

FRANKLIN BEEKEEPERS CLUB NEWSLETTER

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2012

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Please visit our website at www.franklinbees.co.nz



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President's report

Greetings Club members

The last two months has been a busy time for the club.

A working day was held recently to sort out and clean up hive-ware for the new season and the second apiary. Also cleaned out the solar wax melter.

Wellesly College has agreed to the club making some alterations to the vat stand.

Your committee and members have been hard at work removing old machinery from the vat stand and clearing out the old milking shed for club use.

I have not had a lot of time to assist with this recently so I will leave it to the Hon Secretary to detail where we are up to. My thanks go especially to Graham Wheeler, Peter Biland and Craig Johnston who have put in many hours and driven this project.

Spring is here and we are looking forward to a good season.

Kind Regards

Greg Young

From the Secretary

Hi all

As Greg said we have all been very busy over the last few weeks. The first working bee, to sort out and clean up hive-ware, for the new season was disappointing as only one person, other than the committee turned up, Not Good.

BUT a much better turnout for the second one, and a whole heap of stuff was done. Thanks to all that turned up, many hands made light work.

Most of the cowshed is now cleared out and we only have to fill the pit to make it habitable for us; the bees have already been moved to their new home close by and have settled in well .

The hives all seem to be doing well with this decent bit of spring weather. The top bar was so full I had to give it another 4 frames.

We will be having another working bee soon to paint the outside of the facility. I will let you know when.

We now have a new page on the website so anyone can join online; makes things a little easier.

Cheers

Graham

Hivemasters Report

The last club day was a mix of a few seasons, so it was good to be able to utilise the cowshed to stay dry. The weather cleared long enough to check our 3 hives , having lost one weak hive. The remaining 3 were fed sugar water, (Graham and I also fed the bees sugar water on the 26.8.12) and they looked to be in good condition. Good numbers of brood was seen in all hives, with the supplement feeding , bee numbers will be increasing to take advantage of the nectar flow.

The top bar hive was inspected quickly just before the rain started again, capped honey and brood observed, with a lot of bees seen through the inspection window, seems in great condition. It was noted on the 23rd they have nearly filled all available room so may need a few more top bars added.

The apiary hives were shifted to the cowshed concrete pad on the 19 Sept. The working bee on the 23rd shifted the balance of the, apiary gear to the cow shed. We plan to increase the number of hives kept by collecting swarms and will ask Peter Smith to show us how to split a hive. It has been decided to phase out full size supers at the club and run 3/4 supers through out the apiary . This will help as full supers are too heavy for most members.

Graham is making some new mesh bases for us to help reduce and monitor the varroa numbers. He has also made a nice gable roof to help keep the hive dryer and the bees happier. cheers Mark.

Cheers Mark

SWARMS

The swarming season has started.

Council has my name as a contact for the bee club, so when a member of the public asks for help, I get a call.

I try and locate a club member close by and ask them to please deal with it: so be prepared to get a call to collect it either for yourself or perhaps the club.

We do swarm collection as a public service, and it is an opportunity to promote bees as well as being a useful way to increase your hive numbers. Cheaply!

Folk often offer to pay for the removal though we usually do it just as a free service: but this is a personal matter and charging would depend on circumstances.

If you want to be top of the collection list, just mail me. peter_biland@hotmail.com.

Remember to tightly strap up the box before putting it in your vehicle!!

Happy collecting.

Peter B

STOP PRESS

I have just heard from a chap who works at NZ Steel and has some hives,

With bees, for sale. Lives in Pakuranga- I think..

His name is Claudio, work ph 3758111 Ex 8515.

Our new apiary in pictures

The milking shed before the working bee.



And after, neatly cleaned out



Heavy hives need strong men, Craig and Graham moving hives



Bees settled in their new home



All set and done, new position for the hives



Dates to Remember

Sunday, October 14th 2012

Venue: At the club hives.

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

Sunday November 11th 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.**