

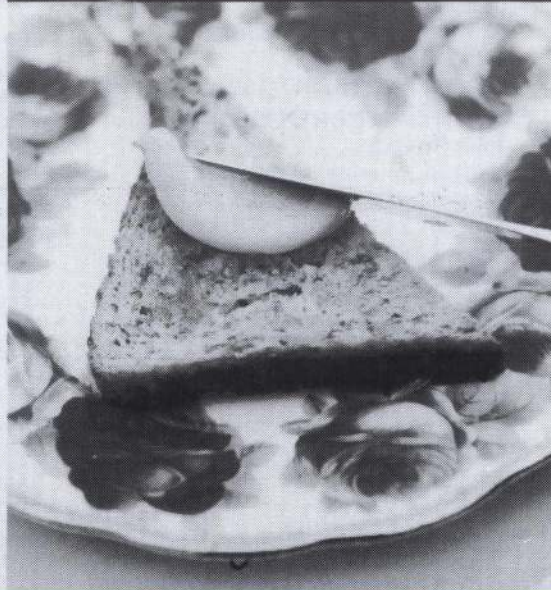
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Notes from the President

Most of the Executive work since my notes last month have related to the Commodity Levies ballot. The ballot is needed by the NBA to get approval to raise a levy to support our organisation when the Hive Levy Act is repealed at the end of this year. The mechanics of preparing for the ballot have been a frustrating time, indeed.

When the Executive announced last year that the ballot would take place before the end of the year, that seemed to be a fair guess of the time involved. We didn't count on running into so many 'procedural' difficulties. With most of these now sorted out, we hope the ballot might be finally getting close.

Why change the levy?

The Hive Levy Act required a levy from beekeepers with more than 50 hives. The levy to be raised by the NBA now attempts to 'widen' the membership base for the Association. The lower level of beekeepers who have real, if relatively small, commercial involvement in the industry, the people who benefit from the activities of the NBA is clearly less than 50 hives. In round numbers, most people feel that more than about 10 hives indicates someone with more than hobbyist intent.

Because of problems with getting verifiable hive figures upon which to base a levy, the NBA has chosen to base the levy on the number of apiaries. While the levy is to be paid by any beekeeper who has more than one apiary site, there is still no intent to limit the true hobbyist. It should be remembered, too, that the levy will provide the beekeeper with the NZ Beekeeper, a valuable communication and education vehicle, as well as all the other advantages of NBA membership.

Front cover:

This is a much reduced version of a superb colour shot from the Educational Kit that has been produced by the marketing team in association with Visuals Canterbury for details see the February issue of the NZ Beekeeper or write to Visuals Canterbury at 6 Robert Street Lincoln, Canterbury.

Another superb article ... "NZ Bee Genetic Improvement Group" that featured in the March 1995 issue of the Beekeeper has drawn very warm comment. This article was written by Jenny Dobson of Hastings. Thank you again Jenny for yet another feature to our magazine ... Jenny also wrote the article about Branch newsletters ... in the same issue.

Most of our difficulty with the ballot has been that we must ensure that all the potential new members have a chance to participate in the ballot. The only sure way of doing that is to use the MAF Apiary Register as the mailing list for the voting.

Who pays for the apiaries register?

There is an often repeated inaccuracy that the NBA has paid for all or part of the apiaries register. It simply is not true. In the 'olden days' the register was paid for by the (then) Department of Agriculture, later the Ministry of Agriculture. For the last five years or so, it has been funded through the National Agricultural Security Service (NASS), a part of the MAF Regulatory Authority (MAF RA). The MAF RA contracts the apicultural advisory staff of MAF Qual, to do the actual work.

The funding has been in recognition of the need for the register in carrying out our agricultural surveillance and possible emergency disease and pest responses. The NBA has never paid any money toward the register, not even through the contract we have with MAF for the delivery of our AFB control programme.

Why has the NBA had trouble with the ballot?

MAF has been hesitant about providing the apiary register to the NBA for conducting the ballot. The Privacy Act is quite particular about how information collected for specific purposes can be used. Late last year, MAF had legal advice that they would be in breach of Privacy Act principles if they provided the NBA with the names and addresses on the register.

The NBA approached the Privacy Commissioner with a request for 'one off' access to the register in order to conduct the ballot, but that request

was declined.

The NBA has now arranged for MAF to post out the voting papers for the NBA, while taking no other part in the ballot process. The votes are to be counted and scrutinised by the chartered accountants who act as auditors for the NBA.

Why is the ballot important and how can you help?

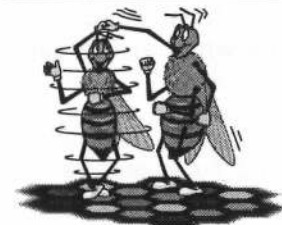
If the ballot is not successful, the NBA as it now exists will be a thing of the past, as it will have no real funding base. We could attempt to survive as a voluntary, totally subscription funded, organisation. I personally believe that the size of our industry would severely limit the activities that could be consistently carried out by such a membership.

With the ballot drawing near, I urge each of you to consider contacting some of your neighbouring beekeepers, particularly beekeepers with smaller hive holdings who may not be familiar with the NBA. Talk over the issues, the value of the NBA to you, and the threats to your livelihood and/or enjoyment of beekeeping without the unified and representational voice of the NBA. If you have any questions, contact me or another Executive member to get details and facts.

It is very important that the ballot be successful, that the beekeepers who are to be levied want the NBA to work on their behalf. Please try to do your part as a member to ensure that the other beekeepers in your area are informed, so that the ballot can give a fair indication of the support for our Association.

I believe that what we are doing in attempting to lower the membership level from 50 hives down to 2 apiaries is a fair and reasonable thing. Please join with me in trying to both continue and improve upon the effectiveness of our organisation into the future.

Nick Wallingford
NBA President



TECPAK BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR 1994

A number of beekeepers have asked for details of the 1994 Beekeeper of the year. Thanks are extended to Trevor Bryant for providing details of Bruce McCusker.

Bruce and Jenny McCusker



1. PERSONAL

Second of four boys raised on a poultry farm. Secondary education Palmerston North attaining School Cert. 1966.

Apprenticed to Sanitarium Health Food Co. as First Offset Lithographer (9000 hours), transferred to Whitcoulls in Christchurch at 20 years old. At 23, promoted to Assistant Foreman and Troubleshooter and responsible for training of 6 apprentices. Three years later, promoted to Production Planning Supervisor: after 2 years in this position, appointed to Company Representative and lifted sales significantly.

Married Jenny in 1975 and after 12 years (1979) with Whitcoulls, resigned to develop a beekeeping business from a base of 200 beehives while at the same time starting a family.

1984 purchased 78 acres and built home and 3-car garage for honey house.

1985 entered into partnership with brother and continued to expand hive holdings to 1200 production units.

2. BEEKEEPING CAREER

1975: received as a gift one beehive

which quickly became 3, established on his father-in-law's farm 50 miles from Christchurch. These became 10 in 1977 and purchased 36 in 1978, 9 of which were burned with American Foul Brood. By 1979, he had 100 hives.

In 1979, commenced commercial beekeeping operations with 200 beehives and worked part-time on his father-in-law's farm. In 1980, entered in a contract with a major comb honey exporter, Mr. Kevin Ecroyd, to produce 200 boxes of full-frame comb honey. By the end of the production season, only 100 boxes were produced, to the delight of the exporter, as no other contracted beekeeper had been able to produce any at all. From this disappointing start, Bruce has specialised in full-frame honey comb production for export.

