



April meeting | 7 April 2021

Where | Main Hall, Johnsonville Community Centre, Moorefield Rd

Editor | Jane Harding janeh@xtra.co.nz

Topics for the April meeting

Beginners session Upstairs meeting room 6.45pm

Topic:

Final Harvest and Readyng for Winter – James Withington

Main Meeting In the main hall at 7.30pm

Topics:

Electronic and Remote Hive Monitoring – Frank Lindsay

May meeting – Honey competition, see below for details

Please check the member register at the door!

As part of COVID-19 tracing and also to get an idea of how many members and non-members come to our meetings, we're doing a name check at the door for the next few meetings.

We're asking everyone to check the member register and add your name to a list if you're not on the member register.

Many thanks!



Contents

2. This Month
3. Tutin Testing Reminder
3. Hive Hub replaces ApiWeb
4. AFB Recognition Courses
5. Varroa Mite Research
6. The Good Oil – getting good information on beekeeping
8. Honey Competition at the May meeting
9. Interesting Articles
10. Fake Honey – again!
11. Next Meeting
11. Who can I speak to?
12. Meeting Location

This Month

The weather has certainly turned autumnal and we've got our autumn gales. Bees will have finished gathering nectar for the season, and whilst there are still flowers, there is not much nectar to be had. Days are getting shorter and nights cooler and the hives will be preparing for winter.

Any miticide strips for varroa treatments that were put in the hives in February will be due to come out shortly and hives should be checked for residual mites. Be prepared to treat again if you find mites. Take off extra boxes that don't have honey stores in them and reduce the hive entrances so the bees can keep the hives warmer. Store your extra boxes and frames somewhere cool and light and airy, to prevent wax moth destroying your frames for next season. Alternatively, freeze the frames to kill the mites and store in tightly sealed plastic bags.

This month's beginner session is about getting ready for winter. Our main session is about electronic hive monitoring, keeping track of the health and safety of your hives remotely.



Tutin Testing Reminder

Quick reminder that you must get your honey tested for tutin if you intend to sell or give it away. John Burnet will be sending the last batch of samples to Analytica at the end of April, so please get your sample to John as soon as possible. WBA gets a discount at Analytica through our membership of ApiNZ and the composite sampling means you pay a fraction of the cost of sending your sample on its own.

All honey for sale or export must comply with the testing requirement. Donating and bartering are forms of trade that also comply. MPI recommends that hobbyist beekeepers who only produce honey for their own use follow the standard as well. For more details go to <https://tinyurl.com/tutinhoney>.

Hive Hub replaces ApiWeb



If you're a registered beekeeper you will have received an email from the AFB Pest Management Authority advising you to log in to HiveHub and check your disease return details. HiveHub is much easier to use than ApiWeb and has a whole lot more information in it also. If you haven't received an email, contact the Authority at apiary@afb.org.nz and ask for a login.



AFB recognition courses



0800 AFB PMP (0800 232 767)
PO Box 44282, Lower Hutt 5040
info@afb.org.nz | www.afb.org.nz

 THE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
NATIONAL AMERICAN FOULBROOD
PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN



AFB Recognition Courses

American foulbrood is caused by spore-forming bacteria and is the most widespread and destructive of the bee brood diseases. Learning how to recognise American foulbrood and its symptoms is essential knowledge for every beekeeper to know.

Our course will teach you how to:

- recognize AFB symptoms
- inspect a hive for AFB
- prevent AFB from spreading
- collect brood cell and bee samples for testing, and
- effectively destroy any AFB infected hives.

There is a test at the end of the course comprising of 25 questions (please note we have our test available in Maori, Korean, Filipino and Mandarin (Simplified Chinese). Where possible, an infected AFB frame will be available for beekeepers to see symptoms of AFB first-hand.

By passing the test and being fully compliant with American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan rules for a minimum of 12 months, you will be eligible to apply for a Disease Elimination



Conformity Agreement (DECA). Beekeepers that enter into a Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement with the Management Agency are committing to eliminate AFB from their beehives through carrying out the AFB elimination practices and procedures specified in the Agreement. In recognition of this commitment the Management Agency provides the beekeeper with an exemption from the Certificate of Inspection requirements.

The courses generally start at 9am and finish at approx 3pm. The cost \$100 per person. If you wish to attend the one-day course, you can register here: <https://afb.org.nz/beekeeping-courses/>

Further information on the DECA Process can found on our website under policy number 007.

Varroa Mite Research

Reminder re the request for varroa mites:

Dr Phil Lester from Vic University and his PhD student are looking for hives with high varroa mite numbers to collect the mites for research.

If any member has untreated hives, please call Frank and he will come and collect the bees with mites on them.

Frank Lindsay
Phone 4783367



The Good Oil

Advice and information on beekeeping and bees is everywhere – so how do you find out where to get the really good oil on the subject and avoid the snake oil salespeople?

I've asked around and below is a selection of places you can go:

University of Guelph Honey Bee Research Centre.

