



Whangarei Bee Club INC

Newsletter

January 2016, Issue 133

Flowers trump Smoke

Bees attack when they feel their hive is under threat. As each defender stings the invader, they release a chemical called the sting alarm pheromone that recruits their sisters to come to the hive's defence.

Morgane Nouvian, Ph.D student at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, wanted to test whether floral smells might interfere with the pheromone and reduce stings. She wafted various odours to see how they affected the bees and found that common scents found in almost all flowers led to far fewer stings.

Interestingly, the "floral odours work because the bees like them, while the smoke works because they don't like it, so it could be less stressful for them," says Nouvian.

For more information:

<https://www.insidescience.org/content/floral-smells-stop-stinging-bees/350>

Adapted from Brian Owens' (22 Dec, 2015) Appetizing scents can override alarm signals in honeybees – Inside Science

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Upcoming Events

Next Club Day

6th February 2016

Same place, same time

See page 4 for details

**Apiculture NZ
National Conference
2016
19th-21st June**

At the Rotorua Energy
Events Centre.

**APICULTURE NEW ZEALAND
NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2016
19th-21st June**

BEE BUSINESS

SCIENCE: HEALTH: TRADE



**pī·ā·ora
BEES GIVING LIFE**

For any queries please contact James Chatterley
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Christmas came early: Wasp Bait Available to Public



Bait that was previously only licensed for use on public conservation land can now be released to individuals who have completed an online training test. A Nelson-based company, Merchento, made the announcement on December 14 of the public release of wasp bait Vespex®. The protein bait, which contains the commonly used insecticide fipronil, is not attractive to bees as it is a bait designed specifically for the control of wasps.

Vespex was developed in conjunction with DOC and piloted on five public conservation land sites earlier this year. Lead developer, Richard Tofts says “The bait was able to reduce wasp numbers by more than 95% in forests that were previously seething with wasps”. The Department of Conservation says making a targeted wasp bait more widely available to the public will be a welcome reprieve for our native birds and insects, and for people who enjoy getting out in nature.

Wasps are a big issue for NZ, with a recent analysis indicating they cost the economy in excess of \$130 million per year. DOC scientist, Eric Edwards, says introduced wasps are a significant pest, which harm our native birds and insects and are

a threat to human health and recreation.

How it works:

Toft says “Wasp control has largely been limited to people locating nests and then applying an insecticide directly to the entrance. With Vespex, the wasps take the insecticide back to the nest themselves,” which means the wasps use the bait to feed their larvae. This method is safer for conservation workers and volunteers because there’s no need to approach and destroy individual nests.

Vespex is deployed using a grid of bait stations and typically only needs a single application each year, with any uneaten bait removed from the environment after a week. A key feature of the bait is that it has nothing remotely attractive to bees.

Good stewardship controls for the product and the way it is to be used has been critical to getting the product to the point where it can now be used more widely. These controls mean that the bait will only be available to approved users (who have passed the online training test), but these people are then able to manage wasp baiting operations for others.

Judging by early responses to the development of Vespex, this product is sorely needed by community groups, beekeepers, forestry companies, farmers, vineyards, recreation groups, and a wide variety of conservation projects.

Eric Edwards says this bait will go a long way towards taking the sting out of many of our forests, parks and picnic areas each season. But he says wasps are still a persistent annual problem. “It’s vital that the science community keeps working on developing a range of tools to control wasps over the long term.”

(Adapted from Department of Conservation and Merchento press releases - December 14, 2015)



Learn more about using Vespex, the targeted wasp bait, that is available to individuals who have completed an online training test.

For more information: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/waspcontrol>

Has nothing remotely attractive to bees

Industry Unification



Since August 2015 the interim Apiculture Industry Governance Group has been working on industry unification. Five key changes have been made to the National Beekeepers Association's Constitution and Rules following feedback gained from the recently completed consultation process.

The key changes are:

1. The size of the Apiculture New Zealand Board (ApiNZ) has been reduced from 12 to 10 members by dropping the appointed members. It will now comprise of nine elected members and an independent chairperson.
2. Changes have been made

to the way that members' votes are counted to ensure investment by commercial beekeepers in their industry is protected.

3. Instead of referring to 'hobbyists', the constitution now recognises "non-commercial beekeepers" or those with under 25 hives.
4. Costs have been reduced for non-commercial beekeepers and market sector members.
5. The rules regarding regional hubs now provide clarity and confirm their ability to control their own affairs. Input from the ApiNZ management will be in a supporting capacity only, or as requested by a hub.

Name of the new organisation

– it is proposed the new industry organisation will be called Apiculture New Zealand or ApiNZ. The name Apiculture

NZ and the associated logo, has been gifted to the new organisation by John Hartnell who purchased it for this specific purpose. The company which held the name has never traded.

Next steps for industry unification – a special vote of NBA members will now be undertaken to determine whether the constitution and rules will be adopted. This vote is timed to occur in February and all industry stakeholders will be keenly awaiting the outcome of that process. If the vote mirrors the tremendous support for the concept that has been expressed since Conference 2015, we can expect that ApiNZ will be open for business April 1, 2016.

For more information please go to <http://www.beeunified.org/Apiculture-NZ-Consultation.php>

Search for the definition of Mānuka Honey

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is leading and managing a science programme to develop a robust science-based definition for monofloral mānuka honey to ensure consumers, overseas regulators and industry can continue to have confidence in the safety and integrity of mānuka honey.

There is currently no definition for monofloral mānuka honey, so this work will provide clarity about the characteristics of mānuka honey when it is sold as a food.

To find out more information about the **MPI Manuka Honey Science Programme** read next month's issue of this newsletter or see <http://archive.mpi.govt.nz/food/food-safety/manuka-honey/mpi-manuka-honey-science-programme>



Contacts

For membership enquiries, if you want to bring a guest or have a query about membership fees or have lost your purchasing card, email:

membership@whangareibeeclub.co.nz

For gear purchase enquiries,
email: nph.purchases@gmail.com

For enquiries about honey extraction, tutin or manuka tests or requests to purchase club honey, email:

nph.communication@gmail.com

For queries about overdue NPH gear accounts, credits or bill payment queries,
email: whangareibeeclub.acnts@gmail.com

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Next Club Day

2nd January
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.

Websites to Check Out

- Website dedicated to bees: Spread the buzz about bees!
<http://www.buzzaboutbees.net/>

- Care2: Be part of the world's largest community for good!
<http://www.care2.com/>

- Mānuka honey could 'bee' farmers' solution to unused land
<http://www.stuff.co.nz/tarana-ki-daily-news/news/75370801/manuka-honey-could-bee-farmers-solution-to-unused-land>

- Prisoners training to be

beekeepers

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/agribusiness/73311438/prison-inmates-are-training-to-become-beekeepers-at-a-time-hive-theft-is-rampant>

- Hobby beekeeping growing in popularity
<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/agribusiness/74649300/hobby-beekeeping-growing-in-popularity>

- It's not all about the bees: Insects deserve positive buzz too
<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/agribusiness/74649300/hobby-beekeeping-growing-in-popularity>

[9300/hobby-beekeeping-growing-in-popularity](http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/agribusiness/74649300/hobby-beekeeping-growing-in-popularity)

- Photographer pours honey over dog: Beautiful or Wasteful?
<http://pdnpulse.pdnonline.com/2015/03/preservation-honey-photos.html>

