



November meeting | 2 November

Where | Johnsonville Community Centre

Editor | Jane Harding janeh@xtra.co.nz

Topics for the November meeting

Beginners session 6:45pm upstairs:

John Randall will talk about supering-up for the honey flow – what to expect. What to do when you get your nuc and what to expect from the summer season.

Main Meeting 7:30pm:

John Burnett will talk about cutcomb honey and show a video about comb honey production.





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From the President

First, I want to apologise to the club members who trusted in our ability to broadcast the meeting last month. I was really looking forward to the presentation and was disappointed to miss out on hearing both Mark Grenfell and James Withington talk about queen rearing methods. I heard that the presentations were informative and well received.

The WBA Committee has decided to upgrade our equipment in the hope that we can successfully offer our club members the option of attending our meetings via zoom or its equivalent. I think this is particularly important given the wave of Covid that Wellington is experiencing at present, and the



weather extremes we are likely to experience in the future because of climate change. We are currently exploring appropriate options.

Weird weather continued up until Labour Weekend in the Akatarawa Valley when we had a few days with sun, little wind and no rain. The forecast here is for another week of rain.

Despite the rain my bees have been out foraging in the gorse, camellias, broad beans and our fruit trees which are finally in flower. NIWA is forecasting pretty normal weather for the summer which should be good for the bees – here's hoping.

Meanwhile I have been exploring ways to support my bees in their defence against wasps in addition to using Vespex. Last year I lost all four of my hives to wasp attacks. Here, the wasps will attack the bees towards the end of February. My understanding is that wasps leave tracers of pheromones in the environment from their nests to beehives which means they can make repeat visits easily. I have been looking for a way to interrupt the wasps' tracks and I have discovered that they don't like rosemary (which the bees love). With the help of some woofers, upright and prostrate rosemary will be planted extensively around my apiary in the coming month.

In August this year the Greater Wellington Regional Council published for consultation, "Section 32 report, Evaluation of provisions for Proposed Change 1 to the Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region". This consultation was not widely advertised and only last week I found out about it when it was drawn to the attention of the Community Advisory Group on Indigenous Biodiversity to the Upper Hutt City Council of which I am a member. Greater Wellington is seeking an integrated management approach of the region's natural and built environment guided by Te Ao Maori. While Greater Wellington has consulted with a Farming Reference Group there is no beekeeper or stakeholders in the apicultural industry providing input to this group. Also, wasps are missing from the list of pests Greater Wellington manages. I made a very short submission which was intended to get me an



opportunity to cover these points in more detail at any future hearing. The timeframe was too tight for the Club to make a submission.

Queen Rearing with Mark Grenfell and James Withington

As mentioned by Trish, Mark Grenfell and James Withington talked to the meeting about queen rearing. The key takeout for me was to requeen often and do it pre-emptively, not reactively! I've always been a bit nervous about requeening, both speakers made it sound straightforward.

From Mark – requeen often to keep your queens young and vigorous, requeen as part of your seasonal management plan, requeen in spring with a split as an insurance for hives losses later in the season. Mark also keeps nucs for over-wintering queens, repairing comb or building out foundation and to experiment. Much easier to open a nuc box and find the queen and see what is going on than to burrow through a whole hive. And for Mark, timing is everything, watch the weather and work backwards from when you want your queens to be mated and laying so you can maximise honey production.

James demonstrated using a couple of techniques for rearing queens without grafting, either the Jenter or Nicot systems. These systems encourage the breeder queen to lay in queen cells which can be removed and used without the need to select eggs, graft into queen cells and manage through to hatching.





Kiwi Colour Kits

Olivia and India from Hutt Valley High have developed a sustainable, non-toxic kids colouring package using beeswax from the club. They gave us a very interesting presentation on the development of their start-up business and the processes they went through to come up with the product.