Each year, his holdings were increased by 50, until 1984: in that season, from 620 production units, 9.5 tonnes of honey comb plus 200 x

200 litre drums of bulk honey were harvested, 50% of which was exported. In 1985, the McCusker brothers commenced business in partnership, built a new honey processing facility and expanded hive holdings by splitting existing production units to 1000 beehives.

1992; hive holdings were expanded to 1200 to meet the demand for manuka honey and Bio-grade certification status was granted.

Bruce has been active in beekeeping politics and has served on the Canterbury Association as a Committee member and President for 3 years.

3. GROWING THE BUSINESS

Bruce developed a high level of skills during the 12-year period he worked for Whitcoulls. This started at the very outset of his apprenticeship when, after studying the "book", he realised the quickest way to earn the most money was to pass all the theory, which gave early pay rises. Skills he recognises have been good work habits, production techniques, quality, planning, costing, presentation and salesmanship and he developed and intimate knowledge of Whitcoulls. The principal rule governing his life: if a job is worth doing, it's worth doing well. That with preparation and work, you will be rewarded with success – always consider the customer's point of view and give value for money.

Attention to detail in everything has been the key to success. Production targets are governed by market requirements established by keeping in close touch with exporters and the market-place: this has provided them with the edge over other beekeepers.

Production unit (beehive) yield is high: five year average 65kg./hive vs. industry average of 28kg./hive. This has been achieved using intensive management techniques, i.e. 2 queen systems, age of queen, populous colonies, good equipment for ease of colony manipulation and good locations, plus the ability to migrate should seasonal factors dictate have contributed to the success of the enterprise.

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

While mainly self-taught in the art of beekeeping, Bruce very quickly realised the importance of populous colonies as production can be very variable. Of all the primary industries, the production of honey is entirely dependent on weather and the surplus can vary from zero to more than 100kg per hive.

Six years ago, they started pricking manuka honey from Airborne Honey Ltd. to export, but then developed their own markets. They now specialise in as much comb honey as can be produced while also harvesting Honeydew Honey, manuka and clover honeys in bulk for the UK market. Bio-grade certified honey is also exported through three agents.

In 1993/94, 117 tonnes of honey were produced, 75% of this was exported and grossed in excess of \$400,000. This gave an economic hive surplus exceeding \$250 per unit.

4. A COMPARISON
Economic Hive Surplus (EHS). The

average commercial beekeeper in NZ has an EHS estimated at \$35.00 from a surplus honey crop of 28kg.h/hive and other contributing products. A Ministry of Agriculture & Fish Monitoring Report (1992) of a group of beekeepers in the Bay of Plenty produced an EHS of \$51.16. The average for the 6 Beekeeper of the Year finalists was \$86.00/hive.

Internal rate of return comparison the New Zealand average is thought to be 5 - 8%: the MAF model 15%, Beekeeper of the Year finalists averaged 28% - Tecpak Beekeeper of the Year

Bruce McCusker IRR 44%.

Exports to North America

The various journals that we receive from North America have been carrying a large number of protests in respect to the shipment of New Zealand bees through Hawaii and into the US mainland. There are just too many and too many words for us to reproduce them here. However those who receive the journals referred to will have been surprised at the attacks on the NZ Industry. (See article by Nick Wallingford on page 18 of this issue).

Thanks . . .

Thanks to those who have commented to me and others warmly on the NZ Beekeeper. Yes we do try to ensure that you receive an interesting and up to date publication. This month we have a lot of great material that has come from your colleagues ... that's always the very best material for it has significance for you.

Please keep sending your material to your magazine ... and may we please have it by the first day of each month to ensure that we keep to the deadlines that we have planned to meet.

Editor

WANTED TO BUY **BEE SWAX**

We are paying **CASH** for all grades of beeswax.

We are particularly interested in larger quantities and will buy beeswax anywhere in New Zealand.

If you want **IMMEDIATE PAYMENT** for your wax
Please phone for our current rates

Peter Lyttle

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NZ BEE SWAX LTD

Southern North Island Branch Autumn Field Day, 18 March 1995

Sixty-four beekeepers, mainly hobbyists from around the Manawatu attended a field day at Roger and Raewyn Clarke's Honey Centre. Roger runs approximately 200 hives around Palmerston North but has recently elongated his operation through the gorge to the East Coast to include manuka in the range of honeys they market. Dedication to record keeping, intensive husbandry of his hives and marketing locally to the top of the market, has allowed them to thrive on such a small number of hives.

At the same time he has continued to develop the honey centre's grounds and work on building a new house. To me the shop, the display of packed honeys and the standard of the honey labels were most impressive.

A relaxed programme with the theme of 'Towards Achieving Excellence' had been organised with Roger kicking it off by giving a summary of his operation and his methods. This was followed by buzz groups discussion on the requirements necessary for good productive hives. At one stage a passing shower sent everybody to seek shelter however, the weather cleared and allowed discussion on dealing with an allergic reaction to a bee sting.

After lunch we had the opportunity to look at honey removal, hive inspection and making up a nuc. From there we saw the extraction process either from within the honey house or through the public observation windows.

The afternoon finished with a cup of tea and the opportunity for a good chin wag.



Part of Roger & Raewyn Clarke's display in their shop.



Roger showing a hobbyist the brood and honey on a frame before making a nuc.



Nomination forms

All members will have received a form on which they can nominate any member for the National Executive. We have also included the same form in this issue of the Beekeeper. Please note that nominations close with the Executive Secretary at 5pm on 17th May 1995.

Voting forms will be posted out on the 26th May.

Remits ...

All remits and rule changes must be in the hands of the Executive Secretary by 29th May.

Branch information

Secretaries you will have received an update of your Branch membership over the past week or so ... in the coming week you will receive a copy of the audited accounts for the NBA as requested from the Tauranga conference where it was agreed that audited accounts should be sent out prior to remit meetings in branches. If there are any questions please contact Harry Brown, the Executive Secretary.

TECPAK BEEKEEPER – The Competition

1. THE CONCEPT

The success of the inaugural competition is now an established fact and the future of the competition is assured as Branches now become involved. Interest (curiosity) was high: 70 for the breakfast, 180 for the final dinner, with 6 very competent and skilled finalists vying for the trophy and sponsored prize.

The industry now needs to debate the future and establish the need for any rules, concept adjustments, need for national convener(s), next event i.e. 2 year – 3 year – 4 year intervals (my preference is for 3 years, to allow the event to be held in both islands).

2. SPONSORSHIP

The package offered by Tecpak Industries is crucial to the success of the event and its future. Tecpak has under contract first option to naming rights with the inaugural organisers, Air New Zealand Limited has the first right of refusal should Tecpak not continue. The competition is comparatively easily sold, but for the full potential value to be realised, two elements must be considered:

- (i) Sponsors must have sufficient lead in to budget for such an event. Most companies approached required 18 months/ 2 years notice of intent (including value of contribution) before committing any sum in excess of \$500, whether it be PRODUCT, SERVICE OR CASH.
- (ii) Sponsors need to see value for their investment and a clearly-defined /planned and committed publicity programme needs to be implemented/projected. A contract between the two parties is essential (see attachments) and in all instances, any promises, verbal assurances of intent, must be followed up with a commitment in writing – all too often P.R. personnel move onwards/upwards/sideways taking verbal agreements with them.

