

May 2015



Wellington Beekeepers Association

## Newsletter

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday 6th May 2015

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

7.30pm

### MAIN MEETING

Wintering Down

7.00pm

### BEGINNERS SESSION

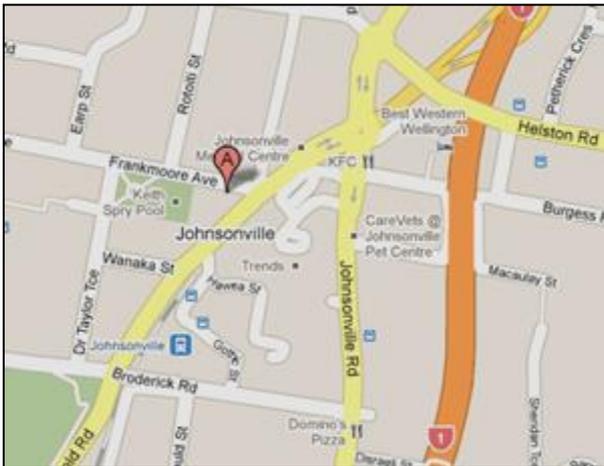
(In upstairs Trust Room)

The evolution of hive  
construction from early days

Return address: 280 Major Drive, Kelson, Lower Hutt



# Wellington Beekeepers Association



## MEETINGS

Johnsonville Community Centre  
Main Hall, Ground Floor,  
Moorefield Road

**1ST WEDNESDAY** of the month  
Main Meeting @ 7.30pm  
Beginners Tuition @7.00pm

## WHO TO TALK TO

### PRESIDENT

Richard Braczek (04) 973 3028  
ibraczek@paradise.net.nz

### TREASURER

John Burnet (04) 232 7863  
johnburnet@xtra.co.nz

### SECRETARY

Lou Gallagher 022 175 5452  
lou.m.gallagher@gmail.com

### NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS:

Lynne Brunton (021) 881874  
lynnebrunton@outlook.com

Newsletters are published in the **last week** of each month, except December.

Member contributions to be with editor **by 20<sup>th</sup> month**.

Please submit articles in Microsoft Word document format.

If recommending articles from the web, please confirm whether these can be reproduced or have copyright.

## CONTENTS

3-4. April meeting minutes

5. New Policy on DECA Applications

6. New Zealand Apiculture Conference Taupo

7. Annual disease returns

8. A film evening: The Honey Bee

9-10. Hive sites offered and other notices

10-11. Interesting web sites & article links



## Minutes of the Wellington Beekeepers Association held at the Johnsonville Community Centre on April 1, 2015

71 people signed the attendance book

Richard opened with videos on varroa mites. Very detailed. Difficult to watch.

**Hive placement.** Bob McGahan shared that overstocking of hives in the Haywards area has meant that hives were having to be fed when they should have been producing honey. Ernst Segessenmann said that a beekeeper had put a large number of hives on properties near him not taking into account the number of hives already in the area. When placing hives, make sure the landowners are happy for you to be there, and they are happy with the number of hives you are putting there. You also need to take into account how many hives a particular area can support.

**Prevent robbing events.** Reduce the entrances of the hives to minimize the damage from robbing. If you have an event already taking place, you can use a sprinkler or mist to disperse the bees. Fresh grass can be used over the entrance to reduce hive access for robber bees.

**Swarms.** Some people are having swarms at this time of the year. An absconding swarm is when there's no food in the hive.

**Late extracting.** Some people are still harvesting. Discussion about taking the honey frames off while they are still liquid and easy to extract. Best to take the honey off before it crystallizes, if you want to be able to harvest it.

**Honey supers** can also be left on the hive if you don't want to extract them. John Burnet mentioned that he's stored some of his frames and they'd been attacked by wax moth.

**Hill Street Market.** There was an opportunity for club members to sell their honey at the Hill St Market on Saturday mornings. However a show of hands demonstrated that we don't have enough people to make it happen this year. Maybe something for next year?

**Interest groups:** Join an interest group, they have regular get-togethers and it's a good way to learn more about beekeeping. Members also urged to come to Club Days.

**Mentors.** We have a list of mentors available on our website. These are club members and may be local in your area.

**Island Bay group.** Grafting of queens. 10 nucs already set up for next spring. Will be overwintering these. Extraction last month went well (Tony Coard).

