

Upcoming Events and Notices

This Club Day: 7th June

Next Club Day: 5th July

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.

June Club Day

- What's happening in the hives?
- Member Time for questions.
- Hive Time

Lorna and Sue are away this month, so we need volunteers to set up the kitchen for teas and coffees and for lunch as well as the other jobs on club day.



Apiarist's Advocate

[May 2025](#)

**Honey Competition Results
from May in this Newsletter**

Club Day Duty Roster

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

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 3rd May 2025

AGM

Opened at 10.12am

Apologies: Morgan Claire and Sue Young.

We had the required quorum and the AGM proceeded. Andrew chaired the meeting. The financials for WBC and NPH were available on the WBC website.

Andrew moved that the minutes from the last AGM be accepted. Mike Fox seconded. Approved.

Sylvie presented the Treasurer's report. She let members know that the Extraction Plant is running at a significant loss and so NPH will look at closing in its current form. The Committee is looking at setting up a modified version of the Plant at our Whareora Hall apiary site.

Andrew moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Carlo Lang seconded.

Andrew presented the President report on behalf of Morgan who thanked the WBC committee and the NPH directors and club day helpers for their contributions to the running of the club.

Andrew moved the President's report be accepted. Mike Fox seconded.

Election of Officers

Suzie stepped down from the committee but will remain as the newsletter coordinator.

Thank you, Suzie, for your excellent work on the committee over the years. We really appreciated your involvement and thank you so much for continuing with the newsletter.

Tony Wild and Mike Fox put their names forward to join the committee. Tony's nomination was seconded by Carlo and Mike's nomination was seconded by Melva.

Welcome gentlemen.

The rest of the committee will remain.

Your WBC Committee is:

President: Morgan Clair

Vice President: Andrew Stinear

Secretary: Vincent Lane

Treasurer: Karin De Beer

Newsletter: Suzie Scourfield (not on the committee)

Membership: Janine Stubbs

Committee members: Danny Vendt, Tony Wild, Mike Fox

Sharon Berridge-Stott will be the 'meet and greet' person on club days.

News from last Club Day

AGM General Business:

Our Extraction Plant is no longer viable economically. We are seeing fewer extractions year on year. We relied on several commercial beekeepers to keep the numbers up and they are no longer using our Plant. MPI export licensing is getting more and more expensive.

Andrew and Morgan met with the Whareora Hall committee and agreed that the area around the hives has been set aside for our use. In theory we could move the current extraction room, located at Barfoote's, to this area. We could operate similar to a "food truck" license which excludes needing to pay for the MPI export fees.

Council rules around "food truck" licensing are not as expensive as MPI export fees. We would still be able to sell our honey locally. We would still have to test for tutin.

For this to work we will need some club members to complete a 'food safe' course which WBC will pay for. These 'qualified' members will need to be present when a 'non-qualified' member does an extraction. There will still be a small extraction charge to cover wear and tear.

As a "Club" extraction facility and not a business (as NPH has been) we are then able to apply for grant funding to help with running expenses. That should help our finances a lot.

Questions asked:

- our arrangement with the Whareora Hall will need to be formalized.
- Andrew has investigated what equipment we could get to take the place of the current hot room.
- Water supply will need to be set up.
- A power supply will need to be set up.
- Is selling the Plant an option? Some of the equipment is at the end of its life and has little resale value. We can try to sell what we can.
- The general feeling is this project is worth looking into. It will involve club members being more hands-on with their extractions. As well this is a much cheaper option compared with the current arrangement.

AGM closed at 10.45am

Club Day Meeting

Andrew talked about his troubles with mites and wax moth in one of his hives. He has put strips in and is waiting to see. He has shut it down for better defense. David Herbert suggested closing it to the smallest possible space, therefore a smaller space to heat – maybe transfer to a nuc.

His other hives are doing well. He stressed the importance of timing when using mite treatments.

David Pullen and Bob Sampson use oxalic acid pads with success. Melva said the bees chuck it out and Bob said this is how it works – makes them come into contact with the pads.

New pads need to be added every 3 weeks ideally as that is the length of the brood cycle. You need to keep doing it.

Adrian uses Bt spray to protect waxed frames from moths when storing over winter.

Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) is generally considered safe for honeybees and other pollinators when used according to label instructions. While Bt is toxic to certain insect larvae, it does not directly harm bees.

Other members have also seen wax moth in their working hives.

Wasps are a problem too. Try to find their entrance hole(s) in the ground and upend a bottle (with petrol in it) to completely block the hole and that gasses the wasps.

Pat Vendt won the raffle. Congrats Pat!

Nic Nacs: Mike Fox uses a 'Lazy Susan' arrangement to remove supers. Makes it easier to blow off the bees.

Honey Competition Results

We had lots of entries in the 2025 Honey Competition. Congratulations to the winners of each category and to our Cup Winner Geoff Guild and Shield winner Bev Bristowe.



THANK
YOU

Thank you, to our judges, Vince Lane and Karin de Beer, who did a fabulous job.

