

Upcoming Events and Notices

This Club Day: 7th September

Next Club Day: 5th October

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, use the paddock adjacent to the Hall when the car park is full.

September Club Day: Getting ready for Spring.



Visit [Api NZ Bee Aware Month webpages](#) for more information about Bee Aware Month and a range of educational resources.

Follow this year's campaign on Api NZ Bee Aware Month [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

Club Day Duty Roster

Set Up Hall From 9am	Volunteer's Please
Set up in Kitchen 9am & Set up Lunch	Sue & Lorna
Wash up Kitchen from Lunch	Sue & Lorna
Pack up / Clean Hall From 12-30	Volunteer's Please

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.

Club Survey

Have your say on how the club runs. Have you completed the survey?

[Here is the link](#) if you have not yet done so.

News from last Club Day

Club Day Summary 3rd August 2024

Morgan introduced the WBC committee members to the audience. We talked briefly about ourselves. It was mainly for the new people to see who they can approach with their questions.

Morgan again thanked Heather and Mike for their involvement with the committee and the good work they have done over the years.

I was presented with a gift on behalf of the club for 10 years as WBC secretary. Very much appreciated, thank you all.

Morgan then gave a presentation on winter bee clustering – see the attached PowerPoint.

We then saw a video on “bees as explosives detectors”. They go through a 2-day reward-based training process. This is an example of expanding bee usefulness to the wider commercial market.

Preparing for Spring

Morgan then began a general discussion on Spring preparation:

- Start feeding sugar syrup to stimulate brood numbers for early nectar crops e.g. manuka, once the weather warms up (a few weeks from now). Initially 1:1 (water : sugar) then 2:1 (water : sugar) once the warmer weather starts. The 2:1 mixture mimics the brix concentration of nectar and therefore stimulates the queen to lay.
- Where to place a swarm capture hive – Mike Fox suggested 3.5 m above the ground (based on a book called Honey Bee Democracy).
- He also pointed out that one full frame of brood will give you three frames of adult bees. The signs show this could be an early Spring so check that your hive has space for a rapid increase in bee numbers, with the prospect of swarming if they are cramped for space.
- Check for varroa. The increase on brood numbers, particularly drone brood, may result in a corresponding increase in varroa. Put your Spring varroa treatment in.
- Have extra supers ready when swarming season arrives – it is weather and location dependent. Bee numbers can build quickly.
- When you have 8 full frames of bees (80% of the available space), then add a super.
- Do regular checks (every 10 – 14 days) to gauge hive strength and remove swarm cells.
- Be careful of the possibility of your hive starving out in October. This is because by that time your hive will likely have big bee numbers so if we get a few days of bad weather at that time then the bees can quickly get through their honey stocks. It was noted there can be a scarcity of floral sources in October.

News from last Club Day

Preparing for Spring (continued)

- We discussed the recent arrival and subsequent spread of varroa into Australia. It arrived in Newcastle and an eradication approach was taken. This didn't work. Varroa spread quickly and they are now trying to learn to live with it. It arrived here in 2001. We are trying to support them through this process.
- It is now time to get our hives checked for AFB and we have until the end of November to submit a certificate of inspection (COI). Trevor pointed out that The AFB Management Agency have a regional list of trained [AFB inspectors](#) you can contact to inspect your hives if you are not yet DECA trained.
- Try to coordinate mite treatment with other nearby apiaries – yours and your neighbours. AFB alerts will go out to beekeepers who are within 5 km of a reported AFB hive.
- AFB field testing kits do work. Supplied by Ceracell and others.
- Mike noted that when he was an AP2 inspector the worst AFB infections he saw were in the biggest and strongest hives.
- Dig a hole. Put the infected hive in it. Burn it with petrol. Fill the hole back in. Quarantine the rest of the apiary for 2 years.

Nic Nacs

Adrian showed us his home made 'queen isolator box / cage'. Essentially it is one frame surrounded by queen excluders. These cages can be bought commercially. They can be used to force a brood break for better mite control. Also used for new swarm control – if you catch a swarm and want to make sure it doesn't abscond in the first few days after capture, you can put the queen in the isolator box and she can continue laying and the new swarm will stay with her until she is settled in.

