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NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

Minutes of the 1998 Annual General Meeting of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Inc) and the Conference of Branch Delegates, held at the Copthorne Resort, Waitangi, Bay of Islands, on Wednesday and Thursday, 22nd and 23rd of July 1998, commencing at 9.05 am on the Wednesday.

Present

Mr. R Berry, President in the Chair

Messrs. Terry Gavin, Anthony Taiaroa, Keith Herron, Don Bell, members of the Executive Committee, 30 delegates representing 16 branches and approximately 130 members.

Welcome to Delegates

The President welcomed all to the 1998 Conference. The Northland and Far North branches were thanked for all their hard work in the Conference organisation.

Prayer

The President then invited Mr. Terry Gavin to read the Conference prayer.

Welcome to Waitangi

Mrs. Sue James, Mayor of the Far North, welcomed the delegates to Waitangi. She spoke of the area and its highlights and declared the Conference open at 9.30am.

Vote of thanks.

Vice President Mr. Terry Gavin gave a vote of thanks to Mrs. James on behalf of the Executive and presented a kowhai tree to the town to commemorate the Conference.

President's Address.

The President opened his address by referring to the sad year we have been through with the loss of Mr. Ted Roberts. The weather in many areas of the country had made beekeeping very difficult for the industry. He spoke about the delays caused by any manner of things outside the control of the Executive, which had delayed the implementation of the Pest Management Strategy (PMS). The many unexpected Government costs now handed to the industry, which had not been budgeted for. The criticism that had been distributed on email through out the year had also distracted the Executive from getting on and doing their job.

He spoke about the support of his family and staff in the very heavy workload that was required in the role of the NBA President.

Apologies.

Apologies for absence were received from: Dr. Jim Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. Ian Berry, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ferris, Mr. Trevor Bryant, Mr. Dudley Lorimer, Mr. Noel Trezise, Mr. Blair Dale, Mr. Sandy Richardson, Mr. Gary Jefferies, Mr. Lloyd Holt and Mr. Ian Spence.

Obituaries.

The following obituaries were advised to the meeting.

Mr. Ted Roberts	Southern North Island
Mr. Kevin Morris	Southern North Island
Mr. Arnold Simpson	South Canterbury
Ms. Rosemary Middleton	Poverty Bay
Mr. Frank Hewlett	Bay of Plenty
Mr. Bill Irvine	North Otago
Mr. Walter Watts	Hawke's Bay

The Meeting stood for one minute's silence in respect for these members.

Life Members.

Mr. Terry Gavin
Mr. Heini Belin
Mr. Don Barrow
Mr. Doug Briscoe
Mr. Ian Berry
Mr. Chris Dawson
Mr. Ivor Forster
Mr. Pat Clinch
Mr. Dudley Lorimer
Mr. John Heinemann
Mr. Ivan Dickinson
Mr. Keith Herron
Mr. Kevin Ecroyd

Honorary Members.

Sir. Edmund Hillary
Mr. Cliff Van Eaton
Dr. Peter Molan
Dr. Mark Goodwin
Dr. Jim Edwards
Mr. Murray Reid
Mr. Steve Olds

Branch Life Members.

Branch Life Membership bestowed by branches during the year were notified to Conference.

Mr. Bob Wotherspoon	Hawke's Bay
Mr. Bruce Stanley	Bay of Plenty
Mr. Roy Hyde	Bay of Plenty
Mr. Arnold Simpson	South Canterbury
Mr. Brian Young	Auckland

Procedural Matters.

Timekeeper.

It was resolved that Mr. Brendan Nichols be appointed timekeeper.

Scrutineers.

It was resolved that Dr. Mark Goodwin and Mr. Derek Betterworth be appointed Scrutineers.

Speaking times.

It was resolved that the mover of a motion be allowed 5 minutes speaking time, the seconder and subsequent speakers being allowed 3 minutes.

Branch Delegates.

The Executive Secretary informed the meeting of Branch delegates and deputy delegates notified to date.

