

## **Science and Research Focus Group November 2022**

### **Member Update**

#### **MPI Update**

The pilot is underway for the small hive beetle surveillance project. As the traps have now been in hives for a few months now so MPI is planning to check in with the beekeepers involved in the trial shortly.

During the bee pathogen programme that MPI ran between 2016 and 2019 over 130,000 honey bees samples were gathered. MPI have obtained consent from the beekeepers who participated in the program to make these samples available to apiculture researchers. MPI will write an article about this collection for the December issue of the New Zealand Beekeeper Journal.

#### **Australian varroa incursion**

Australia is still pursuing the elimination of varroa. They have killed thousands of hives and have currently ring-fenced the incursion.

#### **Tutin Science Program**

ApiNZ included information about tutin in the October issue of the beekeeper journal and will be doing social media posts on tutin. The main target of this information is new hobbyist beekeepers and the clubs rather than commercial operators.

#### **Honey Industry Strategy Update**

This project kicked off in April 2022 with an on-line survey followed by regional meetings. The meetings were completed in October. The key focus of the project currently is the economic analysis. A draft report is expected to be available publicly in the first quarter of the new year.

#### **Conference speakers**

The group discussed options for topics for seminars for the 2023 Apiculture conference in Rotorua.