



FRANKLIN BEEKEEPERS CLUB

APRIL 2013 NEWSLETTER

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President's Report

Hello Club Members,

All enduring systems need renewal. Just as a hive periodically undergoes succession the FBC holds its AGM and elects new officers in April. At the meeting all positions were duly filled with a good mix of new and experienced committee members. It was great to hold the AGM for the first time ever at the club site. Developing the club building and facilities will be a key focus of the next year, making a superb resource an even better one for club members. At the same time not forgetting all the other activities of the club in welcoming, mentoring, informing, supporting, enthusing and educating, club members and the public about Beekeeping while hopefully having an enjoyable time doing it!

Meanwhile, how are your hives? With mine the honey is off and the days are getting shorter but this time of year is anything but quiet. My Varroa treatments are in and thankfully seem to be working ok. After the drought the rain has brought some late flowering and most hives are bringing in some nectar during this spell of warm and calm weather. However not everything is idyllic. Lots of mature worker bees, often with not enough to do can rapidly lead to robbing of weaker hives. This can be a sure way of losing hives and spreading disease. Take care when opening and feeding hives not to leave them open too long and let robbing start. Wasps are also devastating at this time of year, starting with a few sneaky wasps getting into the hive, they pick on the weakest hives and weaken them further until there is nothing left. Fit entrance reducers and keep an eye out for trouble! Like with the club, it is good to consider the beekeeping year to begin in autumn, setting everything up before winter so your hives go strongly and smoothly into the spring.

Kind Regards
Dr Graham Dyche

From the Secretary

Wasps

Wasps are currently a real problem here and at the Sim Road Apiary. We have lost two hives to them already. We plan to put some wasp traps up and add some screens as soon as I can find the time to make some more.

These Wasp screens are available from the club at \$8 each if anyone wants some. We're also selling 500mm x 400mm pieces of Stainless Steel mesh suitable for hive floors for \$10 each.

Subs

Subs are now due for those that haven't paid. The fee is still \$40.

Please pay by either sending a cheque (made out to Franklin Beekeepers Club) to PO Box 1082, Pukekohe 2340, or by direct payment to account 02-0404-0090129-00 using your surname as the reference.

DECA Course

The annual DECA course is nearly on us, (11th May) there might be time to get in if you hurry. Registration closes this Wednesday (1st May) but we could hold it for a day or so for club members.

Natural Beekeepers' Conference

Just a mention of the Natural Beekeepers Conference we hosted in March, as it was very well received, and we had a lot of good feedback on it.

The new club setup is absolutely ideal for this type of event and I hope we can do more of this type of thing in the future.

Cheers

Graham

The New Committee

The AGM was held on Sunday the 14th April. The Committee is now:

President:	Graham Dyche	Vice President:	Craig Johnston
Sec/Treasurer:	Graham Wheeler	Apiary Manager:	Peter Smith
Hive master:	Mark Robinson	Editor/Webmaster:	John Burns
Committee:	Peter Biland	Neil Carney	
	Greg Harrington	Joan Leitch	
	Greg Young		



Did you know?

In the 1980s the Registrar of Apiaries, part of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, required a permit to be obtained before hives were sold or moved to a new location.

Cooking with Honey

This recipe was provided by Lydia Burns. If you have a yummy recipe that involves honey, we would love to share it with other members.

Raspberry Honey Jelly

Ingredients:

500g Raspberries (frozen are fine)

- 850g Honey
- 5 Tbsp Powdered pectin
- ¼ Cup Water

Method:

1. Add raspberries and water to a pan and bring to the boil stirring frequently. Reduce heat and crush berries to release juice. Simmer for 10 minutes.
2. Strain juice through a jelly bag and leave to drain for at least 2 hours.
3. Measure juice and make up to 200ml with extra water if required, combine in a pan with honey.
4. Bring mixture to the boil stirring constantly, remove from heat and add pectin stir in well.
5. Heat again to a rolling boil and test for setting, should only require a few minutes boiling.
6. Pour into prepared hot jars and cover

Adapted from www.beverlybees.com/raspberry-honey-jelly/

Bees in the News

'Victory for bees' as Europe bans neonicotinoid pesticides

The European Union has banned the use of neonicotinoid pesticides, despite intense lobbying from the chemical companies. Huge public support, including petitions and emails, has been shown for the two year ban of 3 neonicotinoids in an effort to stop the reducing numbers of bees. 15 of the 27 member nations voted for the ban, which is expected to come into force in December this year. Environmentalists are calling it a 'Victory for Bees'.

