

## Upcoming Events and Notices

**This Club Day: 4<sup>th</sup> October**

**Next Club Day: 1<sup>st</sup> November**

### 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.

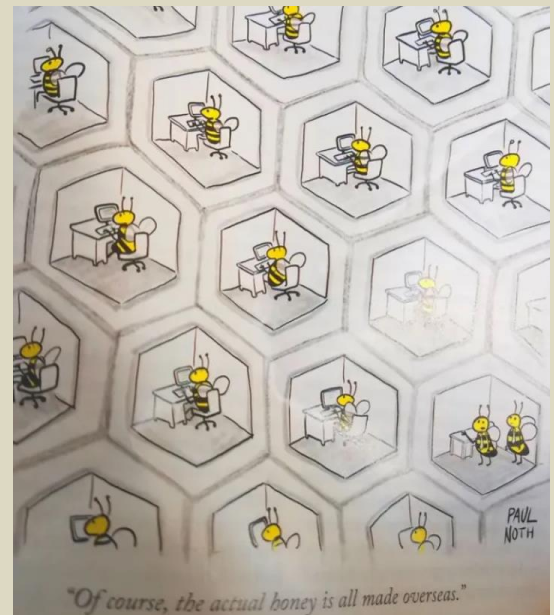
The hall is on the right. Please **do not** park on the road.

### October Meeting

We will be trialling a seed/seedling swap and trade, so bring along any you have to swap or trade.

Bob will do a disease inspection on our apiary hives; this could be of real interest to those newer beekeepers amongst us

Look at the possibility of future Zoom club day meetings and an Extraction Plant update.



*"Of course, the actual honey is all made overseas."*

### Club Day Duty Roster

Set Up Hall From 9am	Volunteers needed
Set up in Kitchen 9am & Set up Lunch	Sue & 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.

### MPI - Bee pests and diseases

Bees can be harmed or killed by some pests and diseases.

Beekeepers can help protect New Zealand bees from these biosecurity threats. Find out how to protect your bees, and what pests and diseases are present in New Zealand.

# News from last Club Day

## Club Day Summary 6<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Morgan talked about Spring related topics. Here is a summary of what was presented and discussed.

### Spring

- The ground is warming up and flowering is well underway.
- Need to treat for varroa as the increase in their numbers coincides with the increase in Spring brood.
- Be mindful of bee space – too much is hard for the bees to keep warm – too little and that might promote swarming.
- Keep an eye on food levels. Feed sugar if needed (autumn/winter use 2:1 sugar/water (67 Brix = sugar concentration of 67% in a liquid solution). In Spring to promote bee numbers use a more nectar-like recipe (1:1 going towards 2:1 water/sugar) i.e., slightly more water than sugar.
- Use some flotation device in the feeder to stop the bees from drowning – bracken or a piece of floating coreflute.
- Farmlands sugar syrup is cost effective and will last many months in an airtight sterile container (sterile to stop it fermenting). Hive Alive (liquid), or as a fondant in Spring, appears to help control sugar solution fermentation in situ.
- Moisture in the hive can be an issue in winter. Angle the hive forward so any rain coming in the entrance will drain out.
- If you have a grumpy hive(s) check it last so it does not wire up the whole apiary early on.
- More aggressive bees (Africanized) have better hygiene, therefore less disease.
- Looks like it is an early Spring for our region.

