

**FRANKLIN BEEKEEPERS CLUB NEWSLETTER**

**DECEMBER 2012/JANUARY 2013**

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**Please visit our website at [www.franklinbees.co.nz](http://www.franklinbees.co.nz)**

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**President's report**

Hi Club members

It is the final run up to Christmas and the season is in full swing. A bit of nectar coming in at the moment even if the weather is a bit variable. NIWA are forecasting a dry summer this year so that might slow down the flow a bit and add risk of Tutin in your honey.

It's been a bit of a funny swarm season, started with a rush then petered out.

Work on the vat stand is progressing, thanks very much to Radar for organising filling the old pit, now much safer.

Your committee has been busy developing a specification and costing's to convert the old vat stand into an extraction and packing facility. All we need now is a bee friendly architectural draughtsperson to draw up plans and specifications to enable us to lodge a Consent. Then it's all on, we will be looking for a few working days to give the job a hit. We could do with a friendly plumber and electrician when we get going so any tradesman amongst the club it would be appreciated if you can assist.

Have a great Xmas all.

Kind Regards

Greg Young

**From the Secretary**

Hi All

Well the silly season is well and truly here: I must make a note to keep out of town for the next 3 weeks.

The bees are working well after that bad spell of weather. The club top bar is bursting with brood, might have to do another split.

The split I did on my Top bar hive went VERY well, and the new queen has been very busy. It's just gone to a new home, but I think while we were in Australia the parent hive must have swarmed after all.

Just a big thanks to all of you that helped at the working bees, we are making good progress with the cowshed project.

As Greg said we really need someone that can draw some plans up for us to submit to council. Until we get that done we can't get much further with the honey extraction facility, so can anyone out there help???

Nice to see new members at the club days, I hope you gain some knowledge from them.

The new Apiary in Sim road is finished, and 4 new hives are doing well; just starting to super up some of them.

We have ANOTHER call from someone wanting hives put on their property. I explained there does not seem to be many people doing this, but I would spread the word.

This one is Christina Maxwell who has 5 acres at Pokeno, off Dean Road. Ph 09 2630794 or 232 6756.

If any members would like to put hives out somewhere there is always people wanting them, Just contact me and I will put you in touch with one of them.

Thanks to help from Don MacLeod it has now been established that The Oxalic acid vapourising method is legal to use.

Cheers  
Graham

### **Hivemasters Report**

What a day- Eight hives to check! I arrived just in time to witness a full pit of sand, what an improvement to the premises! Thanks to all involved.

Peter once again passed on valuable knowledge to many attending the meeting.

First up was a new split that had the queen, fed sugar water and checked. Second hive was the other half of the split without the queen. We had purchased a new queen from Dels pollination service in Mt Wellington. Peter showed us how to install the queen cage in the middle of the brood,- squish, in it went. That queen has a lovely red paint job- I hope to be able to spot her without someone pointing her out. Hive three, four and five had a good going over, one needs combining next club day, as it was a bit weak. Hive six- our swarm from last club day was the hive to see, it was in full swing, just going for it. Full of bees, building comb and brood galore. Peter says swarms perform extremely well as they need to build up numbers to survive. It seems an old slow queen reignites once she swarms.

The top bar hive was doing well, a few members checked it and reported good brood and stores seen. Grahams top bar nuc was opened for a quick peak, no sign of laying queen yet, as graham only did the split three weeks ago, fingers crossed for next club day.

Last on the list of things was a quick run down the hives by Peter with his fogger, over and done with eight hives in about a minute. Awesome!

A great meeting concluded with a working bee to paint the apiary exterior "bee brown". Looks fab.

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**

Beehive for sale: complete with bees ,1 deep box, 1 base , 1 hive mat, 1Roof. \$200, Phone graham 092391177

### **THE NEW APIARY IN FULL SWING**

The Sim rd Apiary, now completed.





The split done to relieve the bee pressure on the hiv



### Dates to Remember

**Sunday, January 13th 2013**

**Venue: At the club hives.**

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

**Sunday February 10th 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.**