



"HELPING BEEKEEPERS KEEP BEES"

Monthly Newsletter

Issue: 223 October 2023

Upcoming Events and Notices

This Club Day: 7th October

Next Club Day: 4th 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 continue 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

This club day will be "Bit of Basics" and "Smokers - Fuel, Lighting and Safety"

Many thanks to Brett Smith for taking over the updating of the WBC Website.

He has updated the list of Swarm Collectors and members able to do AFB Inspections. If you would like your name added to these lists then email:

wbccommunication@gmail.com

Bee at Club Day to WIN!!

Each Club Day we will be holding a prize draw for members to enter. The prize will be an empty hive consisting of:

Hive base, full depth box with 10 frames, hive mat and lid.

Rules: To enter, you **MUST** be present at club day.

We are also selling to members hive kitsets (no lids) for \$50 or box with 10 frames \$30

Winner of last month's prize draw was Rex Alden.

Club Day Duty Roster

Set Up Hall From 9am	Francoise
Set up in Kitchen 9am & Set up Lunch	Sue & Lorna
Wash up Kitchen from Lunch	Kieran
Pack up / Clean Hall From 12-30	George

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.

Kiwi Crew Report Back from Apimondia

Apiarist's Advocate October 2023

News from last Club Day

Club Day Summary 2 September 2023

Nick gave a comprehensive summary of what to do to your hives with Spring here (see slides below)

- Varroa treatments are needed now that brood numbers are increasing rapidly. Make sure you follow the directions on the packet. It's a good idea to rotate treatments chemically i.e. rotate the active ingredients to try and lessen the possibility of resistance to any particular chemical group.
- Carry out AFB checks when working with your hives.
- Feed your hives if necessary. Three frames of honey are needed. Feed sugar (syrup at 1:1 simulates a nectar flow) and pollen supplements (if needed).
- Cut grass and remove weeds from around the hive entrance.
- Unite queenless / weak hives.
- Swarming season is here – have extra supers ready. Bee numbers can build quickly, beyond the current hive setup. If you have 8 full frames of bees (80% of the available space), then add a super.
- Do regular checks (every 10 – 14 days) to gauge hive strength and remove swarm cells.

The club's apiary has had an AFB notification, this means AFB has been found within 2km of the club hives.

Discussion of other brood diseases.

- Sac brood – viral infection
- Chalk brood – fungal infection
- Half-Moon Syndrome – not a disease but a disorder caused by poor nutrition during the early life of the queen. Symptoms/warning signs are multiple eggs glued together, scattered drone brood within an area of worker brood.
- Parasitic Mite Syndrome (Varroa)
- European Foul Brood (not in NZ yet)

Members talk time:

- Varroa mite counts – less than 5 mites is low for a 300-bee sample
- Rotate out old brood frames/honey frames. Replacing 2 frames per year is good practice i.e. 5-year rotation of all frames
- Bees make wax if the temperature is more than 18C.
- Look at taking off your mouse guards by mid-October, depending on where your apiary is located. Check for an indication e.g. congestion at the hive entrance.

Bulletins:

- 8 new visitors today, Nick and Heather gave a demonstration of what makes a hive.
- Jonathan Long (AP2) is running an apiculture training course, this is free, details have been sent to members.
- Check ApiNZ website for upcoming AFB courses if you require training.
- Mike Hosken has an apiary site available – contact Nick if interested.
- Bayvarol strips are available from Nick at \$10 per packet (4 strips per packet).

Club Day – 2nd September 2023

- What to do in spring?
- AFB notification
- Other Brood Diseases
- Nic Nac's Section
- Members talk
- LUNCH
- Hive Time

Note: Hand out roster for names
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Spring

- Varroa Treatments!
- AFB Checks!
- Feed!
- Cut away grass/weeds around hives
- Amalgamate/unite queenless/weak hives
- Have supers ready
- Swarm control

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Varroa Treatments

- Rotate you treatments – If you used Bayvarol in Autumn use Apivar/ Apitraz in Spring (or vice versa)
- Follow the directions
- The treatment needs to be in the brood.

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AFB Checks!

- Do you have your DECA?
- If not you are required to get a DECA Holder to inspect your hives and complete a COI – Certificate of Inspection
- Hives must be inspected between 1st August & 30th November

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Feed!

