

Retiring NBA president, Tony Clissold



IT GIVES me pleasure to report on the activities of the National Beekeepers' Association for the 1982-83 year. Some interesting points to be noted this year are:

- The industry has been sandwiched between the finishing of the honey marketing authority and the setting up of the trust deeds.
- Two educational beekeeping programmes were started, one in each island.
- This is the 100th year since the original Beekeepers' Association was formed.
- On July 1, 1883 the first issue of "The New Zealand and Australian Bee Journal" was printed — a monthly issue at a cost of six shillings per annum, paid in advance.

KIWIFRUIT POLLINATION

In the spring of last year, the industry was fortunate to have Professor Cam Jay in New Zealand to do a study and research with Pat Clinch on the pollination of kiwifruit by the honey bee. Our thanks must go to Cam Jay for all the work he did on the pollination programme, and for passing on some of his valuable knowledge to us when he toured the country meeting and talking to many beekeepers. It is of great benefit to our industry to have people such as Professor Jay over here working and speaking to us.

The problems of kiwifruit pollination with bees are many and varied, and pesticide spraying when bees are in and around orchards is the main issue — when these are overcome I am sure the hive numbers required for pollination will be met, and the two industries, the kiwifruit grower and the beekeeper, will work together and prosper.

The Agricultural Chemicals Board this year became the Pesticides Board. It is most important that we, the beekeeping industry, have a voice on the Pesticides Board, and our industry has been well served by our representatives in the past. I assure you that Ian Berry is carrying on the good work in keeping bees and toxic chemicals well aired at Pesticides Board meetings.

PRICE FREEZE

It is now 13 months since the freeze began — it has made budgeting easier for some, but for those beekeepers who were not selling their honey at the top or best price, it has been a costly experience. We have a product we are proud of and there is no need for short selling.

For the kiwifruit boys who have not been able to increase their charges for the last two years as the freeze came on between seasons, I believe you have a true case for an increase. The old motto is "If at first you don't succeed try, try again".

Bulk producers of honey, i.e. those that sell to a packer or the honey co-operative, should make sure they receive at least the same price as last year for their honey.

In the last 12 months, the beekeeping industry has taken a major step forward with first the Bay of Plenty Community College educational beekeeping programme with Nick Wallingford as tutor, and then the Telford Farm Training Institute at Balclutha starting a beekeeping programme at their establishment with Paul Marshall in charge.

Both these men need no introduction to our organisation and shortly they will be given time to explain what is happening in their respective colleges. It is over to us, the beekeepers of New Zealand, to give them the support they deserve to make sure their new ventures are successful.

It has been a long struggle to make known to New Zealand agricultural and horticultural industries the pollination value of bees and we have only just begun. With these two colleges assisting us the value of bees to New Zealand should be better known.

TRUST DEEDS

At our last conference, I was sure that the Honey Marketing Authority would not still be in existence at this annual meeting, but government red tape was true to form and the HMA is still with us. Hopefully not for long, as the trust deeds are now finalised and should be operative soon. I am sure the moneys from the charitable trust will be used wisely so that all beekeepers can benefit.

To Ivan Dickinson and Russell Berry, our two industry trustees, your work may only be just beginning.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES

The MAF advisory service continues to give our industry good advice and assistance. The industry is lucky to have men of such high calibre as advisers to our industry. But it is most important that the advisory service is not depleted any further as happened last year. Beekeeping is in a growth situation.

With Otago and Southland's extremely poor crop this year, our thanks must go to the advisory service for all the work and moral support they gave us.

The Rural Bank also came to the party when a lot of beekeepers were faced with no income and big sugar bills with more bills to come before the next honey crop. The minister of agriculture instructed the Rural Bank where necessary to accept hives as collateral security, thus extending the security margins and loans offered. The industry has been wanting this for years. Let's hope it will become normal practice in the future.

BEAUTIFUL NEW ZEALAND

It is pleasing to note that from August 1, some roadsides

1983 NBA CONFERENCE, NELSON

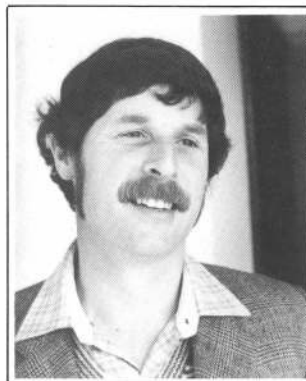
▶ throughout New Zealand will be planted with ornamental trees and shrubs which we hope will be another pollen source for our bees. It is over to all beekeepers to promote the planting of pollen and nectar bearing trees when talking to farmers, catchment board, nurserymen, or anyone who may be planting trees.

