



Next meeting | Wednesday 1 July 2026
Where | Johnsonville Community Centre
Editor | Michelle Cole

No beginner's session this month.

Main Meeting: 7.30pm

AGM, Honey Competition and Movie Night.

Honey Judging Reminder: Bring your raw, creamed, or comb honey samples. Check out the details below to see the criteria Frank will be using to judge this year's entries.

While the 'judge' deliberates, join us for a special screening of James Cameron's *Secrets of the Bees*. Premiering in early 2026 and hosted by explorer Bertie Gregory, this captivating documentary offers a unique look into the hive, championed by Cameron himself, who manages hundreds of his own organic hives.



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From the President

This is my President's report for the Wellington Beekeepers' Association's 86th Annual General Meeting.

We've had a very interesting year with some great guest speakers at the monthly meetings including an update on their research at Victoria University from Antoine Felden and Joanna Merk. In November we had the annual photo competition judged by Simon Woolf and our Christmas party in December featuring the very popular quiz written by quiz master James Withington. In February 2026 we were very fortunate to be addressed by Professor Leonard Foster from the University of British Columbia and in March Paul Chapman told us about pest control, particularly wasp control. April and May featured a very well received presentation about Health and Safety in the apiary, an update on the hornet incursion in Auckland and last month Kat Holt of Polynase Services told us about her work with pollen identification. Finding meeting topics which are interesting and topical for the vast range of experience of club members continues to be a challenge, if anyone has any suggestions the committee are always keen to hear them.

We have had positive reports about the hornet incursion in Auckland, but we won't know how successful the fight has been until later in the year. This was obviously of great concern to members; we had a very good turnout to the wasp trap making evening held in January this year.

I would like to remind you about the following changes to the constitution 7.13 A member of the Association may serve up to seven (7) consecutive years in any one office on the Executive Committee. Service beyond seven years is subject to being elected unopposed at each AGM however no member may serve more than ten (10) consecutive years in the same office. As a result of this John Burnet stood down from his role as treasurer, a position he had held more than 10 years. Eva Durrant has kindly taken up the reins, but it seems to me that John is still more than well occupied with



club business as he continues to manage the honey testing and varroa treatments.

One issue that we need to consider this year is the formation of Honey & Bee NZ in place of Apiculture NZ and NZ Beekeeping Inc and the focus of the new group which is purely commercial beekeeping. Should we form a national group to support hobbyists and beekeeping clubs? More discussion on this in the future.

Jane Harding has done an amazing job as secretary. I don't want to emphasise how arduous this role is as we are hoping to find someone to step into this role, but Jane has done a wonderful job, and we are so thankful for her contribution to the club. We need a new secretary, Jane says it's not THAT much work, but we could consider two people job sharing the role if necessary.

I would also like to thank Tricia Laing for preparing an information sheet about the various district bylaws which you can look up online in amongst the newsletters.

Varroa management continues to be a challenge to successful beekeeping, especially with the change in weather patterns. As I have mentioned, summer passed us by unnoticed in Wellington followed by an amazing Autumn which fooled my bees into thinking it was spring with an unusually strong buildup of brood.

I have previously voiced my appreciation for the contribution of various members and committee during the year, but I wish to acknowledge in particular: Jane Harding for her work as Secretary, James Withington for continuing to keep our Facebook page up-to date and for his role as Christmas quiz master; Tatjana Manabe for her work as club librarian, Jim Hepburn for managing the swarm list, Eva Durrant for taking over as treasurer and John Burnet for continuing to manage honey testing, varroa treatment sales as well as his contribution to helping new beekeepers. Frank and Richard continued their great work managing the club hives and thanks to Mark Wendelken for sharing his knowledge and experience with



new beekeepers in many of the Beginners' Classes. Barbara Parkinson, you are a great baker, and we really appreciate the suppers put on by you and Liz Tan. If I have missed anyone I apologise, you all contribute to making the Wellington Beekeepers Association the wonderful entity that it is.

Janine Davie 2026

AGM

And July is of course our AGM. No beginner's session, straight into the AGM at 7.30. This is usually a short affair, so we're showing a movie while the honey is being judged.

2026 Annual General Meeting of the Wellington Beekeepers Association 1 JULY 2023

To be held at the Johnsonville Community Centre, Frankmoore Avenue, Johnsonville at 7.30pm

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous AGM
3. Matters arising
4. President's Report
5. Treasurers Report (see financials at end of newsletter)
6. Election of Officers –
 - President
 - Treasurer
 - Secretary (see ask below)
 - Additional roles of -
 - webmaster
 - librarian
 - general committee members



7. Membership Fee
8. AFB Fee and infected hive reimbursement
9. General Business

Honey Competition in July

As part of our upcoming AGM, we are running our highly anticipated annual **Honey Competition!** Before you prep your entries, please make sure you read the full club rules [here](#) to ensure eligibility.

