



Next meeting | Wednesday 3rd November 2021

Where ON-LINE MEETING THIS MONTH

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ZOOM Meeting for November

Beginners' Class

John Burnet will host this session on Spring & honey flow management.

Main Meeting

This month we have **Jarved Allan** from **100% Pure New Zealand Honey** joining us to talk about honey blending. Jarved took out the supreme honey award at this year's Apiculture Conference as well as scooping a number of different categories for various honey classes. This is a great opportunity to ask about presenting award winning honeys and he has asked for questions at the end of his presentation. Unfortunately, we will not be able to taste the different honeys during this on-line meeting.

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100% Pure New Zealand Honey Ltd

We are one of the world's leading suppliers of New Zealand-sourced UMF® Manuka, Clover and Comb, along with all other Native New Zealand honeys. At 100% Pure New Zealand Honey Ltd, we take great care to source the land's highest export-quality honey while maintaining its maximum nutritional value. 90% of our production is supplied to world markets either under our own labels or, for non-Manuka items, we supply under customers' own labels. At 100% Pure New Zealand Honey Ltd we are a company focused on delivering our customers the simple pleasures in life – pure, naturally occurring food, distinctive natural flavours and nutritional benefits as nature intended. We are committed to sourcing and delivering the highest quality products and building enduring relationships with our customers around the globe and supporting them deliver our world-class products to market.



www.purenewzealandhoney.com

About the apiary

By Frank Lindsay

November is a month before the start of the main honey flow. You want the bees expanding to reach a population of at least 40,000 bees. As a general rule of thumb, I say that a full depth super completely full of bees contains about 25,000 bees so you need at least two full depth (three 3/4) supers full of bees and brood in eight frames at the start of the honey flow and at least the same number of supers on a hive ready to receive and store the nectar as it comes in. The bees will work to fill all the storage comb and when this is full, they will relax their work effort and perhaps turn to reproduction. So super early and if you don't have all



drawn frames, intersperse drawn and foundation frames to get the bees into the supers and drawing those frames. Bees only see drawn frames as storage, foundation frames are not. Bees have to be encouraged on to foundation by bringing up an outside frame that contains nectar. The bees will crowd over this and spare bees full of nectar will hang in chains producing wax flacks which will be added to the foundation wax thus drawing out the frames. This takes a lot of work for the bees and they have to be well fed to do this; i.e. a flow of nectar coming into the hive.

But in some areas, especially rural areas, a lot of these early nectar and pollen sources are now about to finish causing a dearth of nectar and pollen. The thing you don't want to happen is to have the queen stop laying and the bees to stop drawing out the foundation. On your next inspection, (every 9 to 10 days now), make sure the hive has ample pollen reserves; that is a couple of frames of pollen near the brood area and perhaps a good 15 mm of pollen around the brood and the equivalent of three frames of capped honey. If you don't have this in your hives, feed a pollen substitute and some sugar syrup to keep the queen laying to produce those bees that will be bringing in the nectar next month. On top of this we will have hives that bolt ahead and will start queen cell development along the bottom and the top bars in the second super of your hive.

Check for these by tilting back the top brood super and looking along the bottom bars for developing queen cells. Once one of the queen cell buds is seen with an egg or larvae in it, the hive must be fully inspected, brood frame by brood frame to remove the queen cells. To stop the bees building more, you have to reduce the number of bees in the hives or give it more room. Just giving more room, (another one or two honey supers) may not relieve the situation as once swarm preparation has started it sometime hard to stop the bees from making more cells.

One way of reducing the bee population is to remove two or three frames of capped brood from the outside of the brood nest (plus bees) and give these to



those smaller hives after checking that the queen is not on the frames. Inspect the capped cells around the bees just emerging in both the donor hive and receiving hive for disease. That is - flick off the cappings of those cells that haven't emerged in a patch of emerging brood and around the edges. Don't go by the look of the cappings as it can take quite a time for a cell to become sunken and perforated by investigating bees.

Another alternative is to give the small hive a boost in bees number by shaking off the nurse bees on an open frame of brood into the entrance of the weaker colony. Any field bees will return to the original hive and the nurse bees will walk into the weak hive unopposed. Some beekeepers will have difficulty seeing a queen amongst all the bees. Look for a clear area and bees all facing into a circle. but even then some are hard to spot. There is an alternative safe method of removing frame without the queen. Shake all the bees off the selected frame/s and put this in another super. Fill the gaps left after pushing the rest of the brood frames together to form a compact brood area and place a queen excluder on top of the brood super. Place the supers containing the shook frames on top and close the hive. Within a couple of hours the nurse bees will have come up through the excluder on to the brood frames again. These can then be removed safe in the knowledge that the queen is below. If you have to put honey supers back on the hive, then put another queen excluder between these and the super with the selected frames.

Another alternative is to just swap the hives around weak for strong so that the field bees return to their home colony and walk in boosting bee numbers but this must be done during a flow as sometime the incoming field bees may recognise the queen in the hive as not theirs and ball and kill her. This can be prevented by placing her in a queen cage with a candy in the exit hole so she is released in a couple of days. Once bee numbers are up and the queen is laying, frames of emerging brood can be added to boost bee numbers as after a week or two those field bees will have died off.