You can follow them on facebook or Instagram on @kiwicolourkitsnz or buy their products on Storbie (YES market) Kiwi Colour Kits

Club Nucs and Queens

The club has received requests from members for 24 nuc colonies and 12 mated laying queens. However due to recent weather conditions our West Coast queen breeder has struggled to provide. Delivery is now not expected until mid-late November and members who have ordered queens will be advised immediately on receipt.

Our club apiary will also struggle to meet demand for 24 nuc colonies and we would welcome contributions of splits or nucs (5 frames of bees) from any of our members. If you can assist (logically mid to late Nov when queens are likely to become available) please contact Frank or myself. We will on-sell these nucs to members with a new queen.

John Burnet 0274379062

Frank Lindsay 0274034559



Members Nucs for Sale

Newlands Intermediate School has a surplus 10 x $\frac{3}{4}$ frame single box hive with newly mated laying queen available for sale - \$340.

You will need to take your $\frac{3}{4}$ box, base, hive mat, roof and ratchet tie-down to the school and Ian will transfer frames and bees into it.

If interested phone **Ian Svela on Ph. 027-270-6842**

John Randall advises he currently has several $\frac{3}{4}$ five frame nucs with autumn queens for sale at \$250 each.

John will transfer five frames of bees and the queen directly into your nuc box or wooden hive box.

John's address is 216 South Karori Rd., Karori. Phone **John on 476-9959 to arrange.**

Hives for Sale

Jon Astwood has 2 hives for sale in Lower Hutt. These are established strong hives building up well for the honey flow. Included in sale is the hives as pictured, including - ventilated base board, 2x $\frac{3}{4}$ depth brood boxes with 10 frames in each, queen excluder, 1x $\frac{3}{4}$ depth honey super, top feeder, hive mat and galvanised lid. Frames are mix of plastic and timber. Each hive has a queen that was new November 2021 with all laying well.

AFB check has been completed 18/10/2022 with a registered DECA holder.

Pickup from Lower Hutt. Drop off may be available also at additional charge with both occurring in the evening once the bees are all inside ready for a temporary grill to allow transport.

Price is \$375 per hive.



Jon Astwood 0278395525.



Jon's hives

Janine Davie has a hive for sale. The hive will have a Hive doctor base for ease of moving. Provided with the purchase is 2 x 3/4 boxes (has about 8 frames of brood in various stages of capped/uncapped), laying queen (not marked) Hive Doctor base, Mat, Galvanised Lid \$450.00

Contact: **Janine Davie 021 330 931** Pickup in Papakowhai



The beautiful bees in Janine's hive



Comb Honey

Comb honey is [honey](#) intended for consumption by humans, which is still contained within its original hexagonal-shaped [beeswax](#) cells, called [honeycomb](#). It has received no processing, filtering, or manipulation, and is in the state that [honey bees](#) have produced it.

One of the common methods for producing comb honey in New Zealand is using the Ross Round method.

John Burnet will be talking about this method at the meeting on Wednesday.



Ross Round Comb Honey Frames



DECA Reminder

Elimination of AFB (American Foulbrood) is the aim of the AFB Pest Management Plan managed by the AFB Management Agency. AFB is one of only a handful of notifiable pests in Aotearoa New Zealand that is subject to a PMP. (Another notable one is Bovine TB).

Under the law, all apiaries need to be registered and inspected for AFB at least once a year. For beekeepers without a DECA (Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement) their hives will need to be inspected by a DECA-holding beekeeper by 30 November each year and a disease return submitted. The inspecting beekeeper needs to sign this form.

A number of club members hold DECA certificates and can inspect your hives, we are in the process of putting together a list of inspectors for the website.

AFB Management – Sniffer Dogs and Local Area Pest Elimination

Despite years of effort, AFB is not going away and beekeepers are looking for new ways to tackle this problem.

The use of sniffer dogs to detect disease in humans and other animals is increasing all the time. A dog's olfactory sense is much greater than a person and they can detect things that are invisible. The Southern North Island Bee Group, which a number of members belong to, is fundraising to support the training and support for two trained AFB sniffer dogs and the maintenance of the store of purified AFB spores held at Massey University. The purified spores are required to keep the dogs trained in the detection of AFB, so they



don't give false positive results when they are sent into the field to sniff out the disease.

