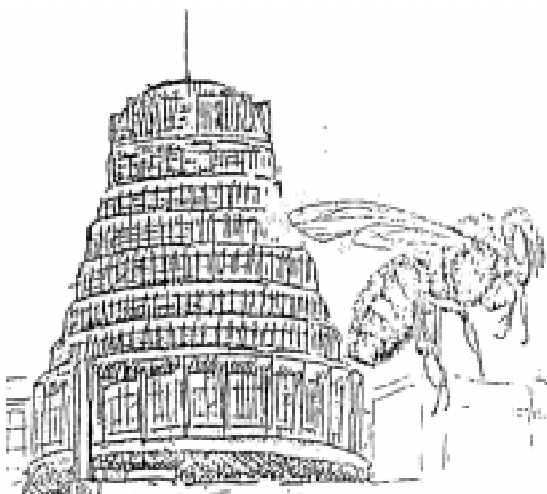


Wellington Beekeepers Association Inc.



Our Next Meeting:

When:

**Monday 12 August 2002, at
7:30 p.m.**

Where:

**Terrace Centre,
Union Church,
Dr Taylor Terrace.
Johnsonville**

Theme:

**GIZZMOS and
GADGETS**

Meetings are held on second Monday each month (except January), at above venue

**Wellington Beekeepers Association Inc.
Monthly Newsletter – August 2002**

This newsletter is available to members via e-mail using Adobe Acrobat v3 format. The reader software is available from Adobe free of charge. Contact editor@beehive.org.nz for additional details.

Return Address: PO Box 11-089, Manners St., Wellington (Ph 565 0164)

MINUTES OF WELLINGTON BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION INC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN THE JOHNSONVILLE UNION CHURCH HALL JOHNSONVILLE ON MON 8 JULY 2002

PRESENT: Frank Lindsay (Pres.), Mary Ann Lindsay (Treas.), John Burnet (Sec.) and 23 members as listed in the attendance book.

APOLOGIES: Bernard & Lynne Long, Ken Breden, Andrew Yung, Pam McDowell, Amor Walter

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM: Minutes of AGM held 9 July 2001 were read and confirmed (Scott/Hulston).

MATTERS ARISING FROM AGM:

Donated Wax: Members discussed how best to dispose of remaining stock of Ham Maxwell's donated wax foundation. It was decided to sell the wax at market rates to members in 10 sheet bundles as opposed to using it as club raffle prizes.

Constitution Review: Secretary noted that the review as agreed to at previous AGM had been overlooked by the committee. It was determined that the incoming committee should make the review recommendations available to the members for ratification and the review should be completed prior to the next AGM.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President advised he had been out of the country and had not yet completed a formal report. Although he was shortly to leave for Canada for four weeks and would not be present at the Aug meeting, he undertook to do complete and submit a formal report at the earliest opportunity.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Secretary distributed an Income/Expenditure statement that showed a small surplus for the 12 months to 31 May 2002. Major statement items discussed were reduction in total membership subscriptions, refund by MAF for Diseaseathon expenses, increase in hall hire and newsletter expenses and deposit paid on stainless steel mesh for bottom boards.

Committee member James Scott advised in accordance with the motion passed at the last AGM, he was in the process of rewriting the previous three years financial statements to address accounting/reporting concerns and to better reflect the club's financial assets. Relative Balance Sheet for last financial year will be completed in conjunction with the work being done by James Scott and distributed to all members in the very near future. Acceptance of the financial report was agreed subject to production of final accounts (Hatfield/Alexander).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

President:	Frank Lindsay	(Andrew Beach/John Robson)
Vice President:	Andrew Beach	(James Scott/John Burnet)
Immediate Past President	Richard Hatfield	(automatic appointment)
Secretary	John Burnet	(Andrew Beach/Cliff Hulston)
Treasurer	Mary Ann Lindsay	(Vicky Alexander/Ernst Segessenmann)
Committee	James Scott Vicky Alexander Wrae Duncan Vaughan Kearns	(all re-elected unopposed)
Auditor	Lynn Cherry	(Richard Hatfield/John Robson)
Librarians	Fritz Fuchs Max Aston	(re-elected unopposed)
Newsletter Producer & Webmaster	James Scott	(re-elected unopposed)
Newsletter Editor	Vicky Alexander	(Deborah Paterson/John Burnet)
Supper Organiser	Volunteers required at each meeting	
Almoner	Andrew Beach	(re-elected unopposed)

SUBSCRIPTIONS: To be held to current level (\$20) with \$5 being allocated to B/L Fund. Subscription to be discounted to \$15 if email newsletter only is required (Richard Hatfield/James Scott)

B/L PAYOUT: No claims received (second consecutive year).

