



Monthly Newsletter

Issue 189 October 2020

Upcoming Events and Notices

This Club Day: 3rd October

Next Club Day: 7th November

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.

APICULTURE NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE & TRADE EXHIBITION

APINZ are pleased to confirm the 2021 Conference will be held on Thursday 24 June to Saturday 26 June 2021 in Rotorua at the Rotorua Energy Events Centre.

[Click here for more information](#)

October Club Day

We will talk about Spring splits and maximising honey yields.

WBC Facebook page [click here for link](#) to join in any discussion.

Please note our bank no longer accepts cheques.
Online payments can be made to Kiwi Bank account: 38-9007-0657110-00

Club Day Duty Roster

Set Up Hall From 9am	Carlo
Set up in Kitchen 9am and Set up Lunch	Volunteer needed
Wash up Kitchen from Lunch	Ann & Clive
Pack up / Clean Hall From 12-30	Volunteer needed

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 5th September 2020

A busy and successful day today. The main focus was our annual Honey Competition, judged by Maureen Conquer and her protégé Heather Rye (who is also our Treasurer), with assistance from Muriel George and also Kerry Webster tallying the results.

Congratulations to all participants and particularly to the overall winner, Ed Harding, for his very well thought of liquid dark honey entry. Here are the 2020 honey competition results. Maximum possible points is 200.

CLASS	1 st (points scored)	2nd	3rd
Granulated Dark Honey	Muriel George (179)		
Liquid Dark Honey	Ed Harding (192.5)		
Granulated Medium Honey	Iain Luton (179.5)	Geoff Guild (174)	Geoff Guild (170)
Liquid Medium Honey	Sara Ball (167.5)		
Granulated Light Honey	Eileen Hart (186.5)	Suzie Scourfield (169)	Iain Luton (162)
Liquid Light Honey	Eileen Hart (162.5)		
Wax Novelty	Lily Kalis	Sara Ball	Sara Ball
People's Choice	Vincent Lane		
CUP WINNER	Ed Harding (192.5)	Eileen Hart (186.5)	3 rd Iain Luton (179.5) 4 th Muriel George (179)

A big thank you to our four sponsors (Beequip, Farmlands, PGG Wrightson and Golden Bay Cement). Between them they contributed a \$700 prize pool.



Photo of the winners. L to R: Maureen Conquer (Judge); Sarah Ball; Lily Kalis; Muriel George; Ed Harding; Iain Luton



News from last Club Day (continued)

The second event of the day was the auction of various WBC pieces of no longer needed equipment. It was well attended and generated \$510 for the club's coffers.

While the honey entries were being judged Paul covered the following topics:

- WBC now has its own Facebook page which is being administered by Suzie, Rodney and Trevor. [Here is the link](#)

There is now a comprehensive package of marketing resources which companies can use to help promote their honey products (NZ Honey Story) [click here to find out more](#)

Varroa Control Options:

(1) Organic Options

- Formic acid (MAQS). It is a 7day treatment which can hurt the queen and bees at temperatures above 25°C. It tends to rust the hive lid. It is the only organic that can infiltrate the capped brood. Formic Pro is the latest brand name.
- Thymol (Thymovar, Apiguard). It is easy to handle but the bees tend to propolise the treatment which may inhibit brood build-up.
- Oxalic acid. Many of our club members use this as either a dribble or in pads or staples. Commercially available as Api-Bioxal. Used monthly. Now is a good time to treat for varroa.

(2) Synthetic Options

- Apistan – same as Bayvarol chemically. It is a synthetic pyrethroid
- Apivar – active ingredient is Amitraz

Synthetics have a better kill rate but are liable to have resistance issues after prolonged use. Treat 6 – 8 weeks out from the honey flow in Spring and treat again in autumn. If necessary, treat through the honey season but watch out for 'maximum residue limits' if exporting honey. A combination of synthetics (for an initial hit) in Spring and Autumn and then use of organic options at other times may be the best medium term varroa control regime. Several club members have noted that oxalic acid has not worked well as an autumn varroa control on its own.

(3) Other control options discussed were:

Treat at the broodless time to improve mite kill. Every survivor breeds resistance (phoretic mites).

Drone trapping.

Breeding bees to tolerate varroa (ongoing).

Heat the brood up to 42°C which will kill the mites, however, bees will die at 44°C. Risky.

Somehow control the pheromone bee pupae release in order to get the nurse bees to cap them. This pheromone is also a trigger for varroa mites to enter the pupae's cell.

There was a discussion on the use of oxalic acid vapourising, misting/fogging. Also discussed drone trapping/sacrificing.

News from last Club Day (continued)

David & Paul

David could not make it to club day, so Paul ran this section. His hives are going ok. There is some sort of nectar flow at the moment. Varying levels of food in Paul's hives. He uses dry sugar, or sugar syrup for weaker hives. Be aware of the potential for starvation once the strong September/October winds kick in. Wasps are (still) around. If you are checking for signs of wasps use a can of fish in spring water (not in oil) as bait. Open up the hive entrance once bee numbers build up, which is anytime from now.



Mike Fox has the following equipment for sale

Brand new assembled full depth paraffin dipped, painted boxes \$20 each

Boxes can come with 10 new wooden frames waxed with Manuka Special foundation for \$70, box and frames.

New wood bound, welded wire Queen Excluders \$15 each

Must order before Wednesday before club to get waxed frames done in time. Cash on delivery only. Cal Mike Fox: 021 165 12 83



Rod Heron has nucs for sale for \$250

Ph: 0211382344

email: rodheron@gmail.com

[Field trials begin on award-winning varroa treatment](#)

The creators of an award-winning solar powered heat treatment system for varroa mite are gearing up to field test their prototype on a site north of Hamilton.