Far North	Mr. Bob Banks, Mr. Bruce Stevenson
Northland	Mr. Don Hoole, Mr. John Gavin
Auckland	Mr. Jim Thompson, Mr. Graham Cammell
Waikato	Mr. Lewis Olsen, Mr. Tony Lorimer
Bay of Plenty	Mr. Gerrit Hyink, Mr. Nick Wallingford
Poverty Bay	Mr. Barry Foster, Mr. Peter Burt
Hawke's Bay	Mr. John Berry, Mr. Peter Berry
Southern North Island	Mr. Robin McCammon, Mr. Frank Lindsay
Nelson	Mr. Glen Kelly, Mr. Philip Cropp
Marlborough	Mrs. Mary-Ann Lindsay
West Coast	Mr. Derek Newton, Mr. Trevor Corbett
Canterbury	Mr. Derek Newton, Mr. Trevor Corbett
South Canterbury	Mr. Jan van Hoof, Mr. Peter Lyttle
North Otago	Mr. Lin McKenzie
Otago	Mr. Peter Sales, Mr. Allen McCaw
Southland	Mr. Shaun Lawlor, Mr. Carne Clissold

Minutes.

Due to the number of corrections required to the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, and of the Conference of Branch

Delegates held on Wednesday and Thursday, 23rd and 24th of July 1997, they were to be reconsidered on the 24th of July 1998.

Notice of reports.

The President notified the meeting of a number of reports that would be received during the Annual Meeting, including those from Mr. Murray Reid and Mr. Derek Betterworth (MAF QM), Dr. Mark Goodwin and Dr. Louise Malone (HortResearch), Mr. John Heineman (Honorary Librarian) Dr. David Woodward (Telford Polytechnic). Mr. Bruce Stevenson (PMS Review Committee), Mr. Terry Gavin (Roy Paterson Trophy), Mr. Ivan Dickinson (Trustees).

MAF Qual Report.

Mr. Murray Reid, assisted by Mr. Derek Bettsworth, presented a report on MAF Qual activities in the previous year and the honey production figures. The total saleable crop was assessed at 8,081 tonnes (27.0kg/hive) a reduction on last year's crop of 8,537 tonnes (29.5kg/hive).

Meeting adjourned at 10.00am for Conference photo and morning tea.

Meeting reconvened at 10.40am.

Executive Election.

The Executive Secretary in his role as Returning Officer reported that no election was required for the South Island, as only two nominations had been received for the two vacant positions. Mr. Tony Taiaroa and Mr. Lin McKenzie were therefore declared to be the duly elected representatives for the South Island.

For the North Island, two nominations were received for the one position, Mr. Bruce Stevenson and Mr. Nick Wallingford.

Results were:

Mr. Bruce Stevenson 742.
Mr. Nick Wallingford 360.

Mr. Bruce Stevenson was declared to be the duly elected representative for the North Island.

Research report

Dr. Mark Goodwin and Dr. Louise Malone (HortResearch) presented a report on their research activities to the meeting. They spoke of the nosema research results to date and the clover weevil research. Mark said it had been a very difficult year for research on the Weevil; as they had not re-produced at all this year, this was an unusual event.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40pm for lunch and reconvened at 1:50pm.

Marketing report

Mr. Neil Stuckey suggested that some people thought the Marketing Committee was expensive. In fact it cost the industry 1.5 cents for each kg of honey produced. Beekeepers needed to co-operate to compete overseas, as the industry is too small he said.

Telford Rural Polytechnic

Dr. David Woodward reported to Conference for Telford Rural Polytechnic on the courses available and some of the activities for 1998. He felt the industry has a role to play in increasing the number of students going to Telford.

Publication Committee

Mr. Tony Taiaroa reported on the review of the magazine and the role of the magazine. Amongst other things the Committee had looked at, was a bi-monthly magazine. He requested the

members to write and tell the Publications Committee what they wanted in the magazine. Tony thanked the Committee for their input.

