

August 2012

Wellington Beekeepers Association Incorporated Newsletter

Next Meeting: Wednesday 1st August 2012

Main Hall, Johnsonville Community Centre, Moorefield Rd.

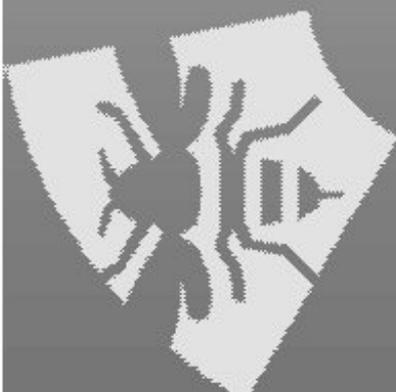
7.30pm - Main Meeting

Spring Inspection

7.00pm - Beginners Session

Choosing a site for your bees,
and Rules and Regulations

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

Jo Salisbury (04) 977 5250
salisburyz@yahoo.com

Newsletter Contributions:

Sandie Matcham (04) 565 1083
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Newsletters are published in the **last week** of each month, except January.

Members contributions to be with editor **by 20th 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.

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Useful Websites

Club Website: www.beehive.org.nz

From the *Home* page, create your own username and password

Club Library: <http://www.librarything.com/>

Username: wellingtonbeeclub

Password: buzz



MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION (WBA) MONTHLY MEETING HELD AT THE JOHNSONVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE, WED 4th July,

Present: Richard Braczek and 41 members.

Visitors: Introduced themselves.

Matters Arising

Introductions

Angela introduced herself. Angela's husband and her have had 2 seasons with bees, the 1st season was very good, the next one more difficult. Angela is into sustainability, have chickens and love having bees. Angela has found bees to be the most productive for the least effort and recommends beekeeping as a challenge, but worthwhile. Angela has been on the committee for two years and is stepping down tonight.

What's Happening in the Hives

It is the quiet time of the year. Tony spoke about the multicloth varroa treatment written in the last minutes. He has since discovered it is also good against the small hive beetle. This is causing huge problems in Australia, it eats the brood and slimes the hive. The multicloth treatment has been useful against this beetle and Tony recommends that it is used in sentinel hives for anyone near the ports. In addition it is a low dose, low level organic varroa treatment for use on top of other treatments.

Hive Assembly Workshop

This will occur this winter on 25 August at Wayne Wild's place and will include assembling boxes, assembling frames, wiring frames and putting foundation on frames. Wayne has the paraffin wax dipper at his place so once assembled workshop participants can leave their (named) boxes to be dipped.

General Business

Natural Beekeepers Conference – Havelock North

Suzanne, Andrew and Chris Straughier went to this conference. They had some problems with some organic methods but are persisting as we are. They tried the pads but found that not closing the bottom of the hives meant they were too cold and didn't work. Suzanne has the latest

newsletter from the woman who presented and will circulate them. Topbar hives have a problem with apilife micropads but this can be fixed by hanging them on a wire between the frames. Lots of people are using an insecticide puffer to put the icing sugar on the hives, are having good results with just that and low levels of varroa. Andrew said he went with an open mind about top bar hives and found some working well. (Ed. See July newsletter for additional information).

Sunday Hobbyist Day at the NBA Conference

John found that the presentation from Michelle Taylor of the Ruakura Research Centre in Hamilton re the VSH (Varroa Sensitive Hygienic) bee was very useful. There will be a workshop taken by Michelle but it was essentially the same presentation as this. They only require one treatment a year. The project made good progress but ran out of money, it has now been picked up by a Nelson apiary and the hope is that within 2-3 years the queens will be for sale (uncertified bees will be available at normal prices). They will be calling for expressions of interest at the July 25 workshop. Jacob De Ruiter is going and anyone interested in going who wants to share a taxi from the Hamilton airport should see John Burnet. The other presentation was from John Maclean of Gisborne on pheromones. Sandie made a request for write-ups of workshops attended by those who went to the National Beekeepers Conference.

