



Next meeting | Wednesday 3rd June 2024

Where | Johnsonville Community Centre

Editor | Jane Harding janeh@xtra.co.nz

No beginners session this month.

Main Meeting: 7.30pm

AGM, then photo competition and winter social.

Short talk from Chris Howard on his honey extraction plant will precede the photo competition judging

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From the Editor

No beginner's session this month, AGM photo competition and a winter social. Chris Howard will also give a short talk on his honey extraction plant.

Photo Competition. If you've got photos in the competition, please bring a print to get pinned on the boards so everyone can take a look. We will also display the photos on the screen so everyone can see them.

If you've got photos to hang, please come earlier than 7.30 so we can get them on the boards before the AGM at 7.30pm. The viewing and judging will take place after the AGM. As advised, the photo competition this year is a "people's choice" judging round, so everyone gets to vote for what they think is the best photo in each category and the photo with the most votes gets the winner's trophy.

There will be different coloured dots for each category and everyone who wants to vote will get one dot of each colour to put with the photos.

Winter Social. What better way to view photos than with a cuppa in your hand and some yummy baking. Please bring along a plate of something to share for our winter social.



AGM

Agenda for 2024 AGM

2024 Annual General Meeting of the Wellington Beekeepers Association 3 JULY 2024 To be held at the Johnsonville Community Centre, Frankmoore Avenue, Johnsonville at 7.30pm

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous AGM
3. Matters arising
4. President's Report
5. Treasurers Report
6. Election of Officers –
 - President
 - Treasurer
 - Secretary
 - Additional roles of -
 - webmaster
 - librarian
 - general committee members
7. Membership Fee
8. AFB Fee and infected hive reimbursement
9. Review of Constitution
10. General Business



Minutes of the 2023 AGM

2023 Annual General Meeting of the Wellington Beekeepers Association

5 July 2023

Held at the Johnsonville Community Centre, Frankmore Avenue at
7.30pm

Tricia Laing welcomed members

Present – Tricia Laing, Jane Harding, John Burnet, PK Tan, Viv Harris, Barbara Parkinson, Frank Lindsay, Jill Dalton, Jim Hepburn and about 35 members.

Apologies - James Withington, Graeme Chisnall, James Scott, Eva Durrant, Janine Davie

Minutes of previous AGM. Noted

Matters Arising. No matters arising

Presidents Report. Noted. Moved to be accepted

Treasurer's Report – John Burnet presented the accounts. AFB reimbursement fund has a balance of \$12087. John suggested that some of the AFB levy funding that is not spent on AFB reimbursement could be used to support local AFB research. John Burnet moved the Financial Accounts be accepted, seconded Jane Harding.

Election of Officers:

President: Tricia Laing – moved Tricia Laing, seconded Jane Harding

Vice President – no nominations for VP, agreed we would continue to canvas members for a volunteer to take on this role.



Treasurer – John Burnet – moved John Burnet, seconded Jane Harding.
Carried

Secretary – Jane Harding – moved Jane Harding, seconded Frank Lindsay.
Carried

Election of Other Committee members

PK Tan

Barbara Parkinson

Janine Davie

James Scott

Jim Hepburn

Graeme Chisnall

Millie Baker

Webmaster: Jason Bragg - tbc

Librarian: Ellen Millar

Carried.

Membership Fee

Club membership fee recommended to stay at \$25.00, \$7.50 of which goes into the AFB fund to reimburse members who need to destroy AFB infected hives. Carried

AFB Fee and infected hive reimbursement

John moved a motion that the reimbursement amount be raised to \$180 to better reflect the costs of new hive ware. Seconded Ben Scott. Carried.

General Business

There were no items of general business raised.

Meeting closed at 7.50pm.



Presidents Report

President's Report 2024

This is my President's report for the Wellington Beekeepers' Association's 84th Annual General Meeting.

