



# Whangarei Bee Club INC

## Newsletter

June 2016, Issue 138

### Plant-of-the-Month *Contributed by John Beauregard*

Third in a series of short articles of interest to Northland beekeepers, especially non-commercial beekeepers



Image from [www.weedbusters.org.nz](http://www.weedbusters.org.nz)

#### Brush or bush wattle

(*Paraserianthes lophantha*, also known as *albiza*) is a serious introduced weed species invading wasteland, disturbed landscapes (for example, clear-felled radiata pine plantations and road cuttings) and coastal areas. It grows quickly to at least five metres and will rapidly displace low-growing native species. Brush wattle can be confused with other wattles, which generally flower

a month or two later.

Brush wattle yields a water-white honey of excellent taste from yellow flowers from about June onward until spring. If your bees are sited near a dense stand of this problem species then you can expect a modest surplus of honey that will help set your hives up before spring time and can diminish your need for spring feeding.

<http://www.terrain.net.nz/friends-of-te-henui-group/weeds-by-scientific-names/bush-wattle.html>

<http://www.weedbusters.org.nz/weed-information/paraserianthes-lophantha/59/>

*"Nectar and Pollen Sources of New Zealand," RS Walsh, published by ApiNZ, is a principal source of information. The club's library holds a copy of this very useful booklet. The web references provide excellent photographs, some of which are from proprietary sources, such as plant shops. The writer has no connection to any of these sources.*

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### Upcoming Events and Notices

#### This Club Day

4 June 2016

Same place, same time

Check out page 3

#### Next Club Day

2 July 2016

See you there☺



#### APICULTURE NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2016

19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> June

BEE BUSINESS

SCIENCE: HEALTH: TRADE



**pī·ā·ora**  
**BEES GIVING LIFE**

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## Meet the tiniest crop duster



Image and content from [www.popsoci.com](http://www.popsoci.com)

### A new strategy to keep plant pathogens at bay

Bees can deliver fungus control to strawberry and tomato plants, apple trees, and other crops.

To keep harmful pathogens, molds, and fungi at bay, farmers often spray crops with chemicals. But a company called Bee Vectoring Technology has developed an environmentally friendly alternative in which bees carry and deliver a fungus that kills off the bad stuff.

Normally, a farmer with an acre of apples sprays about 13 pounds of streptomycin to protect the fruit from fire blight, which can destroy entire orchards. But with the new bee system, a tray at the hive entrance coats the bees' hairy legs with a natural powderized fungus called BVT-CR7. The fungus acts as an endophyte, and grows harmlessly on the plant. It also prevents parasites and bacteria from taking hold.

As the bees forage for nectar and pollen, they deposit the powderized fungus—of which only 0.04 pounds is necessary—on individual apple blossoms. The delivery method is extremely efficient: A hive of 300 can cover 10 million flowers.

Michael Collinson, CEO of Bee Vectoring Technology, says field tests have shown the method is harmless to the bees. It might offer some relief by limiting the amount of pesticides they would normally encounter. Last May, the USDA said pesticides could be contributing to Colony Collapse Disorder, a phenomenon that wipes out a large percentage of a hive's worker bees.

"If you reduce pesticides," Collinson says, "you're going to help bee populations by putting less pressure on them."

*This article was originally written by Annabel Edwards and published in the May/June 2016 issue of Popular Science, under the title "Meet the Tiniest Crop Duster."*

**CHEERS  
EVERYONE**

## AGM Election

At our well attended AGM in May, the following officers were elected:

President  
– Chris Williams

Vice President  
– Paul Martin

Secretary  
– Vincent Lane

Committee members  
– Mitch Morgan  
– David Pullen  
– David Herbert  
– Grant Liddle  
– Danny Vendt

Honorary Auditor  
– Alan Martin

WBC Membership Coordinator  
– Heather Rye

A special thank you to previous executive committee members. Thank you also to the many individual club members for their service and dedication to the club. Also, a special thanks to Mike Fox for coordinating the AGM.



## Club Day

### Whareora Hall 10.15am

#### Bring:

- Cash for the produce table
- Produce for the produce table
- Your loyalty card to show at the door
- Bee suits

#### Directions

From SH1, turn off to *Kensington*. Turn left into *Mill Road*, then right at *Whareora Rd*. Keep on *Whareora Rd* until it joins *Pataua North Rd* and carry on for a few more minutes. The hall is on the right. Park on hall side of road.

## Financial Information

Bank balances as at 20 April 2016

Operating account	1,491.21
Savings account	6,416.60
Total funds at 20 April 2016	<u>7,907.81</u>

#### Plus income from

Membership fees	680.00
Book sales	45.00
Interest received	6.24
Hive sales	600.00
Training	675.00
Nth Pure Honey receipts	101.00
Equipment sales	144.00
	<u>2,251.24</u>
	<u>10,159.05</u>

#### Less expenditure

Hall hire	130.00
Licences	47.44
Club day provisions	261.39
Website costs	23.00
Bank fees	1.95
RWT on interest	2.06
	<u>465.84</u>
Total balance at 20 May 2016	<u>9,693.21</u>

#### Made up of

Operating account	3,272.43
Savings account	<u>6,420.78</u>
	<u><u>9,693.21</u></u>

## News/sites to check out

- A recipe for disaster  
<http://www.stuff.co.nz/taranaki-daily-news/news/80049818/roadside-bee-hives-a-recipe-for-disaster-for-taranaki-truck-drivers>
- Healthy queens for hive survival  
<http://www.theweekendsun.co.nz/news/849-healthy-queens-hive-survival.html>
- Native tree use  
<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/agribusiness/79616758/native-tree-use-in-agriculture-and-for-lifestylers.html>
- Threat to native birds and bees  
<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/warm-weather-and-wasps-threaten-native-birds-bees>
- Money's in the honey  
<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU1605/S00275/the-moneys-in-the-honey.htm>
- Call to reassess herbicide hazards  
[http://m.nzherald.co.nz/the-country/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=16&objectid=11638089](http://m.nzherald.co.nz/the-country/news/article.cfm?c_id=16&objectid=11638089)
- *Mite* this be the best weapon against wasps?  
<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/303007/mite-this-be-the-best-weapon-against-wasps>

## Call for contributions

If you would like to make a contribution to this newsletter, we invite you to email your submission to [wbccommunication@gmail.com](mailto:wbccommunication@gmail.com)

For this month's contribution:  
**Thank you to John**