The Essentials:

- **Liquid & Creamed Honey:** Must be in a ~350ml **glass jar** (standard peanut butter jar size). No plastic containers will be accepted.
- **Comb Honey:** Must be presented in a full, $\frac{3}{4}$, or $\frac{1}{2}$ size frame.
- **Limits:** Maximum of one entry per class, per member.

How to Impress the Judge: Past judges have noted that while the standard is incredibly high, points are often lost on easily avoidable mistakes.

- **The Big Three:** Watch out for **impurities** (like bee legs), **air bubbles**, and **high moisture levels**.
- **The Secret:** Start with your lowest-moisture honey, filter it meticulously, ensure your glass jar is spotlessly clean, and let any air bubbles completely settle out.

Don't put all your eggs, or honey, in one basket! Prepare a few entries at home and select the single best one to bring along.

Best of luck to all our beekeepers!



Interesting Read: Can a Bee "Unwind" Its Stinger?

An English organic farmer and beekeeper, Chris Park, recently went viral online with over 10 million views after filming a honeybee successfully "unwinding" its stinger from his wrist. Instead of swatting the bee away, which typically ruptures its abdomen and causes its death, he remained completely calm and relaxed his arm. By allowing the bee a safe, still environment, it was able to rotate its body to safely pry the barbed stinger out of his skin and fly away unharmed. While traditional science notes it is incredibly rare for a bee to free its stinger from thick human skin, growing observations in the beekeeping community suggest that staying still can sometimes save a bee's life.

You can read the full fascinating article and see the details here: [Good Good Good Article](#).

Volunteer Opportunity: Beekeeping Advisor in the Pacific

We received an exciting notice from Kiri at Volunteer Service Abroad (VSA). VSA is currently looking for experienced local beekeepers keen to share their knowledge internationally and support sustainable development.

They have a unique volunteer assignment based in the Pacific for a **Beekeeping Advisor**. If you have a passion for bees, a wealth of experience, and a desire to make a meaningful impact overseas, this could be the perfect journey for you.

Learn more and apply: [VSA Beekeeping Advisors Opportunity](#)



Global Research: Next-Gen Varroa Mite Treatments (Norroa)

Across the Tasman, Australian beekeepers and researchers are pushing for investment into cutting-edge chemical-free biopesticides as chemical mite resistance emerges. A primary focus is **Norroa**, a newly developed nature-based RNA treatment (marketed in the USA) that utilizes RNA interference (RNAi) to act as a form of "birth control" for mites. By targeting a key protein essential to mite egg production, it successfully stops reproduction before it starts, preventing population collapse without harming adult bees, brood, or human health. Fun fact for locals: Victoria University of Wellington has authored prominent peer-reviewed research papers investigating this active biological technology (vadescana)!

Read the full ABC News update here: [ABC News Article on Varroa Treatment](#)

New Secretary Required

Your club secretary has been doing the role for 15 years and is due to retire this year. Our new constitution requires someone to stand down after 15 years in the role.

The Secretary role involves:

- organising and recording the minutes or the occasional committee meetings (usually 3 or 4 per year)
- supporting the President with correspondence
- helping to plan the meeting programme for the club



- keeping a record of who has won which awards
- taking minutes at the AGM

The role is not onerous and only takes up 2-3 hours per month. Please contact Jane Harding

janeh@xtra.co.nz 0274212417

WBA WhatsApp Group for advice and Information

This WBA WhatsApp forum is for members to ask questions of experienced members, share general beekeeping information and seek advice from older club members. The group is up and running and Sarah is keen for more members to join.

If you would like to join up and get some of your curly questions answered, please get in touch with Sarah Dye. sarah.c.dye@gmail.com

What's Coming Up?

August – Guest Speaker and Hive App reviews

September – Guest Speaker Maxine Scheckter from Sugar Flour Pastry School talking about honey uses and she will bring honey chocolate bonbons to sample.

Maxine is also going to hold one of her sellout baking classes specifically for members showcasing use of honey. The class is for a maximum of 16 people at \$145pp held in her Newlands cooking school. The link and course content will be in next months newsletter so think about if you or your partner wants to attend as classes tend to sell out fast.



Who can I speak to?