The potential to compile a comprehensive prize is enormous. The industry profile and value to potential sponsors is enormous and a professionally compiled C.V. is worthy of development. The material compiled for the inaugural competition is attached. It is suggested that a national task force

be appointed to compile an industry C.V. folio and solicit sponsor support for the Tecpak Beekeeper of the Year 1997.

3. PUBLICITY

The most difficult component of the competition. There are too many competing news/general interest stories to compete against. Promises from news/PA reporters often mean nothing and photographers/reporters fail to be present just when you require them.

Sir Edmund as a patron is a major selling component, but even his presence pales to the insignificant alongside murder and mayhem and other avenues should be investigated to ensure media attention is attracted and that sponsors' investment is warranted/justified.

4. JUDGING

Initial problems with nominees were overcome by the organisers taking a proactive role in the event and in the final instance, those appointed carried out their task diligently and without bias. Their input is acknowledged with thanks. The contribution of MAF personnel is also duly acknowledged with thanks. The contribution of MAF personnel is also duly acknowledged, as without their commitment, it is doubtful a satisfactory result would have been forthcoming. While not being privy to their discussions or deliberations, the emphasis on E.H.S. (Economic

Hive Surplus) would appear to be the best indicator of excellence in all fields. The comments of the judges and others involved (perhaps including the finalists) should be solicited to establish guidelines/rules for future competitions.

5. COMPETITION FORMAT

From a spectator's point of view (also from feedback), the audience enjoyed the competition, both the introduction at the breakfast (70 in attendance) and the Finals Dinner (180 attended and some were turned away). Two observations:

- (i) A clear, concise script of the event and the essential elements must be developed and followed i.e. times, places, presentation and props, e.g. trophy (who, when, where), sponsors (banners etc.) presence, introduction of guests, high table et al.
- (ii) Contingencies must be considered, viz. overselling of tickets (time constraints) and the requirements of sponsors' is paramount. Worthy of consideration, visits to competitors' headquarters by more than one judge and all competitors be made aware of the etiquette/rules part of the speech making.

Overall, a worthy launch of a new industry product which has considerable potential to grow in the future.

Trevor Bryant.

AUSTRALASIAN BEEKEEPER'S TOUR OF USA JULY/AUGUST 1996

The itinerary is as diverse as the US continent — visits are arranged to spend time with Queen producers in Hawaii, Sacramento Valley and Texas; honey producers in North and South Dakota; Processing plants of Sioux Honey and Dutch Gold; the Africanised bee programme, the White House, Grand Canyon and much more.

The US guides are Professor Roger Morse and Dr Michael Burgett and the Tour Leader is Trevor Bryant. Estimated cost for 18 days:

Minimum 10 persons	\$7,600 per person
Minimum 15 persons	\$6,900 per person
Single supplement	\$600 per person

All enquiries to:
Trevor Bryant
P O Box 430, Te Puke
Phone: (07) 573-6188

The difference between honey and honeys is just about everything that matters.

In this marketing report:

- Chef Honey Workshop and Variety the Key!
- German Scientist says NZ Comb Honey has a unique international advantage
- The Fish Hook in Comb Honey
- Nielsen statistics confirm honey the 'top' spread
- Let's get together and powder some honey
- A nicer description of kamahi on the way

Chef Honey Workshop and Variety the Key!

Imagine if you can a huge restaurant with 20 chefs each cooking three different dishes all at the same time. There's herbs and chicken and venison and oils and garnishings and seasonings all over the place in what appears to be a haphazard, but is actually a very well disciplined and organised, environment.

There are deep friers and shallow friers and hot plates and cold plates. And there's TV cameras and food writers and photographers, there's food judges ... and the centre of attention everywhere: *jars and jars of New Zealand honeys!*

The first chef tutor honey workshop was an outstanding success.

We started the workshop with a general description of NZ honeys and some interesting details about beekeeping and honey harvesting. We then tasted six different honeys. These were: Honeydew, kamahi, tawari, manuka, rata and rewarewa. The feedback and enthusiasm from the young chefs was quite amazing. Most had only ever tasted one, perhaps two honeys. They were amazed at the organoleptic differences between the honeys, (ie the sensory flavour, smell, mouth, feel differences). Once we'd carried out the tasting and discussed the attributes of the honeys, the chefs then had to prepare three dishes using honey as the basis for the

sauces and marinades for a warm chicken salad, strip loin of lamb and a bavarois.

A group of chef tutors plus food writers, reporters, and some general members of the public then tasted the foods as they were presented and made comment on them.

The exercise was an important part of the chef students training. The results were truly terrific!

I had lunch afterwards with Christchurch food writer Mavis Airey. I asked Mavis whether she thought the different flavours in the honeys made a significant difference or contribution to the dishes the students had created. The answer was a very positive 'yes'. Mavis herself has been a food writer for many years. She has never been given the opportunity to taste so many different honeys.

Our intention now is to develop this Honey Workshop model and talk with other polytechnics and chef tutor institutions in New Zealand about using it.

If we can have perhaps 100 chefs every year being introduced to exciting new honeys, those chefs in effect work for us in the market place as they use specific honeys for specific applications in their restaurants.

Then people will start to look for those honeys to use at home. In turn the supermarkets and food retailers look around for these honey types that customers are starting to want and suddenly they are creating shelf space in the supermarkets for the unique honeys. Shelf space for beekeepers and honey packers to capitalise on.

One of the questions I am often asked by beekeepers and I have been certainly asked at every conference is "what the heck are we doing about housebrands, and what the heck are we doing about the low price of honey in the supermarkets?" and the answer of course is that

housebrands do well and cheap bulk honey does well if people think that that's all that they need to buy.

Once we start having exciting honey varieties available and people using different honeys in different cooking applications, then price is no longer the sole or the major criteria by which they buy their honey. The housebrand and low priced bulk blends will always have a place in the market, but we will have created other honey opportunities for customers to enjoy.

I was very interested to note the way in which the chef students started to position different honey varieties

Rewarewa for example: the general consensus of opinion was that it was perfect for Chinese cooking and oriental dishes.

They loved the paradox of the aroma and the flavour in kamahi, a bit like a blue vein cheese where the aroma has some rather disquieting descriptions, but the flavour is superb. For me kamahi has been one of New Zealand's underrated honeys. We think there's a very positive future for it in cooking applications, especially with chefs and food manufacturers.

And of course as we develop the market awareness of the features of the likes of kamahi, then the beekeeper can earn more.

But is this all pie in the sky marketing talk? ... the answer is no.

Everyone knows what's happened to manuka's price as manuka has been singled out as having unique characteristics.

In a similar way we will develop in effect marketing strategies for each of our honey varieties. Beekeepers can then get better prices for unique varieties rather than a bulk price for a ubiquitous blend.

The answer to better profits with any food production is to *de-commoditise*.

The exercises being carried out now are *de-commoditising* honey by

Continued page 9

Continued from page 8

creating honeys (plural).

In fact I can't help thinking that the best thing we can do as an industry is to cease ever using the word 'honey' but instead always talk about 'honeys'. When we do that we are helping to create the awareness that honey is not a commodity generic food product but in fact the collective name of a whole range of foods which have differing flavours and nutritional values.

Even the differing glucose, fructose, maltose, sucrose, ratios in honeys are enough in themselves to create unique marketing opportunities.

NZ Comb Honey has Unique Advantages

German honey scientist Gudrun Beckh believes New Zealand comb honey has an exciting future.

