

## Monthly Newsletter

Issue 201 October 2021

### Upcoming Events and Notices

**This Club Day: 2<sup>nd</sup> October**

**Next Club Day: 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### October Club Day

We will be holding the adjourned election of officers from the AGM as a small part of this October club day. We have nominations for Trevor Clifton as President and Ed Harding as Vice President. I look forward to seeing you there.

As we are in Level 2 everyone **MUST** sign in either by scanning or sign in sheet.

Face Masks are optional but wear one if you feel more comfortable

We cannot have food unless we are seated and served! So, there will be no pizzas or coffee. Bring your own water.

We will make sure the chairs are 1 metre apart for the meeting unless you come with your bubble when you can sit together.

#### Club Day Duty Roster

<b>Set Up Hall From 9am</b>	Help Needed
<b>Set up in Kitchen 9am and Set up Lunch</b>	Not applicable
<b>Wash up Kitchen from Lunch</b>	Not applicable
<b>Pack up / Clean Hall From 12-30</b>	Help Needed

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.



**Unite  
against  
COVID-19**

# News from last Club Day

## Club Day Summary 4 September 2021

We held a virtual meeting this month due to Covid restrictions. Approximately 20 members took part in a club day Zoom meeting chaired by Paul.

### Bee Care Code

ApiNZ chief executive Karin Kos and board members Dennis Crowley and Paul Martin recently hosted an ApiNZ webinar series: What is the Bee Care Code?

Damien O'Connor (Minister of Agriculture, Minister for Biosecurity, Minister for Trade and Export Growth, Minister for Land Information and Minister for Rural Communities) wants to put the proposed Bee Care Code under the Animal Welfare Codes, which provide owners and keepers with information on how to meet the welfare needs of their animals, as required under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. ApiNZ however want the Bee Care Code, which they are currently developing, to be a voluntary code, similar to the Sheep and Beef Code. They feel if it is placed under the Animal Welfare Codes it could be too restrictive i.e. too difficult to comply with.

Zoom questions: penalties for bad behaviour under the code are yet to be determined. There will be roadshows over the next 6-12 months to allow consultation with the industry. The Bee Care Code will be finalised after this consultation period.

### David & Paul

The difficult Spring weather has limited David checking his hives. It's all about varroa numbers with the Spring build-up happening. Hives generally have been strong with lots of brood and so potentially lots of corresponding varroa. He is waiting for some fine weather to get a better look at his hives. David has seen Tahi still feeding out sugar syrup.

Rodney noted his hives have good honey stores but lots of varroa.

Question was asked how to swap a  $\frac{3}{4}$  depth hive to a full depth. David said to put the full depth box on top of the  $\frac{3}{4}$  box. The queen will move up and lay at which point the  $\frac{3}{4}$  box can be removed and put on top of the full box with a queen excluder in between.

If there are lots of drones around then swarming might happen. Where a swarm ends up is random.

Karin recently lost a hive from robbing – bees or maybe wasps.

At this time of year, the queen may not be able to keep up with the laying requirements of Spring.

David noted that there wasn't much of a brood break over winter. There was some degree of continuous laying and some drones present throughout.

Check your hives for honey stores. You can mix and match honey frames between strong and weak hives. Most seem to have come through winter with enough honey left. If you are putting sugar syrup in, you will need to carry that on till October or when your honey flow starts. Sugar stimulates the queen to lay so you will need to keep feeding once you start.

Rodney pointed out the winter feed sugar solution is 2 sugars to 1 water (hot) and summer laying stimulation is 1 sugar to 1 water.

Re-queening now is difficult. October is the earliest time to buy mated queens, weather dependent, so deal with the situation you've got e.g., kill the underperforming current queen and bring over a frame which has queen cells and brood, assuming there are not any queen cells there already.

If you think you have a [laying worker](#) it was suggested you take all the frames at least 50m away from the hive. Knock all the bees off. Put the cleared frames back in the box and return the box(es) to their original spot and re-queen. The theory is she can't find her way back. Check out the 'laying worker' link for a more detailed alternative explanation.



### Mike Fox: Selling Bees, Queens and Honey

Get your order in early for next season's queens 0211651283 or 094396001  
mike.fox.mybuzz@gmail.com

Bryce Gibbons has Queen bees and Nuc hives for sale, email him for prices [bryce.lynda@gmail.com](mailto:bryce.lynda@gmail.com)  
094352598 or 0211084621

### October In the Hive

The weather begins to improve, and the early blossoms begin to appear. The bees begin to bring pollen into the hive. The queen is busily laying eggs, and the population is growing fast. The drones will begin to appear.

#### Beekeeping Tasks

On a warm and still day do your first comprehensive inspection. Can you find evidence of the queen? Are there plenty of eggs and brood? Is there a nice pattern to her egg laying? Later in the month, on a very mild and windless day, you should consider reversing the hive brood boxes. This will allow for a better distribution of brood and stimulate the growth of the colony. You can begin to feed the hive.

- Apply Varroa treatment if not already applied in September
- Remove entrance reducers
- Feed sugar syrup if necessary
- Check pollen stores and feed supplements if required
- Check all brood frames for America Foulbrood
- Control Swarms
- Re-queen hives



### ApiNZ conference videos

Dr Dennis vanEngelsdorp shares findings from various research projects underway at the vanEngelsdorp Honey Bee Lab at the ApiNZ Conference 2021. Thursday 24 June 2021. Click [HERE](#)

Randy Oliver shares his 2020 Research Findings with the ApiNZ Conference 2021, Friday 25 July. Click [HERE](#)

ApiNZ Conference 2021: Dr Shelley Hoover - How will climate change affect bees and beekeepers 26 June 2021. Click [HERE](#)

### Farmlands Card

Just a reminder that Whangarei Bee Club is a shareholder at Farmlands, so all members get the shareholder discount on all their products - not just bee related items.

You will need to show your WBC membership card and quote our Farmlands Account Number: 610123531

They currently stock 400mL square jars and lids

### Apiarists Advocate

September issue [HERE](#) and website [HERE](#)

# Financial Statement

Whangarei Bee Club Incorporation

Opening Bank Balances as at 20 August 21

Operating Account	30,835.60
Savings Account	404.99
Total Funds	<u>31,240.59</u>

**Plus Income From**

Membership Fees-New x 5	685.00
Renew Membership	595.00
	<u>1,280.00</u>
	<u>32,520.59</u>

**Less Expenditure**

Bank Fees	1.60
Web Site - OnLine designs	42.55
Whareora Hall Hire	80.00
	<u>124.15</u>
	<u>32,396.44</u>

Total Balances as at 20 September 21

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

# Other News and websites to check out

[To bee or not to bee is no longer a question](#)

[Gardeners encouraged to plant bee-friendly species](#)

[New Zealand and Australia prepare to do battle \(again\) over treasured and lucrative Mānuka honey](#)

[Taranaki honey voted best in... Antarctica](#)

[Urban bees remain vital part of our ecosystem](#)

[The key to good venom? Anger!](#)

## 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](mailto:wbccommunication@gmail.com)



**Thanks to all contributors of the Newsletter**



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