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FRANKLIN BEEKEEPERS CLUB

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

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President's Report

August is for Anticipation

Carly Simon-Anticipation: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXXsIKh_FSU

"Well," said Pooh, "what I like best," and then he had to stop and think. Because although Eating Honey was a very good thing to do, there was a moment just before you began to eat it which was better than when you were, but he didn't know what it was called." ~A.A. Milne, Winnie-the-Pooh

For me August is a month for anticipation. To think about and prepare for the beekeeping season ahead. It is a time to get your gear in order, build, clean, fix and mend. Time to eat your honey and wonder how next year's crop will taste. A time to plan exactly what you want to happen before events come along to dictate what needs to be done.

It is still winter, but the days are getting longer and when the weather is fine the bees are busy. You should only open hives on fine days, but do check for stores. With a little experience this can be done by hefting; just lift the back of the hive and judge its weight. It's hard to anticipate which ones may need feeding as different hives bring in nectar and use up stores at quite different rates.

Ice hockey legend Wayne Gretzky summed up the skill of anticipation saying "Skate to where the puck is going, not to where it is."

Beekeepers need to predict where things are going too. When you look at your hive don't just ask yourself "is it ok now?" ask "where is it going to be by my next visit?" With the mild winter some hives, particularly ones in town, are well ahead of where you might expect. I have a hive with adult drones as well as capped and uncapped drone brood which needed supering in July! Hives like that

are heading to swarm in spring and I need to plan on splitting, giving room and regular checking to avoid losing swarms.

While I am looking ahead I anticipate that this year will see the biggest change for decades in the NZ beekeeping political scene. The government in the form of the MPI (Ministry of Primary Industries) is insisting on only talking to one beekeeping body as it negotiates a Government Industry Agreement (GIA) on Biosecurity Readiness and Response. This is forcing the two beekeeping associations in NZ the NBA (National Beekeepers' Association) and BIG (Bee Industry Group of Federated Farmers) to work together instead of in opposition. There is a real possibility they will merge which would give NZ beekeepers a much stronger voice and who knows we may even anticipate benefits for the hobbyist beekeeper too.

Cheers

Dr Graham Dyche (FBC President)

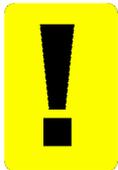
AFB Recognition Course (DECA) – 23rd August

AFB RECOGNITION & COMPETENCY COURSE

The Franklin Beekeepers Club is hosting a Test / Refresher on Saturday 23 August 2014 with a couple of spaces still available. For more information on DECA [look here](#)

Last day to register is the 8th August – Contact Graham Wheeler on 09 239 1177 or email graham@thewheelers.co.nz to register.

More Information is available online at: www.franklinbees.co.nz/ai1ec_event/deca-course-2014



DECA Holders

Contact the newsletter Editor (editor@franklinbees.co.nz) if you are a DECA holder and available to perform hive inspections. We will be adding a list of club members who are DECA holders to the club website. This list will also be published in the next newsletter so let us know if you would like to be included.

Hive Master's Report

Not a lot of up to date news from me, as I did not stay long enough last club day to open the hives, due to the wax information day running overtime.

I called into the apiary on Monday evening to check on the hives. All four hives seemed busy. They all have their entrance reducers on and one hive had quite a few bees wanting to go in at dusk. The two nucs looked fine, so hopefully in a few months the numbers will build up to give us four good hives.

Keep a close eye on the wasp numbers around your hives...they got the better of my hives.

Cheers Mark

Also: All of the hives at the Sim Rd apiary are looking good as to stores and bee numbers.

Bees in the News

Call for submissions on proposal to amend maximum levels for tutin in honey

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) has called for submissions on a proposal to reduce maximum levels for tutin in honey and comb honey. The closing date for submissions on the tutin proposal is 21 August 2014

Full Story: <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/media/Pages/Call-for-submissions-on-proposal-to-amend-maximum-levels-for-tutin-in-honey-and-comb-honey-.aspx>

NZ's bee colonies mysteriously disappearing

Concern over an increase in the number of bee colonies disappearing mysteriously has prompted a national survey of the bee population.

Full Story: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/10228309/NZs-bee-colonies-mysteriously-disappearing>

Further information on the NZ Parliament's primary product select committee discussion: http://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-nz/50DBSCH_SCR56864_1/34a0a5f2526c4db590c2b0330083d8af2313b150 (pdf file).

New Zealand EPA declines Ortus insecticide application

The New Zealand Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has declined an application to import or manufacture an insecticide for use in New Zealand because of the risk to bees.

The insecticide, Ortus, had been proposed as a seed treatment.

But the EPA had concerns that it would not adhere properly to seeds and that dust would be produced during sowing, posing a high risk to bees.

Full Story: <http://news.agropages.com/News/NewsDetail---12510.htm>

EPA demands higher standard of pesticide science

NEW Zealand's Environmental Protection Authority is stepping up its requirements for a higher level of scientific evidence regarding the safety and effects of new pesticides before considering them for approval.

Full Story: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/agribusiness/10293396/EPA-demands-higher-standard-of-pesticide-science>

The 10 best famous beekeepers

A list of ten people and characters lured by the sweet promise of apiculture.