We are very aware in New Zealand that we have a drug free status. The importance of that with comb honey is that in countries where beekeepers have to feed drugs to their bees those drugs can and do accumulate in the beeswax.

The 'drug-free' status of the NZ beekeeping industry means that our comb honey (and extracted honeys of course) are drug free: a unique international advantage that we can capitalise on.

The Fish Hook in Comb Honey

Comb honey is returning good prices this year: but the industry is well aware of the history of boom/bust with comb exports. In recent years some exporting companies have successfully established firm links with overseas markets; including promotion and diversification in comb honey usage.

Current export growth has been centred around premium quality comb. The art of getting perfect comb that commands high prices is a lot harder than it looks. Beekeepers interested in producing comb next season should first be discussing the quality issues with export companies now.

Expecting to be able to quit "any old comb for a quick buck" (or is that a quick buzz!) for example, is likely to have fastidious European and Asian buyers politely shaking their heads ... and wondering if the beekeeper understands the real world. Comb has a promising future; but quality issues are probably more critical than

in any other hive product.

Nielsen Statistics Rate Honey the 'Top' Spread

Honey sales in supermarkets increased in volume by around 1% but in value by more than 5%.

This means people are spending more for their jar of honey and not cutting back on consumption.

By comparison jam and marmalade sales dropped by around 3% in value and 2% in volume.

Peanut butter dropped around 5% in value and 3% in volume and vegetable and yeast extracts dropped around 2% in value and 1% in volume.

The real growth in the market in percentage terms has been in the innovative new sweet spreads such as Nutella and Carabutta. Although sales of both these products is in total value terms very light, they have had significant percentage increases. It shows that people like sweet spreads and it shows that we as a honey industry should be providing innovative and exciting new honeys and honey products to maintain and grow our market share.

Let's Get Together and Power some Honey

New technology means that it is possible to freeze dry and powder pure honey.

Traditional drying methods have always meant that the honey has had to be dried in a mix with some other

product, for example starch or milk. Blenheim company, WGG Cuddon Ltd, are international experts in manufacturing freeze drying equipment and I understand that a suitable machine for drying commercial lots of honey could cost \$200-\$300,000. It is unlikely any individual company in New Zealand could afford that sort of capital commitment but maybe it is an opportunity for a number of honey producers to get together and create an exciting new international product. Just a thought!

A Nicer Description for Kamahi on the Way

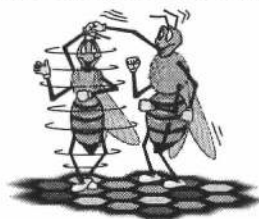
One of the words used to describe the aroma of kamahi has got us (me, that is) in a bit of hot water. An amended page for the NZ Honey Food & Ingredient Advisory Service Customer Kit has been sent out to all branch secretaries; and so the term (which I won't repeat again) will cease to be an issue.

On a positive note however, kamahi appears to be a 'love it' or 'hate it' honey. Most people know my thoughts (ie. kamahi's great) and a bit of controversy could be just what it needs to make people realise its aroma is a feature, not a fault ... but point taken from industry members and I won't make the same mistake again.

That's it for this month.

Regards

Bill Floyd
for the Marketing Committee



Library News

New addition

Inhibitory effects of some New Zealand honeys against dermatophytes by Nicolette Frances Brady, University of Otago, 1995, 98 pp.

This is a thesis required for attaining a M.Sc. degree in Biological Sciences and no doubt contributes considerably to the knowledge of the medicinal value of New Zealand honeys.

Little Tom finds out about Bees by Alain Grée, 1973, 17 pp, United Kingdom.

A real good story for smaller children with attractive illustrations. You will have their attention when reading it to them and it will be a help in teaching them something about bees.

I am pleased to report that one of the two lost video tapes has at long last turned up. As soon as a few copies have been made we will be back in business and mail it to those on the waiting list.

National Beekeeper's Association 1995 Conference AGM, Seminar and Conference of Delegates

Christchurch 11-14 July

ACTIVITIES

Tuesday 11 July Speciality Groups

Registration desk opens 9.00am

10.00-11.00	Comb Honey Association
11.00-1.00	Queen Bee Producers' Association
1.00-3.00	Pollination Association
3.00-4.30	Honey Exports Association
4.30-6.00	Honey Packers' Association

Wednesday 12 July Seminar Day

Getting Into Beekeeping

9.00-9.30	Beekeeper's Perspective Topic: Pitfalls and How to Avoid Them
9.30-10.00	Banker's Perspective Speaker: Mr Grant Bright, Trust Bank Topic: Rural Lending, Putting a bankable package together and raising finance

Staying Profitable in Beekeeping

10.45-11.15	Tecpak Beekeeper of the Year Speaker: Mr Bruce McCusker
11.15-11.45	Setting goals and how to achieve them Speaker: Mr Reg Gartners, N.Z. Institute of Management
11.45-12.15	Speaker: Mr David Penrose Topic: Options available. How to realise your business maximum value
12.15-2.00	Lunch
2.00-2.30	Safety in Beekeeping ACC Perspective
2.30-3.00	Final Presentation of the Pest Management Strategy
3.30-4.00	Labelling and Food Safety Requirements Speaker: Health Link South
4.00-4.30	To Be Confirmed
5.00-6.30	Happy Hour and Sponsor Hour

Thursday 13 July

9.00am	Official Opening and Commencement of Conference of Delegates
7.30pm	Banquet Night Theme: Bastille Day

Friday 14 July

9.00am Continuation of Conference of Delegates
3.00pm Conference Closes

COSTS

Seminar: \$30 each
Conference: \$25 each
Banquet: \$45 single — Dinner and Dance
Partner's Bus Tour: FREE — with registration

REGISTRATION

Please assist us by registering before 8 June on the attached form

VENUE

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Fax: (03) 366-6302

Special conference rates are available. To obtain these, you must book direct with the hotel 60 days in advance. Deposit Conference rate is \$87 plus GST for standard twin (2 single beds) and standard double (1 queen size bed). Superior Double/Twin is \$92 plus GST.

The Quality Hotel ensures "A warm and friendly welcome awaits all delegates of the Beekeeper's Association when staying at Quality Hotel, Durham Street, Christchurch, during their annual conference". The Hotel is very centrally located and convenient to attractions such as, The Casino, Tramway, city shopping and only one minute from the Christchurch Town Hall. All the rooms are well appointed with tea/coffee making facilities, TV including "Sky", mini bar and refrigeration and hair dryers.

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

Travel — To be advised

Watch this space for further details

National Beekeeper's Association Conference 1995

Please register me/us for the following activities:

Name Partner

Address

.....

.....

Phone: Fax:

Branch/Organisation

		Number Attending	Total
Seminar	\$30 per head
Conference	\$25 per head
Dinner and Dance	\$45 per head
		Total

I/We will be staying at the Quality Hotel Yes/No

Please return this registration form to:

B. Lancanster, Conference Secretary
Haldon Road, R D 2, Darfield 8170, Phone: (03) 318-0732

OSH — NOW —

Osh

Yes! Talk with your local occupational safety and health person about your special needs and interest in this matter. It may be a very good idea to convene a special branch meeting and have the OSH person talk with your members on this matter. Call the Department of Labour to find out the name of your local persons.

Dear Sir

Following up articles in different newspapers and magazines about the Health and Safety Employment Act 1992.

