

Minutes of the Wellington Beekeepers Association

6 July 2016 at the Johnsonville Community Centre

Meeting commenced 7.40pm.

49 people in attendance.

Beginners Group – Frank Lindsay took the session on bee biology.

Activity in the Hive – fine weather brings out the bees, and there is also still quite a lot of brood. This means that varroa numbers can continue to rise and possibly overwhelm hives by spring. So it's good to monitor mite levels by means of mesh bottom boards and counting natural mite drop. If it gets too high can use oxalic acid or put in bayvrol strips for a couple of days to reduce varroa numbers. Before treating you can sample half a cup (300 bees) using a sugar shake or alcohol wash to get a more accurate check for varroa. (On a warm day when bees are flying).

Interest groups – no meetings recently.

Apiculture June conference – Tricia Laing covered off highlights from Rotorua conference. Approx. 1400 delegates attended. Many industry stands including 'trees for bees'. Discussed issues including:

1. How many hives can NZ handle with 7000 beekeepers and 700, 000 hives?
2. How to keep bees well fed by 'trees for bees'? Marginal land being planted in Manuka bearing in mind bees require food sources across the seasons.
3. Bee health disease management practices for varroa, AFB, Black Willow aphid.
4. Should we be involved in quality of bee stock?
5. How to manage beekeeper competition to get the best land coverage?

Frank won the photographic competition.

General Business

Hive Construction Workshop Saturday 16th July from 1.30pm at Wayne Wild's Coast Road, Wainuiomata. Learn how to construct frames and boxes for your hive. Bring items for dipping from 11am.

Meeting finished 8pm.

AGM Minutes of Wellington Beekeepers Association

6th July 2016 at Johnsonville Community Centre

AGM commenced 8pm.

Apologies Eva Durant, Stewart Turner, Jane Harding, Bob McGahan, Anne Gilbert, Martin Toland, Anne and Alan Melville, Lynn Brunton

President's Report

Richard presented his report (attached).

Recognition of deceased members acknowledgement of loss of club members who have passed away: David Carlton, Amor Walter and Andrew Beach.

Minutes of Previous AGM not available. (Now available on web-site).

Treasurers Report

John Burnett distributed and discussed the Balance Sheet as at 31 May 2016 to the meeting. **John Burnet** proposed Statement of Accounts is accepted. Seconded **James Scott. Carried.**

Membership Fee **John Burnett** proposed to retain existing membership fee at \$20 for email members and increasing postal membership to \$38 from \$30 to cover printing and mail. Seconded **James Scott. Carried.**

AFB Fee currently \$5.00 included in membership fee. Club reimburses members 50% of the cost of a hive infected and reported with AFB, (\$120.00). This year 22 hives infected with AFB. **John Burnet** proposed the 22 AFB hives are paid at \$120.00 per hive, seconded **James Scott. Carried**

Matters Arising

AFB Sniffer Dog Tony Coard suggestion at 2015 AGM to investigate AFB sniffer dog was not supported by the committee. Regret information not disseminated to club. Tony would like sniffer dog raised again. This was discussed further and decided it is being dealt with elsewhere.

Training Demand for information and knowledge is not being met by half hour beginner sessions. Previous committee have developed training proposal. **Tricia Laing moved** 'Incoming committee to continue development of courses for new beekeepers'. Seconded **Jim Smith. Carried.**

Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre offers NZ Certificate of Apiculture Course Level 3; this course is designed for beekeepers going to work commercially. www.taratahi.ac.nz

Telford Courses offered by Lincoln University offers correspondence courses for hobby beekeepers as well as national certificates. <http://www.telford.ac.nz/Courses-Onsite/Apiculture/>

A cost to club is new DVD to be made featuring Frank Lindsay to be sold to club members. Suggested from the floor that DVDs are outdated and options including putting on website, or gaining sponsorship. Keith Budd may have someone to approach.

WBA asked to contribute \$1000.00 to Trees for Bee's for reprinting leaflet for distribution at show, conferences etc. The leaflet describes bee friendly plans for urban settings. WBA contribution will match \$1000.00 that the Auckland Beekeeping Club has agreed to pay. Clubs will be acknowledged

by logo on the back. **Dave Henderson** moved up to \$1000 be contributed to Trees for Bees, seconded **Tania Olders**. **Carried**

Election of Officers

President – **Frank Lindsay**, nominated **Tony Coard**, seconded **John Randle**. Elected by members. **Carolyn O’Fallon** also stood for president and Tricia Laing withdrew.

Co-Vice Presidents – **Carolyn O’Fallon**, nominated James Scott, seconded **Dave**. **Sharon Mackie**, nominated **Lou Gallagher**, seconded **Tony Coard**. Tied vote by members

Move both Carolyn and Sharon be elected **Richard Braczek**, seconded **Tricia Laing**. **Carried**.

Secretary – **Jane Harding**, nominated **Richard Braczek**

Treasurer – **John Burnet**, nominated **Frank Lindsay**

Newsletter Editor – **Lynne Brunton**, nominated **Richard Braczek**

Webmaster – **James Scott**, nominated **Pat Phipps**

Librarian - vacancy

Supper Coordinator - vacancy

Club Almoner – vacancy

Committee

Eva Durant – nominated **Richard Braczek**, seconded **Christine Gregory**

PK Tan – nominated **James Scott**, seconded **Carolyn O’Fallon**

Tony Coard – nominated **Frank Lindsay**, seconded **John Randle**

John Randle – nominated **Tony Coard**, seconded **Tania Olders**

Tricia Laing – nominated **Richard Braczek**, seconded **Lou Gallagher**

James Withington – nominated **Richard Braczek**, seconded **Tony Coard**

Carolyn O’Fallon expressed thanks and appreciation for the contribution Richard has made as President of the club for the last 5 years.

Meeting ended at 9.20pm

President's Report

It's been another busy year with lots of activities for new and older members. The Club has continued growing with a current membership of 339.

Club Survey

168 members responded to our survey in August which provided valuable information useful in running the club.

Guest Speakers

Our guest speakers talked about creating bee friendly gardens, wasps and how to get rid of them, how bees are a key attraction at Wellington Zoo and the threat to bee health that neonics pose.

Workshops

We had a number of workshops on topics ranging from managing varroa to making mead at Jacob's meadery at Houghton Bay.

Club Field Days

These continued to provide members with valuable hands on experience.

Club Competitions

We had our usual club competitions which proved popular with increased entries this year.

Informal Networks

These continued to provide support to members particularly those who received their first nucs during the year.

Community Involvement

Club members continued providing valuable support to schools and various community groups. In addition, we had a very visible presence during bee awareness month and manned stalls at various venues such as the Otari Plant Museum open day and the Home and Garden show.

Web Site

Our club invested in a new website during the year and this is already proving to be a valuable tool with features continuing to be developed.

Facebook

In the social media age, the club has a flourishing Facebook account which provides a great opportunity for sharing information.

Club Apparel

We now have a range of club hats and tee shirts available for purchase and we produced a club calendar for the first time.

Gadgets for Beekeepers

Members again shared useful tips and contraptions and this will be more formalised in the future with the awarding of the new Andrew Beach Memorial Award for the best Innovations and Inventions.

Executive Committee

Thanks to the Executive Committee for their time given to ensure we have a well-run and functioning club and others who have provided services for the club such as the library, providing supper at our meetings and putting out the chairs etc.

Members

And to members, for their participation and support in various ways. Particularly those who have shared their knowledge with others either by participating in formal events such as beginner's sessions and workshops/field days or informally.

We have an active and healthy club to be proud of.

Richard Braczek

President