The trials so far have shown the dogs have a 100% success rate in detecting AFB and can inspect many hives in a very short time. Hives do not need to be opened or samples removed.

The group is looking for additional funding to carry this research through to become a commercial proposition.

If you are interested in supporting this research, you can contact **Allan Richards** on AJRichardsMrBee@gmail.com

You can read a bit more about their proposal [here](#)



Separately, **Mark Goodwin** has put together a programme outline for a group of adjacent beekeepers to get together to eliminate AFB in their area. This is probably best done in small groups and would require a concerted effort by all beekeepers in an area. You can read the programme [here](#). This would be a good project for our local cluster groups to undertake.



Wax Dipping on 6 November – New Location!

There will be a wax dipping session for Club members at John Randall's place, 216 South Karori Rd., Karori (about 1km south of the Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park) at 10am on Sun 6 Nov.

Paraffin wax dipping preserves your boxes for several years. You can then paint them after dipping or leave unpainted if you prefer the natural look.

Bring your new assembled boxes with your name and phone number written in highlighter on the inside and John will paraffin wax dip them while you wait for \$5 per box payable in cash to John on site.

Any questions phone John on 476-9959 or myself (details below) .

Cheers

John Burnet

Treasurer

Phone 0274-379-062

Apiculture Data Survey - Reminder

WBA has been approached by a Masters Student from EIT in Hastings who would like to survey beekeepers about their data management for her Masters thesis. Here is the [link](#) to the survey, and there will be hardcopies of her survey to fill in at the November meeting.



Swarms

Yes, there's been a lot of them and even though the weather has been awful, it doesn't seem to have stopped the bees. Here's a few swarm photos that have made their way into my inbox in the last little while:



Eva retrieving a swarm from high in a tree



And getting the swarm to get into the nuc box...

Sadly, this was one that didn't stay so Eva had a to make a return trip to retrieve the swarm again...thank you Eva!!!



And here's John Burnet demonstrating that you don't need to be suited up to catch a swarm....



Improvements to Club meetings at JCC

As Tricia referred to above, the club will be purchasing a new laptop and camera so we can reliably broadcast our meetings to members. Look out for the new technology coming soon!

Also, we are discussing with JCC whether we can store our library books at JCC so they don't need to be carted to and for each meeting. This will mean the library can be available for every meeting, and the librarian can have a break from carting books!

Next Meeting

The December meeting is our Christmas meeting, of course. The Grand Quiz will be back, with prizes, there'll be a food truck again and of course the mead competition!

No beginner's session, altogether from 6.30pm.





Meeting Location

Johnsonville Community Centre

Moorefield Road, Johnsonville



Who can I speak to?

President and Vice President– positions vacant

Treasurer – John Burnet (04) 232 7863 johnburnet@xtra.co.nz

Secretary – Jane Harding 027 421 2417 janeh@xtra.co.nz

Committee Members

Membership - James Scott - (04) 565 0164 james@scott.gen.nz



Web Master - Jason Bragg - (021 527 244) email@jasonbragg.me,

Librarian - Ellen Millar - (021 709 793) msoon.email@gmail.com

Supper co-ordinator - Barbara Parkinson – (04) 2379624
parkinson@xtra.co.nz

Swarm WhatsApp Administrator - Jim Hepburn (021 926823)
jimh.jilld@gmail.com

PK Tan - 021 109 3388 pk.propserv@gmail.com

Graeme Chisnall - 021-246-8662 canzel@gmx.com Janine Davie -
j.davie@orcon.net.nz

Viv Harris - (027 448 9991) vivharris@xtra.co.nz

Ian Svela – (027 270 6842) thors.son1956@gmail.com,

Newsletter Editors - Eva Durrant - 027 311 8700 edurant@xtra.co.nz

Jane Harding - 027 421 2417 janeh@xtra.co.nz