

FRANKLIN BEEKEEPERS CLUB NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2011 MAY 2011

PRES. PETER BILAND SEC. STEPHEN CAREY

State highway 22
R D 1, PAPAURA
09 294 8365

Linwood Road,
KARAKA
09 2927849

Peter_biland@hotmail.com

malancaster42@yahoo.co.nz

Editor; roelf@slingshot.co.nz



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President's report

Firstly it would be appropriate to express thanks for the confidence shown in electing me as president. There are high standards to follow and while not having sought the position, I shall do my best. It was indicated that this should be a one year position as having been secretary for nine years there is too much opportunity for providing entrenched thinking.

The AGM was attended by 18 members and from whom four new committee members were elected to compliment the six previous members. This will be a good addition of new ideas and should increase our effectiveness.

Participation in the honey competition was sadly not great and Steve Bennam is congratulated for winning first prize and the BIG STING. We will review the process and rewards at a later committee meeting to have an improvement ready for the competition at the March 2012 AGM.

At the AGM the decision was made to have the new committee prepare a strategic plan extending several years to provide a direction and plans of action. It would be good to get input from members as to where they see the club going, what objectives it should set and what is seen to be important to achieve.

Following the AGM it was decided that the club's year is now from 1st April to 31st March each year and with this newsletter is the invoice for membership to March 31st 2012.

Members are reminded of Conference to be held at Waipuna Lodge June 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th; of which the 26th is to be Hobbyist's (part time beekeepers) Day, while 27th is specialists group and 28th and 29th are seminars. From past experience this is a good opportunity to meet other beekeepers and learn interesting stuff. Further details will follow later.

In the past the club has held a Christmas function but because of other activities it was decided to forego this; but we will instead have a Club Social / BBQ May 8th. See Dates to Remember at the end of this newsletter and more details will follow later. On this club day we have been invited to the home of Graham Wheeler to see his top-bar beehives. This is a departure from the more common style of hive and Graham will explain the concept.

There is a film *Queen of the Sun* being released 28th April at the Rialto and all independent cinemas. It is about bees and their plight, so ought to be good viewing. It seems that the media articles about bees is having an effect judging by the number of calls from the public expressing an interest in bees, beekeeping and wanting to join the club (see below for more information).

We plan to make greater use of our web site on which will be posted information relevant to the club's activities, its members and the general public. While the site is still very much under development, steady progress is expected. The present site is set out below, but may change.

<https://sites.google.com/site/franklinbeekeepersclub/>.

Hive Master's Report:

This year I am pleased to say we have had a good year for Honey. We have split our hives, and made available nucs for fellow club members at a very cheap price. The club has grown in population, especially at our club meetings which has started to make us think about expansion of the site.

We haven't managed to have a club open day for the last few meetings as today's club day is the AGM, and last club meeting, we extracted our honey. In the meanwhile, I have been up to the hives to have a small look in all the hives. I am pleased to say all the hives are doing very well, collecting lots of honey still. The brood, and queens I saw, all look good.

At the next club day, we would like to go through any empty supers and try to winter down our hives. This would involve varroa strips, possibly reducing the size of the entry to avoid mice, and other enemies entering the hive. Reducing the size of the hive, so the bees don't have too much empty space to warm.

Matt

From the Secretary

As you may well be aware I am now taking over the job of secretary from Lydia. I will endeavour to be as efficient as she. During the transition period I would ask for your patience as it will take a little time to get everything together and forwarded on to you all.

In the past the club has held a Christmas function but it was decided to forgo it due to other activities. Instead we will hold a club social / BBQ on the 8th May. See the dates to remember section and more details will follow. On this day we have been invited to the home of Graham Wheeler to see his top bar hives during which time he will explain the concept further.

The club would like to explore the idea of bulk buying. Would this be of interest to members? If so please give us some ideas as to what you might like such as varroa stripes.

