



© Franklin Beekeepers Club

# FRANKLIN BEEKEEPERS CLUB

## JUNE/JULY 2014 NEWSLETTER

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## President's Report

***"Take your losses in autumn and multiply in spring"***: an old beekeeping adage which advises us to combine weak hives before the winter.

It is always sad to lose hives, and while this can happen at any time, autumn is the most common. Sometimes it can seem everything is against us. The natural vitality of the hive wanes as the queen greatly reduces her egg-laying and worker numbers drop, just when the hive seems ready for a rest it comes under attack from three natural foes; varroa, wax moth and wasps.

Varroa numbers build up over summer, often weakening the hive with secondary diseases like dwarf wing virus. When bee numbers drop in autumn the varroa numbers keep rising; more varroa on less bees and it becomes crunch time for the hive without treatment.

A weakened hive can let in wax moths. There are two species; the smaller (*Achroia grisella*) and the greater wax moth (*Galleria mellonella*). There are many ways to make a living in this world and the wax moth performs miracles of molecular chemistry converting wax into grubs and silk. The grubs prefer to eat brood comb with some pollen. They can undermine and destroy the brood, the greater wax moth growing to form a 3cm caterpillar before finding or chewing a niche in which to spin a silken cocoon and pupate. Freezing is the best way to defeat this foe. Give infested frames 48 hours at -18C to destroy eggs as well as larvae. If you have wax moth grubs amongst the active brood frames in your hive then scrape out the grubs with your hive tool and re-check fortnightly.

Lastly those arch villains the wasps cause havoc in autumn. These yellow-striped predators test and fight the guard bees and slip into hives to rob honey and brood. Reduce entrances to a minimum to give your bees the advantage over the wasps. It is important to leave the gap only in the middle, not at the edge. Search and destroy the wasps nest if you can. Follow them home in the evening sun, they usually live within 200m of their prey.

Strong hives survive the autumn onslaught much better than weak ones. It's a good idea to combine a weak hive with another (using the newspaper combining method) after first checking that both hives are free of AFB.

Having reduced hive numbers in autumn, by choice or necessity, we should have only strong hives which will go well through the winter and be good stock to multiply in spring.

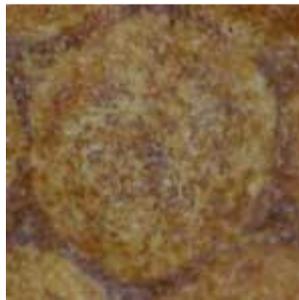
Cheers  
Dr Graham Dyche (FBC President)

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## AFB

Although the hives of non-DECA holders must be inspected between 1<sup>st</sup> August and 30<sup>th</sup> November, it pays to keep a close eye on your hives year round.

Here are some pictures from the DECA test to refresh your memory.



*Healthy cell capping*



*Dark sunken cell capping*



*Healthy pupa*



*Early stage AFB infected pupa*

### ***“Ropiness” of Brood***

Larvae and pupae infected with AFB display a characteristic “ropiness” when a small stick is used to slightly stir the diseased tissue in the cell and then the stick is slowly removed. The ropiness is thought to be caused by the presence of long chains of the vegetative stage of AFB bacteria intertwining and producing an elastic, binding effect. The ropiness test is a common technique used to diagnose American foulbrood.



*Ropiness test*

Information and pictures taken from <http://afb.org.nz/symptoms>

## Hive Master's Report

The clubs hives have had a hard time with varroa, wax moth and wasps. We have lost three hives and are now down to three quite healthy hives.

Hive five has plenty of stores and was still bringing in nectar when last inspected, the Queen was sighted and three frames of healthy brood observed. Next club day we plan to reduce this hive from three supers down to two for winter.

The other Langstroth hive also has plenty of nectar and five frames of brood. Entrance reducers have been fitted to help prevent robbing.

One topbar hive has been robbed out and the other is doing ok. It has plenty of bees, six combs of honey and the Queen is laying although not a lot. A few wax moth larvae were seen so fresh Tansy was placed on top of the topbars to help combat the wax moths.

One evening a few members had a walk around looking for wasp nests, to no avail.

May is the time to keep on top of pests, winter down your hives and take off honey supers.

Cheers Mark

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## Honey Contest



The overall winner of the honey contest this year was our club President, Graham Dyche with 21 points, he took home the 'Big Sting' trophy - Congratulations Graham!

Myles and Gail were 2<sup>nd</sup> place on 11 points, and Peter Biland came 3<sup>rd</sup> with 9 points.

Overall honey class, judged on taste, presentation and clarity: 1st = Steve Benham and Don Mcleod, with two contrasting honeys, 3rd place Peter Biland.