WEB-SITE: To be continued for a further year – cost \$49.50 approved (Richard Hatfield/James Scott)

CONSTITUTION: To be reviewed (refer item above) – Pres. & Sec. to report to members.

BANK ACCOUNT SIGNATORIES: No change required.

DECA COURSES: A further course was proposed for Sept/Oct – 3 members indicated interest in participating.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Varroa Update: President advised that the infected hives near Wanganui have now been moved north of the demarcation line, all feral colonies in the immediate area had been destroyed and all hives within the Wanganui River valley checked.

Varroa was now known to be spreading around the East Cape and around the end of the demarcation line. Consequently it was likely that the mite could spread unchecked south through Gisborne to Hawkes Bay.

MAF's varroa survey of the surveillance zone is currently underway and Apistan strips and sticky boards are now being distributed to selected beekeepers in vulnerable areas. Should those beekeepers be unable or unwilling to participate, MAF will perform the survey for them. As part of the survey MAF also require a sampling of bees – generally half a 500-gram jar. Frank then showed members how the strips and sticky boards should be used and emphasised to produce a measurable result the boards must be withdrawn from the hives within 24 hours.

Hive Levies: Richard Hatfield outlined details of the two proposed new levies – 1. Biosecurity Levy - \$15 registration fee per beekeeper plus 64 cents per hive. 2. Commodities Levy – Proposal failed due to lack of support from commercial beekeepers. This failure will probably force the restructuring of the NBA executive.

Ivan Pederson demonstrated a heating element he had recently imported from Europe for feeding oxalic acid to a varroa infected hive. The anticipated treatment cost - \$2 per kilo or 5 cents per hive.

Richard Hatfield advised he had a 9 frame radial (3 frame tangential) extractor for sale – price approx. \$7-800

Fritz Fuchs demonstrated his newly made varroa bottom board, which was designed for both mesh, and sticky boards.

Meeting closed at 9:30 pm with the usual supper and refreshments.

Varroa:

An interesting item brought along by Ivan Pederson to our July meeting was a “*Varroa Vapouriser*” which Ivan has recently imported at a cost of \$223, although a bulk import would apparently reduce this cost to about a quarter of the price. The gadget looks like a pair of elongated scissors with a small cup at one end. Two grams of Oxalic acid are put into the cup and the cup inserted in the entrance of the hive. The handles have wires which are connected to a 12v battery for two minutes. Due to the heating action the oxalic acid in the cup liquifies and vapourises, the oxalic acid vapour fills the hive and all the bees and surfaces are then covered with a very thin layer of oxalic acid crystals. These fine crystals are tolerated well by the bees, but have a deadly effect on the varroa mite. After two minutes, remove, close the hive up for 10 minutes, then open up again. Treatment is recommended twice a year, and just before the Autumn treatment it is suggested that you take all the brood frames off and put in foundation. In this way you can achieve a very high kill, although there is of course, risk of invasion next day from another hive.

Data: Wear a mask; no honey supers on the hive; not a pesticide; Queen Excluder needed; di-hydrate oxalic powder, 25kg for \$54 ex Palmerston North or Napier; 2g per hive though Canadians have tested 97-98% kill with 5g.

About the Apiary

The following are excerpts from a book donated by the Arakura Playcentre to a recent Lions Book Fair, and rescued by Me! The book is called “*All Kinds of Bees*” and is by D Shuttlesworth and S Swain, published in New York in 1967. Because of the period of time elapsed since publication, there are quite possibly considerable advances in our ‘bee’ knowledge:

“ALL KINDS OF BEES” ...

Bees may be divided into two groups – the social bees, such as the honeybees, and the solitary bees, such as the carpenter bees. Then there are family groups and divisions within the families. Another way of grouping bees is by the length and shape of the tongue. The first type of tongue is short and pointed. The second is short and forked. The third is long and ribbonlike. The size and shape of the tongue influences the kinds of flower a bee visits to obtain nectar.

Honeybees: Because they depend on flowers, a keen sense of smell is important to bees. The fragrance of a flower helps guide them to nectar. They can also detect by smell whether another whether another bee approaching the hive belongs there or to another colony. But a bee does not have a nose. Its openings for breathing are on its body, not on its head. They play no part in detecting smells. A bee “smells” with its antennae, or feelers. Nerve fibres connect the sensitive feelers with the brain. They tell the bee what lies near. When a bee touches something with her feelers, she receives still more information. She can feel the shape of the object. A bee whose antennae have been injured or lost is quite helpless.

