



## Monthly Newsletter

Issue 200 September 2021

### Upcoming Events and Notices

This Club Day: 4<sup>th</sup> September – **Cancelled due to Covid19**

Next Club Day: 2<sup>nd</sup> October

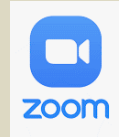
#### September Club Day

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, we will not be able to meet at Whareora Hall on Saturday September 4<sup>th</sup> we will, however, have a "virtual club day" via Zoom.

Vince will send out to all members an email with an invite link to the meeting.

For those of you who have not used "Zoom" before there here are some pointers:

- You can download the Zoom app for android devices [click here](#); or for iPhone [here](#)
- If you are using a desktop or laptop then [click here](#) and sign up to get an account.
- For a good beginner "How to use Zoom" guide [click here](#) for a you tube video.



#### **Zoom Etiquette for our Club Day Meeting**

- Be ready to join promptly at 10am
- Make sure that your **microphone is muted** during the meeting, Paul can mute all, and will do so in the interest of everyone being able to hear.
- For the Question-and-Answer session, please type your questions into the "Chat" facility on Zoom during the meeting. If you already have a question in mind, then please email to [wbccommunication@gmail.com](mailto:wbccommunication@gmail.com) **before 4pm Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**. Paul will get these questions and they will be discussed during the Zoom meeting on Saturday.

We are looking forward to seeing people online



#### Club Day Duty Roster

Set Up Hall From 9am	Volunteer needed
Set up in Kitchen 9am and Set up Lunch	Muriel & Bev Bristowe
Wash up Kitchen from Lunch	Muriel & Bev Bristowe
Pack up / Clean Hall From 12-30	Vince

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 7 August 2021

Our guest speaker was [Kim Kneijber](#) with a presentation called “Bee Prepared”. It covered the following:

What have you got in your beekeeping kit?

Are you prepared for your hive management?

Can you read your bees?

Are you prepared for a problem with your bees?

Are you prepared for an exotic?

Kim is a former President of [Auckland Bee Club](#), and now co-President of [Rodney Beekeepers Club](#). Here is a summary of her talk.

Kim started with a brief discussion on mottos versus quotes. Auckland bee Club’s motto is ‘learn educate’. The club has been going for 75 years and started with the Hillary clan (including Ed) and others. The title of her presentation comes from the scouting motto ‘be prepared’.

Kim is an AP2 and showed us the extent of the gear she takes when working her own hives and checking others for AFB. This includes the following:

- A metal carry box for her protective gear (full suit), smoker, multi-purpose hive tools etc.
- Kim uses rubber gloves (washable)
- Smoker fuel is hessian – any flammable material so long as it gives a cool white smoke
- Blow torch (plus small fire extinguisher) to help sterilise (de-wax) her hive tools. She then puts the tool(s) into a solution of Janola for 20 minutes (helps to kill AFB spores)
- Mask and safety glasses when handling varroa treatments
- Dishwashing liquid to wash her rubber gloves between hives
- Nails for hive repair
- Container for wax scrapings

A separate beekeeping kit which contains:

- First aid kit
- MPI pocket guide for AFB identification
- Phone (including the AFB identification App)
- Cornflower / icing sugar for varroa testing plus a sticky board for sugar shakes
- Ziplock bags and matches
- Varroa strips
- Magnifying glass, roll of tape, craft knife, marking pen, newspaper (to start smoker fire)
- Queen immobilizer (little box to put the queen in)
- Flashlight / headlamp. Needs to be a red light as bees don’t see it at night
- Swarm box
- Drinking water, energy food
- A Level to check the angle of the hive
- Infrared temperature tester (the cluster should be 34°C during winter)
- Scissors
- A big feather to brush away bees
- Hive straps
- Kim also uses a ‘luggage scale’ to get hive weights between seasons
- Extra stuff...

## News from last Club Day (continued)

Kim then talked about 'checking your bees' under the following headings:

1. What are they doing?
2. What do I want them to do – make honey, harvest a product (e.g. propolis), pollinate, increase numbers
3. How can I help my bees – [seasonal management plan](#) (white board maybe), provide extra hive ware when needed
4. What can go wrong – run out of food (particularly in Spring), chilled brood, overheating, queen problems / loss of the queen, pesticides, robbing, swarming, mice, wasps, deformed wing virus, black queen cell virus, sac brood / chalk brood, AFB / EFB, varroa, [Nosema](#). No effective cure for any bee viruses. Nosema is seen more in Spring than in Autumn. Varroa arrived in NZ at Onehunga in 2000. There are many other different mite species in your hives, causing no harm.
5. Can we prevent disease? Steps to take are:
  - Inspect your hives regularly.
  - Be proactive
  - Be observant and respond quickly
  - Disease threats can be different from season to season

Queens roles are to lay and swarm. Monitor your queen's performance and replace when necessary (February/March is a good time).

