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Notes from the President

This month's notes are to keep the membership informed about the NBA's plan to raise a Commodity Levy order to establish a funding base for our association.

The NBA has, for over a year, been working with MAF Policy to finalise the ballot paper and accompanying materials to conduct a ballot to gauge support for a levy order. We several times thought we were very close to holding the ballot, and have been very frustrated with the seeming lack of action.

Late last year and earlier this year, we ran into difficulties with the mail out itself. In one of those inexplicable interpretations of the Privacy Act, the NBA is not allowed direct access to the Apiary Register maintained by MAF Qual to conduct our ballot. Once we conduct the ballot and have a Commodity Levy order in place, we can, through the powers of the Commodity Levy Act, obtain the right of access. Similarly, since part of our reason for levying is to fund a Pest Management Strategy, we can use the Biosecurity Act to get access to the Apiary Register. But, Catch 22 that it is, we cannot get access to the Apiary Register to conduct the ballot! We eventually worked our way around that one by arranging for MAF Qual to do the posting of the ballots under contract for the NBA.

The next hurdle came just before the recent conference in Christchurch. We were told that it did not appear likely we would be allowed to ballot to collect a levy based on the number of apiaries. As this had been the

expressed intent for several years, and the concept formed the basis for all the consultation with potential levy payers, it appeared serious indeed.

Those of you at Christchurch heard Mr Ross Meurant, the Undersecretary of Agriculture, tell the NBA that he would meet with us to help sort out the problems we were encountering with the legislation.

Mr Richard Bensemam and I attended a meeting with Mr Meurant, a Ministerial advisor, three people from MAF Policy and one from MAF Regulatory Authority. Following that meeting, we spent a further three hours with MAF Policy trying to find a solution to the legal problems MAF Policy had with our proposed levy.

MAF Policy's strict legal reading of the Act was that an 'apiary' is not a thing - it is a place. And since the basis for a levy order must be a measure of the commodity itself, or some thing related to its production, they said they would not feel confident of us going to ballot with the materials we had developed.

Richard and I tried to give them descriptions of 'an apiary' that could somehow strike a sympathetic chord for the lawyer sitting in the meeting.

After several more weeks of trying, we were told that such a levy order was not going to be possible. A memo was to be prepared for the Minister of Agriculture to indicate that the preferred option was a minor amendment to the Commodity Levy Act, allowing us to levy on the basis of apiary sites. As there would be no

time to get such an amendment through Parliament and still conduct a ballot before year's end, the NBA would also require an extension to the Hive Levy Act for 1996, as that Act is due to be revoked on 31 December 1995.

And then Mr Meurant, who had given us good advice and assistance through the process of Commodity Levies, was removed as Undersecretary of Agriculture! At the time of writing this (3 September) we are awaiting word from the Minister of Agriculture as to whether he will be able to meet with a delegation of the Executive in mid-September, when we are in Wellington for an Executive meeting.

We are hoping through that meeting to ensure he is aware of the seriousness of the situation to our association, and the tight timeframes required to keep our organisation viable into next year.

The NBA has worked long and hard with the Commodity Levies Act. We have, since its enactment, attempted to use it as we had been assured it could be used. Without a secure funding base such as this levy, small producing organisations such as ours cannot expect to be effective providers of the services our membership expects.

We believe the Commodity Levies Act can be workable for the NBA. Further, we believe that a majority of potential levy payers do support such a levy to maintain our organisation's activities. All that remains now is to put it into place. Watch this space!

As we grow older

"I have noticed that everything is further away than it used to be — it is even twice as far to the corner, and they have added a hill! I have given up running for the bus — it leaves earlier than it used to. It seems to me that they are making the stairs steeper than in the old days, and have you noticed the smaller print they use in the newspapers? There is no sense in asking anyone to read aloud anymore, as everyone speaks in such a low voice I can hardly hear them. The material in dresses is so skimpy now, (especially around the hips and waist) that it is almost impossible to reach one's shoelace — and the sizes

don't run the way they used to — the 12s and 14s are so much smaller. Even people are changing — they are so much younger than they were when I was their age. On the other hand, people my own age are so much older than I am. I ran into an old classmate the other day and she has aged so much she didn't recognise me. I got to thinking about the poor dear whilst I was combing my hair this morning and, in doing so, I glanced at my reflection. Really, they don't even make good mirrors like they used to

Pat

Cover photo — Our Cover "Most" of those who attended Conference

The New Zealand Bee Keeper THIS ISSUE

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Frames new to New Zealand the plastic fantastic frame

For some time now I have been concerned that honey prices have stayed almost static and costs have been increasing. We as beekeepers have carried on with husbandry practices that in some cases are 50 plus years old technology.

While this may not be detrimental to the production of honey, I felt there has to be a better system of extracting honey without all the labour input and in the case of thick honies the addition of more machinery and labour to further erode profitability.

To this end I embarked on analysing the pros and cons of plastic frames world wide. Always the price was prohibitive, plus the added weight and often sizes were wrong for New Zealand I finally came across the Pierco one piece frame and foundation that is identical to the present Hoffman frame used in New Zealand with a 35mm end bar width. I trialed these and also collected as much information from Canadian and American users of these frames.

These frames have been in production for 20 years and 10 years ago the Pierco Co did an evaluation of the plastic frames worldwide and studied all the for and against features of these frames, then set about to build a frame that was designed to overcome the faults found and enhance the good features in a new era one piece plastic frame. In the last 10 years millions of these frames have been sold in North America.

Haines Bee Breeders Ltd has negotiated the sole agency for the Pierco plastic frames for New Zealand and Australia and have stock on the water at present which will be available late September.

To make these frames available at a reasonable cost I have to import them in container loads. The first container is half sold and further shipments this spring will depend on initial demand, though it is intended to have frames available all year round.

You will see in my advertisement elsewhere in this issue the features of this plastic frame I call the "plastic Fantastic".

The extracting system I am trialing using these frames is a radial extractor to extract manuka honey completely, without pricking and hopefully without uncapping. Each complete cycle will be under one minute from starting the machine to stopping on completion of the extraction operation. These features will allow us to extract in the apiary and return each box to its own hive. This will assist with disease control, require less supers per hive, reduce the time in an apiary and enable us to service more apiaries per day, all with less labour units. At the end of the day back at the process plant honey with any wax particles will be pumped from the storage tank on the truck into a whirldry or spinfloat.

This process also brings the possibility of removing unsealed and moist honey and ripening this honey in a drying plant as is practice in North America.

