



**Next meeting** | Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018

**Where** | Main Hall, Johnsonville Community Centre, Moorefield Rd

### Topics for September meeting

**Beginners session** Upstairs meeting room 6.45pm

How to look after your nucs and swarm prevention. Eva Durrant

**Main Meeting** in the main at 7.30pm

How to split a hive and preparing a split. AFB checks. John Randall

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## James Whittington - A note from the President

Firstly, congratulations to the winners of the annual photo competition. I often wonder if we have beekeepers who are photographers or if we have photographers who also keep bees. The quality of the photos was exceptionally high, although that is not meant to deter all members from entering the competition. A selection of the photos will be used to produce the clubs 2019 calendar in time for Christmas.

The newly elected committee met recently to discuss and develop plans for the upcoming year. We are acutely aware of the need to ensure that the club provides value to its members throughout the year, including at the monthly meetings and field day events. One area identified is widening our range of guest speakers for the club meetings. We are about to trial and test internet capability in the community hall and this will hopefully enable us to have live interviews with guests/experts who can't be at our meetings in person. If you have someone in mind that you think would provide an interesting talk or topic please let one of the committee members know so we can explore this opportunity.

Thanks to Frank Lindsay, the club has just purchased a product called BroodMinder for the club's apiary. This consists of a set of scales and several internal monitors which records a hives temperature, humidity and the ever fluctuating weight of the hive. From these readings, we will be able to see the impacts that weather has on a hive, identify robbing, the impact of varroa mite treatments and even allow us to see if the hive has swarmed or if we have lost the queen. The information is transmitted to a computer and will give us a better insight into what actually goes on in a hive and eliminate the need to disturb the bees every five minutes with an inspection. This data can be live monitored and will become part of our monthly meetings.

See <https://broodminder.com/>



Note from the President.. cont

Another area we are looking to improve is the club's webpage. This project is being led by James Scott and Leon Sullivan, who have expertise in all things inter-webby. We believe that the club's webpage is under utilized by members and we are keen to improve the functionality of the current forums. Members will have the opportunity to join specific forums of interest such as local groups, top bar hives and beginners to name a few. The clubs page also currently has a trading post where members can list nucs or hives for sale. We are looking to further enhance this to make it easier for members to use. It will take some time to design and migrate, however it's something to look forward to towards the end of the year.

For the last meeting of the year on 6 December we are looking at holding a more social evening as a way to not only celebrate the end of the year but encourage members to interact more. The committee is exploring the possibility of having a food truck outside the hall from about 6pm. I know this is new and a little different and we hope members will come along a little bit earlier, grab something to eat and socialise with the other members. The success of this evening will depend upon members' support, so we'll be gauging interest at the next couple of meetings. Enquiries indicate that a meal will be in the vicinity of \$10-\$15 per person. We are also thinking about a quiz night and hopefully a few spot prizes will be donated for the cause. We will keep you informed as to the progression of this idea.

As you see we have a number of other ideas and initiatives in the pipeline. We also have a beginner course starting in October (<http://beehive.org.nz/products/courses/intro-to-beekeeping-oct2018>) and an AFB recognition course before the end of the year. Places can be booked and paid for on the club website. ([www.beehive.org.nz](http://www.beehive.org.nz))

Bee awareness month is upon us and the club has committed to a few events. Thanks to those members who have volunteered at various locations, but we are still looking for people who can assist by simply giving advice about what to plant for the bees and basic beekeeping information.



Note from the President.. cont

And lastly on the topic of adding value: too often members attend the monthly meetings and don't know who they are sitting beside. Although bee keeping is often a solitary hobby I challenge you in the upcoming meeting to introduce yourself to two or three new people prior to or after the meeting.

James

## Mitre 10 follows Bunnings to protect bees from pesticides

Mitre 10 New Zealand is following Bunnings by phasing out products containing neonicotinoids from its 82 stores from November.

The chemicals are used in insecticide products and many international studies have linked their use with declining bee

numbers, and deaths of birds, and the chemicals are banned in the EU.

Mitre 10 stocks about 20 pesticides, with some advertised as low toxicity which are based on insecticidal soap made from natural vegetable oils.

While the phase out will affect retail customers, large cropping farmers who obtain the products from wholesalers may be relatively unaffected. Mitre 10 chief executive Neil Cowie said the company had considered the information available and made the decision in keeping with the company's commitment to addressing environmental issues.