Adjournment

The Annual General Meeting of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Inc) was adjourned at 3.40pm to allow for the opening of the Conference of Branch Delegates which commenced at 4.10pm.

Meeting adjourned for afternoon tea at 3.40pm and reconvened at 4.10pm.

Mr. Nick Wallingford raised the issue of the wording of the rules that had been registered with Register of Incorporated Societies. Provisions for a poll vote had been left out and a number of other changes had been made. The President assured the meeting that common sense would prevail during the meetings, and that the rules would be accurately re written and re- registered following conference.

Consideration of Remits.

The Conference began to consider the remits as they appeared on the Order Paper.

Remit 1. Nelson Branch.

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that:

- a) The role of the Executive Secretary be defined.
- b) The job description of the Executive Secretary be defined.
- c) The evaluation of performance of the Executive Secretary be defined.

d) The length of term of appointment of the Executive Secretary be defined.

e) The procedure for appointment and dismissal of the Executive Secretary be defined.

f) The remuneration of the Executive Secretary be detailed.

g) All Branch Secretaries have a copy of the job description of the Executive Secretary.

Notes: This remit repeats the request as detailed in the letter from the Nelson Branch dated 18-11-97, sent to members of the Executive and discussed at their December meeting. A copy of the same letter was sent to all Branch secretaries dated 6-3-98.

"The Remit was LOST by a vote of 7 For 9 Against 0 Abstentions".

Remit 2. Bay of Plenty Branch.

That this Conference recommends to Executive that a set of written editorial standards are developed as soon as possible for the New Zealand Beekeeper by a committee established for this purpose, the committee to be made up of a cross-section of association membership and current users of the magazine (science/technical writers, columnists and advertisers), and that these standards form part of a written performance contract for the position of Editor of the New Zealand Beekeeper.

Note: After all what happened to the position of the editor, in particular becoming dependant on the Executive for the decision what to print, this remit doesn't need much explanation.

"The Remit was LOST by a vote of 7 For 8 Against 1 Abstention".

Remit 3. Canterbury Branch.

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that a full review of the performance of the Executive secretary be undertaken by an independent party.

"The Remit was LOST by a vote of 4 For 10 Against 2 Abstentions".

Remit 4. Otago Branch.

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that, the Executive secretary can not hold any other office or position in the Association.

Note: Reworded to comply with rule 19 (d)

The Remit was left to lie upon the table (later withdrawn).

Remit 5. Canterbury Branch.

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that the current Editor of the New Zealand Beekeeper be removed and an independent Editor be appointed.

Notes: The recent spate of letters to the Editor from Mr. B. Peterson and the publishing of these after they were known to be misleading along with unfactual editor's comments damaging to the reputation of a NBA member shows the danger of having an editor that is not independent from the position of Executive secretary.

"The Remit was LOST by a vote of 3 For 8 Against 5 Abstentions".

Remit 6. Auckland Branch.

That this Conference recommend, that the Executive investigate the use of drugs in honey producing hives with a view to having all drugs banned.

Notes: With NZ's "Clean Green Image", the use of Fumadil B, (an antibiotic) in honey producing hives seems a contradiction.

The wording of this remit, is that passed by the 1996 Conference is because the only information received, is that which was reported in the unconfirmed Executive minutes of Sept & Dec 96 and March 97, that this matter has been passed to the A.R.A.C.

"The Remit was LOST by a vote of 4 For 11 Against 1 Abstention".

Remit 7. Canterbury Branch.

That this Conference recommend to the Executive that the apiary rating system be reviewed with a view to improvement where necessary.

Notes: There are some anomalies with the present system for site levy ratings, mainly a lot of Canterbury beekeepers run smaller sites, i.e. six to twelve hives per site. So instead of Beekeeping to maximum profit we are Beekeeping to minimise cost. i.e. less sites, less flexibility.

