

President's Report for AGM April 2017

"Change is the only constant in life." Heraclitus

It has been my privilege to be the president of FBC for the past 4 years. I grew up in a cowshed, so maybe that is why I have felt quite at home here in our cowshed apiary! Now it is time for me to move on and let someone else take the reins as president.

It may be a cowshed, but it has been a haven for the bees and for our club. We are very grateful to Wesley College who allow us to use this space without charge or rent. We are also grateful to all the members past and present who worked to transform what was a derelict cowshed into an apiary, clubrooms and honey extraction room.

Four years ago our membership stood at 78. In March this year we had 250 members, of these, 191 are full or life members, with the other 59 being participating partners of members. That is a nice thing about the club, in that we have family membership, and we welcome everyone who has an interest in bees.

Each year we have 12 club days. In the last year 11 have been here at the cowshed apiary and the February club day was a visit to Zonda in Waiuku, which was our most popular trip ever, with 84 members signing in. Thank you to everyone who has come to the club days, everyone who has presented everyone who has just welcomed other members and chatted about bees and beekeeping.

This year we took our club out into the community, to promote beekeeping, at the Franklin A&P show in February, at the Franklin Hospice event in November. Thank you to all the members who helped at those events.

I would like to thank our committee members who all work to make FBC successful. This year the committee reviewed the clubs health and safety procedures and made quite a number of improvements.

Thanks to Ross our newsletter editor for newsletters through the year with lots of information and advice. Thanks to Kate our treasurer for keeping our accounts in such good order.

Thanks to Martyn and Tania Brown for being in control of the honey extraction room, also for taking over the hive management part way through the year.

The clubs winter "night school" training course ran again thanks to Joan who organised everything and to Bob Russel who presented the course aided by Kerry Hirst.

My biggest thank you goes to our club secretary Joan Leitch, who gets to do more than her fair share of the work running the club. So many things would not happen without Joan and the work she does.

That brings me to the huge yellow earthmovers we can see when we drive into the club. They are coming. They are coming soon. We have between 6 and 18 months here before we have to move. We have been offered some alternative sites, and our new committee will work through our options in the year ahead.

Change is inevitable. To help us cope with change we have tradition, and it is a tradition of the club to run the annual honey completion and award the "Big Sting" trophy which will be presented for the 33rd time today.

Dr Graham Dyche
FBC President