



**Next meeting** | Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

**Where** | ZOOM MEETING AT YOUR PLACE

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## September meeting

Due to Covid restrictions there will be no meeting at the Community Centre in September.

**However, we are having our first Zoom Meeting instead.**

Early next week every member will receive an email invitation to join in.

Start time: 7.30pm

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## Note from the President – James Withington

Déjà vu again, another month, another lockdown, which means it is less than likely we are going to be able to hold our meeting in person next month. We are currently exploring setting up a Zoom meeting so that members can take part. An electronic invitation will be sent to all members in a couple of days.

On the upside of being at home it means we can have a look at our hives and see how the girls are holding up this winter. I note that we are on track to have the mildest winter on record, and this is evident with frames of brood still in the hives and the amount of pollen being brought in once the day warms up. If you get the chance to open your hive check to see if you need to apply a varroa treatment. Reports from around the country suggests there are significant hives losses due to varroa this winter. Don't let your hives become a victim of varroa. Also, during your lockdown time at home have a look at what photos you can submit for this year's photo competition in the October meeting.

The newly elected committee held its first meeting the other night and have mapped out the meetings for the next 5 months or so, again pending any interruptions that a Covid lockdown could have on us.

For those of you new to the club and looking to learn about beekeeping the club is running a beginner's course over a 5 week period. Costs of enrollment is \$250 and includes all the course materials and attending a hands on field day (again depending in the length and restrictions of Covid lockdowns)

There is a planned hive box building and wax dipping day for the 25<sup>th</sup> of September which will be hosted by Wayne Wilde in Wainuiomata. Check out the newsletter and the clubs Facebook page for details.

In the meantime, look after yourselves, stay safe and use this opportunity to learn more about your bees and beekeeping, as there is plenty of online materials and books available.



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## Photo Competition

The annual WBA Photo Competition will be held at the October meeting (Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October). All photos must be uploaded to the website by the 24<sup>th</sup> September at 5pm, to give the judge time to review and judge.

A selection of the photos will be printed by the WBA and displayed at the October meeting. There will also be a "people's choice" winner on the night.

If the photos are taken using a mobile phone they should be saved in the largest possible size and if they are taken using a DSLR camera they should be saved at a minimum of 300ppi. This will ensure the highest possible quality if the images are printed for display or on the big screen.

In the past, we were asked to print our photographs for the competition. This is no longer required as the judging will be of the digital photos.

Photo competition rules and the upload link can be found here:

<https://wellingtonbeekeepers.rocketspark.co.nz/photo-competition-rules/>



*Last year's winning photograph by Richard Hall*



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## December meeting Bring and Buy

Yep, Christmas is just around the corner... at our December meeting we'll once again have our **Bring and Buy table**, for all things to do with bees and hive products that you have made yourself (and maybe a few other people also). So, if you make face creams or polishes, beeswax wraps or candles, propolis lozenges or gadgets and aids for your beekeeping that you'd like to sell, bring them to the December meeting. Remember to bring cash and buy some lovely Christmas presents!



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## Hive assembly workshop and wax dipping

We'll be holding a hive-ware assembly workshop and a wax dipping session at Wayne Wild's place on the Wainuiomata Coast Road on Saturday 25th September. So, if you're a new beekeeper with hive-ware to put together or to get dipped, come along to Wayne's and find out how to do it. Bring some morning tea to share and meet a few club members over a hammer and nails. The wax dipper will, of course, be available for any club member to get new hive-ware dipped.

Dipping cost \$4 per box

Cash please, as there is no paywave



# How to make a healing bee balm

Tricia Laing

My presentation at the September meeting is in PowerPoint and is about beeswax taken from my hive and how I grade it according to colour before cleaning and filtering it. I select the purest white wax for making bee balm.

I compare the colours of beeswax, places where you can buy beeswax advertised as suitable for making bee balm and the variations in price. I identify the materials needed to make bee balm including oils and essential oils that go well together and have properties that are healing for skin. I describe how to combine beeswax, oils and essential oils while maintaining their healing properties. Lastly, I talk about my experience with different storage containers such as plastic, aluminium and glass, where to get them and which ones are easiest to reuse.