Working Bee – Chartwell Club Apiary

This is scheduled to occur on 7th July to move the hives to a more sheltered site.

Projector

The executive committee met at the weekend and approved the purchase of a new projector for \$1500 and are also investigating a better sound system.

Facebook Site

Audrey set it up and will speak about how to get on for those unfamiliar with Facebook. Search for Wellington Beekeepers. The top bar group have posted some pictures.

Queen of the Sun DVD

On the 30th of July the green party are having a screening of this in the Te Horo hall at 2pm. Meeting moved on to the AGM, next meeting is on Wednesday 1 August, 7pm instructional session, 7.30pm main meeting.



THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
HELD ON TUESDAY, 4 JULY 2012 AT THE JOHNSONVILLE
COMMUNITY CENTRE COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM

Present: Richard Braczek and 41 members

Apologies: Alan and Anne Melville, Wayne Wild, Jane Harding.

President's Report: Richard read out his report to the meeting. A copy is to be printed in the next newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

John Burnett presented this. The Association is in a good state with a balance of \$19 582 as at 31 May 2012.

Q. What is the period that yearly membership runs?

A. It is on a financial year however anyone joining on or after 1 January will not be charged until July of the following year. There are 4 life members of the club who do not pay subs in recognition of their long contribution to the club.

John Burnet proposed the accounts be accepted, Suzanne Basiora seconded, adopted unanimously.

Nomination and Election of Officers

As there were no other nominations for the position of Association President, Richard Braczek's reappointment to the position was moved by Andrew Beach, seconded by Tony Coard, elected unopposed.

Nominations:

- Vice President: James Scott nominated by Jan Reid, seconded by Stuart , elected unopposed
- Secretary: Jo Salisbury nominated by James Scott, seconded by Vicky, elected unopposed.
- Treasurer: John Burnett proposed by Stuart, seconded by Andrew, elected unopposed
- Immediate Past President: Andrew Beach.
- Webmaster: Andrew Beach nominated James to continue on, Jo Salisbury seconded. Elected unopposed. James made a plea for more content for the website, stories, pictures etc.
- Committee: Amor Walter, Angela Bell and Wrae Duncan standing down. Jo Salisbury nominated Jane Harding and Luke Potion to continue, Andrew seconded, passed. John nominated P.K as a new committee member, James seconded, passed. Tony nominated Greg Heath, Frank seconded, passed. James nominated Sandie Matcham, Andrew Beach seconded, passed.
- Auditor: status quo (Andrew Beach)
- Librarian: Suzanne volunteered to do another 12 months.
- Cheque Signatories: Currently these are John Burnet, James Scott, Richard Wickens and Andrew Beach. These will continue unchanged.

General Business

Frank made a motion for the committee to consider donating some of the club money to bee research. Doug seconded, Tony spoke in support, passed.

Bulk Purchases:

The amount of work done by John Burnet for this has reached an unsustainable level to continue on a voluntary basis (approx 10 hours a week). There are also tax issues if it continues to grow with the ongoing growth in numbers. John spoke to his accountant and has agreed to set up a separate business, the Club will still have a Wellington based option for equipment and the freight is not charged but Ecroyds require him to charge retail prices. In addition John sources other equipment which he will pass on at good prices for Club members. John took questions about this, it was not

an original or core Club function. The Club is still financially viable without this income. The committee had considered and agreed to this proposal that we divert the equipment sale function to John on a business basis. This was endorsed unanimously. Stocktake will occur on 31 July and John will buy the stock from the Club.

National Beekeepers Association (NBA): we will commence paying the \$5 per member sub from this point onwards.