Also, to our wonderful sponsors for all the great prizes. (see back page for all sponsors)

Whangarei Bee Club
HONEY SHOW RESULTS 2025

Max = 200

CLASS 1. GRANULATED HONEY DARK		POINTS	181 Melva Ward
1	11	POINTS	
2		POINTS	
3		POINTS	
CLASS 2. LIQUID HONEY DARK		POINTS	193 Morgan
1	15	POINTS	177 Karin De Beer
2	1	POINTS	170 Adrian Tonks
3	16		
CLASS 3. GRANULATED HONEY MEDIUM		POINTS	197 ✓ Bev Bristowe
1	13	POINTS	193 Vince Lane
2	3	POINTS	188 Suzie Scourfield
3	18		
CLASS 4. LIQUID HONEY MEDIUM		POINTS	197 ✓ Bev Bristowe
1	14	POINTS	189 Janine Stubbs
2	5	POINTS	188 Geoff Guild
3	25		
CLASS 5. GRANULATED HONEY LIGHT		POINTS	
1		POINTS	
2		POINTS	
3		POINTS	
CLASS 6. LIQUID HONEY LIGHT		POINTS	196 ✓ Sara Ball
1	20	POINTS	193 Karin De Beer
2	2	POINTS	189 Janine Stubbs
3	6		
CLASS 7. CREAMED HONEY		POINTS	198 ✓ Geoff Guild
1	24	POINTS	196 ✓ Vince Lane
2	4	POINTS	
3		POINTS	



CLASS 10. HONEY BEVERAGE		POINTS	190 Suzie
1	19	POINTS	187 Geoff Guild
2	23	POINTS	
3		POINTS	
CLASS 11. WAX NOVELTY		POINTS	185 Janine Stubbs
1	7	POINTS	
2		POINTS	
3		POINTS	
WINNER OF CUP Geoff Guild		POINTS	198
WINNER OF SHIELD Bev Bristowe		POINTS	197 (x2)
3rd Overall Sara Ball / Vince Lane		POINTS	196
4th Overall Morgan / Karin / Vince		POINTS	193
PEOPLE'S CHOICE Geoff Guild		POINTS	Creamed honey





APICULTURE

NEW ZEALAND

Apimondia World Beekeeping Awards

Mead, Beeswax, Photography, Books, Journals, Poster, Innovation and more.

For more information on how to enter, [click here](#).

Māori honey producer stung by mānuka rules, fights for future

A Māori honey producer on the East Coast is feeling the pinch of a weak global honey market and stringent honey regulations.

Rangi Raroa has worked in the industry for two decades and has tasted the sweet success of a thriving industry, but he's now in survival mode.

"We haven't been able to sell honey in the last three years and we're right at the stage of winding up, walking away from the hives because you can't give them away."

Five years ago, producers experienced a boom industry. In the decade leading up to 2020, the development of mānuka honey helped accelerate the growth of New Zealand's beekeeping industry.

[Click on title to read more.](#)

World Bee Day: New Zealand colony losses ease, bucking global trend.

May 20th is World Bee Day, and this year's message is a call to action for sustainable practices that support bees, improve food security, and protect biodiversity in the face of mounting climate pressures.

New Zealand has a flourishing population of honeybees cared for by 8190 registered beekeepers who manage 520,000 hives across the country.

[Click on title to read more.](#)



"Those are attorney bees. They represent the killer bees."

Bee alert: Warning after 250 million insects escape truck crash in US

A truck crash that set 250 million bees free has sparked warnings in the western US, with police telling people to avoid swarms of the stinging insects.

The accident happened in Washington state in the Far Northwest of the country, when a semi-trailer carrying a load of hives overturned.

"250 million bees are now loose," wrote Whatcom County Sheriff [on its social media page](#).

[Click on title to read more.](#)

Beekeepers succeeding against varroa mites

Beekeepers across the country are gaining the upper hand against varroa mite.

Apiculture New Zealand said results from the New Zealand Colony Loss Survey 2024 show that loss rates caused by [varroa mites](#) fell to 4.6% during the 2024 winter, from 6.4% during winter 2023.

Varroa mites were the number one threat to bees over winter for the previous three years.

Chief scientist at Manaaki Whenua and survey director for the NZ Colony Loss Survey, Pike Stahlmann-Brown, said this continues a general downward trajectory since the 2021–2022 surveys.

[Click on title to read more.](#)

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

Taking NZ honey to the next level

Varroa mite threatens Australia's horticulture

Dutch honeybee winter losses top 20% for third year running

Tariff anxiety hits Canadian honey producers

Kiwi author Josie Laird opens up about her love of bees

Egmont founder says Huatai stake means growth, new jobs

Mānuka honey glut over, but trade wars could be sour for beekeepers

Opportunities for honey as NZ and Saudi Arabia look to expand economic cooperation

Packaging innovation a key step to boosting NZ exports

Creating a buzz on World Bee Day

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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NZBeeswax

PGG

Farmlands

Mattersville

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