Bulletin

September club day we will talk about more preparations for Spring.

We are planning an Open Day and Honey Competition for November.

Suggestions wanted on what we want to see at the Open Day.

Should we have it next March instead, when everyone will have harvested this season's honey?

If you extract your own honey, you can take a sample of it to the Extraction Plant and they will send it off for Tutin testing for \$20 – 25 per sample.

Janine asked if anyone was available to mentor a Year 9 class at Girls' High.

They currently have an empty hive. Trevor said he would look into it.

News from last Club Day

Club Day – 3rd August 2024

- Welcome!
- Introduction of Committee
- An exploration of clustering behavior
- Preparing for spring
- Member talk time
- Interesting you tube video
- Nic Nac's Section
- Lunch
- Hive Time – empty hive ware only
- Note: Hand out roster for names: *'Helping Beekeepers Keep Bees'*

A quick introduction

- President – Morgan C
- Vice President/NPH director – Andrew S
- Treasurer – Karin D
- Secretary – Vincent L
- Committee/NPH director – Carlo L
- Committee/Newsletter creator – Suzie S
- Committee member – Danny
- WBC & NPH Book keeper – Sylvie C
- Membership management – Janine S
- Meet and greeter – Sharon B

'Helping Beekeepers Keep Bees'

A special farewell and thank you!

Heather Rye
Mike Poyner

Thank you for your valuable input and hard work for the club over many years!

'Helping Beekeepers Keep Bees'

10 years + service award


Vincent Lane

For more than 10 years of service, helping the club by volunteering on the committee!

Thank you!!!

'Helping Beekeepers Keep Bees'

An exploration of winter clustering



Clustering

What is it and why(normal or nah)?

- Bees start to cluster once the air temperatures fall below 12°C. As the temperature falls, the cluster becomes better defined.
- As the temperature continues to drop the bees in the center of the cluster generate heat, while the bees on the surface serve as insulators. The colder the temperature the more compact the cluster.
- Bees cluster by 'shivering' their flight muscles, creating heat.

'Helping Beekeepers Keep Bees'

Clustering – Is Clustering normal?

Differing opinions between research

- Traditionally, clustering has been considered a normal honey bee behavior, to be expected when the weather reaches certain temperatures to maintain hive health and even thought to be necessary to get the bees through winter.
- Cluster temperatures help maintain brood and queen temperatures throughout winter.
- Genetics playing a part in cluster size. Some strains of bees (such as Russian or Carniolans) will carry smaller clusters into winter and then expand the brood nest rapidly in early Spring.

'Helping Beekeepers Keep Bees'

Clustering – Or is it distress behaviour?

- New studies are arguing that sometimes clustering is distress behaviour the bees are displaying due to lack of natural insulation or thin walled hives
- Langstroth (standard hive) is around 25mm thick, whereas a tree hollow can have walls of 150mm
- Not a 'wrapping of a thick blanket' to keep warm, but more like a desperate struggle to crowd closer to the 'fire' or otherwise die and fail the colony.

<https://doi.org/10.1098/rsif.2023.0488>

'Helping Beekeepers Keep Bees'

Clustering in Northland

- Not consistent throughout winter as we can get warmer temps
- Clustering can add to humidity issues
- Clusters need to keep up their food intake for energy but if it's too far away from them, they won't go to it
- Will be seen at temps 12degrees or less
- What have you seen in your apiary this winter?
- The video is from the northern hemisphere, 10f is -12c!
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQO-dkUuTRY>


'Helping Beekeepers Keep Bees'

Preparing for Spring!

- Pest control! Mice and wasps will be ramping up as well soon so ensure pest control methods are in place.
- Can begin feeding 1:1 syrup, changing to 2:1 as the weather warms (2 parts water, 1 part syrup)
- Swarm control! There are many different methods, which do you use?
- Are you prepared? Do you have hive ware ready to go?
- Have a plan for your apiary. What do you want from it this coming year and how will that happen?

