

Monthly Newsletter

Issue 202 November 2021

Upcoming Events and Notices

This Club Day: 6th November

Next Club Day: 4th December

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.

November Club Day – Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker will be Allen McCaw (right) who is a creaming honey expert. Allen of Otago Honey near Milton, has been the recipient of the Supreme Award at the ApiNZ National Honey Competition in Rotorua. He has previously hauled in two golds, a silver and a bronze medal for his creamed honey entries. News Article here. He will present to us via Zoom.



Club Day - Covid Protocol

Assuming that we are still at level 2, we will have tea coffee and pizza as normal. Please remember that everyone needs to remind to scan in OR sign the register. Masks are recommended and we will space the chairs.

**Unite
against
COVID-19**

Club Day Duty Roster

Set Up Hall From 9am	Nick Watkins
Set up in Kitchen 9am and Set up Lunch	Sue Young
Wash up Kitchen from Lunch	Bev Bristowe, Jen Barnes
Pack up / Clean Hall From 12-30	Terry Barnes

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.

News from last Club Day

Club Day Summary 2 October 2021

Ed and Trevor introduced themselves to the club members at the start of the day.

Trevor has since decided to step down from his role as President.

A brief discussion took place covering the following:

- Future guest speaker options
- Commercial beekeeping discussions- e.g. David and David show
- Practical beekeeping demonstrations e.g. putting boxes together
- Anything else? Send any suggestions to wbccommunication@gmail.com

Paul then gave a presentation on varroa mites:

What are they?

- Enter the hive on adult bees
- Female mites lay in uncapped larvae cells, preferably drone cells as they have longer development time
- The first egg is male, all the rest are female
- The mites develop at the same rate as bee larvae, which they can kill
- The mites weaken the bee's immune system which leaves bees more at risk to virus attack e.g. deformed wing virus, Black Queen Cell virus

Treatment Options

- Three organic options: Formic Acid (MAQS); Thymol (Thymovar, Apiguard); Oxalic Acid (ApiBioxal or homemade options)
- Three synthetic options: Bayvarol (synthetic pyrethroid); Apistan (Synthetic pyrethroid); Apivar (Amitraz which is a contact miticide). Treatment is 6-8 weeks prior to the honey flow. Be sure to take them out at the end of the treatment period while the chemical strips still have the required chemically active concentration (sublethal dose rates could eventually lead to the mite's achieving resistance to the chemical). Treat again in autumn, after the honey has been taken off. If necessary, treat through the honey season with organic options only. Watch out for MRLs in honey (maximum residue limits) if you are exporting honey.
- Integrated varroa control: refer to Randy Oliver's website (scientificbeekeeping.com) which covers such topics as – broodless periods, drone trapping, the use of organic and synthetic chemicals, breeding bees to tolerate varroa (on-going research), the use of mesh floors.

Nic Nacs

Karin de Beer has made and kindly donated a bee themed glass mosaic to the bee club. This will be presented to the winner of one of the categories in the honey competition on an annual basis.

David H and Mike

David is splitting now, and the splits are building up well. He used Apivar for varroa control over the winter and will use oxalic acid over the summer if needed.

Mike talked about queen cages. His recipe for the cage candy is icing sugar + 2:1 sugar syrup + 2 drops of glycerine. Besides the mated queen there should be about 10 brood workers in the cage. Leave it for a week in its new hive. It will take 1 – 3 days for the workers to eat the candy and release her. David uses a small paper bag in lieu of a queen cage. He puts the queen in with 20 workers and lightly shakes them and then puts the bag between two frames and the workers will eat their way out quickly.

Replace the queen if she is no longer laying well – poor brood pattern – or if she is breeding aggressive bees. The queen's demeanour influences the bee's behaviour. A new queen should calm them down.

Replace the queen if there are more than 15% unhatched cells. You want the maximum number of bees available for the honey flow – runs early December to February on the east coast and starts around Xmas on the west coast.

Mike's queens are at their maximum production by mid-November. You can stimulate the breeding rate with a 1:1 sugar solution.

There was a discussion on swarms and the spread of AFB.

Waxing frames - David uses a paint roller. Mike suggested the wax should be as cool as possible, so it sets on the frame. The queen will put drone brood in cells which are filled with wax. Mike uses a home-made spray gun to wax his frames. Bryce heats his wax to 140°C to kill varroa and then sprays it on. Mike said wax should be safe from AFB spores.

