

Whangarei Bee Club INC

Newsletter



January 2017, Issue 145

Plant-of-the-Month *Contributed by John Beauregard*

Short articles of interest to Northland beekeepers, especially non-commercial beekeepers



Pohutukawa seems to be making a late, but great, showing this year, aided by cool nighttime temperatures and very dry conditions. Strong winds quickly decimate the flowers but in the meantime the bees are having a field day.

Any beekeeper with the good fortune of having hives close to a stand of these iconic trees is in for

a real treat. The distinctive salty taste makes the honey a special reward for a few lucky beekeepers. The honey from this source is water-white and coarsely granulates almost immediately unless "seeded" with a fine-grained honey such as clover. Red and white rata are both close relatives with honey having the same appearance and behaviour as pohutukawa. Pohutukawa honey stores poorly so it is best consumed or sold by the beekeeper rather than saved for winter stores.

<http://www.terrain.net.nz/friends-of-te-henui-group/trees-native-botanical-names-m-to-q/pohutukawa.html>

"Nectar and Pollen Sources of New Zealand," RS Walsh, published by ApiNZ, is a principal source of information. The club's library holds a copy of this very useful booklet. The web references provide excellent photographs, some of which are from proprietary sources such as plant shops.

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Upcoming Events and Notices

This Club Day
7 January
Same place, same time

Check out page 4

Next Club Day
4 February
See you there☺

Thank you
John
for this month's
contribution



Hives For Sale

- Hives at \$550 (+GST) each:

Phone: 434 6750

Email: davidherbert@xtra.co.nz

- Hives at \$450 each to Club members:

They are single box full depth hives with 6-7 frames of brood and will need to be supered soon.

Phone: 022 188 0871 or 434 0808

Email: carterlifshutz@gmail.com

- Hives at \$550 (+GST):

Single box hives complete top to bottom

- 5 frame Nucs at \$400 (+GST):

In a full-size box, 5 plastic frames, floor, hive mat and lid.

Phone: 021 165 1283

Email: michaeljohnfox@hotmail.com

A timely tutin reminder... ...Poisonous honey is the last thing you want

TUTIN is a very real issue for the bee and honey industry and the reputation of our product as being safe.



Tutin is a neurotoxin present in TUTU BUSHES. It is neurotoxic to mammals, including humans, but not to bees. Human ingestion can cause giddiness, exhaustion, vomiting, stupor and coma.



PASSION VINE HOPPERS feed on tutu sap and secrete poisonous honeydew.

From **January** to **April**, tutin may be found in comb honey or extracted honey if three situations arise at the same time:

1. Significant concentration of TUTU BUSHES, a shrub that can grow up to 20 feet, found mostly along roadsides, stream banks and regenerative native bush;

2. High number of PASSION VINE HOPPERS that feed on tutu sap and secrete honeydew. Adults lay eggs until autumn, so population is higher in summer;

3. Presence of HONEY BEES that feed on honeydew, especially under hot, dry weather in the absence of more attractive food sources.

In 2008, Tutin was blamed for poisoning **22 people** who purchased comb honey from a Whangamata **hobbyist** beekeeper. Coromandel beekeepers have since been taking precautions by harvesting earlier.

Hives in areas close to tutu bushes where passion vine hoppers are prevalent are most at risk. Risk areas include, but are not limited to Coromandel, Eastern Bay of Plenty and the top of the South Island.

Hobbyists and market traders that do not test their honey must take precautions.

To obtain more information and to see if your honey is at risk, watch:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZO-Loed8pWw&feature=youtu.be>



All honey for sale must comply with the Standard. The maximum level is 0.7 milligrams of tutin per kilogram of honey and comb

Donating and bartering are forms of trade that must also comply with the standard. Beekeepers, packers and exporters are all liable for prosecution if someone is poisoned by honey.

A guide to compliance provided by Ministry of Primary Industries - *Manatū Ahu Matua* (MPI), explains what you must do and includes information on how testing is done.

For queries or any additional information, please contact: bpsc.info@gmail.com

Adapted from Bee Products Standards Council. For more information see www.bpsc.org.nz

News from last Club Day

WBC Inc - Club Meeting 3 December 2016

Twelve first time attendees at the club day.

