



Monthly Newsletter

Issue 181 February 2020

Inside this issue:

Events/Notices:

Last Club Day:

Financial/News

Upcoming Events and Notices

This Club Day: 1st February

Next Club Day: 7th March

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.

February Club Day Speaker

The February guest speaker will be Sue Robinson who will talk about beekeeping in the UK. Sue Robinson is an experienced beekeeper who manages Hexham Beekeepers Association apiary. She will talk about her experiences of beekeeping in the UK.

Club Day Duty Roster

Set Up Hall From 9am	Colin Read	
Help in Kitchen 9am and Lunch	Bev Bristowe,	Pat Maikory
Wash up Kitchen from Lunch		
Pack up / Clean Hall From 12-30	Uwe Werham	

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the TIME; they just have the HEART." (Elizabeth Andrew)

Please, have the HEART to help where you can.

The club relies on the HELP of all of its' members for it to THRIVE.

Remember that all of these jobs are easy and require a very little time and effort. Please sign up on the roster at Club Day. A big "THANK YOU" to those that help.



Beekeeping in dry conditions

A recent [news item](#) on a bush fire started near Kaikohe by a beekeeper, is a timely reminder of the care needed when beekeeping in dry conditions. If you haven't already, be sure to visit the [Fire Service website](#) to see if you require a fire permit. It is also worth considering using alternatives to smokers in dry conditions such as liquid smoke or bee escape boards. These basic tips from both the New Zealand and Australian fire service are a good reference:

- Ensure you take a good look around apiary sites for any possible sources of ignition before you leave (the NZ Fire Service recommends waiting for 15-20 minutes after finishing checks, before leaving the site)
- Try to work in times of higher humidity or as cool conditions as possible, like early morning
- Ensure your smoker is in good condition and that fire or hot cinders cannot escape through the base air inlet
- Light the smoker in a fireproof container. The container will contain any burning fuel that falls out of the smoker
- Light the smoker in an area without flammable vegetation
- Use 'cool' smoke – hot smoke is accompanied by sparks and flames and is a fire risk, add more fuel
- Extinguish the smoker with one of the following methods
- Fill the smoker with water before emptying it, ensuring that it is completely out
- Block the nozzle and place the smoker into an airtight fireproof container
- Emptying the smoker into water or a hole, risks embers escaping and is not recommended
- Ensure you have a phone, or other means, for contacting emergency services
- Carry a fire extinguisher and/or water in all vehicles
- Sit the smoker on the lid of another hive rather than on the ground when not in use
- If you need to burn hives due to AFB, check if you require a fire permit. If your region is under a closed fire season and you cannot be issued a permit, then contact the Management Agency to discuss your options.

'Like sending bees to war': the deadly truth behind your almond milk obsession

Environmental advocates argue that the huge, commercially driven proliferation of the European honeybees used on almond farms is itself undermining the ecosystem for all bees. Honeybees out-compete diverse native bee species for forage and threaten the endangered species that are already struggling to survive climate change. Environmentalists argue a better solution is to transform the way large-scale agriculture is carried out in the US. [click here for link](#)

Drop in honey prices clouds outlook for Kern's almond industry

U.S. beekeepers say a recent glut of honey imported from Asia and elsewhere has caused prices to plummet during the last 12 months, past the point at which U.S. producers can hope to make a profit. Honey's flagging popularity as a sweetener has also lowered honey prices. [more in link here](#)

Asian Giant Hornet Invasion Threatens Honeybees in Pacific Northwest

An expert said of the hornets: "They are sworn enemies of honeybees. I would say a bee's worst nightmare." [click here for link](#)

A Beekeeping Dictionary

This beekeeping dictionary contains terms frequently used by beekeepers. [click here for link](#)

News

Let's talk law: Bees over the boundary

Where there is boundary stacking, bees face increased foraging competition if there are other beehives in the area. Honey yield and quality suffers, so do financial returns. Bee health suffers too. Disease is spread between hives. Tardy beekeeping practices on one side of the fence affect the hives on the other.