Can you imagine not having to wheel honey off trucks to hotrooms, reheat the honey to hive temperature, spend hours extracting honey, then wheel boxes back onto a truck and repeat the process. This system could be run by one competent beekeeper to ensure the hive management is done correctly, one labour unit to blow bees from boxes and place box in input side of extraction system and return the previous extracted box to previous hive, and one labour unit to extract. The variable speed of the extractor up to 1100 RPM will ensure that all the honey is extracted from the frames, even manuka or kanuka with NO frame damage. This system has even extracted granulated Canola honey in Canada.

The key to this technology is the plastic frame with the preference we believe, in the one piece unit, because of its integral strength.

The days of waxmoth and rodent damage to combs will be over once the plastic frames are in use. There is a guarantee on the top bar lugs against breakage during normal usage. Ultra violet light will affect the frames if exposed for long periods, but wood and wax combs don't stand too much sun either. Plastic frames will stand some heat through removal of wax by boiling or steaming may damage the plastic, I am studying the wax removal by freezing and cracking wax off frame by flexing and or scraping. Other possibilities are for a solution to break down remaining propolis and wax opening up the possibility of sterilisation of combs using strong solutions of Sodium Hypochlorite. Plastic frames are also suitable for biogro honeys.

The more one studies the application and the opportunities that these frames present, the more applications reveal themselves. For a beekeeper trying to get into a commercial operation the savings on capital outlay in buildings and plant would be considerable, and frame purchasing can be left till the last minute to purchase saving interest on the cash outlay that is part of a conventional wood wax frame as used previously.

On the lighter side, I have often had beekeepers point out to me that the plastic fantastic frame would not be of any use in cut comb production, except for broodnest frames. My answer is for plastic combs to be drawn as usual for cut comb, then the base is inserted into the drawn comb on both sides. The whole unit is sold as one, and the end user cracks off a sector when required, just as one would with biscuits. How is that for innovation. The moral is to always look laterally as well as ahead and you will always see possibilities.

Should you require more information I will be only too pleased to assist.

Malcolm Haines

See back cover for details



Changes to the NBA Rules considered at a special meeting held at 8am Friday 14 July 1995

Changes to correct last gender specific references in rules

Rule 12 b), and 12 e).

Replace 'his' with 'the member's'. **Rule Adopted.**

Rule 16 i) and 19 e):

Replace 'Chairman' with 'Chairperson' in each instance.

Rule Lost.

Change to ensure continuity under all conditions (Hive Levy Act still in force, Commodity Levy Order obtained, or no compulsory Levy System in effect)

New Rule 31:

Notwithstanding anything in these Rules the following shall apply from 14 July 1995.

a) (i) In these Rules unless inconsistent with the context "the Act" means the Hive Levy Act 1978 and any amendment thereto until such Act is repealed and thereafter shall mean the Commodity Levies Act 1993 PROVIDED that in the event that the Association obtains an Order pursuant to the Commodity Levies Act 1993 before the Hive Levy Act 1978 is repealed then from the date of such Order shall mean the Commodity Levies Act 1993.

(ii) "Hive Levy" shall mean:—

(1) Until the repeal of the Hive Levy Act 1978 or until a Commodity Levies Order is made pursuant to the Commodity Levies Act 1993 whichever is the sooner, the annual levy payable by Beekeepers to the National Beekeepers Association of New Zealand Incorporated in accordance with the Hive Levy Act 1978.

(2) Upon repeal of the Hive Levy Act 1978 and until any Commodity Levies Order is made under the Commodity Levies Act such levy not greater than the last hive levy payable by members under the Hive Levy Act 1978 and calculated and applied in the same manner.

(3) Upon the making of a Commodity Levies Order pursuant to the provisions of the Commodity Levies Act 1993 that Order.

b) Notwithstanding Rule 16(e) the voting rights of members shall from the date of the making of any Commodity Levies Order be as appear in Rule 32.

c) The voting rights of members in the event of the repeal of the Hive Levy Act 1978 and while any levy fixed pursuant to Rule 31(a)(ii) is in force shall be as appear in Rule 16 just as if the levy fixed was a Hive Levy fixed under the Hive Levy Act 1978.

New Rule Adopted.

Changes to objects and powers to allow Levy collection if no compulsory Levy System in effect:

New Rule 4(0).

Upon repeal of the Hive Levy Act 1978 and until a Commodity Levies Order is made pursuant to the Commodity Levies Act 1993 in relation to Beekeepers to levy members an annual payment to be used for the support of Association in the carrying out of all its objects and powers. **Rule Adopted.**

Four possible changes to voting entitlements of commercial members if Commodity Levy Order is obtained:

New Rule 32, option 1:

For the purposes of the election an ordinary member shall have one vote and a commercial member one vote for each 10 apiaries or part thereof on which a levy for the current year has been paid, with a maximum of 15 votes. Levy shall be deemed to have been paid for the purposes of this Rule if payment thereof has been deferred in accordance with procedures as decided by the Executive from time to time. **Option Lost.**

New Rule 32, option 2:

Changes continued on page 6

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Rule changes continued from page 5

For the purposes of the election an ordinary member shall have one vote and a commercial member one vote for each \$250 of levy for the current year which has been paid, with no maximum number of votes. Levy shall be deemed to have been paid for the purposes of this Rule if payment thereof has been deferred in accordance with procedures as decided by the Executive from time to time.

Option Lost.

New Rule 32, option 3:

For the purposes of the election an ordinary member shall have one vote and a commercial member one vote for each 10 apiaries or part thereof on which a levy for the current year has been paid, with a maximum of 25 votes. Levy shall be deemed to have been paid for the purposes of this Rule if payment thereof has been deferred in accordance with procedures as decided by the Executive from time to time. **Option Adopted — Rule Adopted.**

New Rule 32, option 4:

For the purposes of the election an ordinary member shall have one vote and a commercial member one vote for each \$250 of levy for the current year which has been paid, with a maximum vote at \$6,000. Levy shall be deemed to have been paid for the purposes of this Rule if payment thereof has been deferred in accordance with procedures as decided by the Executive from time to time.

Option Lost.

