

Upcoming Events and Notices

This Club Day: 6th June

Next Club Day: 4th 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: Guest Speaker: Dr. Ngaire Hart

Dr. Ngaire Hart is a pioneering New Zealand native bee specialist and environmental researcher, widely celebrated as the first Māori woman to earn an engineering PhD from AUT University. Her vital work focuses on protecting ngaro huruhuru (New Zealand's native bees) by studying their nesting behaviors and advocating for habitat conservation.

[Native Bees of New Zealand Poster](#)



[Apiarist's Advocate](#)

June edition

June Club Day:

We have had to postpone our Honey Competition this year but will instead have a People's Choice competition at the June Club Day. Please bring along your honey samples for taste testing!



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.

Future Club Day Suggestion

We are looking at holding a plant swap at a future Club Day. So, get your seedlings and cuttings prepared now.

News from last Club Day

Club Day Summary 2nd May 2026

AGM

Opened at 10.25am

Andrew Stinear chaired the AGM. Vincent Lane took the minutes.

Apologies: Morgan Claire, Bob Sanson, Dave Herbert, Mike Fox.

Andrew moved that the apologies be accepted. Sue Young seconded.

We had the required quorum (20) and the AGM proceeded.

The Financials for WBC and NPH were available on the WBC website.

Andrew discussed last year's minutes relating to changes at the extraction plant to make it economically viable.

Andrew moved that the minutes from the last AGM be accepted. Adrian Tonks seconded. Approved.

Treasurer's Report

Sylvie Roblot presented the Treasurer's report. She let members know that the Extraction Plant had been running at a significant loss and so NPH is in the process of winding up as a business entity. The Plant will remain operational at Barfootes but not in its original form. The Committee has set up a modified and simplified extraction process. No filtration available during extraction. The Harvest Declaration form has been modified to reflect the new pricing structure. The final significant NPH asset still to sell are the 11 drum pallets in the storage shed at Barfootes. The committee is now attempting to sell these.

Whangarei District Council has audited the Plant and we now have MPI certification at Food Grade level. This allows members who extract at the Plant to sell their honey if they want. There will be no further site audits as long as there are no customer complaints. WDC require us to keep extractions traceable i.e. the unique extraction number process will remain.

The updated WBC constitution has been altered in line with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 'Schedule of Amendments'. The Act modernizes NZ governance, financial reporting, and compliance for non-profits. Our changes were submitted, and our updated club constitution has been processed and approved.

We have now adopted on-line meetings to make any future changes to the constitution, rather than the previous in-person meetings such as we had to have at the library.

Tier 4 not-for-profit reporting requirements mean we no longer need to be financially audited. This is a cost saving for us.

Sylvie completed the annual accounts as at 31/12/2025 for Whangarei Bee Club, for the 2026 Income tax year. Since WBC have re-registered the society under the new Act 2022, requirements have changed for reporting.

Sylvie prepared the accounts as usual and also prepared the new reporting format, which is simpler. She has put both together for our members as we have just transitioned to the new Act since our re registration.

The full report is on the WBC website titled: Financial Statements Whangarei Bee Club Incorporated for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Andrew moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Geoff Guild seconded.

President's Report

Andrew noted there was no formal President's report. On behalf of Morgan he thanked the WBC committee and the NPH directors and club day helpers for their contributions to the running of the club.

Election of Officers

We were happy to welcome back Suzie Scourfield to the committee and new committee member Geoffrey Guild. Thank you both for joining. The rest of the committee will remain unchanged.

News from last Club Day

Your WBC Committee is:

President: Morgan Clair

Vice President: Andrew Stinear

Secretary: Vincent Lane

Treasurer: Karin De Beer

Newsletter: Suzie Scourfield

Membership: Janine Stubbs

Committee members: Danny Vendt, Tony Wild, Mike Fox, Geoffrey Guild

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

AGM General Business

Tony nominated Bryce Gibbons for WBC life membership. He continues to be a great supporter of the club. Bryce is always available for bee advice. He has donated many queens to the club hives over the years.

Andrew moved that Bryce's nomination be accepted. Tony seconded. All agreed.

AGM closed at 11.05am

Club Day Meeting

Andrew talked about his queen troubles which he is blaming on the oxalic acid strips he's using. He's lost two queens and got replacements from Bryce Gibbons.

Andrew is now trialing Swedish cloth with the oxalic treatment, instead of the strips. Swedish cloth (dishcloth) is an eco-friendly, highly adsorbent cleaning cloth made from a blend of natural cellulose and cotton. It acts as a cross between a sponge and a paper towel. It can adsorb 20 times its weight in liquid. That's potentially a lot of oxalic acid solution.

Waiting to see how that works out for the queens.

