



August 2018 Newsletter

Next meeting | Wednesday 1st August 2017

Where | Main Hall, Johnsonville Community Centre, Moorefield Rd

Topics for August Meeting

Beginners session 6.45pm

Topic: The Year Ahead with the Bees. Seasonal Management of Hives – John Burnet. Upstairs at the JCC

Main session: 7:30pm

Topic: Photo competition

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From the desk of the President:

Firstly I would like to pay tribute to the dedication and hard work of the incumbent president Frank Lindsay, by acknowledging all the hard work he has put into the club not only over the past two years but for the many many years he has been a member. We are privileged to have such a knowledgeable member as Frank in our midst, whose continual support and eagerness to share his 50 years of beekeeping experiences with everyone, is humbling. On behalf of the club members and committee, thank you, Frank.



As the new club president, there are a number of ideas and initiatives we will look at implementing over the next 12 months. They will be aimed at members who have three or more years' experience and have stopped attending the club meetings and events. The recent survey has highlighted beekeepers in this bracket are the ones missing from the club. I feel these are the members who should be re-investing into the club by helping the new beekeepers with their knowledge and time, just as the senior members had done for them. Learning about beekeeping does not finish after three years and through further education and sharing of experience will enhance the enjoyment. At the upcoming committee meeting, there will be a number of new ideas tabled to entice them back to the club. I know some people will be resistant to change, however, I ask you to pass judgement once you have had a chance to experience what we have to offer.

This year's winter has produced some varying weather with periods of bitterly southerly blasts but also long fine spells with mild temperatures. Personally, I have noticed some very active hives recently with foraging bees coming and going during the warmer periods of the day. Lots of bees are returning with full pollen sacks which also suggests an increased activity within the hive.

Frank has found that queens have recommenced laying and brood patterns are starting to expand. Increased levels of varroa mite have been detected in hives and some keepers reporting that bees are emerging at the front of the hives with deformed wing syndrome. This indicates significantly high levels of mites in the hives that will require some intense treatment to prevent the hive from collapsing in early spring. During the warmer days, members should look at utilising some form of treatment to reduce the mite numbers. A monitoring board placed under the hive will enable a mite drop count to be carried out, which gives a good indication as to the infestation level. Before you crack open the hive, ensure the outside temperature is warm enough otherwise you may distribute the cluster and place further stress on the hive. This is also a good time to check the food stores in the hive to ensure there are sufficient reserves to prevent the hive from starving in the spring.

On the days where the weather is less favourable for being outside, it is a good time to clean up those old frames by dispatching the pesky wax moth before they ruin your frames, build your new boxes and swarm traps and prepare yourself for the busy months ahead.



Some of you may have seen the proposed increase of the AFB levy to a \$40 per beekeeper and \$50 per apiary. This is open to submission which can be viewed at <http://www.afb.org.nz/new-levy-proposal>. The Management Agency has justified the proposal by stating 'The additional levies will enable the Management Agency to fully implement the National Pest Management Plan to reduce the level of American foulbrood in New Zealand'. Submissions need to be submitted by 10 August.

I look forward to getting to actually meet more of our members, so please don't be afraid to come and introduce yourself to me.

Regards, James

1. New Committee.

At the AGM last month, a number of new people were elected to the committee and we have a new President – James Withington. Frank is still on the committee as immediate past president. The full committee list and responsibilities is below and key contacts are at the end of the newsletter (see Who Can I talk to)

James Withington (President)
Tricia Laing (Vice-president)
Jane Harding (Secretary)
John Burnet (Treasurer)
Frank Lindsay (Immediate past president)
Richard Braczek
James Scott (website and membership)
Eva Durant (newsletter)
PK Tan
Judith de Wilde (library)
Barbara Parkinson (supper roster)
Leon Sullivan
Dave Henderson



Mentoring and Support for New Beekeepers

Supporting new beekeepers is an important part of the club's activities. There are a number of ways new beekeepers are supported

- New beekeeper sessions before each monthly meeting
- Apiary open days on the Saturday after each monthly meeting (weather permitting)
- Local support groups, including online support groups on the website
- Induction packs with key information for new beekeepers
- Introduction to beekeeping course run each year in springtime.

