



Next meeting | Wednesday 7th February 2024

Where | Johnsonville Community Centre

Editor | Jane Harding janeh@xtra.co.nz

Beginner's Meeting 6.45pm – Basics of Honey Extraction – John Burnet

Main Meeting: 7.30pm

Learning Marketplace – Millie Baker – an opportunity to learn something new and share ideas in small groups.

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President's Message

Happy New Year!

The year began with the exciting news that in the New Year Honours, Frank Lindsay has received the Office of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his 50 years service to the apiculture industry. Congratulations Frank and Mary-Anne!

A number of us wrote letters of support in seeking this award for Frank which recognise Mary-Anne's key role. Cliff Van Eaton, famous for his book, *Manuka: The Biography of an Extraordinary Honey* expressed a sentiment that I think we all felt when he wrote:

The Lindsays are the ultimate volunteers, and Frank well deserves to be nominated for his services to New Zealand beekeeping. My only wish is that this nomination could be a joint award. Frank and May-Anne have together always been an unbeatable combination. They both deserve recognition for the decades of work they have given to the industry.

In this vein Dr Lou Gallagher said:

I am delighted to nominate Frank and Mary Anne Lindsay, Master and Mistress Beekeepers of New Zealand (respectively), for the New Zealand Royal Honour Award. ...I acknowledge the necessity of Mary Anne's role as his counterpart, organiser and partner in life. I learned early on to invite and accommodate both Frank and Mary Anne as they are a matched set that complement one another indispensably. Mary Anne organises at every level of the apiculture lifestyle; conferences, camps, talks, club events, competitions and the family bee business.

And Professor Phil Lester concluded his letter of support for Frank's award saying:

I'd also like to acknowledge Frank's wife, Mary Ann, who has been a long-term contributor and partner in Frank's contributions. Mary Ann has attended and helped organised and run conferences. She has held roles such as treasurer in apicultural organisations. Her work, often in the background, has been substantial. It would be great if Mary Ann could be acknowledged in any citation that Frank receives.



I acknowledge the extensive support Mary-Anne has given Frank over the last 50 years which has been extremely beneficial to the Wellington Beekeepers' Association and its members. Thank you Mary-Anne!

We look forward to celebrating Frank's award at our March meeting.

March Meeting - RSVP

As you will have read in Tricia's note, we will be celebrating Frank's achievement at the March meeting.

All members should have received the following invitation to the March celebration by now. As there will be catering at the event, please remember to RSVP to by 17 February, so we can get that right.





What is the Officer of the NZ Order of Merit Award?

The honour of becoming an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) is awarded for a distinguished regional or national role in any field. The award is one of the New Zealand Royal Honours system established in 1996 to replace British awards.



Insignia for an Officer of the NZ Order of Merit

The only other reference to a Beekeeper being made an officer of the NZ Order of Merit that I could find was for John Hartnell in 2013. Prestigious company!



Honey Extracting

The Club has a couple of manual four-frame extractors for hire. Cost is \$20 per hire and hire periods are usually Mon - Thurs or Fri – Sun. Hire includes a cappings bin and tool, and nylon capping strainer bags which allow you to spin the cappings themselves at the end of your extraction session. You will need to buy or borrow your own filter strainers and buckets. Full operating instructions are provided.

Bookings for an extractor are to John Burnet and collection/return is to my place (21 Kiwi Cres., Tawa) although later in the season some pickups and drop offs may be to previous/next hirer to save time and travelling distance. Because each extractor stands over 1100mm in height and the legs splay about 700mm (width) you will need a station wagon or hatch back with a wide opening door.

John also has a stock of Club-owned varroa treatment – currently Apistan (\$55 for a 10 strip packet) or ApiLifeVar (\$5 for a two dose wafer). Other varroa treatment products are available from Hive World (Rod & Jill Williams) also here in Tawa – Phone 0800-000-770 to order and arrange pick up.

John will be talking through the basics of extracting at the beginner's session on Wednesday, well worth coming along if you've not done this before.



The best part of honey extraction, all that lovely honey....



Tutin testing

Yes, that time of year again, if you're extracting your honey after 1 January, and you intend to sell or give away your honey, you need to get it tested.