Did you know that old newsletters are published 'an issue late' on our website at <http://www.franklinbees.co.nz/newsletters>

## Minutes of the AGM – Sunday 13th April 2014

FRANKLIN BEEKEEPERS CLUB  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Sunday 10.00 am 13 April 2014 At the Apiary

**Present:** 42 members were present

**Apologies:** Mark Robinson, Peter Biland, Michelle Young, Joan Leitch,

**Minutes of the Last Meeting:** Were read out.

**Matters Arising:** None

**President's Report:** Graham Dyche read his report. Accepted SteveB/ D Mcleod

**Hive Master's Report:** This was not available

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer read the report and financial statements, passed GregH/Wendy Gregory

Greg Young took the chair for the election of officers.

### Election of Officers:

President - Graham Dyche	Moved	Graham W/Steve B
Vice President – Craig Johnston	Moved	Graham D/ Graham W
Secretary - Joan Leitch	Moved	Greg Y/Ruth F
Treasurer - Graham Wheeler	Moved	GaryF/Shawn Cooke
Apiary Manager - Not Appointed		
Hive Master - Mark Robinson, Greg Harrington	Moved	GD/GW
Editor- John Burns	Moved	GW/GH
Committee -		
Neil Carney	Moved	GY/GW
Peter Biland	Moved	Ruth/SteveB
Greg Young	Moved	GD/Gary F.
David Bews	Moved	GD/GW
Shaun Cooke	Moved	GD/GY

### General Business:

- Graham Wheeler was made a life member; moved Steve Benham seconded Jim Carraher
- Arthur Clark talked about a varroa management tool he is selling.
- Some discussion on the future of the club re the housing development, lot of rumours at the moment, but no facts, some indications are that we should be able to stay.

Meeting closed 11.45am.

## Bees in the News

### ***Urban beehives are the new buzz***

Hives are competing with hens as the new "must-have" for eco-conscious inner-city dwellers. Registered beekeeper numbers rose 12 per cent last year, with a Ministry for Primary Industries report showing the greatest increase among hobbyists - defined as people who owned five hives or fewer.

Full Story: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/10028657/Urban-beehives-are-the-new-buzz>

### ***NZ EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) requests pollinator incident reports***

This will enable the EPA to compare what's happening in New Zealand with other countries, and to identify whether they need to take a different course of action to ensure our pollinators are protected.

Full Story: <http://www.epa.govt.nz/about-us/monitoring/Pages/Pollinator-Incidents.aspx>

### ***The Worst Places to Get Stung By a Bee: Nostril, Lip, Penis***

It started when a honeybee flew up Michael Smith's shorts and stung him in the testicles. That got him thinking: Where's the worst place on the body to get stung?

Full Story: <http://phenomena.nationalgeographic.com/2014/04/03/the-worst-places-to-get-stung-by-a-bee-nostril-lip-penis/>

### ***Big buzz for Open Source Beehives***

The Open Source Beehives project, currently raising funds via Indiegogo, is using smart tech and the power of the crowd to help tackle bees' dwindling numbers.

Full Story: [http://www.nzherald.co.nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1503340&objectid=11244254](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1503340&objectid=11244254)

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](mailto:editor@franklinbees.co.nz)

## In the Kitchen



### Luscious Honey Flapjack

#### Ingredients

350g jumbo oats  
150ml light olive oil  
100g honey or golden syrup  
75g plain flour  
175 paradise tropical mix, trail mix or equivalent  
70g pistachios  
30g sunflower seeds  
Grated zest 1 orange and ½ lemon  
3 medium free range organic eggs  
Pinch salt  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

#### Method

- 1 Line a deep 22 cm tin and preheat the oven to 180 C, gas mark 4
- 2 Toast the oats in a large roasting tin in the oven for 20 minutes or until slightly golden. Remove and leave to cool slightly but leave the oven on.
- 3 Measure the oil plus the honey or golden syrup in a large pan with the oil and heat slightly until the honey melts. Remove and leave to cool.
- 4 Add the remaining ingredients and combine well then push the mixture well into the lining of the tin. Smooth over the top.
- 5 Bake for approximately 30 – 45 minutes or until golden and firm on top. Remove and leave to cool.

Makes 16 generous squares - time to make a lovely cuppa!

Variations Add chunks of stem ginger for a more grown-up flavour.

[www.veggischmooze.blogspot.com](http://www.veggischmooze.blogspot.com) (via [guardianwitness recipe swap](#) )

## Dates to Remember

### Club Day

Date: Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2014  
Venue: At the club hives.  
Program: 10:00 am Cuppa and discussion  
10:30 am Open the hives

### Club Day

Date: Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2014  
Venue: At the club hives.  
Program: 10:00 am Cuppa and discussion  
10:30 am Open the hives

### AFB Hive Inspections (For non DECA holders)

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> August – 30<sup>th</sup> November  
If you don't hold a DECA, you must get a DECA holder to inspect your hives for you.

View our online calendar at [www.franklinbees.co.nz/calendar](http://www.franklinbees.co.nz/calendar)

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## Venue Directions

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

Traveling on SH22 towards Pukekohe, the club house 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.**