and runner-up!

Congratulations also to Alanah Vinson who won the People's Choice award with her tasty 'honey ice-cream' (recipe to follow...).

Our judge Heather commented that the standard of honey entrants was generally high. It pays to present your entry correctly. Also, it would be useful for the 'novelty wax items' and the 'honey-based products' to come with a story so judges get to know more about them.

Here are the competition results.



Whangarei Bee Club

HONEY SHOW RESULTS May 2021

CLASS 1. GRANULATED HONEY DARK		Max = 200
1	—	POINTS
2	—	POINTS
3	—	POINTS
CLASS 2. LIQUID HONEY DARK		
1	Sheryl Lord	POINTS 200
2	Anna Noall	POINTS 160
3	—	POINTS
CLASS 3. GRANULATED HONEY MEDIUM		
1	Beverley Bristowe	POINTS 197
2	Vince Lane	POINTS 193
3	Anna Noall	POINTS 192
CLASS 4. LIQUID HONEY MEDIUM		
1	Suzie Scourfield	POINTS 197
2	Ed Harding	POINTS 196
3	Anna Noall	POINTS 196
CLASS 5. GRANULATED HONEY LIGHT		
1	Mary Williams	POINTS 190
2	Sheryl Lord	POINTS 188
3	Mary Williams	POINTS 187

CLASS 6. Creamed Honey		
1	Suzie Scourfield	POINTS 199
2	—	POINTS
3	—	POINTS
CLASS 7. WAX NOVELTY		
1	Lilly Kalis	96
2	Sheryl Lord	94
3	Sheryl Lord	87
CLASS 8. HONEY BASED PRODUCT		
1	Alanah Vinson	98
2	Ella Kalis	75
3	Lilly Kalis	75
WINNER OF CUP		Sheryl Lord
WINNER OF SHIELD		Suzie Scourfield
3rd Equal	Beverley Bristowe	POINTS 197
3rd Equal	Suzie Scourfield	POINTS 197
Peoples Choice:	Alanah Vinson	

Anna Noall has 300g pots for sale:

Ph 099460052 or 0220264782.



APICULTURE NEW ZEALAND

[Apiculture conference focuses on healthy bees and growing a healthy industry](#)

Apiculture New Zealand Conference, 24 – 26 June 2021

Hundreds of beekeepers, and others from the apiculture industry, will gather in Rotorua this June, for the first time in two years, to discuss pressing issues facing their industry and to find the country's best honey.

Apiculture New Zealand's annual conference and trade exhibition returns to the Rotorua Energy Events Centre from Thursday 24 June to Saturday 26 June, with the theme 'Healthy Bees, Healthy Industry, Healthy Future'.

Link to Register [HERE](#)

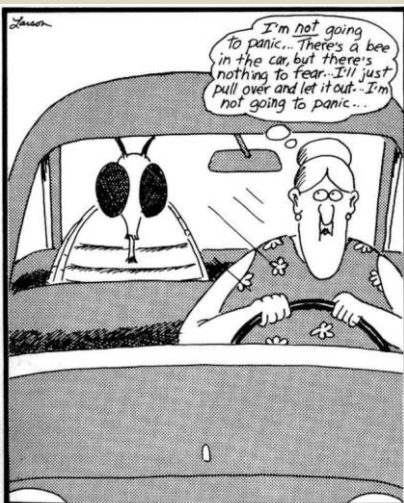
[Thousands of honey bees swarm a tree in search of a new hive](#)

House-hunting can be hard, and not just for humans.

Take honey bees, for example.

"I was just sitting outside, because it was a nice day that day," said Jeffrey Dunn. "I looked over and saw a spot on the tree where it didn't look right. I walked over that way, and I could tell it was a swarm."

Apiarist's Advocate –
May 2021 click [HERE](#)



[Honeybee 'Trojan horse' virus relies on bees' habit of cannibalizing their young](#)

A virus that leaves bees with stubby, useless wings, bloated abdomens and sluggish brains before killing them off takes advantage of one of the pollinators' nastier habits — a tendency to cannibalize their young, a new study found.

The deformed wing virus (DWV) lurks inside the bellies of mites that prey on the bees' young; then, the worker insects get infected when they gobble up the baby bees, the study researchers found.

Click on title to read more.

[Radar tracking uncovers mystery of where honeybee drones have sex](#)

Scientists from Queen Mary University of London and Rothamsted Research have used radar technology to track male honeybees, called drones, and reveal the secrets of their mating behaviours.

The study suggests that male bees swarm together in specific aerial locations to find and attempt to mate with queens. The researchers found that drones also move between different congregation areas during a single flight.

Click on title to read more

[Know Your Queen and Why She's Important](#)

In some ways, the queen bee is a lot like human royalty. Selected before birth, she is treated differently from the beginning and spends her life being waited on by her worker bees.

In other ways, the life of a queen bee is far less glamorous than that of a human royal. Her life starts with a fight to the death and a frenzy of mating, then she spends the rest of her life inside the hive laying thousands upon thousands of eggs.

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 (click on the link). 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 purchase at club day if you only require a small number. Jars will be available for pick-up only on club days.

Financial Statement

Whangarei Bee Club Incrporation

Opening Bank Balances as at 20 March 21

Operating Account	24,893.12
Savings Account	404.99
Total Funds at 20th March 21	25,298.11

Plus Income From

Membership Fees-New	375.00
Club Day Sales	43.90
	418.90
	25,717.01

Less Expenditure

Bank Fees	2.40
Bank Fees	2.00
Web Site - OnLine designs	42.55
Web Site - OnLine designs	42.55
Whareora Hall Hire	80.00
Whareora Hall Hire	80.00
Pizza's & Milk, Biscuits, Coffee,	181.99
Pizza's & Milk, Biscuits, Coffee,	183.82
APINZ - Membership Fee	230.00
AFB Hive Levey	55.78
Wine for Guest Speaker	53.98
	955.07

Total Balance at at 20th May 2021	24,761.94
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Made up of

Operating Account	24,356.95
Savings Account	404.99
	24,761.94

Other News and websites to check out

[How To Care For Your Bees In The Colder Seasons](#)

[World Bee Day: Protecting our bees from pesticides](#)

[Video of bees working together to open a Fanta bottle attracts millions](#)

[Wasps just as important to ecosystems and human health as bees, scientists say](#)

['Holy Cow': Man finds 15,000 bees in his car after he parks to buy groceries](#)

[Phoenix Honey: An accidental apiarist producing honey with a difference](#)

[Fungus fights mites that harm honey bees](#)

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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