ISSN 09110-6325

The New Zealand Bee Keeper

NOVEMBER 1994
VOL 1. No. 10

The Official Journal of the National Beekeepers Association of New Zealand (Inc.), 211 Market Street South, Hastings, New Zealand. Tel. (06) 878-5385, Fax (06) 878-6007.

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The NZ Beekeeper is published eleven times per annum; February to December. All copy should be with the Editor by the 1st day of the month of publication except for December when copy should be received by 20th November.
Advertising rates — shown inside
Annual Subscriptions available from the Editor are:
New Zealand ($30) plus gst. Overseas rates to be advised.

President's Notes: Volunteerism

Many people do not realise how much organisations like ours rely on the goodwill and voluntary efforts of our members. This willingness to support the NBA is certainly the most valuable asset we have, and periodically, it needs to be recognised.

Branch officers — the presidents and secretaries who hold our branch structure together — deserve particular thanks. Without enthusiastic and dedicated people to give time and energy, members would not get the chance to participate at a local level. Field days and other branch events take a lot of organising, and many times it seems the beekeepers who are the busiest take on the most extra work.

At a national level, we again rely on the willingness of individuals to donate time and energy. Serving on the National Executive requires a commitment and dedication that takes the person away from business and family. When one considers the hours of involvement that it requires to support an effective organisation such as the NBA, these beekeepers should be acknowledged periodically by the industry.

In the last few years, a new level of voluntary service has developed within the NBA. With issues confronting the industry getting very time consuming for the executive to handle, various committees have been set up to assist. The Marketing Committee and the Disease Control Committee are two that stand out in my mind as having provided the industry with immense value. Allen McCaw and Terry Gavin, the chairpersons of these two committees, have shown true leadership and should be congratulated for their successes, along with all of the members of both the committees.

The Marketing Committee has managed to develop a marketing plan, the culmination of a number of years of ideas and thought. The members of the committee have provided guidance and direction to ensure that our marketing efforts are going toward worthwhile and valuable projects. I believe we are only just beginning to receive the real value of that committee's work, and look forward to the future.

The Disease Committee has, with the briefest of instructions and a minimum of budget, analysed the industry's requirements for the future of bee disease control, and ultimately aimed our industry at the goal of eradication of American foulbrood. The Disease Committee has prepared the basis for our Pest Management Strategy, the description of how we plan to deal with AFB. The draft of the PMS has been sent to branches and bee clubs for comment and consideration. I urge you to talk with other beekeepers about it, and find out about some of the excellent ideas that have come out of this voluntary committee.

The difficulty in starting to thank people for their voluntary contribution to the industry is that it would be so easy to overlook individuals and groups who have provided the real 'backbone' of our organisation.

These people who work for the good of the industry are the glue that holds the National Beekeepers Association together. We would never be able to afford the amount of money to get the work done that is given so freely by these volunteers. As the current President of the Association, I would like to thank all of you that help to make the NBA as effective as it is through your voluntary efforts.

President's Notes continued on Page 4

Rugby World Cup 1995 & Beekeeping Tour of South Africa

"Le Duc Tours" has arranged a 28 day Rugby World Cup tour combined with a Beekeeping and sightseeing tour of South Africa. A well-known personality from the South African beekeeping fraternity will act as tour guide. There will be frequent contact with beekeepers in southern Africa.

South Africa is a progressive beekeeping country and this together with the splendour of the Rugby World Cup promises to be a rewarding trip. Southern Africa has two indigenous bee races, the African Bee, notorious for its aggressive behaviour and the Cape Bee, well-known as the only species of bee where unfertilized female worker bees can produce female offspring.

Commercial beekeeping is based on a single hive-type, the Langstroth hive. Pollination has developed over the last decade as the single most important facet of beekeeping. During the Rugby World Cup the New Zealand programme will be followed. Guaranteed seated match tickets in luxury private suites with snacks and a private bar have been obtained by Le Duc Tours.

For further information, please contact:

The Organisers
Rugby World Cup & Beekeeping
Tour of South Africa
P.O. Box 14861
Sinoville, 0129
Republic of South Africa

For advice or information on any NZ honey industry marketing issue, NBA members can contact:

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Front Cover
Happy Valley Managing Director Ben Rawnsley with Mr and Mrs Akutsu in Utsunomiya, Japan. Ben's company was one of 13 that visited Japan as part of a Manukau Sister City Trade Mission.

President's Notes continued from Page 3

1080 Decision

Elsewhere in this magazine you'll find an article describing how the NBA has managed to provide beekeepers with a form of protection from the many and widespread 1080 jam bait programmes that were causing so many hives to be shifted through the middle of the flow.

Ian Berry, who has served for many years as the NBA's representative on the Pesticides Board, deserves special thanks for the work he put in on the issue. At the September meeting of the Pesticides Board, he rallied the support that eventually assisted us to achieve a workable solution.

Though it appears we should not face the problems we have in the past, I would urge any beekeepers who are still experiencing difficulties with Regional Councils to contact a member of the Executive or myself.

Good Ideas Wanted (and other reasons to contact me!)

Trying to keep up with the feelings and aspirations of the beekeeping industry is not easy! There are many different goods and services produced, many types of businesses, such a range in size and geographic spread!

I want to make a special invitation to any member of the NBA who has a good idea or a way that our organisation might be able to function more effectively to contact me by letter, phone or fax. Only through combining the 'good ideas' of the entire membership can we really develop our strengths.

On the other hand, if you want to talk about something that isn't working right in the industry or the NBA, please feel free to get in touch with me. I can't guarantee that I can solve things or fix things, but I will certainly do what I can to help. If I can't sort something out, I'll try to make sure you get in contact with someone who might be able to do something for you.

Nick Wallingford
55 Watling Street
Tauranga
Ph/Fax (07) 578-1422 (evenings are best)

1080 must have IVA, Pesticide Board says

The long-running saga regarding a mandatory bee repellent for 1080 jam baits looks like it just might be coming to a final conclusion, following a recent decision by the Pesticides Board to require all such baits to incorporate isovaleric acid (IVA). IVA was identified as a possible bee repellent last year, after several trials had given inconsistent results on possum attraction and oxalic acid, the original choice for a bee repellent.

