



Buzzwords ...

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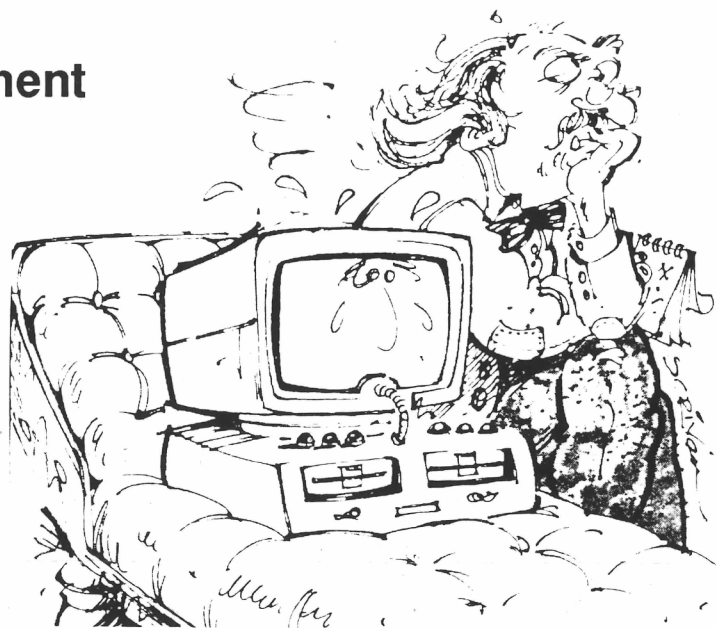
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..... the newsletter for National Beekeepers' Association members

In this issue ...

Buzzwords No 23 September 1990

- * **South Island MAF appointment**
- * **Pollen substitute available**
- * **Beeswax cream recipes**
- * **Chinese honey marinade**



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

There is certainly no shortage of things happening within the industry at present!

With regards to the Commodity Levies Bill, your executive made submissions to the Primary Production Committee and was invited to appear before the Committee to present the submissions. So on 8 August, accompanied by two "executive drones", your president ventured into the Beehive. The stick questions relating to finance and auditing were skillfully deflected to the executive secretary while technical questions including those on endemic diseases were handled by the new executive officer. It is a wonderful thing to be able to delegate the curly ones in this way! On the whole I believe our submissions were well-received and we look forward to seeing the Bill when it is reported back to the house. We all escaped without getting our wings chewed off.

On 11-13 September your executive committee will be meeting in Christchurch. We are hoping to be able to meet with Canterbury/South Canterbury beekeepers during this period. We will also be visiting the Border Protection Staff at the airport to consolidate our relationship with this very important group who are the first line in our defences against exotic diseases. We will also be looking at the DSIR wasp parasite programme.

Most areas of the country appear to be getting more than their share of rain. While it's good to see the drought broken in the East Coast of both islands, some areas seem to be getting a little too much. Here's hoping for a good spring.

Dudley Ward,
NBA President

APICULTURE SERVICES MANAGER (SOUTH ISLAND) APPOINTED

Dr Stephen Ogden has accepted the position of Apiculture Services Manager offered by MAF Quality Management. Dr Ogden is expected to take up the position in mid-September although he will not be shifting to the MAF campus at Lincoln until June 1991.

In the meantime, Dr Ogden will complete some of his research projects underway at Invermay while carrying out his new duties for the beekeeping industry. Stephen will be responsible for systems designed to contain the spread of endemic disease and prevent the introduction of new pests and diseases. He will also supply a consultancy service, certify products for export and provide policy advice.

Mathew Sole at Alexandra and Dave Grueber at Blenheim will continue to maintain their apiary registers and coordinate disease control programmes. Mike McPhillips, who carried out similar functions for the Canterbury area while based in Ashburton, has been re-deployed as a Border Protection Officer in Christchurch. On behalf of MAF and the beekeepers I would like to thank Mike for his services over the past years and wish him well in his new role.

I would also like to thank the beekeepers in the South Island for their patience over the past few years when they haven't had a full-time apicultural officer available to them.

Murray Reid, MAF Hamilton

POLLEN SUBSTITUTE AVAILABLE

Bryan Clements of Waikato Honey Products Ltd has purchased a large mixer and is producing pollen supplements in a big way. He intends to have the material for sale in a variety of packs and sizes, ranging from large quantity down to patties in retail packs. He will soon be preparing a flyer for distribution to Waikato and Bay of Plenty beekeepers once the prices have been set. Any one else interested can get in touch with him at (07) 871 3812 (home) or (07) 871 4709 (sales and factory). This bulk production should make the feeding of supplements considerably easier for anyone who wants to do it - the sorting out the recipe, obtaining the components and the mixing are all done for you.

MAF UNDERGOES CHANGES

MAF has recently undergone a series of changes to separate the people working in establishing policy from those who deliver the service to clients. This is an attempt to keep MAF 'transparent' so that those who propose legislation or specifications or set fees can be seen as independent of the arm in MAF that delivers the service and that there is no conflict of interest between the two groups.

