



**October meeting** | 6 October 2021

**Where** | Zoom meeting. Zoom code tbc

**Editor** | Jane Harding [janeh@xtra.co.nz](mailto:janeh@xtra.co.nz)

## Topics for the October meeting

**Beginners session** : No beginners session this month. Zoom meeting starting at 7.30pm

James Scott will send out a Zoom invite for tomorrow evening at 7.30pm.

**Main Meeting:** Zoom meeting 7.30pm

**Topic:** Photo Competition – judged by John Boyds

We will be viewing the photos online, and John Boyds will provide a commentary on each photo.

This will be a first for us, come along and see how it will work!

**Making Splits – Frank Lindsay**



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## From the President

The recent spells of dry warm weather certainly has the bees in full swing into their build up, which is good to see. Personally I have noted large amount of pollen coming in which is a very good indicator of the queens laying well and the hive numbers increasing. Don't forget to varroa treat as the spring build up has been identified as the time the varroa thrive. Swarms have been reported in the region already, with one in the Hutt Valley a couple of weeks ago. For those of you wishing to capture a swarm or be the recipient of one, go to the website and follow the instructions [here](#).

With the country still having to play nice under the level 2 covid restrictions (delta variation) October's meeting will be via zoom again, as the social distancing could cause some issues within the Johnsonville Community Centre. We have a plan for the photo competition to be online.

Bee Awareness month has also been significantly impacted with the covid lockdown and a number of planned events have been cancelled.



A reminder the club does have nucs for sale if you are in the market for some bees, likewise there are several members offering nucs for sale.

See you all via the internet at the club meeting.

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## Moving a Hive

There is an old saying in beekeeping about moving hives – “Less than 3 feet or more than 3 miles”, which isn’t always practicable if you want to move your hive to a sunnier spot in your back garden. The good people at [Kiwimana](#) have put together a short explainer on how they move their hives short distances on their property, so this might be useful if you are considering doing so.

### [Moving Hives a Short Distance](#)

Kiwimana are a NZ beekeeping duo with a website of useful, quirky and interesting information about beekeeping. Check them out if you’ve not found them before.

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## Varroa Treatment Summary

Janine Davie has updated the Varroa Treatment Summary form that some of you might have seen before.

The summary lists the trade name or treatment type for various common varroa treatments, the active ingredient, the form of the treatment (Strips, pads, fogging, etc) and the main advantages and disadvantages.

The table has been uploaded to the [website](#) with this month’s newsletter.



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## Book Review:

**Queen Spotting: Meet the Remarkable Queen Bee and Discover the Drama at the Heart of the Hive by Hilary Kearney, Storey Publishing, 2019**

**Reviewed by Emmet McElhatton**

Without fear of contradiction, I can safely assert that the single biggest challenge facing the novice beekeeper, and those of more advanced vintage too is...spotting the queen! Finding Her Majesty in a big busy colony, particularly this time of year when we are planning to split and re-queen, is an art and science that requires much skill, perseverance and luck, a task that can upset the most meticulously planned hive visit. This wonderful little book aims to provide us all with some lore and practical tips to make queen hunting that bit easier.

Hilary Kearney is an accomplished urban beekeeper from Southern California who specialises in swarm rescue and bee education. A popular author on all things apian through some of America's big media outlets, her blog [Beekeeping Like A Girl](#) is an accessible and informative site that combines deep subject knowledge with an ability to communicate complex topics to a generalist audience.

In [Queen Spotting](#), she uses her exemplary communication skills to take us right to 'the heart of the hive', mixing anecdote, science and folksy prose philosophy to build up a picture of the whole workings of the colony and its caste members in a manner that conveys what we need to know without getting too bogged down in scientific minutia. Along the way, she shares amusing, insightful and, dare I say it, spiritual anecdotes from her adventures in swarm rescue – retrieving a swarm from inside a quad bike anyone?

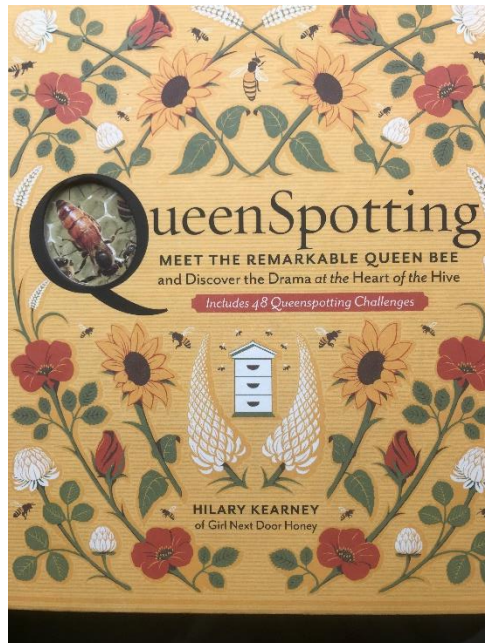
While Kearney's prose is delightful, it sparkles the more because of two features of the book. The first is that Storey Publishing have gone full Monty on the production values for the book. From the minute you pick it up and



start browsing through, it is clear you are handling a little art work. The overall design work is exemplary, made all the more glorious through the use of some of the best bee photography I have in my bee book collection.

The second feature takes the book to another level. Graduated from 'Easy', through 'Intermediate' to 'Advanced', *Queen Spotting* includes 48 'Queenspotting Challenges'. These come in the form of fold out, high definition panorama photographs of frames with the challenge...locate the queen. The first few of these challenges lull the reader into a bit of a false sense of security – umm, ah, there she is! – before coming to some challenges that are much more perplexing – is that her? or that? A sophisticated Where's Wally for beekeepers, Kearney supplies the answers to the challenges at the end of the book but, guess what? Despite having bought this gem over four months ago, I still am relishing the queen spotting challenges and haven't peeked at the answers just yet. A testament maybe to the captivating nature of this book?

Christmas is rapidly approaching.





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## Rural Hive Site Available

One of our members, who lives close to the Judgeford Golf Club on the Paremata-Haywards Road (SH58), is offering a free hive site to an experienced beekeeper who is also willing to mentor a 15 year old girl who lives on the property. She has just been given a couple of active hives and is passionate about beekeeping.

If you are interested in this offer please contact John Burnet (Treasurer) for details. Ph. 0274-379-062 or email [johnburnet@xtra.co.nz](mailto:johnburnet@xtra.co.nz) for further details.

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## Survey of Chemicals in Honey.

Covid Lockdown has delayed the commencement of Phil Lester's research into the chemicals in our honey, so there is still time to submit a sample and fill in the questionnaire about your honey and hive treatments. If you want to do so, follow the [instructions](#) on the homepage of the website.

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## Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Hopefully we will be able to meet face-to-face again. November's topics are Preparing for the Honey Flow for the Beginner's session and we're hoping to get a guest speaker to talk to us for the main meeting.



## Who can I speak to?

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

**Vice-President** – Frank Lindsay (04) 478 3376

**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:**

Membership and website: James Scott - (04) 565 0164

[james@scott.gen.nz](mailto:james@scott.gen.nz)

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

Supper co-ordinator - Barbara Parkinson – (04 2379624)

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## Meeting location

Johnsonville Community Centre, Moorefield Rd, Johnsonville.

