



**February meeting** | 1 February  
**Where** | Johnsonville Community Centre  
**Editor** | Jane Harding [janeh@xtra.co.nz](mailto:janeh@xtra.co.nz)

## Topics for the February meeting

### **Beginners session 6:45pm upstairs:**

**Extraction for beginners:** Graeme Chisnall will run a session on the basics of honey extraction, some do's and don'ts and what's involved.

### **Main Meeting 7:30pm:**

We'll get together in geographical groups to share our experiences of the season. The committee would also like to know what you'd like to know, so we can arrange speakers to suit.

And then we'll have a catch-up and Q&A from the experts who can (hopefully) answer your questions about this honey season and any beekeeping issues.



## Contents

3. From the President
4. Tutin testing
5. Beekeeping on Aotea/Great Barrier Island
7. Competitions and Awards
7. AFB Vaccine for Bees
8. SNI Bee Group Field Day
9. Hiveware for Sale
9. Wax wanted
9. One Fun Thing
10. Next Meeting
11. Meeting Location
11. Who Can I Speak to?





---

## From the President

Happy New Year everyone! I look forward to seeing you in person or online at meetings this year.

Wellington has had reasonable weather for foraging bees over summer and I hope beekeepers have been busy extracting some honey from their hives. I did my first extraction from two langstroth hives and one golden mean topbar hive at the end of December. I was hoping for my favourite kamahi and clover mix but the rain came at the wrong time and the bees used up their stores of this white honey that creams naturally. I was left with native bush and a relatively high manuka content which makes a golden runny honey. I expect to do a second extraction on Waitangi weekend. I am very happy to have bees back in my apiary and thriving. Mid February the focus will be on managing the wasps and varroa.

In February the Committee is meeting to confirm the Club's programme for the year. It will follow the seasons of beekeeping as usual. Please remember that we still need someone to come forward with a nomination for vice-president. Ideally this person is someone who would like to become president soon.

One of the things that I am hoping to see happen this year is the Club adopting a consistent set of bi-laws relating to beekeeping that can be promoted across the ten local authorities in the Wellington Region. My plan is to review the bylaws operating across Aotearoa New Zealand and develop a set that works for WBA. To this end I have been working with Apiculture New Zealand and the Upper Hutt City Council. Before the Club finalises our preferred set of bylaws I am looking forward to members having a chance to provide feedback on them. The Upper Hutt City Council is encouraging us to submit our recommended set early so our ideas can be incorporated into their planning programme.

Tricia



---

## Tutin testing

Members are reminded that all honey extracted after 1 Jan should be tutin tested if they intend selling, bartering or donating their honey. Refer following link for further information:

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/food-business/honey-bee-products-processing-requirements/managing-tutin-contamination-in-honey/>

Testing is NOT necessary if you intend using your honey for your own consumption and I would also add that in the seven years that the Club has been organising lab testing (over 800 samples in total) not one has been found to be over the maximum allowable level for tutin (0.7mg per kg).

The Club offers a composite testing service over the next three months. Cost is \$20 per test and free sample jars are available from me. Samples will be forwarded to the lab for composite testing in batches of ten which enables us to keep the cost relatively low. You can also provide your sample to me in your own plastic screw-top medical specimen jar (minimum requirement is 50 grams per sample). Honey must be liquid - no comb or chunk honey will be accepted.

The Club has demonstrated to MPI we operate in a low risk area with a targeted testing regime. Therefore if over three years your honey has tutin levels below 0.035mg/kg you are only required to test one in every ten years thereafter.



# Beekeeping on Aotea/ Great Barrier Island

Glenn and I were fortunate to find a break in the weather and spend a few days on Aotea/Great Barrier before Christmas. Interesting place with lots of quirky people and we were intrigued to find a little museum with lots of old beekeeping stuff from the early/do-it-yourself days of beekeeping on Aotea. Some of the earliest commercial beekeepers in Aotearoa New Zealand were on Aotea, packing their honey into tins and taking it to Auckland to sell, though the credit for the very earliest commercial beekeeping operations belongs to tangata whenua who were selling honey in the 1860s.



*Honey Press, no extracting involved...*



*Foundation press, I think there could be a market for these*



*Figure 1 The cutest nuc box ever?*



---

## Competitions and Awards

After the last couple of years of disruption, we're hoping to get back to a full programme of competitions and awards this year. We didn't have a photo or honey competition last year, and the gadgets and gizmos (aka Innovation) award hasn't been well promoted lately, so the club will be looking to reinstate these competitions this year.

