



**Next meeting** | Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022

**Where** | Johnsonville Community Centre

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

### **Beginners Meeting:** Starts at 6.45 pm

**John Burnet's session** will cover hive ware, hive gear, basic equipment, getting ready for the season.

### **Main Meeting:** Starts at 7.30 pm

**Frank Lyndsay** will report on the Apiculture Conference held in Christchurch at the end of June.

Presentation: **Spring planting for bees**

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## Note from the past President – James Withington

It continues to be an unusual winter, although the past week has certainly had all the hallmarks of winter finally arriving. If we are confused as to what is occurring, spare a thought for the poor bees, one minute it's warm and the next it's torrential rain and southerly blowing. I have been hearing mixed reports as to the state of people's hives. Some are reporting bees continuing to fly as though it was springtime, while others have reported bee numbers are down covering several frames only. There are the usual losses occurring, from both varroa and lack of food stores. I know you all have your stories of how your hives are faring, which are good to share with other members at the meetings.

Speaking of meetings, thank you to those who braved the exceptional cold evening and attended the AGM this month. A warm welcome is extended to those newly appointed members of the committee, who I know will steer the club in the right direction for the following year. Currently the positions of President and Vice-President remain vacant, and I suspect that at the next meeting nominations will be called upon again for members to fill these voids.

This month we held a movie night with the screening of the doco-movie 'The Pollinators'. It provided an interesting American perspective of beekeeping and the impact that modern day farming is having on the bees and the environment. Some members commented the movie was more like a horror movie with the way bees are disrespected by certain pockets of farming society. I am sure the movie was far more palatable with the vast amount of popcorn that was available and wish to thank the chef popcorn maker Dave Stone.

In the upcoming months we are reinstating the beginners' classes which are being led by members of the committee and senior club members. Upcoming main meeting we will include topics such as producing cut comb honey, queen rearing and we will also be dialing in to speak to our own club member Sharon Mackie, who is currently in the USA and assisting one of the local Washington beekeepers. The



gizmo and gadget night is also making a welcome return, so for those of you innovative people who have created specific tools or items for your beekeeping please bring them along that night.

It is evident that while covid remains in the community it has been affecting the number of people coming to the meetings. This is widely acknowledged, and the club remains committed to ensuring covid compliance occurs, such as wearing a facemask. Those attending are asked to respect these measurements to keep members safe.

James

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## WBA Committee members 2022-23

President	vacant
VP	Vacant
Treasurer	John Burnet
Secretary	Jane Harding
Webmaster	Jason Bragg
Library	Ellen Millar
Supper	Barbara Parkinson
Swarm WhatsApp	
Administrator	Jim Hepburn

<b>Other Committee members</b>	James Withington
	PK Tan
	James Scott
	Janine Davies
	Graeme Chisnall
	Ian Svela
	Viv Harris



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## Annual Subscriptions

Annual subscriptions for 2022/2023 are now overdue. If you haven't already done so, please immediately pay \$25 to Club's bank account 031534 – 0009311 – 00.

New members who joined after 1 Jan 2022 do not have to pay until next year.

After the next meeting (3 Aug) all members who have not paid will be removed from the Club newsletter and correspondence list and their membership archived.

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## Beginners Course

The Club will be hosting a Basic Beekeeping course for five consecutive weeks beginning 1 Sept 2022. Each two-hour session will begin at 7pm in the Johnsonville Community Centre. Cost is \$250 and includes a workbook and a hands-on field day at the Club's Chartwell Apiary after the five-week course. Participants must be current club members.



(photo: James Withington)



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## Swarm catching list

At the beginning of August last season's swarm catching list is going to be deleted and a 2022-2023 list will commence. If you wish to be involved in swarm collections then please advise Jim Hepburn by email with your name, your mobile phone number, and the area you reside in. He will commence building the collection list and administer it for the new season. His email address is [cameronjhepburn@gmail.com](mailto:cameronjhepburn@gmail.com).



The purpose of the WhatsApp platform is to send out notifications of a swarm, and secondly for an attending member to notify the group they are going to collect it.

Some basic rules and etiquette of being part of the forum is that if you are going to attend a swarm, please ensure you are actually free and in a position to do so at time you notify the group or very soon after. On previous occasions members have said they were going to go but not being available for several hours, which is not fair on the members of the public who have phoned it on, so only respond if you can go.

