



Next meeting | Wednesday 3rd August 2022

Where | Johnsonville Community Centre

Editor | Eva Durrant edurrant@xtra.co.nz

Beginners Meeting: Starts at 6.45 pm

Graeme Chisnall will discuss Varroa treatments, hive health, getting prepared for the spring build up, and swarm control.

Main Meeting: Starts at 7.30 pm

Queen rearing with Mark Grenfell and James Withington
Re-establishing local beekeeping clusters

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Note from the President – Tricia Laing

First, a big thank you to everyone who attended the August meeting and supported my nomination to become President. We now need someone to come forward with a nomination for vice-president please. Ideally this person is someone who would like to become president soon. In this post-covid world impacted by climate change uncertainty is pervasive and therefore I think it would be a wise move for the club to have people ready to step into these positions quickly and easily.

The unusual winter weather has continued into spring unsettling the bees and us. There are some groups of you who meet locally to share your beekeeping experience and stories, in Lower Hutt and Upper Hutt for example. At the October meeting I am hoping that more local groups can be formed that will also meet regularly. I want to introduce a slot at club meetings when a person from each of these groups can share something that is happening in their local beekeeping world so that we can get a sense of the diversity of beekeeping experience in the Wellington Region. I know from my experience that beekeeping in suburban Karori is really different from beekeeping in the upper Akatarawa Valley. One of those differences is the weather which results in some honey flows in the Akatarawa Valley being up to a month behind Karori.

We had three polished and very interesting presentations on varroa mites from postgraduate student studying at VUW for our September meeting. Thanks to Phil Lester for organising the presenters.

One item for the October meeting is a discussion of queen rearing with Mark Grenfell who is a commercial queen breeder from Eastbourne. James Withington is also going to present two queen rearing methods - Nicot and Jenter. I also want members of the club to have the opportunity to share their stories of queen rearing, and problems with queens. The 2020 Colony Loss Survey identified queen problems as the number one reason for colony loss



accounting for the loss of 32,817 colonies. Of the beekeepers who participated in the 2020 Colony Loss Survey 68.3 per cent identified “fellow beekeepers” as their main source of information. So let’s share our stories.

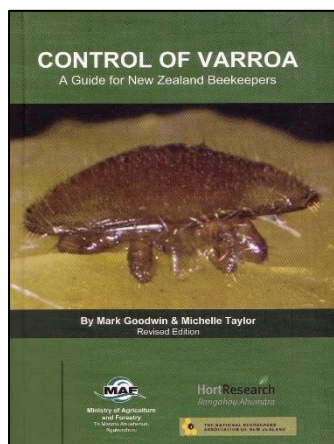
Covid struck my family within a week of our coming out of a nine month isolation period. As I write this note I am in isolation with a mild dose of Covid. This is to say that Covid is still in the community and affecting the number of people coming to club meetings. While there are no longer requirements to wear face masks please take care of yourself and others by wearing a mask if you wish and staying home if you have symptoms.

Local beekeeping clusters

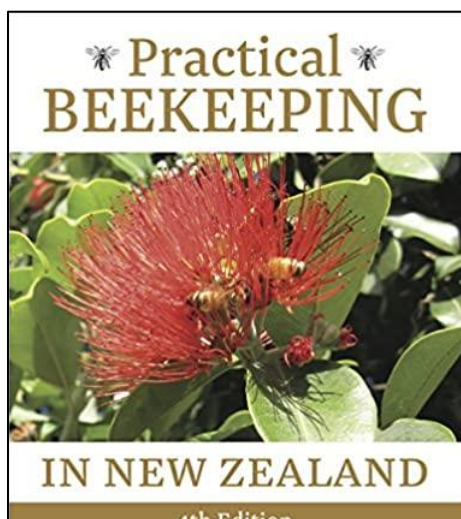
Need a bit of local knowledge for your beekeeping? Want to connect with fellow beekeepers in your neighbourhood and share your highlights and problems? Want some help with the heavy lifting? Come along to the October meeting and meet up with beekeepers in your area and find some kindred spirits to share with. We'll spend a bit of time at the meeting sorting ourselves into "postcode" groups and try to rekindle our local clusters after the last two years of covid isolation.



Books for new beekeepers



Highly recommended for its valuable information in the fight to eliminate Varroa in our hives.



A perfect handbook for hobbyist beekeepers in New Zealand, covering bee biology, seasonal tasks, swarm prevention, honey extraction, etc.

Both books can be purchased at the meeting or borrowed from the Club Library



Photo competition next year

Spring is here, summer is coming, time to dust off your camera and look for those perfect bee photos for the club competition. We will hold the competition early in the New Year, so you've got plenty of time to get behind the lens. Here are the photo competition categories and rules again:

There are four Categories:

- Bees: Photographs that reveal insights into the life cycle, habits and biology of the bee
- People and Environment: Portrayal of the people, activities, locations and environments that comprise the world of beekeeping
- Creative / Open: Innovative and imaginative interpretations of the world of the bee and the experience of beekeeping.
- Photo story: A series of four photographs that tell a story on any theme to do with bees and beekeeping

Rules: Entries restricted to members of the Wellington Beekeepers Association.

- Photographs must be taken by the member submitting.
- Entrants are required to provide digital copies of their photos.
- If photographs 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.
- Captions are allowed.
- Where the order of presentation is important, this must be clearly indicated.
- Name and address must accompany each entry.

