

Whangarei Bee Club INC

Newsletter



October 2017, Issue 154

Plant-of-the-Month *Contributed by John Beauregard*

Short articles of interest to Northland beekeepers, especially non-commercial beekeepers



www.teara.govt.nz

Māhoe (*Melicytus*), along with lemonwood and hangehange, completes the trifecta of floral sources yielding Northland's "bush honey". All three plant species are common in waste areas, regenerating pastureland and bush margins. Māhoe and lemonwood make handsome specimens in the garden if you

have sufficient room. Māhoe is also known as whitey wood, from its whitish inner bark and timber colour.

Plants are either male or female, both of which are valuable to honeybees. Male plants produce pollen from tiny yellowish-green flowers that appear in vast quantities from mid-October into January. Māhoe nectar yields a dark amber honey which extracts freely therefore cannot be confused with mānuka.

<http://www.terrain.net.nz/friends-of-te-henui-group/trees-native-botanical-names-m-to-q/mahoe.html>

"Nectar and Pollen Sources of New Zealand," RS Walsh, published by ApiNZ, is a principal source of information. The club's library holds a copy of this very useful title. The web references provide excellent photographs, some of which are from proprietary sources such as plant shops.

Inside this issue:

Plant of October	1
Events/Notices	1
Last Club day	2
Notices (cont.)	2
Financial statement	3
News to check out	3



Thank you
John
for this month's
contribution



Upcoming Events

This Club Day 7 October

Same place, same time

Check out page 3

Next Club Day 4 November

See you there ☺

Notices

Sat October 14th: Spring Training Day at Whareora Hall- Small group tutoring on things that you need to do in your hive through the spring and summer, includes plenty of work in the club hives, and lots of chances to ask questions. Numbers strictly limited, bookings essential at wbccommunication@gmail.com, first in first served, \$65 per person;

Sat October 28th: AFB Refresher course at Whareora Hall, 10am start. Whether you already have a DECA or not, this is a chance to brush up on your knowledge around AFB. Everyone welcome, WBC members \$10, non-members \$15;

Guest speaker confirmed for **November Club Day**- John Beauregard talking on Trees for Bees specific to Northland - planting options and utilising available trees to maximise the health and success of your hives

News from last Club Day

Summary Whangarei Bee Club Meeting 2 September 2017

A lot of people attended (125) including many first timers.

Paul gave an update of topics covered at the recent ApiNZ Conference, including neonicotinoid use and varroa control methods – discussed by Randy Oliver (scientificbeekeeping.com). Slides from the varroa presentation can be found in the 'resources' section of our WBC website.

Hive placement and the potential for overcrowding was talked about. More hives create more issues. The rule of thumb for hive numbers is one hive per hectare of bush. The search for good manuka sites is one of the causes of 'boundary riding'. Regulation to control hive placement may not be the answer. For a start it implies all apiaries are registered and that all beekeepers will comply with regulations. Overcrowding also has implications for AFB spread and robbing between hives.

NicNac Section

Hukerenui School (teacher with 8 children from the school) gave a presentation titled "No Nuc Needed – Expol Project". The idea is to use Expol sheets (compacted polystyrene) for underfloor insulation during winter, or within the brood box as insulation or as a divider for nuc development. Expol pieces cut to length were provided for Club members to trial with their own hives and eventually report back to the Club on how they went.

David and David Hive Time

- Bee numbers are increasing so keep the feed up to your hives in case they need it – either as dry white sugar or as a 50:50 sugar syrup solution. The nectar flow wont start properly for another 4 – 6 weeks. Drone numbers are increasing so pauper splits (2 brood boxes with 3 or more frames of brood in each) may work now. Its weather dependent and October can be a tricky month if there is too much

rain and wind keeping the bees from foraging.

- At the next Club day there will be a demonstration on how to wax frames - plastic and wooden frames.
- Wasps are still around. Haven't totally gone away this winter.
- Varroa is prevalent now. Best not to use Apivar treatment at this time of year as its residual chemical effect can get into early season honey. Apistan and Bayvarol are preferred for Spring varroa treatment.
- This is a good time to check for AFB because brood numbers are comparatively low so there is less to check.
- You can re-use mouldy frames if the wax is not black. Waterblasting old dirty wax off frames can be followed by a 20% bleach wash (200ml of bleach made up to a litre with water) to kill nosema and any surface AFB spores. It's a way of reducing the risk of disease transfer.
- Look out for signs of swarming – increasing drone numbers and queen cells on the edge of frames. You can remove swarm cells once they contain an egg.
- We are still a month away from the honey flow.

October Club Day Roster

Setup hall from 9am – Karl Butler & Colin Read

Wash up in kitchen from 12pm – Juliet Tihema and Somebody

Pack up hall from 12-30pm - Tim Cant & Karl Butler

A roster for helping out on club day will be kept at the front of the hall so if you are able to help please put your name down. As a reminder the names on next month's roster will be put in the newsletter.

Notices (cont.)

- If anyone is interested in siting an apiary on a 4-hectare walnut and mixed fruit orchard in Maungakaramaea, Whangarei (in the village itself), with a view to share some of the honey collected, please contact Michael Rehm on the following: 0211836477 or m.rehm@auckland.ac.nz
- 4 frame stainless steel, manual honey extractor for sale, excellent condition - \$350.00 - Phone Mark on 4355392.



Call for contributions

If you would like to make a contribution to this newsletter, we invite you to email your submission to

wbccommunication@gmail.com

Club Day

Whareora Hall
10.15am

Bring:

- Cash for the produce table
- Produce for the produce table
- Your loyalty card to show at the door
- Bee suits

Directions

From SH1, turn off to *Kensington*. Turn left into *Mill Road*, then right at *Whareora Rd*. Keep on *Whareora Rd* until it joins *Pataua North Rd* and carry on for a few more minutes. The hall is on the right. Park on hall side of road.

Financial Statement

Whangarei Bee Club Incorporation		
Bank balances as at 20 Aug 2017		
Operating account		11,196.98
Savings account		18,118.80
Total funds at 20 Aug 2017		29,315.78
Plus income from		
Membership fees	809.00	
Book sales	90.00	
Donation	1.00	
Interest received	23.07	
		923.07
		30,238.85
Less expenditure		
Bank fees	1.20	
Hall hire	65.00	
Licences	47.44	
Engraving systems - cards	447.20	
Guest speaker	448.22	
Club provisions	422.26	
Stationery	74.75	
Website	23.00	
RWT on interest	7.61	
		1,536.68
Total balance at 20 Sept 2017		28,702.17
Made up of		
Operating account	10,567.91	
Savings account	18,134.26	
		28,702.17

News/sites to check out

Massey Uni advises planting mānuka varieties:

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/97042337/massey-university-research-advises-planting-mnuka-varieties-flowering-when-bees-are-active>

Could we build a better bee? \$6.3m to investigate:

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11925925

Mānuka buzzzz: Superfood?

<https://www.odt.co.nz/lifestyle/magazine/buzz-about-manuka>

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/life-style/well-good/teach-me/96879504/is-manuka-honey-really-a-superfood-for-treating-colds-allergies-and-infections>

Detective dogs sniff out bee disease:

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/news/96328314/detective-dogs-sniff-out-brown-snot-bee-disease>

New World on mission to rescue our bees:

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU1709/S00102/new-world-is-on-a-mission-to-rescue-our-bees.htm>

Beekeeper arrested after mass hive thefts:

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/339482/beekeeper-arrested-after-mass-hive-thefts>