Apparently bees are not able to hear. No type of ear has ever been discovered on them, and they do not react to sound in any way. Of course, if someone knocks against a hive, the bees are disturbed. But this is because they feel their home being shaken, not because they hear anything.

Bumblebees: The name comes from the humming sound they make in flight. They are energetic hard-working creatures which visit flowers in search of nectar and pollen, and make wax and honey in much the way honeybees do.

Many bumblebees are quite large – in fact the size of a bumblebee’s body is so great compared with its wingspread that, according to the natural laws of flight, bumblebees should not be able to fly – an anonymous poet once wrote:

I like the joke on the bumblebee; His wings are too small to hold him, He really can’t fly, professors agree – But nobody ever told him!

There are two important differences between the living habits of bumblebees and honeybees. Bumblebees do not make their nests in trees as honeybees do. They nest in the ground or on it. A second difference between the two kinds of bee is the length of the colony’s life. In regions where winters are cold, a bumblebee colony dies out at the end of autumn. Only a young queen survives. Spring warmth brings a young bumblebee queen out from her winter resting place. There is no mating flight, for she has already mated with a drone before the winter began. She basks for a while in the sunshine, and looks for food in the newly opened flowers. During the night she seeks shelter, perhaps in the ground or under old leaves. If there is an unseasonable chill, she remains hidden there during the day as well.

After a few weeks the queen is ready to start a new colony. First she must find a site. She makes a careful search of her territory, flying low over the ground. From time to time she

lands to take a closer look. Her choice is not made hurriedly – she may spend days, even weeks, looking.

Once the queen has found her nest, she makes a tunnel into its centre, then burrows out a round chamber. When this is about an inch across, she moves in, keeping the finest of the nesting material close about her. Now and then she crawls outside to find food. She also brings back nectar which she deposits in the nesting material. Before long she begins to produce wax, which she uses to build an egg cell. When it is ready, she goes foraging again, but now she is searching for pollen. She thrusts this into her egg cell, smooths it carefully, then goes to collect more. By the time the cell is well stocked, she is ready to lay her first batch of eggs – usually between 8 and 14. Then she covers the cell with wax and is ready for a new task – the construction of a honeypot. This is finished in a day or two, and is used to store a supply of honey so that when the weather is bad the queen can stay inside her nest. Bumblebees' honey is like that of the honeybees because it is made from nectar. However, bumblebees do not convert the sugar in the same way as honeybees, and the result is not so tasty.

When the tiny bumblebee eggs hatch, the maggot-like larvae start to feed on their bed of pollen. Their mother brings them fresh pollen and honey and feeds them through a break in the wall of each cell. Later she seals the break. The larvae grow quickly and each spins a cocoon of silk around itself. Until they emerge as adult bees, they need no more to eat. The wax which had covered the larvae does not go to waste, as the queen uses it to make more egg cells. At this stage she is collecting nectar and pollen, building, and incubating her brood with the heat of her body. As the young bees prepare to leave their cocoons, she often helps them to cut through their wrappings.

The first young bees to emerge are all workers. In a few days they are ready to help their mother. But although her colony is now well started, she does not become merely an egg laying machine as honeybee queens do. She continues to feed new broods and carry on other tasks throughout her life. Bumblebees feed their larvae only honey and pollen. They do not make the bee-bread used by honeybees.

Once a colony is well established with numerous workers, the males and queens are hatched. The young queens help with the chores; the male drones do nothing but eat (*funny, sounds familiar ... Ed*) Many drones leave the nest quite soon. They forage for their own food and lead independent lives. But before the summer is over they mate with the queens – either from their own colony or another.

As summer progresses, the queen lays fewer and fewer eggs until she stops. Then the workers, the old queen, and the drones die. But young queens, hunting snug retreats in which to spend the winter, give promise of new colonies to come.

Stingless Bees (*sound like my kind of bee ... Ed*) live in the warmer parts of the world – in South America and Mexico and in some areas on the other side of the world. There are several hundred species. All of them are small compared with honeybees. The smallest measures about 1/12 of an inch; the largest is less than 3/8" of an inch.

Tiny as they are, the stingless bees are great workers. Members of a colony produce honey and wax, and they build remarkable nests. Some of them spend much time collecting clay, which they build into barricades around the nest as a protection against possible enemies. They are masons as well as pollen gatherers and workers in wax.

