



Monthly Newsletter

Issue 194 March 2021

Upcoming Events and Notices

This Club Day: 6th March

Next Club Day: 3rd April

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.



Bee Club Day during Level 2.

Obviously, we will still be in Level 2 on Saturday. Bee Club will go ahead just like last time we were in Level 2. However, we will be restricted to no more than 100 people in the hall, social distancing of at least 1m will be required, anyone feeling ill or vulnerable should stay home, as should anyone who has been to and/ or south Auckland in the last week.

We will have our Covid QR posters and will also have on hand a sign in sheet

Those members living south of the Brynderwyn's may struggle to get through the Police road blocks.

March Club Day
Autumn
requirements for
your hives.

Club Day Duty Roster

Set Up Hall From 9am	Ann & Clive, Adrian Tonks
Set up in Kitchen 9am and Set up Lunch	Anna Noall, Karin
Wash up Kitchen from Lunch	Roslyn & Graham
Pack up / Clean Hall From 12-30	Richard & Sue Hancock

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 6th February 2021

This club day our guest speaker was Dr Ashley Mortensen. Her presentation was titled: Effects of population size on colony dynamics.

Here is a summary of Ashley's presentation:

Introduction

Healthy bee populations are vital for pollination, however in recent years bee populations have been threatened by a variety of pests and diseases. 'Plant & Food' pollination research brings together several disciplines, including plant physiology, insect behaviour and ecology to address the pest and disease issues that threaten honeybees and to develop new pollination systems to safeguard food production.

At Plant & Food Research Ashley is working with three science teams:

- Pollination Biology
- Productive Biodiversity
- Bee Biology & Productivity team
- Honeybee Populations – both within the hive and within the wider landscape, which includes feral bee populations

The bee biology & productivity team, which Ashley primarily works with focusses on:

- Bee health
- Productivity
- Behaviour & Biology e.g. Bumble bee colony start ups

Much of their funding comes from crop producers and therefore are pollen based.

Major funding also comes from the Marsden Fund and from Australia – good on you Aussies!

Currently Ashley's team is involved with the following trials:

1. (a) Landscape competition pressure – native bees (9 indigenous species of small black solitary bees) versus honeybees e.g. floral competition due to honeybee overstocking.
(b) Apiary competition
- (2) Foraging Dynamics
 - (a) Colony population size
 - (b) Colony size and foraging activity (e.g. pollen counts)
- (3) Supplemental Feeding e.g. a drop in activity is seen when a colony is opened, such as feeding after kiwifruit pollination. Changes in foraging activity appear to be colony specific.
- (4) Royal jelly production and bee foraging activity
 - (a) Colony specific
 - (b) Royal jelly production is related to pollen storage i.e. more jelly means less pollen. There could be hoarders as well.
- (5) Colony handling and hive architecture – based on research from Australia in the 90's using 'bee tubes' (wax production and pollination efficacy)
- (6) Varroa infestation – currently they have no funding to look into oxalic acid treatment to control varroa.
- (7) Drone Production (versus pollen storage)

End of a very fact filled presentation which makes us realise how much excellent apiculture research is and has been carried out by our CRIs, in this case Plant & Food Research.

News from last Club Day (continued)

David & David

David Pullen has noticed not much honey on his hives since December. David Herbert plans to leave enough on his hives to over-winter without additional feeding. The bees are mostly packing out the brood box and not the supers, so not much surplus.

If you do extract, then put the wets (extracted supers) back on the hive for the bees to clean up. Store empty/cleaned supers on their sides in an open breezy area so wax moth cannot take hold.

The time to split has passed.

Spring is the best time for new beekeepers to start up a hive, not now going in to winter.

Wasps: there are lots around; use Vespex to eliminate a wasp colony; as well you can reduce the hive entrance to make it easier for the bees to defend – this equally applies to defence against robbing by other hives (the robbing season has started).

Note that the weather is still hot and reducing the hive entrance will heat up the hive. This is where using a 'hive doctor' base comes in handy for additional hive ventilation. If your bees are 'hanging out' on the front of the hive, then it's too hot inside.

No one has noticed 'willow aphid' honey yet.

You can put Tansy in amongst the frames for better wasp control.

Make a wasp trap (orange juice and vinegar) as a wasp knock down option.

Best defence against wasps is to keep your hives strong and poison the wasps with Vespex.

Tips for this time of year:

Be careful and try to avoid robbing e.g. when checking hives, open the calm hives first and leave any aggressive ones till last. Also put a hive mat on every open box.

Put in varroa treatment when you take your honey off – now is the most important time for varroa control. Check your brood for disease when you do this.

General Comments – the future of our club

It is time to seriously consider succession for a few of our committee roles, including the roles of President and Vice President.