**Lower Hutt interest group** - inactive for some months now. 20 people responded so far. Planning to get together this month. (Chris Crook)

**Western Bee Line, Northern Suburbs Group, Upper Hutt** - Nothing for a few months while everyone was busy with their bees. (John Randall)

**Bee photographs** - Some members attended Anne Noble's account of her recent Fulbright Scholarship stint in the United States. She produced an excellent portfolio depicting colony collapse disorder and will be holding an exhibition of these photos in Auckland. Hopefully she will share some of the photos at a club meeting too.

**Photo competition** - Entries for the annual photo competition are due at the May meeting.

**Club Calendar** - It was suggested that we should put a calendar of photos together as a club calendar. Initial estimates are that this would be very expensive to produce.

**Entertainment Books for Sale** - Lou Gallagher will take names for a big order.

**Upcoming movie night** - Bee movies from the Film Archive of New Zealand will be shown in Lower Hutt at 7.30pm on 20 May. Some of the films are silent movies so we will need a piano player. If anyone is willing to help out please contact Richard. Tickets are \$10/person.

**Plants of the month** - Photos of rosemary, good honey for this time of year. Koromiko native. Chinese chives have a white flower, also called garlic chives. Goldenrod. Budlia has flowers now, lavender, hebes, bog sage, other sages, salvias, eucalyptus, woolly thyme, borage.

**Home and Living Show** - John Burnet organising our display, April 8-10. We already have enough members to cover the roster for this year. Free passes, 2 for 1 vouchers available.

**Honey competition** - James Scott and Frank Lindsay judged this competition. People lost points for honey being too dry as well as too wet. Having clean and the right containers was also important. Winner of the liquid honey category and thus winner of the honey cup was Andrew Beach. In second place was Zorro with third going to Bob McGahan.

Creamed honey winners: First place, Alison Slace, second place, Anne Melville and third place, Lou Gallagher.



## **New Policy on DECA Applications**

**Published in April edition of The New Zealand Beekeeper**

The beekeeper must have kept bees for a period of no less than 12 months before applying for a DECA. The beekeeper, in that 12 month period, is encouraged to attend local beekeeping open days, and also sit and pass AFB Recognition Course/Exam during that time.

The DECA status will allow the beekeeper to inspect his/her own hives only.

At the completion of two years of practical beekeeping, the beekeeper will be expected to sit a refresher course, thus enabling him/her to undertake COI inspections for other beekeepers' hives.

Effective from 1 June 2015.





## **New Zealand Apiculture Conference Taupo**

The 2015 Conference will be held at Wairakei Resort in Taupo from Sunday 21 June to Thursday 25 June, with the theme 'Practical Beekeeping'. It features four international speakers, as well as workshops, seminars and specialty group meetings, and presentations. Workshops will be held on Sunday and Monday with:

- AFB detector dog
- Queen raising course
- Mead making
- 4WD training
- Measuring properties in honey
- Loading trucks
- A First Aid course
- A Trees for Bees workshop.

Tuesday features presentations from international speakers Fanny Mondet, Maryanne Frazier, Ben Oldroyd and Madeleine Beekman, as well as a panel discussion on Bee Health and presentations by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) on Tulin Standards and Manuka Honey.

Wednesday morning features a discussion of the most pertinent issues facing the New Zealand Apiculture Industry today, such as: Industry Unification, Government Industry Agreements (GIA) for Biosecurity Readiness and Response, Health and Safety and Employment Law.

The conference then concludes on Thursday morning with Federated Farmers Bee Industry Group Annual General Meeting (AGM), followed by the National Beekeepers Association AGM.

There are also two competitions run during conference:

1. The National Honey Competition
2. The Ecroyd Apiculture Photography Competition.

For further details and to register for the conference please visit the Conference website ([www.fedfarm.org.nz](http://www.fedfarm.org.nz)).

For all queries about the 2015 conference please contact: [nzapi2015@gmail.com](mailto:nzapi2015@gmail.com).

For further information please contact: Philippa Rawlinson (Bee Industry Group Advisor, Federated Farmers). Mob: 021 512 971 / Email: [prawlinson@fedfarm.org.nz](mailto:prawlinson@fedfarm.org.nz).



