

## Upcoming Events and Notices

**This Club Day: 7<sup>th</sup> March**

**Next Club Day: 4<sup>th</sup> April**

### 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.

### March Club Day

What is happening in the hives?

Review the WBC Constitution to re-register any changes to the updated Incorporated Societies Act by April 2026. Club members to vote on this.

This will be formalised at the AGM in May

### Coming up in April.....

Honey Competition



### Coming up in May....

AGM. We are always looking for new committee members, please email your expression of interest to [wbccommunication@gmail.com](mailto:wbccommunication@gmail.com)

### Club Day Duty Roster

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

### Apiarist's Advocate

Protecting New Zealand Bees –  
Vigilance, Surveillance, and  
Why Beekeepers Matter

[March Edition link](#)

# News from last Club Day

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## Club Day – 7<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### Welcome!



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## Club Day – 7<sup>th</sup> February 2026

- ⌘ Welcome back & Happy New year!
- ⌘ What's been going on in our hives over summer?
- ⌘ Member talk time
- ⌘ Nic Nac's Section
- ⌘ Bulletin
- ⌘ Lunch time
- ⌘ Hive Time – Weather dependent
- ⌘ Note: Hand out roster for names – March club day

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## What's been going on?

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We've made it through to the last month of summer! Anyone in the Maungatapere/ Whattiri area had a rough start with a large scale AFB outbreak. One site lost all 4 hives, 3 of which were strong enough coming into summer, they likely caught it by robbing sick hives. AFB can be very hard to detect in a hive that is newly infected.



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## Other hives entered summer in good condition and continue to thrive – with a honey harvest looming.



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## What's been going on?

- ⌘ Mite counts – has anyone done any since treating in spring? Or noticed varroa damage since treating?
- ⌘ Honey supering – How is the delay with the extraction plant affecting you?
- ⌘ Late summer splits – now is the time to get any final splits done before Dearth.
- ⌘ Ensure you leave enough honey for the bees if harvesting – Remember there is almost no nectar produced during heavy rainfall or in drought conditions.
- ⌘ Did the flooding affect any of our members? In what way?

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## What's been going on – Honey and splits videos!

- ⌘ Some short youtube videos on late summer splits and how to harvest honey.
- ⌘ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rn725H-PHkI> – splits
- ⌘ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pj2O3f1gSjs> – removing honey crop from hive
- ⌘ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nghxUhbz18> – Honey extraction

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## Member talk time

- ⌘ Have a topic you'd like to discuss? Questions from today's talk?
- ⌘ Now's the time to raise your hand!

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## Nic Nac's Section



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## Prize Draw

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## Bulletin

- Next Club day Saturday 7th March
- We are aiming to open extraction plant before next club meet – announcement will come out via email.
- Upcoming club events this year – Honey competition at April club meet. AGM in May – with a review and vote on the constitution. Club Open day first Saturday of November.
- Any other suggestions for what you want to see the bee club do this year, please put the in the suggestion box or email [whocommunication@gmail.com](mailto:whocommunication@gmail.com).
- If you are able and would like to give back to the beechub, we are still looking for new committee members – please email your expression of interest to the above email address by the end of April
- Please volunteer on the roster – even just helping for one club day makes a difference!

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## Hive Time

(when lunch is packed away)

- ⌘ New to Beekeeping – inside hall – Empty Hive – learn basics
- ⌘ Bees! The club has 2 hives at the moment – 1 bench hive and 1 FD langstroth – What will Bob be doing today?
- ⌘ **Please take care with hazards**
- ⌘ Wear protective clothing if you choose
- ⌘ Veils available upon request
- ⌘ We welcome children, but your children are your responsibility please

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**Extraction plant update:** We are waiting on the final inspection from WDC, and then we can officially open the plant!

This year will work differently from previous years - club members will be using the plant with 1 other club member at a time, helping each other with the extractions and cleanup afterwards. There will be a cleaning deposit, which will be refunded provided the equipment and plant are left in the state they were found in.

Inductions and instructions on how to use the equipment will be provided by a supervisor on the day.

There will still be a fee to use the plant, but we have not confirmed what that will be (less than previous years).

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

## Presentations and Questions and Answers from the recent MPI bee webinar

As you are aware the recent MPI bee webinar was held and provided the opportunity for beekeepers to ask a whole range of questions. Many answers were given on the night, but some needed more time to ensure that the questions were well considered and the answers as comprehensive as possible.

MPI have been receiving numerous calls since the webinar from people who were unable to attend asking for a copy of the presentations and Questions and Answers

Here are links to the [presentation](#) and [Q&As](#).

## Hornets in NZ

New Zealand's beekeeping industry is facing a very real biosecurity threat: the **yellow-legged hornet (*Vespa velutina*)**. If this hornet becomes established here, the impact on bees, beekeepers, and pollination would be severe. The good news is that early detection gives us the best chance of stopping it — and that's where everyday beekeepers and landowners can make a huge difference.

[Link to MPI webpage on Yellow Legged Hornets](#)

Club member, Geoff Guild shares with us his Nic-Nac....

I needed to move this Hive to a new location using the NZ Beekeepers book recommendation of 4 meters per day.

I made this sled so I could pull the hive after dark without a Bee Suit. The contraption worked perfectly even where the lawn was sloping. The hive had temporarily been on the lawn since Spring 2024.

I confess that a few bee stings mowing the lawn made moving the hive more of a priority.

The balance of the universe is finally restored with my patient Wife.



## My First Hive Inspection

Few moments compare to the excitement—and nerves—of opening a beehive for the very first time. Ana shares her experience as a new beekeeper: the sights, the stings, and the lessons learned from that first hands-on look inside the hive. Click on the title to read more

# Financial Statement

## Whangarei Bee Club Incorporation

Opening Bank Balances as at 1 January 2026

Operating Account	3,119.56
Savings Account	<u>35,623.72</u>
Total Funds	<u>38,743.28</u>

### Plus Income From

New Members	110.00
Hives & Bee equipt sales	101.60
Renew Memberships	60.00
Book sale	45.00
Refund current account from NPH ( sale forklift)	1,000.00
Interest-01	37.82
	<u>1,354.42</u>
	<u>40,097.70</u>

### Less Expenditure

Food grade Certificate ( WDC)	1,113.78
Bookkeeping costs	157.50
RWT -acct01	17.02
Club Day Expenses	174.42
repairs maintenance	14.65
Whareora Hall Hire	160.00
rounding	(0.60)
website	246.70
Xero - Monthly Sub	143.18
	<u>2,026.65</u>
	<u>38,071.05</u>

Total Balances as at 28 February 2026

Operating Account	2,426.53
Savings Account	<u>35,644.52</u>
	<u>38,071.05</u>

# Other News and websites to check out

Low honey harvest expected as North Island beekeepers grapple with storm effects

NZ Bee Health & Biosecurity course

How do bees make honey?

From Remote NZ Bush to Your Table: The Journey of New Zealand Manuka Honey

Award-winning Kaimai Range Honey family plans semi-retirement from bees

Welcome to Bee Breeding New Zealand

Preliminary study of the effects of honey bees (Apis mellifera) in Tongariro National Park

14 Day Beekeeper You Tube Channel

## 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](mailto: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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