John Burnet will be collecting tutin samples from club members until end of the season (end of April). Samples will be dispatched to the lab in batches of ten for composite testing. Cost \$20 per sample. Sample jars are available from the Treasurer (John Burnet). Please bring your (labelled) samples to John at a club meeting.



Tutin (Source NZ Predator Free)



For Sale

Pallets:

Treasurer has a small stock (ex-Bunnings) of heavy duty, solid plastic pallets in two sizes –

1. 1000mm x 800mm - ideal platform for two hives - side by side and
2. 1200 x 1000mm - better suited for four hives (2 x 2 not 4 in a row).

These are NOT the more readily available lightweight larger square pallets which usually collapse under the weight of two 200kg hives

Pallets enable hives to be kept off the ground, thus drier with less weeds in front of the hive entrances.

Pallets are free to members - collect pallets from me by arrangement – details follow.

Delivery to beekeeper can be arranged for a small fee to cover costs.

Bumble Bees in New Zealand

Bumble bees are beneficial pollinating insects. They are large round hairy bees, primarily black and yellow banded that are often seen feeding at flowers in a garden.

Bumble Bees are generally harmless, only using their sting when heavily provoked and are found in much smaller colonies than honey bees.

Like honey bees they feed on nectar and pollen often foraging in weather conditions unsuitable for honey bees and amongst flowers that honey bees can't access because of their shorter tongues.



However, unlike honey bees they make no attempt to store food for the winter and die out naturally at the end of summer with the exception of the queens who hibernate over winter underground or in warm sheltered places like firewood piles.

Bumble bee nests are usually in holes or cavities at ground level or below in wild, untidy garden areas. Sometimes bumble bees will build their nest in the sub-floors, roof voids of houses or other inappropriate places. They love nesting in Pink Batt insulation in ceiling spaces. If the nest cannot be accessed or moved then it may be necessary to destroy the colony.

Ideally nests should be left alone until the end of the summer but if they must be removed then they should be relocated nearby (within a couple of metres) where the flying bees can easily find the nest. However, relocation of a bumble bee nest to a completely different area is not usually successful.

Only if a bumble bee colony is in an inappropriate place should destruction be considered.

The nests of bumble bees generally have only one entrance/exit. If this can be identified the colony can be destroyed by sprinkling or puffing the apicide into the entrance. The workers will then pick up the dust as they enter the nest and take it inside where it will kill larvae and queens.

You can contact a local bee-keeper who may be able to help with the safe removal of bumble bee nests, see

[Apiculture New Zealand swarm collection contact list.](#)





Profile of a Wellingtonian

And here's a story you might already have seen, but worth a re-read, a bit of background to one of our own - Mark Grenfell:

https://www.thepost.co.nz/nz-news/350134161/my-wellington-balance-between-bush-and-sea?cx_testId=2&cx_testVariant=cx_1&cx_artPos=4&utm_source=localised_module#cxrecs_s

What's Ahead in 2024

- March- no Beginners session, this meeting is to celebrate Frank's award, starting at 7pm.
- April - Beginners - Requeening with a Caged Queen.
Main meeting – Honey Competition, Pest Control or Wasps, Wax Moth, Mice, etc
- May - Beginners – Wintering Down
Main meeting – Pollen Analysis – tbc
- June- Beginners – Equipment Session, including using polystyrene boxes
Main meeting – Update on Varroa Research – tbc
- July- No beginners session
Main meeting – AGM and Photo competition. Winter Social



Who can I speak to?

President - Patricia Laing president@beehive.org.nz

Treasurer – John Burnet (04) 232 7863 treasurer@beehive.org.nz

Secretary – Jane Harding 027 421 2417 secretary@beehive.org.nz

Membership - James Scott - (04) 565 0164

Web Master - Jason Bragg - (021 527 244)

Librarian - Ellen Millar - (021 709 793)

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

Swarm WhatsApp Administrator - Jim Hepburn (021 926823)

PK Tan - 021 109 3388

Graeme Chisnall - 021-246-8662

Janine Davie

Millie Baker

Newsletter Editor - Jane Harding - 027 421 2417