Full Story: <http://www.theguardian.com/culture/2014/jul/04/the-10-best-famous-beekeepers>

For bees and flowers, tongue size matters

For bees and the flowers they pollinate, a compatible tongue length is essential to a successful relationship. Some bees and plants are very closely matched, with bee tongue sized to the flower depth. Other bee species are generalists, flitting among flower species to drink nectar and collect pollen from a diverse variety of plants. Data on tongue lengths can help ecologists understand and predict the behaviour, resilience and invasiveness of bee populations.

Full Story: <http://phys.org/news/2014-07-bees-tongue-size.html>

New Members

We welcome the following new members to our club.

- Ian Fielding
- Craig Leslie
- Jay Beatt
- Damian Treadaway
- Mohammed Alzaid
- Tania Cole
- Kenneth Husted
- Sadie Aupouri
- Roger Winter
- Ross Jackson

We look forward to seeing you at the next club day.

In the Kitchen

Pear and Almond Tart

Ingredients

- 1 sheet ready roll puff pastry 30 x 21 cm
- 1 tbsp caster sugar
- 2 tbsp ground almonds
- 1 oz butter
- 2 ripe dessert pears
- 1 oz flaked almonds
- 2 tbsp clear honey

Method

- 1 Preheat oven to 200°C / 400°F / gas mark 6.
- 2 Lay pastry on baking sheet and prick the base all over with fork leaving 1" (2½ cm) margin all round the edge.
- 3 Sprinkle the caster sugar and ground almonds on the base, leaving the margin clear.
- 4 Cut up the butter and dot over the almonds and caster sugar.
- 5 Slice the pears and lay over the pastry, leaving the margin clear
- 6 Sprinkle the top with flaked almonds and drizzle the honey over the top.
- 7 Bake in the top third of the oven for 20-25 minutes.



From: www.honeyrecipes.org.uk/Desserts.html

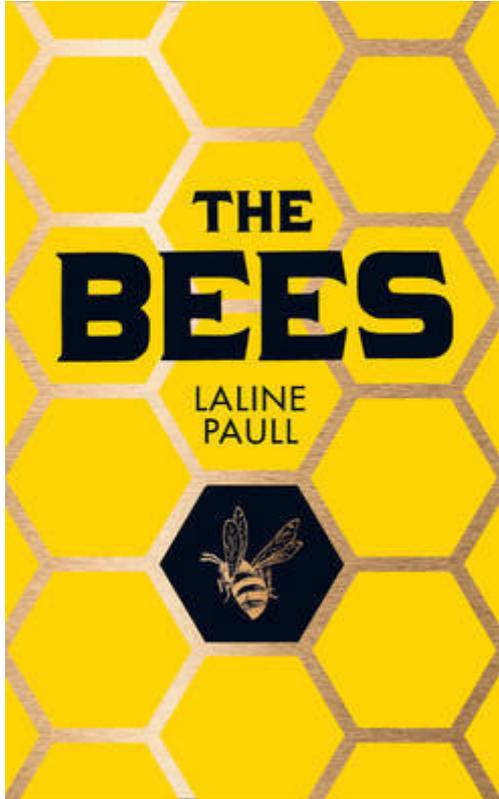


Did you know that old newsletters are published 'an issue late' on our website at <http://www.franklinbees.co.nz/newsletters>

Book Review

The Bees, by Laline Paull

Review by Joan Leitch, Club Secretary



A novel where the main character is a bee is both irresistible and nerve-wracking. Will the author do justice to the huge amount of material on how bees work? Or will it be overly anthropomorphised, like the Bee Movie where the main character was male and lived in a nuclear family?

My trepidation increased when the book reviews I read compared it to dystopian stories like 1984 and Watership Down.

Happily, the author has managed to make the main character, Flora 717, both likeable and consistent to her nature, and she is a witness to the inner life of a hive. During the progress of the story we are shown most of the activities of the hive over the course of a year, including a rather unflattering episode where a 'monster' harvests some honey.

The attacks by wasps were particularly chilling, as my own hives were also being attacked in the same manner!

The writing was delightful, especially with the depiction of the drones as strutting, pompous WW1 ace pilots. Sometimes I thought that there was too much artistic liberty with the facts, and I was disappointed that the main character got to live for so long, just to carry the storyline through!

My other big gripe was that it portrayed the bees as belonging to castes of different workers, instead of the changing roles which workers move through.

However, I was impressed with how much the author knew about the workings of a hive. And the story was gripping, even when you could see where it was heading. Recommended as a thoroughly enjoyable read.

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

Club Day

Date: Sunday 10th August, 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: 1st August – 30th November
If you don't hold a DECA, you must get a DECA holder to inspect your hives for you.

AFB Recognition / DECA Course

Date: Saturday 23rd August, 2014
Info: http://www.franklinbees.co.nz/ai1ec_event/deca-course-2014/?instance_id=1046

Club Day

Date: Sunday 14th September, 2014
Venue: At the club hives.
Program: 10:00 am Cuppa and discussion
10:30 am Open the hives

View our online calendar at www.franklinbees.co.nz/calendar

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.