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Member



Outcomes of Remits from Conference

Remit 1. That this Conference recommends to the Executive that the industry be shown full costings of the proposed Pest Management Strategy, for discussion, before approval for its implementation is sought. **Remit Adopted.**

Remit 2. That this Conference recommends to Executive that the NBA adopts the National Pest Management Strategy for AFB eradication as presented by the disease committee, and offers the full support of NBA members in its implementation. **Remit Adopted.**

Remit 3. That this Conference recommends to Executive that the National Pest Management Strategy for AFB eradication be submitted to the Minister of Agriculture by October 7, 1995, for his approval. **Remit Adopted.**

Remit 4. That this Conference recommends to Executive that the Marketing Levy remain at 35 cents per hive, or its equivalent if a Commodity Levy on apiary sites is agreed to. **Remit Lost.**

Remit 5. That this Conference recommends to Executive that a sum of 50 cents per hive from every hive from which a levy is collected from the year's levy be allocated to marketing. **Remit Adopted.**

Remit 6. That this Conference recommends to Executive that in view of the Association's increasing administration reserves, a sum of \$50,000 be transferred to the Marketing Reserves to be used for marketing. **Remit Lost.**

Remit 7. That this Conference recommends to Executive that due to the late distribution of the Carniolan discussion material, we request that any industry decisions on the importation of Carniolan stock be postponed until 1996 Conference. **Remit Adopted.**

Remit 8. That this Conference recommends to the Executive that due to the late receipt of information on Carniolan bees, any decision as to the importation of Carniolan genetic material be left until Conference 1996, to allow members to make a more informed decision. **Remit Adopted.**

Remit 9. That this Conference recommends the Executive ask the Minister not to issue permits allowing for the importation of Apis Mellifera Carnica genetic material for breeding purposes, until the industry has had a chance to make an informed decision. **Remit Adopted.**

Remit 10. That this Conference recommends to the Executive that the industry's position on the importation of Apis Mellifera Carnica genetic material for breeding purposes be decided by postal poll. **Remit Lost.**

Remit 11. That this Conference recommends to Executive that there be no Carniolan bees or semen imports, because of the Carniolan genetic makeup. **Remit Adopted.**

Remit 12. That this Conference recommends the Executive that the NBA and MAF R.A. should negotiate more workable export protocols with countries concerned for bees and bee products. **Remit Adopted.**

Outcomes of Remits continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

Remit 13. That this Conference recommends the Executive that the Executive enter into ongoing negotiations on behalf of the members, with the MAF Regulatory Authority with respect to technically unjustifiable export protocols. **Remit Adopted.**

Remit 14. That this Conference recommends to the Executive that when making application for the Commodity Levy, they consider changing the due date the levy falls to June 30. **Remit Adopted.**

Remit 15. That this Conference ask the Executive:

(a) To ask the President to refrain from publishing any article or reference as to his perceived performance of any member of the Executive and

(b) To ask the Executive to refrain from doing the same.

Remit Withdrawn.

Remit 16. That this Conference recommends to the Executive that it tidy up the voting rules. **Remit Adopted.**

Remit 17. That this Conference recommends the Executive to change the rules on voting for the Executive, North Island seats to be voted for by North Islanders and South Island seats to be voted for by South Islanders (Main Landers). **Remit Lost.**

Remit 18. That this Conference recommend that the Executive explore the opportunities for commercial activities in management of our industry taking care not to become involved in competition with its members. **Remit Adopted.**

Remit 19. That this Conference recommends to Executive that a rule change be introduced to require the President and Vice President to be elected by the branch delegates in accordance with their branch directives, either by voice, a show of hands, a secret ballot or a secret poll vote. **Remit Lost.**

Remit 20. That this Conference recommends to the Executive that they investigate ways of providing finances to producers who hold stocks during years of high national production. **Remit Lost.**

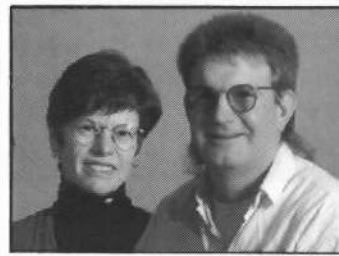
Remit 21. That this Conference recommends that the Executive maintains the pressure on all bodies using 1080 paste to ensure that the threat to beekeeping and bees is eliminated. **Remit Adopted.**

Remit 22. That this Conference recommends to Executive that the Executive express the beekeeping industry's appreciation to MAF and research personnel for their contribution made to the *NZ Bee Keeper* in the past and urge these people to submit any suitable material so as to enhance the contents of our industry's magazine. **Remit Adopted.**

Christchurch Hobbyist Club Remit. That this Conference recommends to Executive that the commodities levy be levied on the third apiary when these apiaries are restricted by local body by-laws in a urban area. **Remit Adopted.**

Remit from John Heineman. That Conference request Executive to convey on behalf of all members of the NBA, sincere congratulations to Dr Peter Molan for his well earned MBE and thank him for his research work which benefits our industry. **Remit Adopted.**

Remit from BOP Branch. That this Conference recommends to Executive that the possibility for a further offshore conference to be held in July 1997 be investigated. **Remit Lost.**



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Strange laws in the U.S.

Intriguing strange laws that prevail across American states. Elephants have to be kept on a leash in Milwaukee. Barbers may not eat onions in Waterloo, Nebraska. It is illegal to carry an ice-cream cone in your pocket in Lexington, Kentucky.

Kirkland, Illinois, has a tough one to administer — bees are forbidden to fly over the town. — Reuter.

Thanks Ken Everett of Foxton

Testing imported bee products for European Foul Brood

Helen Giacon and Louise Malone
HortResearch, Mt Albert
Research Centre, Private Bag
92169, Auckland

As part of the important job of surveillance for exotic bee pathogens, we are often called upon to test imported bee products, such as royal jelly, to ensure that they are not carrying the bacteria which causes European Foul Brood (EFB).

EFB is a bacterial bee disease present in Europe, North America, Australia, Japan, South Africa, Finland, Norway, Tanzania, Zambia, South America and in *Apis cerana* (Asian honey-bee) from India. It is more widely distributed in the Southern Hemisphere than American Foul Brood is, and it is absent from New Zealand.

EFB affects bee larvae up to 48 hours old, and usually kills them when they are four or five days old. The bacteria are swallowed with contaminated food and multiply within the cavity of the midgut. Infected larvae collapse from their upright position and turn yellowish brown, drying to form a loosely attached scale. Larvae sometimes survive and pupate and the bacteria are then discharged with the faeces and deposited on the walls of the brood-comb cells. EFB can remain infective for several years and although most bacteria are removed by house cleaning bees, some find their way to other larvae. EFB follows a pronounced seasonal cycle, with a peak early in the active season, when colonies are developing rapidly. It is during this period that a balance between the increase and spread of EFB and its elimination from the hive by nurse bees cannot be maintained. An increase in brood rearing, resulting in more infected larvae than can be removed, increases the spread of

infection as do stress factors such as moving for pollination and inadequate colony nutrition. The outbreak subsides when the number of larvae being reared decreases again though this may be too late for smaller colonies that develop faster than larger ones.

