

AGM JUL 81

NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Inc.) and the Conference of Delegates held in the Conference Room of the Lakeland Inn Hotel, Queenstown, on Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 July 1981 commencing at 9.15 am on Wednesday 22 July.

PRESENT:

The President, Mr P.W. Marshall (in the chair), Executive Committee members, Messrs M.G. Stuckey, A.W. Clissold, M. Cloake, S.J. Lyttle and I. Berry, and approximately 60 members of the Association including Delegates from 14 Branches.

ALSO PRESENT:

Messrs I. Dickinson, Chairman of the Honey Marketing Authority, C. Wicht, General Manager of the Honey Marketing Authority, M. Gould, G.M. Walton, P. Clinch, J. Smith, K. Simpson and T. Bryant, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, T. Walton, Editor of the "Beekeeper", D.J. Dobson, Secretary of the Association.

OPENING PRAYER:

The President invited Conference to stand while he read the opening prayer.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME
BY THE MAYOR OF
QUEENSTOWN:

Mr J.A. Grant and Mrs Grant attended the Conference to welcome Delegates to Queenstown. Mr Grant briefly outlined the history of the area and explained how dependent Queenstown was on the tourist trade to maintain its economic viability. In this regard he said that Queenstown was pleased to have the Beekeepers' Conference in the area as it brought money and employment to the region. He welcomed all visitors to the Conference and wished them well in their deliberations.

PRESENTATION OF TREE:

The President, Mr Marshall, then presented a nectar-bearing tree to Mrs Grant as a presentation to the people of Queenstown.

Mrs Grant said that she had discussed the planting of the tree with Borough Council staff and could assure the Association that it would be placed in an appropriate area. She said that all the trees in Queenstown had been planted and it appeared to be a particularly good area for tree growth.

OPENING ADDRESS FROM
MR R.L.G. TALBOT,
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-
SECRETARY TO THE
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

In his address Mr Talbot noted that this year was the 75th anniversary of the Southland Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association which had been formed on 25 February 1906 and it was therefore appropriate that the Conference should be held in this area in this year.

In his address he indicated that in recent years Government had directly encouraged farmers to invest in increased production through Livestock Incentive schemes and the Land Development Encouragement loan scheme, and he was aware that bees were important as effective pollinators of clover in land development projects.

He said that Ministry officers were encouraging apicultural development in newly sown areas and bringing to the attention of farmers the value derived from bee pollination in land development work.

Mr Talbot went on to outline amendments to the Apiaries Act which had been amended in 1980 and pointed out that whilst the Association had requested that European Brood disease be included in the First Schedule, when all the factors were considered Government had not seen European Brood disease as any more dangerous than American Brood disease which itself was included in the Second Schedule. Government's concern was shown by including both these diseases in the Second Schedule of the Act.

Mr Talbot pointed out that a number of changes had occurred in the industry over the last twelve months and emphasised that the people who had the greatest financial stake in the industry were the beekeepers and the Government felt that these were the people who could logically be expected to want to do what was best for the future of the honey industry both in the short and long terms. He said that the Government's role had been to try to encourage the establishment of some private enterprise structure in the form of a Co-operative to take over from the Honey Marketing Authority. He stated quite clearly that the Government accepted the findings of the Commission of Enquiry and would do whatever it could to facilitate a smooth transition from the operations of the Honey Marketing Authority to the proposed Co-operative.

Mr Talbot raised a number of points which he felt needed further industry consideration and these included the question of stabilisation to overcome the ups and downs of production from year to year, whether anybody should have the power of control over exports of honey products in any way, whether it was necessary to licence exporters and whether it was necessary to set minimum quality standards or to promote the orderly marketing of honey products. Mr Talbot did not pass any opinion on these issues but rather suggested that these were matters which the industry would have to consider in the near future. The past Government policy was to minimise controls and regulations in the day to day operation of an industry. It would however continue to support and consider any proposals which would assist the industry in the future, particularly if those proposals had the solid backing of the industry.

