



Next meeting | Wednesday 2nd August 2023

Where | Johnsonville Community Centre

Editor | Jane Harding janeh@xtra.co.nz

Beginners Class: John Burnet will talk about Spring Feeding and Winter Checks

Main Meeting: 7.30pm

Rose McGruddy, a PhD student from Victoria University will update us on her research into varroa treatments. Rose talked to us last year, and now has the results of her summer's field trials to share with us. Rose is also keen to get feedback from WBA members on using alternative mite control methods based on RNAi treatment.

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President's Note

August 2023 Happy Matariki!

This time last year James Withington, as President of WBA, reported unusual weather - one minute it was warm and the next minute there was torrential rain. This year it has rained and rained. The rain in the Akatarawa Valley, where I am, has not been torrential but constant. The bees are flying when it's warm enough even if the sun isn't out. There is food about - tree lucerne, camellias, dawsons barberry, and gorse are in flower and plentiful, but the wildflowers such as buttercups and yarrow are struggling in the wet ground and so I have also been feeding my bees. The weather tends to be quite local and the reports about how people's hives are faring varies a lot too.

Thank you to all the members who turned out for the AGM. Perhaps staging the photo competition on the same night was a draw card and could become a tradition.

Leaving the committee after the AGM are - James Withington, Viv Harris, Ian Sveta. A very big thank you to James and his leadership as President over the last few years. Best wishes to Viv on her new venture teaching people about gardening (For details see the last newsletter). And, Ian Sveta thank you. Millie Baker is joining the Committee this year - welcome Millie.

John Burnet and Jane Harding remain as Treasurer and Secretary respectively, and their continuing hard work ensures that WBA is well run. We still do not have a Vice President and I am keen that someone comes forward to fill this position - please let me know if you are interested. A big welcome to the current committee comprising:

Pk Tan

Barbara Parkinson

Janine Davie



James Scott
Jim Hepburn
Graeme Chisnall
Ellen Millar
Millie Baker.

I also want to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to Eva Durant who has been an editor of our newsletter for some years. She has decided to step down to focus on family and we wish her well. Jane Harding and Eva have shared the task of editing the newsletter and this has worked well. We are now looking for a person who would like to take on the task with Jane of editing the newsletter. Please get in touch with Jane or me if you are interested.

Following the judging of the photo competition Frank Lindsay was heard to say that the quality of the entries was as good as the national competition. This is high praise and everyone who entered photos should be very proud of themselves.

The winners of the photo competition are:

Bees: Jim Smith, "Bees in my garden"

People and Environment: Richard Hall, "No rush"

Open/Creative: Jim Smith. "I'm looking at you"

Photo Story: Jim Smith, "Rosie's café"

Overall Winner: Tony McCombs, untitled

People's Choice: Andrew Macklin, untitled.

The days are beginning to lengthen and like me you are probably checking gear and thinking ahead to what spring will bring.

Tricia Laing



August Meeting topic

Silence of the Mites

A next-generation and highly targeted treatment for varroa

By PhD student Rose McGruddy,
Phil Lester's Lab,
Victoria University of Wellington





Photography Competition

In case you missed the July meeting, here is the winning photo from Tony McCombs. The judges were impressed with the clarity and colour combination of this photograph.





Club Wax Dipper

Many beekeepers particularly new members may be unaware that the Club owns a custom-built wax dipper. Basically, this is a giant electric steel vat in which three honey boxes or supers are simultaneously submerged in hot paraffin wax for several minutes. The wax is heated to about 150-160 degrees which takes several hours therefore to be economically viable the Club needs at least 10-20 boxes to be dipped at a time. Boxes must be dry before dipping otherwise violent frothing and spilling of the wax results with potentially disastrous consequences.

Wax dipping is one of the best means of preserving hive boxes and boxes should last for years even in high-rainfall areas. Boxes can be used on hives immediately after dipping and provide a natural wood-grain look in the garden however painting the boxes after dipping provides better protection from sun damage. Boxes can be painted immediately while wax is cooling (therefore the wet paint is drawn into the wood) or after the wax has cooled and dried.

