



Next meeting | 4th September 2019

Where | Main Hall, Johnsonville Community Centre, Moorefield Road

September Editor | Jane Harding janeh@xtra.co.nz

Topics for September meeting

Beginners session : Upstairs meeting room at 6.45pm

Topic: Nectar and Pollen Sources for Bees in the Wellington region.

Main Meeting: In the Main hall at 7.30pm

Topic : Richard Hall, scientist at the Wallaceville Laboratory will be coming to tell us about the MPI Bee Pathogen Programme conducted over the last 2 1/2 years and share some of the results.

The club's apiary was one of the 60 apiaries around the country that were sampled for diseases and pathogens. *See below for more information on the pathogen programme*

Contents

2. The MPI Bee Pathogen Programme
4. Wax Dipping and Apiary Field Day
5. From the President
6. WBA Photographic Competition 2019
8. September Checklist
9. Calendar of Regular WBA events
10. BAM – Bee Awareness Month
10. What's coming up at the October meeting
10. Who can I speak to?



The Bee Pathogen Programme at MPI

The largest and most detailed study of honey bee health ever undertaken in New Zealand. It will help us better understand the effect that diseases, climate and apiary management practices have on colony loss and productivity.

About the programme

Sampling for the Bee Pathogen Programme ran from September 2016 to March 2019.

Our experts have started evaluating the huge amount of data that has been collected. This includes studying more than 130,000 honey bees from 300 samples taken throughout the country that are now archived in Biosecurity New Zealand's freezers.

Once the data has been evaluated, it will be available to the beekeeping industry and to researchers for further analysis.

Biosecurity New Zealand is aiming to release its conclusions from the programme in late 2019.

Aims

The programme aims to find out:

- how common pests and pathogens are
- how severely hives are affected by pests and pathogens
- where pests and pathogens are located in New Zealand



- how pests and pathogens are affecting our apiary industries – including how much honey hives are producing and how many bees are being lost from colonies.

What we're doing

Trained inspectors have done disease inspections on a variety of apiaries from around New Zealand. They looked for:

- American foulbrood
- European foulbrood
- half-moon syndrome
- sac-brood
- chalk-brood
- black shiny bees
- deformed wing virus
- signs of pests – including wax moth, Varroa mites, ants, wasps and small hive beetles.

Inspectors checked 8 hives at each apiary. They collected bee samples and recorded specific information for each – including how the hives were managed.

Bee samples were sent to both our Animal Health Laboratory (AHL) and our Plant Health and Environment Laboratory (PHEL) for analysis. The AHL checked bee samples for viruses – including foulbroods and syndromes. The PHEL used the sample bees to determine both Varroa and Nosema counts per bee for each hive.

In total, samples were taken from 60 apiaries every spring and autumn until the end of 2018. Inspectors used the same 60 apiaries for each round of inspections.



Who's involved

The study involves Biosecurity New Zealand staff, authorised apiary inspectors, and apiary owners who have agreed to be part of the programme.

The owners of each apiary in the programme received their own hive report after each 6-month analysis. The report told them:

- their apiary pathogen load results from both molecular and microscopic testing
- the average load per bee for their apiary
- how their apiary compared to the national average for each pathogen or pest
- how each measurement changed over the research period.

Below is a link to the March 2018 NZ Beekeeper magazine article about the programme:

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/29348-bee-pathogen-programme-at-mpi>

Wax Dipping and Apiary Field Day

Another wax-dipping session will be held in late September/early October, if demand exists. Wayne needs at least 20 boxes to make it worthwhile, so if you need boxes this season, get making!

Weather permitting, there will be an apiary field day at the Chartwell Apiary. Date to be confirmed.