In October 2022 I agreed to fill the vacant position of President of WBA having been Vice- president in the past. A big thank you to the people who have supported me in this role. I saw this as a temporary arrangement while a younger, passionate beekeeper could be found to fill this position. This has now been achieved and I can step down happy that the position will not be vacant after this AGM. Thank you Janine Davie, a valued Executive Committee member, for agreeing to take on this important role.

Interest in beekeeping continues to wane and this is reflected in a further reduction of membership from 314 members in 2022, 269 members in 2023, to 259 members in 2024. This number is made up of 200 financial members, 13 honorary and life members; and, 46 who paid in the previous financial year.

The 2023 Colony Loss Survey had a section on beekeeper wellbeing and the initial result indicates that (p48):

“The typical New Zealand beekeeper is a first-generation male in his late 50's with 5 years of beekeeping experience managing three colonies. Hobbyist beekeepers reported wellbeing similar to or slightly above national averages using two different measures, while commercial beekeepers reported wellbeing well below national averages on both measures. We hypothesise that honeybee health and biosecurity, financial aspects of beekeeping, regulation and compliance, workload and time management, weather and working outdoors, other beekeepers and landowners, the physical aspects of beekeeping, and technical and financial support for beekeepers potentially affect wellbeing among commercial owner-operators, and we will explore these factors in detail in a separate analysis.”

The separate analysis is yet to come. While I don't know the age and gender of our membership, I can say that with Jane and Eva Durant I am significantly older and a different gender than the typical beekeeper. While we are all first generation beekeepers we all have more than 12 years experience and manage more than three colonies. Our experience aside, it does appear that younger people are not taking up beekeeping in our area. Chatting with members suggests that while hobby beekeepers' wellbeing



seems fine, the climate and managing varroa in our area are issues contributing to people giving up hobby beekeeping.

During 2023 John Burnet and I worked on preparing a consistent set of bylaws relating to beekeeping that can be promoted across the ten local authorities in the Wellington Region. John has continued to work closely with Wellington City Council with great success. Upper Hutt City Council see WBA as an expert body from which to seek advice when they are dealing with complaints and will take into consideration our recommendations when their bee bylaws come up for review. Porirua City Council have decided to bring forward the review of their bylaws and are working closely with Wellington City Council to arrive at a consistent approach. Our recommended bylaw has focussed on the importance of beekeepers' best practice rather than limitations on beekeeping practices such as number of hives per residential property or hive placement in relationship to the potential nuisance value of bees. In all the existing bylaws the local body retains the right to investigate any complaints about bees creating a nuisance. When recommending bylaws to local councils, WBA's intention is to start a conversation, and participate in the process of establishing reasonable bylaws. Who can complain about bees creating a nuisance varies from one set of bylaws to another. This has led to one unresolved case in Porirua City Council dragging on for over three years. WBA's intention is to support members who cooperate with local councils, as has happened in this case; and, who we know are responsible beekeepers. Apiculture New Zealand has worked together with us in this space and I particularly want to thank Karen Kos, the CEO, for her on-going support.

Recognising that often we learn from each other we need to keep talking. Both the Chartwell and Wingate Club Apiaries have continued to provide a place to focus on experiential learning and information sharing under the guidance of experienced beekeepers, in particular, Frank Lindsay, John Burnet, Richard Braczek and Michele van Daalen. The group that care for the Wingate Club Apiary led by Richard and Michele are currently exploring the possibility of providing a work experience placement for a young person wanting to get into beekeeping. A very big thank you goes to these leading beekeepers for their time and on-going interest.

I also want to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to Jane Harding for single-handedly editing the newsletter over the past year. We are now keenly searching for a person who can assist Jane with this task. Please get in touch if you are interested.



During bee awareness month (September) Marion Saunders led the educational efforts at the Botanical Gardens which pulled in the crowds. Marion and the other beekeepers who assisted her were an outstanding example of educating the general public about bees and their contribution to the environment in which we live. At the October meeting we enjoyed an informative presentation by Marco Gonzalez, National Operations Manager, responsible for managing outbreaks and reducing the incidents of American Foul Brood (AFB). He described what it meant to be a responsible beekeeper particularly in relation to being a DECA holder and registering our apiaries. It was disappointing to hear that abandoned apiaries are sometimes the source of AFB outbreaks. He also indicated that unregistered beekeepers hinder his work finding the sources of AFB. It was also disappointing to hear from John Burnet that the outbreak of AFB in central Wellington was probably the result of people putting honey out to feed the birds.