The Pesticides Board decision follows a series of on-again, off-again episodes over the incorporation of IVA into baits used for possum control by Regional Councils and government departments under the auspices of the Animal Health Board. In May, the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment recommended that 1080 jam baits be deregistered by the Pesticides Board if they did not contain a bee repellent. In July, however, the Board decided not to require the inclusion of IVA in these baits, following a claim that the chemical created operator respiratory problems.

In its pure form (technical grade 100% IVA), the substance is known to irritate the respiratory tract. However, IVA makes up only 1% of 1080 jam baits, and there is a belief that the real reason operators objected to IVA use was that it gave off an unpleasant odour (it smells like rancid cheese).

The beekeeping industry, through the National Beekeepers' Association, made strong representations on the matter to the Pesticides Board at its September meeting, at which time the board then decided it would at least de-register non-repellent 1080 jam baits as of July 1, 1995. This still left the beekeeping industry in the lurch for the 1994-95 season however, with a number of possum poisoning programmes set to get underway.

The NBA therefore decided to seek a consultation with Ross Meurant, the Undersecretary of Agriculture. On October 11, NBA president Nick Wallingford and vice-president Richard Bensemann attended a meeting in Wellington with Mr Meurant, and representatives of the Pesticides Board, the Animal Health Board and the MAF Regulatory Authority. While no decisions were made at that meeting, early the next week the Pesticides Board held a conference call and decided to 1) immediately require the incorporation of IVA in all 1080 jam baits, and 2) only allow the baits to be used by operators wearing appropriate protective equipment (eg respirators).

That decision was further fleshed out by a sub-committee of the board which includes NBA member Ian Berry. The sub-committee wrote a series of labelling requirements for the baits and usage recommendations for jam gun applicators. It also decided that the statement "do not lay toxic baits within 400m of beehives" could be removed because the usage limitation would no longer apply.

In commenting on the potential respiratory problems of using IVA-incorporated baits, the Pesticides Board says that while "it is appreciated that some Regional Councils have great concerns from the occupational health perspective . . . we consider that the use of respirators at the point of maximum exposure and the basic measures described under usage recommendations should minimise those problems." They also recommend alternative poisons, if for some reason IVA baits cannot be used.

This most recent move by the Pesticides Board is seen as an interim measure, until an alternative 1080 jam product is produced to replace the present need for IVA-incorporated baits. Nevertheless, it would appear that a firm decision has finally been made by the authority which controls 1080 use to ensure that our honey bees will once again be protected in the environment.

Bee-borne pest control

When it comes to pesticide applications, beekeepers would have to be one of the most long-suffering groups in the agricultural community. Whenever someone misapplies an insecticide, we're usually the first ones to find out. If we're lucky, we'll only find small piles of dead bees outside the front entrances of our hives. If not, we sometimes lose whole colonies to these chemicals.

But while honey bees sometimes take the brunt of pesticide use, researchers in the United States have recently discovered that they can also plan an entirely different role in pest control. They're taking advantage of the bees' prodigious work rate and ability to pollinate to actually help deliver a pesticide.

The pesticide in question is an environmentally friendly virus which attacks corn earworms, a significant pest of one the world's most important agricultural crops. Studies have shown that the virus, called a nuclear polyhedrosis virus (NPV), can kill 70-80% of the worms.

But it took some enterprising scientists at the United States Department of Agriculture's Insect Biology and Population Management laboratory, in Tifton, Georgia, to bring the bees into the equation. They developed a device that dusts honey bees with a virus-impregnated talcum powder when the bees exit the hive. And as the bees buzz from flower to flower, the virus/powder rubs off of their bodies and onto the blooms, where the virus then comes into contact with the worms.

According to John Hamm of the USDA, "Field studies show that the bees do a great job of carrying the virus from one crimson clover flower to another. They're really ideal carriers because they work so hard and visit so many plants."

So far the bee-borne studies have only been carried out with NPV and corn earworms, but researchers are confident that the beehive device can be used with any biological control agent that doesn't harm honey bees.

Which brings us back to New Zealand. Scientists at HortResearch, Ruakura, have identified a bacteria in apple flowers which may hold the key to natural control of this significant pest, which is itself a bacteria affecting apples and pears. According to HortResearch scientist Joel Vanneste, current fire blight control is by the application of antibiotic streptomycin sprays during the blooming period. However, last year they had very encouraging results using the biological agent in an orchard in Pukekohe. And this year, Vanneste says, "We will assess the effectiveness of bees as a cheap, simple and clean-green system to deliver this biological agent to every open flower in the orchard." So who knows, pesticide applications could become a whole new growth industry for our honey bees!

Sources: BEE-L Bulletin Board, INTERNET; Growing Today, November 1994.

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Industry votes to debate Carniolan imports

The recent conference at Tauranga saw an interesting development in the Carniolan debate with the industry voting in favour of a remit supporting an "informed debate" of the pros and cons of allowing the importation of Carniolan genetic material into New Zealand. With the intention of keeping the debate as informed as possible the Far North branch released a file to each branch delegate detailing some of the facts of the matter with contributions from world authorities in bee genetics. Branches are encouraged to use this file as the basis for further debate.

While the industry quite clearly voted in favour of continuing the debate, it must also be said that after the conclusion of the conference of delegates Mr Russell Berry succeeded in introducing a procedural motion from the floor which reaffirmed the industry's traditional opposition to the importation of Carniolan genetic material. Mr Berry's concern was, I believe, related to the perceived imminence of the MAF Regulatory Authority affirmative decision on the Carniolan semen importations and Mr Berry's conviction that the industry should have more say in the decisions made by MAF Regulatory Authority.

This despite the fact that the executive had made submissions to MAF REG raising industry concerns over Carniolan importations. The debate which surrounded this procedural motion prompted Mr Mark Winston, the Canadian scientist present, to comment that he thought he had walked into a meeting of the flat earth society! I would suggest that he was referring to the unwarranted scaremongering of those who believe that hybrids resulting from Carniolan genes will prove to be a problem. The Australian, Canadian and German experience indicate that these fears are ill-founded.