In conclusion Mr Talbot placed on record his own appreciation of the work carried out by Mr Marshall over the past twelve months in ensuring that all points of view were heard in the process of restructuring the industry.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS:

In presenting his address to the Conference, Mr Marshall outlined the recommendations and some of the background of the Arbitrator's report to the industry. He outlined areas from Mr Kay's report which he considered to be important and which required consideration by the industry. These were mainly in the areas of the dissolution of the Honey Marketing Authority and the smooth transition from the Authority to the proposed Co-operative. He also quoted from the report regarding the use of the funds which will arise as the result of the sale of the H.M.A. assets.

Mr Marshall asked that an open mind be kept by all members of the industry to the problems which lay ahead and particularly to the smooth transition from the Authority to the operation and functioning of the Co-operative. He said that considerable time would need to be spent in ensuring that funds so derived from the Honey Marketing Authority would need to be invested in such a way that they would derive the maximum benefit to the industry. He also asked that the proposers of the Co-operative give all beekeepers the opportunity to become members and to make allowances for those who wanted to join but felt they could not do so because of lack of available cash following a poor honey season. He said that tolerance is needed by all parties as the industry moved into a free enterprise marketing situation.

Mr Marshall reported briefly on his representations to Land and Agricultural Select Committee regarding amendments to the Apiaries Act and pointed out that he had not been able to have European Brood disease placed in Schedule 1 of the Apiaries Act. He felt however that this had been slightly offset by the Association's move into insurance with the help of the South British Insurance Company which would cover among other assets hives for European Brood disease.

He reported on his involvement with the Agricultural Chemicals Board and representations which had been made to improve labelling on insecticides regarding bee protection. He said that once the new Pesticides Act came into being what was written on the label for bee protection became law. He said however that it was pleasing to note that in Tauranga which had suffered heavy bee losses in the past, bee loss had been reduced considerably by co-operation between kiwifruit grower and beekeeper. However this co-operation had not been achieved in all districts and there was still a lot of work to be done by beekeepers in putting their cases forward to horticulturalists at their own district level.

Mr Marshall thanked Mr Talbot for the assistance he had been able to give in progress towards the establishment of a more acceptable marketing policy for the industry and thanked his Executive and staff members for assistance given over the year.

THANKS TO GUEST
SPEAKERS:

Mr S.J. Lyttle moved a vote of thanks to Mr and Mrs Grant and Mr Talbot for their speeches and this was carried by acclamation of the Conference.

ADDRESS FROM MR I.
DICKINSON, CHAIRMAN
OF THE NZ HONEY
MARKETING AUTHORITY:

In his address Mr Dickinson outlined the difficulties and complexities that the honey industry had had over the years in trying to determine a satisfactory marketing strategy for the industry. He outlined the events of the last twelve months and some of the problems which had had to be dealt with since the last Conference in terms of coming to some satisfactory arrangement with regard to the winding-down of the Honey Marketing Authority and the setting up of a producer-oriented Co-operative.

He said that since the release of the investigating committee's report, the Board had met on two occasions, firstly to consider Mr Kay's report and secondly to discuss with the Co-operative's steering committee proposals based on the findings of the report and also to indicate to them prices for Authority buildings and plant. He said that the Pleasant Point plant and buildings was on offer to the Co-operative steering committee but they had been advised that the Auckland building would be sold to the strongest buyer either at auction or by private sale. The Authority had also agreed to sell to the Co-operative all the trade names and marketing information of the Authority and honey stocks at takeover date were still to be negotiated on a formula yet to be decided. He pointed out however that before any of these decisions could be taken, the injunction on the Authority would need to be lifted.

Mr Dickinson reported that Mr Don Hayman, the Government representative on the Board, had taken up a new position with the Department of Tourism and Publicity and had tendered his resignation from the Board as at 30 July. Mr Dickinson said that the industry appreciated the efforts made by Mr Hayman on its behalf and wished him well in his new position. Mr N. Gould, Assistant Director of the Economics Division was currently acting as Mr Hayman's successor as Government yet had to make a firm appointment.

