



May meeting | 4 March

Where | Johnsonville Community Centre

Editor | Jane Harding janeh@xtra.co.nz

In person meeting this month, hurrah!

Topics for the May meeting

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

Main Meeting 7:30pm:

Wintering down, including following up on varroa control, hive wrapping, feeding sugar, reducing hive size. Frank will talk about the key things you need to be doing as you get your hives ready for winter.

We have a video from the recent APINZ conference, a short icebreaker quiz on varroa, and lots of time to talk to each other!!



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From the President

Exciting times with us being able to hold a face to face meeting this month. Looking forward to seeing the familiar faces and also welcoming new members who have joined during the lockdown.

As many of you know there is a continued lingering of varroa mites within our hives. Reasoning for this occurrence includes the prolonged warm weather that is not suppressing the queen's urge to lay eggs so reasonable amounts of brood remain in the hives. Also, there is the issue of reinfestation of mites from other hives. It is a problem and one we are going to discuss in more detail on Wednesday evening. Collectively it would be good to hear from members as to their experiences and how they are treating their hives. Ignoring these infestations will lead to disappointment in the spring when you could experience a deadout.

Personally, I have experienced a great variance of mite numbers in my hives, when completing alcohol washes. I am using a multitude of treatments to ensure my hives are in the strongest positions for the winter. Also remember to check the food stores, as with the warmer weather the bees have been chewing through what should be winter food sources.



I have noticed the pesky wasps are back in large numbers, so give your bees a helping hand and ensure you either have robbing guards up or reduced the entrance right down in size.

On the local council front, they have all gone quiet now and even forgotten about arranging meetings to speak to us. I will again pester them for a combined meeting, otherwise this is going to rear its ugly head again in the spring when someone complains about a bee pooping on their car.

Although this month's meeting hasn't occurred yet, next month's meeting is the food theme, and the club is delighted in welcoming Kaai Silbery to the club. She is a chef by trade and a beekeeper in the Chatham Island and is going to spoil us with a cooking demonstration as part of her presentation. So for June you are invited to bust out your cooking aprons and prepare your favourite honey recipes that you are willing to share at the meeting. Last year saw Eva produce some stunning biscuits in the shape of mini bees. We will be publishing the recipes in the following month's newsletter.

Lastly the July month is the AGM, where elections and re-elections of various positions within the club committee will be sought. This includes my position as President, as I have occupied the seat for the past 5 years, so it's time to hand over the reins for someone. Don't be afraid to be nominated for the position, it is a good time to be able to bring in the changes that you and the club would like to see.

Looking forward to seeing all the smiling faces and hearing the stories from the past few months.

James Withington



From the Apiary Advocate – Compliance Defiance

The Apiary Advocate is a free online monthly magazine for New Zealand beekeepers. There's a very good article in this month's edition about people selling or trading honey that has not been extracted and packaged in approved premises. The article has a good overview of what the requirements are for trading, bartering or selling your honey.

<https://shoutout.wix.com/so/b3O1vl9n0?languageTag=en&cid=79b846af-bd1e-4b4f-9b80-19423d4d3aa0#/main>

National Apiculture Surveillance Programme

The National Apiculture Surveillance Programme (NASP) has the responsibility of ensuring that exotic pests and diseases affecting honey bees are kept out of New Zealand. The surveillance activities are undertaken byASUREQuality on behalf of the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI).

ASUREQuality contracts beekeepers who are appointed as "Authorised Persons" under the Biosecurity Act 1993 to carry out the surveillance activities. They are well-trained to inspect beehives for signs of pests and diseases as well as collect samples for testing in the laboratory. In addition, the training ensures that everyone participating in the NASP attains a high level of professionalism and adheres to strict confidentiality standards regarding their work and the apiaries they visit.

During autumn months, selected beehives in areas where pests and diseases could enter New Zealand from overseas are inspected and sampled. These



areas include places that receive people and cargo from other countries such as ports, airports, transitional facilities, large cities and tourist centres. Since NASP does not own beehives, it relies on beekeepers living in and around these entry pathways to allow their beehives to be inspected. Over 300 apiaries from 20 high-risk sites are inspected each year. In each of these apiaries, authorised persons inspect each hive, lay and check mite traps, and send a sample of adult bees to the lab for testing.

We therefore need you to participate in the programme to ensure that we:

- continue to protect our industry from pests and diseases not present in New Zealand
- can quickly find and deal with any pest or disease that slips through the border
- ensure our trade partners continue to trust our biosecurity system and allow our honey and other bee products to be exported around the world
- contribute to New Zealand's international obligations on reporting pests and diseases of honey bees.