In New Zealand, the growing trend towards the use of natural remedies to solve health problems has seen an increasing number of imports of bee products for this purpose, particularly fresh and dried royal jelly. Over the

This test method has been approved by MAF and it is similar to the test used to diagnose EFB infection in bee larvae overseas.

Melissococcus pluton is the proper name of the bacterium that causes EFB, although in some books you will see it referred to by its earlier name: *Streptococcus pluton*. It is an anaerobic (does not need oxygen to grow), non-spore-forming bacterium and these unusual features mean that we can distinguish it from the many other bacteria that may be in a royal jelly sample.

Firstly we prepare a special microbiological medium that is known to support the growth of the EFB bacterium. This agar-based solution is poured into Petri dishes under sterile conditions and allowed to set. A sample of the imported royal jelly is then mixed with some sterile distilled water at a range of dilutions. Samples of this mixture are then spread onto the surface or incorporated into the agar medium in each dish. These "agar plates" are then placed in a special anaerobic jar (see Fig. 1), which is basically a sealed container from which the air is displaced by hydrogen and carbon dioxide, and incubated at 34°C. Even though *M. pluton* will thrive under these conditions, it is a slow-growing bacterium and we must wait for 4-10 days to make sure that the test has worked. If there is no EFB present, then the plates will be completely clean. If there was even a

tiny number of EFB in the sample, then we will be able to see small, white bacterial colonies growing on the plate. The identity of these can be checked by making a preparation of them on a glass slide, staining this, and examining it under the microscope.

Continued on page 9

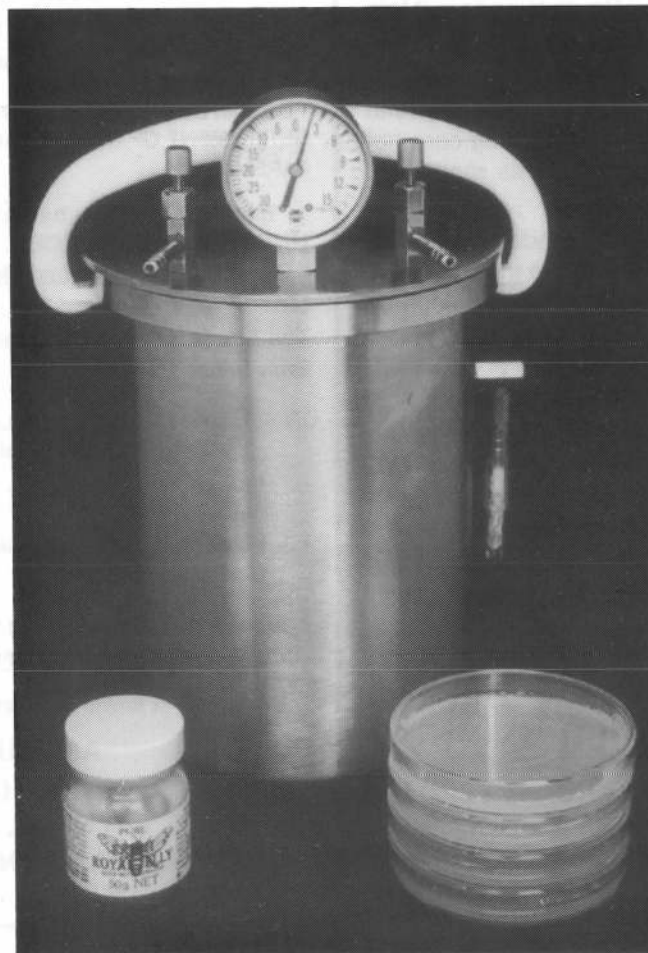


Figure 1. A sample of royal jelly, agar plates for culturing the EFB bacterium, and the anaerobic chamber in which they are incubated.

last year we have run EFB tests on a total of 325 kg of imported royal jelly and 180 litres of honey products. The test protocol that we follow involves attempting to culture the bacterium that causes EFB from a sample of the material being imported.

Continued from page 8

In all the samples we have checked, including royal jelly in various formulations and different potions and products containing honey, we have not yet had a positive result or found any that pose an EFB risk to New Zealand.

Although the test we use is the best currently available, it does have a couple of potential shortcomings. Firstly, we do not have an accurate measure of its sensitivity, i.e. the minimum number of bacteria that could be detected using the test. As New Zealand is an EFB-free country, we are limited in our ability to perform experiments directly with *M. pluton*. However, we could use another similar (anaerobic, non-spore-forming) bacterium that is not harmful to bees and is already present in New Zealand as a "model" bacterium for such experiments. Secondly, there are reports that royal jelly has natural antibiotic properties and these could be effectively inhibiting the growth of bacteria in our culture test. Once again, experimentation with a "model" bacterium may help to resolve this.

We also have the expertise available at HortResearch to develop a new EFB test based on DNA detection methods (rather like DNA fingerprinting) that would be extremely sensitive to EFB. At present, however, the development of this technology is relatively expensive and a full cost-benefit analysis would need to be carried out before embarking on such a project.

Keeping New Zealand clean, green, and free of exotic bee diseases is an issue of importance to nearly all of our beekeepers. Maintaining our vigilance for bee pathogens such as EFB in imported products is one contribution towards this vision.

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New tool for Insect Detectives

By Dennis Sent
USDA-ARS
Information Office

Amid the priceless artifacts at the Egyptian Museum in Torino, Italy, Steve Sheppard prepared to remove pieces of 3000-year-old honey bees imbedded in beeswax.

The museum curators were anxious — hovering "about 6 inches away from me," Dr. Sheppard recalls — as he removed leg fragments of honey bees that got caught in the wax so long ago.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists brought the bee pieces back to his laboratory in Beltsville, Md., where he hopes they'll help shed light on the honey bee's evolution.