Paul Martin reiterated the need to be on a 'beekeeper list' if your honey is to be sold for export. The list links you to a risk management plan (RMP) and in our case its Northland Pure Honey's RMP. You also need to pay \$178.25 into MPI's official assurance programme (OAP) in order to get export certification (AP12) – just go onto our website, there is a link there to apply for an AP12. It takes about 4 weeks to process your application. Put the number you are given onto our harvest declaration form when extracting.

The traceability of exported honey seems to be getting more complex, more regulated.

NPH are currently looking for local outlets for this season's honey now that Manuka Health are no longer interested in NPH's honey.

Paul gave an update from the ApiNZ Board. Formation of the Board started in June and now has a full time CEO and a permanent chairman. Kaikoura beekeepers are being supported by ApiNZ.

David Pullen gave an update of progress at the NPH extraction plant. An email was sent out with dates for working bees for construction of the honey storage shed next to the extraction plant (end of Limeburners Street, Morningside).

For information on Tutin go to the members' area on our website and select 'resources from club day presentations'. All honey extracted at the Plant will be tutin tested.

Seasonal Bee Keeping Information (David and David)

- Hives/apiaries are doing it tough in many places. Suggested it was due to intermittent nectar supply because of cool dull days hampering nectar production and then wet weather washing the nectar off the flowers.
- Early split hives going badly – weather related and/or poorly mated queens.



- Varroa is back – strips taken out in winter (4 or 5 months ago) may need to be replaced. 'Mite Away' is effective but has a big vapour phase. You could try using food grade mineral oil spray (fog). Or oxalic acid (see a bee book for details)
- You have high levels of varroa if you see them or if 1 in 10 drone brood has a mite. You have a very heavy varroa infestation if you see bees with spiral wing virus.
- Regardless, always dose for varroa after the last of your honey is extracted.
- Discussed signs of nosema – dead bees out the front of the hive, lethargic clusters of bees. Dose with cider vinegar in food or poured over frames.
- Queen quality – may not be being fed properly due to the weather (poor nectar sources). You could unite hives and split again when the weather improves. Use a lavender hydrosol spray when uniting hives.
- Mike Fox and David Herbert have hives for sale
- Ross Insulation have hive lids for sale

Club meeting closed at 12:10 then sausages, chips and hive time.





Call for contributions

If you would like to make a contribution to this newsletter, we invite you to email your submission to

wbccommunication@gmail.com

Club Day

Whareora Hall

10.15am

Bring:

- Cash for the produce table
- Produce for the produce table
- Your loyalty card to show at the door
- Bee suits

Directions

From SH1, turn off to *Kensington*. Turn left into *Mill Road*, then right at *Whareora Rd*. Keep on *Whareora Rd* until it joins *Pataua North Rd* and carry on for a few more minutes. The hall is on the right. Park on hall side of road.

Financial Information

Whangarei Bee Club Incorporation

Bank balances as at 20 Nov 2016

Operating account 3,015.36

Savings account 14,985.24

Total funds at 20 Nov 2016 18,000.60

Plus income from

Membership fees 990.00

Book sales 270.00

Hive sales 1,600.00

Interest received 21.48

2,881.48

20,882.08

Less expenditure

Bank fees 1.60

Book purchases 900.00

Hall hire 65.00

Licences 47.44

Club and training day provisions 53.53

Website 23.00

RWT on interest 7.09

1,097.66

Total balance at 20 Dec 2016 19,784.42

Made up of

Operating account 4,784.79

Savings account 14,999.63

19,784.42

News/sites to check out

Wasps cost 8.8million/year:

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/nelson-mail/news/wasp-wipeout/87318217/wasps-cost-beekeeping-industry-88m-a-year--wasp-wipeout>

Aussie "mānuka" just as powerful as our mānuka:

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/aussie-manuka-honey-powerful-kiwi-cousin-study-says>

Beard of bees to promote apian benefits:

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/oddstuff/87176018/Egyptian-man-grows-Beard-of-Bees-hopes-to-promote-apan-benefits>

Hives stolen from Tauranga roadside:

<http://www.sunlive.co.nz/news/143344-beehives-stolen-from-tauranga-roadside.html>

Pest-busting wasp saves \$488million:

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/the-country/news/article.cfm?c_id=16&objectid=11760113

International success for Niuean honey:

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/international/programmes/datalinepacific/audio/201828090/niue-honey-celebrates-international-success>

Urban beehive rental growing in popularity:

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/life-style/87770370/Urban-beehive-rental-growing-in-popularity>