This year began with the exciting news that in the New Year Honours, Frank Lindsay received the Office of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his 50 years service to the apiculture industry. WBA had the pleasure in March of hosting a celebration for Frank and Mary-Anne. James Withington played a key role, working with the Executive Committee to organise a successful event for which we thank him. And, as always Frank, thank you for all the advice and encouragement you continually give to club members.

Lastly, thanks to other Executive Committee Members for their support this past year; in particular: Jane Harding for her hard and persistent work as Secretary, and Newsletter Editor; James Withington for continuing to keep our facebook page up-to date; Ellen Millar for managing the library; Jim Hepburn for managing the swarm list, John Burnet for keeping our finances in order and Eva Durant, for undertaking the accounting review; Graham Chisnal for sharing his knowledge and experience with new beekeepers in many of the Beginners' Classes; and, Barbara Parkinson and her team for feeding us at meetings.

Tricia Laing July 2024



Financial Reports

Wellington Beekeepers Association Inc

Balance Sheet as at 31 May 2024

<u>2023</u>		<u>2024</u>
	Liabilities & Members Funds	
	Accumulated Funds	
18612	General Fund as at 1 June 2023	15312
	minus Accounts Rec for year ended 31 May 2023	160
3300	minus Income/Expenditure deficit for 2024 (refer Income & Expenditure statement)	1349
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15312	Balance of General Fund as at 31 May 2024	13803
12087	AFB Fund as at 1 June 2023	13834
2107	Plus members' AFB contributions for year	1500
-360	Less AFB Reimbursement expenses	2160
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13834	Balance of AFB Fund as at 31 May 2024 (refer Note 2)	13174
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29146	Balances of all funds as at 31 May 2024	26977
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Assets



Wellington Beekeepers Association

Support and encouragement of beekeeping and beekeepers

4535	Westpac Cheque Account	1570
14199	Westpac On-Call Savings Account	14589
10252	Westpac Term Deposit Account	10818
160	Accounts Receivable	0
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29146	Total all Bank Accounts	26977
29146	Balances as at 31 May 2024	26977
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Statements of Account prepared by:

John Burnet (Hon. Treasurer)

Statements of Account verified by:

Eva Durrant
(Reviewer)



Wellington Beekeepers Association Inc
Income & Expenditure Statement for year ended 31 May 2024
(inclusive of GST)

<u>2023</u>		<u>2024</u>	
	Income		
7025	Members subscriptions 2022/23	4985	Note 1
-2107	less AFB Fund contributions	-1500	Note 2
4918	Total Subscription Income	3485	
365	Donations & Sundry Income	44	
360	Extractor Hire	520	
468	Wax Dipping Receipts (less energy costs)	0	
595	Bank Interest	1015	
2250	Training Course Receipts	3000	Note 3
1017	Queen & Nuc Colony Receipts	3420	Note 4
2568	Varroa Treatment Sales	6498	
7623		14497	14497
12541	Total Income	17982	
	Expenses		
1116	Meeting room hire	1683	
13	Printing & Stationery expenses	16	Note 5
487	General expenses	141	Note 6
181	Meeting supper expenses	278	
310	Guest speaker expenses	70	
0	Frank Lindsay award celebration	2562	
346	Xero Consulting & Accounting	349	Note 7
1311	Hello Club member mgmt system annual sub	1311	
253	Apiculture NZ subscription	253	
305	Internet subscription & website support	207	
0	Cup & Trophy Engraving	30	
2085	Club Hive expenses (non-equipment purchases)	1354	Note 8
1997	Training Course expenses	1260	Note 3