Federated Farmers Bee Industry Group (BIG)

Jo Salisbury spoke to this point. Federated Farmers BIG is an alternative national level bee organisation. We are proposing that we support the Fed Farmers BIG as well as National Beekeepers Association, in support of the extensive lobbying they do on behalf of beekeepers. As a generalisation both organisations work with government but BIG are comfortable with being aggressive on some issues when warranted. Jo worked with John Hartnell with them on the Australian Honey Imports issue when we 'piggybacked' on the PSA kiwifruit issue to highlight industry concerns about the biosecurity for the bee sector. Members will have seen John Hartnell on national news in several instances highlighting bee issues. BIG has access to the extensive lobbying resources of Fed Farmers. We propose we join BIG as a trial for the next financial year at a cost of \$500. James proposed, Tony seconded, passed unanimously.

Membership fee: Proposed that we increase this to \$20 emailed newsletter and \$30 for posted newsletter. John Burnet proposed, Vicky seconded, unanimously passed. Subs are due from 1 July 2012, John will publish the 'how to pay' instructions in an email, please pay by internet banking with the appropriate reference if possible.

AFB Claims

Only one claim this year for John Burnet for 2 hives, \$120. Richard Braczek proposed, Andrew Beach seconded. Passed unanimously.

Access to Membership List

The committee proposed that members' phone numbers and suburb be made available to other members on the members-only part of the website. People would be given advance notice by email and could opt out if they desire.

AGM concluded.

Meeting ended with social and supper.



Annual Report 2011/2012

Membership

Our numbers have continued to grow, from 158 a year ago to 257 now (including 4 life members).

Outreach

We started the Otaki group in January as it was found that there was a need for people in this area wanting bee information. Over 100 people turned up to the first meeting, and now we have a regular attendance of 40 to 50 people each month. Many end up becoming members of our club. Well done Andrew Beach who initiated and leads this.

Club Apiaries

The club started two sites last year. One at Paekakariki and the other in Chartwell, Wellington. The Paekakariki apiary currently has two hives, both doing well. We intend to get more hives in the Spring. The Chartwell apiary has seven hives, also doing reasonably well. The apiaries have hosted several field sessions and will continue to be used for learning purposes. The Wellington apiary provided some surplus honey which was extracted in the Onslow College kitchen.

Club Field Days

Before the establishment of the club sites we held a number of field days at various club members' sites which were well attended by new beekeepers.

Wax Dipping and Hive Assembly Workshop

Wayne Wild has continued to provide a valuable service for members by dipping hive boxes in the wax dipper located on his property. He also hosted two hive construction workshops where members could construct their equipment and get the boxes dipped afterwards. Thanks for providing this service Wayne.

Nucs

The club arranged the purchase of 90 nucs for members from a local queen breeder and Frank Lindsay. As a result many new members were able to get started.

Purchase of equipment

The club continued to purchase equipment on behalf of members. Many thanks to John Burnet for the many hours spent providing this service.

Wellington Better Home and Living Show

The club organised a display at the Wellington Better Home and Living Show in April. Members were on hand throughout the 3 days to talk to the public about bees and beekeeping. The club gained some new members as a result.

Special thanks to John Burnet for co-ordinating things and PK Tan for constructing the display hive which was a key attraction.

DECA Courses

The club held two DECA courses which resulted in around 70 members obtaining their DECA Certificates. Thanks to John, Frank and Andrew for their work with this.

Club Survey

We surveyed club members for their thoughts about how the club was meeting their needs. Majority were satisfied. Many of the suggestions made have been acted on.

Mentors

We initiated a mentoring scheme whereby more experienced members mentored newer members just starting off. Thanks to those who took part in this.

Executive Committee

The committee met on four occasions this year providing valuable governance for the club. Many thanks to Luke Potion, Jane Harding, Angela Bell and Wrae Duncan. (Unfortunately Amor Walter was unable to attend due to failing health).

Club Executive

Thanks also to the Club Executive for all the work they do for the club in various roles. Its definitely a team effort.

