

Upcoming Events and Notices

This Club Day: 2nd September

Next Club Day: 7th October

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.

September Club Day

Nick will be presenting to the club about various brood diseases and disorders and what is happening in the hives in September.

Remember, September is Bee Aware Month

Updating the WBC Website

Any club members interested in being a swarm collector? We are updating the names on the WBC website.

Also, is anyone wanting to make themselves available to do AFB checks?

Is anyone having trouble logging in to the website as a member?

For all above please let any committee member know or email wbccommunication@gmail.com

Apiarist's Advocate August 2023

Back catalogue here

New Zealand Certificate in Apiculture (Level 3) - ONLINE

Course has already started, but you may be able to get in still...

Club Day Duty Roster

Set Up Hall From 9am	Volunteers needed
Set up in Kitchen 9am & Set up Lunch	Sue & Lorna
Wash up Kitchen from Lunch	Sue & Lorna
Pack up / Clean Hall From 12-30	Volunteers 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.

What do you call a Bee that can't make up its mind?



A maybe!

News from last Club Day

Club Day Summary 5 August 2023

Our guest speaker was Dwayne Hill who gave a presentation on AFB. Dwayne is one of only two API inspectors in the entire country. The presentation covered our obligations as registered beekeepers when it comes to AFB recognition and reporting.

His is a fulltime job solely focussed on the control and management of AFB.

Note that all beekeepers must file an ADR (annual disease return) by the 1st June each year. If you have not got a current DECA (disease elimination conformity agreement) you will also need to file a COI (certificate of inspection) by the 1st December each year.

This requires all your hives to be inspected by a DECA holder between the 1st of August and the 30th of November each year. The inspection of your hives and submission of your COI can be submitted via HiveHub – a paper copy of the COI can be sent to beekeepers who are not on email. This is to ensure that all beehives receive at least one inspection from a person that is recognised by the Management Agency as competent to inspect beehives for AFB. Inspection of every beehive is needed to eventually eliminate AFB from New Zealand.

The paper copy of the form has a section for the beekeeper to sign and an inspection record for the visiting Approved Beekeeper who has a DECA to fill in and sign. This information is checked by an Apiary Coordinator before being accepted. It is recommended you are present when the inspection takes place so you can learn how to inspect for AFB. Approved Beekeepers are listed on their website, please contact them directly to engage them for your inspections. We are in the process of updating the WBC list of local AFB contacts.

Officially we are asked to inspect for AFB twice a year – in Spring (Sept – Nov) and in Autumn. Best practice is to check every frame the queen has access to every time you are looking in your hive.

You are also required to check for AFB before taking honey off your hives.

Swarms are less likely to carry AFB spores because they are more likely to be older bees. If you collect a swarm, you should keep it isolated and monitor it through four brood cycles to be sure it is free of disease and mites.

If AFB is detected, then everything associated with the hive needs to be burnt. This is a bigger issue with plastic frames.

Plastic frames were brought into the industry for the harvesting of manuka honey. Wooden frames get destroyed with the high rate of spinning needed to extract manuka honey – it is thixotropic (solid when undisturbed but becomes fluid when stirred or agitated).

Northland's manuka honey flow starts in Spring and is finished by Xmas. Taranaki has the last of the manuka flow in mid-summer. Currently hives aren't being moved around so much chasing the manuka flow, and this is helping to limit the spread of AFB.

Currently there are 596,000 bee colonies nationwide and already there are 94 cases of AFB reported, just one month into the season.

Any questions on this subject you can contact Dwayne directly at the afb.org website:

Dwayne Hill, Northern Operations Manager

dwayne.hill@afb.org.nz

027 766 0145

Mike's Mead Recipe – from July's Club Day

Thanks again to Mike for his presentation

Mead - My 1st Try

Equipment:

5 Litre Demijohn and Airlock
5 Litre Jug
Hydrometer
Trial Jar
Starter jar

Ingredients:

1Kg Honey
Mead yeast
Campden tablets
Wine stabiliser
Malic / Tartaric / Citric acids added to give pH of approx. 3.5 - 3.8
 $\frac{1}{2}$ sp Tannin
Yeast Nutrient
Water to 5 litres

Mead making group anyone.

Club member, Michael Nogowczyk is happy to start a Mead Making group within the Club. If anyone is interested, he would be happy to help get it started and provide "technical knowledge" until people get the hang of it.

Method:

Clean and sterilise all equipment

In the starter jar, mix some honey, water, yeast and Yeast nutrient

Fit airlock and leave in a warm place to rehydrate the yeast until bubbles are in the airlock.

In the 5 litre Jug, mix the 1kg of honey with 3 litres of warm water, dissolving all the honey.

Add the yeast nutrient

Add the Tannin

Adjust the pH

Cover the Jug

Leave until starter jar is bubbling vigorously

When starter jar bubbling add contents to 5 litre Jug - mix and add to Demijohn

Take a Hydrometer Reading and record

Fit airlock and place in a warm place or place on a Heat Pad. Keep the temperature around 25 Deg C

When no more bubbles appear check the Specific gravity is at 1.00 or below, indicating all the sugar has been consumed.

Rack into clean demijohn and add 1 Campden, tablet crushed and dissolved in warm water. Top up with warm boiled water. Repeat if sediment is showing on the bottom of the demijohn after a couple of weeks rack again add wine stabiliser and bottle.

Start Gravity: 1.060 Final Gravity: 1.00

Calculated ABV: $1060 - 1000 = 60 / 7.46 = 8\%$ ABV

To increase the Alcohol content try 1.5 kg of honey instead of 1kg



It is Certificate of Inspection time!

Are you eligible to apply for a DECA but haven't yet completed an AFB Recognition Course?

American Foulbrood and its symptoms are essential knowledge for every beekeeper.

To check if you would be eligible to apply for a DECA, please [click here](#).

By passing the assessment as part of the AFB Recognition Course, and being fully compliant with the American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan rules for a minimum of 12 months, you may be eligible to apply for a Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement (DECA).

CLICK HERE to register yourself into a one day classroom-based AFB Recognition Course, there are still spaces available at various locations around the country. As we cap the number of beekeepers attending, these one day classroom-based courses often fill up quickly so please don't delay – the cost is \$100 per person to attend.

Or you can CLICK HERE to register for our online AFB Recognition Course and Assessments.

Concern for native bee population as toxic baits used to kill feral European honey bees in varroa mite response

Concerns have been raised around the use of an insecticide to control the varroa mite outbreak in New South Wales, particularly its impact on the native bee population.

Fipronil kills insects, including bees, by affecting their nervous system.



The Beekeepers Who Don't Want You to Buy More Bees

In Slovenia and around the world, conservationists try, and mostly fail, to combat the widespread belief that honey bees are in danger.

An Invasive Hornet Species Is Spotted in the U.S. for the First Time

A beekeeper in Savannah, Ga., found what turned out to be a yellow-legged hornet. State and federal officials, along with academic experts, are working to eradicate the species.

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

Financial Statement

Other News and websites to check out

[Is Beekeeping Wrong?](#)

[Ripped, hot and in your 50s? You are now, officially, 'beekeeping age'](#)

[Limited edition NZ honey for sale with eye-watering \\$2500 price tag](#)

[Ingredient of the week: Honey](#)

[domestic honeybee](#)

[How to keep happy bees at heart of new NMIT course](#)

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



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