Mr Mervyn Cloake, one of the more vocal opponents of Carniolan importations, concedes that first generation hybrids between Carniolan and Italian are known to be a good bee but perhaps a little further down the line with F2 crosses onwards, (uncontrolled supersedures) he fears that these hybrids could force him back into using gloves.

The weakness in his argument is that we already have the potential for nasty F2 onwards crosses with our own mellifera mellifera black bees. Modern beekeeping practice using proven pure-breed breeder stock with systematic requeening practices eliminates the problem. "Leave alone" beekeepers will always end up with hybridized, difficult to work stock. I suspect that Carniolan importations will have little effect on nature and nastiness of the hybrids presently tolerated by so many beekeepers. It remains a beekeeper's choice.

This theme was also picked up on by the visiting president of the American beekeeper's federation who responding to questions from the floor about Carniolans reported that he could not understand what all the fuss over here was about. While he used Italians personally, his neighbour used Carniolans and there was no problem in co-existing.

In processing Mr Yanke's application to import Carniolan semen MAF Regulatory authority have followed due legal, and I might point out, democratic procedures calling for submissions from the industry and other interested parties and including requested opinions from overseas bee geneticists. I understand that MAF REG have been unable to find any valid biological reasons that would allow them to reject importations of Carniolan semen. If the decision was to be based on fact and fact alone I believe that we would already have had Carniolan stock available for some years. The MAF REG affirmative decision is based on a consultative process where the facts are established, then decisions are made based on the facts. The present executive appears to be taking umbrage because the decision goes against their objections. I take the view that in the final analysis expert decisions should be left to experts.

At conference I issued a challenge to those opposed to the principle of Carniolan importations to provide objective credible, scientific evidence

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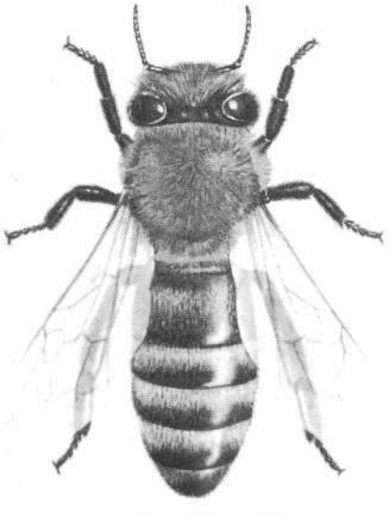
THE EUROPEAN HONEY BEES



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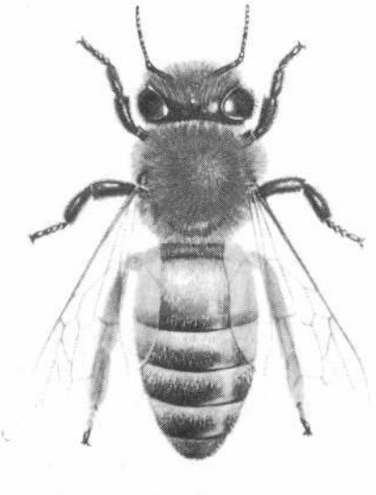

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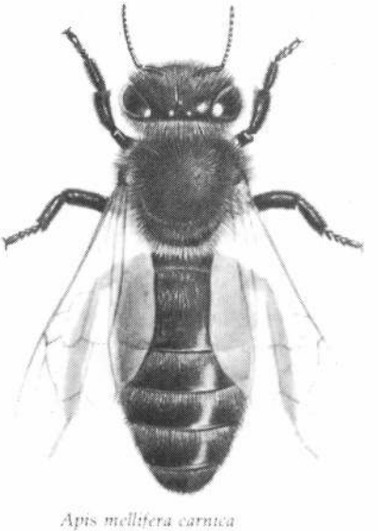

Apis mellifera carnica

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Continued from Page 6

to support their respective positions. To date the detractors seem woefully short on hard evidence.

A recent letter to this publication from Gary Jeffreys raised some concerns of his and gave a critique of my earlier article extolling the virtues of Carniolans. Mr Jeffreys displays a trait not altogether unknown among queen breeders with his unswerving faith in the superiority of his own stock to the point that he fails to believe that any other line of bees may equal or better his own Italian type hybrid.

The point to be made here is that although some of us may have had the opportunity to trial Mr Jeffrey's stock, we have all been denied the opportunity to observe first hand the benefits of Carniolan stock.

Mr Jeffreys however makes some other observations which deserve some comment.

1 He maintains that we have already had Carniolan semen importations from Western Australia. That is incorrect. The importations from Western Australia were from Italian stock.

2 Mr Jeffreys believes that the Canadians are not demanding Carniolan stock. This is also incorrect. The effects of the varoa and tracheal mites are changing the picture in Canada rapidly with a demand for stock with proven resistance to mite predation. I would suggest Mr Jeffreys obtain a copy of the file presented at conference which has some Canadian input.

3 The main concern of Mr Jeffreys is that semen importations may unleash a wave of new viruses from Germany.

He has obviously not read the risk analysis prepared by MAF regulatory authority. The reason that semen is imported into this country for genetic improvement of numerous animal species is precisely because the risk of importing diseases is incredibly small.

Queen breeders and exporters of bees were all very excited with the recent news that the United States Department of Ag. is again proposing to allow the importation of New Zealand stock into the US market. This revisits the proposal from 1990 which was successfully opposed by certain "Flatearthers" from the American Beekeeper's Federation who argued that the mite free status of our NZ stock was not substantiated scientifically!

They did however raise one very real concern which was that NZ stock would not likely have any resistance to varoa or tracheal mites. Proof positive now exists that NZ stock does not compare very favourably with mite resistant stocks when those stocks face mite predation.

The potential of the US market is very significant, particularly in view of the anticipated demand for stock certified free of Africanized genes. However this industry will be missing a golden opportunity if it does not support the establishment of the Carniolan option.

