



Jul meeting | 6 July

Where | Johnsonville Community Centre

Editor | Jane Harding janeh@xtra.co.nz

Topics for the July meeting

Beginners session: No beginners session this week join us for the main meeting at 7.30pm

Main Meeting 7:30pm:

Annual Meeting (very briefly!)

Movie night, hosted by James Withington

Opportunity to share ideas and ask questions of the wise heads..

As advised by John Burnet last month, we have a few vacancies for key positions where the incumbent is not standing again. If you'd like to get more involved with the club, or have an interest in our profile on social media, or would like to take a lead in how the club is run, please consider putting your hand up. Lots of wise heads available to help you!



Contents

2. From the President
6. Notice of AGM
7. Wellington Beekeepers Association Financial Minutes of 2021 AGM
7. WBA Financial Accounts (see associated file)
9. Varroa in Australia
10. Honey Extraction Facilities
11. Swarm Collection WhatsApp Administrator
12. Kaai Silberry at the June meeting
13. Bee Awareness Month in September
13. Gadgets and Gizmos – September meeting
14. WBA Beekeeping Course
14. Next Meeting
15. Meeting Location

From the President

This is the Wellington Beekeepers Association's 82nd and my fourth AGM President's Report.

Once again this year we have felt the ongoing impacts of a global pandemic, with disruptions to our monthly in the person meetings. This does impact on members connectivity and ability to have an outlet to seek advice and reassurance from fellow members. Despite this the quality of our online zoom meetings has evolved, including the ability to have an invited guest to speak during them. Despite the overwhelming desire to host online meeting, it has been noted in recent months that attendance of the monthly meetings has been down, although this is likely the residual effects of covid within the community.



Over the past two to three years, it would be reasonable to say that interest of beekeeping is waning within the general community, as we find ourselves descending the downward side of the bell curve of popularity and this is reflected in the reduction in the number of financial members. Some members are also moving outside of the region. However this year we have retained 314 members and we continue to see strong support of the Hutt Valley subgroup which is being led by several of the clubs' senior members and together they have taken responsibility for the Wingate Apiary site.

Throughout the year I have been corresponded with the country's other hobbyist beekeeping clubs to try and establish some form of connectivity among our groups. An extended invitation for reciprocated membership was sent out, to enable the sharing of newsletters, club night ideas and presentations and working collegially together, however the uptake by the majority is slow and they remain operating in their silos rather than sharing the great depth of knowledge that we collectively represent.

As I have signalled, it is time for someone new to take the President reins and ensure the continued momentum of the club going forward. In the past four years I have implemented a number of changes that I feel have added value to the club, including the introduction of new monthly themes such as June being the food month with some of the region's finest chefs being invited to present, the Christmas food truck and events for December, and even for the month of July introducing a movie night. I feel privileged and honoured to have been elected and re-elected as well as being able to lead the club during these pandemic times, and despite the long hours invested in ensuring maximum enjoyment and value, it has been a blast. For those of you considering standing for the position you will be fully supported by members of the committee. Speaking of which it is timely to acknowledge those members of this year's committee.



An underlying reason for the club remaining to be so strong is due to the input, support and commitment of the club committee. Members work behind the scenes to ensure that the club keeps on chugging forward. A number of these members have been on the committee for a significant period of time and deserve to be acknowledged, including James Scott who among other things maintains the club's online presence. James has chosen not to stand for re-election this year due to new business opportunities which needs his time, but I wish to acknowledge all of his years of being on the committee, so thank you James.

Again John Burnett, for ensuring that the IRD are not looking into the state of our accounts and finances as well as being responsible for the maintaining of the Chartwell Apiary, Jane Harding and Eva Durrant, although no longer on the committee have continued to produce a monthly newsletter of real high quality and interest, Barbara, again producing those wonderful treats in the kitchen each month with her amazing baking selection. And the other members, Janine Davie, PK Tan, Jim Hepburn, Graeme Chisnall, Ian Parkinson and Judith de Wilde our faithful librarian, who also has tendered for resignation from the committee, so there is another opportunity for someone. As always, a note of thanks to Wayne Wild for allowing us to hold construction sessions at his home in Wainuiomata and for all the hours he puts in dipping new woodware.