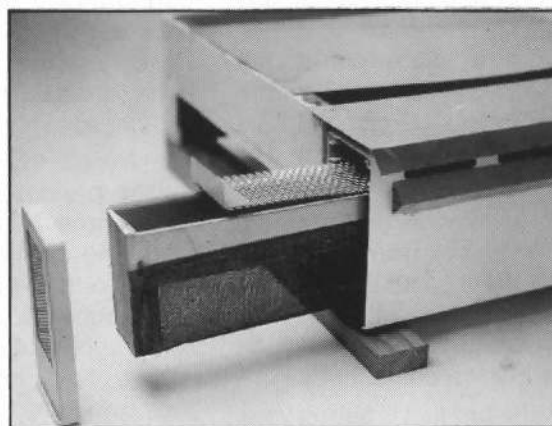
He'll attempt to extract genetic material from those bee parts. The goal: to see if he can get a portion of the bee's genetic sequence — a fingerprint, so to speak — of that insect. Then he'll compare the 3000-year-old sequence with that of the same honey bee race today.

The idea is to determine the rate of change in the genetic material.

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Marketing and Granny Griggs

- * Granny Griggs shines her kitchen light on an exciting new profit potential for New Zealand manuka honey
- * Honey Six Pack a great success
- * We take Honey's Magic to Massey
- * Propolis, Propolis, Wherefore Art Thou ... still?
- * Environmental Certification
- * A Recipe from America
- * New Zealand the major feature, and cover story, of the New Zealand Institute of Food Science and Technology magazine.

* Granny Griggs shines her kitchen light on an exciting new profit potential for New Zealand manuka honey

I was in a supermarket in Blenheim the other day. It was a cold, bleak, miserable day; most unlike Blenheim of course and obviously weather imported from other parts of New Zealand. But anyway, I suddenly saw, like a beacon on the shelf, this superb sign. The sign itself said \$5.65 for 400 grams and when you are talking about a honey product, that's a very nice sign indeed.

Just above the sign was a whole row of honey jars with a simple but effective label "Granny Griggs Manuka Honey Drink, vitamin C 1000mg in every glass." I immediately read the side labels "Place a heaped teaspoon in a glass of warm or hot water to make a quick refreshing manuka honey drink. Keep refrigerated to ensure contents stay firm and easy to spoon out." And then an explanation about how this manuka honey drink is made from pure organic West Coast manuka honey and natural lemon extracts and vitamin C.

It went on to explain that manuka honey drink contains natural antibiotics that kill bacteria and some fungi; and that the drink should be taken daily to help prevent colds and flus, and every few hours if sick.

Apparently the product is selling very, very well and at what is a superb retail price when you consider the ingredient list.

That of course is a very good example of marketing. Granny Griggs is made by a company in 3 Beeston Place, (yes the street is B.E.E.ston)

Christchurch, called "Healthy by Design Ltd."

They are to be congratulated on picking up on the opportunities being created by all of the publicity for manuka honey.

Furthermore, not only was I happy to pay the price, but it's a superb drink and I couldn't help thinking they have found that a full and rich lemon flavour is a perfect counterfoil to the strong organoleptics of manuka honey.

So a great product and I am sure that they are helping to convert new people to consuming honey in quite significant quantities at other than the traditional meal time!

We can expect to see a lot more products like this over the next few years.

A work of warning though, I am not sure that the Health Department will in the long term allow some of the claims that are being made about honey's antibacterial and antiviral values and the ability to prevent colds and flus.

I am not going to make any judgement on any individual case because it's a grey area; and depends on the zealotry of the Ministry of Health; but please, everyone, do be careful.

It could be you that's paying for the cost of re-printing your labels and having product withdrawn.

* Honey Six Pack a great success — thanks HONEYLAND!

In a *Bee Keeper* article prior to conference I asked if any honey packers had a packaging concept that I could use for providing samples of honey at the Chef Tasting classes and in other situations.

Thank you to those people who replied and in particular, I'd like to thank Honeyland New Zealand Ltd for supplying me with the equivalent of \$500 worth of small 25gram pottles plus cardboard "pack racks" for them; and a supply of honey for me to use. All free of charge! (And they knew that their own labels would not be shown on the packaging; a very positive attitude by Honeyland New Zealand Ltd).

I also must thank Airborne Honey, Waitemata, and Adamson's of Wedderburn; who have been providing me with complimentary honey to use at various events.

* We take Honey's Magic to Massey

I was contacted a few weeks ago by Professor Ken Kirkpatrick of Massey University. He had been very interested in the work that we have been doing with honey; and he has invited me to give a two hour lecture to the food technology science students at Massey University.

It's a wonderful opportunity for us because these people will all be going out into industry next year. Eventually they will be making decisions about the product development projects selected by their future employers. If we have been able to communicate the positive aspects of New Zealand honeys to them, we are in effect sowing the seeds for future customers; for that virtually important strategy of getting New Zealand food manufacturers to incorporate honey into their products.

* Propolis, Propolis, Wherefore Art Thou?

... I certainly know some more than I did when I wrote last month's article. Thank you to all those beekeepers who have indicated that they have propolis available.

Harry Brown (NBA Secretary) will be approaching all branches for a list of hive product producers so that the industry can have a constantly up to date directory to handle any commercial enquiries. Obviously the more people we know about, the better it is for the beekeeper because it increases the pool of contacts available to them to sell their hive products.

Although the Marketing Committee works in very closely with honey packers and other hive product processors, our prime purpose is to improve the return to the beekeeper; and this means that if we can generate healthy competition in the marketplace amongst honey packers for beekeeper's products, then that engenders a better return to the beekeeper.

* Environmental Certification

It is Tradenz' intention to issue a challenge to New Zealand industry to adopt the ISO 14000 series. This is a challenge that we in the honey industry have to consider seriously.

The Marketing Committee will be working with Tradenz people

Continued on page 11

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during September to discuss what is involved and how New Zealand's beekeepers can benefit from the ISO 14000 concept.

Because our industry does not feed drugs to bees for disease control, it's logical that we look at the opportunity. It should be a very unique competitive advantage for us in the international marketplace.

*** A Recipe from America**

We get very good information from the American Honey Bureau and starting in this column and in future months, we will include a recipe from their resource material.

You'll excuse the percentage basis of the ingredients; and the instructions methodology; but this recipe concept is for commercial runs.

If you have a baker or appropriate food manufacturer in your area, why not see if they're interested in making it (with you supplying the honey!). If any beekeeper adapts the recipe to a successful domestic use I'd be interested in getting their recipe.

