



FRANKLIN BEEKEEPERS CLUB

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2019

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PRESIDENTS REPORT FEBRUARY 2019

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WOW what a summer we have had; there have been reports of a great nectar flow around the country, with the odd pockets here and there that are not to flash. Hot, muggy and very dry, I am sure looking forward to having some rain. Our local area must of had a good flow with the amount of members booking the extraction room, it has been booked solidly since the middle of January and currently is booked till the end of March, it is great to see all the hard work has benefited the members, with positive feedback from everyone that has used the room so far it is great to see. There are still a few things that need finishing off, which in the near future will be completed.

Remember that with the hot dry summer that we have had it is important that you test for Tutin once you have extracted your honey.

The club had a stand at the annual Franklin A&P show, with members of the community receiving us well, asking lots of questions and wanting to do courses. We sold honey, candles and wax wraps, over the two day which was great for the club. I want to thank all the members who came along and worked on the stand, it was great to hang out with you and talk bees. Our location this year was not ideal but in true form we made the best of the situation, by informing, teaching and educating the community about bees and the importance of their role within our environment.

A huge thank you to all the members who brought honey in for the competition it was great to see, Sara Russ aka The Bee Lady, was impressed to see such a range of colours in the honey. Judging with her was insightful and lots of fun, needless to say after tasting all of the honey samples we were both on a sugar high for the rest of the morning!

The March meeting will hopefully see us being informed by Rachel Long about her experience in entering the national honey competition at the API NZ conference in 2017, which I might add she won a placing. We will also be opening the hives and looking at having a small working bee to get the club rooms ready for its 40th party in April.

The April meeting will be very busy, with the annual FBC honey competition – be sure to enter and see if you can will the “BIG STINGER”, along with the AGM and a Cake to celebrate the club 40th year.

I would like to let you all know that I am happy to stand as president again if you as the members are happy with this.

Bee Happy and most of all just Bee

Tania Brown
President

From the editor: Have you thought about being a part of the committee? Want a position? Come have a chat to one of the committee members or stay around at the end of the club day for the meeting (members are)! April AGM isn't far away and we are going to keep formal stuff short so we can PARTY!

EXTRACTION ROOM PROGRESS

Franklin Bee Club's Extraction Room has arrived and is being used!!



The club requires you to get a food safety certificate, which you can obtain through an online course for just \$30 (see

<http://www.safefoodhandler.com/?fbclid=IwAR1o4FgpvWK78o0kAN0D5E84R5tLvuZs2i40de-7lZ0JkXiSrQ8S-Zkb8Lk>).

Your fees cover power, hot water and protective gear and you will be responsible for cleaning up and leaving the extraction room in the spotlessly clean condition that you found it in. Check out the pictures and information posted on the walls inside the extraction room for instructions on how to use and clean the gear.

FLOWERS OF THE MONTH

- It's pretty dry, so anything that's flowering is doing well
- Clover probably all dried up
- Bottlebrush could be flowering
- Goldenrod (Yellow pollen mainly)
- Nasturtium
- Canna

SPECIAL AFB TRAINING AT CLUB FOR MEMBERS

The club is going to run an AFB course with the test at the end so you can apply for your DECA. The location will be at the club rooms. The material is being presented by the AFB organisation, so this is an additional training for club members. We as a club want to foster and facilitate the knowledge of detection and elimination of AFB over and above any other push.

Please let us know if you are interested as we already have a significant interest.

AFB COURSES

There are none planned on the <http://www.afb.org.nz/beekeeping-courses>. However if you are interested please contact info@afb.org.nz who are very helpful.

If you require an AFB inspection please contact the president at president@franklinbees.co.nz. Who will try and connect you up with a DECA holder.

HIVE MASTER REPORT

The club is currently running 2 topbar hives and 5 langstroth hives.

The topbars have both done well this season with a total of 5 splits being removed to help club members re-populate their topbar hives. Both of them have very good stores for Autumn/Winter as we haven't removed any honey from them this year.

The 5 langstroth hives were struggling for food at the clubrooms (Sim Rd) so decided to move three to John & Denise Guy's farm to give better foraging options and to take strain of the other two at the club. It worked fairly well as we managed to harvest a few supers from John & Denise's place. The two hives at the club were not harvested as the frames were 80% full, but uncapped at the time. We did manage to extract 80+kg to jar and sell. We will be looking at the two hives at the clubrooms this coming meeting to see if they have produced.

That's all for now folks.

Martyn

WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING IN MY HIVES AT THE MOMENT – AUTUMN/WINTERING?

- Wasp and robbing prevention. So reducing entrances to help hives defend the entrance.
- Possibly Vespex for German Wasps, checkout https://www.merchento.com/vespex_faq.html
- Making sure there is enough food on the hives and start correcting. Easy to do while it's warm.
- Avoid spilling any honey or sugar as it will encourage robbing.
- Avoid feeding too much at once as this will encourage robbing. Generally want the sugar taken up within a day or two maximum. This comes with experience.
- Varroa treatment plan and action. Remember the brood prior to winter are the bees that will over winter and come out of spring.
- Varroa article posted on Facebook earlier, but well worth watching
- Storage of any gear need to think about wax moth.
- Thinking of how to get the best comb honey frame for the April competition ☺
- Planning what you are going to do different next year and what gear you need for spring and summer...