September is usually when swarming begins. Might be a good idea to set up a dummy swarm box near your hives, in case one of them swarms.

When Kim goes to collect a swarm, she takes a banana box and extra hive ware. The swarm information you need is:

- The address and phone number, Is someone there? Permission to access?
- Is the swarm accessible
- Size of the swarm and how high up it is
- A ladder, a sheet and rope
- Swarm container (e.g. banana box) which is bee proof for transport
- Spray lavender water (or similar) on the surface the swarm was on
- Put the collected swarm into quarantine in case of disease

### Other Threats

- When checking your hives and elsewhere, be on the lookout for exotic insect species and any unfamiliar weirdness e.g. European Foul Brood; Small Hive Beetle; Tracheal Mites (*Acarapis woodi*)
- MPI carry out a yearly exotic survey at Ports around the country
- AFB is a compulsory audit i.e. AP2 come and inspect your hives, whereas an audit looking for exotics in your hives requires your permission
  - We can regularly check our bees. Diseased bees will die 1 – 2 metres away from the hive.
  - Call the MPI Exotic Disease Hotline on 0800 80 99 66 for advice.

This concluded a very informative presentation.

MPI booklets that are useful

- [Honey Bee Exotic Pests and diseases booklet](#)
- [MPI – Booklet "New Zealand Bee Biosecurity Visual ID Guide"](#)
- [ApiWellbeing](#) & [Genetic analysis of AFB in NZ](#)

## News from last Club Day (continued)

### David & Paul

David has not been looking too much but has noted his hives are running 3 weeks to a month early – so be prepared a month earlier than normal. Honey reserves are still in most hives, due to the mild winter. Queen cells are being laid and there is drone brood already. David uses splitting to try and control swarming. Take the queen out plus a couple of brood frames and put in the top box (2 box hive).

Discussion on varroa control – if you treat a two-box hive with oxalic paper towels you can put the towel flat on top of the first box. For a single hive use strips of towel as staples i.e. hung over one or a couple of frames, so the bees are forced to move past them and so will get covered with oxalic crystals. David suggested his oxalic towels remain active for a month or more, assuming the towel hasn't been removed by the bees. As long as the glycerine keeps the towel damp and so allows the oxalic crystals to remain hydrated (making an acidic solution), then the towels should remain active against varroa. With that logic the towels should remain active for longer in winter where the atmosphere has more moisture and is cooler.

Brief discussion on whether to clean the bridges of your frames or leave them waxed up, the way the bees want them. Compromise would be to clean them enough to have easy access to the brood frames.

### Dave's Oxalic Acid Recipe for treatment of varroa

25mL glycerine

25g Oxalic acid crystals

This mix is per each paper towel. Dave makes it in large quantities, so make as much as you need, and store in an airtight container. Use baking paper between sheets to prevent towels from sticking together. Use 1 soaked paper towel between 2 brood boxes, or on top of 1 brood box and under the queen excluder.

[Link](#) to Randy Oliver's website

### Next Club Day

Paul asked the question – 'where to from here for the club'. There was a brief discussion about committee makeup and roles, with more to come.

### Message from club President Paul Martin

As you are aware, over the last few months I have been trying to step aside as Club President, and David Pullen has also been trying to step down as Vice President. I am pleased to inform you that we have had nominations for Trevor Clifton as President and Ed Harding as Vice President, and I have been working with both Trevor and Ed to facilitate a smooth transition to their leadership of the club. Hopefully, Covid depending, we will look to hold the adjourned AGM Election of Officers at our October club day. As we get closer to the October club day we will notify you of the election, which shouldn't take long but is required for due process.

In the meantime, we would love you to put your thinking caps on around what things you really like that we do at club days, and any things that we don't do which you wish we did do at club days. We will look to have a brief discussion around these ideas at the October club day as well, which will help Trevor and Ed along with the committee to plan how the club is run through the next year and beyond.



**APICULTURE**  
NEW ZEALAND

### COVID updates for Beekeepers

Click [here](#) for the latest updates for beekeepers

### Mānuka honey dispute: What's in a macron?

ANALYSIS: What's in a name? What's in one letter in a name? And to be precise, what's in a small horizontal line atop that letter?

