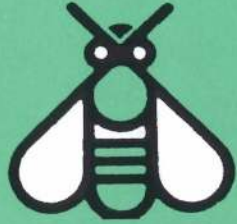


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# From the President



The NBA cannot make beekeeping more enjoyable or profitable! Sound like heresy? Let me explain what I mean. I hope it will help focus on what we expect from our organisation as we 're-design' it over the next few years.

As a beekeeper you can manage your beehives. You feed them, re-queen them, replace worn out equipment. You site them in areas that you hope will have good honey flows. You manage them by understanding the bees' natural impulses; you get to know their capabilities and their limitations. You take advantage of the opportunities while trying to minimise the threats. You probably can't eliminate the threats, but you can try to anticipate them and plan for how you might deal with them. Even the effects of the weather, which you can't control, can lead you to contingency plans — if it gets too dry, you could move the bees to another location.

But no matter how you look at it, you can't MAKE the bees produce a crop of honey for you. You can create as favourable an environment as you can, you can anticipate as many problems as you think is prudent. But ultimately, the production of honey is not really within your control — only the bees can make honey.

Sounds pretty obvious, doesn't it?

Now take a couple of steps back and consider the beekeeping industry. The NBA (using the Executive, the branch structure and the hard work of its members) can try to manage the

affairs of the overall industry. The NBA can (and DOES) do a number of useful things, including:

- Representing the beekeeping industry's interests to government.
- Maximising opportunities available to beekeepers and making sure the information is communicated to them.
- Identifying and trying to remove obstacles.
- Anticipating potential threats to the industry and trying to minimise or eliminate them.

Again, no matter how you look at it, the NBA can't make beekeeping more profitable or enjoyable. Only beekeepers can do that.

The NBA can assist by making the environment as favourable as possible. The NBA can try to minimise the threats (organise lobbying against Australian honey imports, developing a Pest Management Strategy). It can maximise the opportunities (marketing activities, ensuring market access for bees and queens). But ultimately it is only you as individual beekeepers who can make your beekeeping more profitable or more enjoyable.

I am committed to the use of effective planning and sound management practices to make the NBA as an organisation that can help beekeepers as much as possible. Having said that, I am realistic about what the National Beekeepers Association CAN do, how it can do things and HOW MUCH it costs to do things — only after you examine each of those can you really decide what SHOULD be done, and get on with doing it. And though most of the work done by our organisation is done by volunteers, I don't believe that we need to appear unprofessional.

Admitting that the NBA cannot do something like 'make beekeeping more profitable' is not a weakness, or an admission that the NBA is inadequate. It helps to focus on what can be done by the NBA to assist beekeepers to assist the bees to produce that crop of honey!

# Library Notes

At the conclusion of his very impressive address on Africanized bees at this year's conference Dr Mark L Winston presented us with his book 'Killer Bees', 162pp., published in 1992. A much appreciated gesture and a welcome addition for the library.

A very well written book that holds one's attention from start to finish. Based on facts, sound research and personal experiences in the field it tells the story of the Africanized bee in the tropical and sub-tropical parts of the American continent. Thanks to the fact that this strain is so eminently suited to this environment and its pronounced tendency for swarming and absconding the rate of its spreading has been phenomenally fast. Effects on commercial and domestic beekeeping has been devastating. It also threatens the survival of certain native bee populations, causes a potential danger to public health and livestock. Serious problems face the pollination services.

But Dr Winston goes to war against the media which had a field day with their often ill-informed, alarming or just plain ludicrous reports and statements.

A very clear warning for us here and for other Pacific countries: be alert, keep it from your territory for it will wreak havoc. Our queens may be needed to make the survival of beekeepers affected by the Africanized bees a possibility. If you attended conference and have heard Dr Winston speak you will read this book with pleasure, if you were not there it is time to catch up.

We picked up: 'Diary of a Honey Bee' by Bill Keir, 1990, 16pp., N.Z. A beauty little book with good colour photos and simple text describing a bee's lifecycle. Very good for children, school projects etc.

'Health and Safety in Employment Act - Practical Applications' presented by Melissa Haskell at an in-house seminar for Telford Rural Polytechnic. 1994, N.Z. Thank you Gavin McKenzie.

*FRONT COVER. This month we have chosen to "look back" into the archives and have found what might be one of the first field days for beekeepers. There is no date on the photo. If any reader can throw any light on the date we'd be pleased to learn of it. We believe the location was Rotorua.*

# N.Z. at Asian Conference

The New Zealand beekeeping industry was well represented at the recent Second Asian Apicultural Association Conference, held during the last week of July in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The conference, which takes place somewhere in Asia every two years, was attended by beekeepers from over 25 different countries. New Zealand was officially accepted as a member of the Asian association in 1993, and was represented at the conference by Cliff Van Eaton, the designated country delegate. Cliff also gave a slide presentation and country report on New Zealand beekeeping.

Telford Rural Polytechnic made one of the strongest showings at the conference, with an excellent trade display advertising the school's beekeeping training programme and other agriculture-related studies. Gavin McKenzie, Telford's International Course Manager, manned the trade display and answered countless questions about beekeeping in our country.

Other New Zealanders in attendance included Malcolm Haines, representing Haines Bee Breeders; Stephen Ogden from MAF Quality Management; and Andrew Matheson, former MAF AAO and now director of the International Bee Research Association in Wales. Andrew gave a major presentation on the current status of bee diseases around the world. The presentation was based on his 1993 article on the subject in *Bee World* ('World Bee Health Report', 74(4)).



*Stephen Ogden at the second Asian Apicultural Assn. Conference 26-29th July.*

A number of Australians were also at the conference. The Australian Council for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) has recently been funding a beekeeping development project in Indonesia. As well, the Western Australians made a well documented presentation seeking to host the next Asian Apicultural Association conference in Perth. In the end, however, conference

delegates voted to have the 1996 conference in Hanoi, Vietnam.

New Zealand beekeepers who wish to become members of the Asian Apicultural Association can contact Cliff Van Eaton, c/- MAF Quality Management, Private Bag, Tauranga. Membership is US\$20 per annum, and includes four issues of the international journal, *Beekeeping and Development*.

## Industry Profile

As a result of the editorship of Cliff van Eaton of MAF Tauranga the revised version of the industry profile of the New Zealand Beekeeping industry is now in final draft form for proofing. The revised version will then be printed and will be available within a month.

