

Tony Clissold, president N.B.A.



LOOKING BACK over the last 12 months, beekeepers have seen significant changes in their industry. Changes which I hope will benefit all of us and help our industry to become more united in the future.

The lifting of the Court injunction on the Honey Marketing Authority assets last year allowed the winding up of the Authority to proceed and we have since seen the HMA cease its trading operations. Soon the Honey Marketing Authority will become a part of the history of New Zealand beekeeping.

I feel that now is the time for all of us to thank those who served on the Board of the HMA. Some have passed on, some I know vaguely and some I know well. They all worked hard for the industry, often with few thanks and a lot of criticism, and our thanks to those people who were prepared to serve the industry should be recorded. During the 50s through to the early 70s I believe the HMA was the best organisation for the industry, but as time passes changes must be made. With the abolition of the HMA and the start of the Co-operative we must look forward into the 80s with confidence. Beekeepers must now work together to help ourselves and our industry to develop its maximum potential to ensure bright and prosperous years ahead.

When the HMA stopped its trading activities the export control on honey was lifted so that now we may export our own honey if we so wish. But remember we should look after our home markets first. I would hate to see a shortage of honey in New Zealand. The possibility of honey being imported into New Zealand for local sales could be potentially dangerous to the industry from a disease point of view and I trust it will never happen. Only honey which is not needed for the New Zealand market should be exported.

One of the major events of the year has been the preparation and setting up of trust deeds for the HMA assets. In conjunction with the HMA Board, Mr David Kay, the Authority's adviser, and the NBA executive, the trust deeds have been written and agreed to and (hopefully) approved by the government solicitors. The trustees have been appointed

in accordance with the wish of last year's conference at Queenstown. The independent chairman is Mr David Kay who will have a yearly appointment. The North Island trustee is Mr Russell Berry. The South Island trustee is Mr Ivan Dickinson.

There will be two Trusts established. Firstly the Honey Industry General Trust Fund. This will be the major fund which the NZ Honey Producers' Co-operative will initially have first call upon in accordance with the arbitrator's report, but this is not to say that other beekeepers will not have access to the fund in the future.

Secondly, the Honey Industry Charitable Trust. This fund will be the one in which the trustees and the industry will be more involved. Although small in assets, its income is not taxable if used for education or charitable uses.

I do hope that when these Trusts become activated all of us will be able to benefit from the industry funds.

Over the past few years, beekeepers in the kiwifruit growing areas have had the added bonus of kiwifruit pollination. If the expected expansion of the kiwifruit industry occurs, beekeepers in a number of areas will see major changes in the industry.

By 1990 another 50 000 hives may be required for pollination. It could cost in overseas revenue at least \$234 million per annum if kiwifruit is not pollinated. If however, these extra hives are set up purely for pollination, the honey crop per hive in those areas will be greatly reduced, with the beekeeper becoming dependent on the pollination charges for his hive maintenance and for his living.

What will happen to the beekeeper who has increased hives to meet the pollination demand if an artificial pollinator is introduced? It would not only affect the beekeepers in the kiwifruit-producing areas but would have a roll-on effect throughout New Zealand.

It is essential for our industry's stability for the beekeeper and kiwifruit grower to get together and co-operate in their co-ordination of hive increases to meet the requirements. If bees are only required in the relatively short term as pollinators then the charge for pollination may have to be increased to cover the capital outlay.

Associated with the large increase in hive numbers in relatively small areas plus a lot of migratory beekeeping, it will be most important that the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries maintain an adequate staff to keep up with hive inspection and disease control. A closer liaison will have to be maintained between beekeepers and Ministry staff to ensure that disease control measures are kept at a high standard. If necessary more staff should be employed.

At the end of this conference, Mr Paul Marshall retires as a member of the NBA executive. I would like to thank Paul for the work he has done for the industry. Paul was president of this association for two most difficult years. Years when the industry was going through a major change, when various factions of the industry had to be brought together around the table to agree on solutions for the long term benefit of the industry. This Paul achieved. Paul, you did a grand job, thank you for your unselfish effort on our behalf. I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavours wherever that might be.

Paul was also on the Agricultural Chemicals Board but with changes to this body early this year the executive appointed

TONY CLISSOLD : PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS



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