### Further reading

[Banning neonicotinoid agrichemicals likely to lead to greater pesticide use](#)

[Other retailers not following Bunnings in banning pesticide linked to bee deaths](#)

[Save the bees! Petition calls for a ban on bee-harming pesticide](#)



# Varroa mite detected at Port of Melbourne on a ship from the United States

By Meagan Rooth

**The potentially devastating varroa mite, which could wipe out the Australian beekeeping industry, has been detected in Victoria.**



A bee colony infested with the varroa mite was detected on Wednesday at the Port of Melbourne on a ship from the United States. A colony was found in a wooden crate and tests revealed some bees were infested with varroa mite, but the exact variety of the varroa mite is yet to be determined.

Australia is one of the last remaining countries in the world to be free of the blood-sucking *varroa destructor*, which has already devastated bee colonies in New Zealand, the United States, and Europe. However, north Queensland has had recent incursions of the less dangerous *varroa jacobsoni*, which only infects Asian honey bees.

Agriculture Victoria chief health plant officer Nigel Ainsworth said the master of the ship reported seeing dead bees on the ship, which was immediately investigated by Agriculture Victoria and the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) upon docking at the Port of Melbourne.

Mr Ainsworth said the colony has been destroyed and Agriculture Victoria was "confident" the situation was contained to the single colony.

Full story: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2018-06-29/varroa-mite-detected-in-melbourne/9923972>



## WBA Photo Competition results

This year the photo competition was judged by Shannon Doyle and Mark Berger from the Wellington Photographic Society. The entries were on display at the hall, as well as compiled in a Powerpoint show and presented, with comments, by the judges.

### Category Winners:

**People and Environment:** Winner Claire Hart, Runner-up Janine Davies

**Bees:** Winner and Runner-up Jim Hepburn

**Photo Story:** Joint Winners: Claire Hart and Janine Davies

**Creative Open:** Winner and Runner-up Jim Hepburn

**Competition Winner and Runner-up Jim Hepburn**

**People's Choice:** Winner Eva Durrant, Runner-up James Whittington

Competition Winner - Jim Hepburn



All photographs will be displayed on the WBA website Photo Gallery



## Promote honey rather than antibiotics for coughs, doctors told



**Patients are to be advised to try honey or cough medicines containing pelargonium, guaifenesin or dextromethorphan. – The Guardian**

Doctors are to be told to promote honey and over-the-counter remedies as the go-to treatment for coughs rather than antibiotics.

They will be told not to offer the drugs in most cases and to instead encourage patients to use self-care products, under new draft guidance from Public Health England (PHE) and the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (Nice). The advice is part of a growing effort by to tackle the problem of antibiotic resistance.

In most cases, acute coughs are caused by a cold or flu virus or bronchitis, and will last for about three weeks, according to the guidance. Antibiotics make little difference to symptoms and can have side-effects, it warns.

Patients are instead advised to try honey or cough medicines containing pelargonium, guaifenesin or dextromethorphan, which have been shown to have some benefit for cough symptoms, before contacting their doctor.

Antibiotics may be necessary to treat coughs in patients with pre-existing conditions such as lung disease, immunosuppression or cystic fibrosis, or those at risk of further complications, the guidance states.



Promote honey rather than antibiotics.... cont

Dr Tessa Lewis, GP and chair of the antimicrobial prescribing guidelines group, said: “If someone has a runny nose, sore throat and cough, we would expect the cough to settle over two to three weeks and antibiotics are not needed.

“If the cough is getting worse rather than better, or the person feels very unwell or breathless, then they would need to contact their GP.”

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## Things to do in September

Taken from **Practical Beekeeping in New Zealand** by Andrew Matheson & Murray Reid

- Apply a varroa treatment if surplus honey flow is anticipated within eight weeks
- Check all brood frames for American foulbrood
- Feed if necessary
- Spray or cut vegetation around the hives
- Stimulate drone hives and starter and finisher hives for queen rearing
- Hives can be split late in the month or when there are plenty of adult drones present
- Unite any weak or queenless hives with stronger queenright hives, especially if you prefer not to increase hive numbers
- prepare for queen-raising programme





## Caring for your nuc

When you bring the nuc to your apiary, transfer the five nuc frames into your ten frame super, add a side feeder and three foundation frames to each side of the nuc frames. The hive should be in its permanent position. Unblock the hive entrance and set the entrance to 75mm-100mm wide.

Feed sugar syrup at weekly intervals when the bees are unable to get out because of cold or wet weather. Feed in the evening and take care not to spill syrup around the hive. Feed until all frames in the first super are drawn out. As the bees draw out the frames, replace the feeder with one or two foundation frames (depending on the size of the feeder).

When the bees occupy and have drawn out all 10 frames, a second box of foundation frames should be added. To encourage the bees to move up into the top box, lift one of the centre frames up into the second box.

