

**Next meeting** | Wednesday 6th March 2024
**Where** | Johnsonville Community Centre

**Editor**| Jane Harding janeh@xtra.co.nz

Ededit

March 2024 Newsletter

No beginner’s session this month, our monthly meeting is dedicated to a celebration for Frank and Mary-Anne Lindsay.

Main Meeting: 7.00pm

Note earlier start time. Speeches, supper and cake. Hopefully you have all RSVPed…important for the catering quantities.

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President’s Message

At this month’s meeting we are celebrating the award Frank Lindsay received in the New Year Honours, namely, Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his services to the apiculture industry. Frank Congratulations!

I take this opportunity to summarise Frank’s dedication, expertise, and contributions to the beekeeping community that have had a significant impact locally and internationally. His commitment to education, mentorship, advocacy, and knowledge sharing make him a highly respected figure, contributing to the success and reputation of New Zealand's apiculture industry:

1. **Fifty years of beekeeping experience** both as a hobby and a commercial beekeeper. He current manages about 60 hives throughout the Wellington Region.
2. Frank **shares his knowledge** and passion for beekeeping with others. He conducts beginner's courses for new beekeepers including disease recognition and queen rearing.
3. Frank has been a **long-standing member of both the Wellington Beekeeper Association and the National Beekeepers Association** since 1971. Within the WBA, he has served in various committee positions and held the roles of President, Secretary, and currently Vice President. His extensive involvement has led to him being honoured with life memberships in both associations.
4. He **organises and runs field days and bi-annual camps**, featuring international subject matter experts as guest speakers. These events attract approximately 100 participants each time and provide practical hands-on beekeeping demonstrations. Frank's dedication to organising these events showcases his commitment to supporting beekeepers in the lower half of the North Island.
5. He has **written editorial articles for the monthly New Zealand Beekeeping journal**, a publication that reaches over 6,500 beekeepers locally and internationally. His writings are highly regarded. Frank is also frequently asked to contribute his knowledge to various beekeeping clubs around the country, particularly on topics related to disease control.
6. **Media regularly approach him for expert opinions and comments.**Frank actively advocates for the New Zealand apiculture industry and has made submissions to select committees, including presenting in person to Ministers of the Crown.
7. Frank engages with leading industry experts and authors in Australia and the United States who seek his perspective on New Zealand's beekeeping practices. Frank's international reputation positions him as an **unofficial ambassador for the New Zealand's apiculture industry.**
8. **Frank uses photography to document and share key beekeeping moments** and his photographs have earned him national awards.

Finally, I extend my grateful thanks to James Withington for persevering with the request for Frank’s award; and, to the extensive list of people, both local and international, who wrote supporting letters.

Tricia Laing

Small Hive Beetle Surveillance Programme

Small hive beetle is a pest of beehives. The larvae of the small hive beetle burrow through comb and consume brood, honey and pollen. This pest is not found in New Zealand, though it is found in Australia. BiosecurityNZ are running a pilot surveillance programme near ports and airports to help identify any incursion of this pest. Beekeepers involved in the programme have a small hive beetle trap in one of their hives (the sentinel hive) and asked to check this trap (and their hives) regularly and look for any unusual animals in the hive.

Those beekeepers who are involved in this programme are reminded that now is a good time to check your sentinel hive and report any incidence of unusual beetles or other animals to MPI.

The report of the outcome of the pilot surveillance project is available here:

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/58300-Small-Hive-Beetle-Surveillance-Project-Project-Report-2023>

If you want to find out more about the Small Hive Beetle, there is an MPI fact sheet available here:

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/50083-Small-hive-beetle-Aethina-tumida-Fact-sheet>



Small Hive Beetle in a Hive

What’s Happening Science-Wise?

I’m really excited to be able to introduce a new regular feature to our monthly newsletters. Phil Lester will be taking a look at what’s happening by way of research and development in the world of bees and preparing a summary for us. First up, another way for testing for AFB.

The Foster Method for testing American Foulbrood in New Zealand hives.

**By Phil Lester**

It occurred to me that many beekeepers will be interested in recent developments in the science of honey bees. And I’m lucky enough to be in a position where we have access to much of the recent research. So, I’ll try to write a regular newsletter section on a least one item of new science relevant to beekeepers.

