

Algies Bay Residents and Ratepayers Association

www.algiesbay.co.nz

October 2022 Newsletter



Last weekend we entered summer daylight saving, but it seems winter hasn't finished with us yet.

Thank you to those residents who assisted in the cleanup of the old launch that washed ashore and broke up during a storm over winter.

As we approach Wasp season again, we have included information on Wasps - how to identify and control their spread.

For those residents who have volunteered to have wasp bait stations on their properties, you will be contacted shortly as we plan to get this project underway.

Annual Subscriptions

Membership is important as it provides considerable strength for our Association when dealing with Council and other statutory bodies.

We are still accepting the annual \$10 subscriptions for the 2022/23 financial year.

If you have not paid your membership, payment can either be given directly to a Committee Member or use the direct debit option to our **account number: 12-3105-0013354-00**. Use your surname and street address as the reference.

If you have not received this Newsletter as an email, please contact us at: admin@algiesbay.co.nz so we can add you to our contact list.

Dinghy Racks

The Association manages the dinghy racks located by the Alexander Road ramp. If you are interested in renting one of these racks (cost: \$25 per year), please contact us at: admin@algiesbay.co.nz

Dog Access Rules

Summer brings changes to Auckland Council's dog rules for beaches and reserves.

The current rules (Dog Management Bylaw 2019) can be viewed [by clicking here](#).

A temporary change to dog access rules at Snells Beach (protecting the nesting shorebirds) will come into effect on 2nd September 2022 and remain until 27th March 2023 and these can be viewed [by clicking here](#).

SYC Junior Sailing Championships

From 3rd - 7th October the NZ Schools Team Sailing National Championships is being held. The NZ vs Australia Interdominion Championships will be incorporated into the week, with all racing, in teams of three, taking place in 420 yachts.

Southern Reserve Restoration

We are working with Council to control, and if possible, eliminate, a seriously invasive weed called "Elephant Grass" that has become established at the southern end of the beach. The aim being to stop it spreading through the bay. Once controlled we will work with Council to re-plant this reserve.

WASP FACTS AND CONTROL

PAPER WASPS



Paper wasps - eat live protein, namely mostly insects but will attack any protein source). They make small nests of around 20 insects, often on fences, under eaves or in flax, mostly facing north.

Can be destroyed by spraying with household fly spray. Best results are to spray in the evenings once wasps have returned to nest and stopped flying. Do not get too close and retreat after spraying. Then come back and cut off nest after making sure all wasps are dead. Paper wasps collect wood from dry dead wood and often can be found in numbers collecting wood. Spray and retreat!

GERMAN WASPS - **KILL THE QUEENS during September to November !**



Worker wasps and queens look similar, although the queen is much larger. Both have a sting.



German/Common Wasps - also eat protein and love sugar. Note the striped face and larger yellow stripes on the body. They can attack young native birds in their nest and kill them. They also take food away from NZ native species and kill native insects and moths hence the need for control. They have been known to kill people if their nest is disturbed so are extremely dangerous.

Over winter you may find hibernating queens in areas such as folds in BBQ covers or in woodshed piles or bricks. Often on North facing areas. In September and October one can often see a larger wasp (the longer striped body) against windows and often in garages or sheds. These are queens looking for a new nest. These can be killed using fly spray and then crushing (as some fly sprays are just knock down, not kill).

Killing ONE of these potentially stops thousands of worker wasps a few weeks later!!!

Once a nest is established, worker wasps can be very dangerous. If you are stung by just one worker wasp it triggers a pheromone and there is a risk that hundreds of wasps could attack or swarm out to attack you as they defend their nest.

They nest in ground, in logs, banks, older tree hollows, under your house, in the eaves and sometimes in forks of trees.

The nest will have multiple entrances so DO NOT use water or petrol as these can lead to an immediate and potentially serious wasp attack on you from the other entrances.

If you see them flying in and out of a hole in the ground or in a tree or on public land or see a nest, **call Council Pest Control on 09 301 0101**. If on private land, contact a pest control organisation or your local resident's association: admin@algiesbay.co.nz .

We plan to undertake wasp control in the bay using a protein-based bait (Vespex) that is specifically designed to destroy German/common wasp nests. The wasps only go for this bait between January to April, so the programme will start next year. The bait used is safe for pets and is about a two-week programme. There is also a lure and trapping system which you personally may wish to look at. It is an all year control called NoPests Wasp Lure. This option requires more intense management and is more expensive (at present).

Please NEVER use sugar-based baits to kill wasps as these will attract and kill bees and maybe birds!

BEES - are our friends



This is a honeybee, our best friend!

They are shorter, have shorter antennae and are fatter and hairier than wasps.

They have black bands and smaller yellow stripes and fatter wings than wasps. Some are all black and these are our native bees. Bees commonly have yellow pollen blobs on their legs, wasps don't.

Yes, they can sting, but they die if they do and so they will only sting in desperation. We need bees to pollinate our flowers and fruit trees (namely they eat nectar not insects).

The wasps and other environmental factors are killing them, and this is a major concern.



This is a bumble bee. They are fatter than the others and also a great friend to humans as they are terrific pollinators.

They live in football sized nests in the ground of around 100 bees per colony. They will sting but are very reluctant to do so unless their nest is disturbed, or they are attacked.

Also, in decline due to pesticides.