Mr Dickinson also acknowledged the work of the staff of the Honey Marketing Authority and indicated that they had been in some dilemma regarding their future employment and requested that the industry should express its gratitude to the H.M.A. staff by way of resolution.

With the anticipated sale of the Authority's trading operations, Mr Dickinson pointed out that it would no longer be appropriate for the Authority to exercise controls on exports which had been delegated to the Authority by the Minister. Mr Dickinson raised the point of further export controls and the necessity for serious consideration by the industry of this matter.

He reported on the market situation overseas and made particular note of the effect of the

Chinese presence in the market.

Mr Dickinson concluded his speech by saying that there were some difficult decisions ahead for the industry and that full consideration must be given to all propositions for the future.

APOLOGIES:

The following apologies were recorded and sustained.

Mr R. Davidson, Timaru
Mr and Mrs A. Ward, Gore
Mr D. Lorimer, Hamilton
Mr W.T. Herron
Mr C. Brommell
Mr S. Young, Taranaki

OBITUARIES:

The following obituaries were made known to the Conference.

The Late Messrs Iain Forbes, W.J.C. Ashcroft, R. Newton, N. Bothwell, K. Bryant, R. Galloway and J. McKenzie, and Mrs Barber, wife of Mr Jim Barber.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

Mr Harry Cloake moved, seconded by Mr Robin Jensen that Mr Robert Davidson Snr. be elected a Life Member of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Inc.).

Mr Cloake outlined the involvement of Mr Davidson in the beekeeping industry and whilst he had not been a member of the National Executive he had been elected for a term to the Honey Marketing Authority. Mr Cloake said that Mr Davidson had been a considerable influence in the beekeeping industry and that the award of a Life Membership would be a fitting tribute to his contribution.

Mr Davidson was unable to attend the Conference so that the Certificate was presented to President of the South Canterbury Branch of the Association for presentation to Mr Davidson at some suitable date.

BRANCH LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

The following Branch Life Memberships were advised.

Mr W.J. Ashcroft, Hawkes Bay
Mr. F. Broadley, Waikato
Mr D. Carey, Waikato
Mr Colin Cunningham, South Western Districts
Mr Ron Mossop, Bay of Plenty

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT:

Mr J. Heineman presented the Librarian's report for the year. Mr Heineman reported that there had been a number of donations to the library during the year some of these books being of historical interest. He paid thanks to Mr and Mrs McIlraith of Dunedin, Mr Norman Ward, formerly a beekeeper of Kaitangata, and to the Editor. Mr Trevor Bryant had also made a contribution to the library with material brought back from Canada. A general donation of \$50 to purchase books was received from Mr Ernest New of Invercargill.

Mr Heineman also acknowledged the help of Mr Ecroyd in purchasing three new books and an

I.B.R.A. reprint at special discount prices.

It was also reported that there was some concern caused by overdue borrowers as it involved extra time and postage. Mr Heineman reported that the increase in loan fees and the initial subscription of \$3.00 as implemented earlier in the year seemed adequate, but because of increased postage, borrowers would have to remit more money if they wished to continue borrowing from the library. He reported that financially the library was holding its own but without the allocation from the Executive and special donations, there would be little money left for buying extra books.

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS:

Timekeeper

It was resolved that Mr Ross Moore be appointed Timekeeper.

Scrutineers

It was resolved that Messrs Kerry Simpson and Trevor Bryant be appointed Scrutineers.

Speaking times

It was moved Lyttle/Lorimer that the Mover be allowed five minutes to speak, the Seconder three minutes and subsequent speakers three minutes.

Tape Recorders

Approval for the press to have a tape recorder was given.

NOTICES OF MOTION:

The meeting was advised that Notices of Motion had to be handed to the Executive Secretary by noon on Thursday 23 July.

DELEGATES TO
CONFERENCE:

The names of Delegates and Deputy Delegates were duly recorded.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING HELD
IN TAURANGA IN 1980:

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Inc.) held in Tauranga on Wednesday 23 and Thursday 24 July 1980 had previously been circulated and were taken as read.

