THE WHANGAREI BEE CLUB

"HELPING BEEKEEPERS KEEP BEES"

Monthly Newsletter

Issue: 242 July 2025

Upcoming Events and Notices

This Club Day: 5th July **Next Club Day: 2nd August**

Whareora Hall 10.00am

What to bring:

- Your **Membership card** to show at the door
- **Cash** for the produce table, p**roduce** 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.

July Club Day

We plan to show a documentary – bean bags, blankets and popcorn will be provided!

No hive time as it is too wet and cold, let's keep those bees snug!

Club Day Duty Roster

Set Up Hall From 9am	Volunteers needed
Set up in Kitchen 9am & Set up Lunch	Lorna
Wash up Kitchen from Lunch	Volunteers needed
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.

News from last Club Day

Club Day Summary 7th June 2025

Steve Henderson was our guest speaker from the Northland Regional Council (NRC).

He is a long-term NRC biosecurity officer and has vast experience with terrestrial pests in our region, both animal and plant. The main focus of his discussion was the control and eradication of Argentine ants. Here are some points from his presentation:

- This time of year, the ants have shifted from protein to carbohydrate as their food source which makes apiaries a target. They are a year-round threat to hives. They eat brood and honey.
- Human traffic moves them around unknowingly – transporting hives from place to place for example.
- NRC bylaw says you cannot move them knowingly.
- He gave the example of the Warehouse nursery infested with them and selling to the public unknowingly – knowing they had ants but not knowing they were Argentine.
- Argentine ants are big breeders and extremely aggressive. They kill everything in their insect world. They can expand their nests 50m per year.
- Their weaknesses are they have wings but cannot fly. They don't like the cold or wet. They are confined to Northland, Nelson, and Rotorua.
- Much smaller than normal ants but huge numbers of them. No formic acid smell. They move in columns.
- Controlled using fipronil in a bait. The same chemical in cat flea treatment. It works on the ants because its slow acting. The ants take it back to their numerous nests and fed to the queens and kills them. The nests have multiple queens essentially in silos that communicate with each other – probably because they are from the same genetics, so are all related based on the single initial invasion to the country. Collectively they are very smart and learn from what is happening to each individual nest, hence a slow acting poison is needed so all the nests / silos are killed together.
- The bait is expensive because Landcare sold the patent to Fly Busters. The bait needs to be bee proof if in the hive. It is a protein-based bait for use in Spring / Summer. Salmon paste can be used as a bait to test if the ants are present. You can take them to NRC for identification – freeze them first.
- Key Industries (website here) sell ant sand and fipronil. You have to get it right the first time. There is no second chance.
- You have to bait the whole area in one metre grids with small amounts of bait protected from sunshine – the bait needs to remain moist.
- Contact Steve at NRC for further treatment details.

Steve also talked about controlling German wasps (Vespex etc.). Paper wasps (fly spray and squash the nest afterwards). Possums – potential for genetic control is a work in progress.

We thanked Steve for a highly informative talk.

Morgan then presented her PowerPoint called – Debunking Bee Myths – see below.

