



**Next meeting** | 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019

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

**Editor** | Eva Durrant [edurrant@xtra.co.nz](mailto:edurrant@xtra.co.nz)

### Topics for October meeting

**Beginners session** Upstairs meeting room 6.45pm

**Topic** *Pests and bee diseases* with Eva Durrant

**Main Meeting** In the main hall at 7.30pm

**Topic** *Phil Lester (VUW) talks about Varroa*

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## James Withington – note from the president

Well, it appears spring is unsure whether to front up or not. A couple of nice days have been followed by some colder ones and rain. I know I'm confused about what to think but not sure what the bees are making of it. Never-the-less from initial inspections of my hives after the winter months I have a mixed bag. A couple of hives haven't survived, one appears to be queenless and another probable varroa. The majority look good though with some already having a number of frames of sealed brood. A good time to check those pesky varroa levels and get them under control for the upcoming summer.

For those of you who attended last month's meeting, I hope you found Dr Halls talk about his pathogens research as interesting as I did. It was amazing to hear some of the statistics involved in their three-year project and the conclusions they have drawn.

At the next meeting the club will again be supporting the annual breast cancer appeal foundation of New Zealand and club members will be in with a chance of winning some pink themed flowers mix for their gardens.

Bee Awareness month is in full swing with a variety of activities and events planned for the month. These are being posted on the clubs Facebook page as well as on the APINZ webpage. <https://apinz.org.nz/bee-aware-month/> It is good to see the support getting in behind this event from the local garden centres to the various city councils.

Eva has done a great job in preparing a draft 2020 WBA club calendar. These will be available at \$8 each at the meeting. A great Christmas present with some amazing photos in them. Speaking of Christmas, which is getting closer, we will be making the December meeting a social fun-filled night again. This includes the Beat Kitchen food truck making another appearance. We would like to have stalls for members to sell some of their homemade goods. The Garage Project brewing



## Note from the President (cont)

company are undertaking the brewing of a honey themed beer which, fingers crossed, will be ready for the December meeting. Hope to see you all at the October meeting.

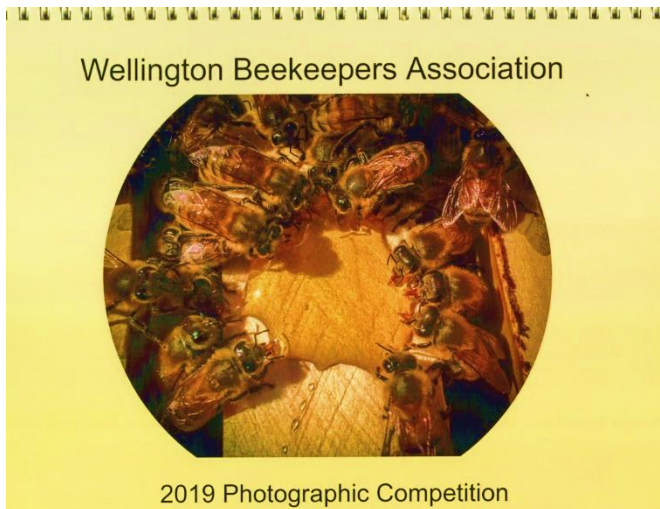
James

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## 2020 WBA Calendar

The WBA Calendar which features photographs from the Annual Photo Competition can be purchased at the October meeting

**\$8.00** each





## Club Profile – Barbara Parkinson

I became interested in beekeeping in 2015 after reading Janet Luke's book on Green Urban Living. I was already into things environmental – growing fruit trees and vegetables, keeping chooks and a worm farm, living naturally without chemicals and making my own products for the home. Beekeeping seemed a natural progression.



My understanding of bees and their place in our gardens lead me to the WBA to find out about becoming a beekeeper and after attending many meetings, decided that a top-bar hive would suit my lifestyle. A friend, Ian Levett in Levin, made the 30 frame hive for me, and PK Tan helped me by building a nuc especially for my hive. (picture of nuc and PK) (picture of Barbara holding up a frame full of comb and honey).

It was wonderful to see the bees thriving in their first year and building up the comb and filling it with honey. The honey was so good, it won the Club's honey competition on my first attempt.



However, things went wrong in the second season when the hive swarmed. Later I lost the queen and then lost the rest of the weakened hive to wax-moth which destroyed the combs.



## Club profile – Barbara Parkinson (cont)

It took a while to re-build and I am determined to learn all I can about Top bar hives to ensure that I can maintain a healthy and happy hive. It is great to have a source of wax which I can use to make a variety of products, such as heat rubs, lip balms, deodorant and creams, food wraps, etc. I also use honey instead of sugar in many of my recipes. My interest in the WBA has grown and I have joined the committee and taken on the role of Supper co-ordinator. I sweeten this role with monthly samples of cakes, biscuits, slices.

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## BAM (Bee Awareness Month)

The WBA took part in several activities during Bee Awareness Month.