Recipe for sugar syrup: 2 parts white sugar to 1 part water. Do not use brown or raw sugar as these contain impurities which could cause dysentery in the bees. Mix with hot water (not boiling) to dissolve the sugar. Feed warm syrup if you can.

The NewBees meeting at 6.45 at the clubrooms will cover this topic. Look forward to seeing you there. Eva Durrant





## Bee Quiz

Answers on page 16

1. Name at least two common yellow-flowered “pest plants” or weeds that are good sources of pollen or nectar for honeybees.
2. **True or False:** Varroa mites are part of the Arachnid family.
3. Name the two most common strains of honeybee in New Zealand.
4. Beekeepers wanting to inspect hives for American Foulbrood disease have to pass a disease recognition and destruction course and obtain their DECA. What is “DECA” an abbreviation for?
5. **True or false:** a newly emerged queen makes a single mating flight before “retiring” to her hive for the rest of her life (unless she is part of a swarm).





## Top bar hives

### Tricia Laing and Ian Levet

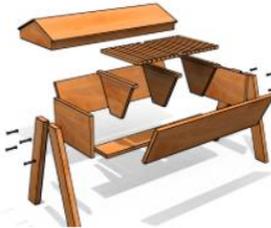
Ian Levet has been making top bar hives for beekeepers. Ian has been beekeeping for about eight years. His son-in-law was keeping bees and this sparked his interest. His own hives are langstroths. If new beekeepers ask him for advice about which type of hive to get he recommends langstroth hives because the componentry is standard, easy to find and replaceable. He suggests that new beekeepers get two hives because this gives a beekeeper flexibility in the management of the bee colonies. He strongly recommends that a new beekeeper joins a club so that they have access to the latest thinking in beekeeping as well as the knowledge of the more experienced beekeepers in the area.

He always had an interest in top bar hives and for a while kept both because he wanted to understand the benefits and weaknesses of the two different hive types. The common wisdom about the differences are that more honey is harvested from the langstroth hives. The top bars are thought to support the growth of the colony and be good for the health of the bees. Part of the reason for the improved health of the bees is thought to be connected to the more regular replacement of the comb - when honey is extracted from a top bar hive the comb is mashed up and processed in the same way as the cappings from the langstroth hive. Wax takes significantly more work on the part of the bees to produce than honey. The beekeeper has to weigh up the balance of bee health against the value of comb to the bees and the value of wax.

Even though the two hive types may be complementary Ian found that using the two hive types together didn't work very well. Part of the reason for this is because of the difference in the dimensions of the frames in the langstroth and the top bars. You can't easily take a top bar and use it in a langstroth hive and you would have to cut down a langstroth frame to use it in a top bar hive. If you have both types of hives then it is like managing two aparies. Ian has been making top bar hives since he started beekeeping.



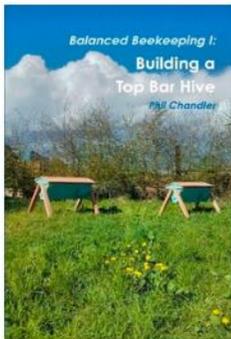
The top bar hives that Ian makes are based on Paul Chandler's plans. The original plans for Paul Chandler's hives can be found at [www.biobees.com](http://www.biobees.com)



**How To Build A Top Bar Hive - 44-page fully illustrated PDF - NOW FREE**

The free plans will enable you to build a working top bar hive, using simple tools and readily obtainable timber. If you want more detail, with background information and more pictures, you may like to buy my book - **Balanced Beekeeping I: Building a Top Bar Hive**

Once you have built your hive, I strongly recommend a practical **training course** before you add bees!



Now available in paperback from [Lulu.com](http://Lulu.com)



You will also want a copy of this book!

Ian has made slight adjustments and used metric dimensions. He has added a rail on either side of the hive to contain the bars and reduced the size of the hive a little bit so that the roof is made from one panel of 1200cm plywood. The hives are made of untreated macracarpa so there is no need to paint the body.



Rooves are made from untreated ply and undercoated inside and out, they need a couple more coats of paint on the outside to blend in with the surroundings. A few years ago there was a debate over whether top bar hives met the regulations about being able to examine the brood nest in a colony for disease. At that time Ian adapted the langstroth frame for top bars and now people who purchase his hives have a choice.

It has become established thinking that there is no problem examining the brood nest of a well managed colony in a top bar hive and so the type of frame a top bar beekeeper chooses is a matter of personal preference.

As well as making top bar hives, Ian makes Golden Mean hives based on Corwan Bell's design. The plans for Golden Mean hives can be found at <https://backyardhive.com>.