### Disease Inspection and Pests

- Nosema. Symptom is bee diarrhea out the front of the hive.
- Now is a suitable time to treat for varroa – before the brood gets going. Put in chemical varroa strips now before the honey flow starts. Be sure to alternate chemical types - Apistan / Bayvarol versus Apivar. Follow the instructions! We are all trying to minimize varroa chemical resistance.
- Alternatively, you can use oxalic acid anytime to treat for varroa. Treat every 6 – 8 weeks with towels / cardboard strips or use a vaporizer. Make up enough oxalic / glycerin solution for a couple of treatments (25g oxalic acid and 25ml glycerin per paper towel - see recipe below). Cardboard strips will take several days to absorb the solution at 25C. It is a slow process.
- Look out for 'deformed wing virus' and varroa mites in your drone brood as signs of significant varroa infestation.
- All treatments are tough on the hive. Varroa and bees are insects, so it affects them all. Your queen will be impacted for days, depending on the treatment.
- Varroa is spreading rapidly in Australia. It is now in South Australia. First detected in June 2022. Australia tried an eradication strategy for 14 months and realized it was not possible to control the spread of varroa.
- 1st November is the cutoff date for AFB inspections to be submitted to the agency. Go to HiveHub (for DECA holders).
- Parasitic Mite Syndrome (PMS) can look similar to AFB. It can also rope out (use a matchstick and don't over stir). The main difference is you can still see body parts if its PMS.
- You can do the AFB recognition course online in HiveHub. And refresher courses.
- You can buy an AFB test kit from suppliers (Ceracell etc.). Then send away for analysis.

## News from last Club Day (continued)

- We then discussed disposing of AFB infected hives. We have discussed this many times over the years – close the hive up once all the bees are in. Add petrol to kill the bees. Put the hive in a deep enough pit. Burn everything then cover up the pit. Do not use the same pit twice.
- Buying secondhand gear is always a risk. AFB spores can last for 30 years or more.
- AFB is more prevalent in warmer climates and in pollination areas where hives move around a lot. The current estimate suggests it is an issue in 3% of hives.
- Really useful to learn what healthy bee larvae look like. On a sunny day uncap some brood and check.
- Wasps have once again been with us all winter. This is the new norm.
- Argentine ants – refer to our July newsletter.
- Bumblebees are also around all winter these days – certainly not a pest.

### Beekeeping Gear

- Beware of cows and sheep around your hives. They can be rough.
- Residue from bee stings will remain in your gloves and aggravate your bees, so sanitize (bleach) them from time to time. Maybe change them seasonally.
- Thick nitrile gloves protect against stings. Blue gloves not black.
- Bees will go for black / dark clothing. Do not wear sunglasses.
- Smoker – be sure to position the insert legs so not to block the blow hole. Check the hole is not coked up with tar. Spread the legs to make it a tighter fit – there is a joke there, I am sure.
- Do not use dry bracken for fuel. Dried rosemary calms the bees. A ball of manuka helps to cool the smoke. If using a hessian sack for fuel, make sure it is clean (chemically). I use a mix of dried pine needles and hay. Use as little smoke as possible. Couple of puffs. Do not muck around. In summer you can mist them with sugar solution as an alternative to smoke.
- Do not wear perfume.
- Upset bees give off a banana-like smell. Close up the hive if you smell that. Come back when the suns out and try again.
- Flame your hive tool as a disease precaution, particularly when using between apiaries. Or at least rub it through the hot smoker residue when you have finished.
- Keep your hive tool and smoker clean. Get rid of propolis and wax buildup.
- Morgan showed us some beehive paraphernalia.
- Position your escape board correctly – through the hole and out the flange. Keep in place a maximum of 48 hours before they figure it out.
- Nic Nacs
- Discussed a liquid honey dispenser bought from Temu.

### **Spring Swarming**

Morgan has been getting phone calls from the concerned public about swarming. It's a reminder to us to check for signs of swarming with your own hives.

Also, if you are interested in swarm collecting then please provide your name and contact details so we can add you to the WBC website, or if you're listed as a swarm collector but are no longer interested, please let us know.

### **Recipe for Oxalic Acid**

25g Oxalic Acid & 25mL Glycerine per paper towel. Mix up quantity needed and pour about 30mL onto a paper towel, cover with wax paper then pour onto next paper towel.

### **FOR SALE**

Bryce and Craig Gibbons are taking orders for both Mated Queens and Nuc hives for late October phone or text Bryce 021 1084621 or Craig 021 0337807

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

## Far North animals' bylaw adopted

The Far North District Council has confirmed the new Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2025 has been adopted, setting clear rules to ensure animals are managed responsibly and addressing community concerns.

