

ISSN 09110-6325



# The New Zealand Bee Keeper

FEBRUARY 1995  
VOL 2. No. 1

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.



MR N WALLINGFORD  
NBA PRESIDENT  
55 WATLING STREET  
TAURANGA

POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT No.  
384  
HASTINGS, NZ

If undelivered please return to:

**National Beekeepers Association of New Zealand (Inc.)  
211 Market Street Sth, Hastings, New Zealand.**

# NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF N.Z. (Inc.)

**President:**  
Nick Wallingford,  
55 Watling Street,  
Tauranga.  
Tel/Fax (07) 578-1422

**Vice-President:**  
Richard Bensemann,  
State Highway 77,  
RD 6, Ashburton.  
Tel/Fax (03) 308-8423

**Executive:**  
Russell Berry,  
Arataki Honey Ltd.,  
Rotorua Division,  
Waiotapu RD 3., Rotorua.  
Tel. (07) 366-6111  
Fax (07) 366- 6999

Graham Cammell,  
133 Walmsley Rd., Mangere.  
Tel. (09) 275-6457  
Fax (09) 275-9097

Mervyn Cloake, Cloake's Honey Ltd,  
Fairview, R.D.2., Timaru.  
Tel. (03) 688-0723  
Fax.(03) 688-0161

Keith Herron,  
Greenvale Apiaries,  
No 5 RD,  
Gore.  
Tel/Fax (03) 207-2738

**Executive Secretary:**  
Harry Brown  
National Beekeepers Assn of NZ,  
P.O. Box 307, Hastings.  
Tel. (06) 878-5385  
Fax (06) 878-6007

**Editor New Zealand Beekeeper:**  
Ron Rowe, JP,  
National Beekeepers Assn of NZ,  
P.O. Box 307, Hastings.  
Tel. (06) 878-5385  
Fax (06) 878-6007

	<b>New Zealand Honey</b> <b>Food &amp; Ingredient Advisory Service</b> <small>OF THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION OF N.Z. (INC.)</small>	4A Scott St., P.O. Box 32, Blenheim, New Zealand Tel: 03-577 6103 Fax: 03-577 8429

## BRANCHES

The first named person is the **President/Chairperson**.  
The second is the **Secretary**.

### FAR NORTH

Malcolm Haines  
Awanui Road, RD 2, Kaitaia  
Tel/Fax (09) 408-2200  
Bruce Stevenson  
Kemp Road, Keri Keri  
Tel/Fax (09) 407-7190

### NORTHLAND

Terry Gavin  
Titoki, PDC, Whangarei.  
Tel. (09) 433-1893.  
Peter Smith  
P.O. Box 1762, Whangarei.  
Tel. (09) 437-5320.

### AUCKLAND

Nigel Birse  
Beaver Road, R.D.2., Pokeno.  
Tel. (09) 236-0336.  
Jim Thompson  
125 Queen Street, Pukekohe.  
Tel. (09) 238-7464.

### WAIKATO

Bryan Clements  
8 Short St., Kihikihi.  
Tel (07) 871-4709.  
Tony Lorimer  
Kahurangi-o-Papa, R.D.3., Hamilton.  
Tel. (07) 856-9625  
Fax. (07) 856-9241

### BAY OF PLENTY

Roy Hyde  
Richmond Apiaries, Manuwahea Rd,  
Matata.  
Tel. (07) 322-2110.  
Dale Gifford  
P.O. Box 225, Te Puke.  
Tel. (07) 533-1419.

### HAWKE'S BAY

Colin McLean  
36 Holyrood St., Greenmeadows,  
Napier.  
Tel. (06) 836-7199.  
Ron Morison  
6 Totara Street, Taradale.  
Tel (06) 844-9493.

### POVERTY BAY

Peter Burt  
27 Murphy Road, Wainui,  
Gisborne.  
Tel. (06) 868-4771.  
Barry Foster  
695 Aberdeen Road, Gisborne.  
Tel. (06) 867-4591.  
Both on Fax (06) 867-4591.

### SOUTHERN NORTH ISLAND

John Brandon  
Canaan Apiaries, Mosston Road,  
Wanganui.  
Tel. (06) 345-6350.  
Frank Lindsay  
26 Cunliffe St., Johnsonville.  
Tel. (04) 478-3367.

### SOUTH ISLAND

**NELSON**  
R.C.F. Lambie  
Anatoki Apiaries. Long Plain Rd  
Takaka.  
Tel (03) 525-8335  
Ian Paterson  
Tapu Bay, R.D.2., Motueka.  
Tel. (03) 527-8070.

### MARLBOROUGH

Tony Inglis  
28 Lane St,  
Blenheim.  
Tel (03) 578-9613  
Murray Bush  
Old Renwick Rd, Blenheim.  
Tel. (03) 578-3923.

### WEST COAST

John Glasson  
Stafford Street, Blackball, Westland.  
Tel. (03) 732-4856.  
Sandy Richardson  
Napoleon St., Ahaura, Westland.  
Tel. (03) 732-3724.

### CANTERBURY

Tony Taiaroa  
43 Princess St, Waikari.  
Tel (03) 314-4569.  
Brian Lancaster  
Haldon Rd, RD2, Darfield.  
Tel. (03) 318-0732.

### SOUTH CANTERBURY

Nigel Parish  
Goodwin Road,  
Hilton,  
RD 25,  
Temuka,  
Phone (03) 615-9261.  
Noel Trezise  
Woodbury Road, R.D.1., Geraldine.  
Tel. (03) 693-9771.

### OTAGO

Gavin McKenzie  
C/- Telford Rural Polytechnic,  
Private Bag, Balclutha.  
Tel (03) 418-1550.  
Fax: (03) 418-3584.  
N Walker  
c/- Milburn Apiaries, R.D.2., Milton.  
Tel./Fax. (03) 417-7198.

### NORTH OTAGO

Peter Cox  
38 Rata Drive, Otematata.  
Tel./Fax (03) 438-7708.  
Algie Lawrence  
11 Main St., Weston, Oamaru.  
Tel. (03) 434-5476.

### SOUTHLAND

Don Stedman  
Woodlands, R.D.1., Invercargill.  
Tel. (03) 231-3200.  
Ross Ward  
P.O. Box 47, Gore.  
Tel. (03) 208-9019.  
Home/Fax: (03) 208-9787.

## ADVERTISING RATES ON REQUEST

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.

**Annual Subscriptions available from the Editor are:**  
New Zealand (\$30) plus gst. Overseas rates to be advised.

# From the President



Over the last few months I have been making a particular effort to increase the public profile of the beekeeping industry. I have been fortunate that several long-standing issues have been recently resolved, and have provided good topics to interest news reporters. I hope NBA members have noted the increase in publicity. It is not always possible to get every mention perfectly accurate, but I hope you will recognise and agree with the motivation in seeking this publicity.

I would like to encourage branches to use the local media effectively to give the public information about our industry. Generating local, general interest beekeeping stories is an ideal way of keeping a cross section of people important to our industry informed and aware. Presenting beekeeping in a good light helps to raise the overall perception of our professionalism. Many of your business dealings will ultimately benefit by keeping the important issues available to radio and newspapers especially.

In a private capacity, I provided each branch with a Beekeeper's Press Information Pack about 1½ years ago. Dig the booklet out of the files and try your local paper or radio station out! I think you'll find it is easier than you think to get good stories into the media.

The latest version of the NZ Beekeeping Industry Profile has been distributed recently. This updated and revised version is an ideal way of creating interest and stories about our industry. I hope members and branches will make good use of the Profile to inform and generate local news items.

Several stories resulted from NBA press releases over the Christmas period. In mid-December, we learned that our efforts for access to the US

market for package and queen bees have been successful. While most activity has been directed in the last few years at simply ensuring the right to trans-ship our bees through US airports, this final rule stage allows free entry of NZ bees, requiring only a country of origin certificate. As well as an admission by the US that our pest and disease status has been recognised by them, this access should be useful in other negotiations.

The US access was one of the arguments used in early January when Mervyn Cloake went to Korea to seek concessions for our bees to that country. That trip has resulted in some lessening of requirements for the coming season. Perhaps more

**Continued page 4**

#### Front Cover:

*Our cover depicts an introduction to the New Year — the rebirth of another time. Both the young boy, Lohren McLean and the frame of queen cells that he is holding symbolise growth and the future stretching out before us all . . . Lohren is the son of Colin McLean, the chairman of the Hawke's Bay branch of the NBA. Colin has also written an article entitled "Raising Queen Bees" which you will find in this issue. As part of the theme of looking to the future there is also information in this issue about the Pest Management Strategy Road Show and the NBA Strategic Planning meeting to be held in March.*

**NEW**

**NEW**

**NEW**



## QUEEN GUARD CAGE TYPE # 5

**NOW AVAILABLE:**



**A**

- ★ Do it your self - Marking & Clipping in a few seconds. (A1)
- ★ Candy magazine - fast filling; Hundreds of candy compartments within a few minutes. (B)



**B**

- ★ Includes all the advantages of the Queen Guard Cages.

**Options:**

- ★ Loading the Queen in the traditional way. (A2)
- ★ Water compartment for dry & hot weather conditions.

**BEEKEEPER-**  
Demand your Quality Queens with  
the super cage.  
Your success is guaranteed with  
the Queen Guard Cage!

**NEW ZEALAND DISTRIBUTOR:**  
**PHILIP GIBSON**  
**TEL & FAX: 0064-6-7657898**

*Continued from page 3*

importantly, it has provided us with the assurance of a bilateral agreement to be developed later this year with Korea — that agreement should give New Zealand beekeepers the 'edge' we rightly deserve because of our freedom from most bee pests and diseases.

More publicity will be generated over the next few months with the Pest Management Strategy 'Road Show' described in this magazine. As well as informing beekeepers about what the NBA plans to do, we are hoping to keep the industry's interests and needs before the public and

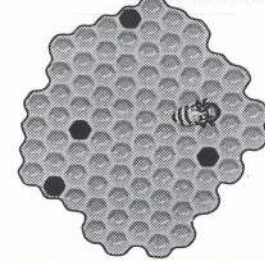
politicians.

Placing stories, particularly for national distribution or television, is a slow process. You can't be discouraged by reporters not picking up on the points that you think are the important ones, and you can't expect to get all of your stories picked up. But the publicity is valuable, and it is something that all branches can help with. If you want assistance, or if you would like to suggest stories for the NBA to develop and release, please contact me directly — I'd be pleased to hear from you.

I would encourage you to help promote the value of bees and

beekeeping, the goodness and versatility of honey, the professionalism and expertise of our beekeepers. If we don't value our products and services, and our own abilities, we will ultimately pay a price for the inattention to our own public relations.