Any beekeeper or reader who would like a copy should forward their order to the NBA office, P.O. Box 307 Hastings, with a cheque for \$5.50 (incl. GST) per copy. Ten or more copies at \$5.00 per copy.



## 50 Years On

Is your organisation over 50? Has your organisation been in business for 50 or more years? If so (the New Zealand Beekeeper Journal) would like to hear from you. During 1995 the *New Zealand Beekeeper* will proudly print a series about beekeeping organisations who have been around for this length of time.

If you know of such an organisation, or are still part of one, please contact the editor to discuss the writing and provision of all materials that will be of interest to all readers.

# National Beekeepers Association of New Zealand (Inc) - Technical Library 31st Annual Report

Following a proposal of the South Canterbury Branch our Library was launched at the 1962 Conference held here in Tauranga. Messrs H.Cloake, L.G. Lyttle and J. McFadzien were appointed members of the first library committee and Mr C Dawson took on the position of honorary librarian. Donations of books and funds laid the initial basis of the collection. Now returning to the same place for our 1994 annual conference we should note that South Canterbury's initiative has indeed shown a very positive result. A substantial asset has been created, offering a service to members of the beekeeping industry and others at a modest cost.

The thoughtfulness and generosity of beekeepers, MAF officers, others and occasionally NBA branches have assisted in the growth of our collection. Reciprocal arrangements between the *N.Z Beekeeper* and overseas publishers have benefitted from the range of overseas periodicals, research papers etc.

The 1993-94 year has again seen a steady use of the library by both industry members and outsiders. We have been able to assist schools and individual students or others requesting specific information on some beekeeping subject.

Some \$200 has been spent on the purchase of new books and a video tape about endemic bee diseases from the N.S.W. Department of Agriculture.

Spare copies and photo copies of early N.Z Beekeeping magazines have been supplied to IBRA following a request for such material by IBRA director Mr Andrew Matheson. In return we have received a number of video tapes. A satisfactory arrangement. Some more videos on beekeeping subjects are on order and will hopefully come to hand within too long. Requests for the loan of videos has increased lately and well to such an extent that some borrower names have to go onto the waiting list. The same goes for the more recent papers regarding marketing.

So the library collection keeps extending and endeavours to fulfil its purpose of being a service to all those interested in beekeeping and related subjects. But for the odd account accepted by our Executive for payment the library is self supporting and at present there is no need to increase loan fees.

A 'THANK YOU' to the previous Executive Secretary and the Editor of the *N.Z. Beekeeper*, our present Secretary-Editor and staff for their co-operation and to MAF officers and any others for keeping the library's interest in mind.

**M J Heineman**  
*Honorary Librarian*

## Worth noting

Last spring our somewhat elderly beekeeper whose eyesight is not what it was and his young but experienced helper, went to inspect a yard of some 30 hives. The day was just right for beekeeping - bright and sunny with no wind.

The inspection went very well, the bees being in good humour, the hives with more than sufficient stores to last at least three to four weeks and no sign of AFB.

There were only five or so hives left to be inspected when our elderly beekeeper found a very strong but queenless hive. He decided to try and save it by providing this hive with a frame of eggs from one of the remaining hives.

He proceeded to the next hive and thought it was excellent for the purpose, containing some honey and pollen and capped brood plus what he was looking for - eggs. In order to make certain there were eggs and remembering his eyesight limitations he asked his helper:

Beekeeper: Will you please confirm there are eggs on this frame?

Helper: What do you want this frame for?

Beekeeper: Just tell me if there are any eggs on the frame.

Helper: What do you want this frame for?

Beekeeper: To put in this queenless hive. Just tell me if there are any eggs.

Helper: This frame is not for you!

Beekeeper: Stop mucking about - it looks okay to me - are there any eggs?

Helper: Sure there are eggs - but also AFB.

MORAL: The beekeeper had his mind on placing a frame into the queenless hive and temporarily forgot that a foulbrood check is always the first priority.

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# MAF Quality Management report to the Annual Conference of the National Beekeepers Association of New Zealand Tauranga 18-22 July 1994

*by Murray Reid*

## 1.0 ORGANISATION AND PERSONNEL

In an effort to deal more efficiently with increased workloads within the National Apiculture Business Unit (NABU), managerial responsibilities were shared out during 1993 to various Apicultural Advisory Officers. The following list identifies those national responsibilities and the MAF Quality Management staff who spend at least half their time on apicultural business.

<b>Name/National Responsibilities</b>	<b>Mailing Address</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Fax</b>
Derek Bettesworth Process Manager for Exotic Pest and Disease Response (EDPR)	MAF, Private Bag, WHANGAREI	(09) 437 2822	(09) 437 1368
Murray Reid National Manager for Apiculture and Process Manager for Imports and Consultancy Services	MAF, Private Bag 3080, HAMILTON	(07) 838 5841	(07) 838 5846
Cliff Van Eaton Contract Manager for NBA AFB Disease Control Programme	MAF, Private Bag 12015, TAURANGA	(07) 578 2069	(07) 578 8429
Ted Roberts Process Manager for Export Certification	MAF, PO Box 585, PALMERSTON NTH	(06) 351 7935	(06) 351 7906
Dave Grueber	MAF, Private Bag, BLENHEIM	(03) 578 7369	(03) 578 0944
Stephen Ogden Process Manager for Food Quality Services	MAF, PO Box 24, CANTERBURY	(03) 325 3920	(03) 325 3919
David McMillan Process Manager for Surveillance and Apiary Registration	MAF, Private Bag 50034, MOSGIEL	(03) 489 3809	(03) 489 7988

## 2.0 BEEKEEPING STATISTICS

### 2.1 Beekeepers, Apiaries and Hives

There were 5565 registered beekeepers owning 289,875 hives of bees as at 30 June 1994. This represents an overall decrease of 1.0% of beekeepers and 3.0% of hives during the last 12 months (Table 1).

### 2.2 Honey Production

The total saleable crop for 1994 was assessed at 11819 tonnes (40.8 kg per hive), a significant increase over the previous year's crop of 7086 tonnes (23.3 kg per hive) and the previous 6 year average of 7698 tonnes or 24.3 kg per hive (Table 2).