From the President:

Firstly thank you for allowing me to continue to be the club's president of the WBA. It is a privileged position to be placed in and one that I have enjoyed. I now truly appreciate the work required to ensure a smooth running of the club. I know some of my ideas for the club seem radical, however my vision is to ensure we cater for almost all clubs needs in the club and at the same time expand our knowledge from just the basics of beekeeping. This saw the introduction of the more relaxed social night during the December meeting accompanied by a food truck, quiz and prizes. Along with the 'cooking' theme in June, where we were privileged to host NZ renown chef, Martin Bosley who provided not only a cooking demonstrations but also handy tips in use of the honey and wax in the kitchen setting. To ensure a continued interest by club members it is upon everyone to speak up as to what they would like to see at their club nights. Relevant and thought provoking topics will ensure the members interest levels and attendance remain particularly with the intermediate and senior beekeepers.

A big welcome to the new committee members recently elected. They have chosen to stand for this position as they wish to help shape the future of the club with their own ideas and often put the club's interest ahead of their own. To those committee members who have decided not to stand for re-election, thank you for your time and efforts over the past 12 months, if not longer.

Committee member and club officer contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

It would be remiss of me to not acknowledge the continued commitment of various members within the club. This includes members of the committee who have been working behind the scenes to re-invigorate the club and ensure that we can bring the best value to the club members. Again I have to acknowledge the continued work of members such as John Burnet and Frank Lindsay for their contributions into the club, from working the clubs apiaries to providing training to both new and old beekeepers, arranging speakers, balancing the books etc.



During the past 12 months we were also fortunate enough to have several international speakers to provide their perspective on particular beekeeping matters which included Doctor Sammy Ramsey and Slovenian student Bee Veterinarian Jernej Bubnič.

Congratulations to all of you brave enough to enter photos into the annual competition. It is always interesting to see other people's perspectives on capturing that moment in the apiary. There were some truly magical photos that capture the spirit of beekeeping. Well done Eva Durrant on taking out this year's top prize. We are working on converting the photos into a club 2020 calendar which will be available for sale during the December meeting. Hint, hint they would make a great Christmas present.

On an actual beekeeping note, make sure you check your hives on the next fine day to ensure the pesky varroa levels are not too bad but more importantly the bees have sufficient food to get them through the back end of winter. With the milder weather the bees have been using a lot of their winter stores and now is the time we might see hives starve.

Looking forward to seeing you all at next month's meeting.

2019 Photography Competition

The WBA photo completion judge this year was Fiona Foxhill – a forensic photographer from NZ Police. Fiona has been taking photos for 28 years, professionally and for a hobby. Fiona had some pointers for taking good photos, look for lines and points of interest and unusual angles in your composition. Be wary of red in the photos, it draws the eye and can be distracting. Be aware of shadows, especially shadows over your subject - photos need light.



Competition Section Winners:

People and the Environment

Runner -Up - Claire Hart

Winner - Eva Durrant

Bees

Runner – up – Claire Hart

Winner – Claire Hart

Photo Story

Runner Up – Richard Braczek

Winner- Jane Harding (Wax Recovery story)



Marking the queen
Claire Hart

Creative

Runner-up – Eva Durrant

Winner – Eva Durrant “Look Out: Bumble Bees in the Garden Again”

Overall Winner – “Look Out: Bumble Bees in the Garden Again” – Eva Durrant

Photos that weren’t collected at the August meeting will be available at the meeting in September.



Look Out – Bumble Bees in the Garden Again - Eva Durrant



September Checklist

Begin your hive inspections – but make sure it is warm enough. (When you can be outside in a T-shirt and not feel cold)