## Annual disease returns

These returns are due by 1 June:

- All beekeepers must complete this return indicating whether or not you've had any AFB in the past year, if you've bought or sold any hives and the current number of hives and apiaries you have currently.
- Non DECA holders will then be sent a Certificate of Inspection requiring them to have their hives inspected during the period August to November with returns due in by mid-December.

All beekeepers (both DECA and Non DECA holders) **Submit Annual Disease Return** by 1 June.

This states:

- whether or not any exotic diseases found
- hives bought or sold in past 12 months
- current number of hives and apiaries.

Non DECA Holders are sent a **Certificate of Inspection**.

Must be completed by someone with a DECA who has inspected their hives for AFB between 1 August and 30 November. This certificate is due two weeks after inspection and no later than 15 December.



DECA Holders



Non DECA Holders



Non DECA Holders

Annual Disease Return

Certificate of Inspection

### DECA Certificate

#### (Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement)

Issued to those who have completed and passed the AFB Recognition and Competency Test and have been beekeeping for at least 12 months. Enables holders to check their own hives for AFB.

After two years beekeeping experience and taking refresher course, may inspect others' hives.





## **A film evening: The Honey Bee**

A selection of film clips from the NZ film archive on bee keeping from 1929–2007, will be shown 20 May at 7.30pm in Lower Hutt. The films, television clips, and sound recordings that make up the programme are from Nga Taonga Sound & Vision.

The earliest film on the programme is *The Honey Bee*, (1929) made by the Government Publicity Office to promote New Zealand honey to British consumers. The film begins with a young girl asking “Why do bees make honey daddy?” and Daddy’s response is “In New Zealand, with its plentiful sunshine and flowers, the Busy Bee makes millions of pounds of honey every year.” The film step-by-step illustrates the processes of honey production. Once the honey arrives in the UK the film shows the displays of honey held under the auspices of the NZ Produce Board. The eagerness of hospitals to use honey is shown, 'At the Lady Margaret Hospital in Kent, NZ honey forms a large part of the diet'. Honey in hot milk is used for debility and anaemia, wine and honey for shock and collapse, and babies are given a teaspoonful in their bottles'. 'Even when there is nothing wrong, honey is still recommended' by the doctors.

Newsreel items on the Auckland branch of the National Bee Keepers’ Association in 1950, and apiarist, Harold Busch, performing his party trick of creating a beard of bees on his face will be shown. Another clip is a tour of bee keeper, Mr Roy Brewster’s extraordinary hexagon shaped home.

A Country Calendar programme from 1980 shows apiarist, Stephen Bosey at the 1800 hectare Mt Thomas beech forest. Here the scale insect makes honeydew from the beech trees. Bees make honey from the honeydew and Stephen makes money from 450 hives producing the honey. Other television clips illustrate the NZ beekeepers public campaign against kiwi fruit growers looking to pollenate their trees via mechanical methods. Bryce Hooton, a blind bee keeper with a successful business and a Takaka company who makes honey mead liquor and honey whisky conclude the programme.

Tickets are \$10 and can be ordered from Lou Gallagher [lou.m.gallagher@gmail.com](mailto:lou.m.gallagher@gmail.com).



### **HIVE SITE OFFERED**

#### **A request from Sera in Karori**

Are you looking for somewhere to site a hive? Sera has a double section on Messines Road, backing onto Zealandia, sheltered with fantastic morning and afternoon sun, good access with acceptable flight path. Please contact: Sera at [sera.skinner@gmail.com](mailto:sera.skinner@gmail.com).

### **HIVE SITES FOR FILMING**

The club has had a request for some hive locations that are distinctly Wellington for use in a film promoting Wellington on a Plate later this year. A description of the type of site they're after is attached. If you have a site that may fit the bill, please contact Richard on [ibraczek@paradise.net.nz](mailto:ibraczek@paradise.net.nz).

### **PERSON NEEDED TO SPEAK AT DEXTER CATTLE SOCIETY NZ**

The Dexter Cattle Society NZ wants someone to give a talk at their next Wairarapa area meeting (529 Paekakariki Hill Road) on Saturday 23rd May, about bee's, beekeeping and bee-friendly trees and plants:

Coffee & Chat 10.30am.

Talk 11am.