### 3.0 American Foulbrood and NBA AFB Control Programme

MAF Quality Management was once again contracted to provide an AFB control programme for the NBA in 1993-94. The contract, which was reduced by \$20,000 from the previous year, called for the inspection of 3.9% (973) of registered apiaries by MAF personnel, the provision of inspection lists for NBA inspectors and diseaseathons, and various other services relating to disease control and reporting. Significant cost savings were made in the area of MAF Quality Management's involvement in NBA branch inspection activities, resulting in a smaller reduction in MAF inspections (7%), compared to the overall reduction in the contract price (17%).

The MAF inspection component of the contract was exceeded, with 1004 apiaries inspected. The target average hives per apiary (6/apiary) was also exceeded, with an average of 8.1 hives per apiary inspected. A total of 41 MAF Quality Management staff and contract beekeepers were used in these inspections (Table 3).

NBA branch inspections totalled 867 apiaries, or 57% of the 1522 necessary to achieve the target set by the NBA executive of 6.1% of registered apiaries. Two of the 13 NBA branches carrying out inspection programmes either met or exceeded their target of district apiaries inspected. A total of 194 letters of appointment were issued to beekeepers who wished to assist in NBA inspections, with 128 letters of appointment actually being used. This represented a 16% increase in participation over 1992-93 (Table 4).

The NBA AFB Disease Control Programme therefore resulted in the inspection of 7.5% of New Zealand's apiaries (MAF: 4.0% + NBA: 3.5% = 7.5%). The target inspection level set by the NBA executive for the programme was 10% of apiaries. A total of 13,427 hives were inspected (MAF: 8170; NBA: 5257). This figure represents 4.6% of beehives currently registered in New Zealand.

MAF Quality Management inspectors (and beekeepers contracted to MAF) found 532 hives infected with American foulbrood (6.5% of hives inspected). NBA

inspectors found a further 192 hives (3.7% of hives inspected). The total number of hives infected with AFB reported by beekeepers was 1938, up 263 (16%) on 1992-93 (Table 5).

The overall reported disease incidence in New Zealand beehives in 1993-94 was 0.9% of hives and 5.1% of apiaries, the same as in 1992-93 (Table 6).

#### **4.0 Exotic Disease and Pest Response (EDPR) Capability**

Training of MAF Quality Management staff continued and simulation exercises were held for HQ personnel, as well as laboratory staff and Field Team Leaders. Systems and procedure manuals were reviewed and revised where necessary. Planning is under way for a major simulated exercise in Canterbury scheduled for September 1994. This will involve an HQ, Field Team Leaders and Field Team Members.

NBA members from the Canterbury area have volunteered to act as Field Team Members. EDPR training and preparedness continues to be funded by government through a contract with the MAF Regulatory Authority (MAF RA). However, under the Biosecurity Act, there is a requirement for interested parties to prepare management plans for exotic and endemic pests and diseases of concern. Preparation and management of these plans or Pest Management Strategies (PMS) will be the responsibility of the farmers, growers or beekeepers concerned, unless they can persuade government to be a partner.

Recent communication from the MAF RA has indicated that they will not take any initiatives or responsibilities for preparing a PMS for the Africanised honey bee. This was one pest that MAF Quality Management felt could secure government support, since the aggressiveness of the bee has implications for public health.

Government will almost certainly not assist financially with developing PMS's for the other exotic pests and diseases of honey bees. The implications of this need to be carefully considered by the beekeeping industry because if the NBA does not develop strategies for exotic bee diseases due to financial or other considerations, then the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is not likely to continue investing resources in training and systems development. (See *The New Zealand Beekeeper*, July 1994).

#### **5.0 Surveillance**

The Honey Bee Exotic Disease Surveillance Programme is comprised of three parts:- the apiary register, hive sampling and border protection.

##### **5.1 Apiary Register**

The maintenance of this register (in the form of a computer database) is a current legal requirement of government under the transitional provisions of the Biosecurity Act. The database relies on accurate statements of inspection provided by the beekeeper each spring. However, once again this year approximately 40% of beekeepers failed to provide such statements of inspection by the deadline of 7 December.

The current database has served well as an apiary register for many years, but it is now reaching the end of its useful life. For this reason, MAF Quality Management has designed a new database system which is currently being

programmed and should be in use by the beginning of the upcoming season. This database has been designed to meet the many changing needs of MAF Quality Management and the beekeeping industry. The new database will improve the efficiency of many of MAF Quality Management activities such as the American foulbrood control/eradication programme, the exotic bee disease surveillance programme, export area clearances, and HQ operations in an exotic disease response.

##### **5.2 Hive Sampling**

During the past 12 months, MAF Quality Management staff have inspected 461 apiaries for the presence of exotic bee diseases and taken samples for laboratory analysis for internal and external parasitic mites. In addition, 27 samples were taken for European foulbrood diagnosis and 29 samples were taken for Africanised honey bee analysis. Apiaries were sampled in "at risk" areas including sea ports, garbage dumps and areas frequented by overseas travellers. No specimens of exotic diseases or pests were found. A further 430 samples of bees were tested at Invermay as part of the export certification programme. The samples were analysed for the presence of exotic internal and external parasitic mites. MAF Quality Management wishes to thank participating beekeepers for providing samples.

##### **5.3 Border Protection**

The beekeeping industry continues to have a high profile in the work of MAF's Quarantine Service, with numerous consignments of honey and other bee products being intercepted at the border, and the disease risk of honey and bees being brought to the attention of the travelling public. Seven staff from the National Fauna and Flora Investigation Unit were given training in assessing risks to the beekeeping industry in 1993-94.

A dead swarm of bees was found in a container from Australia. This was picked up by MAF Quarantine Services staff. The bees were tested for Africanisation, internal and external parasitic mites, and European foulbrood, with negative results for all diseases and pests. The incident once again highlights the importance of the Quarantine Service to the New Zealand beekeeping industry.

##### **6.0 Export Certification**

The 1994 export season was extremely trying for live bee exporters, MAF Quality Management certifying officers and the MAF Regulatory Authority. Difficulties were experienced in our two leading live bee export markets, and area freedom requirements for honey exports continue to cause concern. Many of the problems and costs associated with export certification stem from our inability to negotiate favourable access conditions with our trading partners. A number of joint industry-government initiatives are being undertaken to address these problems. The initiatives are more fully detailed in the July issue of *The New Zealand Beekeeper*.