The Guelph Honey Bee Research centre has a mass of short articles, videos and research information that is all available online. They also have a huge FAQ section that might just contain the answer to that burning question you have. Check them out here:

<https://honeybee.uoguelph.ca/>

Scientific Beekeeping

Randy Oliver is a beekeeper turned biologist turned bee researcher who promotes a data-driven scientific approach to beekeeping. Randy is a prolific writer on all things to do with bees and his articles are all available on his website. He is also a practicing beekeeper who makes his money from his hives, so his information is very practical.

<http://scientificbeekeeping.com/>

Best Practice Beekeeping

Ecrotek have teamed up with Mark Goodwin and Sarah Cross to produce a series of books and videos on beekeeping tailored for the NZ market. These are not free, unfortunately, there is a join-up fee of \$79.95 and a monthly subscription of \$15.95 which gets you a book and monthly instructional videos and seasonally relevant information. Mark and Sarah are well-known in the beekeeping world.



Kiwimana

Kiwimana are a small beekeeping company who also run courses, make podcasts and blog about beekeeping in New Zealand. The information is all locally appropriate and there is some fun stuff in there.

<https://www.kiwimana.co.nz/>

ApiNZ

APiNZ members have access to the information available on the APiNZ website including publications and other resources. This information is all relevant to New Zealand and aligns with all relevant legislation and guidelines. Membership of ApiNZ costs \$86.25 per year.

<https://apinz.org.nz/>

Wellington Beekeepers

And last but not least – each other! The best way to learn and understand about bees is to visit hives, talk to other beekeepers and spend time in your own hives. We encourage members to join up with other beekeepers in their area, visit each other's hives and come along to field days at the club apiaries.

<https://www.beehive.org.nz/>



Honey Competition in May

I know we only judged 2020 honey in December, hopefully you all have a few lovely jars of honey to submit for the 2021 competition, which we will hold in May.

We will have an external judge this year, Maureen Conquer.

Maureen Conquer is an international apiculturist — or bee expert. She is the regional representative for the Oceania section of Apimondia, the “United Nations of beekeepers’ federations,” which has over 100 member countries and arbitrates for market access, honey standards, bee health, and apitherapy.

A trained chef, Maureen ran the Hunting Lodge restaurant in Waimauku; due to growing up amongst some of New Zealand’s wine growers, Maureen spent 27 years in the wine industry, including owning a share in Matua Valley Wines and later founding the Bees Online Honey Centre and Café in Auckland.

Our honey competition rules can be found here:

<https://www.beehive.org.nz/honey-competition-rules/>

There are 3 categories judged, liquid, creamed and comb.





Interesting Articles

How bees and drones (manmade drones) team up to find landmines

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-56344609>

A basic article about the role of the queen in a colony, from Ecrotek:

<https://www.ecrotek.co.nz/learn/articles/detail/understanding-the-role-of-the-queen-bee-in-a-colony>

Some members attended a webinar last week hosted by Bob Brown of Manaaki Whenua (Landcare Research) about finding new biological controls for German and Common wasps. If you missed the webinar you can look at the recording here:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/viewRecording/5930843099718849804/6467089214520888079/janeh@xtra.co.nz?registrantKey=2902140464738215696&type=ATTENDEEMAILRECORDINGLINK>

HoneyBeeSuite is another website with interesting articles and stories. A good site for scrolling through and learning random things about bees and the natural world.

<https://www.honeybeesuite.com/>



Fake Honey

Following on from the article in February's newsletter about fake honey, here is another version of the same issue. I found this article about a lab-created honey substitute suitable for vegans rather depressing. I understand some people don't want to eat animals or animal products, but does that mean we have to generate the same type of foodstuff in a laboratory in order to have the same taste and mouth-feel sensation? Wouldn't you want to eat things that were not just substitutes for animal products?

Making Honey without Bees and Milk without Cows

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-56154143>

We asked Frank for a view on this development:

"If honey doesn't meet the codex alimentarius standard, it's not honey but a food ingredient i.e. bakers honey.

Australia New Zealand Food Safety have not signed up to this standard completely; only on moisture and sugar concentrations but NMR (nuclear magnetic resonance) technology means identifying fake honey is getting a lot easier. Identifying what is C3 and C4 sugars with the right amount of chemicals put in by bees and matured in the hive. It's just that these machines are very expensive. The USA is now using one to test all honeys imported into the USA and weeding out fake honey.

For more on the chemistry of honey see AgiFutures Publications

<https://www.agrifutures.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/19-031.pdf>



Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on May 5th.

The beginners meeting will cover winter activities in your apiary.

For the main meeting we will have our honey competition.

Who can I speak to?

President - James Withington 0272 851206 jwithington2016@gmail.com

Vice-President – John Randall (04) 4769959 john@gingerwillow.com

Treasurer - John Burnet (04) 232 7863 johnburnet@xtra.co.nz

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James Scott - Membership and website (04) 565 0164

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Frank Lindsay – (04) 478 3376

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Meeting location

Johnsonville Community Centre, Moorefield Rd, Johnsonville.