Commercial beekeepers will have spent last month equalising their hives. All will have new queens and are being fed if they haven't sufficient honey and pollen reserves. With all hives at the same population and development stage, its easy to inspect a hive in a few minutes. Heft to see that it's still heavy, slide the hive



forward a little on the bottom board and tilt the hive back so you can see along the bottom bars of the bottom super. If the bees are hanging below eight frames, the hive is full and needs another super or two. Split the brood nest supers and look along the bottom bars for queen cells, then look down into the top super frames for capped honey or another 3- 5 litres of sugar syrup is given to each hive. Note the condition of the hive so you can tell on the next inspection that bee numbers have increased. Any that haven't taken down the syrup, have queen cells or aren't going ahead are looked at more intensively. This way commercial beekeepers are only dealing with hives that need attention.

For the new beekeepers, getting your first hives is an exciting time. A four frame nucleus hive should contain at least 10,000 bees. It should contain at least 2.5 frames of emerging brood, with the fourth frame of honey and pollen and bees covering all the frames. These are then transferred into a full size super and fed sugar syrup at a litre a day until two supers of frames are drawn out and filled with brood and honey.



Photo by Janine Davie



Things to do this month

- 🐝 Check feed, check pollen, and AFB check.
- 🐝 Raise queen cells, requeen hives with mated queens.
- 🐝 Swarm control.
- 🐝 Cull out old frames and replace with foundation in the second super (they are drawn out to the bottom bar in the second super).
- 🐝 Remove entrance reducer (however I prefer to leave them on all year round as the bees can regulate the hive better in windy situations).
- 🐝 Fit foundation into comb honey frames and super hives with at least two supers when the main honey flow starts. Pull up a frame of honey into a super of foundation to encourage the bees to move up into it.

December meeting notes

Hopefully we will be able to hold the meeting at the Clubrooms in December. If we can, this is an advance notice that the annual Mead Competition will be held, so prepare your entries.

Also, we have had a request from the Management Agency to come and address the club about proposed changes to the AFB Management plan, which would be of interest to members.

Beekeeping partner needed

Stella Bridge would love to partner with someone to look after a hive in the Brooklyn Community Garden. She has some hive equipment and permission from neighbours for a hive at that site. Stella used to look after hives some years ago but has no experience with varroa and would like to learn from someone with some knowledge of treating for varroa.

Stella can be contacted on 021 2680794.



New swarm collection platform

James Withington

The club is trialing the use of a WhatsApp chat platform for the notification and collection of swarms in the Wellington region. This will eliminate the need for someone to man the phones and locate a beekeeper to collect it. Now everyone in the swarm chat group will see where the swarm is located and who is responding. This will provide a better collection service throughout the region.

There are some ground rules that are being implemented to ensure this runs smoothly.

1. You must be a paid member of the club to be placed on the WhatsApp chat room.
2. If you take a call about a swarm please obtain sufficient details for someone to make contact with the informant, the address/location of the swarm, any details that will make the retrieval difficult, such as it being located 10 meters up a tree etc.
3. If you are going to collect the swarm, please ensure you are available then to collect it promptly. Not in several hours or the following day. The informants often are unfamiliar with bees and are scared. The last thing we want is them to be held hostage in their own homes.
4. Post on the chat that you are going to get the swarm, so that everyone else knows who is getting it and we don't have multiple people arriving at the address.
5. Don't undermine the system, if someone has volunteered to collect the swarm, let them do it.

This new platform provides not only a better response service to notifications but also ensures that everyone has a reasonable opportunity to collect swarms, rather than a monopoly by a handful of people. I ask that we trial it during this season and can have a club evaluation at the end of the summer as to how it went and iron out any wrinkles.



Results of photo competition

Section 1 Bees

First Place: Humble Bumble 2 by Jim Smith



Section 2 People and Environment

First Place: "Can't open any hives now, so it must be coffee time!"

By Eva Durrant





Section 3 Open and Creative

First Place: Lilac Delight by Eva Durrant



Section 4 Photo Story

First Place and **Overall Winner** "Am I Too Late?" by Jim Smith





Some thoughts from the judge

It was a real privilege to adjudicate on your annual photographic competition, and I was so impressed by the standard of your images. Eva has invited me to pass on a few tips, but for several of you any advice should be coming the other way.

Because cameras and phones these days look after many of the technical issues, there was little need for comment in that regard and my assessments largely related to the content of the images. One technical aspect that the photographer can control if using a camera is the depth of field in sharp focus. It is important that the subject be sharp, and that the background be blurred to ensure there is separation between the two. To achieve that, a reasonably high ISO should be used which enables you to use both a fast shutter speed when hand holding, and give the depth of field required. It's good that practising with pixels costs nothing and there is no substitute for practise. You will then discover how high an ISO you can use with your gear without introducing noise.

I spoke a lot about cropping. An image is cropped to remove distractions on the margins, make the subject larger in the frame, or improve its placement for compositional reasons. There has been a lot written about composition but I think the main things to remember are not to place the subject in the centre, ensure there is more space in front of it than behind and ensure there is good balance between the components in the frame, much as though you were balancing them on a fulcrum.