The opening event was at the Begonia House at the Botanical Gardens Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September. Marion helped a budding beekeeper who was keen to try on a bee-suit. **John Burnet and Eva Durrant** were present and John Jarvis from the Bee Fresh/Wellington Honey Co. provided Manuka honey for sale and tasting

Photo: Marion Saunders (Botanic Gardens Educator also Club member)

## Claire Hart visited Khandallah School and the Jewish Community Centre

Recently I have been on a teaching placement in Khandallah School, with year 5 and 6 children (10 and 11 year olds). Khandallah School is situated in the Northern suburbs, tucked away at the base of Mt Kaukau. Home to a beautiful landscape, a great walk, and many flowering trees! The building I taught in is designed to accommodate about 220 children. A brand new building built by the Ministry of Education The space is beautiful, modern and flexible. I was the first student





teacher to be lucky enough to be part of this new approach to teaching, in a flexible learning environment.

On placement I had the opportunity to teach a unit on 'What's killing the honey bee, and how can we help them to survive?'. The children learnt about the many diseases honey bees face, the over population of bees in New Zealand and how many insecticides people use in gardens are killing our bees. They were very keen to help the bees. We made seed bombs for gardens, prepared a hive for spring – in particular finding out why we remove old black comb and put in new foundation. They also made kawakawa balm from leaves harvested from the school grounds and local beeswax. Being that it was BAM (Beekeeping Awareness Month) they also utilised resources from ApiNZ. The children are very excited to see the next step in the hive preparation when I transfer bees to the new hive when the time comes to split my hives.

BAM also took me to the Wellington Jewish Community Centre where I gave a talk to the children about bees. They were very eager to share their knowledge as there were a few experts among the children as some of them attended Te Aro school and Berhampore school. Both these schools have hives.

The children learnt about who lives in the hive, what jobs the bees have and how they collect nectar and pollen. We also talked about how they can help by

planting food for bees  
and putting out a water  
dish for bees. After I left  
the children made  
beeswax wraps and had  
honey sandwiches!





## Eva Durrant visited St Patrick's School and the Brooklyn Library

I was invited to St Patrick's Primary School to show the children some bees. My table-top demo-apiscope brings on the excitement of a close encounter with bees. We identified flowers I brought from my garden and worked out the bees' favourite colour. Outside in the playground I lit the smoker for everyone to try out and then honey tasting finished a wonderful 45-minute session.



Brooklyn Library arranged for three sessions over two afternoons. Brooklyn School and St Bernards School children visit the library as a regular weekly school event. The librarians had set out several beautiful bee books to take out, and I was pleased to find the children already knew a lot about bees; how to improve the bees' environment by not spraying weed killer, and by planting flowers. The bee suit was a hit, as was the honey frame and honey tasting. An extra 3pm session was held to allow parents and others to come along.





## AFB Recognition Course



 THE MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
NATIONAL AMERICAN FOULBROOD  
PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

**American foulbrood** is caused by spore-forming bacteria and is the most widespread and destructive of the bee brood diseases. Learning how to recognise American foulbrood and its symptoms is essential knowledge for every beekeeper to know.

**The final course for 2019 will be held on Saturday 5 October, at the Lower Hutt Events Centre Laings Road – 9am to 3pm**

### Course content

- recognize AFB symptoms
- inspect a hive for AFB
- prevent AFB from spreading
- collect brood cell and bee samples for testing, and
- effectively destroy any AFB infected hives.

There is a test at the end of the course comprising of 25 questions. Where possible, an infected AFB frame will be available for beekeepers to see symptoms of AFB first-hand.

By passing the test and [being fully compliant](#) with American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan rules for a minimum of 12 months, you will be eligible to apply for a Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement (DECA). Beekeepers that enter into a Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement with the Management Agency are committing to eliminate AFB from their beehives through carrying out the AFB elimination practices and procedures specified in the Agreement. In recognition of this commitment the Management Agency provides the beekeeper with an exemption from the Certificate of Inspection requirements.

The cost \$100 per person. If you wish to attend this one-day course, [please register](#). Further information on the [DECA process](#) can found on our website under [policy number 007](#).





## Things to do this month

### October checklist

- Apply a varroa treatment if surplus honey flow is anticipated within eight weeks, or hives are showing mite damage, or there are more than 40 mites per 300 bees after a sugar shake test
- Remove entrance guards
- Spray or cut vegetation around the hives
- Check all brood frames for American foulbrood
- Control swarms
- Split hives
- Requeen hives with mated queens or own queen cells



Taken from **Practical Beekeeping in New Zealand** by Andrew Matheson & Murray Reid



QUEEN CELL

Photo taken by E Durrant



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## Beehive hosting sites and pollination request

The club has been approached from a few people offering sites for beehives. If you've got excess beehives at your place, or want to expand your operations, you may want to get in touch with the following people:

### Beehive Hosting

**Linette Horne.** I live in Highbury and have in the past hosted Beehives on behalf of a friend who had a number. Now he does not need my property at the moment and I wondered if any of your members may be in need of a fresh site for a hive or hives especially if a successful winter has resulted in plenty of bees. I believe that 'payment' to the host is some of the honey when it becomes available.