MAF Policy is able to contract services from any organisation it chooses and not necessarily only from MAF delivery people. It has always been this way but some industries

were concerned that there was not enough separation between the parts of MAF that advise on policy and the parts that deliver and charge for services.

Staff who have been designated as Policy can not deliver a service to a paying client outside of government. Of course a number of MAF people act in areas of policy as well as delivery including the apiculture officers. They will remain in the delivery arm of MAF but will be contracted by Policy when appropriate.

QUOTABLE QUOTES FROM CONFERENCE

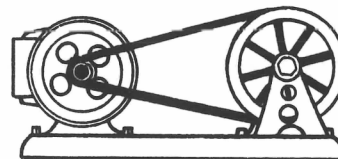
'People bringing 'aid' to developing countries are called the 3M's: the missionaries, the mercenaries and the misfits.'

'You can only speak once to the motion.' 'Well, in that case I'm now speaking on behalf of Barbara!'

'I'll vote for anything as long as it doesn't cost me any money.'

'I'll only need 10 minutes unless I get carried away.' 'If you take that long you will be carried away!'

'The brood nest is the engine of the hive. It's the machine that drives the honey pump.'



BRANCH NEWS

Bay of Plenty are having their diseasathon on Saturday 29 September, or the following Saturday if wet. Last year's effort was a cracker. Beekeepers all over the Bay got out in teams of two or three, and collectively inspected a lot of hives. One very serious case of disease neglect was found too.

The **Waikato** branch of the NBA will also be holding a diseasathon on Saturday 29 September. Details will be sent to branch members by MAF shortly.

Southern North Island branch is holding a field day at Kevin Kibby's place, Waireka Road, Wanganui, on Saturday, 6 October starting at 10 AM.

They are arranging an interesting and varied programme to entice both the hobbyist and the commercial beekeeper, complete with a few games to test the 'so called' expert! There will also be a buy, sell, exchange opportunity.

The day will start with liquid feeding (! - Editor's note) and pollen trapping demonstrations and later look at methods of splitting hives for increase. They also plan to attack some crunchy questions, such as ways to increase

profitability. Buzz sessions will focus on marketing (looking at ideas for promotion of honey sales locally) and cost reductions (looking at sugar purchase options and organisation of field work to reduce transport costs). Something for everyone, so don't miss out. For directions, phone John Brandon at (064) 55 350.

BEEKEEPING ASSISTANCE TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Derek Bettesworth, Apicultural Advisory Officer, Whangarei, is nearing the end of a four month consultancy in the Highlands of PNG. New Zealand has been involved with beekeeping there since Gavin McKenzie (now Beekeeping Tutor, Telford Rural Polytechnic) worked under a bilateral aid programme back in the mid 1970's, helping the industry to expand to over 4,000 colonies owned by more than 200 beekeepers.

Gavin went with Derek on this mission for a couple of weeks to introduce him to the people and the environment. This introduction has proved most valuable as the old saying 'it's not what you know, but who you know' really applies in PNG. They even give it a name there - wontok or literally 'one-talk', meaning family, village and tribal connections are all pervading and very strong.

Derek's objectives were to help the beekeepers prepare for the arrival of the Indian bee *Apis cerana* which has come across the border from Indonesian Irian Jaya. Unfortunately this bee has brought the devastating mites *Varroa* and *Tropilaelaps* and these serious pests are now only 200 km from the Highlands. American foulbrood has also been found.

Derek has concentrated on finding where the 'disease front' has got to since Dennis Anderson and Clive Vardy carried out their survey in May 1989 and trying to get support for more in-depth studies on the best ways to control these pests and diseases. Part of this programme requires beekeepers to be trained in disease recognition and colony management and Derek has been producing videos translated into Pidgin and pamphlets for this purpose. Further funding is being sought from New Zealand's Ministry of External Relations and Trade to train a number of beekeepers from PNG at Telford.

Derek has also begun to set up a commercial queen bee production unit and a wax foundation plant, both of which will help the industry to be more self-reliant and profitable.

Living and working in PNG is another world and 4 months away from home and friends is a lot to ask of a colleague. However, Derek willingly took on the assignment to both help fellow beekeepers in PNG and to earn some consultancy dollars for MAF. Without project income like this both MAF's and Telford's apicultural units would be under severe threat. I want to express my thanks to Derek and Gavin and their families, and to the beekeepers of Northland and Auckland for their perseverance while their advisor has been absent.

Murray Reid, MAF Hamilton

TALL TALES AND TRUE

And then there was the poor chap who discovered that he was severely allergic to propolis, but unfortunately he found out only after he had applied a 10% solution of it to a certain part of his body in an attempt to cure genital herpes. He suffered intense oedema (swelling caused by fluid buildup under the skin), inflammation and blistering. This was disclosed in a report from Italy in the journal *Contact Dermatitis*.