Honey Granola Bars

Ingredients	Quantity (%)
Granola (honey coated)	46.0
Honey (white clover)	28.1
Walnuts (small pieces)	10.0
Raisins (12% moisture)	7.3
Vegetable Fat (melted to 120°F)	6.7
Malto-Dextrin	1.3
Vanilla Extract	0.5
Lecithin	0.1

Procedure

1. Dry the granola, walnuts and raisins in planetary beater bowl and heat to approximately 100-100°F.
2. Place the dried ingredients in cooking kettle and mix in honey and malto-dextrin while still cold.
3. Apply heat and while agitating, cook to 260°F.
4. Add in the vegetable fat and the lecithin until fat is well emulsified.
5. Add in the vanilla extract.
6. Using a dough hook mix, blend the mixture together until evenly distributed.
7. Pour onto silicone paper approximately 3/4" high.
8. Cool and cut bars into suitable length.
9. Wrap in plastic or fill into pouches and seal.

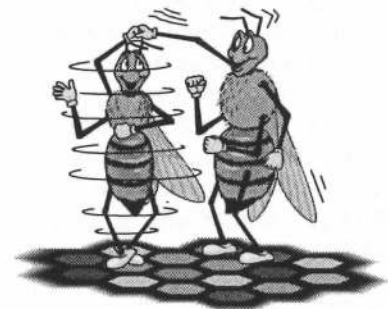


* Virtually all New Zealand food and beverage manufacturers have staff that belong to the New Zealand Institute for Food Science and Technology. The Institute's magazine has just published a major profile story on New Zealand honeys ... perfect publicity for getting our message across to people who have the potential to substantially increase the uptake of honey into manufacturing.

And that's it for this month.

**Regards
Bill Floyd**

Marketing Committee



OBITUARY — Jack Varley

Beekeepers, both commercial and hobbyist, in Nelson, Marlborough and West Coast were saddened to learn of Jack's passing.

John Henry Varley was born in 1917 and died on 1st August 1995. Following his war service in the air force in the Pacific, Jack had a small rehab farm at Cheviot, moved to Greendale in Canterbury and then spent around 10 years at Clarence Bridge and Kekeranga working for the Murrays of Bluff Station. Throughout this time Jack kept around 200 or so hives. In 1966 he moved to Blenheim to work for E.R. Cragg and Sons and in 1968 was appointed Apiary Instructor for the Department of Agriculture in Nelson. Jack's district extended from Clarence River in the east to Haast Pass in South Westland

and it wasn't long before Jack had a great working relationship with all of the commercial beekeepers as well as contact with a lot of the hobbyist beekeepers.

In late 1978 Jack left the now Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and worked for Wrightson N.M.A. Ltd in their mercantile department. Wrightson's were Ecroyd agents and these next five years were the time of the large increase in bee and beekeeper numbers in Nelson following the main kiwifruit plantings. Many of the now commercial beekeepers in Nelson have Jack to thank for getting set up sensibly during this period while at the same time Jack was actively helping the hobbyist beekeepers clubs in both Nelson and Motueka.

As Wrightson's scaled down their Nelson operation Jack moved to Nelson Veterinary Services as their Field Representative and then to C.T.R. Farmers Veterinary Division in 1993 as their field rep.

Jack was made a Nelson N.B.A. Branch life member in recognition of the unselfish help he had made to Nelson beekeepers. As a Department of Agriculture Apiary Instructor he was unaware that the hours were from 8am to 4.35pm Monday to Friday. When it came to sorting out a problem or seeking out information he always went that extra mile. Our industry could do with more Jack Varleys. Our sympathies go out to Jack's wife Shirley, his son Tim and daughter Virginia.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Ron

Since completing the Telford correspondence course in beekeeping I have, on a number of occasions, been asked whether or not I considered it to be worthwhile.

Never have I had any hesitation in assuring those enquiring that the time was well spent, and that the knowledge gained, along with the help and guidance given by the course tutor Gavin McKenzie was invaluable. While I have never had any illusions that the course alone would make a beekeeper of me or of any one else, I am confident of making many fewer mistakes than I would otherwise have done. Although I was not employed in beekeeping and began the course as a hobbyist — albeit a serious one — I was not made to feel that I mattered any less than employees in the industry. I would say to anybody considering enrolling at Telford on the course I am sure they would have no regrets at having done so.

What is regrettable however is that the cost, under the policies of Education Minister Lockwood Smith, has increased considerably and I think he has much to answer for. I do not know by how much Telford Polytechnic have been forced to increase the fee, but to anybody considering taking the course either fulltime or by correspondence, I would suggest that the money was well spent. I have no doubt that if you are serious about improving your knowledge of beekeeping you will be enjoying the benefits long after the cost is forgotten.

This is probably an opportune time to thank not only Gavin McKenzie and the Telford staff for the attention I and other students received, but also the commercial beekeepers who give their time willingly to assess the correspondence pupils at the end of the first and second years of the course. They too are providing a helpful and valuable service.

Graham Addy



Dear Editor

I have pleasure in announcing the upcoming publication of my book "The Immigrant Bees 1788-1898; A Cyclopaedia on the Introduction of the European Honeybee into Australia and New Zealand". I have been intensively researching the WHO, HOW and WHEN that English and Italian bees were introduced into Australia and New Zealand.

I am an amateur beekeeper with twelve seasons experience. Since early January this year I have taken a deep interest in Australasian beekeeping history. Wanting to learn more, and disenchanted with the conflicting information available in my humble library and local libraries, I began to search wider. What inspired me was the question of how the early settlers brought their hives of bees across an ocean voyage of 15,000 miles.

Such trips in the early 1800s typically took between four and six months. How were the bees cared for? Were they contained? In what manner were they packed? Who brought them out and when? International authorities on beekeeping history did not have the answers. The only solution was to seek it out for myself.

There is, of course, Captain Wallis and his well publicised introduction of bees on the convict ship 'Isabella'. It arrived at Port Jackson on 9 March 1822 after a voyage of 125 days. Many fascinating questions remain. How many hives did he bring? What happened to the hives after that? What of the other Colonies? What are the facts on the Italian bee introductions?

The book covers:

The Native Bees that preceded the immigrant bees.

Introduction of the English 'Brown' or German 'Black' bee into New South Wales, Tasmania, Western Australia, North and South Islands of New Zealand - after 1788

Introduction of the Italian bee into New South Wales, Tasmania, Queensland, Kangaroo Island, North and South Islands of New Zealand from 1862

Bees Afloat, The Sea Voyages of the 1820s through to the 1890s and

How Bees Were Moved Across the Oceans

The Bees Spread Overland.

The people, places and dates involved up to the 1890s;

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The book, I believe, answers the question 'Who, When and How, were Honey Bees Introduced into Australia and New Zealand?'