Beekeeping has become one of the biggest growth industries in New Zealand with an over eight per cent increase in beekeepers, and the likelihood of numbers increasing at a greater rate over the next few years.

It is essential that we all maintain a high standard of hive management and disease control so that we continue our record of being one of the few countries in the world that does not have the major bee diseases or a ban on exporting honey, bees and bee related products.

I welcome the Auckland branch of the NBA back with us and hope that with new life they will become one of the most active branches.

This year we have had two executive members stand down from the committee. I thank Mike and Steve for the work they did and hope they will keep up the good work from their own district. To the new members of the executive – Allan McCaw of Milton and Dudley Ward of Dannevirke – we look forward to working with you and benefiting from your expertise.



Allen McCaw, newly-elected NBA vice-president



Tony Lorimer, NBA executive member

To Mrs James of our office staff who unfortunately was taken ill recently we wish a speedy recovery and thank her for all the help she has given us in the past.

I thank the executive committee, Mr Steuart Goodman, our secretary, for all the support they have given me throughout the year.



MAF ADVISORY REPORT

Presented by Murray Reid, MAF national apicultural advisory officer

ORGANISATION AND STAFFING

A display panel at the conference illustrated some of the functions of the apiary section within Advisory Services Division (ASD) and the work at Wallaceville.

The Advisory Services Division's responsibilities to the beekeeping industry includes providing an effective advisory service, certifying export shipments of bee products, maintaining a quarantine service to prevent the introduction of harmful diseases, pests and undesirable genetic characteristics, and ensuring that beekeepers meet their obligations in controlling bee diseases. The Division sees its principle function as assisting and encouraging primary producers to achieve increased economic returns, particularly from export.

During the past year, Mr Cliff van Eaton took up the position of apicultural advisory officer in Gore. This position had been left vacant following the transfer of Mr Trevor Bryant to Tauranga. Mr van Eaton had been employed for a number of years as an inspector and on a bee breeding project with the Department of Agriculture in British Columbia. Mr van Eaton has been putting these skills to good use since his arrival in Gore.

With the transfer of Mr G.M. Walton, formerly chief advisory officer apiculture, to other duties, national responsibility for apiculture was assumed by G.M. Reid, apicultural advisory officer, Hamilton.

Mr John Smith, apicultural advisory officer, Christchurch has been responsible for developing a computer programme for apiary registration. The programme is completed and some regions with access to micro computers have converted their apiary records to the computer. Beekeepers in these regions will receive their annual statement of inspection forms and list of apiaries on computer print-out.

Field officers of ASD continued to support apicultural advisers with disease check inspections, export certifications, apiary registrations and general advisory programmes. Livestock officers and beekeepers also assisted with disease control measures. Their co-operation is gratefully acknowledged.

Apiary staff continued to liaise with other government departments. A number of beekeepers have been assisted in making loan applications to the Rural Bank or to the Department of Trade and Industry for regional development finance.

BEEKEEPING STATISTICS

Beekeepers, apiaries and hives: As at May 31 1983 there were 6445 NZ beekeepers maintaining 23644 registered apiaries and owning 269043 hives.

The number of beekeepers and beehives continues to grow. Hive numbers traditionally increase in times of economic downturn but in areas like the Bay of Plenty, increases in hive numbers have been over 19 per cent in the past year. This increase has been primarily to meet the demands of kiwifruit pollination. Other high growth regions include Auckland, Waikato, Poverty Bay and Oamaru.

Honey crop: The surplus honey crop for the 1982-83 season was assessed at 5053 tonnes. This is the smallest honey crop since 1976 when 4915 tonnes was produced and the smallest production per colony ever recorded. Production was down in both islands but hardest hit was Southland where only 150 tonnes was produced; 0.5 t/100 hives, eight year average 3.6 t/100. The six year average in Southland is 995 tonnes and 975 tonnes was produced in the previous season.

A survey carried out by Mr van Eaton, apicultural advisory officer, Gore involved 28 of Southland's commercial beekeepers (78 per cent of the hives). This showed that 50 per cent of the beekeepers surveyed had no crop, 20 per cent of the colonies needed extensive autumn feeding and 53 per cent of the beekeepers had consulted the Rural Bank for disaster relief.

Mr van Eaton assisted the beekeepers in making a successful application to the Rural Bank to accept hives as collateral.

American Brood Disease (ABD): Responsibility for disease control belongs with the owners of the beehives. It is of continual concern to the Ministry that a significant number of beekeepers are not carrying out a sufficiently rigorous check of their own colonies or reporting ABD disease when