Wellington Beekeepers Association

Support and encouragement of beekeeping and beekeepers

1032	Queen & Nuc Colony expenses	3646	Note 4
5	Tutin Testing expenses (less receipts)	-62	Note 9
194	Equipment repairs & maintenance (extractors)	180	
1203	Wax Dipping expenses (paraffin wax)	0	
<u>2990</u>	Varroa Treatment purchases	<u>6053</u>	
13828		19331	19331
	<u>Assets Purchased & Depreciated :</u>		Note 10
0	Club Apiary (additional and replacement hiveware and equipment purchased)	0	
2013	Club equipment (laptop & web camera)	0	
<u>0</u>	Books purchased for Library	<u>0</u>	
2013		0	
15841	Total Expenditure	19331	
<u>-3300</u>	Surplus / Deficit	Deficit	<u>1349</u>



**Wellington Beekeepers
Assoc. Inc.
Asset Schedule as at 31
May 2024**

Asset	Cost Price	Current Value	Repl'mt Value	Year Written Off	Asset Held By	Location
Asus Business Laptop P2451FA-EB0321R	\$1,605	Nil	Unknown	2022	Frank Lindsay	J'ville
Logitech webcam, tripod, briefcase & cables	\$336	Nil	Unknown	2022	Frank Lindsay	J'ville
HP Laptop Model 15AC015TU	\$640	Nil	Unknown	2015	Frank Lindsay	J'ville
Stainless Steel Extractor (non rev)	\$718	Nil	\$918	2016	John Burnet	Tawa
Stainless Steel Extractor	\$809	Nil	\$918	2011	John Burnet	Tawa
Beach Cup (Mead Comp)	Donated	Nil	Unknown	N/A	TBA	
Stevenson Memorial Cup	Donated	Nil	Unknown	N/A	Wayne Wild	Wainui.
Bodmin Cup (Honey Comp)	Donated	Nil	Unknown	N/A	Christine Gregory	Crofton D
Frank Lindsay Photography Trophy	\$239	Nil	Unknown	2014	John Burnet	Tawa
Beach Memorial Trophy (Innovation comp)	Donated	Nil	Unknown	2016 2000-	PK Tan Ellen	Porirua
Library Books (many donated)	\$1,411	Nil	Unknown	21	Miller	Maupuia
Educational Posters (3 sets - various types)	\$476	Nil	\$156	2018	John Burnet	Tawa
Teaching Frame Inserts (set of 20 in frames)	Donated	Nil	\$140	2018	Marion Saunders	Wgtn Bot
Motorised Projection Screen	\$2,946	Nil	\$3,000 +	2022	Comm Centre	J'ville
Observation Hive (Single frame)	\$76	Nil	Unknown	2003	Frank Lindsay	J'ville
Observation Hive (Single frame)	Donated	Nil	Unknown	N/A	Marion Saunders	Wgton Bot
Observation Hive (triple frame)	Donated	Nil	Unknown	N/A	PK Tan	Porirua
Garmin Global Positioning System	\$400	Nil	Unknown	2004	John Burnet	Tawa