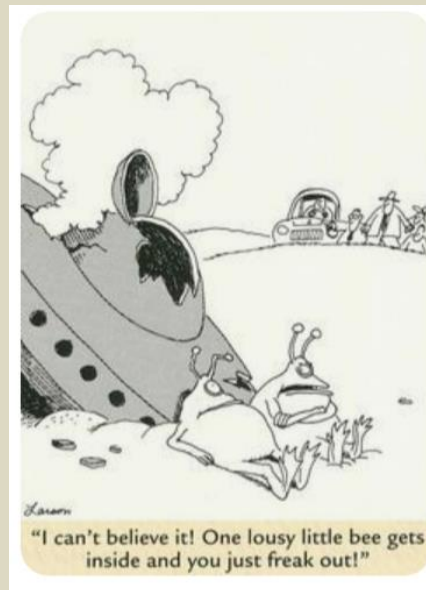
November In the Hive

Now the activity really starts hopping. The nectar and pollen should begin to come into the hive thick and fast. The queen will be reaching her greatest rate of egg laying. The hive should be bursting with activity.

Beekeeping Tasks

- Add a queen excluder, and place honey supers on top of the top deep. Watch out for swarming. Inspect the hive weekly. Attend bee club meetings and workshops.
- Remove Varroa strip treatment products applied in September
- Check Varroa treatment products have worked, especially organic treatments
- Feed sugar syrup if necessary
- Check pollen stores and feed supplements if required
- Check all brood frames for America Foulbrood
- Control Swarms
- Check honey supers for Wax moth
- Add honey supers to hives

Apiarist's Advocate
October Issue [HERE](#)



Wanted – Woodworker

One of our talented bee club members, Karin de Beer, has donated a cut glass picture to the club (right). Karin made this beautiful work of art herself, many thanks Karin. The committee thought this would make a great trophy prize for one of the categories in the honey competition. We are looking for a member who would be able to make a wooden backing or base that we could attached it to so it can be displayed. If you can help with this, then please email the club secretary at wbccommunication@gmail.com



WBC member Steve Arnold has some beekeeping equipment to **give away** (bee boxes, frames, lids and bases). Anyone looking for good clean equipment, call Steve 021 471411

For sale: Vaughan Darby has beekeeping gear for sale. Contact Vaughan on 021644328 vdarby@darby.co.nz

FREE - Resene paints are offering the Bee Club 10L tins of paint (grey, exterior). We will need to order a pallet as it is not worthwhile for them to send us a small amount. Please email club secretary if you would like some free paint. wbccommunication@gmail.com

For Sale: Italian and Carniolan Queens and Nucs (all prices inc. GST)

Mated Queen \$50 Virgin Queens \$12
Queen Cells \$7 5 Frame Nuc \$230

Phone: Bryce Gibbons 0211084621 OR
Craig Gibbons 0210337807 Pickup: 13
Jouneaux Rd, Kauri Whangarei.

New monthly article on Warre Hive beekeeping from Whangārei Bee club member Morgan Clair.....

Warre Hive keeping

Since bringing the topic up at a meet a while back, I've been asked the question a few times now, what exactly is a Warre hive (pronounced War-Ray) and why is that what I'm interested in keeping?

With this column, I'm hoping to answer your questions and with any luck, set-up and run my own Warre or 2 and take you all along for the ride, successes, failures and all!

So, WHAT is a Warre already?



The below image is a classic Warre hive.

Physically it's made up of 4 high square boxes which are generally a 12"x12" boxes with handles on each side, designed to hold no more than 8 frames each.

The top is made up of a quilt box and slanted wooden roof.

Note the gaps at the top, this is to allow air to pass, improving ventilation.

As the next picture notes, Warres are generally worked as a top bar hive.

This means that the frames used are foundation-less. Generally, it will only be a wooden bar and according to Warre measurements, each bar should be 24mm wide with a spacing of 12mm between each bar.

So where did these hives come from, who designed them and why?

Check next month's newsletter for the next round of information on Warres and with some good luck, see some pictures of me attempting to setup my own!



Wanted to Buy

2 acres of land anywhere west of SH1
Call David Herbert on 09 4346750

Website Enquiry – Any club members able to help Luke?