And thanks to Jamie Walker and Sandie Matcham for their work on the newsletter. Suzanne Basiora taking on looking after the library, and Jane Harding for providing supper each month. Special thanks to Frank Lindsay for his wisdom and advice.

And finally to all members who have contributed to and supported the club's activities throughout the year.

Richard Braczek
President



August meeting

Wednesday 1st August 2012

Beginners Session 7pm

- Choosing a site for your bees, and
Rules and Regulations

Main Meeting 7:30pm

Spring Inspection

FOR SALE:

One fridge set up as a "hot box" to keep honey boxes warm/warm them up for extracting. Takes 4-5 $\frac{3}{4}$ boxes, or 3-4 full depth. (I don't have full depth so can't be sure about this figure). \$40 ono. Phone Vicky 972 6255

Hive Site Checklist
By Dave Hills from Hawkes Bay who hosted a field day.

Apiary

1. Ease of access with vehicles
2. Protection from prevailing winds
3. Wet weather access
4. Local food sources
5. Pollen access in winter
6. Flight Paths
7. Drafts
8. Neighbours
9. Number of apiaries to spread risk
10. Location of other beekeepers apiaries

Hives

1. Ease of working access around hives
2. Vegetation blocking entrances
3. Risk of flooding
4. Adequate Floor Depth of entrance Ease of restricting entrance
Mouse guards
5. Adequate Roof
Insulation against cold or hot sun
Hive Mat with bee space
Ease of removal
Anchored against wind
6. Identification
Registration Name and Phone number
7. Hive hygiene
Sound hive materials
Sound Frames
Old brood frames removed?
Wax and old frames left around hive
Excess wax and propolis on frames?
Wax and propolis on rebates and ends obstructing frames?
Old Varroa strips removed from hive and apiary?

Surplus hive materials left on site

8. Hive Management
Enough spare boxes for flow
Ease of frame removal
Feeders
Queen Excluders
Pollen Stores
Honey Stores
Bottom box being used
Correct number of frames in each box
 9. Bee Health
Quiet Bees
Laying Queen
Adequate Brood
Wax Moth
AFB
Parasitic Mite Syndrome
Deformed Wing Virus
 10. Hive Recording System
MAF notification
Note Book
Database
On hive
 11. Landowner relationships
Supply of Honey
Hive numbers
Ease of working in area of Hives
Washing lines Regular
contact Alternative sites if needed
- How would your apiary stack up?



Wellington Better Home & Living Show

(Thanks to John Burnet for the report)

The Wellington Beekeepers Assoc. with the support of National Beekeepers Assoc. hosted a stand at the Wellington Better Home & Living Show held over the three days 27-29 April. The main theme of the Show was on sustainability and eco-friendly products.

The Show was held in the main concourse of the Westpac Stadium – an ideal venue as the Show was fully undercover with plenty of parking available for exhibitors and the public alike. There were over 150 exhibitors in total grouped into one of several sections – Better Homes, Better Bodies, Better Transport and Better Gardens. As well as including the Beekeepers, Better Gardens consisted of a variety of commercial and non-profit organisations such as nurseries, landscapers, garden equipment, outdoor furniture suppliers and nature advocacy groups e.g. Forest & Bird, Vegetarian Society, organic farmers etc. Hauora Honey from Arataki Apiaries also had a stand providing visitors with a range of honeys to taste and buy.

Wellington Beekeepers' primary objective was to raise public awareness of the plight of bees in NZ as well as globally and our brochures reflected this with details of trees and shrubs Kiwis should

plant in their gardens to attract bees and pesticides and insect sprays that should be avoided.

The Beekeepers stand attracted a lot of attention and positive comments particularly the artificial lawn and bee-friendly plants and shrubs borrowed or hired especially for the Show. The observation hive provoked much interest especially from children with 'Saving the Bees', honey imports and other bee issues being discussed extensively.