Deregistering sites by 1st June only to reregister them for summer. When hives are bought and sold on site, site levy fees will have to be considered part of the bill of sale contract. The date we pay the levy, 20th February/31st March, are these most appropriate collection dates for the beekeeper and the industry?

"The Remit was CARRIED by a vote of 12 For 2 Against 2 Abstentions".

Conference of Branch delegates was adjourned at 5.10pm.

RULE CHANGES CONSIDERED AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE COPTHORNE RESORT,

WAITANGI, BAY of ISLANDS ON THURSDAY THE 23rd OF JULY 1998
AT 8AM.

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 8.10am.

After much debate it was agreed that the policy in the past had been, not to allow rule changes to have any amendments to them at Special meetings.

Rule change 1. Proposed by the NBA Executive.

Rule 7. a) This currently reads:

"Every beekeeper who is liable to pay an apiary levy shall be deemed to be a Commercial member of the Association".

Its is proposed that this rule be changed to read:

Every beekeeper who has paid his/her levy, when due, as prescribed by the Commodity Levies (Bee Products) Order 1996, shall be deemed to be a commercial member of the Association".

"The Proposed Rule Change was Carried by a vote of 10 For 2 Against 4 Abstentions".

Rule change 2. Proposed by the Otago Branch.

Rule 17. c) vii) This currently reads,

"Forwarding to Branches copies of Minutes and reports of meetings of the Association and the Executive".

It is proposed this rule be changed to read:

Forwarding to Branches copies of Minutes and reports of the Association and Executive, to be within 14 days of such meetings being held.

"The Proposed Rule Change was Carried by a vote of 11 For 5 Against 0 Abstentions".

Rule change 3. Proposed by the Auckland Branch.

Rule 26. a) This currently reads:

"Each Branch may transact its ordinary business as it may from time to time decide, but it shall hold each year an Annual Meeting of its members (which shall be held in the month of April) and at least one other meeting either of its members or its management committee".

It is proposed that this rule be changed to read:

Each Branch may transact its ordinary business as it may from time to time decide, but it shall hold each year an Annual Meeting of its members (which shall be held before the end of the month of May?) and at least one other meeting either of its members or its management committee.

"The Proposed Rule Change was Carried by a vote of 8 For 5 Against 3 Abstentions".

Rule change 4. Proposed by the B.O.P. Branch.

Proposed rule changes to reconstitute the executive committee, establish a management committee and establish the position of executive director.

"The Proposed Rule Change was LOST by a vote of 1 For 13 Against 2 Abstentions".

The Chairman declared the Special meeting closed at 9.15am.

The Conference of Branch Delegates was reconvened at 9.15am.

Retiring Executive.

The President noted that he had prepared an engraved pen for Mr. Keith Herron, whose term of office was ending.

The President paid tribute to the work of Mr. Herron on the Executive and commented that it was 50 years since he had attended his first Conference.

Trustees Report.

Mr. Ivan Dickinson spoke on the Trusts activities for 1998. They had again allocated \$20,000 to the Honey Research unit at Waikato University. He said the Trust had approximately \$1.1 million dollars invested and called for more requests for applications for educational components for the industry. He also said he was concerned at the number of applications, which were marked with urgency, and those with a lack of information with them.

Roy Paterson Trophy.

Mr. Terry Gavin spoke about the Roy Paterson Trophy for innovation in the industry and announced this year's winner, Mr. Ross Ward of Southland. Many of the audience spoke of the very valuable work Ross has and continues to do for the Industry.

PMS Review Committee.

(Formerly Disease Control) Mr. Bruce Stevenson vice Chairman, described the work in the last year of the Pest Management Strategy (PMS) Review Committee. He said that Tenders for the PMS had not yet been accepted as the Committee wished to bring having the Order In Council ready for a launch of the PMS at this Conference and the frustration for the Committee in not being involved in the Tender selection process. The Trustees agreed to a \$25,000 loan and a \$25,000 grant this was specific to the PMS implementation program. Bruce said that PMS review committee recommended that the "MAF option " be accepted for the implementation of the PMS compared with the "NBA option" proposed by Russell Berry.