Different kinds of stingless bees make different kinds of homes, though they follow one general plan. The nest is divided into two chambers – one for the brood, the other for storing honey and pollen. The horizontal combs of wax are supported one above the other by tiny pillars while between the combs are occasional gaps through which nurse bees can

pass as they take care of the young. Some Australian stingless bees make their combs in the shape of an irregular spiral staircase. Each comb, encased in wax, winds upward, tapering toward the end. Some stingless bees make no regular combs, they simply heap their cells in clusters.

A colony of stingless bees is made up of three types of members – queen, workers and drones, but the drones seem to take an active part in domestic life and help to clean the nest and raise the young bees. The nests house enormous numbers of bees. They also hold large amounts of honey. The largest nests of the Australian stingless bee have been known to yield as much as fifty pounds about twice a year. In South America the Indians of the Amazon Valley can take as much as two quarts from a nest of average size. In Mexico the Maya Indians began to domesticate stingless bees hundreds of years ago, housing the bees in hollow logs. However, these insects do not always choose flowers from which to collect food. Some may feed on the remains of dead animals and other refuse. As a result their honey can be poisonous to humans.

Although these bees are called “stingless” this is not strictly correct. They still have the remains of stinging equipment. When they attack an enemy they go through the motions of stinging, but their weapon no longer works. (*definitely my kind of bee ... Ed*)

They are far from defenceless however, Their bite is quite ferocious, and when a number of them set upon a victim, they can inflict real pain. The smallest of them can cause even more misery than the larger varieties by crawling into a person’s ears, nostrils, hair and eyes. In Brazil a common name for very tiny stingless bees is “eye lickers”. (*um, maybe on second thoughts ...*)

Annual Membership

Membership of the Wellington Beekeepers Association runs from June to May of the following year. Subscriptions were due at the AGM, held in July each year.

Benefits of Membership

Membership of the Beekeepers Association provides regular opportunities for learning about all aspects of bees through meeting and discussion with other enthusiastic beekeepers. It doesn't matter whether you are a beginner or have years of experience - there are plenty of opportunities to learn from and to help others with similar interests.

The club produces a monthly newsletter with articles of interest and notices of relevance to members. There is also a comprehensive web site (www.beehive.org.nz) containing a significant wealth of material, including articles and information from old newsletters.

The Association has a very active disease detection and prevention programme in the greater Wellington region. Education of club members to recognise disease and to develop management practices that will prevent hives succumbing to diseases likely to be present is a key object. In addition, the club provides support for beekeepers who have hives destroyed following detection of AFB disease.

Complete the enclosed application form and send to the Club Treasurer with your cheque.

Please Renew Your Membership Now ☺

Complete the following form and send with your subscription payment to the Treasurer, Mary-Ann Lindsay, 26 Cunliffe Street, Johnsonville (ph 478 3367)

Wellington Beekeepers Association Inc.

\$20* subscription for the 2002/03 year, due June 2002.

Received From:

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____ Enclosed: \$20* Cheque / Cash

Date: _____ Receipt No: _____

(* If you would like to receive newsletters via e-mail, you will be entitled to a discount of \$5 on the membership fee. Please supply a valid e-mail address).

Gizmos and Gadgets

We will have a special session at our August meeting, for each of you to bring along and show off interesting gizmos and gadgets that you have invented or constructed to make your beekeeping easier. Bring along your most useful home-made item (or even an unusual commercial product) so that the rest of us can learn and perhaps adopt the idea ourselves. Winter time is traditionally the period when beekeepers reflect on the past season, and make up new equipment to assist them with a better or easier time over the coming season.

Future Meetings

The committee is always looking for interesting and/or relevant speakers for future meetings. If you have any suggestions please contact our secretary, John Burnet on 232 7863 (or secretary@beehive.org.nz).

- August (12th): (Gizmos and gadgets)
- September (9th): (to be advised)
- October (14th): (to be advised)

For Sale & Wanted to Buy

- Wanted: clean beeswax - \$5.00 per Kg; bulk honey - 20 litre pails (supplied) - price after examination. Phone Ivan 526 9180

Don't forget when selling hives with bees, the seller must inform AgriQuality in Palmerston North so they can be tracked in the case of an exotic disease outbreak. Purchasers should sign the form supplied by AgriQuality (Ph 06-351 7930, Fax 06-351 7906, PO Box 585, PN), who manage the Apiary Register on behalf of the NBA