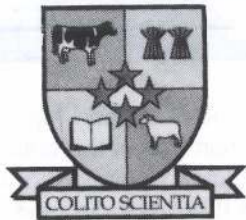
The physical attributes of the book will be either A5 size (ie half A4) or A4; softcover, black title print over 'colour wash' cover illustration; 'perfect bound', minimum 100 pages of print (50,000 words) plus illustrations; high quality laser print; table of contents; detailed index and bibliography. I plan to privately publish a first and limited edition of between 100 and 150 copies, depending on the number of subscriptions.

Each copy will be individually numbered and signed by the author.

The price will be \$24.50 plus postage at cost, allow \$4. Subscribers who pay by October 31 will have their name and supplied details (eg suburb and club) published within the book in the 'Subscribers List'. Cheques should be made payable to "Peter Barrett".

Intensive research commenced in early January this year and will continue at least to the end of October. The book will be available for delivery by the end of the first week in December '95, good timing for that different and fascinating Christmas

Continued on page 14



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Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 12

present. This will be a gift for beekeepers as well as for those interested in a fascinating area of early Australian and New Zealand history.

This will be a unique publication, containing the results of my research and supplemented by that of a retired 87 year old New Zealand queen bee breeder who has recently given me the benefit of his 30 years of investigations into New Zealand beekeeping history.

My presentations to the Illawarra Branch of the Amateur Beekeepers' Association of NSW and the North Shore Beekeepers' Association on the results of my research have been favourably received. My book will be proof read by several authoritative people with long experience in the industry who have displayed an interest in beekeeping history. I am sure all purchasers will be more than happy with their copy.

Yours Faithfully
Peter Barrett
1 Banjo Place
Springwood 2777
New South Wales, Australia

Dear Mr Rowe

I am 23 years old and an agricultural student at Hartpury college in Gloucestershire, South-West England. I am studying a three year HND Land Use course. For the second year I am required to work in a relevant land-use industry and I am looking for an interesting 'sandwich' placement.

I have had one seasons practical experience working with a commercial bee keeper. I have also had one year's tuition with Tony Boonham, Gloucestershire's county bee keeper, learning the theory and practice of beekeeping.

I would be very grateful if a 'position wanted' advert could be placed in the New Zealand Bee keeper with my address, making direct contact possible.

I am very grateful to you for your time and any assistance you can offer.

Yours sincerely
Richard A. Jessup
Winslow House, Atcombe Road
South Woodchester
GLOS. GL5 5EP, ENGLAND

Editors Note: Please correspond directly to the writer if interested.

Dear Sir

I write with reference to the Blue Borage/Vipers Bugloss name discussion at Conference.

Blue Borage has been the common name in Marlborough for *Echium Vulgare* for many years. According to old musterers it was in use before the first world war and is still the regular name here for the plant. Its spread around the South Island was helped by T S Winter, Apiary instructor and author of the Dept. of Agriculture book "Beekeeping in New Zealand", who carried the seeds with him in his travels and broadcast them in suitable spots.

For a time the plant was classed as a noxious weed by the Department of Agriculture and the New Zealand Weed and Pest Control Society who apparently thought it was the same as "Paterson's Curse", *Echium Plantagineum*, and toxic to stock. This classification was lifted when it was realised that this was not the case and that it was in fact palatable to them. Both organisations allowed "Blue Borage" as an acceptable alternative name to Vipers Bugloss, the differences are noted in an article in Letters to the Editor, "The Press" 18/3/94, by horticulturist Derrick Rooney, who also speaks of it as "Blue Borage".

As far as I can ascertain Kaikoura Apiaries were the first to market honey from the plant as a varietal product back in the 1960's when most packers, including the Honey Marketing Authority were still concentrating on blends, (see Beekeeping in NZ by TS Winter) It became and still is very popular with devotees of mild flavoured honeys. The name Blue Borage was adopted after some basic market research, (who wants something from snakes?) And has been used by us and others for years.

I understand that the name is now being applied to honey from *Borago Officinalis*, the garden herb. As far as I can ascertain this plant has never had the adjective "Blue" associated with it. In recipes and seed catalogues it is listed simply as "Borage", and is so called by seed growers cropping it for Starflower oil. Why then should

one or two packers try and hijack a name in common use in the country for *Echium Vulgare* and used for the plant for more than 70 years and the honey for close on 30? Perhaps the producers of honey from it want a free ride by using a popular name? But given the historical usage it seems inappropriate, inaccurate and confusing to customers to apply it to a different honey from a different plant. If however the honey is as good as it is made out to be and as the herb, like the *Echiums* is also from the *Boraginaceae* family, perhaps "Starflower Borage" might be a more accurate description and give another variety for connoisseurs to try.

Yours Etc
Jim Godfrey
Kaikoura Apiaries

Dear Mr. Rowe

The enclosed story is one I've been hatching for quite a number of years and finally put pen to paper so to speak.

You may find it of sufficient interest to the readers of the *N.Z. Bee Keeper*, if not, no harm done.

I began keeping bees in 1959 while living in Whitianga and have moved them on my car trailer down to the West Coast and return on the inter island ferry, just to mention one possible story!

By the way, I've responded to the request in the January issue (I think) by a fellow hobbyist (Mr Eric Swan) near Crewe (U.K.) for some reciprocal hospitality and he and his wife are coming to New Zealand for January — February '96. I suspect that Kiwi beekeepers in the position to travel to U.K. are a rarity. I gather that at the time of his writing, ours was the only response.

My wife and I find that hosting folk like these can be very rewarding even if not in the position to travel ourselves.

It seems that there are more bee diseases in U.K. to combat than in N.Z. and moving of hives in some areas is quite restricted.

I find your (our) magazine to be of continuing interest and assistance — keep up the good work.

With best wishes
Iain H. Lennox, Levin

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Notes for beginners and others

By John Heineman

Yesterday morning, August 19th was bringing us a real feeling of spring. At 10am the bees were out in force and very busy indeed on our early rhododendron, an absolute picture at present, and on the prostrate rosemary bushes with their little blue flowers cascading down the bank. This last one is always very popular with the bees and flowers twice a year for prolonged periods. Just the right sort of day to have a first look at the six hives and two tops we have here at home, (Otago Branch apiary). Keeping in mind the rough winter months we experienced, expectations were not that high. But what a pleasant surprise to find that the parent colonies as well as the tops were in very good shape indeed. Good looking patches of brood on a couple of combs in each hive, plenty of tucker, honey as well as pollen (with a little fresh pollen coming in). A real contented lot!

