



Monthly Newsletter

Issue 184 May 2020

Upcoming Events and Notices

This Club Day: **2nd May via ZOOM**

Next Club Day: **6th June TBC**

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, we will not be able to meet together at Whareora Hall on Saturday May 2nd. We will, however, have a "virtual club day" via Zoom.

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

10.00am Saturday 2nd May

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 beginners "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 has the ability to 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 wbcccommunication@gmail.com **before 4pm Friday 1st May**. Paul will get these questions and they will be discussed during the Zoom meeting on Saturday.

We are looking forward to seeing people online

Zoom Meeting Agenda 2nd May

- Paul will give an update of what's happening in the Beekeeping Industry.
- David & Mike/Paul show – What's happening in the hives at the moment.
- Question and Answer session (see Zoom etiquette above)

**Unite
against
COVID-19**

Wash and dry your hands



AGM

The AGM was scheduled to take place during the April club day which was cancelled due to the lockdown. We will re-schedule the AGM for a time when we can all meet face to face at Whareora Hall. We will not know more until we have more clarity around when it is OK to have meetings of large groups of people.

In the meantime, the committee agreed to secondment of club members onto the committee. Heather Rye moved and Paul Martin seconded that Rodney Heron, Suzie Scourfield, Sarah Kalis, Pieter Kalis be accepted onto the committee. The rest of the committee voted on and approved. Welcome new committee members

May Guest Speaker has been rescheduled for August

Marco Gonzalez is the National Operations Manager for AFB PMP and will be talking to us about management of disease and the work that they do.

Reminder

The Honey extraction plant will be closing for the season at the end of April. The club would like to thank Dennis for his ongoing work with the plant.

Honey Competition

The honey competition was scheduled to happen during the April monthly meeting which we did not have due to the lockdown. We have not cancelled at the moment but have postponed it until we figure out what we are able to do. Obviously being able to schedule another competition will depend not only on the Covid-19 situation but also on the availability of our judge, Maureen Conquer.

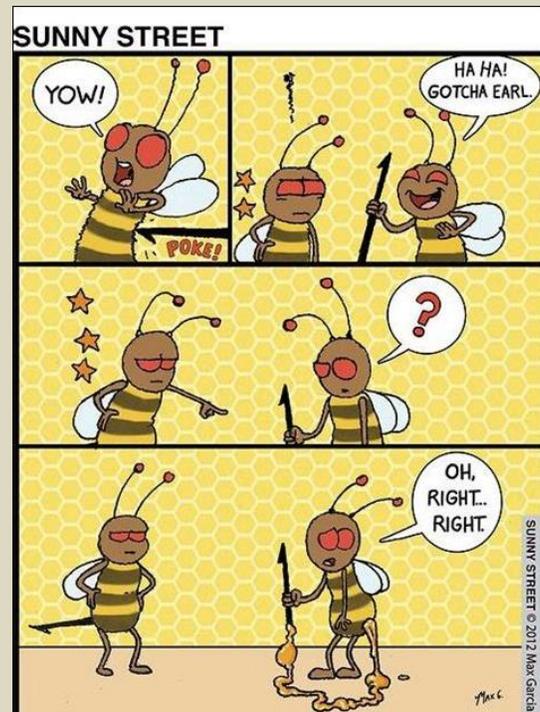
In the meantime, if you haven't already eaten it, pop that prize honey that you were planning on entering in the freezer as this will retain the integrity of the crystals. Once defrosted, it will be competition ready.

Bee Future: Precious honeybees in short supply in Australia.

Millions of bees and countless hectares of habitat have been destroyed as a result of bushfire and drought. Honey may soon be imported and the vital pollinators will be in short supply for agriculture. [Click here to watch video](#)

Kiwimana - This is Episode 158 of our beekeeping show -- Don't Blow my Buzz. In this show we answer questions about Controlling Varroa Mites, People Allergic to Bees and How to find the Queen in a hive. Click [here](#) to watch

Country Calendar: "Hunt and Gather Bee Co." says kanuka 'the next big honey'. read more [here](#) and watch episode [here](#)



Lack of bee imports due to COVID-19 will affect honey supply.

