

FRANKLIN BEEKEEPERS CLUB NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2013

PRES. GREG YOUNG

353 B Gelling road

R D 3, PAPA KURA

09 292 4471

greg.n.michelle@paradise.net.nz franklinbeekeepers@gmail.com

Editor; roelf@slingshot.co.nz

www.franklinbees.co.nz

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President's report

Hi all,

Events have overwhelmed us and we are late to press so apologies to all, we have just completed a successful Pukekohe A&P Show and sold out of Honey midway through the Sunday. Thanks to all those who assisted with the extraction, packing, labelling, site prep and manning of of the stand, this was a great effort and too many people to name both up front and behind the scenes -- not least my failing memory.

Both the Sim and Paerata Apiary's are going well, the extended dry spell means we have to be prudent as to the off take of honey. Most everyone would welcome a good few days of rain to kick start some growth and possibly a second smaller flow if we are lucky.

There has been progress as to the stand design / consent (Thanks Radar), assuming approved we will be able to progress the build, painting and fit out, so watch out for a call to arms when the time comes. We have progressively acquired some items which will need fitting -- a bench and sink, hand basins, water reticulation and a "capping's stand" which was trialed for the extraction.

We aim to tidy and stow some of the Club Resources so as to be easier to access, PPE, First Aid cabinet, show day and Educational materials require stowage; there may still be some full size supers and frames available as we move towards 3/4 boxes.

Cheers,

Craig -- VP

From the Secretary

A few things happening soon,

February 23rd NBA field day in Thames, details have been circulated

On Sat 23rd March we are hosting the 2nd NZ natural beekeeping conference/workshop, more details to come.

The AGM will be held this year at the apiary on Sunday 14th April. We hope to have a guest speaker so watch this space. We will be having the honey competition, so get your jars ready.

A big thanks to everyone who helped with extracting and selling the honey and manning the stall at the A&P show this year. We sold out of honey on the second day, and there was lots of interest in the club and what we are doing.

We will be holding another DECA course on May 11th; more details later.

The new Tutin results recording form is now available from the Food Safety website.

<http://www.foodsafety.govt.nz/elibrary/industry/tutin-results-recording-form.xls>

Please use this form to enter your results from now on.

The club has purchased some stainless steel mesh for mesh bases, we have cut it into 500 x 400 pieces, which will cost \$10 each. Retail price is \$18.

We are in need of a plumber to help with the setup of the new Honey extraction room. Have we any members out there that can help.

Cheers

Graham

Hivemasters Report

Another lovely summer's day to open the clubs hives.

The first hive wasn't doing too well in the brood department. No eggs were seen, nor the queen.

Second, third and fourth hives all going as to plan. Each got a new super to cope with the honey flow. Hive four was opened by a new member, good to see hands on training.

Fifth hive, our swarm hive, was in full swing. John did a great job opening up the hive, very full of eggs, brood, supplies and of course bees. Being so full it was decided to start at the bottom rather than the top. Otherwise we would be driving and smoking the bees down as we go, resulting in far too many bees in the last box, making inspection hard. So all supers were lifted off to enable the bottom to be inspected first, once inspected, two supers were added to cope with the honey flow. Next, Graham opened the topbar hives. The nuc was going well with a laying queen and egg and brood seen. The topbar hive was full of honey, no room for a queen to lay, no brood seen, still plenty of bees, so a few new top bars were added to give more room.

Last on the agenda was Peters run down the hives with the fogger, bees everywhere.

Sims Rd. Apiary was fogged on the 19.1.13.

Cheers Mark.

SWARMS

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. pe-

ter_biland@hotmail.com.

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

Happy collecting.

Peter B

To Bee or not To Bee

A few weeks ago Don rang and told me that he inspected a swarm in a kiwi orchard and was wondering how he could get it in a box. I've seen and collected many swarms in my life but never came up to one of this size.



An inspection a week later gave us the information that it was 60 cm high and 40 cm in diameter and that it would just fit in two brood boxes. The following day he built a construction underneath the swarm and fitted two brood boxes around the swam. Then cut off the wax at the top and let the wax construction slowly sink in the box on the bottom of the "hive". Then the whole construction was lowered and

the hive was taken off. On top of the two boxes a box with empty frames was placed and now we are waiting for Her Majesty to come up and live in her new mansion.

Roelf

New editor wanted

Our editor of the newsletter is going to step down as per the AGM after seven years serving the club.

Please let the committee know if you are interested, it only requires one hour per two months to compile the newsletter

Dates to Remember

Sunday, March 10th 2013

Venue: At the club hives.

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

Sunday April 14th 2012

AGM

Venue: At the club hives.

Program: To be confirmed.

Saturday May 11th 2012

DECA course, program follows

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.**