*Nick Wallingford*



## Change of Executive Secretary

At the December 1994 NBA Executive meeting the executive met with and appointed Mr Harry Brown to the position of Executive Secretary of the NBA to take effect from 1 January 1995. Harry Brown takes over from Ron Rowe who will remain as Editor of the *NZ Beekeeper* magazine.

The contract for services between the NBA and HB Agriculture and Commerce Centre Ltd will continue as Harry Brown joined the company as a full partner and director. A resume is provided in this issue of the *Beekeeper*.

The change has been necessary due to Ron Rowe's extensive business commitments and the common desire of the NBA Executive and the principals of HB Agriculture and Commerce Centre Ltd to provide an enhanced service to NBA.

It has been agreed that in order to further enhance communication Harry Brown will be the secretary of all major committees; ie Disease Control, Marketing, Export Certification and any others that may be required from time to time.

The Executive and the company have taken these steps jointly to ensure that communication breakdowns that have arisen from time to time over the past year and which has created misunderstandings will no longer continue.

Harry is a principal and co-director in the company, HBA Commerce Centre Ltd. He has spent the last four years as the Quality and Personnel Manager



of P.D.L. Electronics. Here he led P.D.L. to I.S.O. 9001. The first company in its field in Australasia to achieve this quality standard.

He was also involved in all staff personal development (130 staff) training, writing and presenting most of the 40hrs training per person per year for P.D.L. training, included time management, goal setting, appraisal, supervisory, development, internal customer, to name just a few.

Harry was brought to the Hawke's Bay eight years ago to pick up a packaging company and make it work, which he did very successfully. This company continues to go from strength to strength with the disciplines he put in place, as General Manager.

Prior to coming to the Hawke's Bay Harry was the production manager of the Film and Paper Division of UEB Packaging in Auckland. He had a team of 96, and a \$20m turnover. Harry spent 20 years with UEB starting on the floor and working his way to the second-in-charge over this time.

His earlier background was in dairying both whole milk, and town milk.

## Harry Brown

Since coming to the Hawke's Bay Harry has received a Ministerial appointment to the Hawke's Bay Business Development Board. As well as being a board member, he is also the judge for the B.D.B. Quality awards and has been for the three years the awards have been in place.

Just a small sample of his community responsibilities are Chairman of the Napier City Council Redclyffe Transfer and Composting Plant. Tutors at the HB Polytech in Certificate in Quality Assurance, Business Studies etc., is the immediate past president of the N.Z. Organisation for Quality, currently the vice-president of the N.Z.I.M. Eastern Div., the industry adviser for the Hawke's Bay Polytech, and the N.C.C. Tourism Forum, on the committees of the N.Z. Association for Training and Development, and the Employers Assn., and community arts.

Harry has a very high profile in the Hawke's Bay where he is very well known for his very positive attitude and his promotion of the Hawke's Bay with one of his personal goals to make the Hawke's Bay the quality centre of New Zealand.

To quote a newspaper article "His vision does not end at the factory door, he sees the drive for excellence travelling through the community and finding a place in each home as well."

He believes a business can only succeed by involving and up skilling all staff so they actually want to come to work.

# HONEY WANTED

We require quantities of  
South Island **bulk Manuka**  
honey and light comb honey.

**TOP PRICES PAID**

**PLEASE PHONE US NOW**

**STUART ECROYD  
BEE HEALTHY LTD  
CHRISTCHURCH**

**Ph: (03) 358-7719**

**Fax: (03) 358-8789**

**A/hrs: (03) 358-7137**



## *Ecroyd Beekeeping Supplies*

26B Sheffield Crescent, Burnside, Christchurch.  
P.O. Box 5056, Papanui, Christchurch, New Zealand  
Telephone (03) 358-7498 or fax (03) 358-8789  
Hours 8.30am-5.00pm Monday – Friday

# EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

A / - 4 frame Maxant Extractor, motorised, reversible, stainless steel, on wooden stand, excellent condition. \$1200 plus gst.

B / - 2 frame Pender Extractor, motorised, reversible, stainless steel, heating coil, \$400 plus gst

C / - Baffle tank, stainless steel, water jacketed, 2 elect elements, \$800 plus gst.

D / - Honey tanks, 2 fibreglass, approx. 300 & 400 kg, as new \$300 and \$350 each, plus gst.

E / - Bee blower, 2 stroke petrol, hose and nozzle, on wheels with super stand. Usually \$1400 plus gst. Now \$1250 plus gst.

## Change

The Beekeeping Industry along with every other industry, organisation and individual person has experienced and will continue to experience change in ways not even considered before.

One only has to look about us and see the huge changes that have taken place in New Zealand and world wide, in every sector. We can see and note the effects of the change to all involved (even those not directly involved ...) to know that we either seek earnestly to work with change for the betterment of "The" Member (our customer) or we will become as the dinosaur ... extinct ... and someone or some other organisation will replace what it is we do.

These things are no longer just flights of fancy they are fact.

As a Strategic Planning facilitator and marketing strategist I see the problems first hand within organisation where management (**not leaders**) fail to take the wider view and through wide consultation with all stakeholders, seek to articulate and implement a vision to which all can subscribe. **Leaders on the other hand are always working to bring people on board and trying to preempt change.**

**This is not as difficult as it might seem, at first sight.** TREND analysis whilst on the face of it might seem terribly academic is in fact very practical and is used by organisations who today still hold their place in society.

Effective leaders also encourage lateral thinking and stimulate open mind activities. Even those who offer a counter view to the "accepted" norm

are encouraged to air that view ... it may not be right but it will as sure as anything stimulate thought. There are leaders and leaders ... history will clearly show that those in any leadership role who attempt to muzzle or put down those with a contrary view, without first having given that view consideration, are those leaders that lead their organisations into oblivion.

For too long we have traditionally thought that with the title or name "leader" went all the good things of an effective leader and that just isn't true.

The upcoming NBA Strategic Planning workshop is certainly a most encouraging sign that the NBA does wish to establish the future for its members and the industry at large.

**Ron Rowe**

# Bee disease control strategy proposed

Beekeepers throughout New Zealand are being invited to comment on a Pest Management Strategy for the eradication of American foulbrood, a serious disease of honey bees.

The Strategy, one of the first to be proposed in the country under the pest management provisions of the 1993 Biosecurity Act, is required because the new act will repeal the existing American foulbrood control legislation in 1996. The current legal powers are contained in the Apiaries Act, which has been used to control American foulbrood in New Zealand since 1908.

A draft of the Strategy has been prepared by a committee of the National Beekeepers' Association. Terry Gavin of Whangarei, the committee chairman, said the new Strategy incorporates many of the aspects of the Apiaries Act. At the same time, however, it also introduces the new concepts of Disease Eradication Conformity Agreements, and cost recovery

**from those beekeepers who do not comply with the provisions of the Strategy.**

"This Pest Management Strategy will for the first time give the beekeeping industry the ability to ensure that there is a uniformity in disease inspection and eradication throughout New Zealand", Terry Gavin said. "Our committee believes that this uniformity will result in substantial decreases in American foulbrood incidence, and eventually the elimination of clinical cases in managed bee hives."

American foulbrood costs the New Zealand beekeeping industry approximately \$3 million each year. In percentage terms, the figure (6% of gross beekeeping income) is actually higher than the losses experienced by the meat industry from TB (at 2% of annual meat exports). The incidence of American foulbrood is also much higher (at .9% of hives per year) than TB (.05% in cattle and .06% in deer).

The NBA has scheduled a series of meetings throughout the country in late February and early March to present the draft Strategy to beekeepers and gain their input. **The Strategy will affect every beekeeper, from the one hive hobbyist to the large commercial producer.** The NBA is therefore urging all beekeepers to attend a meeting in their local area to find out more about the Strategy and make their views known. Dates and venues are shown in this issue.

The NBA plans to submit the final version of the Strategy to the Minister of Agriculture for government approval in August, 1995. The Strategy is scheduled to be implemented in June, 1996.

For further information contact:

Nick Wallingford, NBA President, Ph/fax (07) 578-1422

Terry Gavin, AFB Eradication Committee Chairman, Ph/fax (09) 433-1893

## Bee disease Control Strategy

### Meetings — Dates and Venues

All meetings commence at 7pm unless otherwise indicated.

Southland — Thursday 23rd February — James Cumming Wing, Ardwick Street, Gore.

Otago — Friday 24th February — Federated Farmers (Otago) building, Harvest Court, 218 George Street, The Board Room upstairs.

North Otago/South Canterbury — Monday 27th February — Federated Farmers building, 23 Butler Street, Timaru.

Canterbury - Tuesday 28th February — Merrivale Rugby Club Rooms, Merrivale Nunweak Park, Wool Ridge Road, Christchurch.

West Coast — Wednesday 1st March — Kings Motor Inn, Mawhera Quay, Greymouth. NOTE 7.30PM START.

Nelson — Thursday 2nd March — Salisbury Primary Industry building, Richmond

Marlborough — Friday 3rd March — REAP Marlborough Community Rooms, 1st floor N.Z. Post Office building, Main Street, Blenheim.

Southern North Island — Monday 6th March — Union Church, Dr Taylor Terrace, Johnsonville.

Wanganui — Tuesday 7th March — The Davis Lecture Theatre — Wanganui Regional Museum, Maria Place, Wanganui.

Hastings — Wednesday 8th March — Farming House, Market Street, Hastings.

Gisborne — Thursday 9th March — Tarawhiti Polytechnic, Rural Studies Unit, Stout Street, Gisborne.

Tauranga — Friday 10th March - Bay of Plenty Polytechnic Lecture Room, Bongard Street, Tauranga.

Hamilton — Monday 13th March — McMiken Centre, Ruakura Research Station, Hamilton.

Auckland — 14th March — Horticultural Hall, 990 Great North Road, Auckland.

Northland and Far North Combined — Wednesday 15th March — The Park, Paihia

*Please endeavour to attend the meeting in your area and invite any other beekeeper to join you.*

# Marketing

## In this month's Marketing column:

- ★ *Honey prices defy the law of (oversupply) gravity*
- ★ *Cuisine Magazine adds Chutzpah to the honey category*
- ★ *The Honey and Bees School Education Kit spells success. Copies available now.*
- ★ *Champion chefs match honeys to herbs and foods*
- ★ *Do you want to give away some honey?*
- ★ *1995 Honey Food Innovation Awards — start thinking about what your Honey's In*
- ★ *Whatever happened to our flash NZ Honey Poster?*
- ★ *Thanks for those flower photos*
- ★ *German scientist will be given "B..... good tour of NZ".*
- ★ *Linwood Mall Honey Week Stall makes magic for retailer*

### High supply but stable prices

It's now acknowledged that the 1993/1994 crop was one of the biggest ever; estimated at 11,500 tonnes of honey.