Does the law prevent boundary stacking? [Click here for link](#)

Honeybees need better nutrition and NZ scientists think they can help

Honeybee nutrition is coming under the microscope as New Zealand researchers find that commonly held ideas about bee drinking and foraging are not supported by research.

It's been thought, for example, that making a mixture of flowering plants – and even pretty flowers – available to bees enhances their survival and fitness.

But this turns out to be "seriously flawed", according to Steve Wratten, a Distinguished Professor of Ecology at Lincoln University, speaking on behalf of a research team led by Dr Morgan Shields and Sarah Cairns. [click here for link](#)

Apprentice beekeeper inspired by grandfather

Inspired by her beekeeping granddad but once afraid of bees, Jess Curtis is on her way to a life surrounded by them.

The 18-year-old Cardrona Valley apprentice beekeeper has won this year's Apiculture New Zealand (ApiNZ) Ron Mossop Youth Scholarship.

The scholarship includes \$2000 towards her training costs, a one-year membership of ApiNZ as well as attendance at its national conference. [click here for link](#)

Tongan farmers get bee keeping boost

David Cramp is an expert on bees and bee science and has pioneered the use of drones and digital mapping technology in aspects of bee research.

He's now set to share his gift in Tonga as a beekeeping advisor for the government. He has also written a number of books on bees.

His latest, *The Honeybee*, is a definitive guide to the insect and its exploits. In it, he breaks down the mysteries of life in the hive: how a Queen is formed, the role and rank of different bees in the colony, the relationship between bees and flowers, why bees swarm, and the importance of pollination.

[Click here to listen to the RNZ interview](#)

Creating a buzz: Turkish beekeepers risk life and limb to make mad honey

History is littered with stories of the psychoactive properties of *deli bal*, still produced today in the Kaçkar mountains

It is no surprise that a substance powerful enough to take out 1,000 battle-hardened mercenaries of the Roman republic has been the subject of fascination for millennia. Stories cataloguing the delights and the dangers of *deli bal*, or Turkish "mad honey", crop up throughout history.

A small spoonful on its own or with hot water or boiled milk is enough to induce a mildly hallucinogenic or euphoric state. It is normally taken before breakfast as a traditional treatment for hypertension, impotence and a number of other conditions. [click here for link](#)

The Australian Honeybee Industry Council has endorsed a fund, Hive Aid created to directly provide assistance to beekeepers who are victims of the bush fires. [Here is link](#)

Financial Statement

Whangarei Bee Club Incorporation

Bank Balances as at 20 November 2019

Operating account	12,575.68
Savings account	404.99
Total funds as at 20 November 2019	<u>12,980.67</u>

Plus income from

Membership fees	440.00
Book Sales	90.00
	<u>530.00</u>
	13,510.67

Less expenditure

Bank fees	1.60
Provisions	8.14
Website	42.55
Printer Ink	68.94
Accountant Xero	329.89
Hall Hire	65.00
	<u>516.12</u>
Total balance at 20 September 2019	<u>12,994.55</u>

Made up of

Operating account	12,589.56
Savings account	404.99
Total funds as at 20 December 2019	<u>12,994.55</u>

News/sites to check out

[Maize crop chemicals blamed for mass North Island bee deaths](#). Chemicals used to plant maize crops may be responsible for wiping out hundreds of beehives in parts of the North Island.

Beekeepers are now calling on authorities to investigate faster and say businesses are on the line.

[Australia bushfires: Scorched animals treated with New Zealand's golden mānuka honey](#). Animals injured in Australia's bushfires are now being treated with a Kiwi remedy.

Medical grade mānuka honey is used to treat burns and prevent infections, and a conservationist from South Africa is giving out huge amounts for free.

Australia's fires and its wildlife disaster have struck a chord around the world.

It brought Jamie Joseph from Saving the Wild from South Africa to Australia with the golden honey.

[Comvita appoints new chief executive after troubled year](#)
Comvita has appointed David Banfield as its new chief executive.

Banfield is the former chief executive of NZX-listed Methven Group, and is replacing Scott Coulter at the helm of the honey company.

Banfield will take the helm on January 20, 2020.

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:

[PGG](#)

[Beequip](#)



Beequip NZ™
For innovative bee products