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

Andrew is leaving a full $\frac{3}{4}$ box of honey for each hive over winter.

Adrian told us about his search for a lost queen. Also, he put a box with frames over a pile of bees on the ground and they went up and settled on the frames – I may have missed part of that story.

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

Wasps are once again a winter problem. 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 gases the wasps.

Otherwise use Hawkeye or as Tony suggested make your own Hawkeye bait substitute using Boric acid. There are recipes on the internet.

Ashok suggested we set up a map on our website showing where members live. This will help new members find a potential mentor in their area.

June Club Day

Morgan has arranged for Ngaire Hart to be our guest speaker for June club day. Ngaire is an expert on NZ native bees.

As you know we have had to postpone our Honey Competition this year but will instead have a People's Choice competition on June club day. Please bring along your honey samples for taste testing!

Beekeeping News from NZ and around the world.....

ApiNZ Members to Decide Between Industry Unity or Dissolution at AGM

On June 5, Apiculture New Zealand (ApiNZ) members will vote on the future of beekeeper representation in New Zealand.

At the ApiNZ annual general meeting (AGM) later this week, members will vote on whether the organisation will transition to a new constitution, fees structure and governance model which would take the interim name Honey and Bees NZ.

If that resolution doesn't pass, members will then be asked to approve a wind up of the lobby group's operations.

[Click on title for more information](#)

Watching out for Wax Moths.

Bees make so many useful and delicious products – honey, wax, propolis, royal jelly – it makes sense that humans aren't the only species that want to access them. But unlike humans, who tend to their bees and look after them in exchange for honey, other species simply invade and destroy.

The Wax Moth is one example. These creatures feed on beeswax, pollen, the remains of larva, and other leftovers in the hive. If you or your bees don't deal with them, they can damage brood comb and eventually destroy your colony. If you're not careful, they can also demolish comb stored over winter, wasting months of your bees' work.

[Click on title for more information](#)



"The swarm of bees you ordered is ready. Would you like us to send them to Google or the hot-dog vendor who made you wait in line behind a woman in 1986?"

Cartoon by Jon Adams

The Queen Bee of Ōhope.

One woman.

Thirty hives.

Thousands upon thousands of bees.

And a lifelong love affair with some of nature's most essential pollinators. Paula Sharp interviews beekeeper Jewelle Lloyd.

[Click on the title for more information](#)

Drone Bees and Digital Hives: How New Zealand's Beekeeping Industry Is Entering the Era of Intelligent Agriculture

There was a time when beekeeping depended almost entirely on human observation.

A skilled beekeeper could walk through an apiary and instinctively recognise when something felt wrong. The sound of the hive, the movement of workers at the entrance, the smell of the brood box, and the behaviour of the colony all provided valuable clues about hive health.

Those instincts still matter enormously today.

But the reality is that modern beekeeping is becoming more complex, more demanding, and more technologically advanced than ever before. Across New Zealand, artificial intelligence, robotics, automation, and remote monitoring systems are beginning to transform how hives are managed, protected, and understood.

[Click on the title for more information](#)

Financial Statement

Whangarei Bee Club Incorporation	
Opening Bank Balances as at 1 March 2026	
Operating Account	2,426.53
Savings Account	<u>35,644.52</u>
Total Funds	38,071.05
Plus Income From	
New Members	110.00
Hives & Bee equipt sales	115.30
Renew Memberships	234.00
Book sale	45.00
Extractions	654.00
Interest-01	124.87
	<u>1,283.17</u>
	39,354.22
reimbst NPH current account	(78.23)
Less Expenditure	
AFB Yearly cost	57.20
Bookkeeping cost 4 months + annual accts	697.50
RWT -acct01	56.18
Club Day Expenses (pizzas + milk bisc)	600.65
Purchases Stock jars and books (ex NPH)	150.23
Printing stationery	4.88
repairs maintenance	71.74
Whareora Hall Hire	240.00
Club hives	130.69
Tubin tests for extractions	457.89
website	108.10
Xero - Monthly Sub	214.77
	<u>2,711.70</u>
	36,642.52
Total Balances as at 20 May 2026	
Operating Account	929.31
Savings Account	<u>35,713.21</u>
	36,642.52

Other News and websites to check out

[Climate Shift Triggers Unusual Bee Activity Across the World](#)

[World Bee Day 2026: What Happens to Ecosystems When Bees Disappear?](#)

[Tweeddale collapse adds to mounting pressure in honey sector](#)

[Kiwi honey exporter Comvita bolsters future with \\$25 million capital raise](#)

[In the Yucatan, stingless bees provide sustainable livelihoods and a connection to Mayan culture](#)

Call for contributions

If you would like to contribute articles, recipes, photos or any other content for the newsletter we would love to hear from you!!

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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