- Hives consume a huge amount of food in spring to grow.
- You may need to feed sugar syrup
- You can also feed Pollen Substitute (if needed)

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Weed Control

- Cut & clear grass and weeds away from you hives.



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Unite

- Amalgamate/unite queenless/weak hives
- Failing Queens
- Hive weak after winter
- Can not get mated queen soon enough
- "You could try to carry hive through with brood until queens are available." - Must have other strong hives

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Supers & Swarm control

- Have supers ready!
- Hives can quickly build up beyond the size of their current box/boxes
- Nicks rule of thumb when hive builds up over 80% of current space – add a super
- Swarm control – 5swarm season will sneak up on you.
- Do regular checks (10 to 14 days) for hive strength and swarm cells.

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AFB Notification



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Other Brood Diseases



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Other Brood Diseases

- Sacbrood
- Chalkbrood
- Half-Moon Syndrome

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Sacbrood What is it?

- Sacbrood is a virus called Sacbrood virus
- The larva dies when the cell is capped with the larva turning yellow, and almost black
- The skin of the dead larva becomes tough and plastic-like and when removed carefully from the cell will hang like a sack.

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How to identify Sacbrood

- In serious cases the brood pattern will be patchy, with sunken and chewed cells.
- The dead larva can be removed and the body segmentations are maintained and can be easily seen (unlike AFB)
- Plastic-like skin with a watery body contents.

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Transmission of Sacbrood

- The Sacbrood Virus is apparently found in most colonies.
- It effects the larva when it is pasted to them via food
- In most cases the hive will remove the dead larva so efficiently that you will probably not be noticeable.


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Treatment of Sacbrood

- Sacbrood isn't a serious problem and tends to resolve itself once the colonies starts on the honey flow and gets stronger
- In severe or persistent infections requeening with a young queen can strengthen the colony quickly.
- Alternatively adding a nucleus colony to a weaker hive will add a strong boost to fix remedy the colony

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Images of Sacbrood



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Chalkbrood What is it?

- Chalkbrood is a fungal infection
- The spores enter the larva via food, the spores germinate in the gut and grows as hyphae (mycelium) through the gut wall and invades the body, except the head in most cases.
- Diseased larva can be found in both capped and uncapped cell

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How to identify Chalkbrood

- Chalkbrood is generally easy to identify, the fungus infected larva turns into a hard chalky mummy.
- The mummies are either creamy-white or grey-black
- In early stages the larva will be vivid white (more white than normal) and furry or fluffy as the mycelium has reached the surface.

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Transmission of Chalkbrood

- It is thought that beekeepers spread the most chalkbrood with exchanging of frames and equipment
- Drift is also believed to be a main cause so hive positioning is important
- Chalkbrood spores can remain viable for 15 years


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Treatment of Chalkbrood

- Chalkbrood can flare up with a lack of good quality pollen, so using a pollen substitute can remedy a light infection
- In severe or persistent infections cleaning out the old dark frames and providing new cleaner wax for brood.
- Requeening and alternatively adding a nucleus colony along with good resources should remedy the colony

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Images of Chalkbrood



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Images of Chalkbrood



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Half-moon Syndrome What is it?

- Half-moon Syndrome is a not a disease but a disorder
- The condition has been called half-moon syndrome from the shape of some of the dead larva
- It is caused by poor nutrition during the early life of the queen

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How to identify Half-moon Syndrome

- Multiple eggs in cells, often on the walls and commonly chained/ glued together like sausages
- Normally lots of scattered drone brood in worker cells
- Larvae die when uncapped and are twisted up the cell wall (like EFB)

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How to identify Half-moon Syndrome

- The larvae turn yellow, light brown to dark brown and coiled around the mouth of the cell.
- In late stages the dead larva dries up to a scale that may lie in a half-moon or C-shape at the mouth of the cell

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Treatment of HMS

- HMS can be avoided with good resources and nutrition provided to the bees and queen
- Requeening with a good queen
- Alternatively adding a nucleus colony to a weaker hive

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Images of HMS



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Other Brood Diseases - Note

- Parasitic Mite Syndrome
- European Foulbrood

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MATTERSVILLE LIVE BEE PRICELIST

Overwintered Queens SOLD OUT \$74.75 (\$65+GST)

Spring Queens Available from November \$57.50 (\$50+GST)

Nucleus Colonies \$200 (\$173.92+GST)

Available from November (Enquire for Volume Discount)

Single Storey Hive \$375 (\$326.09+GST)

Floor/Base, Full Depth Box with 10 frames, Top Feeder, Hive Mat, Galv. Lid (Available from November)

Enquire for Volume Discount

We do have a wait list so book in soon.