Some of your images are just too good to have a small audience. If you have an interest in having them more widely recognised I suggest you consider entering The Photographic Society of New Zealand's National Exhibition which has a Nature section. You do not need to be a member to do so. Check out www.photography.org.nz. If entering something like that you would need to downsize the image to a maximum of 1620 pixels on the long side or maximum of 1080 on the vertical. It would need to have either a scientific name or its common name rather than the ones you use in open competitions. It would make such a change from birds & fungi.

John Boyd HonFPSNZ, HonPSNZ, APSNZ

Patron, The Photographic Society of New Zealand



Chartwell apiary

John Burnet



Martin Toland enjoys a brood snack, and Frank found a bee with a load of green pollen. Any ideas where she got it from?

On Fri 15 & Sat 16 Oct 15 nucleus colonies were prepared for current and new members using surplus bees from the Club's Chartwell apiary and over-wintered queens purchased from Allan Richards, a Whanganui commercial beekeeper and queen breeder. A further shipment of over-wintered queens is expected within the next couple of weeks which will be used to meet additional orders from members.

(Frank Lindsay, John Burnet, Martin Toland, Eva Durrant attended)





Wingate Apiary – Spring check and spring clean

Richard Braczek

A group of keen beekeepers gave the Wingate apiary a thorough check over and tidy up on Sunday 3 October. Currently we have 5 hives at the site. Initially, Trish collected some honey samples that had been brought along for pesticide testing and explained what the purpose of the testing was. And before we started looking at the hives a small contingent of mowers and weed eaters attacked the grass and weeds growing around the hives. Interestingly, Liz brought along a surplus mower which can stay on hand in the apiary. It's not quite in working order, but John has taken it away with the intention of replacing the starter cord so that it will be in future.



We tested the hives for AFB and varroa as well as the usual checks for laying queens and food supply. One of the hives was queenless, so we put in a couple of frames with eggs from a strong hive hoping that they would generate a replacement.



After the hive check, a small group of dedicated workers stayed behind to give the stored equipment a check over and tidy up. So, all in all, a very productive afternoon. Great to have people come along to learn, teach and help out.



Photo by Janine Davie



Nucs available from club members

If you are interested in purchasing nuc colonies or new season's queens which should become available over Nov/Dec when the weather improves, please contact any of the following members. Prices may vary depending on age of the queen, if a core-flute nuc box is supplied and if replacement frames are required.

John Randall – (South Karori) Phone 476-9959 – $\frac{3}{4}$ nucs

Emmet McElhatton (Whitemans Valley) – phone 528-5876 – full depth nucs

Matt Caldwell (Whitby) – phone 021-435-483 – queens and queen cells

Steve Caughley (Tawa) – phone 027-422-8151 – $\frac{3}{4}$ nucs

Eva Durrant (Wadestown) – phone 07-311-8700 - $\frac{3}{4}$ nucs

Atefeh Fazel (Kelburn) – phone 020-4010-1529 – $\frac{3}{4}$ nucs and queens



The Kapiti District Council (KDC) has now published their new Keeping of Animals, Bees and Poultry Bylaw. You can find it here:

<https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/media/41110/kapiti-coast-district-council-keeping-of-animals-bylaw-2021.pdf>

The new bylaw comes into force on 1 January 2022. The main changes from the 2010 bylaw are amendments to clause 8.1 and 8.2 to reflect that KDC grants a license to keep bees to property owners in urban areas and the addition of a new clause to introduce a minimum distance of 10 metres for apiaries in non-urban areas from public places. A new section has been added to advise beekeepers of their obligations under the Biosecurity Act 1993. ApiNZ made a submission during the consultation period earlier this year. While our submission supported the proposals, we did point out an error in the bylaw about beekeeper obligations under the Biosecurity Act 1993. The draft bylaw incorrectly advised that beekeepers needed to register any apiary 'within 30 days of possession' with The Management Agency, when the correct wording should be 'within 30 days of placing hives on that site'. This error has been corrected in the final version of the bylaw.

Link to ApiNZ submission on our website:

<https://apinz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/ApiNZ-submission-to-KDC-Keeping-of-Animals-bees-and-poultry-bylaw-2021.pdf>



Interesting website

Multi million dollar manuka industry faces mandatory tests

<https://www.newsroom.co.nz/multi-million-dollar-manuka-industry-faces-mandatory-tests?>

(provided by Jane Harding)

Book Review:

Conversātiō-in the company of
bees by Anne Noble, Zara
Stanhope and Anna Brown.



<https://www.nzbooklovers.co.nz/post/conversātiō-in-the-company-of-bees-by-anne-noble-zara-stanhope-and-anna-brown> (provided by Peter Miller)

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/entertainment/books/126512795/photographer-anne-noble-collaborates-with-experts-and-wordsmiths-to-explore-the-beauty-of-the-bee-in-a-new-book> (provided by John Burnet)



Who can I speak to?

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Meeting location – a Zoom meeting at home.

All members will receive an email from the WBA with a link to the Zoom meeting.