Wellington Beekeepers Association

Support and encouragement of beekeeping and beekeepers

Data Projector (new)	\$1,495	Nil	\$1,300	2013	Frank Lindsay John	J'ville
DVD/Video Player	\$300	Nil	Unknown	2006	Burnet	Tawa
DVDs/Videos purchased	\$812	Nil	Unknown	2006- 13	James Scott Frank	Belmont
PC Speakers	\$63	Nil	\$30	2006 2010-	Lindsay John	J'ville
Wax Dipper (custom made)	\$5,937	Nil	Unknown	18	Randall	S.Karori
Broodminder (wifi hive minding system)	\$809	Nil	Unknown	2019	Frank Lindsay John	J'ville
Fender Portable PA System	\$3,670	Nil	\$1,500 +	2013	Burnet	Tawa
Club Apiary - Chartwell (12 hives)	\$2,400	Nil	\$5,000 +	2012- 23	On-site	Chartwell
Club Apiary - Chartwell (8 nucs)	\$640	Nil	\$1,600	2019- 23	On-site	Chartwell
Club Apiary - stored equip. (20 boxes-Chartwell)	\$850	Nil	\$1,000	2012- 23	On-site	Chartwell
Club Nuc boxes (40)	\$2,510	Nil	\$2,500	2019	On-site	Chartwell
Club Apiary - Wingate Park (6 hives)	Donated	Nil	\$1,500	2020- 23	On-site	Wingate
Club Apiary - stored equip. (50 boxes-Wingate)	Donated	Nil	\$2,500	2019- 23	On-site	Wingate
Club Apiary - Shipping Container	\$3,732	Nil	\$3,000	2020	On-site	Wingate
Club signs x 2 (Chartwell & Wingate Park)	\$140	Nil	\$280	2020	On-site	Chartwell
Banner Stand (pull-up) WBA (2)	\$500	Nil	\$500	2014- 15	John Burnet	Tawa
Banner Stand (pull-up) NZPost	Donated	Nil	Unknown	N/A	John Burnet	Tawa
Banner (painted with Club name)	\$140	Nil	Unknown	2012	John Burnet	Tawa
Brochure Stand (portable) Display Stand	\$40	Nil	\$50 +	2012	John Burnet	Tawa
(portable/folding)	Donated	Nil	Unknown	N/A	John Burnet	Tawa
Bee-suits (12 x suits for Club use)	\$355	Nil	\$600	2014- 20	John Burnet	Tawa
Bee-suits (10 x branded suits for school visits)	\$455	Nil	\$500	2019	Marion Saunders	Wgton Bot

Stock On Hand (as at 31 May 2024)

Starting With Bees Handbook	25 x copies @ \$14	\$350
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Wax foundation (f/d sheets)	3 kg @ \$30 per kg	\$90
Wax foundation (f/d sheets) at Wingate	10 kg @ \$30 per kg	\$300
Apivar (12 strip packs)	4 packs @ \$50	\$200
Paraffin Wax (for wax dipper)	200 kg @ \$6	\$1,200

Wellington Beekeepers Association Inc. Notes to Accounts for Year ending 31 May 2024

- Note 1 Membership - 200 financial members as at 31 May 2024
Plus 15 fee-free members (partners of paid members), 13 honorary and life members
4 associate members (other beekeeping clubs)
AFB refund - \$7.50 is retained from each subscription and held for reimbursement to any
- Note 2 Club member who has to destroy an AFB infected hive (refer Balance Sheet)
12 claims from 6 members totalling \$2160 (\$180 per hive) rec'd for year to 31 May 2024
Basic Beekeeping Training course held Spring 2023 - 12 participants paying \$250 (Profit \$1740)
- Note 3 Queen & Nuc colony receipts - 35 x queens purchased from three breeders and on-sold at cost
- Note 4 Queen & Nuc expenses - 4 x double brood box hives in polystyrene boxes purchased for club
- Note 5 Printing & Stationery - photocopying of financial accounts
- Note 6 General Expenses - general administration and courier costs
- Note 7 Xero Consulting & Accounting - online accounting and bank reconciliation fees
Club Hive Expenses - Includes apiary levies (\$79), varroa treatment (\$476), new queens (\$350)
- Note 8 Public Liability Insurance for Chartwell apiary (\$425)
- Note 9 Tutin Testing - 49 members paid \$20 each for lab testing and courier costs.
Small profit resulted
- Note 10 Depreciation - all new assets depreciated in full in year of purchase in terms of Club policy.



WCC Beekeeping Bylaw

The WCC has confirmed the new bylaw regarding keeping bees. This bylaw has been drafted in consultation with WBA and we hope this will serve as a template for other councils when they review their beekeeping bylaws. The text of the bylaw follows:

12. Bees

12.1. Community beekeeping

12.1.1. Beekeeping on any Council land, including parks and reserves, is a managed activity and is prohibited unless you have obtained a licence or prior written permission from the Council. Applications will be assessed by an Authorised Officer and may be granted with specific conditions.