And lastly, no end of year report can be produced without the acknowledgement of the vice president Mr Frank Lindsay. He is one of the country most renowned beekeepers and a highly respected member of New Zealand's Apiculture world. During my conversation with other club presidents throughout the country they all mention Frank by name and speak very highly of him and his knowledge. In fact, during one conversation, they made comment about Frank writing contribution to their newsletter and stated 'that if Frank Lindsay said this, then we must do it'. Frank thank you for supporting me during the past four years, whether it be providing suggestions for meetings, putting me in contact with speakers, assisting with the technology you have simply only been



a phone call away. Your enthusiasm for beekeeping is unquestionable and we, as a club are truly blessed.

This year saw a change to our swarm notification and collection service we provide. Moving the platform onto a WhatsApp platform was not without its challenges, with collection members getting hundreds of message notifications during the summer. Hopefully these teething issues have been ironed out and only swarm notifications and collections will be mentioned in this forum. It has been proposed that at the end of each season the chat group is closed and members re-notify of their availability for the next season. This ensures the lists are current and those wishing to opt out can do so. I am always welcome to new ideas of how to run this part of the club. I think in total we were close to 50 swarm collections on this platform during the year, which is impressive.

Financially the club remains in a strong position and ended the year with a small surplus of \$49. We have been able to host speakers such as Kaai Silbery from the Chatham Islands to come and speak to us. She was an outstanding speaker and for those of you who attended were treated to her amuse bouche of Freeze-Dried Honey & beetroot gravlax. Likewise, the club purchased the prizes for last year's Christmas quiz and honey or the bag game.

Thank you all once again and I am looking forward to rekindling my position at the back row of the seating during club nights.

James Withington



Notice of AGM

Members are reminded that next Wed's meeting will be our AGM. We will try and keep it short but there are some essential vacancies to be filled and issues to discuss:

CHANGE OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT. James Withington is stepping down. If you think you would like to take on this role please contact James to discuss workload and responsibilities.

To lighten the President's load we plan to create a new role:

SOCIAL MEDIA CO-ORDINATOR : To take over responsibility for the Club's Face Book page & Swarm List (this Swarm List role could be sub-delegated - any offers?).

WEBMASTER : Responsibility for the Club's website

LIBRARIAN : Responsibility for issuance and storage of the Club's collection of beekeeping books.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS : any members who are willing to provide input and support on a regular basis (usually quarterly) on various club programs and activities.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Committee has agreed to hold the current membership fee at \$25 per annum for 2022-2023 but AGM should consider if this amount should continue unchanged for 2023-2024. Online payments via debit card/credit card in addition to bank transfer will be investigated.

AFB HIVE REIMBURSEMENT

Currently members who have had to destroy AFB infected hives receive reimbursement from the club of \$120 per hive. This amount should be reviewed in light of the number of AFB claims for year ended 31 May 2022.



WBA Minutes of 2021 AGM

**2021 Annual General Meeting of the
Wellington Beekeepers Association
7 July 2021**

**Held at the Johnsonville Community Centre, Frankmore Avenue at
7pm**

James Withington welcomed members

1. Present – James Withington, Frank Lindsay, Jane Harding, John Burnet, Eva Durrant, James Scott, PK Tan, Janine Davie, Viv Harris, Graeme Chisnal and about 30 members.
2. Apologies - Tricia Laing.
3. Minutes of previous AGM.
James presented minutes of previous meeting. Seconded Eva Durrant. Carried.
4. Matters Arising. No matters raised
5. Presidents Report. Noted. Additional words regarding Frank's contribution to the club.
6. Treasurer's Report – John Burnet presented the accounts. John moved the Financial Accounts be accepted, seconded Jane Harding. Agreed.



7. Election of Officers:

President – James Withington – nominated by Jane Harding, seconded Janine Davie. Carried

Vice-President – Frank Lindsay – moved James Withington, seconded PK Tan. Carried

Treasurer – John Burnet – moved Eva Durrant, seconded Claire Hart. Carried

Secretary – Jane Harding – moved Jane Harding, seconded Viv Harris Carried

8. Election of Other Committee members

PK Tan

Janine Daley

Barbara Parkinson

Janine Davie

James Scott

Jill Dalton

Judith de Wilde (librarian)

Move the above nominees be elected by various people, seconded Eva. Carried.

9. Membership Fee

Club membership fee recommended to stay at \$25.00, \$7.50 of which goes into the AFB fund to reimburse members who need to destroy AFB infected hives. Carried

10. AFB Fee and infected hive reimbursement



John moved a motion that the reimbursement amount remain at \$120 per hive. Seconded Jane Harding. Carried.

11. General Business

There were no items of general business raised.

Meeting closed at 7.20pm.