Despite that massive crop, prices remained stable in the New Zealand marketplace. That's been attributed to a positive attitude by beekeepers to the development of the honey market. Beekeepers didn't push the panic button. If they had done, that would have been their right, but it would have been a shame because we all know that people basically consume the same amount of honey whether or not the price is high or low; dropping the price of honey doesn't increase the use of honey in the home.

The only way we'll increase the use of honey is to get people to realise that there are other uses to honey than what they have been traditionally used to (and we're working on it).

But anyway, back to the over supply.

It now looks like the 1994/1995 season is going to be a very poor one for clover crops. This means that the surplus from 1993/1994 will be brought out on to the market and the end result is that between the two years, things have balanced out well (imagine the opportunity lost if there had been major price cutting last year and then a short supply this year!)

### Cuisine's February Issue

This will be out at the time of publication of this article. I look forward to commenting on it in next month's *Beekeeper*. Make sure you get a copy of Cuisine's February issue: **it's the first time that NZ honey has been the feature food in any major food magazine that I am aware of.**

### Education Kit looks great!

The Education Kit was released at the end of last year. Copies are in many schools now. The standard of the kit is excellent and my congratulations to Peter Smith of Visuals Canterbury for doing it so well.

The cost is very reasonable. For NBA members, just \$24.95 plus a post and packaging fee of \$7.00. If you are interested in a kit, please write, enclosing your cheque to: Visuals Canterbury, 6 Robert Street, Lincoln, Canterbury.

Note, for non-NBA members the cost is \$29.95 plus P&P of \$7.00.

The kit is a great idea for Beekeeper branches to buy and present to schools in their area.

See separate panel in this issue of the *Beekeeper* for list of contents of Beekeeping Education Kit.



*Peter Smith, the author of the Beekeeping educational pack, discusses beekeeping with children of Lincoln.*

### Honey Food Matching

Christchurch Polytechnic's award winning Professional Cookery Unit have done a marvellous job in grouping NZ's honeys into three main categories and then matching herbs and foods to them.

We'll be releasing their recommendations in next month's *Beekeeper*. The suggested honey-food matchings will form the basis of most of our promotional work with food writers, and food chefs throughout 1995 into 1996.

**Continued on page 8**

# Canterbury Visuals - Education Kit

## List of Contents - Beekeeping

### STARTER CARDS

- A3 Photograph of Queen honeybee & workers  
Level: Mid to Senior Primary,  
Beekeeping Card No 1, Notes on  
back of photograph
- A3 Photograph of Honeybee  
Level: Mid to Senior Primary,  
Beekeeping Card No 2, Notes on  
back of photograph
- A3 Photograph of Beekeeper working with  
bees  
Level: Mid to Senior Primary,  
Beekeeping Card No 3, Notes on  
back of photograph
- A3 Photograph of Honeybees and Honey  
on Toast  
Level: Mid to Senior Primary,  
Beekeeping Card No 4, Notes on  
back of photograph

### TEACHING IDEAS

Plastic envelope containing:  
2 Yellow papers with Teacher Guide notes on  
Topic, Integration/Topic Starters and Topic  
Outline /Waggle Dance game.

Game elements:  
5 small cards: 3 of flowers, one each bee  
and sun ray.

#### **5 A4 Student Tasksheets:**

- 1 The Waggle Dance/How Honeybees talk
- 2 Watching Honeybees/Life Story of the Honeybee
- 3 Life of a Honeybee Worker/Beekeeping
- 4 A Swarm of Bees in my Wall/Honeybee Body Parts
- 5 Honey Tasting/Honeybee Maths

*All enclosed in a durable plastic wallet*

**The kit is available from:**

## **Visuals Canterbury**

6 Robert Street  
Lincoln  
CANTERBURY

**Enclose a Cheque for:**

non NBA members: **\$29.95** plus post and  
packaging of \$7.00

NBA members: **\$24.95** plus post and  
packaging of \$7.00

*Continued from page 7*

### **Honey Giveaway (From You, Not Us)**

As part of our work promoting honey, we are always on the look out for selections of honeys to pass on to food writers, journalists and other people as gifts or as part of an information package.

We've been using a number of honeys for that purpose but we think it's important that the NZ Honey Food & Ingredient Advisory Service gives every honey packer or honey brand marketer the opportunity to have their honeys used for this promotional purpose.

The catch is: we can't pay you for it. The honeys we've used to date have all been supplied free; it's over to you whether you think there's an advantage to you in some of your honey being given as a gift to a food writer, a journalist or some other person that we're dealing with.

If you want to provide some honey to us then it would need to be freighted (at your cost) to:

NZ Honey Food & Ingredient Advisory Service, 4A Scott Street, Blenheim.

Six units only please; we can always come back for more. All we can do is promise that we'll use them over the next 6-9 months as gifts to people we are dealing with.

**Of course** you need to be a hive levy paying member of the NBA for us to use your honey in this way.

### **NZ Honey Food Innovation Awards**

The Food Innovation Awards are on again this year. The publicity from last year's Inaugural awards was very good! We've had a lot of enquiries from manufacturers interested in honey; many of those enquiries are a direct result of the Awards. Please make sure that you don't disappoint one of your customers by not nominating them for the awards this year.

We'll be putting out more details in the March issue of the *Beekeeper*.

### **The Quintessential NZ Honey Poster**

The NZ Honey Poster hasn't happened (yet). Thanks to the branches who contacted us and sent information about the honeys in their area. However, a reduced marketing budget means that the poster can't be a priority for 1995, but it's something we'd like to do if finances allow later in the year.

We'll be creating the poster from information provided by members of the marketing committee and other key people in the industry.

If you've got any strong thoughts on the honeys in your region, drop me a line. That information certainly can't go amiss.

### **Honey Flower Photos**

We're building up a good photo file. Cliff van Eaton will probably continue to be the mainstay of that; but if you've got a nice looking print of a flower that's a recognised honey variety we'd like a copy to have on file.

*Continued on page 9*



# Beehives dilapidated when found, says accused

A man arrested for stealing beehives from a Porters Pass property last year was yesterday fined \$250 in the Christchurch District Court.

Wayne David Mehrtens, 47, was also fined \$150 by Judge Stephen Erber for stealing a garden shed from the property.

Prosecutor Byron Caldwell said the complainant in the matter, Patricia Minchington, noticed about July last year some of her late husband's beehives were missing. Her husband, a part-time apiarist, died last January.

Mrs Minchington said little attention had been paid to the hives for several months due to her husband's death. Mehrtens was also alleged to have removed 12 queens from the hives.

A policeman stationed at Darfield, Constable Chris Low, told the court that when questioned over the matter Mehrtens said he found the beehives in bad condition.

Giving evidence, Mehrtens said he

discovered the hives when he was employed as an apiary manager and had been given outdated maps to find hives connected with it.

He found the hives in December 1993 and said it appeared as if cattle had trampled through and the hives were in a dilapidated state. He told the court he made efforts to find the owner.

Mehrtens decided to work on the hives and used cells and queen bees of his own to re-populate the hives. He denied stealing the 12 queens.

Mehrtens said some of the hives had Beechdale Apiaries on them, but he did not realise they belonged to the Minchingtons because he believed the name was spelt Mitchington and it was not in the telephone book. His counsel said the hives had been returned to Mrs Minchington in better condition than when Mehrtens found them.

We acknowledge the use of this article from "The Press" Christchurch.

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



**NEW ZEALAND HONEY**

FOOD & INGREDIENT  
ADVISORY SERVICE

4a Scott St., P.O. Box 32, Blenheim  
Tel: 03-577 6103 Fax: 03-577 8429

## Correspondent sought

A Russian Beekeeper Strjukova Marina Vladimirovna wishes to correspond with New Zealand Beekeepers. Marina has qualifications in Apiculture, she is 35 years old, married with a 14 year old daughter and plans to emigrate to New Zealand. Marina's address ... c/- New Zealand Embassy, Moscow, Russia or contact us at the *Beekeeper*.

## Planning Meeting

The last NBA conference provided a clear direction to the Executive that an Industry planning meeting be held. The Executive have taken up that challenge and advise that this meeting will be held in Wellington on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th March.

Whilst a meeting of all interested persons would be valuable it clearly is not possible for cost and other logistical reasons.

The Executive have invited the following committees to nominate persons to attend.

Industry Trusts — Marketing — Disease Control — ARAC — Library — The Export Certification Committee.

Ron Rowe who is a Ministry of Commerce licensed strategic planning facilitator together with Harry Brown have been charged with arranging the workshop agenda.

If anyone in the beekeeping fraternity has any matters that they wish to see included please contact The NBA President Nick Wallingford, ph/fax (07) 578-1422 or Harry Brown, NBA Executive Secretary, ph (06) 878-5385, fax (06) 878-6007.

*Continued from page 8*

### Germany comes to New Zealand

In next month's *Beekeeper* we'll be covering the visit of German honey scientist, Mrs Gudrun Beckh, to New Zealand. Mrs Beckh is from the Honiganalytik in Bremen. She will be one of the most important Centres-of-influence to visit New Zealand this year (from an international honey marketing perspective) and we're making sure she gets a right royal tour of New Zealand. A full coverage of her visit in next month's *Beekeeper*.

### Canterbury still making magic

And lastly, remember the Canterbury Beekeeper's very successful Honey Week at Linwood Mall last year?

As a result of that Honey Week, Linwood SuperValue's sales of honey increased and more importantly, the value of each sale increased; which showed that people were experimenting with different types of honey rather than staying with the lower price pottles.

Hamish Robinson of Linwood SuperValue now tells me that as of January 1995 the trend of people purchasing higher priced varietal honeys is still there! So that Honey Week investment has resulted in a long term change in the honey eating habits of people going to Linwood SuperValue.

Linwood SuperValue is pleased and obviously the owners of the honey brands in Linwood SuperValue's shelves are pleased! Why don't you have a look at creating a similar event with a major supermarket in your area?

The Marketing Committee has created an information kit on how to run a similar Honey Week. It's available to you on request.

And that's it for this month.

**Regards**  
**Bill Floyd**  
**Honey Marketing Committee**

# Spray Still Felling Bees

A significant number of bees are still dying in Hawke's Bay as a result of orchardists using the apple thinning spray carbaryl irresponsibly.

