



Next meeting | Wednesday 5 February 2025

Where | Johnsonville Community Centre

Editor | Jane Harding janeh@xtra.co.nz

Beginners session; 6.45pm upstairs at the JCC
Janine Davie will talk about Honey Harvesting, do's and don'ts and what to expect.

Main meeting; 7.30pm in big downstairs room at JCC

We don't have a speaker or topic for this first meeting of the year, we'd like to throw the floor open for anyone to talk about the season so far, ask questions or share something with the group.

Our speaker programme will begin again in March

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From the President

February 2025

From the sound of things summer has been extremely late arriving in Wellington this year. I was in sunny Townsville, Queensland for a month and let me tell you it was plenty hot there – 34 degrees most days. It is also the wet season so absolutely bucketing down with rain for a week or so (hot and humid - yay).

I feel that we brought the sun back with us because it has been hot enough for me here since we got back in the middle of January. I had stacked my hives up with boxes before we left, one had six supers and one had four. I think this was a few too many in view of the weather while we were away but better too many than not enough. I am going to have to do some hive manipulation to make sure the maximum number of frames have capped honey and I don't end up with lots of frames of uncapped honey.

Like me, some of you are gearing up for honey extraction, just a reminder that the club does have honey extractors for hire to assist you and John Burnet takes care of the bookings for these (Ph: 0274379062). Due to the demand for these please consider booking them for a mid-week extraction otherwise you may have to wait several weekends before they become available. Please make sure the extractor is completely clean when you return it. I find honey extraction equipment much easier to clean with cold water but I am sure John will supply instructions.

Remember if you intend to give away or sell your honey, any honey extracted from the hives post 31 December needs to be tutin tested and once again we will be sending composite samples to the lab. Look for more information about this later in the newsletter.

I have noticed a few wasps hanging around my hives so I'm about to do some research on options for dealing with and to them. I didn't have any problems last year but there must be a new nest somewhere nearby.



I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting and wishing you all the best for a happy and fulfilling 2025.

Janine

Chartwell Apiary Report

Frank and I visited the apiary on 22 Jan to check on honey storage space, replace any decaying hive-ware, re-instate queen excluders, check varroa mite levels and treat.

Thanks to our late summer it appears there is another nectar flow underway – mainly mahoe flowering again, five finger and Darwin's barbary (a good source of nectar and pollen in the spring). Empty super were added to some hives (Hive 1 is now nine boxes high !) and some frames moved around in the top supers to make more room for honey. Most hives are now 5-6 boxes high. A couple of boxes were replaced as they were developing holes and these would become entrances for robbing bees and wasps in the autumn.

All varroa levels were checked via mite wash – four hives measured zero mites (we have been using oxalic acid strips) but one hive measured 15 mites – this hive has consistently had a high mite count all summer despite Frank's treatment efforts so he has taken a split from this and Phil Lester will use it (plus another split) for VUW research purposes. All other hives had single figure mite counts and all hives were treated with formic acid pads – a severe knock-down treatment that can be applied at this time of the season when honey supers are on the hive (unlike most synthetic treatments) but we are aware there is a risk of queen death. We are expecting some new queens from the West Coast within the next week and seven are intended for Chartwell to introduce better genetics.

John Burnet



Swarm Report 24-25 Season

Collection of swarms is a service that our Bee Club offers to anyone in the Wellington region and includes Kapiti, Porirua, Wellington, Lower Hutt and Upper Hutt cities. It also provides these swarms to members who may want a colony of bees. It is a free service. Swarm notification and collection is organised via a WhatsApp group coordinated by Jim Hepburn.

This season kicked off on 28th August 24 with the first swarm being picked up by PK Tan.





The three J's (Jim, James, John) liaised to manage the What'sApp group and there were 42 collectors on the list. There were about 15 receivers available at any one time.

To date there have been 158 individual swarm reports posted to the What'sApp group. In addition to these there has been many more calls that have been dealt with directly by the 3 J's and not posted to the group. These were mostly not a traditional swarm in a tree but were bumble bees, penetrations or wasps. People generally agreed to live with the Bumbles and some penetrations along with the wasps were referred to an exterminator. It was hard to keep a tally of these extra calls but I personally dealt with 42 of them.