So, if you get approached by an AP from AsureQuality for your hives to be inspected, be pleased that you're supporting the good work of keeping exotic pests out of New Zealand!

Small Hive Beetle Surveillance Project

And, as well as the existing NASP (see above) MPI are undertaking a pilot project for a new Small Hive Beetle Surveillance project. We don't have SHB in New Zealand and we really don't want it either. MPI are developing a surveillance programme to ensure that if SHB does arrive in New Zealand, we find it and eliminate it as fast as possible.



MPI are interested in getting more beekeepers involved in this pilot and Sarah Carley has approached WBA for a few more candidates.

A bit of background on the project:

- Small hive beetle is not present in New Zealand.
- The aim of this project is to increase beekeeper awareness of SHB, trial this surveillance method, and to proactively engage with beekeepers across Aotearoa.
- The project will run for one year, with quarterly check-ins with participants via email. We will also send participants a brief survey about their experience with the project later this year.
- By taking part in the project, you will be sent a SHB surveillance starter pack. The pack includes SHB traps, a Bee ID Pest ID Guide, a SHB vinyl sticker to place on your hive (with a QR code and weblink to our project web page), a trap placement instruction sheet, a 0800 Pest & Disease Hotline fridge magnet, and a sticker.
- The MPI SHB project page includes all the information on the project too, including how to identify and get in touch <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/biosecurity/plans-for-responding-to-serious-disease-outbreaks/bee-biosecurity/small-hive-beetle-surveillance-project/>

MPI would like about 10 beekeepers from Wellington, with a balance of recreational, commercial and AP2's. Ideally, they want participants who are still likely to have hives in one years' time.

If you're interested in being involved, please get in contact with me, **Jane Harding** by email janeh@xtra.co.nz . Let me know where you live, how many hives you have and how long you've been beekeeping. If we have more than 10 offers, I'll select based on location so we have a spread of beekeepers from around the area.



Small Hive Beetle

Small Hive Beetle is a major pest in Australia and for some Australian beekeepers, they would prefer to have varroa!

Wingate Apiary

And since it's been such a long time since we've had field days, John has provided a few photographs of what the apiary at Wingate is looking like at the moment. For those of you who are new to the club, WBA looks after two apiaries, one in Chartwell in Wellington, and one in Wingate in the Hutt Valley. The apiaries are used for education and hands-on experience for members and are also used for trialling new methods or treatments with our bees. Covid and weather notwithstanding, we try and have field days at least once a month and encourage all members, especially new ones, to come along and get involved.



Wingate Apiary is above the valley on the Eastern Hutt hills, John was there on a beautiful autumn day.



Sign at the gate – you know you’ve in the right place



It’s a great view, way above the Hutt Valley



The bees feed on the regenerating bush behind the apiary and on the garden flowers in the valley below. There is plenty of gorse and other plants for providing pollen for the hives also.

There are currently 6 hives on the site. It gets a bit windy at times, so the hives are strapped down.



The club has a container on site for holding all our gear. The nearest thing the club has to “clubrooms”

John was collecting bulk sugar from the container for feeding to the bees.



Inside the container – perhaps not quite big enough to hold a monthly meeting in...

Next month, some photos from the Chartwell apiary.



AFB PMP Review

As you are probably aware, the Management Agency of the National AFB Pest Management Plan is undertaking surveys and consultation on the next 10 years of the AFB Pest Management Plan. You can read about what the Management Agency has done so far here: <https://afb.org.nz/review-of-plan-order/>

New Zealand Beekeeping Incorporated is an industry interest group that wants to promote good practice in beekeeping and support the aims of their beekeeping members. This organisation is also conducting a review of the AFB Pest Management Plan and they would like to get beekeeper input into their survey also.

If you're interested in responding to the NZBeekeeping review, you can do so here:

<https://nzbeekeeping.co.nz/afbpmp-review/>

NZ Beekeeping is not the same as ApiNZ.



Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on 1 June and will be our food meeting!

As mentioned by James above, we have Kaai Silbery from Rekohu (Chatham Islands) to come and give a cooking demonstration and sampling using her famous Chatham Islands tarahina (*Dracophyllum arboreum*) honey.



You can read a bit more about Kaai and her honey dream here:

<https://www.apiaristsadvocate.com/post/beekeeping-and-business-balance-on-the-chathams>

We're also having a sharing supper, so bring along your favourite honey dish and taste and compare with each other.

And, to spread the love, we'd love to have your recipe to put in the June (or subsequent month's) newsletter, so everyone can try their hand at cooking with honey. Recipes please to the newsletter editor edurrant@xtra.co.nz



Who can I speak to?

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Meeting location

Johnsonville Community Centre, Moorefield Rd, Johnsonville.