Ian Berry, coordinator of a regional hive inspection said some orchardists "either through ignorance or arrogance" were still using carbaryl in a way that was detrimental to bees.

Despite widespread publicity about how to use the spray, some orchardists were still allowing it to drift on to blossoms, where it poisoned pollinating bees.

Hobby apiarists didn't have the means commercial operators had to shift hives, so their bees were more at risk Mr Berry said.

Of the hobbyist hives which members of the HB branch of the National Beekeepers' Association had so far inspected, several had "carpets of dead bees" near them, he said.

## Fewer hives diseased

The bee disease American foulbrood is declining in Hawke's Bay, where an eradication programme is into its fifth year.

The incidence of the disease in Hawke's Bay is now thought to be just one-tenth of national total, said National Beekeepers' Association HB branch president Colin McLean.

So far only two hives in this year's annual hive inspection were found to be housing the disease, which had the potential to ruin honey production, he said.

Once infected a hive's entire bee population could be wiped out, leaving the hive open for healthy bees to steal honey and contract the disease from.

Hawke's Bay was the first region to begin the inspections, which is aimed to locate bees with the disease and eradicate it by the year 2000.

Unregistered or neglected hives - which were therefore not included in inspections - were an ongoing problem, Mr McLean said.

About 150 hives at 34 apiaries would be visited during the inspection, which would probably take another two weeks he said.

**Source Acknowledged: HB Herald-Tribune**

# Bees key to lifting red clover production

Canterbury scientists say importing a small Yugoslavian bee, the osmia bee, could overcome the shortage of suitable long-tongued bumble bees which is holding back the production of the red clover farmers find ideal for fattening stock.

Ordinary bees are not interested in red clover and leave pollination work to long-tongued types found in New Zealand are not up to the job.

In recent years the Government's pastoral science institute AgResearch has released two superior, low formononetin red clovers, but this just highlighted the need for high yielding seed crops to allow pastoralists the opportunity to replace out-moded cultivars.

Seed production using three long-tongued bumble-bee species, which are the only effective red clover pollinators, now seldom occur in numbers to do a good job. Seed production using these bees is confined to the upper downs and valleys of Canterbury through to Nelson. Only one species occurs in the North Island, with the odd crop grown around Masterton.

## THREE YEAR STUDY

Even on these favoured sites, a three year study has shown the average red clover yield was 200 kg to each hectare when, without a pollination limitation, minimum yields of 600/kg/ha would be expected.

A seed production scientist with AgResearch at Lincoln, Peter Clifford said the red clover seed crop area in the post Second World War heyday of more than 11,000 hectares had now dwindled to only 1000 hectares. This decimation of crop area is attributed to large scale post war land development limiting strategic bee forage and nesting sites needed to maintain high populations, coupled with a preference by overseas countries to more suited home-bred varieties.

"Farmers would use much more red clover if it could be produced. We produce about one-third of the seed required by the market," he said. Mr Clifford said red clover was the best fattening clover. The immediate

marketable potential of AgResearch's two cultivators is in excess of 3000 hectares, if satisfactory seed yields of this top "animal weight gain" legume could be produced.

## TACKLING PROBLEM

For about 20 years, Mr Clifford and Barry Donovan, of the Donovan Scientific Insect Research Centre, also based at Lincoln, have tackled the problem of poor red clover seed yields. Their conclusion is that we need a more effective manageable pollinator.

The answer, they say, is the osmia bee, which looks like a small honey bee but could increase seed set and produce a higher red clover seed yield.

Other scientists around the world have been working on the osmia and Mr Clifford and Mr Donovan are certain the osmia is a bee they can use to manage to the extent that it can be put to red clover at precisely the right time for good pollination. They think it has possibilities on lucerne.

Dr Donovan has recently made an application to the Ministry of Agriculture for the importation of osmia bees. He wants to bring in about 400 initially, in a cocooned state. They would go into quarantine for tests to ensure they are free of parasites and disease.

## OSMIA BEES BY SUMMER

If everything went well, Dr Donovan could have osmia bees in the experimental field station by late summer. He has been through such an operation before with leaf-cutter bees imported to improve lucerne. That bee has been working for 25 seasons with no ill effects.

The osmia bee has higher fecundity levels than that of the leaf-cutter and flies at lower temperatures and in windier conditions. It is possible the osmia bee will be brought from Yugoslavia, where the climate is similar to Canterbury's.

But Dr Donovan said it would probably take a decade to establish the osmia bee in significant numbers.

**Source Acknowledged: HB Herald-Tribune**

## A Letter

### To Frank Lindsay

I have been buying NZ queen bees for the last six years except for this year when none were available.

I love your bees and their offspring are doing so well in our climate. I have had no losses.

One concern I do have, and maybe your beekeepers could assist me with it, is that I have noticed the bees coming from 'Down Under' tend to fly upside down in the air but are landing on thin skids at the entrance and gliding into the hive at tremendous speed. They waste very little time inside the hive and are soon airborne again . . . upside down.

Here at noon we face the sun to the south, and you face the sun to the north, right? To us, east is to the left and to you east is to the right. Confusing as it is to me, it is no wonder that the bees raised by you don't know any better. Next time I am in my apiary, I will stand on my head with my eyes close to the ground to find out what is really going on in the air with your bees. Probably I will need another glass of mead to clear my vision or perhaps you could teach your bees to fly the proper way around before you ship them to North America, where I live and keep my bees.

*I remain not dismayed*

*A member of the Toronto District Beekeepers Association*

### Reply

Dear Sir

I have just received a fax sent to Mr Frank Lindsay, Vice-President of the Wellington (NZ) Beekeepers Association regarding the 'problems' you are experiencing with our New Zealand bees flying upside down in your country (North America).

We are deeply concerned over this as we have spent a very large amount of dollars at our bee training school this year. This is one of the reasons there has been a shortage of our bees coming to the Toronto area during 1994.

Not just content with teaching our bees to fly correctly in a new country, but all trainees have been taught basic compass skills so they should know where north is in Toronto.

Behind the scenes on a much longer term project, we are teaching our queens to mate upside down. We believe this in fact will make training of the offspring a lot easier as they will have learnt instinctively from mum that upside down is okay. (I guess only time will tell if this in fact can be achieved). We would appreciate yours and your fellow beekeepers feedback on the success of this trial to ensure our project is working.

We intend to publish your 'concerns' in our February *Beekeeper* magazine so we can get a wider understanding of this very 'serious' problem. We will also look at teaching 'basic braking for bees' so they can come into the hive slower as well. This may take a little longer though.

*Yours in bees*

*Harry Brown, Executive Secretary*



Ceracell

Apiarists Supplies

**HONEYCOMB FOUNDATION  
MANUFACTURERS  
SUPPLIERS OF QUALITY BEEKEEPING  
EQUIPMENT**

24 ANDROMEDA CRESCENT, P.O. BOX 58-114,  
EAST TAMAKI, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND.  
TELEPHONE (09) 274-7236, FAX (09) 274-0368

### *Autumn Special*

### **Air Operated Staple Gun**

**40mm x 6mm Staple**

**Suitable for frame assembly**

Complete with Line Oiler, Line Water Separator, set of safety goggles and 4000 staples, all in heavy duty plastic carry case

**USUALLY \$750.00 plus GST**

**NOW \$590.00 plus GST**

Offer is valid until end of March, 1995

### **NOW ALSO AVAILABLE FROM CERACELL**

The Boutelje Centrifugal Cappings/Honey Separator. Built on the "Spin Float" principal this machine has the following specifications:

1. Diameter 1100mm  
Height 1100mm  
Mass 250kg Approx
2. Power Cutter 1.5kw  
Rotor 1.5kw
3. Speed Controller "Telemechanique" in Wall Mounted Cabinet operating from single phase power supply.
4. Construction: Outer drum and fittings in stainless, rotor in alloy plate, stand in powder coated mild steel, top cover in stainless with hinged inspection port.
5. 150mm diameter x 25mm wide honey inlet port.
6. Water spray unit on cutters.
7. Cutter depth adjustable with hand wheel.
8. Cutter shaft supported at both ends for stability.
9. Stainless bearings on cutter shaft.
10. All drive belts fully enclosed for cleanliness and safety.
11. Stainless cappings deflector and dump valves.
12. Throughput 1.25 tonne per hour.

Very competitively priced at \$10,800.00 plus G.S.T. Some mounting frame options are available for example Stainless and height. Prices vary accordingly. These machines are ideal for separating wax from Manuka Honey.

Two machines currently sold to NZ Commercial Beekeepers.

Construction is up to Pete Boutelje's usual high standard as illustrated by his honey packing machine. Peter is also available for after sales service and advice at short notice.

**SUPPORT NZ INDUSTRY. BUY NZ MADE**

# Letters

Sir,

I am a hobby beekeeper with 40 hives situated in rural Cheshire. Some of the hives are moved to oil seed rape crops in April and May, and at the end of the season all hives are taken to the heather moors of North Wales for August and September.

Together with many of my friends, we are grateful for the good supply of New Zealand queens, because you have one of the last varroa free areas of the world. Since the dreaded mite arrived on the south coast some four years ago, it has spread half way up the estuary, and it is only a matter of time before it covers all England, Wales and Scotland.

Your queens produce colonies which are amazingly calm in comparison with our indigenous bees, and for this reason I always recommend beginners to start with New Zealand queens. The daughter queens, or first crosses seem to maintain the quiet temperament but have a hybrid vigour which gives quite above average yields of honey.

During the period December 1995 to February 1996 we would like to visit New Zealand for several weeks to see a little of your beekeeping practices, but mainly to tour and walk in your beautiful country.

Having recently retired as a lecturer, my wife and I could offer hospitality in the new home I have designed and built. We could also offer a New Zealand couple use of a car, and possibly a caravan, for touring during your winter (our summer) of '95 or '96.

If there are any couples amongst your readership who would like to visit the UK, and who could offer similar friendly help during our visit to New Zealand, we would be delighted to hear from them and to have their suggestions.

*Yours sincerely*  
**Eric Swan**  
"The Woodlands"  
104 Broughton Lane  
Wistaston  
Crewe CW 2 8JR  
United Kingdom

Sir,

I am concerned that the article by Russell Berry in your December edition is misleading, and I hope that it does not represent the views of the majority of members of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.

One issue that Mr Berry raised was the consultation process for the development of the import health standard for the import of Carniolan bee semen. The Regulatory Authority of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAFRA) took into consideration all the submissions it received. It is important to realize that MAFRA's policy is to only use technically and scientifically justifiable facts when assessing such an import analysis. Additionally under the GATT Sanitary — Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement to which New Zealand is a signatory, MAFRA is required to only use technically and scientifically sound import restrictions to prevent the introduction of unwanted organisms, and to protect our unique health status.