It is appreciated that there is an excitement among members about the collection of a swarm and they wish to share their experience or hold general conversations about it. It is requested that all other information about the swarm such as photos and general discussion are kept off this specific chat forum. This eliminates members phones pinging with notifications endlessly when swarming is occurring. I ask that this is done outside of the swarm catching forum, with members welcome to create a general chat forum they can participate in, although someone will need to establish and administer this forum.



## Check your bees



(Photo: Eva Durrant)

The most difficult time during the winter for bees is in late August when it begins to warm up and the bees set out to forage. In some areas native trees such as Whauwhau or Five finger (*Pseudopanax arboreus*) and Konini or Tree fuchsia (*Fuchsia excorticata*) and Tree Lucerne or Tagasaste (*Chamaecytisus palmensis*) are flowering and the bees can bring in some pollen and nectar, but another bout of wet weather may wipe this out.

A good way of checking whether your bees still have honey stores in the top box is to heft the hive occasionally over the winter months. You will sense the weight of the hive with a boxful of honey when the bees are wintered down, and as the winter progresses the hive will feel lighter and lighter.

If you are concerned honey stores are low, check on the next sunny day. It is risky when temperatures are below 13 degrees C as when the hive is opened, warm air escapes and cold air enters. Take off the lid and slide the crown board across and only half-way pull out a few frames (to keep in the warmth). If the frames still have  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  a frame of capped honey, their supply is still good. Check again in a week's time and be prepared to feed sugar syrup if the supply has dwindled. If the bees deplete their honey stores the colony may starve unless they are fed sugar syrup (two parts white granulated sugar, one part water) in a side or top feeder. It is important to keep up the syrup as this is the bees' only source of food until the weather improves and they can forage again.





# Northern Giant Hornet



**WASHINGTON, July 25, 2022** – The Entomological Society of America (ESA) announced “northern giant hornet” as the common name for *Vespa mandarinia* (Asian giant hornet) in their list of “Common Names of Insects and Related Organisms” on July 25. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) supports ESA’s plans to adopt this new common name, as well as new common names for two additional hornet species.

*V. mandarinia* is the world’s largest hornet. It is native to tropical, subtropical, and temperate mountainous regions in Asia. This invasive pest was first reported in the Vancouver Island area of Canada in August 2019 and has since been detected in the far northwest corner of Washington State. *V. mandarinia* preys on many types of insects, including honey bees. They also consume carbohydrates such as sap and ripe fruit.



In conjunction with “northern giant hornet,” ESA has adopted “southern giant hornet” as the common name for *Vespa soror* and “yellow-legged hornet” for *Vespa velutina*. Neither of these hornets are currently found in the United States. *V. soror* is a closely related—and similarly large—species to *V. mandarinia*, and the descriptors “northern” and “southern” refer to the species’ native geographic ranges in Asia.

APHIS will follow the scientific community’s lead in adopting the new common names. In future communications—including its research journals, ID Tools, USDA blog, website, and social media—APHIS will adopt “northern giant hornet” in reference to *V. mandarinia*, “southern giant hornet” for *V. soror*, and “yellow-legged hornet” for *V. velutina*.

Visit ESA’s website to read the [press release](#). To learn more about the northern giant hornet, click [here](#).

*Apis mellifera*  
(European Honey Bee)



Northern Giant Hornet  
(*Vespa mandarinia*)



Article provided by Frank  
Lindsay





## Biosecurity NZ has released an online tool for pest and disease reporting

Biosecurity NZ has released a new web tool so that suspected pests and diseases can be reported online. Alerts from the public about things out of the ordinary make up an important part of New Zealand's biosecurity system. It is very important that people can report things easily. This new tool enables that, and also provides an alternative to the existing 0800 number. People who use this tool will receive a response from Biosecurity NZ's investigation and specialist science teams within 24 hours. You can find the new tool [here](#).

## Honey characterisation project

A group of New Zealand beekeepers is launching a new project to give beekeepers a tool to define the floral origins of any batch of honey. Project lead Jane Lorimer says this will allow beekeepers, packers, and manufacturers to better label, promote, and sell their honey.

The project is broken into three parts:

1. Capture bees while foraging for nectar.
2. Laboratory test the collected nectars.
3. Provide a testing method to labs to enable people to get their honey tested to determine its floral origins.

At this stage of the project, the team is looking for expressions of interest from beekeepers/companies who are willing to sponsor our project (minimum \$50/year over 3 years). We are also looking for volunteers who would be willing to capture bees off flowers. To apply for funding, we are required to show community interest, so all contributions will form a very important part of this project.

For more information on the project click [here](#).