I'm really interested in bee keeping and I'm looking for a job where I can learn everything. I'll be doing a cert 3 next year at North Tec. Do you know of any employers around Whangarei that might be looking for someone like me? Thanks, Luke Raymond
lukeraymo@hotmail.com 0275804961



News in Beekeeping

Pyrrrolizidine Alkaloids (PAs) in honey

What are PAs? How does it affect our industry? What can we do about it?

The issue of Pyrrrolizidine Alkaloids (PAs) in honey is getting a lot of attention internationally. To help our beekeepers we've done extensive research to identify the problem and looked at the implications for our industry.

[Here](#), you'll find some background on PAs, the plant families that produce high levels of PAs and where they are commonly found in New Zealand, and what you can do to mitigate the risk of high levels of PAs getting into the honey you produce. [Here](#) is also a resource to give you more information and help identify PA producing plants.

Hive to home: Comvita's tough turnaround road

Over the past 18 months, our largest mānuka honey producer, Comvita, had to make some tough calls to turn around the business. But a hard-won strategy to control the whole supply chain – from hive to home – could end up being its secret weapon.

[Read more here](#)

Beekeeping – Spotting native bees

Most of us are oblivious to the fact that New Zealand is home to gorgeous native bees, also known as ngāro huruhuru. There are now only 27 species of New Zealand native bees, compared to Australia's 1500 species. I feel there are two reasons why so many of us are unaware of these darlings. Firstly, native bees bear little resemblance to honeybees or bumble bees, either in behaviour or appearance. Secondly, because New Zealand dedicates so much time, money and publicity to promoting our million-dollar honeybee divas, very little is ever said about other worthy pollinators, including our humble native bees who, by the way, were around with the dinosaurs.

[Read more here](#)

UK-New Zealand free trade agreement 'substantial and comprehensive'

Apiculture New Zealand welcomes the move by the New Zealand and UK governments to a free trade agreement in principle which will see the removal of tariffs on all New Zealand honey into the United Kingdom. [Read more here](#) and [here](#)

Multi-million-dollar mānuka honey industry faces mandatory tests

The Trademarks commissioner is deciding on new certification requirements administered by grouping of New Zealand honey producers and iwi.

Waikato University's Dr Megan Grainger keeps a beehive in her Hamilton backyard. The bees keep things real, alongside her ground-breaking lab work to demonstrate the distinct elemental fingerprint of NZ honey.

It is a trifecta of tests like these that will be required of mānuka honey exporters, according to a proposed new regulation being considered by the Intellectual Property Office this week. After three days of hearings this month, the assistant trademarks commissioner is to decide whether a grouping of NZ iwi and corporates can own and certify the rights to mānuka honey. [Read more here](#)

Manuka honey long-running Australia-New Zealand stoush continues at tribunal

Australian manuka honey producers will again attempt to block their New Zealand counterparts from trademarking the words "manuka honey" this week.

[Read more here](#)

Financial Statement

Whangarei Bee Club Incorporation

Opening Bank Balances as at 20 September 21

Operating Account	31,991.45
Savings Account	404.99
Total Funds	<u>32,396.44</u>

Plus Income From

Membership Fees-New x 5	110.00
Renew Membership	475.00
	<u>585.00</u>
	<u>32,981.44</u>

Less Expenditure

Bank Fees	0.80
Web Site - OnLine designs	42.55
Whareora Hall Hire	80.00
Data Stick	10.00
	<u>133.35</u>
	<u>32,848.09</u>

Total Balances as at 20 Octoberr 21

Operating Account	32,443.10
Savings Account	404.99
	<u>32,848.09</u>

Other News and websites to check out

Photographer Anne Noble has a thing about bees

With links to her photos [HERE](#)

The Buzz on NZ's bee-keeping history

A GLIMPSE INTO THE ARCHITECTURAL TALENTS OF HONEY BEES

HEY BEE, STICK OUT YOUR TONGUE AND SAY "AHH"

DEMYSTIFYING QUEEN STRESS

'Climate change is hitting us': French beekeepers expect worst honey harvest in half a century

Show Me the Honey: amateur beekeepers to compete in BBC show

Bees face a barrage of chemical and environmental burdens

'Honeybees are voracious': is it time to put the brakes on the boom in beekeeping?

Honeybees use social distancing when hive is under threat from parasite

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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