It was moved Stuckey, seconded Penrose that the Minutes of this Meeting be confirmed as a true and correct record, subject to the word "decline" on Page 11 being changed to "increase".

Carried

The Meeting adjourned at 12.15 pm and resumed again at 1.30 pm.

At the resumption of the Conference, the President declared the Annual Meeting adjourned and declared the Conference of Delegates in session.

(The remits as presented are in numerical order but in some cases the remits were taken out of order.)

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After discussion on these two remits, Mr P. Berry agreed to lift his injunction on the Honey Marketing Authority and took steps to do this immediately. His action was approved by acclamation.

REMIT NO. 8: NORTH OTAGO: This remit read:

"That this Conference would like a full discussion on the Arbitrator's report especially on the future of the Honey Marketing Authority."

This remit was left to lie upon the table but was later withdrawn by approval of Conference voting at 12 for and 2 against.

REMIT NO. 9: WEST COAST: This remit read:

"In the event of the Arbitrator's report being implemented in relation to the setting up of a trust fund that a proportion of the revenue earned be used in all aspects of general bee promotion."

Moved Messrs Braid/Glasson and lost by 5 votes to 8. *(we voted for & lost)*

REMIT NO.10: STH. CANTERBURY: This remit read:

"That this Conference set time aside to discuss future export controls."

In view of the content of Remit 11 it was agreed that this remit should lie upon the table, and after discussion of Remit 11 it was agreed by the Conference by 12 votes to 1 that the remit be withdrawn.

REMIT NO.11: CANTERBURY: This remit read:

"That in the event of the Honey Marketing Authority being disbanded consideration be given to an Export Control Board being established to act in an advisory capacity with regard to export marketing and pricing."

Moved Messrs Bray/Hantz.

It was then moved Messrs Jensen/I. Berry that the words "Control Board" be amended to "Advisory Body". This amendment was carried by 6 votes to 5.

The amended motion then read:

"That in the event of the Honey Marketing Authority being disbanded consideration be given to an Export Advisory Body being established to act in an advisory capacity with regard to export marketing and pricing."

This moved was then put and carried by 9 votes to 5. ✓

REMIT NO.12: FAR NORTH: This remit read:

"That the Notice No. 4 on the order paper of the 1977 Annual Conference which was passed unanimously, i.e. that the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries be asked to amend the requirements of the Annual Declaration Form of hive inspection to cover the number of colonies with disease and in which apiaries, the total number of colonies owned, and any new site already registered, be implemented immediately." ✓

This was moved Messrs Haines/Gavin and carried by 10 votes to nil with 4 abstentions.

REMIT NO.13: STH.WEST DISTRICTS: This remit read;

"That this Conference requests that the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries appoints a new Apiary Advisory Officer to Palmerston North on the retirement of Mr Bill Rodie and not as rumour has it service this area from Hamilton on his subsequent retirement."

With the agreement of the Conference this remit was amended by deleting all words after "Rodie". The amended remit then read:

"That this Conference requests that the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries appoints a new Apiary Advisory Officer to Palmerston North on the retirement of Mr Bill Rodie."

This was moved Messrs Rowe/I. Berry and carried by 14 votes to nil. ✓

REMIT NO. 14: BAY OF PLENTY: This remit read:

"That the agricultural staffing survey as recently agreed upon by the NBA Executive and the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries be urgently implemented."

This was moved Mr Stanley and lapsed for the want of a seconder. After further discussion with the Chairman it was agreed that there had been a statement in the Minutes that such a survey was required and by leave of the Meeting at a later stage this remit was retabled, moved Messrs Stanley/Rowe and carried by 12 votes to nil with two abstentions. ✓

REMIT NO.15: SOUTHLAND:

By leave of the Meeting the following remit was moved in place of that in the Order Paper. The amended remit read:

"That the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries be commended for employing an Apiary Advisory Officer replacement to fill a vacancy created by the selection of an Apiary Officer on an overseas exchange, and that these exchanges be extended to allow further exchange of researches and advisers from overseas countries."