Mr Berry also raised MAF's role in market access. When MAF certification is required to enable market access, the MAF Regulatory Authority has the responsibility to negotiate the best possible terms of access that it can for exporters. While not always successful, MAFRA attempts to remove health barriers that are not technically and scientifically sound, while ensuring that the credibility and integrity of New Zealand Government certification is not compromised. Once an agreement with an importing country is in place, MAFRA is responsible, on behalf of the importing quarantine authority, to ensure the required audit, surveillance and certification systems are in place to enable the importing country's standard to be met.

MAF Quality Management is the service delivery group that is charged with certifying that the agreed market access conditions are met. MAF Quality Management is subject to audit of the certification they provide by MAFRA so we can be satisfied that the certification provided meets the agreed standard.

For the second time in less than two years, MAFRA has been involved in visits to Korea to improve the market access for package bees. I acknowledge that the January 1995 visit was funded by the industry, but must point out that MAFRA has dedicated more than a fair share of resource into this market when one considers the limited resources available to MAFRA and the need to service other major agricultural exports from New Zealand. On both visits to Korea, the beekeeping industry has been represented throughout all of the discussions, and our strategy is to involve key industry personnel in market access negotiations to ensure the best possible access arrangements are obtained.

Mr Berry questions the apparent monopoly of MAF's position. It is true that MAF Quality Management has tended to retain the tasks that MAF has traditionally performed. However MAFRA is currently examining the possible contestability of services that MAF Quality Management is delivering. Since most importing countries require Government endorsed export certification, it is not possible for other groups to provide complete certification services. Foreseeably, parts of the certification process could be undertaken by appropriately trained and approved groups in the future. In the meantime, MAF Quality Management has maintained an apicultural service and under Government policy, it is required to recover the costs associated with this service.

I trust that this clarifies some of Mr Berry's comments regarding MAF's involvement and relationship with the bee industry. MAFRA looks forward to a continuation of the excellent working relationship that we believe we have with the bee industry.

**Barry O'Neil**  
Chief Veterinary Officer



*Letters continued on page 13*

Sir,

Russell Berry's article in "The New Zealand Beekeeper" December 1994 is timely, but Russell MAF wanting to tell us what and how to run our industry goes back to when you were running around in short pants and wearing a school cap.

In the 1940's the late Jim Ballantyne made the dye for printing comb honey cartons from the IMD — for you younger Beekeepers "Internal Marketing Division" which packed honey for our industry, with the idea of exporting comb honey.

Jim contacted a firm called "Gill & Duffus" of Glasgow and London to interest them in 8 ounce blocks of "Manuka" comb honey wrapped in cellophane, heat-sealed and packed twelve 8 ounce blocks to a display carton.

Gill & Duffus were interested but wanted some samples and would order if they were satisfied with the samples, but a permit from the Department of Agriculture was needed, no permit was forthcoming.

Now Jim was a bit of a hippy the way he dressed, today he would go unnoticed, but not in the 1940's. He was of Scottish birth and seemed to have a principle "that if you can't get co-operation you beat them". So he packed up a dozen display cartons and drove down to the Auckland wharfs, parking by one of the Rangi boats, went on board and asked to see the Purser, telling him of his problem and asking him if he gave him a dozen display cartons, he could keep half for himself and his friends and would he deliver the other half to Mr Bill Jordan (New Zealand High Commissioner resident in London) —

later Sir William. The Purser agreed. Jim then went home and penned a letter to Bill Jordan explaining what he had done and why, and asking him to see that Gill & Duffus of London received the display cartons. He also apologised for what he had done and hoped he did not get him into trouble for smuggling goods to him.

In due course he received a letter from Bill Jordan informing him he had received the honey and had it delivered to Gill & Duffus.

He congratulated him on his initiative and invited him out to dinner next time he was in New Zealand. Jim invited the late Wallace Nelson — who knew Bill Jordan through politics, to go with him. Wallace accepted and they both went to dinner with the "New Zealand Commissioner" Bill Jordan, next time he was back in New Zealand.

*Letters continued on page 15*

# BEES FOR EXPORT

## Do Your hives have surplus bees?

We are currently buying bees certified for export to  
Korea, delivered to Waiotapu  
at \$14 per kg + GST C.O.D.

Please phone for further information from Russell Berry.

## ARATAKI HONEY LTD.

### ROTORUA DIVISION

Waiotapu State Highway 5  
Telephone (07) 366-6111 — Fax (07) 366-6999  
Postal Address: R.D.3., Rotorua

## THE AUSTRALIAN BEEKEEPER

Senior beekeeping journal of the Southern Hemisphere. Complete coverage of all beekeeping topics including overseas news in one of the world's largest beekeeping countries. Extensive local and some international advertising.

Published by: Pender Beekeeping Supplies, PMB 19, Maitland 2320, Australia. Payment by bank draft in advance. Free copy on request.

# 1995 NBA NATIONAL CONFERENCE & AGM

CHRISTCHURCH  
11th - 14th July, 1995

This year the Canterbury branch is hosting the New Zealand Beekeepers Association's Annual Conference of delegates and the Annual General Meeting.

The dates: 11th to 14th July inclusive.

Venue: The Quality Inn (corner Durham and Kilmore Streets)

Activities: Tuesday 11th July — Specialty groups  
Wednesday 12th July — Seminars  
Thursday 13th and Friday 14th — Conference and AGM

## PROPOSED SEMINAR FORMAT FOR WEDNESDAY 12TH JULY

### Getting into Beekeeping

Beekeeper's perspective Topic: Pitfalls and how to avoid them

Banker's perspective Topic: Putting a bankable package together and raising finance.

### Staying profitable in beekeeping

Beekeeper of the year 1994

Setting goals and how to achieve them

### Retirement out of beekeeping

Beekeeper's perspective Topic: Options available

### Safety in Beekeeping — From ACC perspective

Speakers to be advised . . .

*All are welcome to participate in conference and/or seminars.  
Whichever you choose you will be assured of a friendly and  
informative time.*

## WATCH THIS SPACE FOR FURTHER DETAILS

For those who do not receive a regular copy of the New Zealand Beekeeper and would like more information please fill in the coupon below and return at your earliest convenience to the address shown.

To: Brian Lancaster, Haldon Road, RD2, Darfield 8170

I am interested in attending the 1995 NBA Conference or seminar(s), please send me details . . .

Name: .....

Address: .....

Phone: ( ) ..... Fax: ( ) .....

Few industries can claim this distinction for an individual's initiative, ours is one and only because Jim was prepared to risk breaking the law.

In the early 1950's the late Les Martin and I bought hives from Jim and both were exporting cut-comb honey. Les received an inquiry for the traditional wooden section as we did not produce these, he passed it on to Hini Belin who followed it up and this started Hini into comb honey exporting.

Unfortunately Jim had a disastrous fire and all correspondence etc. was destroyed.

We should control our own industry by calling "tenders" for all our work carried out by MAF who could tender along with other competent "Private Enterprise" organisations who are just as capable of keeping confidential as MAF is.

*R W Blair*



Sir,

In writing to you at this time I have a strong sense of "deja vu" as I recall my letter of nearly 12 months ago calling for a "balanced viewpoint" to be presented in the pages of this journal (Vol.1 No. 2 March 1994). This was in response to the article signed by Messrs Graham Cammell and Russell Berry as the Journal sub-committee of the NBA, which included the statement: "Let's keep political axegrinding out of this journal!"

After reading the article by Russell Berry in the December issue of the *New Zealand Beekeeper*, entitled "Beekeeper control or MAF control?" I have to ask if this "policy" of the Journal sub-committee has now been overturned or rescinded? That article was one of the most blatant examples of political axegrinding I have ever seen in the pages of our industry magazine, and one which I personally believe does a considerable disservice to our Association and our cause.

The use of emotive terms such as "police state", "MAF dominated industry", "agents of the importing country", and "MAF interests in conflict with our own interests" have no place in a balanced, logical argument particularly when the target of the criticism was not also given the

opportunity to respond to the serious allegations levelled at them. I trust this situation will be remedied in the next issue of the journal and we will also see an article discussing the areas of concern raised by Mr Berry such as bee-stock importation policies and charges for professional services — from a MAF perspective!

As a beekeeper I freely admit to being "influenced" in my business decisions by the professional — and often free — advice I have received on many occasions from a MAF Advisory Officer, or heard at a field-day or seminar presentation. I know I speak for a great many other beekeepers who have also sought similar advice when I say that most of us appreciate the expertise and knowledge — recognised world-wide, which resides in the fast disappearing resource provided by MAF Advisory Services over the years.

We are also greatly concerned at the loss of these services through diminished government resources and user pays policies, and most of us do recognise the fundamental changes which have taken place in MAF over recent years. The name of the service is now MAF Quality Management, charged with the responsibility of maintaining quality systems for government to guarantee export market access for our products, and for individual industries where that industry chooses to establish quality systems for themselves.

If any industry indicates it does not want to be involved in quality management processes, then decisions will soon be made by MAF heads to withdraw services completely. I would suggest that one way to speed that process up is to fire a few acrimonious broadsides at the deliverers of that service, such as we saw published in the article in question. One comment I do agree with wholeheartedly — as an NBA member we should choose our representatives carefully — perhaps more carefully than has been the case in the recent past.

Sir, may I therefore repeat my appeal of twelve months ago — "Let's keep a balanced viewpoint in our journal".

*Allen McCaw*  
NBA Member

## Editor's comments:

*Thank you for your letter . . . No! The policy hasn't been overturned or rescinded . . . no change on this matter . . . where points of view are offered, as in your letter, that we believe enhances or serves discussion and thinking so as to benefit the industry, then we'll print it. Of course political axe grinding should be kept out of the magazine; that must apply to all . . . even those who would seek to influence the choice of representatives.*

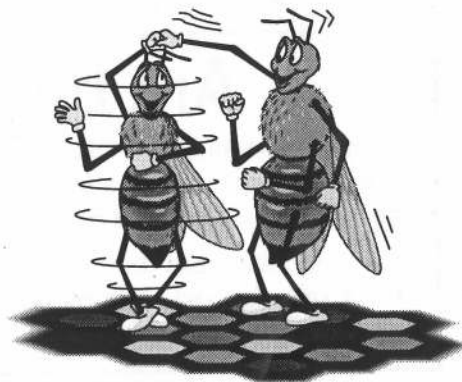
Sir

Any discussions to change in our industry **must** be made by New Zealand beekeepers, as they are the ones directly affected. Importation of Carniolan semen **must** be made by New Zealand beekeepers and if this discussion takes one, five or ten years, so be it.

