



# FRANKLIN BEEKEEPERS CLUB

Newsletter: April/May 2019

**From the President, Tania Brown:** WOW what a fantastic April bee club meeting we had! So many entries into the Honey Competition - it was lovely see the different colours of honey. We celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> year of beekeeping as a group and were so lucky to have 3 of our life members present, one of them, Bob Russell, is the longest serving club member. Thank you all for electing me as president again and entrusting the club to my hands for another year along with the wonderfully supportive committee. [Click here for the full President's Report](#)

Register now for Franklin Beekeeper's Club's AFB training course  
15th June 2019 9am-3pm  
at the FBC Clubrooms  
Only \$100pp, which includes snacks



**Congratulations!!** Tania and Martyn Brown for winning the "Big Sting" Honey competition, and to Anthony Mead for winning "The Best Honey"



It's Autumn and winter is around the corner. What should you be doing in your hives to prepare them for winter? [CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT](#)



**What's happening in our Club Hives?**  
Our hives are doing well and much better than this time last year!  
[CLICK HERE](#) for more info



Who are our Committee Members? [CLICK HERE](#) for more info

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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This upcoming year I would really like to see support groups in the areas that you live in, so that you can call upon your neighbour for help if you need it. The web-site will be updated making it more user friendly with more resources for you to read and use.

The success of the Franklin Bee Club is solely dependent on you as a member. So we are open to any suggestions that you as a club member might like to see happen with the club.



## FBC AFB Training – We need you!

Franklin Bee Club is holding an AFB training course in conjunction with [AFB](#)

This course is for non DECA holders so that they can be trained in the detection and correct way in which to treat an AFB hive if detected.

We are also offering on the day a refresher course for the DECA holders.  
The course runs from 9am – to approx. 3pm.

There is a break for lunch then completion of the course and test in the afternoon. Tea & coffee will be provided by the club, but applicants must bring their own lunch.

To register, [click here](#), and enter **Franklin Bee Club** as your venue.

## What should I be doing in my hives at the moment?

**Varroa** Treatments should be in the hives now, make sure that you follow the manufactures guidelines for the treatment that you use, and to **rotate your treatments** from last season to prevent resistance build up. **Winter down your hives**; make sure that they have enough stores to see them through the winter.

Do any **repairs** that might be needed on your hive ware.

Find a good book, a bottle of mead and put your feet up.

## Hive Master's Report

Our bees are doing okay at the moment!! Both topbars are quietening down with only 10x frames in each one, but still foraging with pollen & nectar coming in too.

I did a split about 6 weeks ago and it has a new queen & laying OK. We now have 6 Langstroth hives at the club as John Guy brought the 3 hives back from his farm for wintering down. Treatments were added

to those 3 hives, and treatments removed from the other 3. We will remove the topbar treatments next weekend during the beekeeping course, a good learning aspect for the students.

The 3 hives that came home still had supers on with capped honey, plus PLENTY of stores below so supers will be extracted into a bucket with the thought of feeding back to those hives if need be. The other 3 'club' hives had top feeders added with 5L of syrup in each one.

That's all for now folks, things are actually looking OK, much better than this time last year! 🐝🐝😊

## Meet some of our committee members!

**Tania Brown** - President – Hiya, I have been keeping bees for about 6-7 years now, I was first introduced into the world of bees by doing the Franklin Beekeepers course and from there my passion has grown, I love learning, so have embarked on the Telford Apiculture year-long course and have also done an intense Queen breeding course. Working full-time at Ecrotek, helps to keep me up to date with all that is new in the industry. I love everything about bees - they are truly amazing and mesmerising. I joined the club and then quickly found myself on the committee; it is so great to be involved with like-minded people who share an interest in bees and who are forever teaching us.



**Andrew Daken** – Vice President - My background is electronic manufacturing from design, process engineering through to technical sales support and supply chain, so quite a wide experience base. My passion is organics and growing healthy soils, the bases of everything living. Currently I'm working as a full-time beekeeper as the operational manager and living in the Drury area. I've been beekeeping for about 5 years now and still so much more to learn.

**Willow McPike** –Secretary – I am a hobbyist beekeeper of nearly 6 years based in East Auckland who loves and cares for 10 hives. I enjoy soap making and gardening when not tending to the bees. I work full-time at Ecrotek running the showroom and working in customer services. I originally got into beekeeping when a swarm took up residence in the compost bin in the back yard!



## Club Contact Info

President - Tania Brown

Vice President - Andrew Daken

Secretary - Willow McPike-Kapila

Treasurer - Brenda Bolland

Editor - Victoria Fray

Hive Master - Martyn Brown

Committee members - Bob Kitcher, Brendon Cutter, Nicola Squire, Rowan Lyons, Peter Schloots, Grant Tetley

If you want to join the club, [click here](#).

Please contact us if you have any questions: [contact@franklinbees.co.nz](mailto:contact@franklinbees.co.nz)