37 of the posted calls came from Upper Hutt. This created our busiest collectors with Michele and Richard taking out the honours. The person who collected the least number of swarms was myself. Probably because I /we are no longer allowed to keep bees on our property. The city that had the least swarm calls was Porirua – This is most likely due to low numbers of hives in Porirua as an outcome of PCC policy of removing hives when there are complaints of nuisance. Of the 42 members on the group there were 27 active collectors. It was challenging to get responses over the holiday period. It has been a very busy time linked I suspect to the slightly crazy session.

Jim Hepburn

Following some photos of the swarms called in –



Galaxy S21 5G



Bees - Richard Braczek

Address is 10 Trieste way Paraparaumu, opposite flats46 and 48 I've stapled a sign to the tree Terry

Swarm is in public view hence sign. Be good if someone could collect soon.

12:21 PM

Bees - Richard Braczek









Flow Hives

Otaki Buzz club is looking to organise a bulk purchase of flowhive hiveware from Alibaba.

The following is the information from the Otaki Buzz Club:

“ 6 hives with base, brood box, top board, queen excluder, roof and seven flow frames including harvesting key and pipes USD \$1390 including Import Duty Tax which equates to approximately NZD \$414 per hive.

10 hives would be USD \$2097 including Import Duty Tax which equates to approximately NZD \$375 per hive

Either price is very competitive at the multiple rates, although this may fluctuate slightly depending on the exchange rate at the time. If anyone is interested in purchasing a flow hive, please let me know so that I can place a multiple order to obtain the best price for everyone. The price includes the brood box, but does not include standard Langstroth brood frames as most of us have plenty of our own, or would prefer to source them locally.

If you would like to view the hive, please click on the link below.”

https://www.alibaba.com/product-detail/Full-Set-7PCS-Bee-Hive-Honey_1601228351303.html?spm=a27aq.27095423.1978240560.5.48732277bJtFeY

Information from Eddie Martin 021 121 0878



Club equipment, services and mite treatments available

The Club has two manual four-frame extractors for hire. Cost is \$20 per hire and hire periods are usually Mon - Thurs or Fri - Sun. Hire includes a cappings bin and tool, and nylon capping strainer bags which allow you to spin the cappings themselves at the end of your extraction session. You will need to buy or borrow your own filter strainers and buckets. Full operating instructions are provided. Extractor bookings should be made to the Treasurer <mailto:treasurer@beehive.org.nz> treasurer@beehive.org.nz).

Because each extractor stands over 1100mm in height and the legs splay about 700mm (width) to transport an extractor you will need a station wagon or hatch back with a wide opening door.

* Treasurer is currently arranging tutin testing for \$20 per sample. Free plastic screw top sample jars are available from the Treasurer for this purpose and samples are submitted to the lab in batches of ten for composite testing. If you are planning to sell or barter your honey tutin testing is a legal requirement. Club has submitted 80-100 samples annually from members over several years and none have tested positive for tutin.

* Treasurer has a stock of Club-owned varroa treatment - currently

* Oxaleric strips (\$15 for a 20 strip pack or \$55 for a 80 strip pack). Organic treatment. 40% Oxalic acid and 60% glycerine. 3 - 4 strips are needed per brood box. Can be used at any time and repeatedly. Best for keeping varroa under control – but this will not deal with a severe infestation.

* Apivar (\$50 for a 12 strip packet) - Amitraz based. Four strips are required for the usual double brood box hive). Should be used after honey is harvested. Good synthetic knock-down product. Alternate with other



products.

* Bayvarol (\$10 for a 4 strip packet) - Flumethrin-based. Four strips are required per brood box). Should be used after honey is harvested. Alternate with other products.

* Api Life Var (\$1 for a two dose wafer). Thymol-based. One wafer cut into 4 sections required between the brood boxes. Repeat 3 times after 3-4 weeks. Should be used in spring and autumn after honey is harvested. Best for keeping varroa under control - this will not deal with a severe infestation.

Beekeeping equipment for sale

Free Hiveware available

Following the failure of a commercial beekeeper, I have several hundred unused, assembled, wax dipped, painted, full depth boxes to dispose of. About two hundred of these boxes also have ten unused full depth plastic frames which have been very lightly waxed – they will need proper waxing before use. The commercial beekeeping industry is such that these boxes are not likely to be required in the near future. These hive boxes have never had bees in them and have been in storage for several years.

If you are interested please contact me with your requirements and I will arrange a collection date/time and provide collection address details in Tawa.