It is appalling that MAF appears to now allow the importation of Carniolan semen from Germany without support and full consultation of the beekeeping industry.

The role of MAF in our industry needs to be examined and determined. Their present role seems to be both increasing and dominating. The New Zealand beekeeping industry should be prepared to take control of itself, determine what it wants, how it wants it done and then go forward and do it! It should not be dictated to by outside influences, perhaps with their own agendas.

*Yours faithfully*  
*B E Alexander*  
Woodhaugh RD 3  
Kaukapapaka



Sir

Firstly I must wish you all a Happy New Year.

Your article on the Blind Beekeepers was a great interest to my wife and I. During 1990 we undertook a visit to Australia and New Zealand via the United Kingdom and Singapore. It was my intention to meet beekeepers in Australia and New Zealand and it was through my cousin that we were able to meet Bryce and Susan. At the time I was not aware that Bryce was totally blind. We were both amazed how he was able to move around and know exactly where everything was.

The electric de-capping knife fixed into the wall with the motor-driven spinner below to separate the wax cappings was a great innovation and time saving item. In closing proximity was the honey pump, all geared to make things easy and efficient.

All the queen rearing was undertaken by Susan which all added up to a great team. What really warmed my heart was that here were two people making a go of it when New Zealand was going through a bad patch economically. That mode of operation certainly gave me food for thought.

I certainly enjoyed reading this article in your journal.

**Dennis Brown, Zimbabwe**

## Queen Cells

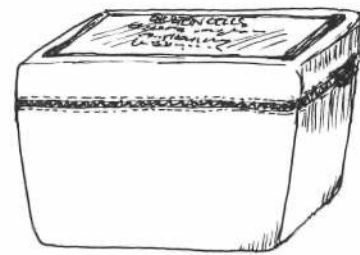
Same day delivery to most North Island areas  
Commercial quantities available until mid-March.

**Gain the benefits of queen cell economy without the pressure of cell raising**

Our breeders are a selected line from our 'Whakarara Range' bees-instrumentally inseminated in the Genetic Improvement Group programme.

**John & Jenny Dobson**

Bee Farm, 67 Poporangi Rd, RD1 Hastings  
Tel 06 876-0962 Fax 06 876-4326



*Telford Rural Polytechnic Graduation Day. Certificate in Apiculture students (including our three friends from the Solomon Islands), staff members and supporters gathered in front of the old homestead.*

## You never know when

Rae and I looked into a hive at the branch apiary one mild summer afternoon. Inspection complete we went back to the car followed by about three upset bees. Nothing unusual about this. Then one stung me on the chin and another stung Rae on the left forearm. Gear packed into the boot, she drove out while I opened and shut a couple of gates.

Then it happened. She staggered from the driver's seat to collapse in the back passenger's seat. Power of speech had gone, vision was blurred

and breathing was difficult.

Of course the medication always carried by a responsible beekeeper was in the other vehicle at home.

The nearest hospital was only 10 minutes away but by the time that was reached she had to be taken in, in a wheelchair, her blood pressure had dropped to 70/50, her pulse was up to 120, her heart was racing, her skin was very pink, she was vomiting, her body was covered with a rash and she was near to total collapse.

The Memorial Hospital wasted no time. Oxygen was given, adrenaline, phenergan and cortisone were injected and in an hour and a half she was able to walk out.

Every beekeeper should carry medication at all times. Adrenaline can be obtained, phenergan is available as a syrup or a tablet and cream for direct application to the site of the sting can be bought from a chemist.

**Ron Morison  
Hawke's Bay Branch**

## Are bumble-bees carnivorous?

We have just had a Mr Olsen from Haumoana ring to say he has had bumble-bees physically taking the monarch butterfly caterpillars off his swan plant.

The caterpillars are the newly hatched ones up to about one day old. The bumble-bees have been hanging around now for about four days. They fly

in, pick up the caterpillar and fly off with it.

"I thought my wife was joking when she first told me of this, but after seeing it with my own eyes I am staggered."

Has anyone else heard of or seen this situation before?



# The value of records

A 75 year-old ex-grenadier from Dorset, England, is trying to find relatives in Hastings.

Sydney Golder Robinson has written to the Herald-Tribune asking for help.

He says:-

"Around 1910 my uncle, David Stanley Robinson, who was born on December 15, 1885 in Folkestone, England, sailed for your lovely country".

"He died of cancer around 1945-46. I believe he was married and had a daughter, Sadie J (Jane?)".

"I believe my uncle served in the Anzacs in 1914 — and I know that in 1940 he was a senior man in the honey industry and was also a broadcaster".

"Around this period it seems he lived in Hastings".

Mr Robinson's address is: 20 Fields Close, Winterborne, Whitechurch, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 OAQ.

## And the letter that was sent in reply:

Mr S G Robinson  
20 Fields Close  
Winterborne  
Whitechurch  
Blandforum Forum  
Dorset DT11 OAQ  
England  
2 January 1995  
David Stanley Robinson  
Dear Sydney,

Your inquiry for your uncle has been referred to me as secretary of the local branch. At the time he was active in Hawke's Bay, Percy Berry founder of Arataki Honey Ltd. the biggest beekeeping business in the Southern Hemisphere was branch president. When he died recently some old branch records found among his papers were handed to me. In these papers I found references to your uncle.

In August 1941 the Director of the Horticultural Division of the Department of Agriculture wrote to inform the branch that Mr D S Robinson, Apiary Instructor, Dunedin, was being transferred to Hastings to replace the retiring instructor.

In July 1944, 35 members paid one penny for a copy of a lecture which he had delivered. The annual report of the branch for 1944-45 states "Inspection:" Last but not least we would like to touch on the subject of inspection. As members are aware, an Apiary Instructor's work can greatly influence conditions in a district. Special thanks are due to Mr Robinson for his efforts to reduce the spray poisoning menace; also we appreciate his effective work regarding foul brood in spite of the fact that wartime conditions have increased the difficulties of inspection. In 1947 he addressed the branch on pollen. I have a copy of that

Field-day programme telling of his instructions on foul brood and hive opening November 12 1949, a talk March 18 1950, a talk "Changes I have seen" October 7 1950. The AGM of June 1951 minutes record an apology for Mr Robinson and a meeting of September 1951 decided to invite the retired Apiary Instructor Mr Robinson to a Field-

day.

There the trail ends. The Department of Agriculture has vanished with the restructuring of our government departments. I don't know of any apiarists who were active in your uncle's time. The minute book from 1939 to 1946 is missing.

If you are not familiar with some of the beekeeping terms I have used your local apiarists should be. Should you wish to have copies of any of the above items please let me know.

*Yours faithfully*  
**Ron Morison**  
6 Totara Street  
Taradale 4001

Editor's Note: Thank you Ron for following this through.

## Advertising in the New Zealand Beekeeper — A sure way of getting to "the industry"

**Excellent value  
great pass on rate and readership.  
Please contact the editor.  
Details inside front cover.**

## BEE ACCESSORIES

THE BEST IN  
Protective wear for  
Beekeepers

Pollination full suit	\$99.00 +GST
Protector Top	\$70.00 +GST
Knit Singlet Top	\$48.00 +GST

### SIZES

S	34"—36"
M	36"—38"
L	38"—40"
XL	40"—42"
XXL	42"—44"

Larger sizes made to order

*Worn throughout Australia, New Zealand and  
USA*

Please contact

**Bee  
Accessories**

133 Walmsley Rd, Mangere, Auckland  
Phone (09) 275-6457

**AND SELECTED BEEKEEPING STOCKISTS**

# Raising Queen Bees

by Colin McLean

This article is intended to give some background on how I raise queen bees, and to outline some important considerations for anyone raising their own.

It's taken me 10 years to reach a stage where I feel confident in knowing what I'm doing and understanding the principles in raising queen bees. The only thing I can't control is the weather and this has the greatest impact upon production. It needs to be remembered too that the market for queen bees exists largely because it is difficult to raise queens early (or very late) in the season. The weather is invariably unreliable in spring, which despite the best intentions and efforts of most queen breeders, will at times cause some delay. Certainly, it is an advantage to get queens early, yet some hives would be a lot more productive and profitable if requeened and built up with brood during November rather than being left to do what they can.

Why do I raise queen bees? I guess it is the challenge and the achievement. I'm having a hand in the process and influencing the outcome which can be very rewarding.

## Queen Cells

Raising queen cells in itself is not difficult if you do everything right. A queenless colony is the best way to get cells started and then transferring them to a queenright finisher gives you consistent, well developed, virgin queens.

The size to graft larvae is about 1.5 times the size of an egg. The smaller the larvae, the higher the number of ovarioles the queen will have. Ovarioles are the egg tubes and a good queen should have around 300. This influences how many eggs a day she can lay.

I normally leave the cells in the starters for one day, or sometimes two. By this stage, they are being well drawn out and there is a lot of royal jelly in the cell. They are then placed in a queen right finisher, which is a strong, two storey hive with the queen in the bottom box underneath an excluder. The cells are placed in the top box between a frame of pollen and unsealed brood. The colony is fed sugar syrup to keep it strong and sometimes frames of pollen are added if needed. Fumagillan is fed to all my cell raising colonies to control nosema. High nosema levels effect the nurse bee's ability to produce royal jelly which can lead to poorly fed queens. The finished queen cells are taken out when sealed and kept in an incubator until 10 days from grafting when they are used in the mating nuc's.

## Mating Nuc's

These vary from person to person and most have advantages and disadvantages. The more successful mating colonies are made up using brood and bees using half, three quarter or full depth frames. They are usually strong enough to maintain themselves and can expand to full colonies if given the chance. The main disadvantage is that they are expensive to set-up and to be kept fed. The advantages are better queen bees and flexibility in management if they're standard equipment. The other main mating colonies used are 'mini-nuc's'. Often with a cup of bees, sugar syrup and small combs they are cheap to run but are not as successful, particularly in marginal conditions.

## Weather

As I stated earlier, weather has the biggest effect on production. Most people don't seem to realise that as you need at least 19°C — 20°C to get queens mated, some seasons can be against you. Cooler weather slows everything down. Queens take longer to mature and take longer to start laying once mated. Even last spring, which was very dry here, resulted in cool nights which had a noticeable effect on mating.

Once mated and well laying, queens are caged for sale. Escort bees are taken from a strong, healthy colony which is free from nosema. I usually use 12-14 nurse bees in each cage.