**Loyalty  
begets  
Loyalty**

# Notes for Beginners and others

Second half of September, well into spring and colonies are gaining strength. The first thorough inspection of the season has either been completed or should now be done without delay. You will know how the feed situation is, the condition of the colonies and their queens and if they are disease free at this stage. Mind checking for both feed and disease (especially B.L. or American foulbrood) has to be ongoing for stores are being used at an increasing rate while the brood nest expands and disease may appear at any time.

If you are so lucky to have a lot of willow or another early nectar supply nearby the colonies will gather fresh nectar and pollen (weather permitting). The amount of brood will increase rapidly. Willow honey is a funny thing though, it does not seem to last as well as some other honeys do. So watch it. Still, let us be thankful for little mercies.

An early boost to brood rearing can also create problems. As a consequence a number of colonies will tend to get the swarming urge in October/November and we don't want that. Prevention is better than curing, once queen cells appear it is usually too late. Here follow a number of measures we can take to avoid swarming.

1. Colonies headed by young queens do swarm a lot less than those with older queens (especially the 2 y+) or queens of poor quality. So re-queen where warranted. Hope you did order queens (or ripe cells) in good time.

2. Reversing, that is changing the bottom brood nest super to the top and the top brood box to the bottom. This creates a sort of break in the brood nest and gives the bees something to think about, also there is usually more brood in the top than in the bottom and so the least full box will come to the top offering empty cells just above the main part of the broodnest, the preferred area for further expansion. Good opportunity to cull some poor combs from that original bottom super. Replace 2 or 3 with good drawn comb or foundation. Place to the outside, do not split the brood nest. Wait with this manipulation till there is an amount of brood in the bottom box.

3. Make a top. From a strong colony remove 2 or 3 brood combs, shake off the bees, place combs into spare super together with a couple of combs with honey and pollen. Place on top of parent colony's brood nest with a queen excluder under it. The bees will quickly move up. When there are enough bees in the top (say after 1 hour) insert a division board. Block the entrance of the div. board tightly with a plug of green grass or staple on several layers of newspaper. Bees will remove plug in 3 or 4 days when it has withered. This time span is important as it helps to minimize the drifting back to the parent colony. Soon after making the top it will feel queenless. Three options:

(a) Introduce a caged queen, mated and tested. Far away the best for she will be quickly released (3-4 days) and commence laying eggs. Small chance of failure, least delay in build up.

(b) Introduce a ripe queen cell or an untested queen. Cheaper but a greater measure of uncertainty as to successful hatching and mating and no control over drone

quality, also 2 to 3 weeks before queen starts laying.

(c) As the top is queenless the bees will naturally raise their own cell or cells if no introduction of a new queen or cell has taken place. If this method is followed be sure that combs raised when making the top contain eggs and/or very young larvae. Very cheap, highest risk of failure, end result hit and miss for drone quality is ??? Also a considerable lapse of time before queen can start her job.

What to do with these tops we will discuss next month. In the meantime look after them and don't let them go hungry.

3(a) Make a split. More or less the same as a top but the division board is inserted between bottom and second brood box. Put old queen into the bottom with enough honey and pollen and some brood. Young queen or cell into top half. Good system for re-queening. No extra equipment is used so no extra room is made for expansion. Cannot be left very long without further manipulation. Don't forget to plug the div. board entrance. Introduction of queens or cells should not be left any later than 24 hours after making the top or split.

4. Remove brood from extra strong colonies and give to a weaker one.

5. Swap stands between a very strong and weak colony. The greatest number of field bees will then strengthen the weak hive while congestion of the strong one will be eased.

6. More room, an extra super. Raise some sealed brood and replace with a good comb(s) or some sheets of foundation. Don't split the brood nest.

Any of the above mentioned measures or a combination of them will help in your endeavours to keep your hives from swarming. But there is no 100 percent guarantee and sometimes Murphy's Law will prevail. Whatever you do never BUT NEVER CHANGE EQUIPMENT FROM HIVE TO HIVE WITH FIRST CHECKING FOR ANY SIGN OF AMERICAN BROOD DISEASE.

The aim of these manipulations is to ultimately achieve that vital strength of a field force at the correct time to secure a good crop of honey as was discussed in the August notes. At the time of reading, those must have sounded like a riddle to you but that will now have been clarified by the correction in this issue.

**Editor's note:** Our apologies to John Heinemann and to readers for the missing part of last month's "notes for beginners" . . .

To assist those who are collecting the notes we are pleased to provide the correction and addition . . .

Please look at the left hand column, third paragraph that begins . . .

'So if the flow in your part starts on 1 December, the eggs laid from 6 to 8 weeks earlier represent the field bee force and the eggs laid from 6 weeks to say 1 month before the start of the flow will provide replacement field bees during the flow presuming that the flow will last for about one month. This shows the importance of building



up the foraging part of the hive production **before** the flow not on the flow. The last often happens and people wonder why an apparently good strong colony finished up disappointingly.

The quoted strength of 60,000 is certainly not a maximum. So much the better to start the flow with 80,000. It probably means an extra box of honey. Two smaller colonies of say 30,000 bees each will not produce the same amount of honey as one with 60,000. It will be