Linette can be contacted at [xtr249402@xtra.co.nz](mailto:xtr249402@xtra.co.nz)

**David Kelly.** I live in in Mairangi Road, Wadestown.  
I have just cleared a patch of bush and about to plant the whole thing in lavenders.

Above this is a 2 yard wide north facing terrace for the hives. You can back a trailer to the bottom of a dozen well formed steps to the terrace.

I hope this is attractive enough for a swarm to make its life.

David can be contacted on [david.kelly@inspire.net.nz](mailto:david.kelly@inspire.net.nz) or on 021718181

**Bill Gaynor.** New Wilton resident (ex Wadestown). Bill is really keen for a hive to be put on his section. He's happy to pay for its establishment in return for some of the honey harvest.

Bill can be contacted on 021981294.



## Pollination Services

The club has also been contacted by an orchardist with 60 fruit trees in Moonshine Valley. Rohan is keen for a beekeeper to supply pollination services to this site.

**Rohan** can be contacted on 04-5274325.

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## Interesting websites

[CATCH THE BUZZ – Rare Bee Confirmed In Wisconsin For First Time In More Than A Century.](#)



A rare bee, *Epeoloides pilosulus*, was positively identified by Joan Milam, an adjunct research fellow at University of Massachusetts Amherst. Photo courtesy of U.S. Forest Service...

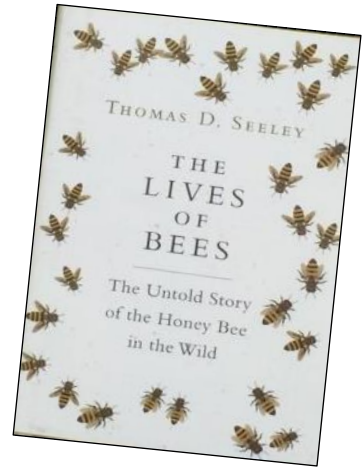
[Read on »](#)



## The Lives of Bees by Thomas D Seeley

### Book Review Excerpts -

This is a great book, recommended reading for every single beekeeper – preferably before they even begin beekeeping, not to mention anyone with a fascination for this enigmatic, beautiful and amazing little bee.



It's not just because Seeley (author of *Honey Bee Democracy*; Horace White Professor in Biology at Cornell University) is a renowned researcher and writer on the subject of honey bees. This book is genuinely helpful and challenging in the way it compiles years of study and research into the genetics, health and natural nesting habits of beloved *Apis mellifera*. From this considered compilation of research, Seeley makes supremely useful suggestions as to what beekeepers can learn and how they can adapt their practices and become better beekeepers.

Humans have kept honey bees in hives for millennia, yet only in recent decades have biologists begun to investigate how these industrious insects live in the wild. *The Lives of Bees* is Thomas Seeley's story of what scientists are learning about the behaviour, social life, and survival strategies of honey bees living outside the beekeeper's hive—and how wild honey bees may hold the key to reversing the alarming die-off of the planet's managed honey bee populations.

*A book to enhance the WBA library?*



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## Looking ahead

### Upcoming topics at the WBA meetings

#### October

**Beginners:** Pests and diseases

**Main meeting:** Come and listen to Phil Lester from the School of Biological Sciences, Victoria University of Wellington

#### November

**Beginners:** Finding bees – swarms, splits, etc

**Main meeting:** Annual Mead competition

#### December

**Social evening.** Delicious food from the Food Truck, raffles, quiz, and a bring & buy stall (bring your bee products (not honey) to sell, e.g. beeswax wraps, beeswax balms, etc





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## Who can I speak to?

**President** - James Withington 0272 851206 [jwithington2016@gmail.com](mailto:jwithington2016@gmail.com)

**Vice-President** – John Randall (04) 4769959 [john@gingerwillow.com](mailto:john@gingerwillow.com)

**Treasurer** - John Burnet (04) 232 7863 [johnburnet@xtra.co.nz](mailto:johnburnet@xtra.co.nz)

**Secretary** - Jane Harding 0274212417 [janeh@xtra.co.nz](mailto:janeh@xtra.co.nz)

### Committee Members

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

Frank Lindsay – (04) 478 3376

Judith de Wilde – Librarian (04 235 8173) [kiwicavingrose@gmail.com](mailto:kiwicavingrose@gmail.com)

Barbara Parkinson – Supper co-ordinator (04 2379624) [parkinson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:parkinson@xtra.co.nz)

PK Tan - 021 1093388 [pk.propserv@gmail.com](mailto:pk.propserv@gmail.com)

Tony Coard - [puruwai@gmail.com](mailto:puruwai@gmail.com)

Claire Hart - [claire22mum@gmail.com](mailto:claire22mum@gmail.com)

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## Meeting location

Johnsonville Community Centre, Moorefield Rd, Johnsonville