Because wax dipping can be hazardous and therefore better suited to a rural environment, the Club's wax dipper is managed by John Randall, 216 South Karori Road, Karori and all dipping must be pre-arranged (Phone 476-9959). Cost is \$5 per box and should be paid in cash direct to John at time of dipping or on collection of box/es. Boxes should be labelled on the inside with felt-tip pen with beekeepers name and phone number.

Boxes for dipping must be brand new. However, used boxes will be accepted provided these boxes (or hive parts) are fully scraped of beeswax and propolis and are delivered to John fully enclosed in black plastic rubbish sacks to prevent any risk of contamination or attracting local bees. AFB disease contaminated boxes are NOT accepted. These MUST be destroyed by beekeepers in terms of the AFB PMS regulations.



It is the Club's intention to have at least one or two dipping sessions in the spring and early summer when hive-ware is usually assembled or repaired prior to establishment of new colonies or seasonal supering-up. These dates will be circulated to all members via the club newsletter and at club meetings.



Club Wax dipper



Subs are due!

2023-2024 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

These are now overdue and if not paid immediately this newsletter will be your last as all non-current members will be archived during August. If you haven't renewed since 31 May (end of our financial year) please pay \$25 as soon as possible to the Club's bank account 031534 – 0009311 – 00. Please note if you joined after 1 Jan 2023 you do NOT have to pay again until after 31 May 2024 (effectively you get up to five months free membership).

MPI Manuka Honey Reassessment upsets Northland Beekeepers

From the Apiarist's Advocate, the impact of the recent review of the Manuka Honey definition fails to recognise the different chemical fingerprints of manuka in different parts of the country, upsetting Northland beekeepers.

[file:///C:/Users/janeh/Dropbox/My%20PC%20\(Janes-Envy\)/Downloads/048%20July%202023%20Apiarist's%20Advocate.pdf](file:///C:/Users/janeh/Dropbox/My%20PC%20(Janes-Envy)/Downloads/048%20July%202023%20Apiarist's%20Advocate.pdf)

BAM

BAM of course stands for Bee Awareness Month, which occurs every year in September. APiNZ, bee clubs and people in the industry along with local authorities work together to increase public awareness of and support for



bees and beekeeping. All bees, bumble bees and native bees, along with honey bees are celebrated and championed. The theme this year is “Pollination” including native bees as pollinators and emphasising how important pollinators are for so many of our foods. Expect more on this over the next month.

NZ Post Collectibles

If you’re into coin collection, you might be interested in this new coin from NZPost. This coin, featuring the native bee Ngāro huruhuru is available from NZPost for \$349





Tech support for the monthly meetings

James Scott is still looking for someone to do the occasional stint as tech support at the monthly meetings. The work is not difficult and it would be very helpful to have someone to relieve James from time to time.

Talk to one of the committee on Wednesday if you're interested.

Situations Vacant: Job Share Newsletter Editor

As Tricia mentioned in her President's report, our longtime newsletter editor, Eva Durrant, has stepped down from this position. Eva and I have been sharing this role, taking month about to put the newsletter together. It is really helpful to have two people on this role, it's not so onerous when you do once every two months and we can cover each other if one of us is away. So, we're looking for someone to assist me with this.

The newsletter takes a couple of hours to put together, depending on how much is in it and its pretty straightforward to find content and interesting things to include. Great way to learn more about bees too!

If you're interested, give me a ring or send me an email, or talk to me at the meeting.

Jane Harding

Secretary (and half-share newsletter editor)

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September meeting

September Newbies session will be about hive splitting, swarm control and getting ready for the spring build up with Janine Davie

September main meeting details tbc.

Who can I speak to?

President - Patricia Laing tricialaing48@gmail.com

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

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Committee Members

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

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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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