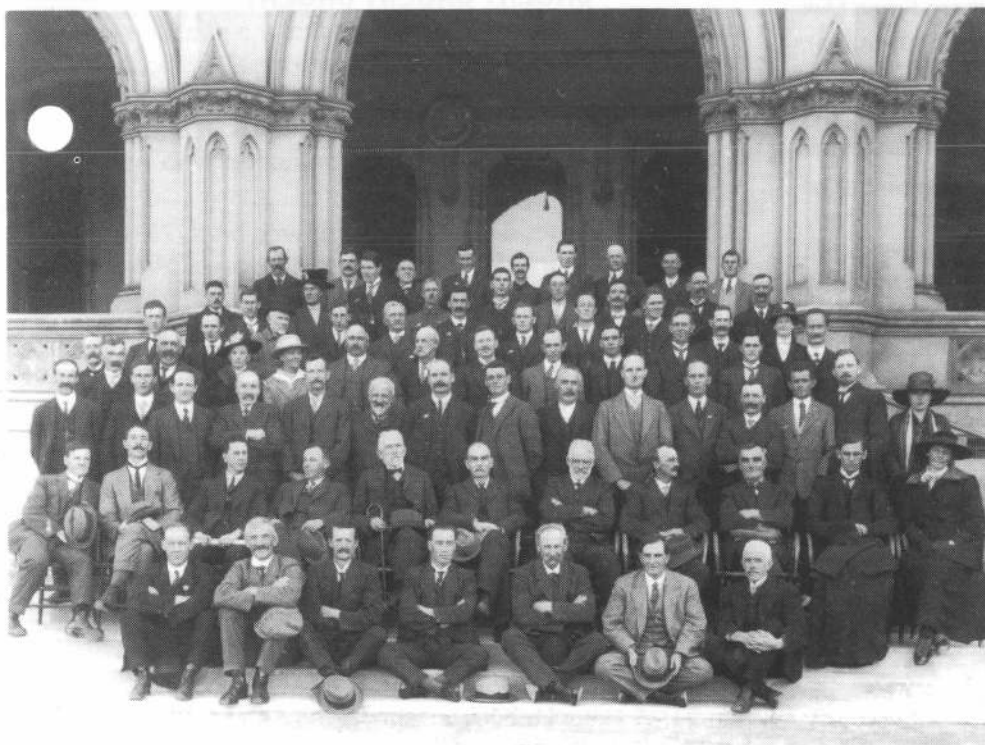
less. The two smaller colonies need a greater proportion of their bees for 'in hive' duties and consequently have a lesser field force available. So keep this timetable in mind: optimum foraging force at the right time. Smaller colonies will not produce a good return.

Now start opening up the hives, preferably picking a fine calm day, surely we can expect some.' The article then continues as printed.

## A Look at the Past



Who is this group outside the Arcadia Dining Rooms. Do you know any of them. Is it the first Beekeeper Conference and AGM?



A group of beekeepers outside the General Assembly Library Do you know the date? Are any attendees recognised?

## Recipe Corner

from Sue Jenkins

### Baked Honey Custard

Use honey of your choice to give the flavour as you desire. Remember that a delicate honey will give a delicate flavour, a stronger honey, a much stronger flavour.

- 2 large eggs
- 2 tablespoon runny honey
- 1½ cups milk
- ¼ teaspoon vanilla essence (optional)
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon

1. Heat milk in a saucepan until almost boiling.
2. Beat the eggs in a bowl until combined but not foamy. Add honey and mix well.
3. Slowly add milk to egg mixture. Add vanilla essence.
4. Pour the mixture into a baking dish set in a pan of hot water to within 3cm of the dish. Sprinkle with cinnamon.
5. Bake at 180°C for 35-45 minutes or until firm when the tip of a knife is inserted in the centre of the custard comes out clean. Serve hot or cold. When cold, it may separate out a little. (Serves 4).

### Honey Ice-Cream

Select a honey type with a delicate flavour (Vipers Bugloss, Clover, Rata, Nodding Thistle), but other honey flavours can be used to give a stronger flavoured ice-cream.

- ½ cup honey
- 4 tablespoons water
- 4 egg yolks
- 300mls cream, whipped

1. Heat the honey and water together slowly until the honey has dissolved. Stir, then bring to a rolling boil with even sized bubbles.
2. Whisk the egg yolks in a large bowl with an electric beater. With the beater running pour in the hot syrup. Continue whisking until the mixture has cooled and doubled its volume or as thick as whipped cream.
3. Fold whipped cream into the mixture.
4. Pour into a mould, cover with plastic wrap and freeze for a minimum of 8 hours. (Serves 6-8).

# It's All Go on the Marketing Front

After the inaugural New Zealand Honey Food Innovation Awards presentations at conference in Tauranga, we sent copies of certificates and congratulatory letters to the 25 Award recipients.

Some of those companies had no idea that their product had been entered or that they had won and were, as a consequence, thrilled to be so recognised by the honey industry.

These are the full list of Honey Award winners: (in alphabetical order: company, product).

Alsace NZ Distilling Co Ltd (Golden Honey Comb NZ Liqueur), Arataki NZ Ltd (Honey Marshmallow Kit), Arnott's NZ Ltd (Honey Crisp Milk Chocolate Biscuits), Baker Hall NZ Ltd (Baker Hall's Original Premium Blackcurrant and Honey concentrate), Barker's Fruit Processors Ltd (Barker's Tru-fruit Lemon and Honey Juice), Bluebird Foods Ltd ('Great Tasting Snacker Chocolate Honey Crunch Muesli Bar'), Comvita NZ Ltd (Comvita Propolis Lozenges and Propolis and Honey Elixir), French Maid Foods Ltd (French Maid Chinese Honey and Soy Marinade), Halifax NZ Ltd (Kiwifruit and Honey Fragrant Soap), Havill's Mazer Mead Co Ltd (Havill's Mead and Havill's Original Liqueur), Hansell's NZ Ltd (Hot Toddy Lemon Honey drink and Fruit and Honey Spreads), Honeyblend Products Ltd (Lodgies Honey and Apricot Hot Drink Fall Sachets), Hubbard Foods Ltd (Breakfast cereal selections featuring honey), Living Nature Natural Skin Care (Manuka Honey Skin Treatment Cream), Madeleine Ritchie (Honeycreme hand cream), Nature's Oven NZ Ltd (Magic Muesli selection), NYCO Chocolates Ltd (NZ Kiwifruit and Honey in real chocolate), Phoenix Foods Ltd (Lemonade Cola and Gingerbeer drinks, Heavensent Selection of Sauces, Jams and Mustards, (handmade organic marmalade and handmade organic tomato sauce); Sanitarium Health Foods Ltd (Sanitarium Honey Puffs), Southern Fresh Milk Company (Benger Gold Otago Apple and Honey Juice), Vogel's Ltd (Honey and Oat Bran Bread).

So if you supply honey to one of those companies don't forget to congratulate them when you're next in their plant.

A full media release has been sent out to a number of magazines, both here and in Australia. We have already had almost a full page equivalent of coverage in the Leisure Times. This newspaper is distributed to the New Zealand Hotel Licensed clubs and restaurant trade. Over the next 2-3 months we will continue to get good publicity.

I have also received a number of phone calls from recipients of the Award Certificates. A very positive letter has come from one of New Zealand's largest food companies. It's an international company with a major share of the New Zealand snack food market. Their manager has thanked me for the award which is going to be displayed prominently in their corporate offices, and has asked me to now communicate direct with their product development officer and look at product development opportunities featuring honey.