This presentation is based on my experience keeping bees in top bar hives for 13 years, making bee balm and gifting it to friends and family who have offered constructive feedback about the look, consistency, smell and effectiveness.





## Spring check for beginners



**Frank Lindsay**

Hives are more advanced this spring because of the relatively warm winter. Inside the beehive the bees will be in a loose cluster around the frames, cleaning and polishing the cells to stimulate the queen to lay eggs in the cells.

*photo: James Scott*

At this time of the year bees are dying off while the new young ones are replacing them. More bees are produced than are dying off so the population is gradually increasing. The bees will be flying well when it's warm bringing in pollen and a little nectar, but not enough to sustain themselves. Each bee needs a cell of honey, a cell of pollen and a cell of water.

If your hives are strong and heavy with honey, that's great.

Make sure the hives have enough food to keep brood rearing going. If they run out of food at any point during the spring build-up, it will result in less bees at the honey flow and therefore a lesser crop. At worst, your hive will die in a couple of weeks without food. There is not enough nectar coming in naturally at present to sustain this build-up so if the hives don't have enough stores – feed.

On a warm day when the temperature reached 15 degrees or more, and the bees are flying, it's possible to open the hives and look down into the frames. Perhaps lift some slightly upwards to judge their weight. We need a minimum of three frames of honey in the hive at all times so when your hive gets down to this level, start feeding sugar syrup as thick as you can. Use hot water to dissolve as much sugar as possible and feed it to the bees while it's still warm. Dribble a little over the top bars where the bees are to stimulate them to look for the syrup.



## Spring Checks.... continued

<b>Hive Check</b>		
Look through the bottom box and check the frames	Are the frames empty?	The queen and bees have moved up to the next box during the winter to keep warm
	Are there black frames?	If you can't see through some frames, it is time to replace them with frames with drawn comb from last season.
Look through the top box and check the frames	Are there capped/ uncapped brood, eggs in middle frames?	You have a working queen! Brood numbers will very quickly increase
	Are there honey stores? Is there pollen?	FEED sugar syrup to build up food stores or the hive will die of starvation
Check food stores	5 frames of capped honey Clusters of pollen cells	Move empty frames to the ends, keep brood in the middle surrounded by honey and pollen
Switch boxes If there are three boxes, leave the top one where it was	Put the bee box at the bottom	the queen will happily move up into the empty box when she needs more room
Clean bottom board	While switching boxes, take the bottom board a couple of metres away from the hive, brush off rubbish.	

## Check for

AFB	Practical Beekeeping in NZ by Andrew Mattson & Murray Reid pages 156-66 AFB app for android - available free from ( <a href="http://www.afb.org.nz">www.afb.org.nz</a> )
Varroa	Practical Beekeeping in NZ by Andrew Mattson & Murray Reid pages 144-54 Control of Varroa – a guide for NZ Beekeepers by Mark Goodwin & Michelle Taylor





**Sunday 19 Sept 10:30am**  
**Nairn Street Cottage**  
**Koha**  
**Music by Peter Forster**



## Discover the story of New Zealand's honey-bee pioneer.

182 years ago, Mary Bumby brought two hives of *Apis Mellifera* (honey bees) from England to the Mangungu Mission Station in the Hokianga. Discover her story in Tanya Batt's joyful and intimate performance *Mary Bumby's Hive of Story* in the gorgeous garden of **Nairn Street Cottage**.

**Capacity is limited, bee sure to RSVP!**

For media enquiries contact Lizzie Murray.

[lizziem@experiencewellington.org.nz](mailto:lizziem@experiencewellington.org.nz)

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## BAM - Bee Aware Month



If you're interested in talking to a school or at a public library for Bee Awareness Month, please let Jane Harding (0274212417) know. We don't know how many schools will be interested, however in past years we've had a few requests. We'll match you up with a schools or library in your area if you're interested in helping.