There will be a winner and runner-up for each category as well as an overall winner and runner-up. There will also be a popular vote in each category.

The club reserves the right to use any entry for the promotion of bees and beekeeping.



Advice to a new beekeeper by Susan Cormier



Métis writer and beekeeper [Susan Cormier](#) has [won the 2022 CBC Nonfiction Prize](#) for her essay '*Advice to a New Beekeeper*'.

She will receive \$6,000 from the Canada Council for the Arts and will also attend a writing residency at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity.

Cormier wrote [Advice to a New Beekeeper](#) because she wanted people interested in beekeeping to be aware that honeybees require knowledgeable, dedicated and hands-on care. For Cormier, this essay is an attempt to convey some of the things that a beekeeper won't learn from books and videos.

Click on [Advice to a New Beekeeper](#) to read this delightful essay.

[Thanks to Allen Dick](#)



NZ Honey Market Update September 2022

The September 2022 edition of the Apiculture NZ Honey Market Report published today indicates the business of exporting honey remains a challenge.

The latest trade data shows that shipments have picked up from a particularly slow start to 2022, but the 12-month rolling volume has yet to stop falling.

Average prices have started to correct after a drop matching the volume decline, driven by a shift in packaging type – slightly more export value has been captured due to a higher proportion of all honey being shipped in retail ready formats than in bulk.

We welcome your feedback on this report. Please send any comments to:

phil.edmonds@apinz.org.nz



AFB Recognition Course



THE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
NATIONAL AMERICAN FOULBROOD
PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

American foulbrood is caused by spore-forming bacteria and is the most widespread and destructive of the bee brood diseases. Learning how to recognise American foulbrood and its symptoms is essential knowledge for every beekeeper to know.

**The final course for 2022 will be held in Lower Hutt on
Saturday 12th November.**

Course content

- recognize AFB symptoms
- inspect a hive for AFB
- prevent AFB from spreading
- collect brood cell and bee samples for testing, and
- effectively destroy any AFB infected hives.

There is a test at the end of the course comprising of 25 questions. Where possible, an infected AFB frame will be available for beekeepers to see symptoms of AFB first-hand.

By passing the test and [being fully compliant](#) with American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan rules for a minimum of 12 months, you will be eligible to apply for a Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement (DECA). Beekeepers that enter into a Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement with the Management Agency are committing to eliminate AFB from their beehives through carrying out the AFB elimination practices and procedures specified in the Agreement. In recognition of this commitment the Management Agency provides the beekeeper with an exemption from the Certificate of Inspection requirements.

The cost \$100 per person. If you wish to attend this one-day course, [please register](#). Further information on the [DECA process](#) can found on our website under [policy number 007](#).



Apiculture Data Survey

This is a reminder about Tina Blumenthal's research request:

Tina Blumenthal from the EIT in Hastings is undertaking a survey of beekeepers to find out about their data management.

You will be answering questions, broken into the following sections:

- ✓ Participant Characteristics
- ✓ Hive Practices - data management and recording
- ✓ External Influences

Here is a link to her survey:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeZQFIdpYEvQIPm2hEFkF_UkB8PlN5UpYCEncrJW2DEUDuYuw/viewform

You will be able to fill in a hard copy of the survey at the October meeting.



Things to do in October

- Apply a varroa treatment if surplus honey flow is anticipated within eight weeks, or hives are showing mite damage, or there are more than 40 mites per 300 bees after a sugar shake test
- Remove entrance guards
- Spray or cut vegetation around the hives
- Check all brood frames for American foulbrood
- Control swarms
- Split hives
- Requeen hives with mated queens or own queen cells



Taken from Practical Beekeeping in New Zealand by Andrew Matheson & Murray Reid



QUEEN CELL

Photo taken by E Durrant



Bee Jokes

Frank hopes to promote some giggles:



What is the most common blood type for bees?

Bee Positive

I eat my peas with honey,
I've done it all my life.
It makes the peas taste funny,
but it keeps them on the knife!

There was a man who loved bees.
He always was their friend.
He used to sit upon their hive.
But they stung him, in the end.

What was the last thing to pass through the bee's mind when it hit the car's windscreen?

Its bum





Interesting websites

The Royal beekeeper has informed the Queen's bees that the Queen has died, and King Charles is their new boss, in a bizarre tradition dating back centuries.



[Royal beekeeper has informed the Queen's bees that HM has died and King Charles is their new boss | Daily Mail Online](#)

Sonication : why honey bees buzz can't buzz pollinate

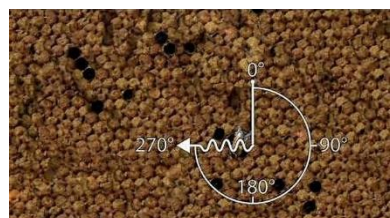
Unlike bumble bees and many others, honey bees have no ability to sonicate. Sonication allows a bee to shake pollen from certain types of flowers that hold it in tight capsules. Since they cannot sonicate, honey bees cannot pollinate those flowers. [Click to see more](#)



Does plastic comb foundation hinder waggle dance communication?

Research by Thomas D. SEELEY, Adrian M. REICH, Jürgen TAUTZ

[120 SeeleyReichTaut 01.pdf](#)





Who can I speak to?

President - Patricia Laing tricialaing48@gmail.com>

Vice President position 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

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



Meeting location

Johnsonville Community Centre,
Moorefield Rd, Johnsonville

