

Monthly Newsletter

Issue 208 June 2022

Upcoming Events and Notices

This Club Day: 4th June

Next Club Day: 2nd 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 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.

2022 AGM – June Club Day:

We have the Annual General Meeting coming up in June.

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

We need more people on the committee and we need people to oversee the extraction plant.

Please read notice to members on page 4.



June Club Day:

Patrick of Apiarist Advocate is our guest speaker after the AGM. He will be Zooming in from 10-30am
[Apiarist's Advocate May 2022](#)

At the "orange" traffic light there are no limits to how many people can attend. You do not need to wear a face mask, but it is encouraged.

We will have pizzas for lunch.

May Club Day Duty Roster

Set Up Hall From 9am	Muriel & Sue Young
Set up in Kitchen 9am & Set up Lunch	Muriel & Sue Young
Wash up Kitchen from Lunch	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Pack up / Clean Hall From 12-30	

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 all 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

Nick gave a talk on Varroa then we had a demo on how to make your own oxalic acid & glycerol pads

Club Day – 7th May 2022

- Varroa – Understanding & Managing
- Demonstration – Oxalic Acid & Glycerine Mixture
- Nic Nac's Section
- Members talk
- LUNCH
- Hive Time

Note: Hand out roster for names
'Helping Beekeepers Keep Bees'

1

Varroa Destructor



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Varroa - Understanding

- What is Varroa Destructor?
- Varroa is an external parasitic mite
- It arrived in NZ April 2000 (eventually to South Island 2006)
- Colony losses for 2021 by varroa up to 5.3% (3.5% in 2020)
- It has changed the way we need to bee keep and will continue to do so.

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Varroa



4

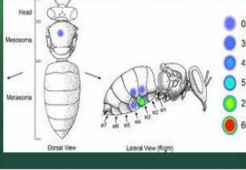
Varroa- What does it do?

- Varroa feed on the adult bees & developing larva (pre-pupal stage), now believed to be the body fat not the blood/haemolymph
- They spread disease and weaken the immune system in there process of feeding on the bee.
- Infested hives can appear to die suddenly (a strong hive mid January could be very weak or dead by end of February)
- Varroa require bee brood to reproduce (with preference to drone brood)
- Varroa emerge from the cells mated are ready to continue multiplying

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Varroa



0.96%
3.86%
4.81%
5.77%
21.15%
60.58%

6

Varroa bite



7

Varroa Bite up close



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Varroa – How to identify?

- Varroa can be seen by the naked eye
- When varroa numbers are low there can be little sign of infestation, however their numbers can grow exponentially and heavy infestations quickly occur.
- Scattered brood, sunken cells, chewed or perforated cappings and larva slumped in cells are all signs potential signs (note these signs can also be other diseases including AFB so be cautious)
- Varroa can often be seen in drone brood exposed between excluders or brood boxes
- If you suspect varroa are present and/or want to know what numbers are in your hives shake tests are a good technique to use (alcohol, sugar, dishwash)

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PMS




10

Varroa on drone brood



11

Shake/wash test



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Varroa – Effects on production

- Reduced health in the hive will cause significant decrease in production and wellbeing
- A low 3% infestation has been shown to reduce honey crops by over 5kg
- Infestations will reduce bee numbers effecting pollination as well as honey production
- If left untreated not only is production lost, death costs even more

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Varroa



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Varroa – How is spreads?

- Drift – Worker and drone bees drifting between hives and apiaries
- Robbing – Workers robbing other hives
- Beekeeper – transferring honey supers/frames & brood
- All it takes is one to start an infestation

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Varroa – How to manage?

- Must rotate treatments!
- Follow the instructions!
- You may have to reposition your treatments.
- Synthetic treatments:
 - Flumethrin (Bayvarol) & Fluralinate (Apistan)
 - Amirbaz (Apiras & Apivaz)
- Organic acid:
 - Oxalic Acid (in glycerine mixture with medium, vaporising, dribbling)
 - Formic acid (MAQs)

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Varroa – Bee genetics

- Scientist believe this is the only viable solution to controlling the effects of Varroa
- Breeders and scientists are trying to use selection to develop a strain that will co-exist with varroa (like *A. cerana* – the original host of varroa)
- Breeders are selecting genetics mainly for hygienic behaviour, grooming and reduced duration of capped stage.
- It will take some time to develop the strain and may need continual development as the varroa too evolve.