12.1.2. No new beehives will be permitted on parks and reserves land unless they are located within a Community garden licensed area.

12.2. Keeping bees on private land

12.2.1. Written permission is not required if a person wishes to keep bees within a Rural area.

12.2.2. An owner or occupier of any property in a Residential area may keep up to four beehives without prior written permission from the Council.

12.2.3. The Council may require the removal or relocation of a beehive(s) if the conditions for which the permission was originally given are not being met and/or if an Authorised Officer considers the beehives to be causing a nuisance. This applies to both Residential and Rural areas.

The limit of four beehives (clause 12.2.2.) applies to any bees kept following the adoption of this bylaw. For instance, if an owner already possesses five beehives before the enactment of this bylaw, they are exempt from the limitation.



12.3. Conditions for keeping bees

12.3.1. In order to keep bees, a person must comply with the following conditions:

beekeepers must ensure that hives are positioned to avoid the flight path impinging on any neighbouring dwellings or living areas;

a suitable water source must be provided for the bees; and

management techniques employed to reduce the likelihood of causing a nuisance.

12.3.2. All beekeepers have a legal requirement to register any apiary, as required under the Biosecurity Act 1993, within 30 days of placing beehives on that site. All hives must prominently show the Beekeeper's Registration Number. Registration of beehives is with The Management Agency (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan), not the Council.

We strongly recommend referring to the [Council's Caring for Bees Factsheet](#) (121KB PDF) for further guidance on good hive management.

Plastic Pallets

Plastic pallets available - Mitre10 Porirua have a number available. Contact Jim Hepburn 021926 823 or go to the Porirua Mitre10 drive thru outlet and ask for AJ. Take a jar of honey.

Oxaleric Strips

Cardboard strips or staples are soaked in 40% oxalic acid and 60% glycerine solution.



A very convenient, safe and cost-effective method to control varroa in your hives.

Oxalic acid is a natural or organic product found in fruits, cocoa, leafy green vegetables, nuts, seeds, spinach and sweet potatoes. Strips are ideal for controlling hives with low mite loads not situations where a high mite kill is required. Synthetic or chemical treatments such as Apivar, Apistan, Bayvarol are best for these situations.

Oxalierine strips can be used all year round even when honey supers are on the hive. Strips are a contact killer not a fumigant. Strips should be folded in a staple shape and hung over the top bars in the centre of the brood for ten weeks. Three strips are required for $\frac{3}{4}$ brood boxes, four strips for full depth boxes. Replacement strips can be added after six to nine weeks.

Club has purchased a bulk supply of ready-made Oxalierine product and is selling this on to members at cost price - \$53.13 for an 80 strip pack (66 cents per strip). Alternatively, you can purchase a 20-strip pack for \$15.00 (increased cost per strip to cover repackaging costs).

Strips can be kept safely for several months in a vacuum packed or air-tight plastic bag.

Chemical resistant gloves are recommended when handling the strips.



What's Happening Science Wise – Phil Lester

The NZ Honey Bee Research Symposium

By Phil Lester

The 5th NZ Honey Bee Research Symposium has just been held in Hamilton. For the column this month, I thought I'd share some of the highlights from the symposium that were especially relevant to beekeepers. The annual symposium also concludes with "Industry Insights," which provided an opportunity for beekeepers to comment on the research landscape. I'll summarize those comments here as well.



The 5th N.Z. Honey Bee Research Symposium

June 17th 2024, Plant & Food Research,
Kirikiriroa-Hamilton

There were many excellent presentations in the symposium. Erin Jones from Texas A&M University showed how newly established hives with more brood collected more pollen. So, if you want more pollination from new hives, make sure they have lots of brood.

Roger Harker from Plant and Food Research talked about honey tasting and demonstrated how tasting honey on mini-toast or on its own alters the perception of flavour characteristics. Mark Goodwin followed with a presentation on his proposed project to identify the percentage of honey produced from each nectar source and to sell honey based on the total floral composition and taste.