Lunch provided

After lunch, look at the member's cattle and land

The meeting/lunch usually finishes around 1-1.30pm

The speech will be to a very keen bunch of lifestylers that travel from as far as Palmerston North to learn something new, to help their land be more productive etc. There is usually around 18 people. Contact Maureen Pettersson on [membership@dexter-cattle.co.nz](mailto:membership@dexter-cattle.co.nz).

[Dexter Cattle Society New Zealand](http://www.dexter-cattle.co.nz)

### **PHOTO COMPETITION**

Reminder that entries are due at the next meeting on 6 May. If unable to bring them along then please contact Richard on 9733028/0210344311 to make alternative arrangements.

RULES OR link to website <http://beehive.org.nz/rules/photo-competition>.



### **AFB RECOGNITION COURSE**

We are planning to hold an AFB Recognition Course and test next month.

**Date & time:** Sat 30 May at 1pm (finishes about 4pm)

**Location:** Johnsonville Community Centre, Meeting Room 1 (NOT the Main Hall where we hold our monthly meetings). Access to meeting room off Frankmoore Ave – Meeting Room 1 is at the end of the corridor nearest the swimming pool entrance.

This course covers bee diseases only - it is NOT a beginner's course. You are expected to have at least one full season's beekeeping experience.

Course and test is based on the content (text and photos) of the yellow book 'AFB Elimination Manual' by Dr Mark Goodwin. We recommend you read this book in advance (available from John Burnet– cost \$35). For space and presentation reasons course will be limited to first 20 applications received (including payment).

Please complete and return a copy of the Application Form (emailed to members last month) to John Burnet (by mail, Word Doc or PDF attachment) before Fri 22 May so we can obtain the necessary number of test papers.

Payment (\$60) is also required either to John Burnet by cheque (in favour of Wellington Beekeepers Association) or cash or bank transfer to the Club's bank account:  
031534 – 0009311 – 00.

### **INTERESTING WEB SITES & ARTICLE LINKS**

[Tasmanian beekeepers governemt claim](http://www.apinews.com/en/news/item/27994-australia-researchers-are-working-in-a-new-system-to-fight-against-varroa-mite) (http://www.apinews.com/en/news/item/27994-australia-researchers-are-working-in-a-new-system-to-fight-against-varroa-mite)

#### **[University of Sussex Varroa mite control experiment](#)**

Recently, University of Sussex, Lasi Group, conducted an experiment comparing three Varroa mite application methods and reached the following conclusion:

"Application of OA via sublimation, where OA is applied in its pure form by vapourising the crystals with a special heated tool, was superior to application as a solution via either spraying or dribbling". *P. David Quesada, Honey Bee Lab, Spain*

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/lasi/sussexplan/varroamites>



### **Varroa mite treatment:**

A WB member has been fogging with the oxalic acid vaporiser 4 times at 10 day intervals, but couldn't see any extra mites fall after each fog. He then saw a few mites later and fogged with the mineral oil fogger and there were still some mites on the bottom board a few days later. He wondered if he should I put Bayvarol strips in as well. Frank gave him the following advice:

“Your treatment should have been affective. [Do a wash of your bees](#). This will determine how many mites you have (it gives a good snapshot). You might just be seeing the results of your bees robbing another hive with high mite numbers.



**[The Scientist:](#) The first published observations using a microscope were about bees**  
(<http://www.the-scientist.com//?articles.view/articleNo/42263/title/Apiarium--1625/>)

**[Stress could be behind sharp decline in honeybee colonies](#)**  
([http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=2&objectid=11399596](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=11399596))

**[Bee Products Import Health Standard consultation](#)** (<https://mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/consultations/bee-products-import-health-standard-consultation/>)

**[Researchers confirm that neonicotinoid insecticides impair bee's brains](#)**  
(<http://phys.org/news/2015-02-neonicotinoid-insecticides-impair-bee-brains.html>)

**[Pesticides giving bees a nicotine habit](#)**  
([http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=2&objectid=11437644](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=11437644))

**[Great DDT Muster:](#) Great DDT Muster nationwide campaign for the collection & disposal of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)**  
(<http://3rgroup.cmail1.com/t/ViewEmail/j/1FF6F74A9737EC94/8081D973CF3D3D6D4415EB25BE999822>)