This was moved Messrs Booth/Lyttle and carried by 14 votes to nil.

REMIT NO.16: BAY OF PLENTY: This remit read:

"That European Foul Brood be placed in Schedule 1 of the Apiaries Act."

This was moved Messrs Stanley/Rowe and carried by 8 votes to 6.

A poll was requested and resulted in the remit being carried 583 to 279. It was requested that Mr G. Walton attend the September meeting of the Executive Committee so that an opportunity could be made to discuss the plan of operation for an outbreak of European Foul Brood. ✓

REMIT NO.17: SOUTH CANTERBURY: This remit read:

"That this Conference reaffirm the present policy of not importing bees and bee products. "

An amendment was moved Messrs Jansen/R. Berry to add after the words "bee products", "in a form which places the industry at risk". The amended remit then read:

"That this Conference reaffirm the present policy of not importing bees and bee products in a form which places the industry at risk".

The amendment was carried by 14 votes to nil. The amendment then became the new remit and this was also carried by 14 votes to nil.

In relation to this remit Mr Walton requested that the Ministry be advised of any importation which may not otherwise have been noticed by the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries Port Agricultural Service. ✓

REMIT NO.18: BAY OF PLENTY: This remit read:

"That no Nuie Island or Tongan honey be sold or processed in New Zealand".

This was moved Messrs Stanley/Bartrum and by a show of hands Delegates voted 6 for and 6 against.

A poll was requested which resulted in the remit being carried 475 to 345. ✓

REMIT NO.19: STH. WEST DISTRICTS: This remit read:

"That this Conference urges the Rural Bank to give further consideration to the use of beehives to secure loans when no other security is available."

This was moved Messrs Rowe/Lyttle and carried by 14 votes to nil. ✓

REMIT NO.20: SOUTHLAND: This remit read:

"That NBA approach the Rural Banking Corporation to promote more widely its policy on finance to farmers for shelter belts." ✓

This was moved Messrs Booth/Haines and carried by 14 votes to nil.

REMIT NO.21: SOUTHLAND: This remit read:

"The NBA Executive ask the Secretary of Labour, Labour Department, Immigration Division, to add beekeepers and queenbreeders to the list of skilled personnel which are required by New Zealand employers." ✓

This was moved Messrs Herron/Jensen and carried by 11 votes to 2.

REMIT NO.22: WAIKATO: This remit read:

"That the Dominion Executive meet the Counties' Association asking them to adopt a universal policy for beekeepers in relation to land classified as Rural A and D, granting them a predominant use entitlement."

This was moved Messrs Lorimer/Rowe and carried by 14 votes to nil. ✓

REMIT NO.23: OTAGO: This remit read:

"That Executive confer with the Minister of Transport to ask for some relief in fuel costs in the form of a rebate per litre, for the beekeeper who provides pollination services for farmers in new pasture development areas, where pasture improvement would be impossible without the beekeepers' expertise."

This was moved Messrs McCaw/Smoothy and lost one vote to 13. *Should be a direct cost to the servicing of these special areas.* ✓

REMIT NO.24: CANTERBURY: This remit read:

"That Queen Bees be included in the schedule of those products which are subject to export tax incentive."

This was moved Messrs Hantz/Hunt and carried by 13 votes to one. ✓

REMIT NO.25: NELSON: This remit read:

"This Conference request that the NBA Executive approach the editor of "The Apiarist" to provide suitable articles on commercial beekeeping and ideas on improving the "New Zealand Beekeeper" magazine."

This was moved Messrs Cropp/Boskett and lost one vote to 11 with 2 abstentions. *(All material sent in is published)*

REMIT NO.26: NELSON: This remit read:

"This Conference fully endorses Paul Marshall's efforts as a representative on the Agricultural Chemicals Board in his endeavours to tighten controls on poisonous sprays."