The bottom line is that the customer demands a productive, manageable bee stock with good mite resistance. It's no good sending a productive stock that performs well but is unable to overwinter because of poor resistance to mites.

This industry faces the very real prospect of being left behind if it fails to take advantage of modern developments in genetic improvement of honey bees. Semen importations of proven lines of Italian and Carniolan stock are a safe reliable way to take advantage of what we can't achieve here with the limited gene and money pool!

Bruce Stevenson

New pollen guide available

Many beekeepers probably own a copy of Dorothy Hodges's *Pollen Loads of the Honey Bee,* a pioneering book published in 1952 which for the first time recorded the colours of pollen loads and identified them according to plant source. The book, which was published by the International Bee Research Association (IBRA), has been out of print for a number of years, and used copies are much sought-after, because the information has never been available anywhere else.

Recently, however, the IBRA commissioned the production of a new publication on the subject — *A Colour Guide to Pollen Loads of the Honey Bee,* by William Kirk. Dr Kirk carried out pollen collections on over 250 plant species commonly found in Europe (a greater number than in the original Hodges work), and painstakingly recorded them according to the CMYK screen tint percentages used universally by printers in the four-colour printing process. The result is a system of pollen colour identification which can be used anywhere in the world.

The new colour guide has been printed on stiff paper, and includes a range of colour shades for each species, because pollen loads have been shown to vary slightly in coloration, depending on their locale. The guide is also arranged according to colour, rather than bloom time, as was the case in the Hodges book. This makes the guide much easier to use in identification work. There is also a comprehensive plant index, by both common and scientific name.

New Zealand beekeepers will find this new book a useful tool in identifying pollen from the many introduced plant species which produce much of the pollen utilised by our honey bees. But as you would expect in a book produced in Europe, New Zealand native species have not been included. Nevertheless, the charts provide an excellent colour reference against which to code pollen loads from such plants.

A Colour Guide to Pollen Loads of the Honey Bee is available from New Zealand IBRA representatives (North Island: Cliff van Eaton, c/- MAF, Private Bag, Tauranga; South Island: Peter Brunt, c/- Nelson Polytech, Private Bag, Nelson). Cost is $36.00.

To Hungary for Beekeeping

Continued from October issue of NZ Beekeeper.

by G Nichols — Hokianga

Jeno was delighted to show me: back at home he produced a tool rather like a Biro pen. The tip was the cutting tool and inside the tip was a split tube made of springy brass, the three splits went about 10mm inside the outer tube. When you punched out the wax disc both tubes were level at the bottom making a single punch. You then pressed out the inner tube from the remote end like using a Biro pen, the split tube protruded and widened like an inside out umbrella allowing easy removal of the disc with the egg.

To produce the eggs you make the queen lay in some new comb, you then scrape, but not cut, the cells off from either side of the eggs leaving a piece of foundation with the eggs standing proud ready for the grafting tool. The cells are transferred into wax queen cups and given a feed of early royal jelly from larval cells in the age range 25-48 hours or possibly up to 72 hours. I am not very sure of these feeding instructions, Jeno's English is very limited and my five months' study of Hungarian and the IBRA beekeeping dictionary still left me rather inadequate.

Lukacs Lazlo at the side of his beehouse.

Jeno needed five mated queens so we collected five cages, filled one end of each with candy and set off for the far end of the garden with the tiny queen-mating hives under the trees. He removed a square wooden top, then a square of heavy black paper to reveal a second heavy black paper with three minute combs attached. He lifted the combs up, bent the black paper into a semi-circular arc so that the two outer combs were now horizontal and the central one vertical. This exposed all the bees and the cells, we inspected for eggs and found the already painted queen. Jeno opened the queen cage, placed the opening next to the queen, blew her and about a dozen attendants into the cage, closed the cage and the job was done. He reassembled the hive placing a long dandelion leaf under the lid as his mark of queenlessness. In almost no time the job was finished and we put the cages into five colonies in the cabin trunks.

At the start of the season his tiny mating hives are given 2x100g blocks of candy and one small soup ladle of bees. Starting later in the season he uses 3 blocks of candy and 3 soup ladles of bees. I thought it would have been the other way around with the stronger colony earlier in the season but try saying that in Hungarian! He showed me a special breeder queen from which he had raised three generations so far this year.

After the evening meal we thought we had finished for the day, but no, we picked up a hefty young man named Lukacs Lazlo and set out for a ride in the country over very good roads, turned off onto a small unsealed country road and stopped at a farm gate. Not far inside the gate stood a beehouse on wheels with entrances for 16 hives in each side. Steps led up to a door in the rear, inside was a spotlessly clean passage flanked on either side with the bees in what may best be described as filing cabinets. Each hive consisted of four boxes of 18 frames each. They looked like 3/4 Langstroth frames. These are not really boxes but individual racks on runners which may be slid into the passage. Again the wonderfully gentle Carniolan bees with no brace comb and no propolis to glue up the runners. His extractor, a small tangential model, had a 12 volt battery driven motor. For frame reversal, each cage had a pulley wheel mounted on top of the long mounting pin, a piece of expanding 'curtain wire' ran around each wheel and was actuated by a lever near the centre. Lazlo produced between two and three tonnes of honey each year, usually two tonnes. The bee house had a towing bar at the front and was pulled by a truck. For the severe winter the truck had inside insulation. I think the bees were working sunflowers. Lazlo gave me a pot of akac honey, their word for acacia.