P.S. Note from Andrew Daken: Andrew wanted to highlight a FAQ about purchasing nucs/hives at this time of year. He wouldn't recommend purchasing nucs/colonies in autumn unless you fully understand the risks and responsibility. It's robbing season, so bees can rob out AFB hives and therefore contract AFB, but it is undetectable using visual means till spring when clinical signs may show up. In addition to this you have winter right on your doorstep, so having to manage gear over winter. This means you have an increased risk of dead outs and the worst an AFB dead out potential. If you know the risks, you can decide but Andrew wouldn't encourage this especially for a new beekeeper. You will notice cheaper nucs/hives online, but choose wisely.

SPLITTING COLONIES

It's getting late to split, but if you are using mated queens from reputable suppliers you should be fine. Make the splits strong to ensure when the cool weather comes they have the resources to stay warm and well feed. You should plan to feed any splits over winter unless you have excess feed. Check out the life cycle of bees and the queen and you will see what I mean. An emergency queen will take 16 days (there is 3 days you can ignore as bees typically use day 3 larvae) from egg to hatch, then 1-2 weeks to mature along with weather, then if the queen returns another week to really start laying, then another 21 days for the bees to hatch... so something like 40 days roughly! By then you have a number of workers dying off.

Peter Smith ran through how to split a colony in the September meeting.

Instructions on how to do this method of splitting can be found on the Franklin Beekeeping club web site <https://www.franklinbees.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/HiveSplitting.pdf>

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE INDUSTRY

Wow, there has been a lot going on which has been confusing with Honey Levies and AFB Levies. Anyone else confused?

Honey Levy – if you have in the ApiWeb system more than 25 hives you would have been able to vote. This is an ApiNZ looking to raise money for research, etc. Lots of debate on the forums, but not going into the pro's and con's.

AFB Levies – looking to alter how AFB is managed and financed. There is an alternative posted out to all those who are registered with an email address on 4-March-19. Open for submissions from 5-March till 22-March-2019. Take a look and have a think about what makes sense to you and let them know <https://afb.org.nz/new-levy-proposal-2019/>

DID YOU KNOW

If you are interested in learning about how to use wax and bee product skills and want a fun filled day let us know and we will arrange another workshop in the new year.

If you are interested in learning these skills let us know secretary@franklinbees.co.nz or contact@franklinbees.co.nz as more courses may be offered if there is enough interest.

FRANKLIN BEE CLUB DIRECTIONS

Venue: 137 Sim Rd, Rosehill, Karaka 2580

Directions:

From Pukekohe:

Carry on past the old club rooms and Caltex/Golf club (Karaka Rd). The second road on the right is Sim Rd, and it has a turning bay halfway along the passing lane.

From Drury:

Head towards Pukekohe. Once you have passed Blackbridge Rd on your right, Sim Rd will be coming up on your left. At Christmas, trees are sold at this corner. There is also an equine vet clinic at this corner. 137 Sim Rd is nearly 1.4 km along this road. Watch the sharp right hand corner halfway along. Please park on the verge. This allows room for other residents to get past. We want to stay in their good books!



Quarantine rules

To reduce the risk of spreading disease, the committee decided (20th October 2014) to restrict the bringing of any used bee keeping equipment (including gloves and hive tool) to club days – exception is your bee suit.

Where required, gloves and other equipment are

provided by the club.

This rule is not just to protect the club hives, but also protects you from taking diseases home to your hives.

HELP ALSO REQUIRED TO ASSIST THE HIVEMASTER

If you are willing to assist, we require volunteers to aid the hive masters. The current work load to check and look after 2 apiary sites coming into peak season can be time consuming, if anyone would like to assist Martyn, please contact Tania at president@franklinbees.co.nz, and we can arrange a suitable time.

Welcome to our newest members:

Sylvie Naidoo, Prakash Naidoo, Stephanie Oliver, John Oliver, Chris McKay, Desmond, Mark Jane, Pat Stuart, Mark Senior, Alexander Yushkov

Looking forward to getting to know you and how we can support you.

VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST AT CLUB MEETINGS

We would like to involve members more at club meetings, if anyone is able to assist in setting up the room for a meeting , and clearing away at the end please contact president@franklinbees.co.nz

BEE CLUB COMMITTEE MINUTES

Should anyone require a copy of the minutes from the last committee meeting, please send me an email at editor@franklinbees.co.nz, and I will gladly send them by return. The committee meeting happen after the club day, so stick around and hear what we are up to for yourself.

BEE CLUB NOW ON FACEBOOK

Please join us on the new Facebook group share your experience and questions. It's a great place to learn and meetup with people.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/458676694483940/>



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

Did you know that old newsletters are published 'an issue late' on our website at

<http://www.franklinbees.co.nz/newsletters>