More than \$600 million, is what. Click on title to read more.

### September is Bee Aware Month

To launch Bee Aware Month in 2021 APINZ is holding a webinar on Tuesday 31 August at 10am featuring Dr Angus McPherson from the NZ Trees for Bees Research Trust who will answer questions and give advice on urban and rural planting for bees. You are welcome to register for this event [here](#).

[About Bee Aware Month](#) [Feed the bees](#)

[Facebook page](#)

### **REMINDER: AFB – Certificate of Inspection**

Ensure your hives are inspected for AFB by an approved beekeeper with a DECA and submit forms via [Hive Hub](#) by 30<sup>th</sup> November.

**AFB checks:** Trevor Clifton is available (0.72 cents/ km and \$20 / hive).

Email: [puwerahoney@gmail.com](mailto:puwerahoney@gmail.com)

Ph: 4329511 or 0274330155



Returning from vacation, Bob and Barbara find their house, their neighborhood, their friends — in fact, all of Atlantis — just plain gone.



Harvesting the work of tetchup bees

### **ApiNZ webinar series: What is the Bee Care Code?**

Join ApiNZ chief executive Karin Kos and board members Dennis Crowley and Paul Martin for our final webinar on **Thursday 2 September at 4pm** as they discuss the New Zealand Bee Care Code. Get all your questions about the code answered. You can register for this [here](#).

### **Whangarei Bee Club Website Enquiries**

Max Lambert is the president of Onerahi Gardening club and is looking for someone to speak to the group about beekeeping

If you are keen to help, please contact Max on 095533403 or email [maxailsa2019@gmail.com](mailto:maxailsa2019@gmail.com)

### **September In the Hive**

This is the month when colonies can die of starvation. However, if you fed them plenty of sugar syrup in the autumn this should not happen. With the days growing longer, the queen steadily increases her rate of egg laying. More brood means more food consumed. The bees will continue to consume honey stores.

### **Beekeeping Tasks**

Early in the month, on a nice mild day, and when there is no wind and bees are flying, you can have a quick peek inside your hive. It's best not to remove the frames. Just have a look-see under the cover. If you do not see any sealed honey in the top frames, you may need to begin some emergency feeding. But remember, once you start, you should not stop until they are bringing in their own food supplies. If you are planning on getting swarms have enough equipment on hand and ready to go.

- Apply Varroa treatment if surplus honey flow expected in next 8 weeks
- Check all brood frames for America Foulbrood
- Feed sugar syrup if necessary
- Check pollen stores and feed supplements if required
- Spray or cut vegetation around hives
- Stimulate hives for queen rearing
- Hives can be split late in the month or when there are plenty of adult drone's present
- Unite any weak or queenless hives, with stronger queenright hives, especially if you prefer not to increase hive numbers.

*Info courtesy of Waikato  
Beekeepers Association  
[HERE](#)*

## Financial Statement

### Whangarei Bee Club Incorporation

Opening Bank Balances as at 20 July 21

Operating Account	30,726.75
Savings Account	404.99
Total Funds	<u>31,131.74</u>

#### Plus Income From

Membership Fees-New x 1	110.00
Renew Membership	325.00
	<u>435.00</u>
	31,566.74

#### Less Expenditure

Bank Fees	1.60
Web Site - OnLine designs	42.55
Whareora Hall Hire	80.00
Pizza's & Milk, Biscuits, Coffee,	180.00
Wine for Guest Speakers	22.00
	<u>326.15</u>
	<u>31,240.59</u>

Total Balances as at 20 August 21

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

## Other News and websites to check out

[The Feel-good Factor of Bringing the Bees Back](#)

[Farm chemicals make a deadly cocktail for bees, a new study finds](#)

[A very busy Bey: Beyoncé keeps bees, and is building a hemp and honey farm](#)

[Kiwi's swarm to beekeeping](#)

[Caffeine buzz helps bees find best flowers - study](#)

[Bee Prepared: Importing bees to help protect against varroa mite](#)

[Australian Manuka Honey Association to use Oxford dictionary in trademark battle with New Zealand](#)

[Christchurch-based New Zealand Health Food Company fined \\$377,000 over 'reckless' royal jelly labelling](#)

[World-first plant breeding programs delivers elite genetics for Manuka honey and oil production](#)

### 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



Thanks to our sponsors for their support of the Honey Competition at Whangarei Bee Club:

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