'Helping Beekeepers Keep Bees'

Member Talk Time Q&A



'Helping Beekeepers Keep Bees'

Next Club Day

7th September

Spring is around the corner!

Bee club open day and honey competition later this year – what do we all want to see there?

'Helping Beekeepers Keep Bees'

Farmstrong toolbox tips: having a yarn

Real-life conversations with people close to us, or even complete strangers, help us feel good and aware that we don't have to deal with life's challenges on our own.

"When you're out on the farm, the phone - as much as you love it or hate it - it's actually quite good when your friends ring up for a yarn... it's always good to have a break during the day and have a bit of a yarn to someone... I'm a wee bit lucky because I've got a couple of other brothers farming so I get to chew the fat with them over farming issues, which helps." Tim Stokes.

Hear more from Tim Stokes in the video below or check out the **Farmstrong website** for more wellbeing tips. Video: **Sam Whitelock chats with Tim Stokes about how he stays connected**

Apiarist's Advocate – [link to webpage](#)
September Edition [here](#)

Book recommendation – from member Mike Fox

Honeybee Democracy by Thomas D. Seeley

Honeybees make decisions collectively - and democratically. Every year, faced with the life-or-death problem of choosing and traveling to a new home, honeybees stake everything on a process that includes collective fact-finding, vigorous debate, and consensus building. In fact, as world-renowned animal behaviourist Thomas Seeley reveals, these incredible insects have much to teach us when it comes to collective wisdom and effective decision making. Available from Mighty Ape [link](#)

Notices

Member reminders for COI

It's time for beekeepers to complete and submit COIs. Here is some information for you all

[Link to Flowchart](#)

[Certificate of Inspection Information](#)

[Certified DECA Accredited Inspectors List](#)

Bee at Club Day to WIN!!

Each Club Day we will be holding a prize draw for members to enter. The prize will be an empty hive consisting of:

Hive base, full depth box with 10 frames, hive mat (we have run out of lids)

Rules: To enter, you MUST be present at club day.

We are also selling to members hive kitsets (no lids) for \$40 or box with 10 frames \$30

Over- wintered Queens with Lion Apiaries

Just wanted to let all your club members know that we have a good amount of over wintered queens available this season so if anyone is keen to get their splits done early feel free to get in touch to place an order.

We again have a premium on the early season queens. The varied prices reflect the challenges of raising successfully mated queens. As you know the weather affects our success rates and in the early spring, we suffer greater losses than we do in the summer.

Prices for the 2024-2025 season are as follows-

- Overwintered Queens (early/Mid-September - 29 September): \$74 + gst
Autumn mated and have brought their colony through the winter.
- 2024 Early Spring Queens (30 Sept - 3 Nov): \$69 + gst
The first of the new season queens for priority delivery.
- 2024 Spring Queens (4 Nov - 1 Dec): \$58 + gst
Standard Spring rates as more queens become available due to improved weather conditions.
- 2024-25 Summer/Autumn Queens (2 Dec 2024 - 30 April 2025): \$50 + gst
Once the weather settles out more queens are coming back from their mating flights successfully.

And here is the Lion Apiaries Approved method of splitting.

For best results we recommend making a fresh split with 3 – 4 frames of brood and 1 frame of honey from a queen-right hive and then leaving the split queenless for 1 night before installing the new queen in her cage for them to release over a couple of days by chewing through the candy. Success rate drops considerably if you install the new queen at the same time as removing the old one and is a guaranteed failure if you don't remove the old queen. It is also best to setup this new hive on a new stand, so the old bees go home to the old queen. The young bees with their brood are more accepting of a new queen.

Steps:

1. Setup new hive. Locate the queen in your other hive and make sure she is secure while you work.
2. Install 2-4 frames of mostly capped brood.
3. Install 1-2 frames of honey/pollen
4. Shake in extra bees from 1-2 open brood (larvae) frames
5. Close hive, place a bush or tree branch in front of hive so bees re-orient on new hive.
6. Leave overnight. Next day check enough bees stayed and install cage.
- 6b. Cage installed with candy end up. Make sure there is enough candy in the channel.
- 6c. Make sure the bees have access to one side of the cage so they can meet the queen.
- 6d. DO NOT release the queen directly into the hive.
- 6e. Ensure that you break out the plastic tab in the middle of the end panel where the candy is.
- 6f. The queen is released over approx. 2 days through the channel of candy.
7. (Optional) Check back in 5-7 days to see the queen is out. Check for eggs after 7-10 days.