## Stock selection

I didn't make a lot of progress until I started to influence the drones my queens were mating with. The selection of drone colonies is as important as for breeders. The effect of feral drones is more noticeable in spring. I have seen sealed drone brood in a feral colony by the 20th of August. Our feral black bees are dominant in mating behaviour and genetic influence as well.

There are many variables in queen breeding, yet by careful selection and observations the characteristics we want such as productivity, gentleness, non-swarming and over-wintering ability can be bred for without getting too technical. Disease resistance is a lot harder to breed for as it is not a dominant characteristic and therefore difficult to breed into a line.

Queen breeding depends mostly on experience and commitment to be successful. Experience probably means how fast you learn rather than how long you've been doing it. A good book for giving you a broad understanding of queen raising is 'Contemporary Queen Rearing' by Laidlaw.

## Natural nocturnal visitors

### (A true sting in the tail tale)

*Beehives, just two, installed beside the trees.  
Five metres from the writing desk and bed.  
This changing window view of busy bees,  
Inspired thoughts are manifest to head.*

*These altruistic natures working crew.  
From crack of dawn, till forced to stop by dark.  
Is something that we could aspire to,  
However now you wish to make your mark.*

*A working at the desk by lectric light,  
With curtains wide illuminates the hives.  
Like rain upon the window pane this night,  
The lit up bees reactivate their lives.*

*Till window shut the globe attracts a score,  
To buzz around the hot circumference till  
As wings are singed, they crash the wardrobe door.  
Those seen are stamped upon to mercy kill.*

*Retire to bed to dream of honey crop,  
In future years when killer bees are here,  
The veils split so stinging just won't stop,  
All stung on chest and legs and buttocks bare.*

*They even stung appendage, quite severe.  
Awoken with the pain, to find it so.  
Some bees with wings all singed, a dozen there.  
Had hit the bed and crawled in sheets. Oh no,  
I'll have to go to loo with extra care.  
As swelling just won't show, no one'll know.*

Ian Fielding. August 1993

# Notes for Beginners and others

And there we are again, with the 1994/95 honey season behind us. I hope it has been a good one for you, if not sorry, next year hopefully will be better. The bees have tried to do their job, you cannot blame them if the results are not up to expectation. Blame the weather conditions or perhaps yourself if your hive management has left something to be desired. We are, or should be, learning all the time. So again, next year will be better. That is where your records, if well kept, should help. They can tell so much of the story, now behind us, from which conclusions can be drawn.

If not completed, now is the time to remove that surplus honey, your reward for the year's endeavours. What is surplus? Sometimes a hive will have stored most of the honey above the excluder. Taking it all away will leave insufficient winter stores. Remedial action has to be taken. If the broodnest supers are light the easiest is to leave a full box above the excluder at this stage. Later on this can be corrected by removing the excluder and the empty bottom broodnest super.

It is possible that your hives may still gather some late nectar and pollen from sources s.a. catsear (*Hypochoeris radicata*) or ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*). The first is the dandelion like flower which often turns paddocks yellow. The honey is of a good flavour but often has a high moisture content while the pollen are not the best source of protein. Ragwort is often prevalent in dairy districts and on rough ground grazed by cattle. The honey it produces has a very bitter taste and if mixed with better quality honey will contaminate the lot. However it all makes for good stores and is better left on the hives. The colonies are still breeding and consuming. Young bees have to be raised before winter is upon us. You want to finish up in May with a full super of stores plus a good bit in the bottom box.

There are several ways to remove the bees from the supers you are going to take away. Using escape boards gives probably the cleanest result. We have two types. The Porter

escape is a small gadget with a hole in the top as entrance, a passage and a spring loaded outlet so that the bees will leave the super but cannot return. The gadget is let into a crown board and placed under the to be cleared super(s) the correct way up (hole to the top). Porter escapes are readily available from beekeeping equipment suppliers. The second type is easily homemade. Again use a crown board. Augur a hole about 25mm wide and fashion an outlet on the underside using some small sticks and a piece of gauze or perforated metal. See Andrew Matheson's "Practical Beekeeping in N.Z." for a plan. The principle of escape boards is that the bees do not want to be separated from the broodnest and the queen. If there is any brood above the escape board, or a queen, the escapes will not do their job. Two or three supers can be removed in this manner at once. It pays to break the supers apart after inserting the boards, for the bees will clean up any drippings resulting in a lot less stickiness when handling the boxes. Beware of cracks and holes in the supers for bees (and wasps) will soon find them and you will have a robbing party on your hands. Block up with strips of paper and staple gun, sello-tape or plasticine. Boards should be left for at least 24 hours.

Then there is the simple old fashioned way of brushing the bees off the combs. Using a manufactured bee brush or one made from a bunch of tussock grass, macrocarpa or manuka twigs. A chute made from a super with legs put onto it and sloping, half round slide from flat galvanized iron inside makes a good stand for the to be cleaned super with combs. The stand to be placed alongside the hive with the chute pointing towards the entrance helps to land the brushed off bees near the entrance. Dipping the brush into a bucket of water and splashing some onto the chute will help to keep things more or less free from sticky honey. A little dampness does not hurt if combs are well sealed over. For the small-time beekeeper escape boards or brushing are the most economical methods. Blowers in use by most commercial apiarists today mean a considerable

investment not warranted for those who operate a limited number of hives. Use of fume boards (chemical repellents) is not really recommended. Benzaldehyde, mostly used may taint the honey. Carbolic acid, commonly used in the past is definitely out.

Whatever method is used for harvesting honey always **FIRST CHECK THE BROODNEST FOR ANY SIGNS OF AFB (American foulbrood)**. If suspected do not take honey either for extraction, comb honey or feed from that hive. The spores of B.L. are carried in the honey, including so called empty pottles thrown out and wet extracted combs. They are a further, continuous source of infection. Don't forget that we are running a campaign to rid this country of this very costly disease. We need your help in this.

Now is also a good time to do some re-queening if you can lay your hands on some good queens. Same principles and methods apply as for spring re-queening. Consider making a top (split, nuc) or two to carry through the winter above a parent colony. There are surplus bees now and enough brood in most colonies. It will take some feed, but it is a good investment. A stand-by in an emergency later on, replacement or increase.

As already pointed out autumn is robbing time. Once it starts it is very hard to stop, a small colony s.a. a nuc can easily fall victim of robbing bees or wasps. A wasp nest reaches its peak of development at this time of the year and consequently becomes very active.

*John Heinemann*

## The Future Isn't What It Used To Be.



# Random Thoughts

These articles of general interest and in a humorous vein will be published in each issue. They are provided by Ham Maxwell of Levin.

**This month's random thought is about eating — or is our product palatable.**

My thoughts are somewhat confused, caused in the main by today's new experience. No, not a major calamity, crisis or even an emergency situation, rather one which snuck up on me and caught me totally unawares. A lady of my acquaintance phoned, asked after my health and then proceeded to tell me of the trials and tribulations she was undergoing. Now this, to many, is not a new situation, but as I hardly knew the lady concerned I was taken aback a little, as I really did not wish to become concerned as to her current state of health. Not wishing to be unkind I made the usual "is that so?" and "well I never!" comments as the saga unfolded. Finally the reason for the detail emerged from the fog in which she had enveloped it — she had an ulcer in her stomach, and had heard that Manuka honey was most beneficial for such a complaint. Did I have any Manuka honey?

The honey stock situation was good at the time, having not long taken frames off the hives in preparation for winter. Plenty of Bush honey, Meadow honey, Clover honey, but no Manuka honey. Stocks of that honey had sold out very quickly, and that was unusual, now I knew why. Hold on though, I still have the cappings from the Manuka honey in the shed, awaiting meltdown. The honey content would be higher than normal as I find it difficult to extract with any efficiency without heating it. Would the lady care to call round and inspect same? Yes she would, and a time was set.

Enter a lady in her twilight years, a nervous disposition evident in her manner. A bucket of cappings was cleaned up a little prior to her arrival and she duly inspected the sticky mass it contained. Showing obvious delight she tasted a sample of the cappings and appeared to be duly impressed. I had relooked at the honey stocks and found some cut-comb boxes on a back shelf, so indicated that they were of Manuka honey, was she perhaps more interested in those? The actual honey

content would be higher than the cappings bucket. No thank you was the rejoinder — cappings she had come to get and cappings it would be. A deal was duly struck and she left in her car with a bucket of cappings, apparently satisfied.

Now who would think that the waste product of extraction would be actually sought after by members of the public? Just the look of a bucket of cappings is sufficient to turn off most of my family members and friends, yet here was this lovely lady relishing the thought of eating her way through the contents of that bucket. You learn something new every day. In closing the deal I stressed that I was not able to guarantee total purity of Manuka honey in the honey content, it would also contain pollens and no doubt a bit of propolis as well. No matter, she wanted the bucket-full as it stood.

My brief understanding of Marketing principles tells me to give the customer what they want, so she got what she wanted, a bucket of Manuka honey cappings. Now, my dilemma. In selling cappings, I have a new market, perhaps. But each kilogram of cappings sold means less wax return to swap for foundation comb at the end of the season, less honey syrup from which to make mead and hold the balance over to give some winter feed. Less wax means the woodturners will be restricted in supply, and they pay double per kilo for what the honey is sold for. Not having unlimited supplies of cappings to dispose of means possibly rationing out my stocks, in turn customers who fail to understand why, and this may lead to loss of business. Where will it all end?

Being a deep thinker, I have been giving the situation some deep thought, and I think the lady may be on to something. I had queer sensations in my stomach after the last few meals, perhaps all this worry is getting to me — so I shall take a leaf from her book and start in on the rest of the Manuka honey cappings — a dessertspoon full, twice a day after meals. Now this of course means a diminishing amount of

Manuka honey cappings available for sale — Make that intake three times a day after meals!

## Library News

Educational Kit. Aimed, firstly at schools, but very useful for putting the message across to any outsider. We gained something very worthwhile. Real attractive and eye catching. Just what is needed.

New Zealand Beekeeping — an Industry Profile. 1995 edition, revised and updated. 31 pages of info, facts and figures. Well put together. This too will be of assistance when talking about bees and bee business to outsiders.

### Play the Game!

As mentioned in the December '94 issue there was delay with returning video tapes. It now appears that one (Queen Rearing) has been lost in the mail. We are trying to find out more from N.Z. Post.

The other tape on queen rearing was mailed to a person in Waikato, who also borrowed another item. Three reminders have not produced any result, neither has an explanation been

## New Zealand Beekeeper

We are continually seeking to "lift" the industry journal and now that responsibilities have been rearranged we will be able to further achieve that. I would ask that any beekeeper feel free to send in letters or articles. In particular we would like to ensure that there is plenty of branch news. Photos are always welcome and will be used with acknowledgement ... **But please** they must be clear. Colour photos are fine. If possible please type your contribution to assist accuracy.