On July 11 Jeno had a beekeeping conference at the Ministry of Agriculture in Budapest so we pottered round the city and met him again later. This time we went to

Continued on Page 9

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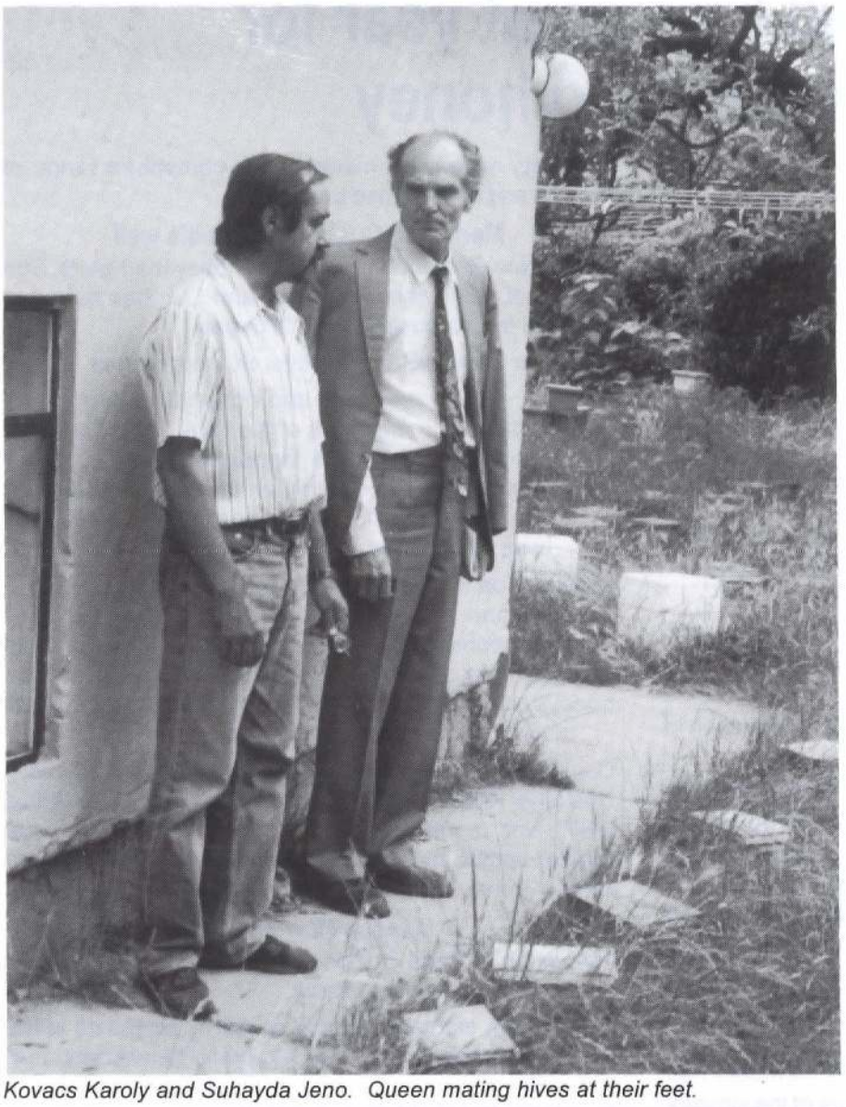

Kovacs Karoly and Suhayda Jeno. Queen mating hives at their feet.

Suhayda Laszlo has opened 3 frames of a queen mating colony by bending a piece of black vinyl into a semi circle. Frames left and right are horizontal, the central frame is vertical.

Budapest-Csepel to meet Kovacs Karoly another queen breeder.

Here we had a surprise, Karoly had borrowed two schoolboys from the neighbours as interpreters, both spoke good English but the older boy was so good that he could do instantaneous translation using correct beekeeping terms. Compare him with a New Zealand university graduate who has done French! Any New Zealander wishing to do business in Hungary would be well advised to hire one of these boys as interpreter.

No peace for the wicked! We got back from Csepel only to find that we were to go to Jeno's son Suhayda Laszlo to see his queen breeding. Laszlo's mating hives had squares of vinyl with three sided wooden frames to hold the combs.

First he showed us large queen cells and newly hatched queens in an incubator. He removed a queen from her plastic tube, held her with his left hand, gave her a dab of paint smelling, I think, of amyl acetate, gave a long blow to dry the paint and then a quick blow to transfer her to cage. When he had dealt similarly with six queens we went into the garden to the mating hives, where he blew mated queens and attendant bees into cages. He then introduced the newly painted virgin queens into their hives, drenched them with honey from a squeeze bottle, replaced the roof and added an identification label. I was surprised the queen was not drowned but he claimed a 99% success rate. We finished with a look at a queen raising hive, colony and queen in the middle, cell raisers right and left with 3 bars of wax cells in each.

Tevor Cullen from Ceracell had given me a lot of cell bars and plastic queen cells so I left them with Jeno to distribute. That was the end of our delightful week with Zsuzsa and Jeno. In Godollo we noticed a small shop selling beekeeping equipment and in addition, honey biscuits. They had small undecorated biscuits, large biscuits with picture in sugar icing. They also sold the large wooden stamps which produced these pictures. We later saw these honey biscuits in towns throughout Hungary. They smell and taste gorgeous.

1995 will be a great year for New Zealand honey

In this month's marketing column:

- ★ Marketing strategies for 1995 and update of the Marketing Plan.
- ★ The Honey Display Unit goes to Japan and is a great success.
- ★ NZ Food Ingredient Advisory Service Customer Kit also wins favour with Japanese.
- ★ Television's popular "Made in New Zealand" programme profiles a successful honey industry.
- ★ Waikato University could become a world centre for honey knowledge.
- ★ A New Zealand honey marketer strikes success at the International Fancy Food and Confectionery Fair in New York.
- ★ Honey and Ice Cream — we now have the formula to let New Zealand manufacturers create a whole new range of products.
- ★ Just what the heck did all that scientific information in last month's *Beekeeper* really mean?

You'll excuse the precisez introduction to this month's *Beekeeper* article, but I have had comments from a number of people that it's a busy time of the year and could I either keep my article short, or list at the start the topics that are included, then if a beekeeper is interested he or she can quickly work their way down to the article.

Marketing Plan

Starting from the top, the Marketing Committee met at the end of October and reviewed the success of the strategies to date. Marketing Committee members had taken the time to speak with other members of the industry to get a consensus opinion on the marketing strategies.

That consensus of opinion was that the honey marketing effort was being focused in the right direction and that the very positive support given from Conference was continuing as our strategies started to bite in and create both publicity and results.