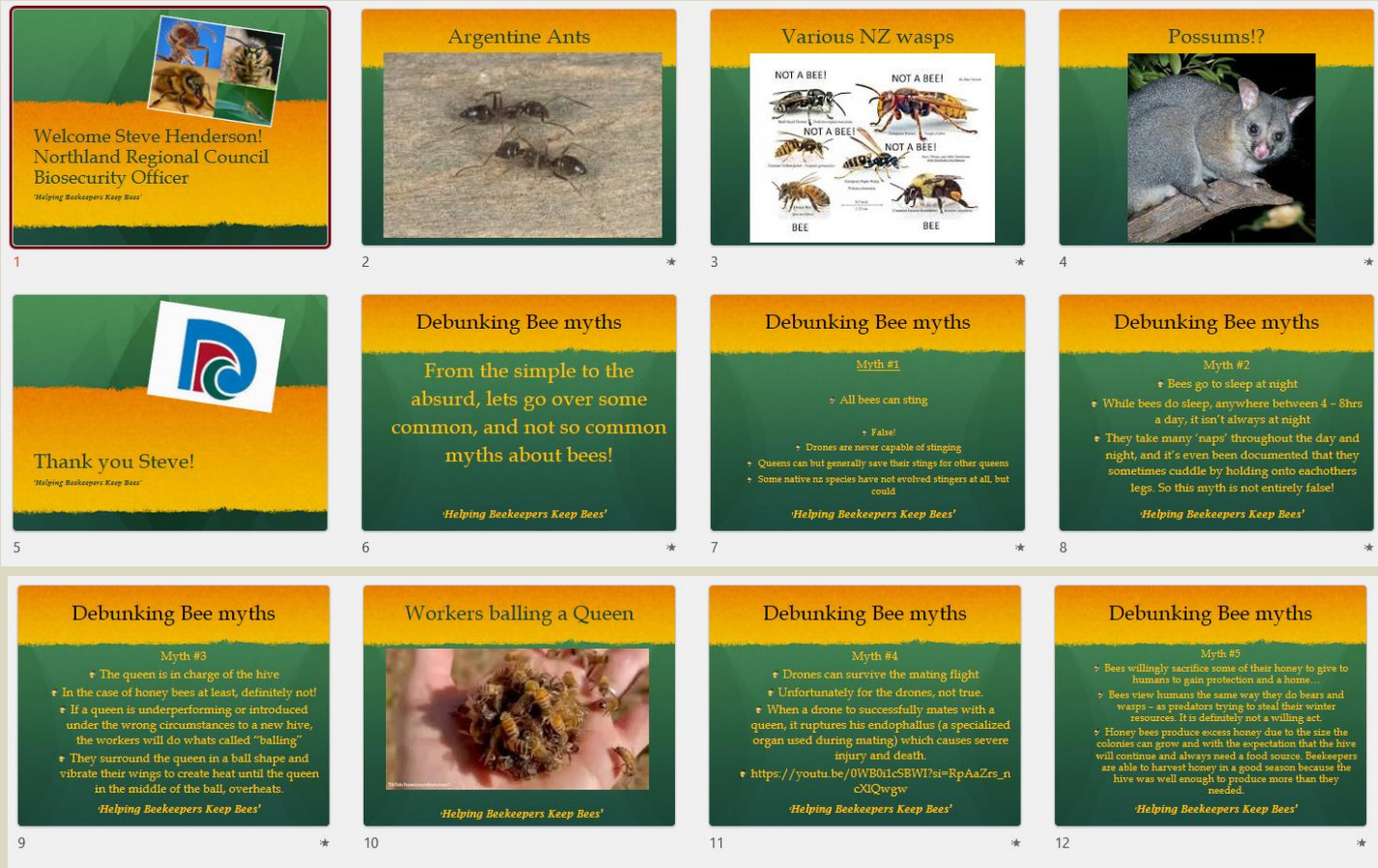
Nic Nacs

Bryce brought in a bunch of flowers that are still flowering in his area:

- Dombeya
- Red pocus is finishing now.
- Camelias – single flowers are more attractive to bees than double flowers.

Many flowers that should not are still flowering now so there may be a floral issue come Springtime. Orchardists are concerned.

News from last Club Day



Video link: Queen and Honeybee's Wedding Flight

Apiarist's Advocate: Latest news

On the movement of the honeybee queen in the hive

Abstract: A honeybee colony is a complex and dynamic system that emerges out of the interactions of thousands of individuals within a seemingly chaotic and heterogeneous environment. At the figurative core of this system is the honeybee queen, responsible for the growth and reproduction of the eusocial superorganism. In this study, we examine the interaction between the queen and her surrounding environment by analysing her movement patterns using mathematical models and computational approaches. We employed a visual tracking system to observe three queens of Apis mellifera within their colonies over a three-week period and analysed sets of quality tracklets to provide observational evidence regarding the queens' motion-related decision-making. Contrary to expectations, we found that the queen's short-term motion characteristics—such as speed and turning—were remarkably invariant across distinct hive regions, suggesting a lack of direct environmental modulation at short timescales. Yet, long-term patterns showed structured and strategic behaviour. Inter-stop distances followed a power-law distribution, and queens repeatedly revisited specific spatial zones over multi-day timescales. These results indicate a dual-scale movement strategy that is not captured by standard random walk models, highlighting internal state or memory-based navigation. Our findings suggest that queen movement is shaped by temporally layered processes that may support brood nest stability, efficient egg-laying, and colony cohesion. (Click Title to read more)