This is a very good example of how we see the Awards creating opportunities for beekeepers.

It's important to remember that as an industry we can't afford the sort of media publicity that we would like, (or

need!) to create a high profile and an ongoing demand for honey. But if major companies are promoting honey in their own product range, then we get the benefit of that and that sort of advertising will be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars to us.

## The Honey Display

It's very important that branches, packers or beekeepers who want to use the display for wine and food festivals, trade events, special promotions, **DIARY IT NOW**. A number of companies have already booked the display, up to a week at a time for Wine and Food Festivals and the like; and one company will be taking it to Japan with them for a major food promotion later this year.

## New Zealand Honey Food Ingredient Advisory Kits or Customer Guides

These are with your Branch secretaries now. (But my apologies for saying in last month's "Beekeeper" that they would be out early August . . . a couple of glitches proved me wrong . . . but they are there now!)

Please make sure that you get a chance to have a look at it.

Use it by visiting with food manufacturers in your area.

Remember, they don't have to be big companies or multi-national companies to create opportunities. For example, most towns have some sort of bakery. There is an excellent article on the use of honey in bakery as was researched in the USA; and you could well be providing honey to a bakery in your region who is suddenly producing an added-value product that tastes better, stays fresher, and can command a premium price!

### URGENT URGENT URGENT

Maybe I wasn't serious when I said that the deadline for branch secretaries to get information to me about honeys in their region, for a poster, was 16 August, . . . maybe I was being optimistic . . . but response has been more than slow! Thanks to the three branches who have replied.

For everyone else, can we please have a brief (75-100 word) description of the honeys in the area of New Zealand your branch represents.

We are going to (intend to) have the poster out before Christmas . . . if branches don't get information to us, we'll have to make assumptions on their behalf.

I don't want that to happen, but I also don't want the industry to be held up by just a few people. Look forward to getting your material.

### Education Kit

We have just received, at time of writing this article, a draft copy of our Beekeeping/Honey School Resource Teacher Kit.

The company developing it has had samples out with a number of school teachers; who have been trialling it on their classes. The results have been very exciting. It not only creates a very positive awareness of beekeeping,

but as part of the kit, children are encouraged with their parents, to buy different honeys and taste and talk about the flavours and aromas and the types of sweetness etc. It's going to be a marvellous investment for the industry. In the next *Beekeeper* I should be able to give details of how beekeepers can buy copies of the kit themselves to then present to schools in their area as a positive public relations gesture.

### Shopping Mall Honey Weeks

Following on from that very successful Honey Week run by the Canterbury Beekeepers, we have created an information folder about how branches can run similar weeks.

It has been set out with colour photographs and enables you to take it along to a shopping mall manager or to a supermarket and show them how promoting honey and beekeeping can create an exciting customer promotion and foot traffic drawcard.

We have two copies of the kit which can be lent out to branches to read and use in "selling the idea" to other groups. If you would like to borrow a copy, please contact us at the New Zealand Honey and Food and Ingredient Advisory Service.

So that's all until next month.

Regards, Bill Floyd

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## Report by NBA representative on Pesticides Board to NBA Conference

There is growing frustration in the Pesticides Board that proposed changes, which have been hanging over us for a number of years, have still not eventuated. The frustration has reached the point where our chairperson, Mrs Vicky Duncan has called a special meeting of the combined Pesticides and Animal Remedies Boards. The meeting, to be held next month, is to plan for the future and try to sort out some of the problems we are faced with at the present time.

The 1080 bee repellent problem is still with us. The agenda for the 58th meeting of the Pesticides Board, held in Wellington on 14th July 1994, read as follows "1080 BEE REPELLENT, this matter has now been finalised. Arrangements have been made for the incorporation of Isovaleric Acid into 1080 possum paste baits by 1 August 1994. All such paste baits sent from the manufacturer will have the bee repellent incorporated into the paste by 1 August 1994 at the latest. There is an occupational problem with IVA - its smell does permeate clothes and the smell persists on clothes and skin. Efforts are continuing to find

alternative repellents. As a further development, the possibility of removing the sugar fraction of the paste baits is being investigated (the objective here is to reduce attractiveness to bees)."

Unfortunately by the time the meeting was held it had been decided that IVA was an unacceptable health risk to the field operators, causing headaches and respiratory problems and it would not be possible to proceed with its use. The paste which has the IVA in it will have to be dumped and IVA already imported to mix in the paste, disposed of.

Beekeepers will be very disappointed at this sudden turn of events. It will mean we will have to push even harder to get the problem of 1080 poisoning resolved, and resolved quickly. It has been with us far too long.

It is now many years since I replaced Paul Marshall on the Agricultural Chemicals Board (now the Pesticides Board) and I feel the time has come to retire from the position. The workload within our business along with my new responsibilities as an industry trustee are the main reasons

for this decision. I also believe it is time for a new person with fresh ideas and new enthusiasm to take over. I will be asking the Executive to find a new beekeepers representative by the end of this year.

In conclusion I give special thanks to the members and staff of the Pesticides Board for all the help they have given me during my many years on the Pesticides Board and earlier on the Agricultural Chemicals Board. I believe the beekeepers of New Zealand have been well served by these boards and are fortunate to have an appointed representative on them. I trust that whatever the future holds for the Pesticides Board that beekeepers are able to retain some form of representation to help protect our bees from pesticides poisoning.

**Ian Berry**

*Since the report provided by Ian Berry the meeting to which he refers has been held and changes made to incorporate the Pesticides Board with the Animal Remedies Board. Ian Berry met with NBA executive recently to advise them of the changes. Very sincere thanks are extended to Ian for his many years of work on behalf of beekeepers in this important areas.*

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### Aussies like our Conference

We're not sure what the several Australians attending our recent NBA Annual Conference in Tauranga thought of the proceedings, but *The Australasian Beekeeper* certainly seemed to like the look of our conference agenda. In the July issue, the magazine's editor outlined our then up-coming conference to readers. He seemed particularly impressed with the number of workshops and speakers we had

scheduled throughout the week, and suggested that Australian associations would do well to review the programme and use some of our ideas in the future. At the same time, he said he was happy that the Australian associations had also recently seen the benefits of including more educational events at their conferences. The editor also made an interesting proposal which beekeepers on this side of the Tasman might like to follow up. He

suggested that the next step could be to exchange visits between beekeepers in both countries on an annual basis. Sounds like a good idea, and we're sure that greater contact between the beekeeping industries in our respective countries would prove that what we have in common far outweighs the few problems (like honey imports) which currently seem to be causing some friction between the two groups.

