

Upcoming Events and Notices

This Club Day: 3rd May

Next Club Day: 7th June

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.

May Club Day

This month we have our **AGM** (see below for agenda) and our **Honey Competition**. Tips for preparing honey for a competition were in last month's newsletter. You can use previous years' honey.

Registration for the honey competition closes at 9.30am and the AGM starts at 10.00 am



WBC AGM Agenda 3rd May 2025

Welcome.

Apologies.

Approval of last AGM minutes.

Finance Report.

Reviewer's Report.

President's Report.

Election of Officers.

General Business.



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.

Apiarist's Advocate

[Website link](#)

[April Magazine](#)

News from last Club Day

Club Day – 5th April 2025

Welcome!



'Helping Beekeepers Keep Bees'

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Club Day – 5th April 2025

- Welcome!
- Autumn – Time to winter down
- A practical lesson in bee communication
- Member talk time
- Nic Nac's Section
- Bulletin
- Lunch
- Hive Time – Weather dependent
- Note: Hand out roster for names – May club day

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It's Autumn! Time to winter down



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Autumn – Time to winter down

What is wintering down?

- Remove mite strips – usually after 6 weeks
- Control Robbing – reduce entrance space
- Remove empty space – frames with nothing going on, supers etc
- Drones begin to be removed once temps drop below 15C
- The Queen often begins reducing her laying rate
- Unite weak hives with stronger hives
- If not enough honey stores, ensure a good feeding routine of approximately every 3 weeks, depending on size of the feeder until the hive begins to cluster.

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Autumn – wintering down

What does clustering look like?



Bees begin to cluster when the outside temp reaches 14C

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A practical lesson in bee communication

The behaviour of bees

- Life within the bee colony appears at first glance to be chaotic and random. Yet, not only does the work of the colony get completed, honeybees done efficiently and accurately... How?
- Most bee species in the world are solitary however honeybees (Apis species of bees) have a caste system, drones, workers and a Queen – The highest level of socialisation. Managing to work together to organise colonies and create a surplus food storage for winter.
- A large factor in their success is their ability to communicate with each other

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Bee communication

- Bees communicate in a number of different ways, including through pheromones, sight and touch/vibrations.
- Inside the hive bees rely more on smell and touch, their antenna can also detect temperature and humidity changes so the workers will respond accordingly.
- The most famous form of communication is of course, dance!

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Bee communication – Dancing

- Most of the dances are used to inform other bees of the location of a food source
- As well as direction, the dancing bee regurgitates nectar during the dance, as a result of observer bees vibrating the comb with bagging signals, to provide information about the sugar concentration and flavour of the nectar.
- The fragrance of the flower is also passed on to the observing bees as an odour that clings to the waxy outside layer of the bee.
- The time of day the forager bee dances is also important as this indicates when the food is most available. The observer bees can remember this time and forage at the same time the next day. – Yes, bees can tell the time!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LA10TMCjT8>

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So just how complicated is bee dance? Let's find out!

In the field



On the comb



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Member talk time

Have a topic you'd like to discuss? Questions you want answered?


Now's the time to raise your hand!

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Nic Nac's Section



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Bulletin

- Extraction plant is officially closed. Further announcements to come on the future WBCs extracting.
- Honey competition & A.G.M. next club meet. Talk to a committee member about competition jars or refer to the newsletter for competition advice. Anything you wish to bring up for the A.G.M. must be submitted to Vince within the next week (28 days prior to A.G.M.)
- Next Club day Saturday 3rd May
- Please volunteers on the roster – even just helping for one club day makes a difference!

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Dany Vendt has Nucs for sale \$175 + GST
vendt@xtra.co.nz

FRAME CLEANING

Tai's Frame Cleaning Service \$1.50 per frame.
 For more info contact Tai Pullen 020 415 815 64
taipullen9@gmail.com
 516 State Highway 1 Otaika Whangārei

New Zealand's first beekeeper

A new book sheds light on a little-known historical figure.