This includes Section 7 on keeping bees. ApiNZ members will be pleased to see that the Council has confirmed properties in rural and general coastal zones are excluded from 7(4) around hive number restrictions including placement. You can read more [here](#)

## Hives wanted in Avocado Orchard.

We are on a 4 Ha avocado orchard in Maungatapere, is there member who would like to supply a few hives for approximately 6 weeks October/ November during flowering.

We are no longer able to take on looking after our own hives. The bee club opened our eyes to the excellent dedicated work the beekeepers do in keeping the bees healthy.

Lesley Franklin

Franklin Orchard

Mobile: 0274495573

Email: [franklinorchard@outlook.com](mailto:franklinorchard@outlook.com)

## BeeWordle

Are you a Wordle whizz? Try our bee-related wordle game on our [Bee Aware Month webpage](#).

While you're there, you might like to check out some planting ideas for pollinators and educational resources.

## Wanted: Beekeeping Mentor in Kerikeri area

Colin Wadeson is keen to find someone near to Kerikeri that might be interested in linking up with a beginner beekeeper that is yet to set up his first colony. If you can help, then please get in touch with Colin via email: [cjwadeson@gmail.com](mailto:cjwadeson@gmail.com) or call 0800 122 570

## Dannevirke beekeeper urges registration after American Foulbrood disease spreads, beehive destroyed

A Dannevirke woman is urging fellow beekeepers to work together and ensure they are registered to stop the spread of the American Foulbrood Disease (AFB) in hives in the area.

## Varroa Pains, Bee Brains and Pollen Grains – Takeaways from the 2025 Honeybee Research Symposium

With the industry going through a period of reckoning regarding funding national-level projects, it was perhaps unsurprising that a lecture theatre at Victoria University of Wellington holding some of New Zealand beekeeping's most dedicated participants and scientists saw healthy discussion with a 'where-to-from-here' bent.

## BNZ puts honey maker belonging to large private landowner into receivership

BNZ has tipped the mānuka honey concerns of one of the country's top private landowners into receivership after it struggled to stay on top of debt obligations.

The companies are Settlers Honey Ltd and associated companies Makowhai Trust and HR Matthew. Settlers Honey was founded by sole director and joint shareholder Henry Matthews in 2011 and is also owned by Melody Wallace and John Cain.

## Wild bees visit different flowers to balance diet, study shows

Wild bees strategically visit different flowers to balance their intake of protein, fat and carbohydrates, a study has found.

A team of ecologists observed eight species of wild bumblebees in the Colorado Rockies over eight years to develop a comprehensive nutritional map.

## Financial Statement

### Whangarei Bee Club Incorporation

Opening Bank Balances as at 21 July 2025

Operating Account	4,754.62
Savings Account	35,481.69
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>40,236.31</b>

#### Plus Income From

New Members	220.00
Hives & Bee equipt sales	-
donations	5.00
Renew Memberships	60.00
Book sale	45.00
Interest-01	66.34
	<b>396.34</b>
	<b>40,632.65</b>

#### Less Expenditure

Bookeeping costs	225.00
RWT -acct01	29.85
Club Day Expenses	177.59
NZ post annual cost	280.00
Web Site - OnLine designs	50.60
Telephone recharge -President	189.00
API annual Sub	253.00
Whareora Hall Hire	80.00
Printing Stationnery ( printer cleaner)	119.60
Xero - Monthly Sub	71.59
	<b>1,476.23</b>
	<b>39,156.42</b>

Total Balances as at 20 August 2025

Operating Account	3,638.24
Savings Account	35,518.18
	<b>39,156.42</b>

## Other News and websites to check out

Taranaki entrepreneur recognised as long-standing business leader

Bee health hangs heavy over spring

Even on a Rough Construction Site, Honeybees Figure It Out

Beekeepers draw a beeline

Karin Kos talks to The Country about bee pollination (from 33:40)

Bees' vital role boosts \$7.54b hort industry

Market disruption stings Comvita's profit

Hive talking fewer winter losses in 2024 for the nation's beekeepers

Thousands of robber bees undergo honey heist at Canadian beekeeper's shop

### 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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