If you are having trouble finding the queen - then shake the bees off the frames that you want to take and put them in a super above a queen excluder. Wait 30 min+ and then check to see that you have enough bees come up through the excluder onto the frames.

Kind regards, Sara Russ Lion Apiaries. King of Queens. *Serving beekeepers for over 15 years*



APICULTURE

NEW ZEALAND



EPA red alert regarding DCPA

On 22nd August the EPA issued a RED ALERT for the herbicide chlorthal-dimethyl (DCPA) recommending that use of this product stop immediately. The reason was the risk it poses to pregnant women and the serious developmental effects on their unborn children. There are three registered products containing chlorthal-methyl, Dacthal, Deramot Xtra, and Chlor-Back 75WG. [Read the EPA notice here.](#)

Industry Summit video available now

For those that missed the recent Industry Summit in Hamilton, or would like to review some of the presentations/sessions, the full-length video is now available to watch on YouTube link: [Industry Summit video](#)

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

Review of the NAFB PMP (draft timeline)

Between June 2021 and September 2022, the Management Agency held three rounds of consultation with New Zealand beekeepers on which new plan rules or powers are needed in the AFB National Pest Management Plan (NPMP). The feedback and ideas captured during those three rounds of consultation enabled us to put a robust proposal forward for an effective legal framework and enhance the sector's AFB elimination efforts. The proposal was submitted to the previous Minister for Biosecurity in March 2023. Information about the NPMP consultation can be found [here](#)

Mānuka honey and breast cancer research

A preliminary study by UCLA investigators has found that mānuka honey contains compounds that help reduce the growth of breast cancer tumours, and is less toxic than more traditional cancer treatments.

The researchers found that mānuka honey significantly reduced tumour growth in mice with ER-positive breast cancer cells by 84% without affecting normal breast cells or causing major side effects.

[Read more here](#)

Hoverflies take on wasps

A batch of 20 hoverflies (European *Volucella inanis*) brought all the way from the south of England have been released at two sites in Marlborough and Tasman in an effort to control common and German wasps in the region.

Manaaki Whenua scientist Dr Bob Brown released the hoverflies on a farm in Rai Valley and a site in Wainui with support from local iwi, district councils and Kotahitanga mo te Taiao (KMTT).

The hoverfly is a wasp-predator and the females lay their eggs in wasp nests. Once hatched, the fly larvae feed on wasp larvae and pupae.

[Read more here](#)

Financial Statement

Whangarei Bee Club Incorporation

Opening Bank Balances as at 19 July 2024

Operating Account	13,699.65
Savings Account	35,771.88
Total Funds	49,471.53

Plus Income From

New Members	
Hives & Bee equipt sales	
Renew Memberships	925.00
Gold membership	200.00
Interest-01	136.71
	<u>1,261.71</u>
	50,733.24

Less Expenditure

Bank Fees	1.20
RWT -acct01	53.78
Club Day Expenses	328.85
Gifts Speakers etc	440.00
Bookkeeping Costs	450.00
Web Site - OnLine designs	50.60
Whareora Hall Hire	80.00
Printing- ribbons+ memb cards	328.92
Xero - Monthly Sub	122.48
	<u>1,855.83</u>
	48,877.41

Total Balances as at 20 August 2024

Operating Account	13,030.34
Savings Account	35,847.07
	<u>48,877.41</u>

Other News and websites to check out.

Comvita blames poor China trading conditions for net loss

Kiwi exporters struggle with doubled shipping costs

Signs of hope for under pressure honey industry Management shake-up at Comvita after heavy loss announced

Thumbs up for move to simplify ag regulation (farmersweekly.co.nz)

Mānuka plantation take over pine forestry on council land

New tests to detect fake honey

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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