I believe that there is still a great deal of confusion about this act and how it relates to the farming scene.

I have recently received from the N.Z. Hunts Association a letter which states that O.S.H. is unlikely to prosecute a farmer other than where an incident arises from an employer/employee accident.

I find this most curious when a great part of the act goes to some length in detailing that the property owner has to give notice of **Hazards** to all employees, visitors, and contractor's employees outside their specific employment i.e. showing them slipperey tracks or potentially dangerous stock.

I think it is time for this legislation to be rewritten and clarified as to what liabilities the farming community are likely to be inflicted with.

I enclose a copy of:

a) the letter which **all** people wishing to come onto our property have to sign.

b) my views of what the strict legal analysis of the law appears to be.

I would be most grateful if you could incorporate in your publication my viewpoints on Health R Safety Employment Act 1992 either as an article or as a letter to the editor.

Yours faithfully

Neil C Petrie

Telephone: (06) 372-4815

Facsimile: (06) 372-4860

Sulphur Wells, R.D.11, Masterton.

23 March 1995

Dear Person

As you may or may not know the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, now puts onerous liabilities and duties on Employers and property owners and the person in control of a place of work, should an accident occur on the property owned by an individual or company.

As a farming company, Sulphur Wells Ltd will not permit you to enter onto its land or into its buildings unless you accept full responsibility for any accident which you or your staff may incur whilst on the said properties owned by Sulphur Wells Ltd. There are many hazards on this farming property which could cause you an injury, these range from stock, i.e. Bulls, Stags, etc, poisonous weeds, waterways natural and man-made e.g. underrunners, dams, fences, bits of wire, wood with nails sticking out and many others.

Where you are employed by contractors doing work on Sulphur Wells Ltd properties we require to see from your employer a certificate to establish that you have been properly trained and informed of the hazards with the work you are doing, you are not permitted to use any machinery owned by Sulphur Wells or by anyone else who has equipment on Sulphur Wells properties without

a) asking permission

b) being instructed how to use it.

At all times the necessary safety gear must be used.

When you are employed directly by Sulphur Wells Ltd you do so knowing that there are many hazards i.e. from wielding an axe to doing stock work or lifting bits of machinery etc. To identify all potential hazards on the properties is a physical impossibility and all due care should be taken as has been the case in the past. However if there are any hazards or areas of danger which might cause you bodily harm, if you know of these please let the management know immediately. On the assumption that you:

a) know of all the hazards on the properties

b) you have been trained to avoid the hazards which may cause you an injury

c) you have been shown or made aware of these hazards.

Please sign this letter for confirmation of understanding and acknowledgement that you have been warned of hazards both natural and man-made and that safety gear has been provided whilst working for Sulphur Wells. Should however an accident occur on the properties outside the Sulphur Wells working perimeter i.e. collection of firewood, or showing a friend around the properties then no responsibility will be placed on Sulphur Wells Ltd, permission will not be granted unless the above is agreed to.

Visitors are not permitted onto the property unless they accept full responsibility for any accident to themselves.

All people entering onto Sulphur Wells Ltd properties accept full responsibility to any accident which may occur to them by signing this letter of acceptance to enter, and that potential hazards have been shown to you and that the person in charge has taken all practicable steps, otherwise **DO NOT ENTER**.

The Canterbury Branch would like to build a honey mountain of all different brands and types of honey available in New Zealand.

Please assist us by bringing along some of your brands to Conference. This will have a great visual impact and marketing appeal.

HEALTH AND SAFETY EMPLOYMENT ACT 1992

The implications of the Health and Safety Act 1992 are starting to be understood by the Rural Community and the difficulties and uncertainty of what this can mean for the farming community.

The legislation was obviously written by bureaucrats on the understanding that no one has commonsense. The concept to reduce accidents is admirable and no one wants to have an injury to one's employees, oneself, or others (but I have known cases where an alleged sore back has been certified by a doctor to obtain A.C.C. compo and the individual still carried on weightlifting in his own time).

Let's look at a farm situation, not a factory, in particular a hill country farm. The hazards are too numerous to identify even to one's own employees, furthermore the situations changes frequently i.e. tracks and culvert washouts, wet and slippery tracks, as quoted in various brochures about the Act as potential hazards.

Are we as farmers expected to show

and identify these hazards and go through the check lists which have been put out by O.S.H. (the Department of Labour) once a day! Once a year! Or when a new employee or casual worker is taken on!! Quote: page 30 in the Farmer and Growers Guide to H & S Act 1992 Section 7. "Spread metal on slippery tracks with notices defining the track as a "no go" area if slippy or put a sign up if the track has washed out. How ridiculous can the law-makers get.

But farmers beware: the law is not made for you and if anything by way of injury can be loaded back to you either through A.C.C. levies or through a civil case via the Department of Labour it will be done.

Many so called injuries with backs or tennis elbow etc have taken place outside the work place and we the employers have had to bear the brunt of having our A.C.C. levies increased and our A.C.C. records penalised. In our case we have had the unfortunate experience of three different

individuals trying to load their "injuries" back to work related, we discussed each situation with the local A.C.C. manager and proved that none of the problems had occurred during employment with us. In other words they were trying to rip the system off.

Furthermore the farmers are paying the A.C.C. levies of Shearing Contractors, Meat Work employees etc through the contract rates, this becomes a direct cost to us.

With this new Act, farmers are going to have to be particularly careful as to whom they employ and which contractors they use.

My advice to all farmers wishing to employ either permanent or casual employees is to ask for their A.C.C. and medical history if any, likewise if your shearing contractor's rates are higher than others, he could be trying to recoup increased A.C.C. fees or other penalties occurred under the H & S 1992 Act.

American Foul Brood

by Russell Berry

Is the Draft Pest Management Strategy the right approach for eradicating AFB in New Zealand?

Let's go back to basics for a few minutes. As beekeepers we are either hobbyists or commercial beekeepers. We keep bees for enjoyment if we are hobbyists or if commercial, for profit and hopefully for enjoyment.

If we spend too much time looking for AFB both profitability and enjoyment goes out of beekeeping. Likewise, if AFB goes undetected in our hives, very soon the same applies. Nobody enjoys or finds it profitable, to burn beehives. So all beekeepers have the desire to eradicate AFB from their hives, or maintain the disease free status of their hives.

Now that we have established that all beekeepers want to be free of AFB in their hives, how do we go about achieving that aim? Without being forced to do so by law? Is it possible to do this voluntarily? What will the effect be if some people achieve AFB eradication and some do not?

I ask myself three questions:-

1. How much does the AFB status of your hives affect the general public of New Zealand?

Answer: From the products we sell or give away in New Zealand, very little.

2. How much does the AFB status of your hives affect other beekeeper's hives

in your area?

Answer: Far less than it will affect your own hives. Most AFB is spread by moving affected beekeeping equipment from hive to hive. Not much is spread by bees robbing wild or domestic hives.

3. How much does the AFB status of your hives affect yours and other beekeepers exports of honey, bees and other beehive products?

Answer: It should be very little as most countries have AFB and it is possible to put in place quality assurance programmes for testing products for AFB if required.

If the AFB spore count of a product being exported is satisfactory to the importing country, I believe any other conditions applied by the importing country regarding AFB in New Zealand, are trade barriers and should be opposed as such.

I believe we have established the following facts:

- That all New Zealand beekeepers prefer to have disease free hives.
- That if they have AFB in their hives the AFB will have a far more detrimental affect on their remaining clean hives than other people's hives, if the AFB is not dealt with appropriately.
- That there should be little effect on exports providing the product being exported tests satisfactorily for AFB.

