



Next meeting | Wednesday 5th July 2023

Where | Johnsonville Community Centre

Editor | Jane Harding janeh@xtra.co.nz

Beginners Class: No beginner's class this month. Come at 7.00 to look at the photos from the photo competition and take part in the "people's choice" judging.

Main Meeting: 7.30pm

AGM and then the presentation of the results of the photo competition.

Viv Harris will also give a quick overview of her "early intervention" swarm control method, which she has used with success for the last few years.

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Note from the Editor

Apologies for the fairly text heavy newsletter this month, the focus on the AGM. Back to normal transmission next month...

Agenda for AGM 2023

2023 Annual General Meeting of the Wellington Beekeepers Association 5 JULY 2023
To be held at the Johnsonville Community Centre,
Frankmoore Avenue, Johnsonville at 7.30pm

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous AGM
3. Matters arising
4. President's Report
5. Treasurers Report
6. Election of Officers –
 - President
 - Treasurer
 - Secretary
 - Additional roles of -
 - webmaster
 - librarian
 - general committee members
7. Membership Fee
8. AFB Fee and infected hive reimbursement
9. General Business



Minutes of AGM 2022

2022 Annual General Meeting of the Wellington Beekeepers Association

6 July 2022

Held at the Johnsonville Community Centre, Frankmore Avenue at
7.30pm

James Withington welcomed members

Present – James Withington, Jane Harding, John Burnet, James Scott, PK Tan, Viv Harris, Graeme Chisnal, Jason Bragg, Ian Sveta, Jill Dalton and about 30 members.

Apologies - Tricia Laing, Eva Durrant, Judith Wilde, Frank Lindsay, Laurie Duncan, Steve Heale, Janine Davie

Minutes of previous AGM - James presented minutes of previous meeting. Seconded Jill Dalton. Carried.

Matters Arising. No matters raised

Presidents Report. Noted. Moved to be accepted – James, Seconded John Burnet.

Treasurer's Report – John Burnet presented the accounts. John moved the Financial Accounts be accepted, seconded Jane Harding. Agreed.

Election of Officers:

President – no nominations received, James Scott moved the position be left open while we call for expressions of interest from members – seconded by James Withington. Agreed.

Treasurer – John Burnet – moved John Burnet, seconded Jane Harding. Carried

Secretary – Jane Harding – moved Jane Harding, seconded James Withington. Carried



Election of Other Committee members

James Withington

PK Tan

Barbara Parkinson

Janine Davie

James Scott

Jim Hepburn

Graeme Chisnall

Ian Sveta

Viv Harris

Webmaster: Jason Bragg

Librarian: Ellen Millar

Carried.

Membership Fee

Club membership fee recommended to stay at \$25.00, \$7.50 of which goes into the AFB fund to reimburse members who need to destroy AFB infected hives. Carried

AFB Fee and infected hive reimbursement

John moved a motion that the reimbursement amount remain at \$120 per hive. Seconded Dave Henderson. Carried. Meeting also discussed whether there should be a cap on payments to any member who has persistent problems with AFB and calls on the fund frequently. Agreed that payment of the reimbursement is at the club's discretion.

John Randall proposed a vote of thanks to James Withington for his time as President. Seconded Jane Harding. Carried.

General Business

There were no items of general business raised.

Meeting closed at 7.25pm.



President's Report 2023

This is my President's report for the Wellington Beekeepers' Association's 83rd Annual General Meeting.

In October 2022 I agreed to fill the vacant position of President of WBA having been Vicepresident in the past. I see this as a temporary arrangement while a younger, passionate beekeeper can be found to fill this position. A big thank you to the people who supported me to be elected as President.

The aftermath of the pandemic has been recognised by the Executive Committee and WBA meetings now use a hybrid format including in-person and online options. To facilitate this approach to meetings new equipment has been purchased. Thanks go to James Scott for organising this.

Interest in beekeeping continues to wane and this is reflected in a further reduction of membership from 314 members last year to 269 members this year. The reduction can be partially explained by the fact reported in the 2022 Colony Loss Survey that "many beekeepers are pessimistic about the current economic climate". The reduction can also be attributed to other factors such as climate change that make beekeeping all the more difficult.

During the year John Burnet and I worked on preparing a consistent set of bylaws relating to beekeeping that can be promoted across the ten local authorities in the Wellington Region. In preparing a set of bylaws we could support we reviewed the bylaws operating across Aotearoa New Zealand. A thank you must go to Apiculture New Zealand who ensured that we had a comprehensive set of bylaws to review. We have submitted WBA's recommended bi-laws to the Wellington City Council, Porirua City Council and Upper Hutt City Council. Our recommended bylaw has focussed on the importance of beekeepers' best practice rather than limitations on beekeeping practices such as number of hives per residential property or hive placement in relationship to the potential nuisance value of bees. In all the bylaws that I



have reviewed the local body retains the right to investigate any complaints about bees creating a nuisance. When recommending these bylaws the intention is to start a conversation, and participate in the process of establishing bylaws in local councils.