Mary Bumby brought European honeybees to New Zealand in 1838 and became our very first beekeeper.

Doing so was no mean feat: a six-month voyage by sea, carrying two hives of live bees on her journey from England to Hokianga.

With access to Mary's own diary entries and historic records, Auckland novelist JM Laird has retold Mary's journey, and even uncovered some traditional beekeeping methods lost to time.

Click on title to read more.



APICULTURE NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER JOURNAL

The New Zealand Beekeeper journal is New Zealand's go-to online publication for all things beekeeping and honey-related. Published quarterly online by Apiculture New Zealand, articles cover a wide range of topics of interest to hobbyist and commercial beekeepers as well as others involved in the apiculture industry.

The journal is available in both an interactive flipbook version and downloadable pdf. Scroll down to start reading.

Any beekeeper or reader with an interest in bees can subscribe to *The New Zealand BeeKeeper* for free via the button below.

[Subscribe for free](#)

Manuka honey business on US tariff announcement

President Trump announced a raft of new tariffs from 10 to 50 percent. Imports from Aotearoa face a blanket 10 percent tariff. Last year Aotearoa sent 9 billion dollars' worth of goods to the US. New Zealand Manuka honey business, Egmont Honey exports to some massive US grocery chains. Founder James Annabell spoke to Lisa Owen.

Click on title to hear interview.

Season struggle for beekeepers

Lower summer weather temperatures, drought conditions in some areas, and honey prices still struggling have left many Nelson beekeepers grappling with unexpected challenges. In response to these difficulties, Waimea Weekly reached out to local beekeepers to see how these factors have affected honey production and what the future holds for those who depend on the industry.

Click on title to read more.

Inspector absence puts bee population 'under threat'

Northern Ireland's honeybees are "under threat" due to the absence of a bee inspectorate since last year, according to the chair of Ulster Beekeepers Association (UBKA).

The [bee inspector is responsible for supporting bee health](#) and addresses diseases such as American foulbrood (AFB) and European foulbrood (EFB) which affect honey bees.

Click on title to read more.



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

Aotearoa beekeepers are hoping a global mānuka honey glut is finally over, even as international markets become more volatile.

Weak honey prices and oversupply of the premium product led to high-profile business closures around the country in the last few years, including the recent collapse of Manuka Bioscience backed by rich lister Wayne Wright.

But tides could be turning. This month, Taranaki honey producer and exporter Egmont Honey was acquired by Chinese investment company Huatai Securities. Owner James Annabell said the sale showed global confidence in the mānuka honey market.

Click on title to read more.

Financial Statement

Whangarei Bee Club Incorporation

Opening Bank Balances as at 21 March 2025

Operating Account	3,185.36
Savings Account	36,276.69
Total Funds	39,462.05

Plus Income From

New Members	110.00
Hives & Bee equipt sales	-
Renew Memberships	60.00
Book sale	-
Interest-01	84.72
	<u>254.72</u>
	39,716.77

Less Expenditure

Bank Fees	-
RWT -acct01	38.12
Club Day Expenses	189.70
Hives & equipt purchase	-
Web Site - OnLine designs	50.60
Repairs Maintenance	800.00
Whareora Hall Hire	80.00
Bookkeeping	-
Xero - Monthly Sub	-
	<u>1,158.42</u>
	38,558.35

Total Balances as at 20 March 2025

Operating Account	2,235.06
Savings Account	36,323.29
	<u>38,558.35</u>

Other News and websites to check out.

Bee-autiful honey harvest in the Bay of Plenty

How did honeybees get to New Zealand

New pollen-replacing food for honeybees brings hope for survival

Science is giving beekeepers a better way to fight colony collapse

On The Up: Strong season for Bay of Plenty honey harvest

Dr. Mahsa McCauley: Advancing Beekeeping with AI at North Carolina A&T

Egmont Honey founder says Huatai stake means growth, new jobs

Warning issued to anyone buying honey at supermarkets

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:

Beequip

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NZBeeswax

PGG

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Mattersville

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