To me it seems logical that when people are striving to maintain the disease free status of their hives or trying to achieve this position, what is required is a heavy investment by the NBA into research, teaching beekeepers practical AFB eradication skills and general AFB education.

I believe that in place of the Pest Management Strategy, the following should be carefully investigated:-

That the NBA employ two people, one in the North Island and one in the South Island, each to be employed for six months of the year, to visit as many beekeepers as possible each year and to assist these beekeepers with the practicalities of eradicating AFB in their particular situation and to work with the beekeeper or his staff inspecting some of his hives.

This I believe, will achieve far better AFB control at considerably less cost than is being attempted by law under the proposed Pest Management Strategy. I also believe that this suggested system, if run correctly, would help create goodwill and honesty in the beekeeping industry. People generally respond better to helpful advice rather than being dictated to on how they should run their businesses.

Please give these suggestions some thought and make your thoughts known to the industry.

Lake Rotoiti

- What a Buzz of a Weekend - March 1995

Forty-six beekeepers attended the day session with 38 staying over to enjoy a great weekend at one of the best locations for an outdoor learning facility in New Zealand. Hobbyist and commercial beekeepers came from Wellington, Blenheim, Nelson, West Coast and Canterbury. All enjoyed the good company, good food, sharing of information and to top it all off, hot sunny days.

The Saturday morning session was set by Bruce McCusker, 1994 Beekeeper of the Year. Professing not to be a public speaker he did a marvellous job of explaining his experience leading up to him winning the Beekeeper of the Year Award and the basis of his beekeeping operation.

Quotes like:

Effort in, production or dollars out,

Know how much things cost,

One must be lean and mean to be profitable

Find a good location - if you can, put your bees in the best lambing patch on the farm - after all they are animals too,

The first six weeks in spring is when you set your hives, after that it's pure supervision.

Good reliable vehicle and good access - he even grades farmers' tracks and puts in culverts to make access to bee sites easier.

Conditions give you anything from half a box to 6, 7, or 8 boxes of honey.

This was followed by a number of beekeepers giving their opinions on diversification. Most had been forced to look for alternatives or saw an opportunity. All had their benefits and draw-backs.

Queens (Ged Stevens) - it's a money up front operation, seven days a week, but has potential on the world markets.

Comb Honey (Bruce McCusker) - just how hard it is to produce the perfect comb but can be worth as much as \$145 per box.

Bio-Honey (Rob Coes) - it's hard to find a perfect site, one of the greatest costs is leaving honey on the hives as sugar feeding is not allowed however returns are higher.

Honey Crunch (Merl and John Moffitt) - their manuka granulated in the comb so they found a market for it.

Bulk versus retailing (Ricky Leahy and Michael Wright) - do what you do best, location is important, can give you a greater return for your honey.

The sessions were too short to really get into the subjects but long enough to whet the appetite for those wanting to know more. Bruce has also diversified a little further than most and has gone into ostrich farming. He recognises he might not be able to lift a full super when he reaches 60 but he sure could lift an egg. He believes they are the ultimate wedding gift. One pair will provide eggs and offspring for all your working life. Each bird can provide up to \$1000 in meat, hide and oil. Something to think about for your children perhaps.



Judy Gibson with her bee stamps from around the world.

The afternoon was lighter with talks on bees stamps (Judy Gibson), dehydrating (Sue Jenkins) plus a display and demonstration of airguns by Paul Stanton. Norm Donovan from Canada gave an evening update from Nova Scotia and his impressions on what's going on in New Zealand.

The Rotoiti Competition Cup consisted of an afternoon scavenger hunt and evening question time that had everybody going. You had to be on a different wave length and most won't forget the 'Washboard affect' question. Canterbury came out on top with a good team effort and will be looking after the cup until 1997 - congratulations.

Sunday morning, a small attendance after a good Saturday night was based around 'Quality'. Sue Jenkins



The winner of the Lake Rotoiti Challenge Cup Canterbury branch of NBA Peter Bray, Brian Lancaster, Rachel Charmers, Stuart & Kaye Ecroyd & Grudrun Beck

gave a run down on the marketing committee operation, Grudrun Beckh from Germany spoke on her laboratory's operation and her impression of beekeeping in NZ, (she indicated from what she had seen, all New Zealand honey could be termed as Bio-Honey). Peter Bray spoke on pollen identification of honey and the sources of honey and a few of the pitfalls, ie don't extract frame containing pollen as it mucks up the pollen count. Drum labelling and other points while Rachael Chamber showed pollen slides. This was followed by the Australian video in quality standards.

We were particularly pleased to have two distinguished visitors, Jasper Bray and Dick Holland, two beekeeping identities from Canterbury. Many thanks to all the beekeepers who put in the time and effort to give such great presentations. Also to those who help behind the scenes and helped with the clean up. I learnt a lot and I'm sure others did also.

To those who missed the weekend, you missed a good one. This event is now firmly established on the bi-annual calendar and will be repeated again in two years time. Hope to see you there.

Frank Lindsay

(Photos courtesy M. Lindsay).

Dear Sir

Thank you for your letter from 08.03.95.

My name is not Niel Lima but Niels Lund. I am a Danish commercial beekeeper.

I can see that you have great expectations with beekeeping industry in New Zealand, and you are very much enthusiast in this matter.

So, I can understand that this big enthusiasm has conducted you till a complete misunderstanding of my earlier letter.

My mean is that you (all New Zealand beekeepers) are very aggressive in your business, you will use GATT agreement as a tool for development of your own country's beekeeping, but you cannot see that other beekeeping industries in the world can be easily destroyed for such aggressivity.

16,000 commercial beekeepers in Europe are being destroyed because of lack of possibility of prize competition (honey). The European beekeepers lose 100 dollars per beehive per year, which was expected to be covered for a subsidy of pollination from EU, but this was first delayed, and later denied.

Pollination for Export is also competely misunderstood. In our land (Denmark) nobody has ever paid for pollination service, it is not a custom. My mean was to say that if we lose all our bees and beekeepers because Denmark can easier import cheap honey, will our land developes as a desert for lacking of pollination.

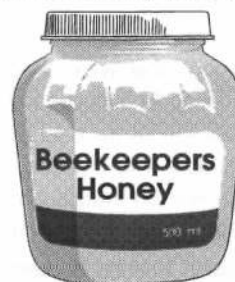
I will be pleased if you will have this letter printed in *New Zealand Beekeeper* as a possible correction for the earlier one, also.