Of the beekeepers who participated in the 2020 Colony Loss Survey 68.3 per cent identified “fellow beekeepers” as their main source of information. Recognising that, more often than not, we learn from each other, the Executive Committee has continued to support the establishment of local groups that can share information about local conditions and local bee health. Some of the local groups are relatively formal, meeting regularly and having on-line chat groups, others comprise no more than an email or Whatsapp group. From my point of view, the important thing is that we keep talking to each other. Both the Chartwell and Wingate Club Apiaries have provided a focus for experiential learning and information sharing under the guidance of the experienced beekeepers, in particular, Frank Lindsay, John Burnet, Richard Braczek and Michele van Daalen. A very big thank you goes to them for their time and on-going interest.

The results of the 2022 NZ Colony Loss Survey (www.landcareresearch.co.nz/bee-health) suggests that colonies lost to varroa continues to rise (up 20% from 2020). This rise in varroa is one of the things that is making beekeeping more difficult. One of the benefits of attending WBA meetings has been the advice that Frank Lindsay has been able to share with us about the treatment and timing of treatments aimed at keeping colonies alive, if not eliminating varroa. We have also had the benefit of listening to Victoria University of Wellington Students who are undertaking research on varroa so that we can improve bee health and the treatments we use to address varroa. We are extremely lucky to have Frank as a source of knowledge and inspiration to improve our beekeeping practices, and Phil Lester who supervises students undertaking bee-related research at Vic.

In February, with Cyclone Gabrielle making landfall, we saw how destructive of apiaries weird weather can be. The New Zealand Beekeeper (2023 Volume 31) included photos of beehives washed up against fence lines and under trees.



This extreme weather event reinforced the importance of the connections between beekeepers who can help each other out when needed. It also made beekeepers rethink the benchmarks for locating hives safely: think twice before locating hives near rivers or on sites prone to erosion and flooding.

Managing varroa and weird weather have to be at the top of Wellington beekeepers' priority list. This is against an international background where glyphosate is in the news again, we read: "Bee-killing, cancer-linked glyphosate is on the verge of getting reapproved in Europe. We could see another decade of Bayer-Monsanto's poison sprayed on our fields and our food." On the one hand, the German Federal Government has agreed to end the use of glyphosate by 1 January 2024. On the other hand, BayerMonsanto is a German company that has negotiated the continued marketing of glyphosate to protect global profits. While there is science to support that glyphosate kills bees, it is usually as one of multiple stressors on bee health. We are lucky to have a Victoria University Student analysing samples of honey from around the Wellington Region to identify concentrations of glyphosate in local honey. I would like to extend a thank you to all the beekeepers who provided samples for this research and Victoria University of Wellington for undertaking the analysis.

A special thanks to James Withington our past president who organised the Christmas food truck and quiz to celebrate the end of the year. Lastly, thanks to other Executive Committee Members and their support this last year; in particular: Jane Harding for her hard and persistent work as Secretary, and editing the newsletter with assistance from Eva Durant who is not a Committee Member; James Withington for continuing to keep our facebook page up-to date; Ellen Millar for managing the library; Jim Hepburn for managing the swarm list, John Burnet for keeping our finances in order and Eva Durant, again, for undertaking the accounting review; Graham Chisnal for sharing his knowledge and experience with new beekeepers in many of the Beginners' Classes held before the meetings, and Barbara Parkinson and her team for feeding us at meetings.

Tricia Laing July 2023



Financial Reports 2023

Wellington Beekeepers Association Inc

Balance Sheet as at 31 May 2023

2022

2023

Liabilities & Members Funds

Accumulated Funds

18563	General Fund as at 1 June 2022	18612
49	plus Income/Expenditure surplus for 2022	
	minus Income/Expenditure deficit for 2023	3300
	(refer I & E report)	
18612	Balance of General Fund as at 31 May 2023	15312
10632	AFB Fund as at 1 June 2022	12087
2175	Plus members' AFB contributions for year	2107
-720	Less AFB Reimbursement expenses	-360
12087	Balance of AFB Fund as at 31 May 2023	13834
	(refer Note 2)	
30699	Balances of all funds as at 31 May 2023	29146