To jog your memory, the club has the following cups for our various awards:

**Beach Cup (Mead competition)** last awarded in 2021

**Stevenson Memorial Cup (Most Valued Member)**

**Bodmin Cup (Honey competition)** last awarded in 2021

**Frank Lindsay Photography Trophy (Best photo)** last awarded in 2020

**Beach Memorial Trophy (Innovation competition)** last awarded in 2019

Make sure to look out for these competitions coming up!

---

## AFB Vaccine for Bees?

The FDA in America has given conditional approval for a new vaccine for AFB. The vaccine is delivered to the queen larvae via royal jelly and the immunity from the disease is passed through to her offspring. Initial results show improved resistance to the disease for young bees, but not total elimination. We'll watch the developments with interest!

<https://www.sciencealert.com/us-approves-first-vaccine-for-bees-amid-global-pollinator-crisis>



# SNI Bee Group Field Day

Feel like a day the country and learn something from the experts? Come along to the Autumn Field Day of the Southern North Island Beekeeping Group. SNI Beekeeping Group is a group of committed and knowledgeable beekeepers, both hobbyist and commercial, who welcome new members. They are continually exploring and developing ideas and new ways of solving beekeeping problems, you'll undoubtedly learn something new.



## SNI BEEKEEPING GROUP INC AUTUMN FIELD DAY COME AND JOIN US ON SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2023

AT MASON BROTHERS HONEY HOUSE,  
250 ASHHURST ROAD, BUNNYTHORPE, PALMERSTON NORTH

"General Beekeeping focusing on varroa wintering treatments and wintering down. For Hobbyist and Commercial."



**BRING YOUR BEE SUIT**  
Registration 9am Starts 10am - 4pm

SNI MEMBERS \$25 PER PERSON  
NON MEMBERS \$35 PER PERSON  
SORRY NO FAMILY CONCESSIONS

RAFFLES:  
\$2 TICKET OR 3 FOR \$5

LUNCH  
AVAILABLE  
\$10 ea



Membership 1 April - 31 March 24 \$10 per person





---

## Hiveware for Sale

The club has been contacted by someone wanting to sell a quantity of used beekeeping gear including hiveware, tools, honey buckets and jars, a wiring jig and beekeepers PPE. They would ideally like to sell the whole lot in one go. If you're interested, please contact Jean on 022 678 2384.

---

## Wax wanted

Erena is looking to purchase 1-2 kgs of bees wax to make candles. She can be contacted on 0273282233 if you are able to assist.

---

## One Fun Thing

If you've been out and about in Wellington lately you might've noticed this little guy with his honey stirrer... He (she?) is one of 10 bronze pigeons around Wellington, celebrating some innovative businesses in our city. Take a walk and find them all...

<https://www.wellingtonnz.com/business/only-in-wellington/>





---

# Next Meeting

To be confirmed....



---

# 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](mailto:johnburnet@xtra.co.nz)

Secretary – Jane Harding 027 421 2417 [janeh@xtra.co.nz](mailto:janeh@xtra.co.nz)

Committee Members

Membership - James Scott - (04) 565 0164 [james@scott.gen.nz](mailto:james@scott.gen.nz)

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



Librarian - Ellen Millar - (021 709 793) [msoon.email@gmail.com](mailto:msoon.email@gmail.com)

Supper co-ordinator - Barbara Parkinson – (04) 2379624

[parkinson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:parkinson@xtra.co.nz)

Swarm WhatsApp Administrator - Jim Hepburn ( 021 926823)

[jimh.jilld@gmail.com](mailto:jimh.jilld@gmail.com)

PK Tan - 021 109 3388 [pk.propserv@gmail.com](mailto:pk.propserv@gmail.com)

Graeme Chisnall - 021-246-8662 [canzel@gmx.com](mailto:canzel@gmx.com)

Janine Davie - [j.davie@orcon.net.nz](mailto:j.davie@orcon.net.nz)

Viv Harris - (027 448 9991) [vivharris@xtra.co.nz](mailto:vivharris@xtra.co.nz)

Ian Sveta – (027 270 6842) [thors.son1956@gmail.com](mailto:thors.son1956@gmail.com),

Newsletter Editors - Eva Durrant - 027 311 8700 [edurrant@xtra.co.nz](mailto:edurrant@xtra.co.nz)

Jane Harding - 027 421 2417 [janeh@xtra.co.nz](mailto:janeh@xtra.co.nz)