Contact: Nick – 02102981621 or Ceilia - 02102627283

Email: Mattersville@outlook.com

Extraction Plant Manager

Northland Pure Honey Limited (owned by Whangarei Bee Club) is looking for a self-managing person to run their honey Extraction Plant in Morningside for the current honey season (November 2023 to April 2024). It would suit an independent contractor, preferably with some manufacturing experience, a forklift licence and computer literacy. Please contact Morgan our previous Plant Manager for details on the running of the Plant: <mailto:morgan.clair@hotmail.com>

FRAME CLEANING

Tai's Frame Cleaning Service \$1.50 per frame.

For more info contact Tai Pullen 020 415 815 64

taipullen9@gmail.com

516 State Highway 1 Otaika Whangārei

Bee Club Treasurer Needed

Natasha has regrettably decided to stand down in her position as Treasurer. So we are looking for a club member to take on this role. Morgan is a hero and is willing become a **temporary** Treasurer until we can find someone for the role.

Please think about putting your name forward at club day or email:

wbccommunication@gmail.com

The September 2023 edition of the **Apiculture NZ Honey Market Report** shows the revenue from honey exports has fallen more sharply in the past 12 months than in 2021-22. [Read report here](#)

The US and China remain New Zealand's two largest markets by volume but revenue from both has fallen more than elsewhere.

Meanwhile, the impact of domestic inflation has seen NZ retail honey prices increase 10% in the past year.



APICULTURE
NEW ZEALAND

**ANYONE
WHO THINKS
THEY'RE TOO SMALL
TO MAKE
A DIFFERENCE,
HAS NEVER MET
THE HONEY BEE**



ApiNZ Conference 2023 videos now online

Videos of the main speaking sessions from the 2023 Apiculture New Zealand Conference and Trade Exhibition held in Rotorua in June are now available to view on the ApiNZ website [here](#).

Level 3 Apiculture Course

The most comprehensive explanation of the course is on the Land based Training website - [link](#)

It runs through what the course entails, expectations, costs, and has an FAQ section.

The course is free!! What's more, you get 3 free books and a beehive!! It's a real bargain, and a fantastic opportunity for anyone getting into beekeeping. Jonathon Long one of our Bee Club Members is the tutor. The course may have already started so get in quick.

Jonny's email is jonathan.long.nz@gmail.com

Financial Statement

Whangarei Bee Club Incorporation

Opening Bank Balances as at 20 May 23

Operating Account	38,220.12
Savings Account	409.62
Total Funds	38,629.74

Plus Income From

New Members	465.00
Renew Memberships	7,515.00
Interest-01	6.20
IRD - Refund	1.63
Hive Kitset Sales	670.00
	<u>8,657.83</u>
	47,287.57

Less Expenditure

Bank Fees	15.60
ASB - RWT - 01	2.78
Refund Double Payments from members	295.00
APNZ Sub	253.00
Web Site - OnLine designs	259.90
Whareora Hall Hire	320.00
L Child - Club Day Pizzas	664.00
S Young - Milk & Biscuits	30.88
N Watkins - Extn Cord	12.18
T Pullen - Frame Cleaning	105.00
Engraving Systems - Cup & Shield	74.05
Ean Brown - Final Xero Fee	397.26
Xero - Monthly Sub	226.68
	<u>2,656.33</u>
	44,631.24

Total Balances as at 20 Sept 23

Operating Account	44,218.20
Savings Account	413.04
	<u>44,631.24</u>

Other News and websites to check out

Hive Alive Newsletter

Beekeepers shift to suppress spread of deadly parasite

Australia has officially given up on eradication the varroa mite. Now what?

Learning to live with it

Taranaki honey company lands multimillion dollar

Kerikeri backyard beekeepers making strides amidst turbulent honey market

Dr Rod Carr Speaking at the Climate Change and Business Conference 2023

What I Wish I Knew Before I started Keeping Bees | All My Beginner Beekeeping Mistakes

Honeybees' foraging choices for nectar and pollen revealed by DNA metabarcoding

'They're like family': honeybees and businesses destroyed as varroa mite spreads in NSW

10 Incredible Honeybee Facts

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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