Assets

Wellington Beekeepers Association

Support and encouragement of beekeeping and beekeepers

6771	Westpac Cheque Account	4535
14000	Westpac On-Call Savings Account	14199
9928	Westpac Term Deposit Account	10252
	Accounts Receivable	160
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30699	Total all Bank Accounts	29146
30699	Balances as at 31 May 2023	29146
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Statements of Account prepared by:

John Burnet (Hon. Treasurer)

Statements of Account verified by:

Eva Durrant
(Reviewer)



Wellington Beekeepers Association Inc

Income & Expenditure Statement for year ended 31 May 2023

(inclusive of GST)

<u>2022</u>		<u>2023</u>	
	Income		
7265	Members subscriptions 2022/23	7025	Note 1
-2175	less AFB Fund contributions	2107	Note 2
5090	Total Subscription Income	4918	
0	Donations & Sundry Income	365	
840	Extractor Hire	360	
595	Wax Dipping Receipts (less energy costs)	468	
144	Bank Interest	595	
3250	Training Course Receipts	2250	Note 3
4775	Queen & Nuc Colony Receipts	1017	Note 4
0	Varroa Treatment Sales	2568	
9604		7623	
14694	Total Income	12541	



Expenses

1044	Meeting room hire	1116	
582	Printing & Stationery expenses	13	Note 5
406	General expenses	487	Note 6
40	Meeting supper expenses	181	
1136	Guest speaker expenses	310	
312	Xero Consulting & Accounting	346	Note 7
1132	Hello Club member mgmt system annual sub	1311	
253	Apiculture NZ subscription	253	
240	Internet subscription & website support	305	
10	Cup & Trophy Engraving	0	
388	Club Hive expenses (non-equipment purchases)	2085	Note 8
2207	Training Course expenses	1997	Note 3
2343	Queen & Nuc Colony expenses	1032	Note 4
159	Tutin Testing expenses (less receipts)	5	Note 9
281	Equipment repairs & maintenance (extractors)	194	
584	Wax Dipping expenses (paraffin wax)	1203	
0	Varroa Treatment purchases	2990	
11117		13828	

Assets Purchased & Depreciated :

Note 10

489	Club Apiary (additional and replacement hiveware)	0
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	and equipment purchased)	
2946	Club equipment (laptop & web camera)	2013
93	Books purchased for Library	0
3528		2013
14645	Total Expenditure	15841
49	Surplus / Deficit	Deficit 3300

Wellington Beekeepers Assoc. Inc. Asset Schedule as at 31 May 2023

Asset	Cost	Current Value	Repl'mt Value	Year Written Off	Asset Held By	Location
Asus Business Laptop P2451FA-EB0321R	\$1,605	Nil	?	2022	Frank Lindsay	J'ville
Logitech webcam, tripod, briefcase & cables	\$336	Nil	?	2022	Frank Lindsay	J'ville
HP Laptop Model 15AC015TU	\$640	Nil	?	2015	Frank Lindsay	J'ville
Stainless Steel Extractor (non rev)	\$718	Nil	\$918	2016	John Burnet	Tawa
Stainless Steel Extractor	\$809	Nil	\$918	2011	John Burnet	Tawa
Beach Cup (Mead Comp)	Donated	Nil	?	N/A	John Burnet	Tawa
Stevenson Memorial Cup	Donated	Nil	?	N/A	Wayne Wild	Wainui.
Bodmin Cup (Honey	Donated	Nil	?	N/A	Ben	Upper Hutt