Yours faithfully

Niels Lund
Norgervej 30 - Oue
9500 Hobro / Dk
Denmark



Dick Holland and Jasper Bray came up from Nelson for the Saturday sessions and Peter Bray (Airborne Honey)



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NBA PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

NEW "I LOVE MY HONEY" PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

- order stock as required

	TO NBA (INCL GST)	RECOMMENDED RETAIL (INCL GST)
Cameo spoons	\$2.90	\$3.95
Fluted spoons	2.90	3.95
Charm spoons	4.12	5.50
Thimble	2.30	3.00
Keyring Metal	4.25	5.00
Keyring leather	4.25	5.00
Badge	1.82	2.50
Magnet	1.89	2.50
Red, yellow, white, blue, green		
"I Love My Honey" pens	7.65 per 10	0.90 each

OTHER PROMOTIONAL ITEMS – stock held

	TO NBA (INCL GST)	RECOMMENDED RETAIL (INCL GST)
"I Love My Honey" stickers	\$4.00	\$4.00
Trees for Bees posters (20)	0.55 each	
Trees for Bees Tags (800)	3.40 per 100	
Nectar & Pollen Sources in NZ	2.25 each	
RS Walsh (22)		

OUT OF STOCK ITEMS

Reciption Sheets	0.20 each
Bees & Honey	no charge

MAIL ORDERS ARE CHARGED POST AND PACKING AT COST

Grafting Eggs for Queen Rearing

by Suhayda Jenö and George Nichols

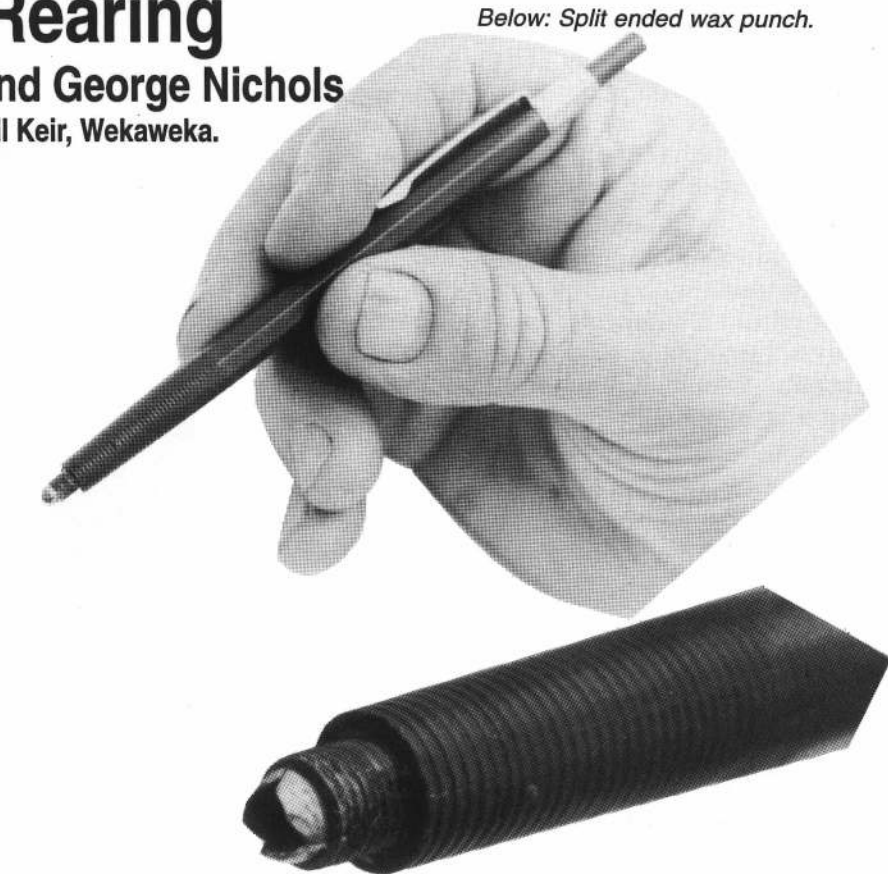
Photographs by Bill Keir, Wekaweka.

Mr Suhayda wrote most of this and I translated. In my previous articles "To Hungary for Beekeeping" in the NZ Beekeeper October and November 1994, I mentioned the queen rearing wall poster in the Godollo beekeeping museum. This showed egg grafting using an egg on a wax disc cut from the bottom of a cell. I told Jenö that I had tried to cut out similar discs of wax but was unable to extract the disc and egg from my cutting tool, a sharpened brass cylinder. He then showed me a special tool rather like a ballpen (Fig.1), this had a sharpened brass cylinder at one end with which to cut out the wax disc with the egg on it. (Fig. 2) When you pressed the knob at the other end of the tool the cylinder split into 3 pieces which widened out like an inside out umbrella to release the disc. (Fig. 3)

Back in New Zealand I went to see Nils King over at Mountain Road, Whirinaki to discuss the problem of making the special cutting tool. His daughter Anna was busy drawing on the dining room table. "Oh. You mean one of these" she said handing me her drawing tool, a pencil holder containing a long pencil lead. This was a Staedler 78900 from Germany, exactly what I needed. Next day I bought one at Paper Plus in Kaikohe. The three piece cylindrical end was thick and blunt with serrated edges inside to grip the long pencil lead. If I had tried to sharpen it with a high speed drill the drill bit would have caught the three split ends and smashed them. A dental bur was the answer so I bought an Egg Bur T 7408 from the dental suppliers in Frankton. I put the bur into my electric drill which I had clamped into a vice, switched onto high speed and ground out the cylindrical end of the tool to a sharp cylinder.

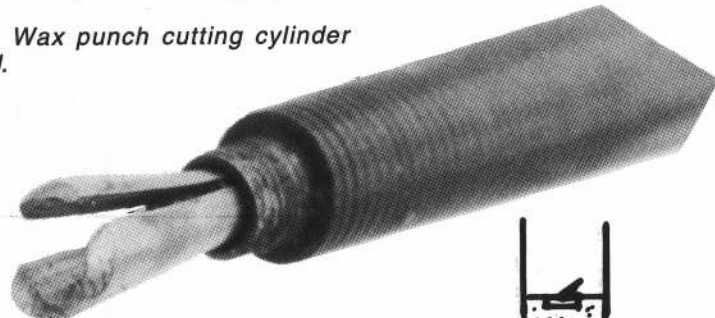
I then wrote back to Mr Suhayda for further clarification and there is his part of this article:-

You select eggs which must be more than 48 hours old for the bees to accept and care for them. They are not very delicate but it is better to



Below: Split ended wax punch.

Above: Wax punch cutting cylinder closed.
Below: Wax punch cutting cylinder opened.



keep them about 25 degrees Celsius. When removing eggs, scrape the cells away from the foundation on the side remote from the eggs and then cut out discs and eggs using the special tool.

You can collect royal jelly with a hypodermic syringe and transfer the jelly to wax queen cells, using just enough jelly to float the wax discs with the eggs. However a better method is to graft larvae into the queen cells and place them into a cell raising colony. The next day you remove the accepted cells and carefully lift out the larvae using a pair of tweezers, taking care not to disturb or stir the royal jelly, Fig. 4. You then carefully put the wax discs with the eggs into the exact places where you removed the larvae, Fig. 5. At transfer



Above: Larva removed from queen cell leaving royal jelly undisturbed.

Below: Wax disc with egg replacing larva.



the royal jelly is not available to the eggs, therefore you must put some onto the surface of the wax discs. You now put the cells back into the cell raising hive where the bees apparently do not notice the exchange nor the interference. If you work well, out of 100 eggs, 60-80 should survive.

George Nichols.

Honeycomb Directory

Various headings will be used within this directory as required by advertisers and will include:
Beeswax, Honey, Bee Products, Woodware, Beekeepers supplies/accessories, Queens & packaging bees, Packaging Materials, FMG Insurance, Extracting services, laboratory services; Sugar supplies. The cost will be \$30 per comb, per issue (with 6 or more issues at \$20 per issue).