CALGARY - Scandia Honey imports 20,000 bee packages each season, which are used to start new hives or replace ones that die over winter. This year, because of shipping restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic, they got none. Scandia Honey president Reece Chandler says that will put a strain on Canada's honey supply. Read more [here](#)



The [2019 Colony Loss Survey](#)

[findings](#) commissioned by the Ministry for Primary Industries and carried out by researchers at Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research. Of concern is a gradual upward trend of winter colony losses, with the rate increasing from 8.4% in 2015 to 10.5% in 2019. While this remains significantly lower than losses recorded in other countries, there is no room for complacency when it comes to bee health.

Crops at risk as coronavirus lockdown grounds bees

Lockdowns, quarantine requirements and border closures introduced in recent weeks around the world to slow the coronavirus pandemic are threatening to hit food production by limiting the movement of bees, agriculturalists have warned. Farmers around the world growing fruits, vegetables and nuts rely on bees to pollinate their crops. In many cases bees are trucked through agricultural areas, rather than staying local to one area — but now they cannot travel. “A third of our food depends on the pollination by bees. The production of those crops could be affected,” said Norberto Garcia of Apimondia, the international federation of beekeepers. To read more [click here](#)

All Stung Out: China’s Bee Industry Crisis, Explained. The COVID-19 pandemic has been devastating, but the beekeeping industry has been abuzz with discontent for years. Read more [here](#)

Host-Shifts and Honey Bees: Lessons From COVID-19

This global health crisis has certainly hit us all like a ton of bricks, and at the time of this writing (early April 2020) we are still amidst our “social distancing” and mandatory University and state-wide shutdown. Tragedies such as this remind us all of the important things in life, and while we love our honey bees, they are way down on the list of priorities, as family, friends, and loved ones take the only precedent with everything else a distance second. It is my fervent hope that everyone is—and will remain—healthy, happy, and safe.

I’m sure by now everyone has heard (probably more times than they care for) about how COVID-19 came to be. It’s a coronavirus of the virus family Coronaviridae (so named because of its crown-like protein coat), and it is not endemic to humans. [By the way, while honey bees have plenty of viruses, mostly in the families Iflavirus (e.g., Deformed Wing Virus) and Dicistroviridae (e.g., Acute Bee Paralysis Virus), they don’t have any coronaviruses as far as we know]. What I haven’t heard in the media, however, is the term ‘host-shift,’ which is the biological phenomenon when a parasite or pathogen “jumps ship” from one host species to another. You see, most microbial disease agents (viruses, bacteria, fungi) have a difficult time counteracting the complex immune systems of their hosts, so both host and pathogen have to constantly re-adapt to develop protective measures and counter-measures of resistance, respectively. Read more [here](#)

Can I still care for my beehives during Alert Level 4?

The overriding purpose of Alert Level 4 is that everyone stays at home to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Travel to care for your animals, including bees, is also allowed. Managing disease and preventing starvation are vital to ensure bee welfare and survival. Hives can still be managed for this purpose. For more information: [click here for link](#)

Protocols and FAQs for beekeeping under Alert Level 3 link to pdf doc [here](#)

Sweet charity.

The director of a South Island honey company is donating 21,000 jars of manuka honey to food banks. Read more [here](#)

Beekeeper calls for protection of wild hives

An Auckland-based beekeeper is urging people to think twice before killing wild beehives that are already few in number and vulnerable to disease.

Jessie Baker knows of people attempting to remove beehives by pouring petrol into them, rather than call her to the rescue.

“It breaks my heart to hear that [the hives] get exterminated. Read more [here](#)

How ‘undertaker’ bees recognize dead comrades

They’re the undertakers of the bee world: a class of workers that scours hives for dead comrades, finding them in the dark in as little as 30 minutes, despite the fact that the deceased haven’t begun to give off the typical odors of decay. A new study may reveal how they do it. Read more [here](#)

Financial Statement (from end of Feb)

Whangarei Bee Club Incrporation

Opening Bank Balances as at 20 Feb 2020

Operating Account	13,488.20
Savings Account	404.99
Total Funds at 20.2.20	<u>13,893.19</u>

Plus Income From	
Membership Fees	435.00
	<u>435.00</u>
	<u>14,328.19</u>

Less Expenditure	
Bank Fees	6.20
Web Site	85.10
Hall Hire	80.00
Club Provisions	208.97
Review Accounts	690.00
APINZ Subscription	230.00
	<u>1,300.27</u>

Total Balance at at 20th April 2020	<u><u>13,027.92</u></u>
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Made up of	
Operating Account	12,622.93
Savings Account	404.99
	<u><u>13,027.92</u></u>

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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