President – Janine Davie president@beehive.org.nz

Treasurer – Eva Durrant treasurer@beehive.org.nz

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

Membership – John Burnet – 0274-379-062

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

Swarm WhatsApp Administrator - Jim Hepburn (021 926823)

Newsletter Editor - Jane Harding - 027 421 2417 AGM Financial Report



Wellington Beekeepers Association Inc				
Income & Expenditure Statement for year ended 31 May 2026				
(inclusive of GST)				
<u>2025</u>			<u>2026</u>	
	Income			
5125	Members subscriptions 2025/26		5320	Note 1
-1725	less AFB Fund contributions		-1642	Note 2
3400	Total Subscription Income		3678	
955	Donations & Sundry Income		446	Note 3
325	Extractor Hire		160	
20	Wax Dipping Receipts (less energy costs)		260	
826	Bank Interest		500	
2000	Training Course Receipts		2750	Note 4
3930	Queen & Nuc Colony Receipts		360	Note 5
8122	Varroa Treatment Sales		9150	
310	Book sales		1245	
16488			14871	14871
19888	Total Income			18549
	Expenses			
1716	Meeting room hire		2280	
57	Printing & Stationery expenses		57	Note 6
187	General expenses		56	Note 7
305	Meeting supper expenses		288	
0	Guest speaker donation		100	
0	Xmas meeting and quiz expenses		436	
345	Xero Consulting & Accounting		385	Note 8
1104	Hello Club member mgmt system annual sub		1104	
125	Apiculture NZ subscription		128	
1774	Internet subscription & website support		252	
39	Cup & Trophy Engraving		26	
2854	Club Hive expenses (non-equipment purchases)		1894	Note 9
1733	Training Course expenses (excl room hire)		1786	Note 4
3375	Queen & Nuc Colony expenses		0	Note 5
91	Tutin Testing expenses (less receipts)		25	Note 10
82	Equipment repairs & maintenance (extractors)		0	
0	Wax Dipping expenses (paraffin wax)		0	0
8199	Varroa Treatment purchases		11235	
480	Book purchases		880	
22466			20932	20932
	<u>Assets Purchased & Depreciated :</u>			Note 11
0	Club apiary		0	
0	Club equipment		0	
0	Books purchased for Library		43	
0				43
22466	Total Expenditure			20975
-2578	Surplus / Deficit		Deficit	-2426 Note 12



Wellington Beekeepers Association Inc		
Balance Sheet as at 31 May 2026		
<u>2025</u>		<u>2026</u>
	Liabilities & Members Funds	
	Accumulated Funds	
13803	General Fund as at 1 June 2025	11225
-2578	minus Income/Expenditure deficit for 2026	-2426
11225	Balance of General Fund as at 31 May 2026	8799
13174	AFB Fund as at 1 June 2025	13699
1725	Plus members' AFB contributions for year	1642
-1200	Less AFB Reimbursement expenses	-800
13699	Balance of AFB Fund as at 31 May 2026 (refer Note 2)	14541
24924	Balances of all funds as at 31 May 2026	23340
	Assets	
4699	Westpac Cheque Account	2614
8789	Westpac On-Call Savings Account	8807
11436	Westpac Term Deposit Account	11919
24924	Total all Bank Accounts	23340
24924	Balances as at 31 May 2026	23340

Statements of Account prepared by:

John Burnet (Membership Sec)

Statements of Account verified by:

Eva Durrant (Treasurer)