Results from a survey of beekeepers' wellbeing were presented by Patrick Dawkins (from the Apiarist's Advocate). Beekeepers were found to have life satisfaction below that of other primary industries, and they concluded that almost half of commercial beekeepers are at risk of mental health issues.

Rae Butler and Linda Newstrom-Lloyd from the New Zealand Bee Breeding Association talked about their use of the Harbo Assay for discovering, testing, and maintaining long-term VSH (varroa sensitive hygiene). The method appears to have potential as an effective and relatively easy method for VSH selection and maintenance.

Four speakers from Victoria University gave presentations on double-stranded RNA (dsRNA) as a novel biopesticide for varroa control. Zoe Smeele showed the molecular mechanism of the product. Joana Merk showed that the survival and foraging of bees treated with dsRNA compared well to bees treated with Apivar or with no mite control. Rose McGruddy presented national survey results that indicated beekeepers were open to using this biopesticide but also worried about public perception of the treatment.

Michelle Taylor from Plant and Food Research showed that poplar and native plant resins are common sources of Aotearoa-New Zealand propolis. Poplar is surprisingly a very common component in many propolis samples.

Maëlle Anastasi presented her research that showed amitraz-based miticides (such as Apivar) do not affect honey bee and mite bacterial microbiome. And Danielle Kok gave an update on progress towards a phage-based (viruses that attack bacteria) solution to American foulbrood in honey bees. Danielle will be searching for more viruses that attack American foulbrood.



dnature generously sponsored the student prizes for the symposium. First place went to Rose McGruddy (Victoria University of Wellington), second place to Erin Jones (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, USA), and third place to Epernay Carta (The New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Research Ltd).

The “Industry Insights” session allowed beekeepers to offer comments and ask questions of the researchers. One of the first comments was that more basic or practical science was needed to help beekeepers, such as on the use of oxalic acid fogging for varroa control. Beekeepers need new treatments and assistance with bee health.

Beekeepers asked how researchers decide which topics or questions to examine. The researchers present indicated that while meetings like this one are useful for shaping directions, much of the research is also driven by



researchers themselves. The Apiculture NZ Research Group has historically played a role in suggesting topics, and organizations such as Apiculture NZ and NZ Beekeeping have also previously suggested strategies or directions.

There was a discussion about the failed levy proposal that could have funded research. A comment was made that people weren't against the levy, but instead, there should be a research plan derived from the industry as a whole. Some beekeepers present also felt that there was an issue with paying for administration in the previous proposal.

One beekeeper described the current honey bee industry in NZ as being like a cruise ship, with everyone in the engine room but no individual or group steering. What is the highest priority for research? What are the overall strategic goals and directions? They felt that what is needed is a coordinated and directed response.



The 5th NZ Honey Bee Research Symposium has just been held in Hamilton. Around 100 people attended the event held at Plant & Food Research, with 22 presentations.



Meetings for the rest of 2024

August – Legal requirements for keeping bees and updates on varroa treatment options

September – Swarms and swarm collection and VUW research updates (tbc)

October – Equipment for keeping bees – new, replaced, updated and hopefully our Gadgets and Gizmos quiz

November – Spring Buildup and getting a Nuc, Honey tasting and pollen and nectar sources in Wellington

December – Mead competition and Christmas party

Who can I speak to?

President - Patricia Laing president@beehive.org.nz

Treasurer – John Burnet (04) 232 7863 treasurer@beehive.org.nz

Secretary – Jane Harding 027 421 2417 secretary@beehive.org.nz

Membership - James Scott - (04) 565 0164

Web Master - Jason Bragg - (021 527 244)

Librarian - Ellen Millar - (021 709 793)

Supper co-ordinator - Barbara Parkinson – (04) 2379624

Swarm WhatsApp Administrator - Jim Hepburn (021 926823)

PK Tan - 021 109 3388

Graeme Chisnall - 021-246-8662

Janine Davie

Millie Baker

Newsletter Editor - Jane Harding - 027 421 2417