

Biosecurity and GIA Focus Group Meeting May 2022

MPI Biosecurity surveillance update

MPI gave an update on changes to surveillance for small hive beetles in New Zealand. This project is part of MPI's exotic disease surveillance programme. MPI is looking for 100 participants from across New Zealand to operate sentinel hives by placing one small plastic beetle trap in one of their hives and to check it regularly. MPI has recruited participants from all around New Zealand.

MPI also gave an update on the recent detection of a single lesser banded hornet in St Mary's Bay in Auckland. MPI have inspected the house where the hornet was found as well as the immediate surrounding area and have not found evidence of any other hornets.

New members

Two new members have now been appointed to this focus group: Nick Wallingford and Francesca Bonventre. Nick Wallingford is a past president of the National Beekeeping Association and has been a hobbyist beekeeper for many years. Francesca Bonventre is a co-owner of Go Wild Honey in the Chatham Islands.

Focus Group Chair

Ricki Leahy has resigned as the co-chair of this group. John Hartnell will stay on as the sole chair of this group.