Wellington Beekeepers Association

Support and encouragement of beekeeping and beekeepers

Wellington Beekeepers Assoc. Inc.						
Asset Schedule as at 31 May 2026						
Asset	Cost Price	Current Value	Repl'mt Value	Year Written Off	Asset Held By	Location
Asus Business Laptop P2451FA-EB0321R	\$1,605	Nil	Unknown	2022	Frank Lindsay	J'ville
Logitech webcam, tripod, briefcase & cables	\$336	Nil	Unknown	2022	Frank Lindsay	J'ville
Lega Stainless Steel Extractor (non rev)	\$718	Nil	\$800	2016	John Burnet	Tawa
Lega Stainless Steel Extractor	\$809	Nil	\$800	2011	John Burnet	Tawa
Beach Cup (Mead Comp)	Donated	Nil	Unknown	N/A	Ben & Brenda Scott	Upper Hutt
Stevenson Memorial Cup (service to club)	Donated	Nil	Unknown	N/A	John Burnet- Tawa	No recent
Bodmin Cup (Honey Comp)	Donated	Nil	Unknown	N/A	John Randall	Sth Karori
Frank Lindsay Photography Trophy	\$239	Nil	Unknown	2014	Jim Hepburn	Paremata
Beach Memorial Trophy (Innovation comp)	Donated	Nil	Unknown	2016	Michele van Daalen	Upper Hutt
Library Books (many donated)	\$1,454	Nil	Unknown	2000-25	Tatjana Manabe	Newlands
Educational Posters (3 sets - various types)	\$476	Nil	\$156	2018	John Burnet	Tawa
Teaching Frame Inserts (set of 20 in frames)	Donated	Nil	\$140	2018	Natasha Evans	Wgtn Bot
Motorised Projection Screen (wall mounted)	\$2,946	Nil	\$3,000 +	2022	J'ville Comm Centre	J'ville
Observation Hive (Single frame)	\$76	Nil	Unknown	2003	Frank Lindsay	J'ville
Observation Hive (Single frame)	Donated	Nil	Unknown	N/A	John Burnet	Tawa
Data Projector (new)	\$1,495	Nil	\$1,300	2013	Frank Lindsay	J'ville
Wax Dipper (custom made)	\$5,937	Nil	\$5400 +	2010-18	John Randall	Sth. Karori
Fender Portable PA System	\$3,670	Nil	\$1,500 +	2013	John Burnet	Tawa
Club Apiary - Chartwell (22 hives)	\$2,400	Nil	\$8,800	2012-23	On-site	Chartwell
Club Apiary - Chartwell (4 nucs)	\$640	Nil	\$800	2019-23	On-site	Chartwell
Club Apiary - stored equip. (various-Chartwell)	\$850	Nil	\$1,200	2012-23	On-site	Chartwell
Club Nuc boxes (20)	\$2,510	Nil	\$1,500	2019	On-site	Chartwell
Club Apiary - Wingate Park (9 hives)	Donated	Nil	\$3,600	2020-23	On-site	Wingate
Club Apiary - stored equip. (various-Wingate)	Donated	Nil	\$1,000	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
Banner Stand (pull-up) WBA (2)	\$500	Nil	\$500	2014-15	John Burnet	Tawa
Banner Stand (pull-up) NZPost	Donated	Nil	Unknown	N/A	John Burnet	Tawa
Banner (painted with Club name)	\$140	Nil	Unknown	2012	John Burnet	Tawa
Brochure Stand (portable)	\$40	Nil	Unknown	2012	John Burnet	Tawa
Display Stand (portable/folding)	Donated	Nil	Unknown	N/A	John Burnet	Tawa
Bee-suits (12 x suits for Club use)	\$355	Nil	\$600	2014-20	John Burnet	Tawa
Bee-suits (10 x branded suits for school visits)	\$455	Nil	\$500	2019	John Burnet	Tawa
Stock On Hand (as at 31 May 2026)						
Apivar (12 strip packs)	49 packs @ \$54			\$2,646		
Paraffin Wax (for wax dipper)	200 kg @ \$6			\$1,200		
Oxylertine (20 strip packs)	16 @ \$20			\$320		
ApiLife Var wafer packs	11 @ \$1			\$11		
Wooden kitset 3/4 frames	50 @ \$1.32			\$66		
Wax comb foundation sheets	50 @ \$1.44			\$72		



Wellington Beekeepers Association Inc.					
Notes to Accounts for Year ending 31 May 2026					
Note 1	Membership - 219 financial members as at 31 May 2025 Plus 15 fee-free members (partners of paid members), 9 honorary (schools & industry bodies) and 5 life members, 5 associate members (other beekeeping clubs)				
Note 2	AFB refund - \$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) 4 claims from 3 members totalling \$800 (\$200 per hive) rec'd for year to 31 May 2026				
Note 3	Sale of donated Technoset hive-ware and discounted, water-stained bee jackets to members				
Note 4	Basic Beekeeping Training course held Spring 2025 - 11 participants paying \$250 (Profit \$714)				
Note 5	Queen & Nuc colony receipts - sale of nucs from Chartwell apiary				
Note 6	Printing & Stationery - various expenses				
Note 7	General Expenses - general administration and courier costs				
Note 8	Xero Consulting & Accounting - online accounting and bank reconciliation fees				
Note 9	Club Hive Expenses - Includes NZBB levies (\$116), varroa treatment (Chartwell \$235, Wingate \$140) Sugar for Wingate hives (\$97), New queens - Chartwell (\$279), Hutt CC - Wingate Park lease (\$23) Public Liability Insurance for Chartwell apiary (\$517), Miscellaneous (\$487).				
Note 10	Tutin Testing - 23 members paid \$20 each for lab testing and courier costs. Small loss incurred on final under-sized shipment of composite samples.				
Note 11	Depreciation - all new assets depreciated in full in year of purchase in terms of Club policy.				
Note 12	Expenditure deficit covered by stock of varroa treatment valued at \$2977 (refer Asset Schedule).				