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Varroa – Colony losses

- Varroa accounted for 5.3% of colony loss for 2021 (3.5% in 2020)
- Major attributes to varroa losses are:
 - Treated as wrong time 32.1%
 - Reinfestation post treatments 27.4%
 - Ineffective dosage 15.7%
- Other attributes were:
 - Winter weather 11.3%
 - Ineffective products 8.1%
 - Did not treat 2.4%

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Varroa - Summary

- Monitor your varroa numbers
- Rotate your treatments
- Check your treatments have worked
- Follow the instructions
- Continual review your management plan

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Demonstration – Oxalic acid & Glycerine mixture



Do NOT let your solution exceed 60°C

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Bulletin

- Roster for club day jobs
- Small hive beetle surveillance project
- Invasive Hornet – Lesser band hornet
- Committee – as per the newsletter. This ensures the continuation of the club. Many hands make little work.

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SHB surveillance project

- Looking for 10 beekeeper in Northland
- They will send instructions, information and materials (such as the traps).
- SHB is not currently in NZ
- The aim of the project is to increase awareness, trail this surveillance method and engage with NZ beekeepers
- SHB can fly up to 15km so their spread can be very quick once they get here
- This project will help all of the beekeeping community in NZ and prepare us for future exotic pest and diseases

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Lesser Band Hornet



Grows up to 3cm long

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Next Club Day

- 4th June
- AGM Meeting
- Guest Speaker
- Patrick Dawkins – Apiarist Advocate
- With Q & A

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Warre Hive keeping: #3 by club member Morgan Clair

Now we understand what a Warre hive might look like and how they came about, I would like to delve deeper into some of the significant design differences and the pros (and cons?) that these may come with.

We know that the physical dimensions of the Warre box are meant to replicate a hollow tree trunk, while the top bars let the bees build their own comb, to better understand what the Warre is trying to achieve, we must understand how bees build and behave naturally.

How bees build and use comb in the wild

In nature, bees build and use comb following this general pattern:

- They create comb from the ceiling of a cavity, Warre assumes a hollow tree cavity
- They *initially* raise brood at the top of the comb (note: this, too, differs from a Langstroth where brood is raised in the lower box)
- As they continue to build comb that hangs down further into the cavity, brood is raised in the lower part of the comb
- The upper part of the comb is re-purposed to store honey

Over time this means that the bees raise brood at the bottom of each hanging comb, with honey stored above the brood. At the onset of winter, the winter cluster starts consuming honey, working from the bottom up.

Warres attempts to mirror natural behaviour

The Warre design tries to closely mirror and support these natural behaviours of bees. Initially, the box is just an empty shell with top bars resting along the top of the box. There are 8 such bars, each resting in what Warre called the "rebate".

Over time the bees will draw their comb from the top bars, down into the box. First creating brood and then, as in the wild, the lower parts of the comb will be used for brood and upper parts for food storage.

Generally speaking, the bees will also leave space between the bottom of the comb and the top of the next boxes bars, though we know, some girls like joining absolutely everything together.

While the pros to this method are that the bees live more "naturally" inside the hive, and *leave* enough bee space between boxes, and this all sounds very ideal, there are some cons to consider.

Starting your bees off in any top bar hive means the girls have a lot of hard work to do before they can even start laying eggs or storing any food. Done at the wrong time of year, or with a weak hive, could mean they run out of resources and die off or abandon the hive before being able to establish.

The other con being those girls that want to build comb and propolis everywhere! Not all hives will be tidy and especially here in NZ, we must consider our ability to perform hive checks, will the frames be easy enough to remove or will it mean destroying half the combs to pull apart? In the spring, I intend to experiment a lot with this so hopefully we will get some better answers then.

Thanks for reading!

AFB checks

Trevor Clifton is available for AFB checks; he does charge for this service.

Email: puwerahoney@gmail.com Ph: 4329511 or 0274330155

Hi Members

We are holding our AGM at the start of our next club day - Saturday 4th June. You can find the latest financial statements for both The Whangarei Bee Club and Northland Pure Honey on the website: <https://www.whangareibeeclub.co.nz>, in the 'Members Only' section.