The meeting was adjourned at 10.05am for morning tea.

The meeting was reconvened at 10.50am.

Remit 4. Was uplifted from the table by the meeting

Remit 4. Otago Branch.

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that, the Executive secretary can not hold any other office or position in the Association.

Note: Reworded to comply with rule 19 (d).

The Remit was WITHDRAWN.

Library Report.

Mr. John Heinemann reported on the Library and said it was under-utilised and a valuable resource for the industry. He also spoke about his involvement in setting up a collection of beekeeping literature in Fiji.

Exotic Bee Disease Committee.

Mr. Peter Berry as the Chairman of the Committee shared the difficulty of receiving other members to this Committee. All the ones approached had declined to be involved. He talked about his quest to find out as much information as possible on effects of an outbreak of EFB. Two things stood out he said, the speed and ease with which this disease is spreading. He also commented that the disease was not present in NZ.

Remit 13. Bay Of Plenty Branch.

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that a honey standard for Manuka honey be implemented in line with the previous recommendations of the NBA Marketing Committee.

"The Remit was left to lie on the Table. Vote of 14 For 1 Against 1 Abstention".

Remit 8. Southland Branch.

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that a standard bee product trading agreement be developed for the industry.

Notes:

Currently in the majority of trading situations there is a one-sided agreement drawn up by the buyer reflecting his/her requirements.

While an agreement should be subject to negotiation the producer is often in a "take it or leave it" position and does not feel able to negotiate from a position of strength.

We would like to see an agreement, which includes a Romalpa clause and provides for financial penalties when agreed payment dates are not met.

Amended to read.

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that a set of guidelines be established to act as source material for use by beekeepers.

"The Amended Remit was CARRIED by a vote of 8 For 6 Against 2 Abstentions".

Remit 9. Southland Branch.

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that if the implementation of the P.M.S. in its current form is likely to add more than \$4.00. for each levied apiary in New Zealand, then an alternative solution to A.F.B. elimination should be investigated.

"The Remit was LOST by a vote of 4 For 12 Against 0 Abstentions".

This remit was amended to read: That this Conference recommends to Executive that if the implementation of the PMS in its current form is likely to add more than \$ 4.00 for each levied apiary in New Zealand, then more affordable methods of implementing the PMS should be investigated.

The Amended was carried 14-1 and the remit lost 4-12.

Honey Innovation Awards.

Mr. Bill Floyd announced the 1998 winners for this award as:
Kapiti Cheese.
Airborne Honey.
Unifoods.
Pilot Bay Brewing.

The President Mr. Russell Berry presented Mr. Peter Bray of Airborne Honey with a Gold Medallion in recognition of the use of innovative packaging to promote honey and New Zealand.

Remit 10. Southland Branch.

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that in the view of the forthcoming implementation of the P.M.S. and Apiary register, the structure of the N.B.A. should not be significantly changed at this stage.

"The Remit was CARRIED by a vote of 9 For 5 Against 2 Abstentions".

Remit 11. Southland Branch.

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that they form a committee to formulate a national code of practice for the Beekeeping industry, as a matter of urgency.

"The Remit was Carried by a vote of 14 For 2 Against 0 Abstentions".

Remit 12. South Canterbury Branch.

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that pressure be maintained on Government to retain and improve border surveillance methods for exotic disease detection and funding be met by the taxpayer.

Note: Reworded to comply with rule 19 (d)

Amended by Hawke's Bay to read:

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that pressure be maintained on government to retain and improve border protection and surveillance for exotic bee disease detection and that quarantine staff undertake Training Bi annually, a course in bees and bee product risk items.

"The Amended Remit was Carried by a vote of 16 For 0 Against 0 Abstentions".

The Conference of Branch delegates was adjourned for lunch at 12.30pm.