Please consider putting your name forward for committee roles at our next AGM in April. That would allow a reasonable transition period where the person leaving the role can mentor the new committee member. See the message from Paul below.

Message from Paul Martin, Club President.

ARE YOU THE NEXT CLUB PRESIDENT?

After 5 years as President, it is time for me to step back. So, the club needs you to join the committee, so that we can create succession. A number of the committee have been there almost as long or longer than me, so we need more fresh faces. Don't worry if you only have 1 or 2 hives, so do lots of us. We need people with energy, ideas and enthusiasm as well as an ability to organise things well.

Our club is in a very strong position at the moment, as is Northland Pure Honey and the extraction plant; but to enable a smooth transition we need you to join the committee at this AGM- which will be in June this year.

If you want to discuss things get in touch, otherwise please email your nomination well before the AGM so that we can ensure that the Whangarei Bee Club continues to be one of the best bee clubs in New Zealand.



APICULTURE NEW ZEALAND

Recent articles on Glyphosate issues relating to beekeeping...

[Landowners concerned roadside weed work could affect region's honey exports to Japan](#)

[Difficult to protect bees from weed killer glyphosate - beekeepers](#)

[Call for more strict glyphosate-use guidelines after Japan's honey warning](#)

Colombia's apiarists say avocado buzz is killing bees.

For the second time in two years, Gildardo Urrego is scooping up piles of dead bees after an invisible evil invaded his hives in northwest Colombia, wreaking havoc among his swarms.

Phantom of the forest: after 100 years in hiding, I rediscovered the rare cloaked bee in Australia.

Australia is home to 1654 named species of native bee. Unfortunately, these are often overshadowed in the eyes of public by the widespread and invasive European honeybee.

Scientific research on Australian native bees is lagging, compared to many other nations.



Socialist
Worker
Bee

Dannevirke business selling manuka honey at Harrods for \$5000 a jar

The world's rarest and most expensive honey happens to come from New Zealand and it's just got even rarer and pricier.

A Dannevirke business is reaping the benefits of its prized manuka honey which is flying off the shelves at Harrods for nearly \$5000 a jar.

See more [HERE](#)

Study finds bees can smell trouble

Bees can smell trouble - a skill that could give them a fighting chance against the deadly Varroa mite.

New research from the University of Otago shows some worker bees are able to sniff the parasite out and better protect their colony.

[listen here](#) and [read here](#)

Book of the Week Review

(click title for article and [click here](#) to listen to interview with author

Healthy Bee, Sick Bee: The Influence of Parasites, Pathogens, Predators and Pesticides on Honey Bees by Phil Lester (Victoria University Press, \$30) is available in bookstores nationwide.

Apiculture NZ Conference and Trade Show 2021

Healthy Bees,
Healthy Industry,
Healthy Future

24 - 26 June 2021
Rotorua Energy Events Centre

[Register Today](#)



Danny has mated Queens for sale @ \$50 each. Pre orders can be picked up from Pat at the hall on the 6th.

Ph Danny 027 487 9802

[Obituary of Albert Wedge.](#) Albert was a long-time club member and was the club librarian for many years.

Financial Statement

Whangarei Bee Club Incorporation

Opening Bank Balances as at 20 January 21

Operating Account	24,230.99
Savings Account	404.99
Total Funds at 20th January 21	<u>24,635.98</u>

Plus Income From	
Membership Fees-New	575.00
Membership Fees	
	<u>575.00</u>
	<u>25,210.98</u>

Less Expenditure	
Bank Fees	0.80
Web Site - OnLine designs	42.55
Whareora Hall Hire	80.00
Pizza's & Milk, Biscuits, Coffee	182.50
Xero Fees - May to Oct	
Wine - Guest Speaker	24.99
Farmlands - Annual Membership	28.79
	<u>359.63</u>
Total Balance at at 20th February 2021	<u><u>24,851.35</u></u>

Made up of	
Operating Account	24,446.36
Savings Account	404.99
	<u>24,851.35</u>

Other News and websites to check out

[Champion pollinators buzzing for winter break](#): The drop in honey prices has prompted Kirwee beekeeper Glynn Cleaver to focus on pollination services rather than honey collection.

[Environmental "weapons" approved to deal with wasps](#): Approval has been granted to import and release two new organisms, a hoverfly and beetle, in a bid to reduce plague populations of invasive German and common wasps in New Zealand.

[Queen bee shortage leaves beekeepers in Australia struggling to rebuild hives](#): While demand for beehives and pollination services continues to skyrocket, the number of commercial queen bee breeders in Australia has been dwindling over the past 20 years, leaving some beekeepers struggling to secure new queens.

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:

[Beequip](#)

[Golden Bay Cement](#)

[Farmlands](#)

[PGG](#)

Beequip^{NZ}TM
For innovative bee products

