



Whangarei Bee Club INC

Newsletter

September 2018, Issue 165

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Upcoming Events and Notices

This Club Day: 1st September - See you there 😊

Next Club Day: 6th October

Whareora Hall 10.15am

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 carry on 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 is Bee Aware Month

This year, we are focusing on bee health, developing some great resources to educate the public about taking care of our healthy bee population.

We have a number of schools and councils come back to us, who are very excited about helping us share our key messages and celebrating Bee Aware Month in their communities. We will be sending out wildflower seeds and brochures to councils, and schools will be participating in our Build a Hive competition.

ApiNZ has more information [here](#)

Are you looking for a special place for your hives?

Several staff from Whangarei Girls' High School are keen to have (someone else's) hives on their land. They are not necessarily wanting financial remuneration, but keen to have some honey and perhaps learn from the beekeeper with a view to possibly having their own hives in the future.

If interested call to negotiate terms.

Ruatangata West ph: 0274328208 (Joy & Paul Jackson)

Abbey Caves road ph: 0211669764 (Lorraine Barton)

Puhi puhi ph: 0272446911 (Wendy Rees)

Church Rd off Three Mile Bush Rd ph: 0121648509 (Ian Scampton)

Ngunguru Ford Rd, Glenbervie/Kiripaka ph: 027 343 4023 or 437 2550 (Christo Lee)

Off Apotu Road in Kauri ph: 0212507066 (Graeme)

Mulberry Lane in Otaika email: la.clark2012@gmail.com (Lauren Clark)

Ridings Downs Way, Maunu ph: 021 115 0879 (Natasha Hammer)

Plant-of-the-Month

Contributed by John Beauregard

Plant-of-the-Month: short articles of interest to Northland beekeepers, especially non-commercial beekeepers

This monthly column will conclude in April 2019 with a listing of all bee-friendly plants reviewed over the past three years. In the remaining months I propose to “clean up” all of the species not yet reviewed. Coverage for each species will be brief. From April 2019 the expectation is the club's website will support a permanent record of all bee-friendly plants in Northland. There will be on-going opportunities for club members to suggest additions to the database, as well as one-off coverage in monthly newsletters.



Manuka hardly needs to be mentioned, even to the newest beekeeper. If members want to predict the honeyflow for 2018 a good place to start is with the long-range wind [forecast](#) from NIWA. Persistent cold southwesterlies will shut down any manuka nectar flow almost immediately. If 2018 happens to be a good year then the club's extraction plant will be a vital resource for members, given manuka's refusal to extract freely from the combs. Most Northland beekeepers, commercial and non-commercial, have adopted plastic extracting frames that can withstand the forces needed to remove the notoriously viscous honey. Walsh records manuka produces a muddy-white pollen in fair quantities.

Radiata pine produces an inferior pollen which is low in protein content. Honey bees will employ it only as a last resort when there is nothing else available.



Arum lily is often found at abandoned settlements such as Kiripaka, Whangarei District. The prominent yellow spadix produces a waxy pollen the bees actively collect.



Oxalis, of which there are several species, is in flower from early spring to mid-summer. This clover leaf [look-a-like](#) is the bane of gardeners but honey bees welcome the high-quality pollen gathered from mainly yellow flowers. Oxalic acid naturally produced by oxalis is not concentrated enough to be of benefit in managing varroa mites

“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.

News from last Club Day

Club Day Summary 4 August 2018

Nic Nac

Paul talked about the 'Bee Saver' which clips on top of the Beetek Top Feeder, to prevent bees from drowning – as an alternative to bracken or floating Corflute platforms. He showed a new product seen at the ApiNZ conference, a frame feeder with a “[ladder](#)” system to stop bees drowning.

David & Mike

Mike and David have noticed some brood happening already. Nucs are building up. Spring is a week or two early...so far.

David still has some hives dwindling and is unsure of the efficacy of his oxalic acid treatment for varroa control. He is seeing a big variation in hive strength within apiaries. Some are dying – possibly from nosema ceranae – while others in the same apiary are doing well. May be related to queen quality, difficult to know. He is already putting supers on some hives and is still feeding sugar to some.

With the cold weather still ahead it may be useful to insulate the brood by blocking them into just a few frames for better warmth i.e. turning the brood super into a temporary nuc. Expol is getting good feedback as an insulator, as is Corflute (otherwise used as real estate signage).

Trevor adds a 'hive booster' to his sugar syrup as Spring approaches. There are many choices available – Vita Bee, VitaHive, Bee Strong etc.

Feed pollen substitutes if required (FeedBee, MegaBee etc.). Check the brood and there should be a white 'milky' liquid in the cells if pollen levels are ok. If the cells look 'dry' then you should consider giving them a pollen substitute.

Be cautious with the weather until the end of October. The queen can't turn off her laying once she starts so a week of bad weather could see the hive run out of food and the bees turn to eating eggs to survive. Be prepared to feed sugar syrup through this period. You can afford to over-feed, to be cautious, until the honey flow starts (usually late October onwards).

Splitting for swarm control only at this time of year i.e. if you see too many drones and/or queen cells appearing.

General agreement was its best to split anytime from Xmas through to late January, if you are trying to increase hive numbers.