Congratulations to all who attended and passed the recent AFB course held at the Ramarama hall. A big thank you to Matt for putting in the time to get the course up and running and to those who helped out on the day. For those who were not able to attend I would really recommend that you do so as the day covers other problems that we face not just AFB.

AFB Course

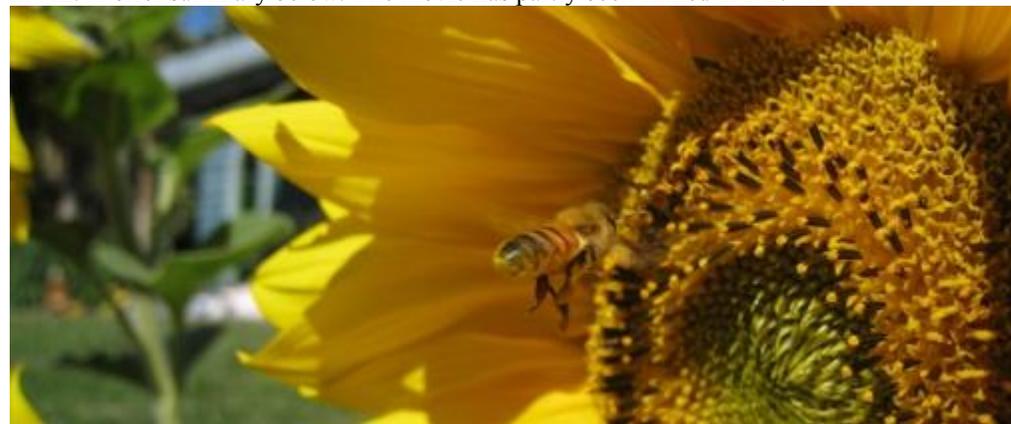
The AFB Course went very well, we had 28 people that turned up for the course of which 11 had a 100% score and only 4 failed (all on one on the compulsory pictures). The course made approximate \$450 profit. Special thanks go to Craig J and Peter S for help setting up and during the day and Blair Ridgeley and Stephen Carey for help cleaning up afterwards.

Next course would possibly be next March, unless we have interest otherwise.

Matt

Coming soon Queen of the Sun: What Are the Bees Telling Us?

As mentioned in the Presidents report, an interesting movie is about to be launched in NZ. A brief summary below. The movie has partly been filmed in NZ.



OPENING IN CINEMAS: 28th Apr 2011

Documentary exploring the current global honeybee crisis. What's the crisis? Bees are disappearing in mass numbers with no clear single explanation. Since 2006, media has been reporting the phenomenon with commercial beekeepers reporting losses of an average of 30% of their colony (some losses are as high as 90%).

Scientists call this phenomenon Colony Collapse Disorder. Told through the stories and opinions of biodynamic beekeepers, scientists, farmers, and philosophers from around the world, the film investigates the history of beekeeping, how our historic relationship with bees has been lost (due to highly mechanized industrial practices) and the dire implications of the crisis.



Adult Small Hive Beetle

Dates to Remember

Sunday **April 10th, 2011**

Venue: At the club hives.

Program: 10.00 am Cuppa and discussion, 10.30 open the hives.

Venue at Cub Hives: Rapid Rural 733 on State Highway 22, Paerata. Travelling east along SH22 (from Drury), it is on the left hand side: travelling west (from Puke), it's on the right.

At 733 there is a red letterbox and a driveway that forks- left goes to a house, take the right that travels 100m past old sheds and terminates at a turntable by a disused concrete-block cow-shed. Adjacent to this shed is the apiary site. When visiting the site, please ensure you park on the old turntable, taking care that the driveway is kept clear. **WHEN LEAVING THE SITE, TAKE GREAT CARE JOINING THE TRAFFIC, VEHICLES APPROACHING FROM THE RIGHT ARE NOT THAT EASY TO SEE.**

Sunday May 8th 2011

Venue: Graham Wheeler, address for the club day is 33, Needham rd, which is off Burt rd, about halfway between Pukekohe and Drury.

Program: Club BBQ and we will see top bar hives