WBA Financial Accounts

See associated file

Varroa in Australia

As you will probably have read in the news, the dreaded varroa mite has been discovered near Newcastle in Australia. The hives were found in surveillance hives near the port of Newcastle in NSW.

A statewide emergency order to control bee movement has been declared.

This piece from the ABC gives a bit of background:

https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2022-06-27/what-is-varroa-mite-and-how-will-it-impact-australias-honey/101185714?utm_campaign=abc_news_web&utm_content=mail&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_source=abc_news_web



Honey Extraction Facilities

From time to time members enquire about what honey extraction facilities are available, other than borrowing the club extractors or borrowing from a friend. The tireless John Burnet has done some digging around and has identified the following options that are available:

Greytown Honey and several other commercial operators offer this contract extracting service but usually require at least 20 boxes and cost is about \$23 per box.

If you are interested Otaki Buzz Club member Thomas Reisinger offers this self-extraction service for hobbyists at his Manakau site (see attached for details).

I'm also aware of another beekeeper in Naenae who is currently setting up an extraction plant for hire to other beekeepers. It is not yet operational and no details are available at this stage.

From time to time the club has considered setting up a facility for members however it has never been considered a viable option due to set-up and regulatory costs, finding a suitable location and the Food Safety regulations involved. We would need to have an approved building, power & water access, adequate machine supervision, and someone to take charge of ensuring appropriate and consistent cleaning up by users.

So, embrace the challenge of doing your own extraction – rope in a friend to help and the bonus is you get the very first taste of the honey from your hives, there is nothing better!



Swarm Collection WhatsApp Administrator

As mentioned in James' newsletter, the club is looking for someone to administer the swarm collection WhatsApp group. Members who sign up to the WhatsApp group are notified of swarms and can reply if they wish to collect the swarm. The group grew to about 50 last summer and was successful in retrieving and rehoming many swarms. The list membership will be cleared before Spring and club members will need to put themselves back on the list if they are interested in swarm collecting for the 2022/23 season.

If you're a digital native, or a bit social media savvy, this could be a job for you! Put your hand up at the meeting on Wednesday, or get in touch with the James Withington (jwithington2016@gmail.com)





June Meeting – Kaai Silberry

Some hardy souls braved the wintry conditions to hear Kaai Silberry from Go Wild Apiary on Rekohu Chatham Islands talk about beekeeping in the middle of the ocean and developing products from her unique Tarahina honey. Kaai treated us to a taste of blue cod gravlax, blue code marinated in a freeze dried honey and beetroot marinade, and gave us all a taste of the wonderful freeze-dried honey product she has developed.

It was very interesting to talk to Kaai and for her to share her ideas with us.



Blue cod gravlax with freeze dried honey and beetroot marinade on a beetroot wafer with kewpie mayonnaise and microgreens



BAM: Bee Awareness Month

September is BAM – Bee Awareness Month – and the WBA gets involved in this very important promotion of bees and bee friendly activities across Wellington. The initiative is led by ApiNZ and the WCC is also very involved.

The theme for this year is “Bee Aware - Sharing Knowledge for a Better Future”

A programme of events is being planned and led by some very enthusiastic people from the Community Garden groups. WBA members might be asked to come and share their knowledge about bees with the public. So look out for requests for getting involved coming up.

Gadgets and Gizmos – September meeting

September meeting is going to be our Gadgets and Gizmos Evening, in memory of the late Andrew Beach who was a master of making practical and useful things to make beekeeping easier. If you’ve got a clever idea, or just a new way of doing something that you think is easier than what you were doing before, bring it along to the September meeting and share with the group. There is a prize for the best gadget!





Club Beekeeping Course

Once again the club will be running a beginner's beekeeping course for new members. The course runs over 5 evenings and a ½ day field day. The dates for the course are:

5 consecutive Thursdays in September (1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 September) and a field day on a suitable weekend day (weather dependant)

The cost is \$250 and includes course materials.

If you are interested, get in touch with Frank Lindsay:

Lindsays.apiaries@hotmail.com

Next Meeting

The August meeting will be held on 3 August and we will have a beginners session before the main meeting.

Topics for August are:

Beginners Session –hive wear and hive gear, basic equipment and getting ready for spring – John Burnet

Main meeting – Spring feeding, spring varroa treatments, hopefully a conference report from Frank and some advice on what to plant for Spring for bees.



Meeting Location

Johnsonville Community Centre

Moorefield Road, Johnsonville