Full Story: www.independent.co.uk/8595408.html

Best Rx for Bees? Their Own Honey

New research suggests honey contains chemicals that could help bees ward off parasites and protect them from pesticide damage.

The findings, published on the 29th April in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, suggest that the immune-boosting chemicals in honey could be a solution to colony-collapse disorder, which has decimated bee populations worldwide.

Full Story: www.livescience.com/29138-honey-good-for-bees.html

Fear of toxic honey caused by drought

The drought conditions much of the country has faced could lead to much higher than usual levels of tutin in honey this year.

Tutin contamination occurs when bees collect honeydew from passion-vine hoppers that have been feeding on tutu, a poisonous New Zealand shrub.

Full Story: www.nzherald.co.nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10871811

Honey Bee Healthline

Hello Franklin Beekeepers. My name is Sue Tetley. I am a member of the Franklin Bee club and a registered Medical Herbalist. I am going to be writing in our club newsletter about bees and the ways that they are associated with our health.

Sue Tetley B.A. Dip Med Herb MNZAMH

Ph: 09 232 1470 www.healingthroughherbs.co.nz

Honey: Have fun using your honey for your health.

Honey makes an excellent addition to a natural first aid kit. Honey is microbiologically inert so it does not get bacteria growing in it (unless it is mixed with water, then it ferments). If you put honey on a blister or wound it will help draw fluid away from it and suppress the growth of organisms. Honey's antibacterial properties are due in part to the hydrogen peroxide it releases when it is in contact with a wound or blister. The honey is hydroscopic which means it draws fluid into itself. You must always use raw honey taken straight from the hive, not honey that has been heated or processed in any way. The most effective honey is of course honey with a high Manuka factor but your ordinary honey will also work well. Try it.

Winter is coming!!! The rain is finally here and the cold will follow soon which often means colds and flus. Try this recipe.

Lemon Ginger syrup

30mls lemon juice

30mls vegetable glycerine (you can get this from any health food shop)

30mls honey

2 large cloves of garlic pressed or finely chopped

2 teaspoons ginger grated

Dash of cayenne pepper

1. Squeeze the lemon juice and add the glycerine and honey to the lemon juice
2. Add the grated ginger and garlic and dash of cayenne pepper
3. Leave to infuse for at least a week then strain and bottle
4. Take one teaspoon as needed for colds, flus and coughs

If you would like to contribute articles, recipes, photos or any other content for the newsletter or website, please get in touch we would love to hear from you.

Email John Burns @ editor@franklinbees.co.nz

Dates to Remember

DECA Course

Date: Saturday, 11th May 2013
Venue: Ramarama
Program: 9:30 am Session starts
12:30 pm Lunch (supplied)
3:30 pm Course Finishes

Contact Graham Wheeler (Secretary) ASAP on 09 2391177 if you would like to attend.

Club Day

Date: Sunday, 12th May 2013
Event: Club Day
Venue: The club hives
Program: 10:00 am Cuppa and discussion
10:30 am Open the hives

Annual Disease Returns (ADR) due

Date: Saturday, 1st June 2013

Club Day

Date: Sunday, 9th June 2013
Venue: At the club hives.
Program: 10:00 am Cuppa and discussion
10:30 am Open the hives

Venue Directions

The address of the club is 733 Paerata Road (State Highway 22), Paerata 2676, New Zealand.

Traveling on SH22 towards Pukekohe, it is on the left hand side. Traveling towards Drury, 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. This 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, please take great care joining the traffic. Vehicles approaching from the right are not very easy to see.