If at any time there is any matter that requires clarification with respect to the *New Zealand Beekeeper* magazine please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Looking forward to a great '95**  
**Ron Rowe, Editor.**

# 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).

## CONTRACT EXTRACTION

Book in now for next season

Contact:

**Bryan Clements**  
at **Waikato Honey**,  
8 Short St,  
Kihikihi.

*Telarc registered  
To ISO 9002*

**This  
space available for  
your message to the  
commercial and  
domestic sectors of  
the industry.**

**Please ring  
(06) 878-5385 for  
details.**

**This  
space available for your  
message to the  
commercial and  
domestic sectors of the  
industry.**

**Please ring  
(06) 878-5385 for  
details.**

## SHORT SHARP ARTICLES

Wanted for  
**THE BEEKEEPER**

Please talk  
to the editor.  
**(06) 878-5385**

## BEE PROTEIN

*The workable, proven answer  
for pollen deficient hives.*

Available from:

Ceracell (09) 274-7236  
Ecroyd (03) 358-7498  
NZ Beeswax (03) 693-9189  
and **Waikato Honey  
Products Ltd**  
(07) 871-4709

## QUEEN BEES

*Johnson Apiaries Ltd  
Autumn Delivery*

Order Now

**Rob & Beth Johnson**

Phone (06) 368-1325  
R.D. 1  
Levin

# From the Colonies

## Auckland Colony Report

In the absence of President Nigel, I have fallen for this report.

I shortened my labour intensive Northland farm holiday to meet this *Beekeeper* deadline. While there, my only relaxation was to super up my hives, the only purpose of which is to convince the Northerners that I am forever an eternal optimist.

In my absence the Secretary and President of the Auckland Bee Club had assisted me by finding a central venue for the March 14th Pest Management Strategy meeting. This is to be held in the Horticulture Hall, 990 Great North Road, close to Motions Road and the Western Springs Motorway off-ramp. I always receive the best of co-operation from Bee Clubs, yet often hear the complaint from N.B.A. Members that inexperienced hobbyists are a major source of A.F.B. Infection. Could I suggest that members try their own PMS. Before destroying your next find of disease, you invite your local hobbyists to examine frames and learn to recognise the symptoms of A.F.B. It really does work a treat.

Well, it is an old beekeeper saying, that a good season is generally followed by a bad one. By all accounts, last year was a record one. In our region some sites are producing reasonably well, while others are a disaster. These weaker hives seem to have remained weak despite supplementary feeding.

The exceptional dry weather has knocked the clover badly. Not till mid-January did I see flowering clover in any quantity, and that was on the green flats beside the Waikato River.

Members have remarked that the

Pohutukawa produced, but for a short season only. Most have had good returns on native species. Those with hives in the Coromandels did well from Rewarewa and there are good reports of Manuka from the near north. Others report Rewarewa nectar from sites that were not known to produce it in the past.

We now have our hopes pinned on a late clover flow, that the thistle produces well, and that the Penny Royal tinting the landscape at present gives us a winter crop.

To get the latest on pollination, I rang President Rob Johnston who answered immediately but complaining of the heat. No, he wasn't in the extraction room, nor was he in the truck's hot cab. No, he was on site preparing package bees with his mobile phone beside him. Are we to lose those pleasant, peaceful days away from the hustle and bustle while we work our bees in isolation?

For a change, pollination went well and all seem happy with the result. Orchardists too, are glowing with satisfaction that the bees have done their work well.

No major outbreaks of A.F.B. have been reported of late.

**Next Meeting** of the Auckland Branch will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday, February 23rd at the Anglican Church Hall, Coles Road, Papakura, (opposite former 3 Guys).

Agenda: General business — Easter Show Planning. (We have Bill Floyd's Honey Display booked). I believe President Nigel is arranging for a guest speaker.

*Jim Thompson*  
Secretary

## Southern North Island Branch

The honey flow in our large area could be said to be patchy. Early bush flows produced well, however low land pasture that looked so promising before Christmas was quickly eaten off or dried out before the bees returning from pollination could take advantage of it.

Some Manuka areas produced while others are having a rest year. Rain during the last week could assist the bees to produce a late flow. Overall prospects for the crop will be average to below average.

### Coming Events

March 3-5 — Lake Rotoiti Buzz Weekend. (Friday 5pm to Sunday 1pm). Beekeepers from Wellington and the upper South Island will be gathering once again for a weekend of fun and education. The theme for Saturday morning is diversification in beekeeping. The whole programme should be of interest to all beekeepers. Hopefully the costs will be something between \$60-70 for meals and (bunk) accommodation. For more information contact your local Branch Secretary.

March 18 — Southern North Island Branch Field-day at Palmerston North. Roger Clarke's honey house, Cloverlea Road, starting with a cup of tea at 10am. An interesting programme to suit both commercial and hobbyist beekeepers has been planned.

*Frank Lindsay*  
Wellington

## South Canterbury

The prospects of a reasonable honey crop were wrecked before the season even started with several days of temperatures in the thirties in early December. Strong nor-west winds dried up pastures and wrecked hive bee strengths, while frosts burnt off any clover flowers in the McKenzie High Country. Beekeepers had a quiet relaxing, worrying Christmas hoping for a weather change, and a January honey crop, but even though it did rain, hot weather evaporated any moisture, and the honey crop also. Crops seem to range from very poor to poor, and the chances of an improvement in this situation seems unlikely. All that is left to hope for is a good rain, and an autumn flow to at least fill the hives for winter stores.

*Peter Smyth*



## AVOCADO HONEY

Packed in 30kg pails  
500kg total

Best offers

Phone/Fax (09) 408-2200

WANTED

Bulk bees and queens

Top prices paid for certified stock

February to April delivery.

## LARGE BEEKEEPING BUSINESS FOR SALE

in Central King Country  
— excellent producing area

At present about 60 tonne honey on hives, on sites,  
plus approximately 45 tonne ready for export.

Hives in good shape, disease free and all fire branded.

Land, plant and houses optional.

Phone (07) 896-6865,

or write to

Box 422, Taumarunui

## IBRA

Bee informed with IBRA! The International Bee Research Association is the world's premier information service on bees and beekeeping. We produce three respected journals and have an unrivalled library and information service. Support this work and enjoy all the benefits of membership. Further information from IBRA, 18 North Road, Cardiff, CF1 3DY, UK. Fax (+44) 1222 665522. Telephone (+44) 1222 372409 (24 hours).

## DIARY DATES

1st day of each month — deadline for copy for  
the NZ Beekeeper.

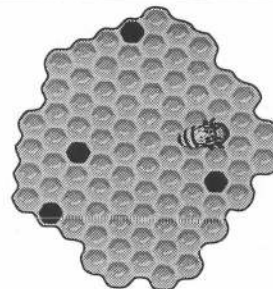
March 4-5	Planning Meeting
March 6	National Executive meeting
April 17	Nominations to be notified for Executive elections
May 9 & 10	National Executive meeting
May 17	Nominations close for Executive
May 26	Voting forms posted out
June 17	Voting forms to be received by returning officer
July 10	National Executive meeting
July	AGM & conference see dates in advertisement
Sept 5 & 6	National Executive meeting
Dec 5 & 6	National Executive meeting
Apimondia	26th International Beekeepers Conference, Vancouver, Canada, 13-21 September, 1999.

## FOR SALE

400 hives, Rotorua/Reporoa area. On site or removal. Price negotiable. Phone (07) 573-7877.

## FOR SALE

1,000 plus beehives on Waikato sites. Phone (07) 824-3988.



## Tropical Bees:

### Management and Diversity

In tropical areas of the world bees of many different species are important. Some provide honey and other foods which are economically important. Others pollinate crops. And we are now realizing more and more the vital role played by native bees in maintaining local plant communities.

All of these issues will be featured at a significant meeting in Central America. 'The sixth IBRA conference on tropical bees: management and diversity' will be an important forum for people from many different backgrounds to discuss issues and share information on a variety of subjects. Scientists, beekeepers, beekeeping specialists, project workers, development officials and others will all be able to contribute to this debate.

The conference will be held in San José, Costa Rica, from 12-17 August 1996, and the first announcement is now available from the organisers.

Write to:

**Sixth IBRA Conference on Tropical Bees:  
Management and Diversity**

**International Bee Research Association**

**18 North Road**

**Cardiff CF1 3DY**

**UK**

**Fax: (+44) 1222-665522**

**E.mail: [ibra@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:ibra@cardiff.ac.uk)**

**SOUTH AFRICAN BEE JOURNAL.** The official organ of the S.A. Federation of Bee-Farmers' Associations. Published Bimonthly in English and Afrikaans, primarily devoted to the African and Cape Bee races. Subscriptions incl. postage (six copies). 1995 all subscribers outside of South Africa R85-00 surface mail, payment to be made in S.A. Rands. NB. Sample copies only available on receipt of a donation. P.O. Box 41 Modderfontein, 1645, South Africa.



# TELFORD RURAL POLYTECHNIC

## ENTER THE FASCINATING WORLD OF BEEKEEPING

Applications are invited for our:

**CERTIFICATE IN APICULTURE (one year of full time study)**

**CERTIFICATE IN APICULTURE (two years of part time study by  
correspondence)**

This is a unique opportunity within New Zealand to study for an apicultural qualification which has NZQA validation.

Recent strong enquiries from prospective employers throughout New Zealand have evidenced an increasing demand for trained, skilled beekeepers. Well motivated graduates from our Certificate in Apiculture, with a healthy attitude to work have excellent chances of obtaining employment in the beekeeping industry, as expansion due to diversification leads to increased demand for labour.

### FULL TIME STUDY

For those wanting to study full time, Telford's one year Certificate in Apiculture course will provide you with the practical skills and theoretical knowledge needed for a career in beekeeping. Industry sponsored bursaries available to selected one year course students. **Next intake commences February 1995.**

### PART TIME STUDY BY CORRESPONDENCE

Our correspondence option allows you to study for your certificate while pursuing full time employment. Start anytime.

*With over twenty-five years of teaching theoretical and practical skills to New Zealand's primary industry, Telford Rural Polytechnic has the expertise to help YOU!*

**DON'T DELAY – CONTACT US NOW FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

## TELFORD RURAL POLYTECHNIC

Apiculture Secretary

Private Box 6

Balclutha

Phone 03 418 1550 Fax 03 418 3584

**Freephone: 0800 805 657**

***Telford Rural Polytechnic – THE SPECIALISTS IN LAND BASED EDUCATION***