This month, I’d like to focus on the newly developed Foster Method for testing American Foulbrood (AFB). This is a publication led by John Mackay from dnature in Gisborne.

As you’ll all be aware, AFB is a ‘notifiable disease’ in New Zealand. If your hive displays clinical symptoms you are legally obliged to report the infection and kill your hive within 7 days. These ‘clinical symptoms’ include dark sunken cell cappings, often with holes, spotty brood, dead pupae with tongues out, coffee-coloured and slumped larvae that rope out, and the hive often has a fishy smell.

A key problem, however, is that if you’ve got a hive displaying these clinical symptoms, you have a LOT of AFB spores. It is a very, very sick hive, and a major source infection for other hives even 2 km distant. If your goal is to manage AFB out of your region, wouldn’t it be nice if you could identify hives before they got so sick? Before so many other hives robbed out honey (and AFB spores) from the diseased hive?

The Foster method uses swabs taken at the hive entrance. No hive-opening is needed. You take the sample and send it off to dnature, where they use PCR tests. The returned results show a relative level of infection, which was shown to be nicely correlated with the number of spores present on the bees. John tells me the results are likely to be back to you within 2-3 days of their arrival in the Gisborne lab. The cost will range between $100 and $140 per 12 hive composite sample, varying according to the number of samples submitted.

John says the method is amenable to composite testing. You could swab just one hive entrance, or take swabs from all hives in an apiary to gain an ‘apiary infection’ status. A testimonial from their website reads “The AFB swabbing (Foster MethodTM) has been a large part of our protocol and it has been invaluable in eliminating AFB in our hives and honey” [From an apiary administrator for large Mānuka honey company].

The new regulations China has imposed on AFB contamination in honey will likely make this a valuable tool.

There is a short video displaying the method at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jHoKNfDPXsw>

More information (including how to order a kit and test) is available at <https://dnature.co.nz/product/american-foulbrood-afb-foster-method>

**Reference**

Mackay et al. 2024. The Foster method: rapid and non-invasive detection of clinically significant American Foulbrood disease levels using eDNA sampling and a dual-target qPCR assay, with its potential for other hive pathogens. Journal of Apicultural Research. DOI: 10.1080/00218839.2024.2306445

*The Foster method sounds like a great way to keep on top of, and maybe help eliminate AFB from all the hives in an area. A god topic for a meeting later in the year maybe?*

Hives For Sale

 a few notices about hives and equipment for sale.

The following four members have beehives for sale. Please contact them directly for more information, photos or to discuss purchase:

1. Richard Hall - Phone 021-477-119 Email: oldyello@gmail.com

Two hives, single brood box, FD
Treated with FormicPro at start of February, and ApiVar just in today (21 February; 2 strips per box). Varroa well managed, and inspected for AFB all clear.
Gentle queens, new from summer matings (Dec 2023). Laying very well. Lots of bees. Will need a feed going into winter, but otherwise plug-and-play.
Wood frames/wax foundation. Solid wooden hive floors. Galv lid.
Can deliver in the Hutt for free. Wellington city or Porirua, for $60.
$400 for both together (prefer to sell as a pair if possible).

2. Renier Roets - Phone 021-736-886 Email: renier.roets@hotmail.com

6x hives with fd single brood and a 3/4 super all hives are at varying stages in the supper as we have just removed honey for our land owners $350 each
1 Polly nuc $30
several top feeders 2nd hive dr $15 each
2x new top feeders hive Dr $20 each
5x new wood rim queen excluders $20 each
aprox 200 3/4 wooden frame kits and 60 fd kits new unassembled $1.40 each
electric wax embedder $10
wiring board $50
several hive Dr bases all used some triple entrance and some single entrance $15 each
several honey supers some 3/4 and fd, some in used boxes but unused frames $30 each
hot knife $30
home made 4 frame electric extractor $100
home made hot box made from a old large chest freezer $100
5x 3/4 mating nuc ply with disc entrance $10 each
1 fd nuc wooden beequip $50
a few galv lids $10 each
a few used hive mats, queen excluders and escape boards $10 each
A few different wand vaporisers $15 each
Aprox 4kgs of oxalic acid $30
A few new pollen traps $20 each

We will be leaving on the 7th of April so will be selling or disposing of all this equipment before then.