# Letters

The Editor,  
N.Z. Beekeeper.

Dear Sir,

As an appendix to the paper 'The N.Z. Honey Bee Industry - A Perspective' delivered to the 1994 NBA Conference, the writer feels compelled to elaborate on the potential for the New Zealand Apicultural industry to be exploited by off shore operators. That such is already happening, seems extremely plausible. This is particularly so where the primary producer is lured by existing personal economic demands or through insufficient understanding of down stream economic activity, into disposing of his raw material without consideration for the end use or end value.

Unhappily the New Zealand lamb industry is an outstanding analogy. Arguably the best lamb in the world, for decades, after traditional butcher shops had all but disappeared, New Zealand remained locked into the paradigm of supplying its superb product in butcher shop ready form. Tragically the new market wanted oven prepared cuts. Off shore entrepreneurs quickly recognising the opportunity stripped untold amounts of added value income from producer and national cash flows.

Parallels could be drawn in terms of our off shore trade in bulk honey. No doubt, drawing the same cries of derision that were heard from the lamb industry in the late 60's and early 70's. When the spectre of competition is growing, as it is from our near neighbour Australia, that is the time to be formulating strategies that see consolidation of the New Zealand brand honey in markets that will give producers the best real return both now and in the future. A similar situation applies in regard to by-products such as propolis, pollen and to a lesser extent Royal Jelly.

Propolis has the potential to add significantly to the New Zealand apicultural industry cash flow. For a variety of reasons heavy weights in Europe and Asia continue to focus on Propolis as the foundation of a variety of high profile therapeutic products, which seem to be gaining strength in

the international scene.

It would be foolish in the extreme for the New Zealand industry to squander this growth potential by selling the raw bulk material to off shore entrepreneurs, quick to recognise the uniqueness of the country's geographic location and native floral resource. It is in the industry's interest to take a long term strategic view of such products by avoiding the no added value impulse and supporting the birth and development of structured second tier converters in New Zealand with the capacity to add value to the upstream/downstream equation.

One such converter, Comvita New Zealand Limited at Paengaroa in the Bay of Plenty, already markets a significant range of Propolis based products and has a substantial investment in research and development to ensure an ongoing and expanding application base. This small company spends precious financial resource supporting scientific investigation and development through Crown Research Institutes in Wellington and Waikato University in Hamilton. There is need for the industry to close ranks and support the Comvita's of New Zealand. They are the product development and market development pace-makers for the industry. They are the security the industry needs.

I recently had the misfortune to meet the New Zealand based purchasing agent of a large Japanese organisation. He had just completed acquisition of considerable volume of very active bulk manuka honey on behalf of his client. That product is destined for Japan in 300kg drums for repackaging into consumer units and very high consumer prices, as much as \$12 per kg wholesale! No doubt it will carry the legend of Dr Peter Molan and all that such conveys. The termites are already at work.

The New Zealand Apicultural industry cannot afford to have its destiny eroded in this way. What they have is precious and extremely limited in volume. In dollar terms it can only add value by taking its indigenous

uniqueness to the customer in consumer ready form. And in so doing cementing its future. In marketing there are no prizes for coming second.

W J Bracks,  
Consultant.

Dear Sir,

I would be grateful if you could please publish the following letter.

'My name is John Cox and I am at present about to start the last year of a degree course in Marketing for which I am required to complete a dissertation on any aspect of marketing.

I have chosen World Wide Honey Marketing as my subject, how marketing boards and co-operatives work, what is required from the producers, what is required from the boards or co-operatives etc.

I would also be interested in any localised or national promotional ideas which have either been successful or failures. As a beekeeper myself, I can appreciate some of the problems involved with this.

If anyone could please send me any information on the above subjects, I would very much appreciate it and endeavour to reply to all correspondents without delay.'

Yours faithfully

**J W Cox**  
**9A Beech Close,**  
**Market Deeping,**  
**Peterborough,**  
**PE6 8LL,**  
**England.**

## VALE-PERCY BERRY

All Beekeepers and those associated with the industry will be saddened to learn of the death of life member and former president of the NBA, Percy Berry.

Percy attended the NBA conference and AGM in Tauranga in July and was still expressing a keen interest in the industry and all its workings.

An obituary will be recorded in a future issue of the "NZ Beekeeper".

# Honeycomb Directory

Various headings will be used within this directory as required by advertisers and will include:

Beeswax, Honey, Bee Products, Woodware, Beekeepers supplies/accessories, Queens & packaging bees, Packaging Materials, FMG Insurance, Extracting services, laboratory services; Sugar supplies. The cost will be \$30 per comb, per issue (with 6 or more issues at \$20 per issue).

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# From the Colonies

## Auckland Branch

After an initial reluctance to receive the first stings of the season working hives has been reasonably pleasurable. Fewer losses over winter than usual and access to sites pretty good.

Terry Gavin and Co's diseases strategy was received very favourably. It is also appreciated the amount of time people put into sub-committees, the executive and the difficulty of staying on track and getting something down on paper.

There are still mutterings in the branch about the marketing levy. While we're generally in favour of what is being achieved, some are concerned that packers are getting a subsidised ride with the advertising.

Though talk of the use of a honey mark helped quell the situation.

Just listening to the National Programme and those predicting another dry summer for Auckland — and eastern areas as well, we shall see but it's been a good start.

**Nigel Birge**

## South Canterbury Branch

It's been a mild, wet winter in South Canterbury. Hives have come through in good condition with good stores on hand.

Beekeepers in this area are showing confidence in their industry with the construction of several new storage sheds.

Bells Honey based in the picturesque McKenzie town of Twizel, have completed a large shed on their property. Jan Van Hoof is flat out trying to finish his new building so he can finally get his car into his garage. Tully-Fitzgerald have a superb new shed completed last year. Cloake's Honey did a major renovation job on their truck dock and comb storage area last year, and I'm halfway through building a new shed myself. Those who haven't been building sheds or houses have been buying new vehicles with several new trucks around, and Nigel Parrish of Hilton Apiaries (our new president) sporting a new 4-wheel drive Hi-lux, so we are all optimistically prepared for this year's big honey crop.