We have a nomination for Nick Watkins to stand for President, a position which has remained vacant in recent months. Whilst a new enthusiastic President will help to maintain the Whangarei Bee Club, it is unwise and indeed impractical for the President to also oversee the Northland Pure Honey extraction plant.

During Pauls' term as President this role was undertaken by David Pullen (Vice President), with assistance from Heather Rye and Paul Martin. David has retired from the committee, and both Heather and Paul while happy to remain on the committee for now, need to reduce commitments. The remainder of the existing committee all have their own roles within the club and are unable to take on more responsibility than they already have.

We therefore need 1-2 new people to step up to this role. It involves overseeing the extraction plant manager, ensuring all R&M is undertaken and/or arranged as required, and keeping an eye on plant operations on behalf of the bee club committee. If this sounds like you then please contact Paul (0272629566) or Vince (wbccommunication@gmail.com).

Recently we have been unable to find people willing to oversee the extraction plant, which places its viability at risk. This is not a situation which can continue, and as such if by the AGM we have not found a club member or members who can help with overseeing the extraction plant, then at the AGM there will be a discussion on the future viability of Northland Pure Honey and the extraction plant.

We trust that you will all seriously consider the value of the bee club and extraction plant to you and the community, and thus consider what you can contribute to this great club. We look forward to seeing you at the AGM. We will try to keep the AGM as short as possible, and straight afterwards we will have a guest speaker - Patrick Dawkins who is the editor of Apiarists Advocate. He will be talking on all things beekeeping and is sure to be full of insights and amusing tales.

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:



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

Hives for Sale:

Stuart Hamilton has 45 hives for sale
(\$350 – \$400/hive).
Ph: 021 488 770 stujhamilton@xtra.co.nz

AGM Nominations and Helpers Needed

- Nick Watkins has been nominated for President
- We do need nominations for Vice-President.
- We are also needing more committee members for WBC and for NPH. We are looking to disburse the responsibilities, so they are not a burden on any one person.
- It does not matter what your level of beekeeping expertise, we just need members willing to help to continue the club.
- If you want to help or contribute without being on the committee, please email wbccommunication@gmail.com
- Below is a list of all the current tasks and who is doing them, we really need helpers to take some of these jobs

The committee currently consists of:

Nick Watkins, Vince Lane, Heather Rye, Paul Martin, Sarah & Pieter Kalis, Mike Poyner, Suzie Scourfield.

WBC - Current task holder

President: need nomination (Nick Watkins nominated for AGM)

VP: need nomination

Secretary: Vincent Lane

Treasurer: Heather Rye (bookkeeping now to be outsourced)

Sales Table: Jars, books, varroa treatment etc – Suzie Scourfield

Membership Person: Heather Rye

Newsletter: Suzie Scourfield

Meet & greet: Heather Rye

Website management: Paul Martin

Website membership for new members: Sarah Kalis

ApiNZ contact person: Paul Martin

Lunch Co-Ordination: Heather Rye

Audio & video setup: Mike Poyner

Kitchen Laundry: Ceilia Watkins

Social media person: Ceilia Watkins

Hive management: Nick Watkins

- We need some helpers to take on some of these jobs. Are you a whizz with websites and can take on management of our website? Do you love chatting to people on club day and want to look after the sales table? Let us know on club day or email:

wbccommunication@gmail.com



A huge **THANK YOU** to Ross Cook for mowing the grass around the beehives at the hall. Your work is much appreciated Ross.

Making your own oxalic acid pads?

Glycerine is available from Wynn Frazer in Whangarei. Ask for Alan, they are charging around \$10 for a litre, a good price.