- Check each hive has at least 3 frames of honey and start feeding when the hive gets to this level.
- Check on the queen and consider requeening if the brood is looking spotty (more than 15 /100 cells are empty in a patch of sealed brood).
- Clean off the propolis build up so the frames are the right distance apart and easy to move.
- If you've had two brood boxes over winter, you'll probably find that the queen and the brood have all move to the upper box. Take out the bottom brood box, bring the upper box down and put a box of new foundation (or better still, clean, fresh, drawn out frames) above the brood box. Removing the old box with old dark frames removes a source of disease from the hive and promotes better bee health.
- Put in varroa strips or start your preferred spring treatment when you do your inspections.
- Be prepared to start supering your hives. When you see bees hanging down below the frames of your super, and filling most of the frames, add another super of drawn frames to let your bees expand. If you have to add a box of foundation frames to the hive, take a couple of drawn frames from the lower box and swap with some foundation frames in the new super to encourage the bees to move up and draw out the foundation.
- Check for queen cells!! September is swarm month and in strong hives the bees will start producing queen bud cells. This is normal, but keep checking them for eggs or larvae, if these are present then the hive is preparing to swarm. Take corrective action such as splitting the hive and adding more supers.



Calendar of Regular WBA events

	WBA Monthly meetings		WBA Field days	Workshops	Regional Events	National Events
	Beginners	Main				
When & Where	JCC 6.45pm	JCC 7.30pm	Chartwell Apiary 1st Sat after the meeting	Wayne Wild's - Wainuiomata Dates tbc	tbc	tbc
Feb	Getting started - is beekeeping for me? Protective equipment, site location					
Mar	Legal regs - apiary registration, council reqs, public relations and tutin testing		Take off Honey and Varroa treatment			
Apr	Hive equipment	Honey competition			Southern North Island Bee Group field day (location variable)	
May	Acquiring bees, working a hive and handling bees	Gadgets and Gizmos competition	Wintering down the hives		Wellington Better Home and Living Show	
June	Bee biology - castes, colony behaviour and roles, other bees					APINZ National Conference
July	No session (AGM)	AGM		Hiveware construction and wax dipping		
Aug	Preparing for a new season	Photo Competition				
Sept	Nectar and Pollen sources		Swarm prevention		Southern North Island Bee Group field day (location variable)	Bee Awareness Month
Oct	Pests and Diseases		Preparing for the honey flow			
Nov	Finding bees and harvesting honey		Summer hive management	Wax dipping		
Dec	No session (social night)	Mead competition				



What's coming up in October?

Beginners session: Pests and Diseases.

Main session: Phil Lester from Victoria University School of Biological Sciences. Phil is a renowned expert on NZ native bees.

STOP PRESS

One of our members (Janine McKenzie of Ngaio) advises that Countdown is currently selling sugar on special at \$3.90 for 3kg (less than half price). Look out for other sugar specials at your local supermarket.

BAM (Bee Awareness Month)

September is Bee Awareness Month and the WBA is helping again this year at the WCC BAM events during the month of September. There will be displays at the Botanical Gardens in the Begonia House and in the Tree House Education centre. On 8 September between 10am and 2pm we'll have a stand and display hive at the Begonia House and be on hand to talk to the public. We've also got members helping out at Brooklyn and Miramar Libraries talking to schools and the public.

If you've got a few hours available during September, please let John Burnet or Eva or Jane know, we might need you to help promote bees and bee awareness during the month.



Who can I speak to?

President - James Withington 0272 851206 jwithington2016@gmail.com

Vice-President – John Randall (04) 4769959 john@gingerwillow.com

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

Secretary - Jane Harding 0274212417 janeh@xtra.co.nz

Committee Members

James Scott - Membership and website (04) 565 0164 james@scott.gen.nz

Frank Lindsay – (04) 478 3376

Judith de Wilde – Librarian (04 235 8173) kiwicavingrose@gmail.com

Barbara Parkinson – supper co-ordinator (04 2379624) parkinson@xtra.co.nz

PK Tan - 021 1093388 pk.propserv@gmail.com

Tony Coard - puruwai@gmail.com

Claire Hart - claire22mum@gmail.com

Jill Dalton - jimh.jilld@gmail.com

Tricia Laing - 0274 766540 tricialaing48@gmail.com

Newsletter editor

Eva Durrant 027 3118700 edurrant@xtra.co.nz

Meeting location

Johnsonville Community Centre,
Moorefield Rd, Johnsonville