Comp)	d				Scott	
Frank Lindsay					Richard	
Photography Trophy	\$239	Nil	?	2014	Hall	Hutt Central
Beach Memorial Trophy	Donate					
(Innovation comp)	d	Nil	?	2016	PK Tan	Porirua
Library Books (many					Ellen	
donated)	\$1,411	Nil	?	2000-21	Miller	Maupuia
Educational Posters (3					John	
sets - various types)	\$476	Nil	\$156	2018	Burnet	Tawa
					Marion	
Teaching Frame Inserts	Donate				Saunders	
(set of 20 in frames)	d	Nil	\$140	2018	J'ville	Wgtn Bot Gdn
					Comm	
Motorised Projection			\$3,000		Centre	J'ville
Screen	\$2,946	Nil	+	2022	Frank	
Observation Hive (Single					Lindsay	J'ville
frame)	\$76	Nil	?	2003	John	
Observation Hive (Single	Donate				Burnet	Tawa
frame)	d	Nil	?	N/A		
Observation Hive (triple	Donate				PK Tan	Porirua
frame)	d	Nil	?	N/A	John	
Garmin Global					Burnet	Tawa
Positioning System	\$400	Nil	?	2004	Frank	
					Lindsay	J'ville
Data Projector (new)	\$1,495	Nil	\$1,300	2013	John	
					Burnet	Tawa
DVD/Video Player	\$300	Nil	?	2006	James	
					Scott	Belmontt
DVDs/Videos purchased	\$812	Nil	?	2006-13	Frank	
					Lindsay	J'ville
PC Speakers	\$63	Nil	\$30	2006	John	
Wax Dipper (custom					Randall	S.Karori
made)	\$5,937	Nil	?	2010-18	Frank	
Broodminder (wifi hive					Lindsay	J'ville
minding system)	\$809	Nil	?	2019	John	
Fender Portable PA					Burnet	Tawa
System	\$3,670	Nil	+	2013		
Club Apiary - Chartwell						
(12 hives)	\$2,400	Nil	+	2012-23	On-site	Chartwell
Club Apiary - Chartwell						
(8 nucs)	\$640	Nil	\$1,600	2019-23	On-site	Chartwell
Club Apiary - stored						
equip. (20 boxes-						
Chartwell)	\$850	Nil	\$1,000	2012-23	On-site	Chartwell
Club Nuc boxes (40)	\$2,510	Nil	\$2,500	2019	On-site	Chartwell
Club Apiary - Wingate	Donate					
Park (6 hives)	d	Nil	\$1,500	2020-23	On-site	Wingate



Club Apiary - stored equip. (50 boxes-Wingate)	Donated	Nil	\$2,500	2019-23	On-site	Wingate
Club Apiary - Shipping Container	\$3,732	Nil	\$3,000	2020	On-site	Wingate
Club signs x 2 (Chartwell & Wingate Park)	\$140	Nil	\$280	2020	On-site	Chartwell & Wingate
Banner Stand (pull-up) WBA (2)	\$500	Nil	\$500	2014-15	Burnet John	Tawa
Banner Stand (pull-up) NZPost	Donated	Nil	?	N/A	Burnet John	Tawa
Banner (painted with Club name)	\$140	Nil	?	2012	Burnet John	Tawa
Brochure Stand (portable)	\$40	Nil	\$50 +	2012	Burnet John	Tawa
Display Stand (portable/folding)	Donated	Nil	?	N/A	Burnet John	Tawa
Bee-suits (12 x suits for Club use)	\$355	Nil	\$600	2014-20	Burnet Marion Saunders	Tawa
Bee-suits (10 x branded suits for school visits)	\$455	Nil	\$500	2019		Wgton Bot Gdn
Stock On Hand (as at 31 May 2023)						
Starting With Bees Handbook	52 x copies @ \$14					\$728
Wax foundation (f/d sheets)	4.8 kg @ \$21.75 per kg					\$104
Wax foundation (f/d sheets) at Wingate Formic Pro (organic varroa treatment)	15 kg @ \$21.75 per kg					\$326
ApiLife Var (organic varroa treatment)	3 packs @ \$10					\$30
Paraffin Wax (for wax dipper)	54 pkts @ \$4.43					\$239
	200 kg @ \$6					\$1,200



Wellington Beekeepers Association Inc.

Notes to Accounts for Year ending 31 May 2023

- Note 1 Membership - 309 financial members as at 31 May 2023
Includes 19 fee-free members (partners of paid members), 4 honorary and 4 life members
Note : 40 members paid their 2023-2024 subs before 31 May 2023.
- Note 2 \$7.50 is retained from each subscription and held for reimbursement to any Club member who has to destroy an AFB infected hive (refer Balance Sheet)
3 claims from 3 members totalling \$360 (\$120 per hive) rec'd for year to 31 May 2023
- Note 3 Basic Beekeeping Training course held Spring 2022 - 9 participants paying \$250 (Profit \$253)
- Note 4 Queen & Nuc colony Receipts - 20 x queens purchased from two breeders and on-sold at cost
Small loss incurred (\$15) due to overlooked courier cost.
- Note 5 Printing & Stationery - mostly 'Starting with Bees' book given free to all new members
- Note 6 General Expenses - mostly prizes for members at Club's Dec meeting
- Note 7 Xero Consulting & Accounting - online accounting and bank reconciliation fees
- Note 8 Club Hive Expenses - Includes apiary levies (\$79), varroa treatment (\$530), new queens (\$600)
and new wax foundation purchased from Wayne Wild (\$979)
Note: Wayne Wild donated a large quantity of hiveware to the Club in Sept 2022.
- Note 9 Tutin Testing - 47 members paid \$20 each for lab testing and courier costs.
Small loss incurred (\$5) as club samples were also included for testing.
- Note 10 Depreciation - all new assets depreciated in full in year of purchase in terms of Club policy.