**Peter Smyth**

## Otago Branch

Field day Saturday 8th October 1994 to be held at Alexandra at Russel Poole's premises. Come and join us in Central Otago, land of orchards and thyme honey with fine weather more often than not. Remember the photo of the overturned beekeepers truck in an earlier issue this year, not far from that scene, so watch your step and don't have a beekeepers emergency. Directions posted on the main road through town.

An open invitation went out to all Otago Beekeepers to attend a Bee Disease discussion meeting and workshop which was held at the Mornington School Hall in Dunedin on 3rd September. Introduction of new AFB control legislation, discussion and workshop sessions, video and demonstration of AFB including 'live' samples and disease education material, was organised and hosted by the Dunedin Beekeepers Club and the Otago Branch NBA.

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## Carniolan Import Standard Released

On August 18, The MAF Regulatory Authority officially released a document entitled, 'Import Health Standard for the Importation of Carniolan Bee (*Apis mellifera carnica*) Semen into New Zealand from Germany.' The document sets out the conditions under which Carniolan semen can be imported and used in this country. The release of the document follows months of speculation and debate on the issue, as well as a vote against such importations at the NBA Annual General Meeting in Tauranga.

The standard requires that the semen to be imported come only from drones bred in Germany, and that the semen be collected at a MAF RA approved laboratory. The apiaries from which the drones are selected must also be certified by German veterinary authorities to be in an area where no AFB, EFB or noseosis has been reported within a 5km radius for the previous 8 months. The apiaries also have to be culture-tested for

*Melissococcus pluton*, the causative agent of EFB. The semen is required to be transported in sealed containers, and to be met by an inspector under the Biosecurity Act when it arrives in New Zealand.

Queens to be inseminated must be kept in an indoor-flight quarantine facility in New Zealand which meets the National Agriculture Security Service standard for introduction of invertebrates. The queens must also be marked and clipped at the time of insemination. Inseminations are to take place within the facility and the nucs receiving the queens are to be checked every seven days for the presence of the queen. Any colonies in which the queen is not found must be destroyed within 24 hours.

While in quarantine, the semen, inseminated queens, and workers and drones produced from the queens, will be subjected to tests for viruses, EFB and Africanised honey bee genetic traits. The release of the inseminated queens can only take

place once these tests are completed and negative results are obtained. Approval for such release can only come from the MAF RA Chief Veterinary Officer. Positive tests for any of the specified diseases or genetic traits will result in the immediate destruction of all materials associated with the importation.

All costs for any such importations, including certification, selection, testing, treatment, transport and quarantine will be borne by the importer of the semen.

We understand that there is some concern on the part of the potential importers that certain provisions of the standard may be unworkable. In particular, it is unclear how long the nucleus colonies receiving the inseminated queens must remain in the indoor-flight quarantine facility. Long periods of confinement may make it difficult to keep such nucleus colonies alive.

# Classified Advertisements

Available only to registered beekeepers selling used hives, used plant, and any other apiary equipment, and those seeking work in the industry. \$15.00 for 25 words (inclusive of G.S.T.) payable in advance. No discounts apply. No production charges. Maximum size: 1/6 page. No box number available.

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## Apimondia details announced

The first circular, presenting details of the 34th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress, has just been released. The congress will be held August 15-19, 1995 in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The theme of the congress will be 'Beekeeper meets Beekeeper', and according to conference organisers emphasises the goal they have set of uniting beekeeping friends from all over the world. The congress will give beekeepers the chance to exchange views and talk about their experiences, while at the same time offering them the latest scientific and practical research. Emphasis in the discussion subjects chosen will be on the relation of honey bees and beekeepers with the environment. There will also be a day-long excursion visiting Swiss beekeeping and cultural sites.

As at past congresses, there will be a large trade exhibition, including manufacturers of beekeeping equipment, bee therapy products, and educational materials. A number of contests will also be run, including the presentation of medals for technical inventions, new products, videos, photographs and books.

For more information and a copy of the second circular, write to the Apimondia General Secretary, Corso Vittorio Emanuele 101, Rome 100186, Italy.

## Natural control for nosema and chalk brood?

In an address given to a recent commercial beekeeper association seminar in Ontario, Canada on research at Beaver Lodge into a new biological control for nosema and chalk brood using the product called Margosan-O which is available from garden shops in California costing US\$45 per gallon which treats 2,000 hives, giving the required treatment once per year costing 7 cents per dosage which is included into sugar syrup.

The product is produced from a particular tree so is a natural extract. The product is used on plants to control red mites and fungal diseases.

Future research is to be on the effect it could have on AFT and EFB control.

On the down side a law suit is pending for the misuse of the product in Florida. The amount claimed is US\$700 million.

*Malcom Haines*

## Dates to Diary

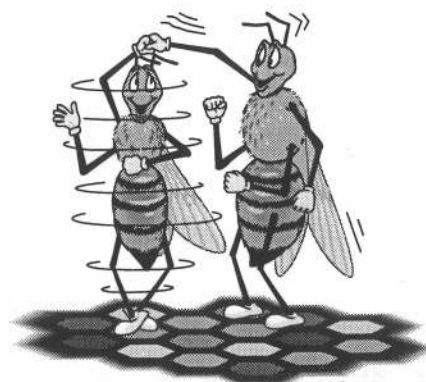
Christchurch convention is set for 12, 13 and 14 July, 1995. Why not put this in your 1995 year planner and be part of the fun, the information, the camaraderie of beekeeping.

It is proposed to run a regular column in this spot in each issue . . . so that readers can update their diaries and get an insight into what is coming up. If you or your branch have a diary date please let us have it.

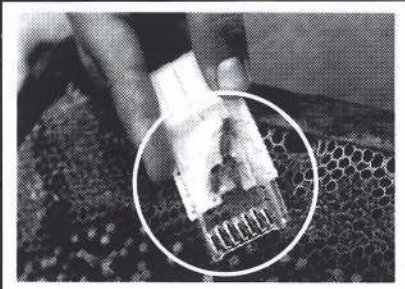
## Meeting dates

The next meeting of the Canterbury branch will be held on Tuesday the 27th September, at 7.30pm.

Topic for discussion: Jam Baits re-1080.



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