The Annual General Meeting was reconvened at 1.40pm.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE COPTHORNE RESORT, WAITANGI, BAY OF ISLANDS ON THURSDAY THE 23rd OF JULY 1998 AT 1.30PM, TO CONSIDER A PROPOSED LEVY INCREASE FROM 1999.

The Chairman declared the Special meeting open at 1.45pm.

Resolution 1.

That the levy for a beekeepers first Apiary be \$55.00, with each subsequent Apiary to be levied at the rate of \$24.20 for the 1999 year.

Resolution 2.

That the levy for a beekeepers first Apiary be \$57.50, with each subsequent Apiary to be levied at the rate of \$25.30 for the 1999 year.

Resolution 3.

That the levy for a beekeepers first Apiary be \$60.00, with each subsequent Apiary to be levied at the rate of \$26.40 for the 1999 year.

Resolution 4.

That the levy for a beekeepers first Apiary be \$62.50, with each subsequent Apiary to be levied at the rate of \$27.50 for the 1999 year.

It was agreed at 2.10pm to adjourn the special meeting and reconvene the Conference of Branch Delegates to consider the four resolutions above.

The meeting was adjourned at 3.10pm for a fire alarm.

The meeting was reconvened at 3.40pm.

Resolution 4.

That the levy for a beekeepers first Apiary be \$62.50, with each subsequent Apiary to be levied at the rate of \$27.50 for the 1999 year.

"The Remit was LOST by a vote of 15 For 0 Against 1 Abstention".

Resolution 3.

That the levy for a beekeepers first Apiary be \$60.00, with each subsequent Apiary to be levied at the rate of \$26.40

for the 1999 year.

"The Remit was LOST by a vote of 2 For 14 Against 0 Abstentions".

Resolution 2.

That the levy for a beekeepers first Apiary be \$57.50, with each subsequent Apiary to be levied at the rate of \$25.30 for the 1999 year.

"The Remit was LOST by a vote of 5 For 11 Against 0 Abstentions".

Resolution 1.

That the levy for a beekeepers first Apiary be \$55.00, with each subsequent Apiary to be levied at the rate of \$24.20 for the 1999 year.

"The Remit was declared tied by a vote of 8 For 8 Against 0 Abstentions".

A Poll Vote was called for.

Poll vote:

Branch:	For:	Against:	Abstain:
Far North	35		
Northland	23		
Auckland	28		
Waikato	129	24	
BOP		88	
Poverty Bay	8		
Hawke's Bay	88	15	
Sth Nth Is		56	
Nelson		25	
Marlborough		27	
West Coast		130	
Canterbury		177	
South Canty		92	

North Otago	1	
Otago	39	48
Southland	54	
TOTAL	405	682

The Chairman declared the Remit was LOST on a Poll vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 3.40pm for afternoon tea and reconvened at 4.05pm.

Late remits.

The President informed the meeting that there were now three late remits for Conference's consideration.

Late Remit. From a Nelson Life Member.

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that they request the Government to pass legislation prohibiting the feeding of honeyed water to bird life and/or discourage the public from this activity.

More than two delegates objected (Rule 19c).

Late Remit. Southern North Island Branch.

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that they take over the running costs of the New Zealand Internet site (known as the NZ Beekeeper Internet Web Site).

Notes: This is a fast and effective way to communicate to beekeepers.

"The Remit was CARRIED by a vote of 9 For 6 Against 1 Abstention".

Late Remit. Hawke's Bay Branch.

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that they

seek an immediate ban on the use or sale of Imidaclopride marketed in New Zealand under the name of Gaucho.

Notes:

The use of this insecticide has been shown to cause bees to become disoriented and to die, as they are unable to find their way back to their hives. Refer to Ben Macintyre in The Dominion 29.4.98.

The Remit was withdrawn.

Closure.

The Conference of Branch Delegates concluded at 4.15pm and the Annual General Meeting of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Inc) then re-convened.

1997 AGM Minutes.

The Chairman Moved, Mr. Tony Lorimer Seconded, That the 1997 AGM Minutes be approved for signing when the noted corrections had been made.