In need I will cut these f/d boxes down to $\frac{3}{4}$ size for \$2.

John Burnet

Ph 0274-379-062 or

Email johnburnet@xtra.co.nz



And there is a whole lot of it to dispose of....

Beekeeping Equipment for Sale

Lorraine and Terry are giving up beekeeping and have a large amount of gear to sell, including hives (3/4 boxes, bases, queen excluders, etc), mite treatment equipment (vaporiser, strips, etc) and extracting equipment (sieves, filters, uncapping tools, etc). Lorraine and Terry would prefer to sell everything in one lot for \$750 or will sell individual items if necessary. For a full list and photos of the equipment, please contact Lorraine on lorraine.driskel@gmail.com



Extractor for Sale

One of our members, Neville Chun has given up beekeeping and would like to sell his Chinese-made extractor for \$599. Purchased from Hive World and used once.

<https://www.hiveworld.co.nz/product/electric-4-frame-extractor/>

Contact Neville 027 404 0886 or email neville.chun@icloud.com



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pail.

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Electric 4-frame extractor

\$747.83

Hive World's **Electric 4-frame extractor** makes your extracting a breeze. Ideal for hobbyists, this economical model costs little more than a manual model and will do your work with very little effort on your part.

The variable speed motor means you can start gently and gradually increase the speed to avoid damaging the foundation. The tangential extraction method is

Oxalic Acid Vaporiser for Sale

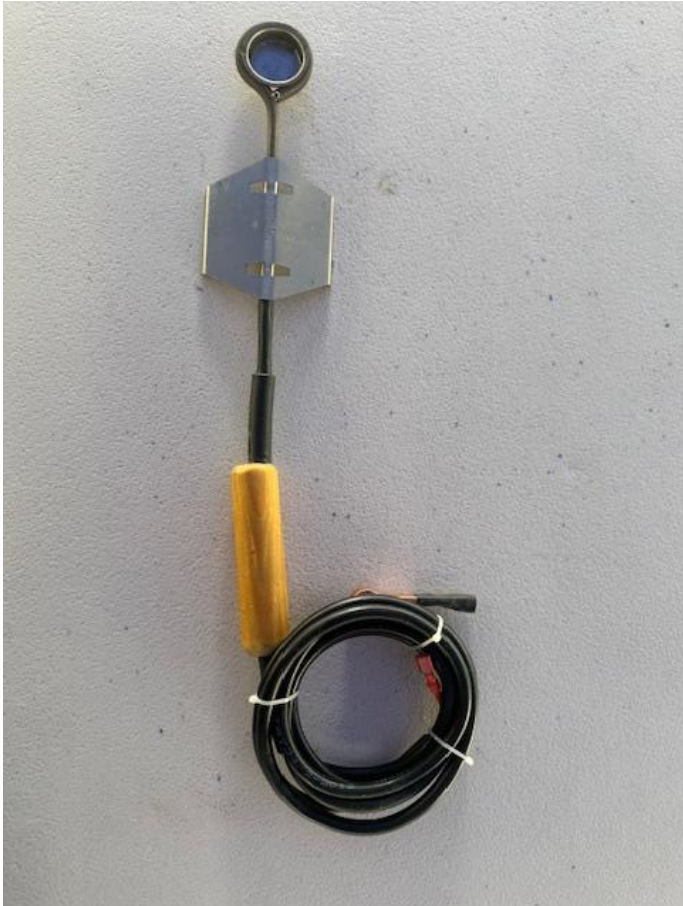
Member Murray Soon has an unused oxalic acid vaporiser for sale \$60. ONO. (Usual retail price approx. \$97).

Varroa Control - Repeat vaporisation every 4 days for 2 brood cycles to kill any mites that come from capped cells.

Requires a 12v battery (\$50 RRP), battery charger (\$33 RRP), Oxalic crystals (\$17 RRP).



Contact Murray on 021-709-793 or email msoon.email@gmail.com





Who can I speak to?

President – Janine Davie president@beehive.org.nz

Treasurer – John Burnet 027-4379-062 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)

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

Swarm WhatsApp Administrator - Jim Hepburn (021 926823)

PK Tan - 021 109 3388

Graeme Chisnall - 021-246-8662

Frank Lindsay - 027-403-4559

Millie Baker

Newsletter Editor - Jane Harding - 027 421 2417