

FRANKLIN BEEKEEPERS CLUB NEWSLETTER

JUNE/JULY 2012

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Please visit our website at <https://sites.google.com/site/franklinbeekeepersclub/>



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President's report

Well the AGM and Karaka Vintage day have come and gone. Honey sales at Karaka this year were very good with most honey sold. The balance has been sold to the kind baker who let us use his commercial kitchen to extract this year.

The AGM was a relatively small affair and dealt with a number of issues. Election of Officers saw the following elected (willingly mostly);

- President Greg Young
- Vice President Craig Johnston
- Secretary Treasurer Graham Wheeler
- Apiary Manager Peter Smith
- Hive Master Mark Robinson
- News Letter Editor Roelf Schreuder
- Committee Members Peter Biland (Last year's President)
- Greg Harrington
- Steve Carey
- Len Worters

It is very encouraging to see the number of people turning up to the club days. May Club day clashed with Mother's day this year but we still got 23 people turning up. Many thanks to Peter and Craig, for their very informative talk on wintering over. A number of good questions were asked by members which is very positive. All members are encouraged to ask questions at club days. If you feel reluctant about asking in the general forum then please feel free to approach a committee member and they will assist you.

The AFB recognition day was held the day before club day with 33 people attending two refreshers and the rest sitting the exam. Many thanks to Matt Tuzzelman for presenting the course and Graham and Jill Wheeler for making the lunch and general kitchen duties. It is events like these that assist all Bee Keepers and provides an income for the club.

Cheers
Greg Young

From the Secretary

Well our winter is on us, not as bad as the photo I hope. We seem to have a lot of wasps around now, very late, but making a nuisance of themselves, however Peter and Craig gave us some good tips last club day, so I must try some of these ideas.

Your new committee is very busy at present trying to put together a proposal to Wesley College to enable us to extend the use of the vat-stand and adjacent room for the purposes of establishing an approved honey extraction/packing facility.

This is going to be of enormous benefit to all of us. In addition to the clubs own honey, members should be able to come along and extract their own honey, but of course a lot of work needs to be done before this happens.

We will keep you informed on this as we progress, but anyone that thinks they can help in these early stages we would love to hear from you.

Don't forget, subs are now due, but thanks to those that have already paid.

A couple of interesting topics have cropped up over the last few days including the news that plans are underway to investigate creating a single united organisation for the New Zealand bee industry. Spearheaded by Federated Farmers bee industry group the new organisation would be funded by levies and follow a similar format and role to entities such as Beef+Lamb carries out for the meat industry. More information can be found at <http://www.nzbees.net/forum/threads/nz-beekeeping-industry-to-have-one-voice.964/>

In addition, moves are underway to tighten compliance within the beekeeping industry in an effort to curb the spread of diseases. Beekeepers currently have to register their hives as required under the National American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy. They are also encouraged but not required to hold a Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement (DECA). The industry is looking at placing greater importance in this document by making them compulsory, AFB Pest Management Strategy manger Rex Baynes told beekeepers at Federated Farmers bee industry conference in Twizel. More information is available at <http://www.nzbees.net/forum/threads/deca-to-become-compulsory-in-new-zealand.963/>

Cheers
Graham



Hivemasters Report

I missed the last club day, but Peter Smith has filled me in on the state of our hives. We have one strong hive and three weak hives. Our conclusion is we were late in our varroa treatment. So will monitor varroa numbers to determine how our new Apivar strings have worked. We may need to unite the weaker hives to build up numbers for winter.

Cheers Mark.

The quest fo a super bee



Over the last five years the world's honey bee population has been steadily dwindling, with many beekeepers citing 2010 as the worst year yet. In order to save these extremely important insects, scientists are working on breeding a new super honey bee that they hope will be resistant to cold, disease, mites and pesticides. If all goes well, the new and improved insect will continue to pollinate our crops for years to come.

Pesky mites, which have become immune to insecticides, have been terrorizing bees significantly for the last few years. According to the U.N., mites, along with viruses, have been responsible for killing 10-30% of Europe's bees, one third of America's bees and a whopping 85% of Middle Eastern bees! The external parasites are small and flat, and attach themselves to adult honey bees' bodies, suck their bee blood and slowly kill them. What's worse is that the mites also attack the bee brood.

By planning the perfect attack, they enter the brood just before the larvae are sealed in together to develop. They feed on the developing bees, causing many of them to grow into weakened adults, often missing legs or wings. The mites spread further when bees from larger colonies “rob” smaller colonies.

Rather than fighting off mites, which seems to be an impossible process, scientists have focused on breeding stronger bees. Some bee populations in Canada have shown resistance to the mites, so they have been isolated, studied, and bred by the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. Being raised so far north, they are also resilient to the harsh winters of Winnipeg, a quality that European bees lack, as many do not even survive winter.

Although not a solution to the bee crisis, these Canadian bees are strong stock, and could be the “prototype” for a stronger bee population. Since bees pollinate 90% of the world’s food crops, multiple steps must be taken to preserve them, and strengthening from within seems the first logical step.

Source www.inhabitat.com

Dates to Remember

Sunday, July 8th 2012

Venue: At the club hives.

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

Sunday August 12th 2012

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.**