An updated Marketing Plan is being prepared at present for presentation to the Executive at their December meeting. Once ratified it will then be available to members of the industry through the Branch Secretary network.

Marketing Display Unit in Japan

This month's cover of the *Beekeeper* features honey businessman Ben Rawnsley. Ben was one of the first beekeepers in New Zealand to book the industry's generic display kit. He used it to great advantage as part of a Manukau/Japan sister city trade mission.

Ben's Happy Valley Honey company was one of 13 Manukau businesses to take part in the trade mission.

"The honey industry display unit became the centrepiece of the display area" says Ben Rawnsley, "and was used to great advantage in promoting New Zealand honeys to the Japanese community."

Ben has commented to me that the visit has already proven itself to be successful and a number of firm contracts have been made for his company's range of honeys and hive-related products.

Marketing Customer Kit sells well

One of New Zealand's most astute honey marketers, Sue Walker of Honeyland New Zealand Ltd, has also just returned from a business trip to Japan.

In a letter to the NBA Executive, Sue comments:

> " . . . the excellent promotional material now available to members of the NBA . . . in particular the NZ Honey Food Ingredient folder . . . was invaluable. Immediately on showing this I gained the attention of the Japanese clients and credibility was established . . ."

Sue goes on to talk about the opportunities created from her visit and comments how to the Japanese, New Zealand seems to be a land of kiwifruit and All Blacks and given the ever increasing acceptance of our unique honeys, we could turn that duo into a winning triumvirate . . . of kiwifruit, All Blacks, and honey!

Copies of this NZ Honey Food Ingredient Advisory Service Customer Kit are available from us. Cost $40.00 (including GST); and a small fee on an annual basis if you want regular update material as it arrives from the American Honey Bureau.

Made in New Zealand

Television's Made in New Zealand did an excellent interview with Airborne Honey.

I know from comments made to me by scientists in the Chemistry Department at Waikato University that Airborne's pollen and honey analysis laboratory out at Leeston is held in high regard by them.

It was good to see that facility get publicity on television. It helped to give an extra dimension to the product "honey" and indicated the professionalism available in the industry.

Honey Research Unit

One of the most exciting opportunities that we are working on at present is the development of a Honey Research Unit at Waikato University. Dr Peter Molan has been a very good friend to the industry for many years; he has developed a real passion for our honeys as a result of many years of scientific research into their unique properties.

The concept is very simple — that in effect we establish a Honey Research Unit which will collate all data on honey; work on specific research projects for honey; and meet the need for increasingly sophisticated honey analysis and certification requirements.

The Marketing Committee is working with Waikato at present in looking at how the Research Unit can become a reality. We'll keep you up to date on that.

Arataki in New York

A very nice article in "Export News" shows Barbara Bixley in New York flying the flag for New Zealand's unique mono and multi floral honeys. I also note that Arataki is New

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Zealand's top selling honey brand (latest Nielsen scan data statistics); so Barbara is not only making mileage for honey internationally, but has her brand performing very successfully here in New Zealand.

Slumgum Science Gobbledegook

Just what did all that scientific "slum-gum" (*Beekeeper* equivalent of that famous dairy farm product) stand for in last month's *Beekeeper*?

For those without a degree in chemistry, biophysics or food technology, what it really means is New Zealand's high fructose vipers bugloss honey could be unique as part of a browning base for food being cooked in a microwave.

We are looking at the concept and I would be interested in feedback from any cuisine-conscious beekeeper who has experimented with browning sauces in microwave cooking. We'll keep you in touch with the result.

And Lastly

Photos of flowers! I am keen to develop a photo library of New Zealand flowers. If any beekeepers are budding photographers and happy to send me a print of one or more New Zealand flowers that are used for New Zealand honeys, I'd like to keep that print on file and use in our promotional material.

And that's all for this month, but for possibly the most important news of all: **"AUSSIE DROUGHT CREATES DOLLARS FOR KIWIS".**

I had been told by a number of beekeepers that there has been some strong trader interest in New Zealand honeys in the last few months. This was because their normal honey source (Australia) was proving difficult because of the drought over there.

In doing some research we find that that's definitely the case; and it couldn't have happened at a better time for the New Zealand honey industry!

As many of you will know, we had a record crop last year, in excess of 11,200 tonnes. Because New Zealand's annual domestic consumption is around 6500 tonnes, the surplus would have to be exported. In a normal year exports work out to around 1900 tonnes and if that had been the case, a lot of honey would have ended up being dumped inside New Zealand.

However, this year beekeepers and honey packers have adopted a long term strategy and prices have remained firm. Everyone is now being rewarded from that positive move because the international market is now purchasing the excess above the normal surplus at a good price.

It's a "win all round" for the New Zealand honey industry and one could say that we are flying high courtesy of the Aussies (I'd like to add that I bet Air New Zealand wishes they were in a similar position, but that would be a cheap shot).

That's all till next month, regards and happy honey packing/beekeeping.

Bill Floyd

Your Magazine

This is the primary communication medium for the industry. Its interest, its ability to generate excitement is not solely that of the editor.

We are always looking for your input into your magazine.

The interesting reading and pictures that you provide markedly assists in lifting the value of the magazine to all in Beekeeping and beyond Beekeeping. Many persons including MP's receive the Beekeeper. It also goes to many overseas organisations associated with Beekeeping.

Editorship is about putting some form to the material that comes from many sources. Sometimes the form is great, sometimes not so great such as the annoying typographical errors that appear from time to time. We do try to ensure that these don't occur . . . but such is the business that they do . . . but we try!

DEADLINES

We have been pretty lax over the past year in respect to meeting deadlines mainly to accommodate our advertisers and some late copy.

We realised that by not keeping up with actual dates we would draw some flak and so its proved to be.

The deadlines that we must now follow will be:

All copy, and that includes advertising copy in to us by 1st of each month. We will put it together over the 2nd and 3rd of the month. Copy to printer by 4th of month. Copy back to us from printer for paste-up page layout by 9th of month. Layout back to printer by 11th of month. Mail out to all members and subscribers by 15th/16th month.