Mike re-balances hives to control hive strength, rather than taking the split option.

Discussion on varroa control: leaving strips in longer than recommended / leaving them in permanently, will lead to sub-lethal chemical concentrations in the hive which can lead to varroa resistance to that chemical. It is best to remove the strips after the recommended exposure period. Remember there has been considerable research put in to working out not only effective chemicals and dose rates to knock down varroa populations, but also the best exposure period in order to minimise resistance to those effective chemicals. With this in mind try to treat all hives in the apiary, and any nearby apiaries, together.

Ideally you would breed from any hives that appear to show some degree of varroa resistance.

News from last Club Day

General

Please see Heather if you have a blue coloured date on your name card. It means it has expired.

Please see Paul if you want to buy a hive from the club later this season.

Please put your name on the Helper Roster if you are able to help set up the hall, help in the kitchen etc.

Next Club Day

There will be a rundown (summary) of the Apiculture NZ Conference.

As well a discussion on the honey commodity levy proposal.

Guest Speaker

Clifton King (National Compliance Manager American Foulbrood National Pest Management Plan) gave a presentation titled “protecting your hives from AFB”.

In brief Clifton talked about:

- Vectors of transmission – brood, wet supers, robbing, pollen & honey (examples of likely vectors). Supers, lids, tools etc (less likely vectors). Queens, extractors, bee suits (unlikely vectors).
- Prevention – buy from reputable vendors. Purchasing hives is a significant risk. Is cheap second hand equipment worth the risk? Regularly inspect the brood. Destroy infected hives within seven days. Don't mix and match (minimise the exchange of equipment).
- Inspecting hives – inspect every frame at least twice per year. AFB reporting has been rising rapidly since 2015.
- The next AFB course in Whangarei is on 3/11/18. For details see: www.afb.org.nz/beekeeping-courses
- Funding the AFB Management Plan – the proposal is a threefold increase in the **American Foulbrood Apiary and Beekeeper Levy** over the next five years. Approximately 70 – 80% of the costs will be borne by beekeepers.
- Objectives of the AFB Management Plan:
 - (1) Identification and registration of apiaries – to date this has been based on honesty. It is estimated that 40 – 50% of hives are unregistered.
 - (2) Surveillance to detect AFB – dependant on beekeepers, DECA training and acting on information received.
 - (3) Eliminating AFB
 - (4) Preventing the spread of AFB
- Next Steps – beekeepers views and submissions on the proposed levy required before the 10th August (www.afb.org.nz/new-levy-proposal). A decision will be made by October.

Important Update: National American Foulbrood Apiary & Beekeeper Levy Proposal

In recognising the importance of consultation in providing the Management Agency with a clear mandate to proceed, the preliminary results show that more time is clearly needed; both to understand the discrepancy between the support for additional investment to reduce AFB with the reluctance to fund these key activities through the levy, and to give industry more time to consider and discuss how it can more effectively fund the management of AFB in New Zealand.

The Management Agency therefore advises that the apiary and beekeeper levy will not be raised for the 2019/20 levy year.

Financial Statement

Whangarei Bee Club Incorporation		
Bank balances as at 20 August 2018		
Operating account		13,716.01
Savings account		26,329.17
Total funds at 20 July 18		40,045.18
Plus income from		
Membership fees	1,105.30	
Interest received	33.54	
		1,138.84
		41,184.02
Less expenditure		
Bank fees	14.80	
Club provisions	119.04	
Guest speaker gift	21.99	
Hall hire	65.00	
Website	42.55	
RWT on interest	11.07	
		274.45
Total balance at 20 August 2018		40,909.57
Made up of		
Operating account	14,557.93	
Savings account	26,351.64	
		40,909.57



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

Thanks to all contributors of the Newsletter



News/sites to check out

[Hives in the City](#)

[Pesticides damage survival of bee colonies, landmark study shows](#)

[World's First 'Bee Highway' Is Being Constructed in Norway](#)

[Colony collapse: 10 years after the crisis began, what is happening to the world's bees?](#)

[Video: The Death Of Bees Explained – Parasites, Poison and Humans](#)

[Waitahuna honey project sweet success](#)

[How a humble Australian bee could help the world's plastic problem](#)

[A day in the life of a bee keeper](#)

[Blog post: Varroa Management: Drone Brood Sampling & Removal](#)

[No regional development cash to breed the 'perfect' varroa-resistant honey bee](#)

[Jacqueline Rowarth: Enough of the bee-apocalypse stories](#)

[Blog post: Lots to Bee Getting on With!](#)

[Capital all abuzz for Bee Aware Month](#)

[Health check for bees to begin](#)

[From Hobbits to honeybees: A peek inside Weta's special effects cave](#)

[HONEY BEE PESTS - VARROA DESTRUCTOR MITES](#)

[WAIKATO DOMESTIC BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION](#)

[Scientific Beekeeping - Treatment for varroa](#)

[Video - What's the Waggle Dance? And Why Do Honeybees Do It?](#)

[Video - Honey Bee Behavior Observations Queen, Worker, Drone, Hygienic, Egg, larvae, Pollen](#)

[Video - Do Honeybees Really Die When They Sting](#)

[The Waggle Dance - Inside the Animal Mind - BBC](#)