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at **Waikato Honey**,
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SHORT SHARP ARTICLES

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A warning about plastic queen cages. A few weeks ago when introducing some caged queens I was lucky to notice something abnormal. The cages used were the familiar plastic variety, bottom half with a compartment for the queen and a few escorts and a second compartment for the candy. Normally the candy compartment has 2 "U" shaped openings, one connecting it to the queen's compartment and the other one at the end corresponding with the seal in the cover of the cage. Before placing the cages into the tops (nucs) the seals had of course to be removed so that the colony's bees could start removing the candy from their end and create an exit for the new queen. When prying away the seal, candy should have been exposed, but no, just another layer of hard white plastic. The "U" shaped doorway was absent. A little screwdriver was the answer to the problem of breaking away the obstruction. First time we discovered this shortcoming. Something must have gone wrong at the manufacturing machine. Certainly lucky to notice the defect, it could easily be missed. The result would have been unreleased queens. Where there are a few of these imperfect cages in one bag there could be more in others. So when putting in the candy watch for the "U" at each end and when removing the seal make sure you meet up with the candy.

You will remember last year's notes about using that spare nuc to make a two-queen colony. One of the six colonies I manage here at home suffered that kind of treatment. The parent colony was in 2 f.d. supers, excluder above it, then a super with combs and foundation, again an excluder with an entrance cut into the top half of its rim and above that the top (split, nuc) with the 2nd queen. Combs with brood were 'milked' from bottom and top colonies and placed in the 'between' super and replaced with empty combs or foundation. The bees in the 'between' super came of course from

both bottom and top, intermingled freely without any signs of fighting. Uniting was done after the honey flow was well underway by simply placing the top colony onto the bottom colony making it three brood chambers, followed by a queen excluder and above that the 'between' super which was pretty near full of brood. Another empty super on top of that at the same time. Later on followed by more.

This site is as a rule not a top producing location but it did pretty well this season. A total of 356kg of honey has been extracted, 2½ extra supers with feed have been left on the hives and two tops with adequate stores have been made. The five 'normal' colonies produced 280kg extracted honey between them which is an average of 56kg per hive. That gives 76kg for the two queen colony. An extra 20kg.

In no way can this be regarded as a properly conducted trial but it gives an indication. It is in my opinion not something to practice on a large scale but worth a try for a small beekeeper. Have a go next season if you do have that spare nuc, preferably one made this autumn. It saves that extra equipment as no bottom board or lid is required, but one needs that extra excluder and preferably a second crown board (inner cover).

Hobbyists and small beekeepers have little inclination to be involved with the politics of the beekeeping industry or attend tedious branch-business meetings. It's only natural, they just want to get on with the job of looking after their colonies and enjoy it. But small or big beekeeping is our common interest. We need an organisation such as the NBA to do the tedious things and the politicking on our behalf. Please think about this when ballot time arrives and do your bit. The NBA needs your support for it works for you, no matter how many hives you manage. It is important!

The more things change, the more they remain the same ...

by Nick Wallingford

While carrying on with one of my on-going projects, collecting NBA statistics and history, I came across the following editorial in the August 1968 issues of the NZ Beekeeper magazine. It strikes a familiar note, in light of the difficulties we have experienced in obtaining the right to trans-ship packages and queens through Hawaii, and the on-going denial of access to the US market:

Problems

Life gets difficult. Just when the industry is looking forward to the development of a really worthwhile export business in the New Zealand bred queens to Canada, an unexpected difficulty has arisen in the form of strong objection from the United States.

The enterprise of the breeder and shipper in sending the trial

consignment to the Dominion Experimental Station at Beaver Lodge, Alberta, was a great achievement for the industry, and the fact that the progeny are making such a good impression is more than encouraging.

From the American point of view, it is understandable that they look askance at any importation to their common continent, particularly in view of the disastrous experience to the far south in Brazil, where importation of the African bee has become a curse to man and beast. And in fairness, we must not lose sight of the fact that the African bee was initially imported under control conditions.

The US Department of Agriculture cannot be condemned for protecting their own interests, and it will be our responsibility to see scientific and

practical evidence is produced that our bees have no undesirable traits, that consignments are strictly controlled by our own Departmental officers, and that the stocks are free from acarine and other diseases.

Queen rearing is a big business in the United States, supplying their own and Canada's requirements, and it is to be hoped that pressure will not be brought to bear from vested interests for the preservation of their own markets to the exclusion of all others. Introduction of new blood on controlled lines has always been welcomed by breeders of stock used by mankind, and it might well be proved that introduction of New Zealand lines betters honey production in Canada and the States. We shall have to wait and see."

The New Zealand industry certainly has had to wait a long time!

Southern North Island Branch National Beekeepers' Association

Location

Our region extends from New Plymouth to Wellington and includes the Wairarapa.

Branch meetings

Held in Wanganui and Palmerston North alternately.

April: AGM. Our remits formulated to go to National Conference.

June: Remit meeting - all remits from around the country considered before Conference.

August: Post-conference meeting.

Field Days

Autumn February/ March, harvest time.

Spring late September/or early October.

Programme from 10am - 3.30pm.

Attendance 60-100 registrations. Registration fee \$4 per person, \$8 per family. The programme caters for both hobbyists and commercial beekeepers. It always includes practical demonstrations with beehives. Husbandry topics and national issues are discussed.

Usually based at a beekeepers' honey house.

Beekeepers clubs

There are now five active beekeepers clubs: New Plymouth, Wanganui, Palmerston North, Wellington, Masterton. These maintain close links with commercial beekeepers who are often active members of the beekeepers clubs.

We recognise that commercial beekeeping often starts on a hobby basis. That is where the early skills are learnt. It is from this reservoir of developing talent and knowledge that a new generation of beekeepers arises. This becomes an important asset when a beekeeper wants to retire and sell up.

Newsletter

We have a branch newsletter usually five times a year, two weeks before field day or branch meeting.

Publicity

One of our committee (Ham Maxwell) keeps a regular contact with the main papers and smaller regional papers, especially in regard to our field days.

Business co-operation

A number of members have grouped together to organise a bulk sugar contract (usually obtained at significant less cost than on the spot market).

Members also work together to supply package bees, and queens to fill large orders.

Network

In the last two years two events required urgent action. The 'disease outbreak' in Nelson requiring beekeepers to assist with hive inspection, and a fatal accident that required beekeeper help for the immediate seasonal work.

Such help was more readily obtained because of the very good relationships amongst beekeepers within our region.

Benefits

This is the benefit of being part of a national organisation which fosters excellence and enjoyment in beekeeping.

Although we are a small industry, we play a vital and necessary role in New Zealand's agriculture and horticulture.

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DIARY DATES

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

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

May 29 Last date for remits and rule changes

June 17 Voting forms to be received by returning officer

July 10 National Executive meeting

July AGM & conference see dates in advertisement in this issue.

Sept 5 & 6 National Executive meeting

Dec 5 & 6 National Executive meeting

Apimondia 26th International Beekeepers Conference, Vancouver, Canada, 13-21 September, 1999.

AGM

The Auckland Branch will be holding their Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm on April 27th.

The Agenda will include the election of officers — Preparation of Remits - A Guest Speaker.

Subjects for discussion will be Inward Correspondence: Pest Management Strategy.

Date Thursday April 27th. Time 7.30pm.

Venue: Anglican Church Hall, Papakura. (Opposite 3 Guys). All Welcome.

Jim Thompson, Secretary.

AGM

"The AGM of the Canterbury Branch will be held on Tuesday 25th April at 7.30pm at the Merivale Rugby rooms, 290 Wooldridge Road, Christchurch."

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