Quite a task but one which we enjoy and look forward to each month.

Ron Rowe

Notes for Beginners and others

It is the last week of October when writing these notes and we have just completed five glorious days. Before that, since August, it was nothing much to write home about, in fact one of the worst springs in my experience, at least in this part of the country. It makes it difficult for the beekeeper for not withstanding all our forward planning and the very best intentions: "Man proposes, the weather disposes." So let us hope that when you read these lines, the November weather pattern has been favourable. Earlier sources s.a. thyme, Spanish heath and native bush may already have given a crop of honey or at least caused colonies to build up to good strength. However this is confined to some areas and in many other places we didn't have the benefit of these early flows and we must help the bees to keep body and soul together. Giving feed honey or syrup and perhaps pollen supplement is the only way to keep the colonies ticking over and to avoid a break in brood rearing, or in the worst cases, a total collapse. "Be prepared" for that main honey flow which in most of the country is still produced by white clover. In the winter districts it may already have started in November, but down south and higher up it will take some weeks yet before the buzzers can look after themselves.

Nectar coming in or not, more room is needed. Time for supering. Good idea to raise poor quality combs from the brood nest above the excluder so that they can be culled out when extracting. Replace with some sheets of foundation alongside the brood. When doing this don't forget to keep an eye open for any signs of disease (AFB or BL) even if an earlier inspection gave the all clear sign.

The foundation not only renews the combs in the broodnest but also helps in swarm prevention while the raised combs, especially those with brood will encourage the bees to move upward through the excluder. Sometimes a colony can be reluctant to do this. When taking combs from the broodnest for placing into the extracting super don't forget to first shake the bees off for if you don't the queen could finish up above the excluder and you will have a problem later on.

Once the honey flow has started in earnest it is amazing how fast a super will be full. Nectar requires more storage space than ripened honey, so keep in mind that at this stage adding supers could be advisable. When a good flow is on, a colony can cope with a super full of foundation. Placing a comb with brood or honey in the centre seems to help the bees in starting the job of building out the foundation. The bees will work from the centre to the outside. The outside frames can be moved towards the centre later on to be finished. The best combs are being built when plenty of nectar is gathered. During a dearth the bees will often start to gnaw holes in the foundation which makes for a less than perfect end result.

Just started this spring? Perhaps you purchased a 4 frame nuc, a bottom board, roof, crown board, 3 supers, thirty frames, foundation and a queen excluder. So all you have is 4 build out combs. The nuc is transferred to the first super and frames with foundation on both sides. Just leave it till the colony has built out these sheets and occupies the super fully. Then add the 2nd super. Wait again till fully build out before you place the 3rd super on, above the queen excluder. You probably have to assist the bees for a start by feeding sugar syrup. If by the end of the season the 3 supers are completely build out and filled with honey and some brood, of course you will be well satisfied. Perhaps you may do better than that??? Anyway next year you will have some more build out combs to work with.

It is swarming time too. Maybe one of your own? Then reunite it with the hive it came from, keep the population up to scratch. It could be a swarm from elsewhere. It is yours for the taking (no ear mark), much better in your hive than having it lodged in a house wall or hollow tree. Hiving a swarm is often a very simple and easy operation and the bees are usually docile (filled with honey). If within easy reach the swarm can be shaken or wiped into a box (super or otherwise), bucket or even a sack. Cover with some gauze, muslin or similar material for transport. Then when arriving home they can be dumped into a super with dry combs or foundation or in front of the hive on a sheet of paper, sack or board and they will soon start marching in. Very interesting to watch.

A swarm does not need feeding for a start, they carry a supply of food with them. Sometimes swarms can land in very awkward places, call on someone with plenty of experience to assist you with the job. Always go well prepared, overalls, hat and veil, smoker, swarm box of some kind, muslin or sacking, some string, perhaps a rope, ladder, secateurs or pruning saw. All depends on the particular situation. Catching one's first swarm is a good adventure and experience.

And now I must ask the readers of this column to turn back to the September (Vol. No. 8) issue, page 8, Editor's note making a correction and addition. Sorry folks, the correction needs to be corrected. First line on page 9 the word PRODUCTION should be Population. How and by who this mistake was made, I would not know. However the matter was communicated to the Editor who has failed to point it out in the October issue. So I must do it now as the two words have vastly different meanings, though we surely need the population to assure the production.

MONEY AVAILABLE TO ASSIST BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The Business Development Programme is an integrated package of Government assistance measures designed to assist both existing businesses and those wanting to start out in business. The programme has two primary objectives:

— to increase job opportunities; and

— to increase the wealth of New Zealand through business growth.

If you have a new commercial idea that you want to develop, your next stop should be to contact Ron Rowe, Executive Secretary, NBA, who is licenced by Ministry of Commerce to assist.

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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Letters

Dear Editor

I have been reading, with interest, the August 1994 issue of the *New Zealand Beekeeper* and especially the report of Dr. Winston's talk at the annual conference. I wish to comment on a statement attributed to Dr. Winston on page 14.

The statement that QMP does not work for all crops is partially true, however, in almost every case, significantly more bees are attracted to the crop when QMP is applied. The average increase is about 50%. In North America, there is interest in using QMP on cherries in certain niche areas where pollination is more difficult due to weather problems. In tests on cranberries, one year showed a 40% increase in yield. Tests since then have resulted in only marginal increases.

The one test on red delicious apples showed a significant increase in bee activity, but no increase in yield. It is suggested by a number of experts that QMP may be beneficial in sizing some of the newer varieties. This will be tested in 1995. Also, growers in some areas see using QMP on apples in years when there is only a one afternoon "weather window" for bee activity. Increasing bee activity for that period would be quite beneficial.

While QMP cannot be outright recommended for the crops mentioned, intelligent use under certain circumstances can be quite beneficial. In updating readers on the current status of QMP in New Zealand, tests are currently underway on kiwifruit with Dr. Mark Goodwin and Bruce Stevenson, co-operating; Cliff Van Eaton and Norm and Mary Brown of Tauranga are conducting tests using newly developed QMP lures to suppress swarming; BEE BOOST lures are being distributed by Ecroyd's Beekeeping Supplies. These lures are useful in queen mating nuclei and in shipping queenless booster packages.