Motion Carried.

Annual Report.

The Chairman Moved, Mr. John Berry Seconded, that the Annual Report for 1997, the audited Balance Sheet, Statement of Income and Expenditure be received.

Motion Carried.

1998 Budget.

The Chairman Moved, Mr. Tony Lorimer Seconded, That the 1998 Operating Budget as presented be received.

Motion Carried.

Election of President.

The Chairman vacated the Chair.

The vice-Chairman called for nominations for the position of the President.

Mr. Russell Berry was elected as President.

Election of Vice President.

The Chair called for nominations for the position of vice President.

Mr. Bruce Stevenson was nominated for the position of vice President. The chairman ruled that he had received a legal opinion that our rules did not allow this when Bruce Stevenson's name was nominated for vice President. This was challenged from the floor but not allowed by the chairman. Bruce declined the nomination. Mike Stuckey asked that Executive officers elect could be offered the positions of President and vice president as they had been in the past. Allen McCaw and Nick Wallingford gave instances where this had been accepted in the past and that a legal opinion sought previously had supported that.

Mr. Terry Gavin was elected as vice President.

Appoint auditor.

Messrs. PricewaterhouseCoopers (Napier) were re-appointed as auditors Unopposed.

1999 Conference.

Mr. Lin McKenzie advised the meeting that North Otago was prepared to host the 1999 Conference, probably in Ashburton.

The meeting agreed that North Otago would host the 1999

Conference.

Year 2000 Conference will be in Gisborne. Host, Poverty Bay Branch.

Export Certification Committee.

Mr. Russell Berry reported on the little progress made and the lack of consultation by MAF RA on the implementation of the Pesticides Testing for NZ, the NBA had been left with an account for approx. \$17,000 for this issue.

Matters arising.

The President invited comment on any matter arising from the President's address, the Annual Report or any other report presented to the Annual Meeting, or for any other matter of general business.

The meeting was advised that Mr. Keith Herron has been retained as an advisor to the Executive.

Clarification was sought, that the membership had recommended to the Executive that the NBA accept the MAF Qual tender for the PMS. The motion was withdrawn so that common sense could prevail. The question was asked would common sense prevail? Will we have the MAF option? The chairman replied, Yes.

Mr. John Berry Moved, Mr. Richard Bensemann Seconded, That the offer from the Executive to have the NBA as the Contractor for the PMS for the first year be withdrawn.

Motion Carried.

Mike Stuckey Moved, Peter Berry Seconded, That Marketing Budget allocating of \$90,000 be retained at the agreed level for 1998.

Motion Carried. (For 34 - Against 10).

The President raised the issue of the European Union requirements and the cost the NBA is liable for which had not been allowed for in the budget.

Branch Trophy.

Mrs. Cushla Gavin presented the Branch Trophy to the Far North Branch.

Vote of thanks.

Mr. Russell Berry moved a vote of thanks (carried by acclamation) to the Northland and Far North Branches for their Organisation of this Conference.

Final Comments.

Mr. Allen McCaw moved a vote of thanks to the Chair for the Conference.

"Mr. President, it has not been an easy Conference" said Allen, "it has been disappointing for members, and disappointing for the Executive. However we will get through this, and we will continue to chivvy away from the outside, not because we don't like you, but because we have a point of view that we would like to get across".

My appeal to you is, please communicate as much as you possibly can, please get involved in the communication that is going on, and please provide us with the information that we need to make good decisions. If you didn't like the decisions made at this Conference, I am afraid that is the democratic process that we have. If we ask for more information it is because we do need it. Thank you sir, for your Chairmanship".

Conclusion.

The President declared the 1998 Annual General Meeting and all other meetings closed at 6.00pm on Thursday July the 23rd 1998.

Unconfirmed Minutes sent to the Executive 27th of July 1998.

Unconfirmed Minutes sent to the Branches 9th October 1998.

Revised version, marked with an A, sent to Branches 1st June 1999.