# Handling your new nuc James Scott

## Transporting your nucleus

- The best time to collect your nuc is very early in the morning, to guard against the bees getting overheated in the box. The entrance to the nuc will have been closed the evening before when all the bees have returned to their hive.
- Strap the hive tightly with a ratchet tie-down or cargo strap. If the bees will be in the sun in your car, cover the box to keep them as cool as possible. Take a full bee-suit with you in case of accidents in transit. You should transport the hive with the entrance at the front or rear to stop the frames swinging in transit and crushing bees.

## Nucleus colony care

- At your apiary site, set the hive in its permanent position and remove the hive entrance screen or blockage – ensuring the entrance is reduced to about 75-100mm in width to enable the colony to better defend itself against robbing or wasps.
- Feed sugar syrup in the evening and take care not to spill any syrup about the hive. Use 2:1 ratio (two parts by weight of sugar to one part water) use white sugar as brown or raw sugar can contain impurities and cause dysentery in bees. Mix the sugar with warm or hot (not boiling) water to dissolve it more easily.
- Continue feeding the syrup at weekly intervals if the weather is cool or wet. Feed until all frames in the first super are drawn out. When the bees are well established and there is a continual nectar flow, the feeder may be replaced with a frame or two of drawn comb or comb foundation.



- As the bees draw out the frames, move the feeder frame out and insert one or two foundation frames, depending on the feeder size.
- Once the bees occupy all the frames, a second brood box of foundation comb should be added. Lift one of the centre frames up into the second box to induce the bees to move up.

## Top Bar Hives

- Inspect every five days and continually feed. Make a long L shaped tool (like a hack saw blade with a bent end) to cut any **comb** joined to the side walls and bottom of the hive. This will make lifting comb for inspection much easier.
- All hives **MUST** be registered with **AsureQuality** once positioned on their <http://afb.org.nz/performs/3>. **AsureQuality** will add your map or grid reference in need provided your property details and hive location are specific and sufficiently detailed.
- Registration is free, but an annual apiary site charge is levied to cover Management Agency which administers biosecurity inspections and issues.
- Registration numbers need to be clearly displayed on at least one box of each hive or on a sign in each apiary.



From the CE, Karin Kos

## ApiNZ webinar series: Bacteriophages vs AFB and the Bee Care Code.

You may have heard me talk about the proposed Bee Welfare Code of Practice either at Conference (AGM) or through the NZ Beekeeper Journal. Below is a video I've recorded to set the context for why we are proposing a Code, called **New Zealand Bee Care Code™**, and the benefits it will deliver for members. How can tiny viruses help in the fight against AFB? For the answer to this question join us on **Wednesday August 25 at 4pm** for the second ApiNZ webinar as we will welcome Dr Heather Hendrickson of Massey University's ABAtE project. She will share the latest on her team's fascinating and painstaking work in finding bacteriophages to help in the fight against AFB. You can register [here](#).

Coming Up: On [Thursday 2 September at 4pm](#) ApiNZ chief executive Karin Kos and Board members Paul Martin and Dennis Crowley will answer your questions on the New Zealand Bee Care Code. You can register for this [here](#).

\*\*\*A big thank you to Michelle Taylor of Plant & Food Research who answered many questions [about varroa treatment](#) and monitoring at our first webinar yesterday. This was a very informative session and if you missed out, you can view the video [here](#). It can also be found in the BeeSmart toolkit under the 'BeelInformed' tab.

\*\*\*Editor's note: Highly recommended viewing



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## Interesting websites

### [NZ Bee Care Code ApiNZ](#)

You may have heard me talk about the proposed Bee Welfare Code of Practice either at Conference (AGM) or through the NZ Beekeeper Journal. Below is a video I've recorded to set the context for why we proposing a Code, called [New Zealand Bee Care Code™](#), and the benefits it will deliver for members.

Karin Kos talks about the Code on this video.

[New Zealand Bee Care Code - YouTube](#)

### [Queensland authorities](#)

are confident a second eradication program of varroa mites at the Port of Townsville has eliminated the parasite from Australia again.

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/life/science/environment/2021/08/12/queensland-beekeepers-varroa-mite/>

thanks to **Patrick Conaghan**



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## Who can I speak to?

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

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

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**Membership & 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)

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# Meeting location

Johnsonville Community Centre, Moorefield Rd, Johnsonville

**No meeting at this location for September**