This was moved Messrs Cropp/Boskett and carried by acclamation. ✓

NOTICES OF MOTION:

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 1: NORTHLAND:

"That the 1982 Conference be held in Northland." ✓

This was moved Messrs Gavin/Haines and carried by 14 votes to nil.

NOTICE OF MOTION No. 2: OTAGO:

"That this Conference recommends to the Executive that in the event of the Honey Marketing Authority ceasing its present activities, all necessary steps be taken to ensure that the H.M.A be reconstituted to:

1. Oversee, advise on and regulate the orderly marketing of honey especially for the overseas market
2. Administer the funds arising from the disposal of the present assets of the H.M.A. for the benefits of the whole of the New Zealand beekeeping industry.

This remit was lost by 4 votes to 9.

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 3: WAIKATO:

"That the fund to be administered by the NBA and that a special committee should be formed to administer the fund. This committee should be elected by the North Island members of the NBA Executive Committee, electing one member to the committee, and the South Island members of the NBA Executive Committee, electing one member to the committee, and that there be a public accountant or some other impartial person appointed by the NBA Executive to make up the third member."

This was moved Messrs R. Berry/Stuckey and carried by 10 votes to nil with 4 abstentions. ✓

RESEARCH REPORT FROM MR P.G. CLINCH OF WALLACEVILLE:

Mr Clinch presented his report which had previously been tabled for those attending.

He covered areas of agricultural chemicals, pollination, disease diagnosis, wood preservatives, wax moth control and the replacement for cynogas.

ADVISORY REPORT FROM MR G.M. WALTON:

Mr Walton in his report covered organisation and staffing, beekeeping statistics, the honey yield for the 1980/81 season, American Brood disease incidence in New Zealand and advisory activities. Other aspects of his report covered the Apiaries Amendment Act, the Honey Export Certification Regulations 1980, protection of bees from pesticides and apiary registration.

There being no further business for the Conference of Delegates it was moved Messrs Braid/Hantz that the Conference of Delegates be concluded and that the Annual General Meeting of the Association be resumed.

Carried

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE ASSOCIATION:

It was moved Mr Clissold, seconded Mr Lyttle that the Annual Report and Balance Sheet of the Association be received.

Carried

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE 1981/82 YEAR:

Mr Marshall relinquished the chair and handed the Meeting over to the Secretary for the election of the President.

The Secretary called for nominations for President for the 1981/82 year. Mr A.W. Clissold was nominated on the motion of Messrs Lyttle/Smoothy, and Mr M.G. Stuckey was nominated on the motion of Messrs I. Berry/Herron.

As there was more than one nomination an election was necessary and this resulted in Mr A.W. Clissold being elected as President for the 1981/82 year.

Mr Clissold thanked all those who had elected him for their confidence in him and said that he would be working for progress in the honey industry in the next year.

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ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE 1981/82 YEAR:

The President called for nominations for Vice-President and Mr Stuckey was nominated on the motion of Mr I. Berry/ Mr Lyttle.

As there were no further nominations, Mr Stuckey was declared elected as Vice-President.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS:

The Secretary indicated that Mr N. Ryder-Lewis was prepared to act as Auditor for the Association for the next year and it was moved Messrs H. Cloake/McCaw that Mr N. Ryder-Lewis be appointed Auditor for the 1981/82 year.

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS:

VOTE OF THANKS TO MR DON HAYMAN:

It was moved Messrs Bartrum/Dickinson that this Conference carry a vote of thanks to Mr Don Hayman for the work which he has done for the honey industry during his term of appointment to the Honey Marketing Authority.

Carried

THANKS TO STAFF OF THE HONEY MARKETING AUTHORITY:

It was moved Messrs-Dickinson/Lyttle that a letter of appreciation be sent to the management and staff of the Honey Marketing Authority for their contribution to the industry.

VOTE OF THANKS TO HOST BRANCH:

Mr I. Berry moved a vote of thanks to the host Branch for the very successful organisation of the Conference and this was carried by acclamation.

The Annual Meeting of the Association was declared closed at 5.10 pm on Thursday, 23 July 1981.