Would look at a discounted rate if someone came along and took the lot.

3. Jim Smith - Phone 0274-565-891 Email: jim@jimsmith.co.nz

I currently have 5 hives, one of which could be sold now, as it's one of my own swarms and is only two boxes high. The other 4 will need the honey taking off first.

At present I'm haven't worked out any prices, I just wanted to understand if selling my honey via the people you use is an option. I think I will have 6 to 10 boxes of 3/4 depth frames, mostly 9 frames per box and a few at 10.

I will also have equipment to sell, including a 3 frame hand crank extractor. I'll get all this listed up if you can help with sending this to our club members, otherwise I'll just put it on TradeMe.

4. Adrien Toupet - Phone 022-102-9131 Email: cayus.net@gmail.com

Here is the link to details of my two hives that are currently for sale : [http://www.cayus.net/AdrienToupet-bee-gear-for-sale.pdf](http://clicks.helloclub.com/ls/click?upn=-2BLprJzAxGmiQs0GFOlHemqxTsoxkCJbSs6yOhhtNRRzHA4uzsRxM7mdn7O1l-2B476Lmeq9O27Et9QyBMc1-2FE-2BSQ-3D-3Ddb0W_n3z4VT7Ls8BAMWXPv6vPV29BCFvORj5taj6K3yyV-2BniFnPgyKeCPwLi3-2FYLNWkQz-2BA2F68qN-2BD-2FaFZnM7PAqr3l8o8bEzwU-2Fx7STOmolNvosXqiBmqgpPMdlWRv0dtA6QQABGRtg7EfRYtrpW8wJ7BRj-2BGoZiNPblcWsKtHGL4pRM6GHtAPLbZOE7yWPCpQICnw-2BqSFyBV8r1lQ0EG1DbJMc4aUtO3Gka50QWN35A7PJ7Y43kNHs9EqRlFkgtWbM3ufQWbF2HUlL3yYXZTz-2FwuKqQ5pVSyeflk8FmuL0p-2BgEP-2FtTLSkyFcTjumMlMPMjr42-2F-2FUQuznNFbpRMaogDsCCQf-2FW9hsxUK-2Bq4NfwZsB9bZlGdY0ySn83Hz9V0FoUqY7OyQ-2FKX-2Fu4PPuELM-2BywPS4I5prm7KCL-2B2KXaJnY8U8owcVf8a-2BSJFqvillwLICA)

I'm moving overseas in a month and would love to have the time to find a new home for these 2 colonies.

Request to buy Bulk Honey

We have had a request from a member of the public who is interested in buying Bulk Honey (they consume about 10kg every 6 weeks). David Silverman would like to buy local honey from a responsible beekeeper, instead of sourcing commercially. If you can help David with his honey supply, you can call him on **0272677463**

Discounted Books from Exisle Publishing

Exisle Publishing have, who publish a number of beekeeping books, including “Practical Beekeeping in New Zealand” have an offer to help give our bees some love over the next couple months:

“we have set up all our bee books on our site with a 20% discount code – it works for anyone and we are aiming to share it with all beekeeping clubs and members in NZ! Please feel free to share far and wide.

The code is **bee20**and it applies to all these bee books on our site: <https://exislepublishing.com/> . You just add to your cart and apply the coupon at the checkout page. You can also click on each book below to be taken straight to that book’s landing page. Note that Buzz is available in paperback and hardback – great for gifts!

Some of the titles on offer:

“Honey Bee Pests and Diseases” – Robert Owen et al

“Practical Beekeeping in New Zealand”– Andrew Mathieson and Murray Reid

“Manuka the biography of an extraordinary honey”– Cliff van Eaton

Beez Neez Hive Nappy

Some of you may be aware of the product that was the winner of the Apiculture Innovation Award in 2022 (The Roy Paterson Trophy) – the Beez Neez Hive nappy. This product is made from New Zealand wool and intended to help solve the problem of winter condensation and chilled hives. You can read a bit about it here:

<https://www.fleece2fleece.com/Products/products>

Janine Davie is planning to place an order for hive nappies and is wondering whether anyone else would like to join in her order> You can contact Janine on j.davie@orcon.net.nz

What’s Ahead in 2024

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)
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