APICULTURE NEW ZEALAND

Bees, Business, Family and now ... the Club

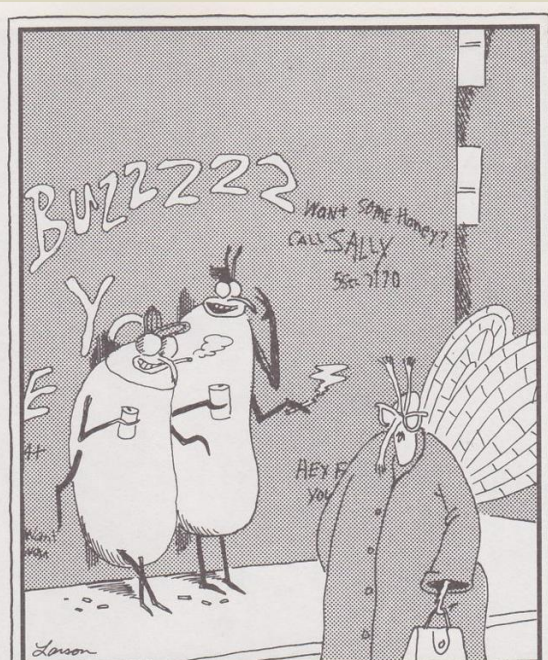
Read about our current club President Nick Watkins & wife Celia in Apiarists Advocate



New bee Guy!

Former Agriculture Minister Nathan Guy will take over as the independent chair of Apiculture New Zealand (ApiNZ).

Guy's experience includes 15 years as a Member of Parliament and nearly nine years in governance as a Minister of the Crown, with five years as the Minister for Primary Industries. Apiculture NZ says he has built extensive networks, including at a government and international level, and brings strong governance, strategy and business skills to the role. Read more [here](#)



Killer bees are generally described as starting out as larvae delinquents.

Burgeoning back yard beehive keepers

Former Club President Paul Martin speaks to Jessie Mulligan on RNZ

"Ahead of World Bee Day tomorrow, we talk to apiarist Paul Martin about the big increase in backyard beehive keepers around Aotearoa.

He talks to Jesse about why more people are keen to keep them and what they should be doing to keep a healthy population and reliable honey supply!"

Small Hive Beetle – Pilot Project: [Biosecurity New Zealand has just begun a pilot project with beekeepers around New Zealand.](#)

They are looking for some participants to represent the Northland region. We are spreading the word about this project with Whangarei Bee Club.

Beekeepers are only required to place one trap in a hive and location of their choice. If members are interested, then they 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 includes all the information on the project too, including how to identify and get in touch [click here](#)

This project is led by the Diagnostics & Surveillance directorate within MPI. Please address any queries or concerns to our team (Richard Hall, Hayley Pragert, Ben Phiri, or Sarah Carley) via our monitored email address bee.coordinator@mpi.govt.nz.

Study beekeeping for free

Take advantage of these qualifications being fully-funded in 2022. Beekeeping, also known as Apiculture, at Otago Polytechnic to immerse yourself in the outdoors, and gain a career surrounded by bees. Learn how to care for, own, breed and maintain bee colonies and hives to produce honey. Click on title to find out more.

Financial Statement

Whangarei Bee Club Incorporation

Opening Bank Balances as at 20 April 22

Operating Account	32,360.28
Savings Account	404.99
Total Funds	32,765.27

Plus Income From

New Members	265.00
Club Day Sales	
Extraction Payment Receipt	301.23
	<u>566.23</u>
	33,331.50

Less Expenditure

Bank Fees	1.20
Web Site - OnLine designs	42.55
Whareora Hall Hire	80.00
Whareora Hall Hire	80.00
Club Day Exps -Pizzas	180.30
Lead for Computer & Childrens Cnr Exps	156.36
Coastal Accounting	759.00
	<u>1,299.41</u>
	32,032.09

Total Balances as at 20 May 22

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

Other News and websites to check out

[Honeybees Are Not "In Decline," But the Beekeeping Industry Does Face Challenges](#)

[Study Beekeeping, also known as Apiculture, at Otago Polytechnic](#)

[A Precious Gift: The Native Irish Honey Bee](#)

[Millions of bees were dying on a tarmac. Local beekeepers ran to help.](#)

[Honeybees join humans as the only known animals that can tell the difference between odd and even numbers](#)

[Honeybee Populations Could Be Wiped Out Worldwide by Wing Virus](#)

[New insecticides to target honey bee enemies](#)

[Rural police officer uses beekeeping skills to make community safer](#)

[Bee Engaged: World Bee Day 2022](#)

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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For innovative bee products