# Bee Quiz

## 1. Why are bees attracted to nectar?

- a. Because nectar is sweet    b. Because nectar is common in the typical habitat of bees    c. Because nectar is high in energy



## 2. Bees cannot see which colour?

- a. Yellow    b. Red    c. White

## 3. How do bumblebees pollinate tomato flowers?

- a. Grab hold of the flowers and buzz  
b. Stick their tongue into the flowers    c. Dip their legs into the flowers

## 4. Bees' stingers evolved from an ovipositor, which was originally used for which purpose?

- a. To digest foods    b. To lay eggs    c. To store foods

## 5. Meliponines are a special species of bees known for which feature?

- a. They do not sting    b. They do not make honey    c. They live in dry conditions

## 6. Which of the following insects eat bees?

- a. Ladybugs    b. Beetles    c. Dragonflies

**Answers on page 12**

**Do you love a Quiz? If you are interested in providing a Bee Quiz every month, please contact the editor, at [edurrant@xtra.co.nz](mailto:edurrant@xtra.co.nz)**



## Kaicycle Community

September is Bee Aware Month. To celebrate our precious pollinators, you will learn how to propagate crops for humans and our busy buzzy friends.

We've just launched: Propagation 101: Growing healthy seedlings from seed for people and pollinators.

Growing seedlings from seed is an essential skill for low-cost gardening. This hands-on workshop will give you the skills, knowledge and equipment to propagate your own seedlings at home.

Workshop: Saturday, September 24, 2022  
9:00 AM 12:30 PM  
Kaicycle Urban Farm 5 Hospital Rd Wellington  
Cost: \$75

Workshop content:

- building your own seed tray from recycled wood pallets
- where to source seeds and seed-raising mix
- guidelines for sowing different kinds of seed
- microgreens
- caring for your seeds
- pricking out (transferring seeds into bigger pots)
- knowing when your seedlings are ready to plant and how to prepare them for the big wide world

For all enquires, email Phoebe our community manager:  
[community@kaicycle.org.nz](mailto:community@kaicycle.org.nz)



## Interesting websites

### Trees for Bees

Trees for Bees produces a number of publications, including articles, planting guides and plant lists, research papers and conference proceedings.

[How to Plant Guides](#) Planning and implementing bee forage planting. Includes Trees for Bees Master Plant List.

[Regional Plant Guides](#) Bee forage plant guides for each region in New Zealand

[Star Performer Bee Plants](#) Star performer bee plants are the best of the best. They rank as star performers because they maximise nutrition by having any combination of one or more of flowering timing, profusion and quality of pollen, and ease of access for and preference by bees.

[www.treesforbees.org.nz](http://www.treesforbees.org.nz)

### Do honey bee cocoons really exist?

If you've wondered why you've never seen a honey bee cocoon, you're not alone. An emerging honey bee leaves its cocoon behind. The post 'Do honey bee cocoons really exist?' appeared first on Honey Bee Suite.

Why have I never seen a honey bee cocoon? - Honey Bee Suite

[Click to see more](#)

**Bee Quiz Answers**

1 c, 2b, 3a, 4b, 5a, 6c



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## Who can I speak to?

**President and Vice President** – positions vacant

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

**Secretary** – Jane Harding 027 421 2417 [janeh@xtra.co.nz](mailto:janeh@xtra.co.nz)

### Committee Members

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

**Web Master** - Jason Bragg - (021 527 244) [email@jasonbragg.me](mailto:email@jasonbragg.me),

**Librarian** - Ellen Millar - (021 709 793) [msoon.email@gmail.com](mailto:msoon.email@gmail.com)

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

**Swarm WhatsApp Administrator** - Jim Hepburn ( 021 926823)  
[jimh.jilld@gmail.com](mailto:jimh.jilld@gmail.com)

**PK Tan** - 021 109 3388 [pk.propserv@gmail.com](mailto:pk.propserv@gmail.com)

**Graeme Chisnall** - 021-246-8662 [canzel@gmx.com](mailto:canzel@gmx.com)

**Janine Davie** - [j.davie@orcon.net.nz](mailto:j.davie@orcon.net.nz)

**Viv Harris** - (027 448 9991) [vivharris@xtra.co.nz](mailto:vivharris@xtra.co.nz)

**Ian Svela** – (027 270 6842) [thors.son1956@gmail.com](mailto:thors.son1956@gmail.com),

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Jane Harding - 027 421 2417 [janeh@xtra.co.nz](mailto:janeh@xtra.co.nz)



## Meeting location

Johnsonville Community Centre,  
Moorefield Rd, Johnsonville