The interior and workings of a hive and honey extracting were shown to visitors and the



Photo by Jade Promotions Bruce Mortimer
Wellington Beekeepers Better Home & Living Show 2012

differences in appearance and behaviour between bees, wasps and Bumble bees explained.

The Wellington Club had 20 volunteers staffing the stand in shifts of 2 – 3 hours over the three days of the Show and all reported a lot of visitor interest (10,700 attended in total) with lots of brochures handed out and several new beekeeper members signed up.

In view of its success it is likely the Club will participate again at next year's Better Home & Living Show.

For Your Diary

Saturday 25th August: Hive Building workshop at Wayne Wild's place in Wainouimata Coast Road

Wednesday 22nd August: Genetics @ Otago 2012 Lecture Series – see below

Associate Professor Peter Dearden



Buzzing about bees: how genetics can keep New Zealand's agriculture humming

6pm 22th August

Chancellor Room 2 – Level 16

James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor

147 The Terrace

Wellington

Honey bees are vitally important to New Zealand's agriculture and the environment, yet they are now under threat from pesticides and introduced pests. University of Otago's Associate Professor Peter Dearden reveals secrets about these fascinating creatures and explains how these secrets might help us look after our dwindling honey bee population.

Biography

Peter was trained at Victoria University, PhD at Imperial College, University of London. He then worked in the Wellcome (now Gurdon) Institute and the Museum of Zoology, University of Cambridge; the Zoology Department, University of Western Ontario; and returned to New Zealand and the University of Otago in 2002. Peter is now team leader in the Laboratory for Evolution and Development, Otago site leader for the National Research Centre for Growth and Development, and Director of Genetics Otago. Peter's research is centred in Evolution and Development, Epigenetics and Developmental plasticity.

For more details visit:

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/genetics/news/2012lectureseries/speakers.html#fitzgerald>

The Garden Magazine - January 2012, UK Publication

Thank you to the member who provided this information

Wild Bees are key to fruit set.

Wild bees may be at least as crucial for pollination as honeybees, after trials that showed that solitary bees and bumblebees boosted fruit set, while honeybees played little or no part.

Researchers at East Malling Research in Kent monitored pollination on blackcurrants 'Ben Gairn' and 'Ben Hope' in 12m (39ft) long 'flight cages'.

They found fruit set was up to 40% higher where bumblebee nest boxes were used, and counted 13 bee species foraging for pollen, nectar – none were honeybees.

Re-introduction of Bumblebees to the UK

Attempts to re-introduce short-haired bumblebees to the UK using queens from New Zealand have failed.

The bees, released at Dungeness Nature Reserve in Kent were descended from British stock, but may have little genetic diversity due to in-breeding. Further attempts at re-introduction using queens from Sweden may still be attempted.



From the Evening Post 20th Jan 1943

BEEKEEPERS' FIELD DAY

Practical and instructive demonstrations were given by Mr. J. M. Bodmin, chairman of the Wellington branch of the National Beekeepers' Association, at the annual field day held on Sunday on the property of Mr. W. P. Carter at Melling. More than 70 beekeepers of the Wellington and Hutt Valley district were present and a keen interest was taken in the proceedings, which included the correct way to open up a large hive, locating the queen, demareeing, cutting out queen cells to prevent swarming, and the removal of burr comb.

After a picnic lunch in the grounds a full frame of honey was uncapped and then extracted on a new type single frame extractor made in New Zealand specially for the small amateur beekeeper with one or two hives.

Formed in Wellington four years ago, this branch now has over 100 members and is easily the strongest in New Zealand. The industry now being essential, the Wellington branch is giving valuable service to help further the increased production of honey.



Banksia Integrifolia – a wonderful winter tree.

On a sunny winter day this tree was buzzing with more bees than we had seen in one tree before (even Pohutukawa).

We are not sure the Tuis are impressed - Ed

So, if formed in 1939 we are 73 years old – maybe we should start planning for a 75th celebration (John)