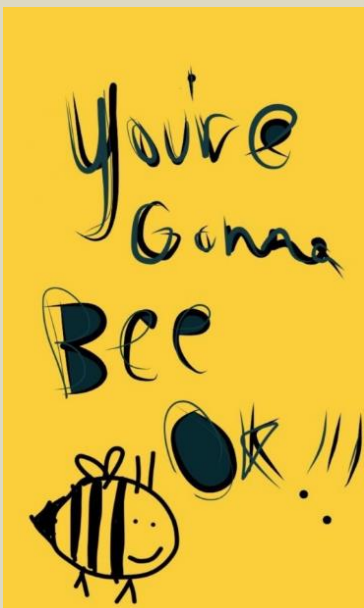
Called Hivesite, the invention won the Grassroots Prototype Award and the James and Wells Innovation Award at this year's Innovation Awards at the Virtual Fieldays.

Click on the title to read more.

[Move over, mānuka honey, bee pollen is creating a buzz](#)

Move over mānuka honey, there's a new bee product creating a global buzz. Demand for New Zealand bee pollen has skyrocketed since the [outbreak of coronavirus](#), with one company saying sales have soared and there are no signs of a slow-down.

NatureBee says sales of its potentiated bee pollen capsules have increased five-fold over the last year as the Covid-19 pandemic drives a shift in consumer behaviour. Click title to read more.



[Aromatherapy in the Apiary Is What Bees Need](#)

Bees' memories of food comes from scent, which led researchers to wonder if they could guide bees toward certain agricultural crops with the power of odours. Read more by clicking on the title.



APICULTURE NEW ZEALAND

More good news on the research front with this week's release of an Australian study showing that venom from honeybees has been found to rapidly kill aggressive and hard-to-treat breast cancer cells. This research comes from Perth's Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research ([see here](#)) and follows closely on the heels of another study into the efficacy of honey for sore throats. The Oxford Medical University found that honey was a better treatment for coughs and colds than antibiotics and the research also suggested that honey is more effective than many of the over-the-counter medicines.

Honey in its natural state has been used to treat a range of ailments for thousands of years and so the Oxford research should be of no surprise. The extension into how honeybees can help diseases like breast cancer is considered groundbreaking, but should we be surprised given what we know about bees and their remarkable attributes?

As we've seen from just these two examples, research has the power to realise significant opportunities, not just in modern medicine but directly for our industry. We have also seen the power of research closer to home, with Dr Peter Molan's work into mānuka honey taking our industry to new levels. With the growing global demand for natural health and wellbeing products, targeted and well-funded research in the honey and bee sector makes a lot of sense. Of course, that requires serious industry commitment and funding, something we still need to work on.

[Taupō's King Honey buzzing after manuka honey tops London awards](#)

From small beginnings, Taupō-based King Honey has recently become the fourth-largest honey business in New Zealand, with sales growing to \$30 million in just three years. The company received international recognition for their Bee+ Manuka Honey at the London Honey Awards. Click on title to read more.

Celebrity chef Annabel Langbein spreads NZ Honey story

One of our Bee Aware Month supporters, New Zealand celebrity chef Annabel Langbein, [shared her love of New Zealand honeys](#) with her huge following on social media. This was a fantastic way to celebrate Bee Aware Month and to also spread the messages of the New Zealand Honey Story.

[Simple tips to help bees thrive during Bee Aware Month](#)

The apiculture community and councils around the country will be using the month to raise awareness of the critical role bees play for both the environment and economy.

Products like honey and beeswax bring around \$5 billion to the economy each year, and bees play a vital part in biodiversity and pollination. Click on title to read and hear more.

[Give lawns a rest – 'Bee a Hero'](#)

Forget about mowing your lawns – plant a variety of trees, and watch where you put beehives.

That's just some of the advice being given by beekeepers as New Zealand enters Bee Aware Month.

[NZ Story honey initiative 'a good start'](#)

The launch of a New Zealand honey story for marketing to overseas customers has been welcomed as a good start by the industry, but more will be needed to help boost sales of growing honey stocks around the country. Click on title to read more

[Former police officer says beekeeping has helped with PTSD](#)

A former police detective who left the force with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) says beekeeping has "almost been a cure".

John Geden, from Hayling Island in Hampshire, retired from the force in 2014 after being diagnosed with PTSD the previous year.

Click on title to see video

Financial Statement

Whangarei Bee Club Incorporation

Opening Bank Balances as at 20 August 2020

Operating Account	21,444.93
Savings Account	404.99
Total Funds at 20th August 20	<u>21,849.92</u>

Plus Income From

Garage Sale Payments	74.00
Membership Fees-New	575.00
Membership Fees	335.00
	<u>984.00</u>
	<u>22,833.92</u>

Less Expenditure

Bank Fees	2.00
Web Site - OnLine designs	42.55
Whareora Hall Hire	80.00
Pizza's & Milk, Biscuits, storage Container	217.71
Gift to Speaker - Wine	25.99
	<u>368.25</u>
Total Balance at at 20th September 2020	<u><u>22,465.67</u></u>

Made up of	
Operating Account	22,060.68
Savings Account	404.99
	<u><u>22,465.67</u></u>

Other News and websites to check out

[We must learn to protect our products](#)

[Rotorua encouraged to get behind Bee Aware Month this September](#)

[Couple focused on sustainability](#)

[NZ honey hitting a sweet spot](#)

[Stung at border](#)

[No.8 Wire ingenuity recognised at Fieldays Online Innovation Award](#)

[Supersedure vs. Swarm: How to Identify Queen Cells](#)

[Chicago restaurant charges \\$480 for peanut butter sandwich](#)

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](#)

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