HONEY PRODUCERS DEVELOP LOGO

The executive committee of the American Honey Producers Association has announced that their year-long search for a logo has been successful. The AHPA president stated that "What we wanted was a logo that would show our strength and our unity, and that we are a strongly motivated organization moving in behalf of this country's beekeepers. In addition, we wanted the ideas for the logo to come from our members. With the logo that was finally chosen, I think that we have all of that".

The logo is shown here. Is a logo competition a good idea for any of our organizations?



HONEY PRICES - UK STYLE

A recent snippet in the *British Bee Journal* shows that gate prices recommended by the Scottish Beekeepers' Association were:

Blossom honey:	£1.60-2.00 per lb jar (\$5.50-6.50 per 500 g jar)
Heather honey:	£1.80-2.50 per lb jar (\$5.85-8.10 per 500 g jar)

BEEWAX CREAMS

Sitting by the fireplace on a blustery winter day, the beekeeper, having harvested and cleaned all the beeswax, ponders the fate of all those beautiful cakes of lemon-yellow gold. Should they be turned into the proverbial candles, ornaments, and polishes?

Maybe. There is one application of beeswax that perhaps few have considered: the use of beeswax as a basis for creams to soothe dry, chapped skin. The compounding of beeswax-based creams is surprisingly simple, requiring only a number of basic ingredients, and a little care supplied by the beekeeper.

Beeswax, though expensive, and despite the advent of synthetic waxes such as paraffin, is still much sought after in the cosmetic and pharmaceutical industries. Beeswax does not become rancid and is not irritating or sensitizing to the skin. It acts as a stiffening or firming agent (base) and is often used as an emollient.

Use only light lemon coloured wax - from cappings or from comb in which no brood has been reared.

Two simple formulae for beeswax creams are given here. They may be used to produce basic creams of the water-in-oil emulsion type.

Remember the saying "oil and water don't mix", because when oil and water are introduced into the same container, even vigorous shaking yields a mixture that will separate, the oil forming a layer above the water. To prevent the oil and water from separating a third ingredient, known as an emulsifier, must be added. A typical emulsifying agent consists of a mixture of sodium tetraborate (borax) and beeswax (a source of cerotic acid). The combination of sodium tetraborate and cerotic acid forms sodium cerotate, which is a soap, one of the commonest emulsifiers.

Your local chemist can help you find supplies of these ingredients.

Cold cream

Cetyl esters wax (Synthetic spermaceti)	125 g
Very light or bleached beeswax	120 g
Mineral oil	560 g
Sodium borate (borax)	5 g
Distilled water	190 ml
To make	1000 g

Break the cetyl esters wax and the beeswax into small pieces and melt them in a steam bath. Add the mineral oil and continue heating until the temperature of the mixture reaches 70°C. Dissolve the sodium borate in the distilled water, warmed to 70°C and gradually add the warm solution to the melted mixture, stirring rapidly and continuously until it has congealed. This cream is useful as an emollient or a cleaning cream.

Preserve in air-tight containers.

Moisturizing cream

Yellow beeswax (Stiffening agent)	140 g
Mineral oil (emollient)	450 g
Distilled water (vehicle)	330 ml
Borax	2 tsp

Break the yellow beeswax into small pieces. Melt them in a steam bath with the mineral oil, and continue heating until the mixture reaches 70°C. Dissolve the borax in the distilled water warmed to 70°C, and gradually add the warm solution to the melted mixture, stirring rapidly and continuously until it has congealed. Fill jars with the mixture when the temperature has decreased to at least 42°C.

Adapted from Gleanings in Bee Culture

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

An excellent collection of beekeeping resources is up for sale. Elbert Jaycox of New Mexico is selling his collections of bee books, slides, journals and reprints (as sets, not individual items).

Anyone interested should contact Elbert Jaycox at 6100 Shadow Hills Road, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001, USA.

FAXFACTS

A fax reminder: Fax documents are not permanent. In most cases, they begin to fade after 20 days. And after two years, documents are usually illegible. Fax documents left near a sunny window could be lost entirely within a week. Your best protection is to photocopy all important fax documents as soon as you receive them.

From Gleanings in Bee Culture

CHINESE HONEY MARINADE

Most butchers are now featuring marinated products, and many of these contain some honey. One in particular is called Chinese Honey Marinade. This in fact contains Australian honey (as do the others) and all are imported under permit. The honey marinade has been heated during the manufacturing and will be well sterilized with further heating while the meat is being cooked.

At least one company is looking to manufacture the product in New Zealand using New Zealand honey.

MAF apiculture unit

NEW EQUIPMENT

Some Aussie beekeepers are nailing up frames with an electric staplegun - it doesn't need a compressor. The Novus stapler has an impact hammer for driving the staples home. The gun must be held in place for the hammer to have two blows at the stapler - this sounds slow but people who have used it say that the unit is quite effective. It sells for \$A250 and is available from Penders.

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The views expressed in *Buzzwords* are not necessarily those of the National Beekeepers' Association nor of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.