pī·ā·ora BEES GIVING LIFE | APICULTURE NEW ZEALAND

Māori Beekeepers: Reframing New Zealand's Apiculture Narratives

Abstract: New Zealand's historical apiculture narratives are dominated by the colonial settlers' experiences of beekeeping, which have marginalised Māori experiences. This has perpetuated the notion that, historically, Māori had little to do with beekeeping. However, this article contests this notion and demonstrates that after the introduction of the European, or western honeybee Māori were active participants in the apiculture industry, both as commercial traders and beekeepers. Moreover, this article explores the current contributions that Māori beekeepers make to New Zealand's apiculture industry but continue to be ignored by the apiculture industry. Despite this, this article shows that Māori beekeepers are making important contributions in the apiculture research space, working with researchers and research institutions to explore climate change impacts, floral honey diversity in the native forests and aspects of honeybee colony health.

Apiculture New Zealand welcomes Minister of Biosecurity's appointment of the New Zealand Bee Health & Biosecurity Trust (NZBB New Website Link)

The Minister of Biosecurity, Hon Andrew Hoggard has advised the Apiculture New Zealand Chair of the appointment of the New Zealand Bee Health & Biosecurity Trust (NZBB) as the management agency for the Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan) Order 1998 (AFB NPMP), under section 100D of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Apiculture New Zealand welcomes the appointment which sees the existing AFB Pest Management Agency's governance model move from having ApiNZ as the overall management entity to a standalone agency. This would give the Agency the potential to fulfil a broader biosecurity mandate.

The 6th N.Z. Honey Bee Research Symposium
August 28th 2025. Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington

Registrations now open

This annual symposium has proved popular with apiculture enthusiasts keen to hear the latest New Zealand research on all thing's bees.

REGISTER HERE NOW

Registration will close at **5pm, Monday 18 August.**

Attendance is capped at 120 people however and may closer prior to this date.

Present your honey at Apimondia

This year's Apimondia event in Denmark is now offering the opportunity for every participant country to present five of its genuinely unique honeys for showcasing at the 'Global Honey Bar'.

The goal of the Global Honey Bar is to celebrate the diversity of honey worldwide and to give all participants at the conference the chance to embark on a sweet honey journey around the globe. Each honey presented will have its own website and QR code.

New Zealand's Apimondia representative Maureen Conquer is now calling for beekeepers interested in presenting a honey for this international showcase to contact her direct. Maureen will make a selection of the honeys to represent New Zealand and benefit from this unique opportunity.

For details on how you can participate, including information on how to provide samples, email Maureen@wildforage.co.nz or

phone 021 956 349.

Financial Statement

Whangarei Bee Club Incorporation

Opening Bank Balances as at 21 April 2025

Operating Account		2,235.06
Savings Account		36,323.29
Total Funds		38,558.35
Plus Income From		
New Members	-	
Hives & Bee equipt sales	-	
Renew Memberships	-	
Book sale	-	
Interest-01	78.13	
		78.13
		38,636.48
Less Expenditure		
Bank Fees	-	
RWT -acct01	35.16	
Club Day Expenses	163.79	
Internet cost- honey	688.68	
Web Site - OnLine designs	50.60	
Honey Competition	424.60	
Whareora Hall Hire	80.00	
AFB yearly levy	53.15	
Xero - Monthly Sub	129.38	
		1,625.36
		37,011.12
Total Balances as at 20 May 2025		
Operating Account	1,644.86	
Savings Account	35,366.26	
		37,011.12

Other News and websites to check out

Financial chief leaves Comvita

World Bee Day: NZ leads world in ongoing battle to keep bees healthy and productive

Milder winters take toll on southernmost bee colonies

Māori honey producer stung by mānuka rules, fights for future

Taranaki councillor and honey industry supporter Neil Walker made officer of the NZ Order of Merit

Manuka honey firm Comvita names Karl Gradon new CEO

Small Business: A royal new venture with King Bees Honey

Leadership Shakeups at Major Mānuka Honey Companies

Scientists identify culprit behind biggest-ever U.S. honeybee die-off

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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