We would also like to be able to welcome all new beekeepers, or interested new members who don't have bees yet, with a phonecall from someone in the club who can give a bit of an overview of the club activities and answer any initial questions the new member may have.

If you've had a few years beekeeping and are able to make a couple of phonecalls each month to new beekeepers, we'd love to hear from you. We'll provide some information for you to share so we keep the messages consistent.

Please get in touch with the Secretary secretary@beehive.org.nz if you're able to help with this important task.



NZ Bee Research Priorities Survey

Here's a survey that we urge all members to participate in. Pike Brown from Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research and a member of the ApiNZ Science and Research Focus Group have been working with the focus group and the wider industry to develop a survey that will give us a strong steer on our research priorities. The survey will also be promoted at Conference and there will be an opportunity to talk to Pike and Focus Group at Conference about the survey.

Pike says, "Scientists are great at dreaming up research ideas, but not all of them have led to meaningful impacts for beekeepers. The key idea behind the NZ Bee Research Priorities Survey is to ask beekeepers themselves to prioritise possible research topics according to their own needs so scientists can create research programmes that reflect those priorities. Our questionnaire has been developed in consultation with many of the most respected beekeepers in the country as well as several of NZ's top apiculture researchers. A closer alignment of beekeepers and scientists will benefit beekeepers, scientists, and the industry overall."

You can share your research priorities by clicking the following link: [NZ Bee Research Priorities Survey](#).



5. What's Flowering Now?

Even though it's the middle of winter, there are a lot of things flowering to feed the bees at this time of year. Koromiko and other hebes are starting to flower, as are camellias and rhododendrons.



Our native fuchsia is flowering, along with the dwarf kowhai, which seems to flower earlier every year. Gorse, a good pollen source is beginning to flower and there are plenty of garden flowers, including trailing rosemary, daisies and marigolds about to burst into bloom. Other good nectar sources aren't far off flowering, including echium, lavender and mimosa.



6. Things to do this month

Cold wet weather is not conducive to checking your hives, but there are usually plenty of other jobs to do:

- Check your used frames and remove old dark wax. If you can't see daylight when you hold a used frame up to the sun, the wax needs to be removed and new foundation put in.
- Make up new frames and wire them ready for foundation
- Check hive boxes and repair or replace if they're getting old
- Keep the weeds clear from around your hives so they have good air circulation
- If the temperature is warm enough, check your hives for honey stores and feed if necessary.
- Prepare a swarm catcher or place an old hive box and frames in an elevated position where it can attract a passing swarm.
- Get ready for applying spring varroa treatments, by making sure you are alternating treatments and know how to use them correctly

7. September Meeting

Coming up at the September meeting –

Beginners session - how to look after your nucs, and preventing swarms – with Eva Durrant

Main meeting – Splitting a hive and preparing a split. AFB checks – with John Randall

September is Bee Aware Month and the WBA will be actively supporting this important public awareness campaign. WCC are looking for people able to talk to community garden groups about bees, watch this space for ways you can get involved.



Who can I speak to?

President

James Withington president@beehive.org.nz

Treasurer

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

Secretary

Jane Harding (027) 421 2417 secretary@beehive.org.nz

Best times to Jane by phone are evenings, and Friday/Saturday/Sunday

Newsletter editor

Eva Durrant (04) 470 7879 or 027 3118700 edurrant@xtra.co.nz

Committee Members

PK Tan

Frank Lindsay (Immediate past president)

Richard Braczek

James Scott

Eva Durant

PK Tan

Judith de Wilde

Barbara Parkinson

Leon Sullivan

Dave Henderson

Meeting location

Johnsonville Community Centre,
Moorefield Rd, Johnsonville