QMP is marketed as FRUIT BOOST by PHERO TECH INC. 7572 Progress Way, Delta, B.C. V4G 1E9, Canada, Phone (604) 940-9944, Fax (604) 940-9433.

Douglas McCutcheon
Apiculture Consultant
Phero Tech Inc. Delta, B.C.

Farm stay listings

Dear Editor,

A farming family near Woodville has just started a host scheme to allow owners of farms, orchards and rural lifestyle blocks of all types the chance to host overseas visitors in exchange for daily help with their activities.

Currently a database of hosts, is being created, and this will be made available through foreign farming and rural papers to encourage those with an interest in rural activities to take part.

Hosts are willing to offer free board for guests, but retain full control as regards to when to accept visitors and in the number, length of stay and types of help needed. In return, hosts get four hours help each day with the visitors also helping with household chores and becoming part of the family.

Typically visitors have painted, docked, gardened, helped with firewood, weed control, fencing, moved stock and planted trees but hosts are free to set any type of help they need.

Visitors to date have mainly been from Europe, USA and Japan, with particular interest from England, Denmark and Germany. Often backpacking through the country, they find the chance to live with a real rural family great and certainly better than hostels full of other visitors. Most commonly couples, or two women travelling together have been involved, though the occasional single traveller and couple with child have travelled through the scheme. Some have had special farming or related skills they are keen to demonstrate, while others have just wanted to have a go at everything.

All visitors must write or ring first and length of stay has varied from a few days to several weeks, depending on the host's needs and visitor's travel plans.

There is no charge for hosts to list, and the booklet is updated regularly, so that if circumstances change, hosts are able to alter or cancel their listing.

Those interested can write to Kumeroa Lodge, RD1, Woodville or phone (06) 376-4582 for a listing form.

Thank you,
Warwick Grady.

Dear Sir, I am B.Sc Environment with about six year's beekeeping experience in private activities (since 1988) and I am looking to come to New Zealand to join beekeeping activity.

Could you please give me information about available work and any other conditions in New Zealand.

Yours faithfully
Aleem Nabighodss
No 1, Vally 3
Takhty Ave
Gorgan, 49177
Iran

From the Colonies

Auckland NBA Branch News

September and October were very wet and it seemed to come down an inch at a time. The hives started quite strong and somehow got through with few ill effects of the wet weather though a lot more chalk brood and some sac brood were present. The chalk brood seems to be continuing in the hives even though it has fined up since Labour weekend. Hives are also very variable in strength with splits being a bit slow. More than a few have been found by some in a pile on the bottom board.

Now that the Barberry is flowering things are picking up. Honey is selling well in the shops but the quantities in sheds are quite substantial and people are resigned to sitting on it for a while. Hives will be in the kiwifruit by now, numbers going in seem stable and flowing will probably be a little late.

We are hoping to have a pot luck dinner sometime in late December.

A.F.B. incidence seems less in most of our hives. Not much inspecting has been done on other hives to date. Most inspection is done on a spontaneous system while one is in the area. It has been made difficult this year by only being allowed to inspect hives from lists supplied by MAF. Often the hives, particularly on the fringes of the city, appear and disappear and never appear on any list. This method only works with long term problems which MAF tend to target in their own inspections, which is good, but particularly when we're busy it is difficult to organise set days for group inspecting. I don't understand the reason for not allowing spontaneous inspections by warrant holders. It is difficult to predict what sort of summer and crop we will get this year, a bit cooler and later I think.

Nigel Birse

Hawke's Bay branch news

For Hawke's Bay it has been a hectic time getting pollination hives into the apple orchards and out again before the carbaryl spraying starts.

Most hives have come through the winter in good condition but the recent cold wet spell followed by real spring weather has seen a rash of swarming. One hobbyist was extracting at the end of October! With fruit flowering two to three weeks later than normal we may be in for a short season.

The younger members of the public particularly showed great interest in a display which was mounted at the local A & P show.

Ron Morison
6 Totara Street
Taradale
Ph. (06) 844-9493

Otago Branch news

In conjunction with the Dunedin Beekeeper's Club an invitation was extended to all beekeepers to attend a discussion meeting and workshop held on the 3rd of Sept. Introduction of new AFB legislation, disease video, other education material and "live" AFB samples.

On the 24th Sept., a number of members did their bit for the annual Disease-a-thon. A spring field-day was held on the 1st of Oct., at the Elms Apiaries near Alexandra. Our host was Russell Poole. The huge honey house is a converted concrete block factory, now the base of several beekeepers. Russell explained the interesting business and other arrangements. Several speakers on a variety of beekeeping subjects and some demonstrations made for a well spent day. After a frosty start (icicles hanging off the trees in the next door orchard), the day turned out sunny, just as well!

Bee Line Supplies (Dunedin) and Ecroyd Beekeeping Supplies were present with a display of their various wares.

Library News

NBA/Floyd Marketing (N.Z. Honey, Food and Ingredient Advisory Service) Customer Information Guide July 1994

A very well presented document doing what its title implies. It provides the necessary information to the manufacturer, the trade and the consumer. Composition, sensory profiles of different honeys, characteristics, quality and application are clearly and accurately explained. It also contains a directory giving the addresses of the several sections of our industry and a re-print of a technical bulletin of the U.S. Honey Board.

The leaves are plastic covered and contained in a sturdy, attractive ringbinder displaying the well designed Honey Qual Trademark.

It will be a valuable aid in the promotion of honey, not just as a spread, but as an ingredient of a wide range of food products and beverages.

Ministry of Transport Truck Loading Code 1991, 91 pp., N.Z.

All the info you need when loading and securing your load. Better take note for too often bits and pieces of equipment have been found along roads and hives have been lost. This code and a dose of commonsense should stop this happening.

An insecure load can lead to very expensive consequences.

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