As well as making top bar hives, Ian makes Golden Mean hives based on Corwan Bell's design. The plans for Golden Mean hives can be found at <https://backyardhive.com>. Ian makes the Golden Mean hives from untreated macrocarpa. He has made my eight hives and I have found that my bees thrive in them. Over the last eight years I have extracted small amounts of honey and wax from the hives while the bees have thrived and multiplied. Last year I also extracted a significant amount of honey.

Ian's motivation in making top bars and Golden Mean hives has been in adapting the overseas plans to New Zealand in terms of measurement and materials. For more information about his hive making activities see <https://beekeeping.level.nz/>

Tricia Laing and Ian Levelt



## Specifications:-

### Hive body - the box where the bees live

Size - inside 1050mm long x 366mm at top tapering down to 115mm at bottom

Standard top bars have a wax filled groove to guide the bees

Hives made with: New macrocarpa, Stainless steel screws, Galvanized nails and Stainless steel mesh

### Legs - to support the body off the ground

Material - H3 treated pine bolted to the body with zinc plated bolts

### Roof - to keep the rain out

Material - New macrocarpa and treated ply. Undercoated only, it will need a couple of coats of exterior house paint, coloured to suit your environment.



### BEE HIVE PLANS - GOLDEN MEAN TOP BAR HIVE

\$9.95

#### CHOOSE HIVE PLAN OPTIONS

Hive Plans Only

#### QTY

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ADD TO CART

The Golden Mean top bar hive was developed by Corwin Bell after noticing how productive the bees were in hives that Corwin had built that were in Golden Mean proportion. In the Golden Mean hive, the bees tend to be more productive in drawing out combs resulting in more honey production.

#### Viewing window

The viewing window allows the beekeeper to look inside the hive without disturbing the bees. This is a less invasive practice.

#### Triangle (wedge shape) Top Bars

The one piece, wedge shaped Top Bars give the bees a better guide to create a straight comb along the entire length of the Top Bar.

All of our Top Bar Hive Plans provide all of the measurements, specifications, and materials you will need to build a complete bee hive.

3 options for buying the Hive Plans:

- 1) The Hive Plans only
- 2) The Hive Plans & Hardware (Hardware consists of all the screws and window latches)
- 3) The Kit - Hive Plans, a full Set of Top Bars, hardware & spacers. The Top Bars are the hardest part of the hive to create so getting a Set of the Top Bars will ensure a good start to creating a bee hive that is ready for bees.



## APICULTURE NEW ZEALAND

**From the CE, Karin Kos**

31 August 2018

Commodity levy roadshows continued this week in Gisborne and Havelock North and the ApiNZ Board also met with local Hawke's Bay hub members. There was a good turnout for both the Hub and the Commodity levy meetings. I always appreciate meeting members face to face and hearing about issues that matter to you.

While a lot was covered some key concerns came up around how we propose to manage AFB, how can we address issues like competition for sites, and how the local regional council needs to work closely with local beekeepers in any growth plans it may have in relation to manuka plantings. It was a good discussion and it would have been nice to have more time, but the Commodity Levy meeting did provide another two hours of debate. Overall, there was good support for the levy, appreciating people want to see and understand the details. We have appreciated the opportunity to meet so many of you during these meetings as well as hearing a diverse range of views on the commodity levy and how it should work if we are to get a levy in place. Keep an eye on our website for updated Q & As as we continue to gather your feedback.

We will be in touch soon after these meetings finish with an update on the levy design and our timeline. If you have been unable to attend any of the meetings, we always welcome feedback on the levy. You can either call us on 04 4716254 or e-mail us, [levy@apinz.org.nz](mailto:levy@apinz.org.nz)



# Bee Quiz Answers

1. gorse



broom



dandelion



fennel



2. True. Varroa mites are part of the Arachnid family
3. Carnolian and Apis Melifera
4. Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement (DECA)
5. False, a “virgin” queen may make several mating flights over a period of several days or even a few weeks.



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## Interesting Websites

Interesting research on bees being attracted to mushrooms

This article was found in the Bee Culture Magazine.

Bee Culture is probably the most popular and widely respected American bee journal.

<https://www.beeculture.com/honey-bees-fungi/>

President Trump is lifting the ban on neonics:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/aug/04/trump-administration-lifts-ban-on-pesticides-linked-to-declining-bee-numbers>

Ohio State Beekeepers website <http://www.ohiostatebeekeepers.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/OSBA-3rd-QTR-2018-updated.pdf>



## Who can I speak to?

### President

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### Meeting location

Johnsonville Community Centre,  
Moorefield Rd, Johnsonville