Galen's Skin Cream

Viv Harris who presented at the June meeting has kindly shared the skincare recipe that she demonstrated to us.

This recipe was adapted from the original recipe from Galen, who lived from 129 AD to 200/217AD, (first published skincare recipe). Galen was a prominent Roman physician, surgeon and philosopher who served as a physician to the gladiators of the High Priest of Asia, one of the most influential and wealthiest men in Asia. He also served as physician to the Emperor Septimius Severus at the Roman imperial court.

Galen's Skin Cream recipe

- **100ml Olive Oil**
- **100ml Almond oil**
- **40g Beeswax**
- **2 pinches (approx 1/8-1/4 tsp) Borax**
- **150ml Rosewater or Lavender water**
- **Essential oils (I used Lavender and Spearmint, 20 drops of each)**

- Melt the beeswax in 100ml of oil (in a double boiler) then take off the heat and stir in the rest of the oil.
- Also heat in separate double boiler, (until hot to touch) Rosewater or Lavender water



- Add Borax (dissolve in the liquid by stirring)
- Using an electric stick beater, gradually add the OIL to the WATER (this absorbs best into the skin)
- If the mix separates, allow to cool a little then keep beating.
- When it's the consistency of condensed milk, add the essential oils of your choice and pour into sterilized jars. (Spray the jars with meths and allow to evaporate **or** boil). Don't put the lids on until completely cold or condensation will form and allow bacteria to grow. This cream doesn't have a long shelf life so keep in the cool and use within 2-3 months. If mold grows on the surface during this time, throw out and make a new batch!

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.



August meeting

Rose McGruddy (PhD research student at Victoria University) will return to update us on her research and talk to us about an opportunity to assist her with her varroa research.

At the beginner's meeting, John Burnet will talk about winter checks and spring feeding.

Who can I speak to?

President - Patricia Laing tricialaing48@gmail.com

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

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

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



Vege Growing Courses from Viv

Hi everyone,

I am running vege garden courses as a series which will get you from starting from nothing to harvest and give you all the important information needed to have a thriving and successful vege garden full of organically grown, nutrient dense food **all year around**. Even if you have a garden already, coming to all three will help you rethink what your garden can do for you, change how you do things now and help give you skills to go to the next level of food growing so signing up for the whole series will benefit everyone!

They are 3 sessions of short, three hour courses from 10am to 1 pm on a Sunday every second week. They will be held at my home in Ohariu Valley, just out of Johnsonville in the country.

Sessions will involve theory and practical elements and will be easy and fun to learn with others. There will be a maximum number of 10 people per course so a small group with plenty of question time!

Session 1:

Setting up your garden - Basics of organic gardening and permaculture , choosing the best site, planning and design, irrigation, creating garden beds, hot houses, cloches/tunnels, materials/resources , horizontal and vertical growing.

Session 2.

Growing your vege garden **soil** and composting - getting ratios right, optimising ingredients, macro and micro nutrients, use of effective microorganisms and organic soil supplements to get your soil perfect for growing healthy and disease resistant veges. Probably one of THE most important parts of your vege growing adventure!

Session 3.



Sowing seeds and transplanting. What to grow, when and where, specific for our locality. Following the moon cycles for timing of sowing and transplanting (yes this REALLY does make a huge difference!), control of pests organically, harvesting and storing produce.

Other courses I hope to run down the track are

1. Orchards and fruit tree growing - planning, set up and care
2. Microgreens and sprouts for health
3. Growing flowers for cutting and enjoyment - creating flower gardens all year round
4. Propagation by cuttings and growing seed for large scale planting
5. Shelter belts - from zero to shelter all year round with plants that feed wildlife and insects as well as providing shelter.
6. Growing a wildflower patch or paddock
7. How to control weeds without sprays (small areas and large areas) with mulching and natural and commonsense methods
8. Homemade cleaning products - effective, inexpensive and safe for you and the environment
9. Natural skincare - how to make effective scrubs, creams and balms at home from natural ingredients
10. Building things from Pallets - woodsheds, compost bins and much more! (Very basic carpentry for everyone)

Natural animal care for Cats and Dogs (and Chickens) -

1. Keeping your fur baby healthy- general health practices i.e. diet, exercise, nail clipping, grooming, first aid and when to go to the vet
2. Massage and natural pain management



3. Treating stress and anxiety - Flower essences for you and your fur baby
4. Treating common animal health problems in animals at home
5. Caring for Chickens the natural way

If you are interested in the vege series or any of the other courses then reply to me at vivharris@xtra.co.nz

The next series of vege courses starts 3rd September!

Cheers, Viv Harris