It just goes to show how little the cold, snow and frost, rain and biting wind, does effect a wintering cluster of bees as long as the essentials are provided. Access to quality food in quantity, good queens, sound equipment, adequate ventilation and non-disturbance. I have seen hives coming out of much milder winters in considerable poorer condition. So far so good and I hope your hives will open up just as good. Now we will be leaving them alone again for the next four weeks or so. That is about the time you will read these notes in the September issue of this magazine. By then we will start thinking about a thorough inspection for disease, especially Am. foulbrood and about making tops (nucs) on the four hives which have not got one. The two tops which are already there are ear marked to be run as 2-queen hives jointly with the parents below them, that is if they are not required for an emergency prior to the honey flow.

Spring time and also late summer/autumn seem to be the seasons when colonies become the most susceptible to Nosema disease. Caused by a protozoan (a microscopic parasite named *Nosema apis*) which is probably in every honey-bee colony, world wide. Under

reasonable conditions the presence of nosema does usually not spell big trouble to bees and beekeepers. However when conditions deteriorate, very changeable weather, prolonged confinement, dampness, shortage of or poor quality stores and serious disturbance, the bees come under stress and their resistance will drop. What is bad for the bees is good for the parasite. A healthy person will be able to shake off the occasional cold while he or she being in a run down condition may well face complications.

What happens is that a bee will ingest *Nosema* spores, having lost its resistance, the spores germinate in the gut, invade the gut wall, multiply very fast, more spores are formed which are passed out with the excrement. Such a bee is a very ill creature and cannot make it out of the door in time and the dirt is inside the hive, a source of further infection. We are talking about millions and millions of spores. If no remedial action is taken in time a badly infected colony has a real big problem and may not be able to overcome it. *Nosema* will drastically shorten a bee's lifespan, this weakens a colony. It may cause supersedure of the queen. Build up of a colony's strength is slowed down and will of course result in less bees being available to take advantage of the honey flow.

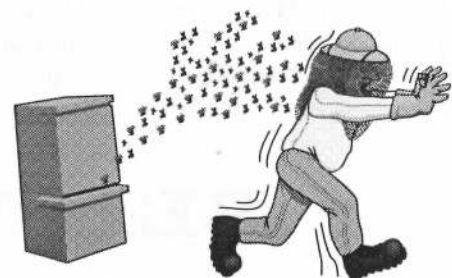
We cannot see *Nosema apis* without a microscope and the results of the infection are not as dramatically obvious as when viewing a comb showing a bad case of A.F.B. However the economic consequences to the beekeeping industry may well be just as great.

There are certain signs which should awaken a beekeeper's suspicion as to a dangerously high level of *Nosema* infection. Failure of the colony to expand during spring at a normal rate and many obviously distressed bees crawling in front of the hive are indications. A rough check can be made by catching a bee off the comb (look for an older, darker bee, perhaps nearly bald), pinch off its head and thorax and carefully remove the intestine by pulling away the terminal segment. When badly

infected with *Nosema* the exposed gut will show up white in contrast to the normal healthy brown/pinkish colour and it may also be bloated, swollen up to twice the normal size. It takes an enormous number of spores before infection becomes obvious. Testing (spore count) is a job for the lab with the right kind of equipment and expertise.

It is the only bee disease for which it is permissible here in New Zealand to use chemotherapy. A drug, Fumadil B is available. It is used by queen breeders who have to guarantee *Nosema* free escort bees for caged queens and perhaps for export package bees. It would probably be uneconomical for the average beekeeper in this country to administer the drug routinely. The best answer is good management and to avoid the creation of stress as much as possible.

Another factor in minimizing *Nosema* infection may well be a planned programme of comb renewal. Those heavy old combs which have seen numerous cycles of brood are probably reservoirs for *Nosema* spores. Culling them at say a rate of three or four every year from a double-storey hive and replacing them with foundation is good practice. At the same time this will act as an aid in swarm prevention. This job will be coming up in October/November so get some frames wired and foundation embedded, have everything ready when needed.



Retirement out of beekeeping. Optimising the sale and investing for your future with minimal risk and maximum returns

This is the continuation of the article published in the August issue of the *New Zealand Bee Keeper*.

Thanks to David Penrose for a timely and informative reminder to us all...

Ed

After this time you will have saved \$6000 and this would buy you a share in a long term forestry investment. I am assuming that you began your commercial operation at around 28 years of age so by now you are around 35 and the forestry investment would be targeted at maturing at about age 60. These forestry share investments are managed by competent people who usually have some of their own money invested as well, and insurance is there to cover fire. The \$6000 investment based on today's prices for clears would yield \$69,000 if no price increases occurred. However clear log prices have tended to rise over the last 40 years at about 4% per year so a fair projection would be that a net yield of \$220,000 on today's values. Perhaps you may even consider a couple of these units as a long-term investment, and one which is readily convertible should the need arise.

If you continue with your compulsory saving scheme at about the age of 40 you will have a further \$15,000 to invest. At this stage in your career you would be well advised to look at investing in real estate outside of your business. I know that many investors, when they first begin to become involved in property investment, think that they will buy a house and rent it out. I did just that. However you quickly realise that you have become involved in something which is far from straight forward. Firstly you have to find suitable tenants who will be able to pay a rent which is going to show a suitable return on your invested capital, and probably more importantly, continue to pay it week after week! Will they take care of your property? Or will you have to spend a

lot of your time on repairs and maintenance? Then comes the Tenancy Tribunal.

This is the body which tells you that despite the fact that your tenants are three weeks behind with the rent and that they have broken several windows, and driven over the shrubs in the garden that you must give them 90 days notice to vacate. On the other hand they only need to give you 14 days! Renting out private housing is not one of my recommendations as a good retirement investment, especially when you take into account that out of the gross rental you, the landlord, are responsible for all rates, insurance and interior and exterior maintenance. In some cases, if conditions and the location is right then it is possible to make quite good capital gains, which are tax free, but be aware of the work and costs involved. These capital gains, however, can make reasonably good sense if you are prepared to put up with the hassles and only put in the bare minimum of capital, so long as a 90% occupancy house can cover all your outgoings.

by David Penrose

One of the most hassle free property investments is industrial or commercial real estate. The tenant pays all outgoings excluding exterior maintenance, and because you are not dealing with a family situation or the Tenancy Tribunal, if they don't perform — they are out! Your lease agreement protects your interests. Bob Jones, a man whose light has dimmed of latter years, but who was nevertheless, a very astute buyer of property, always made the point that the only three things essential to a good property investment were location, location, location. I know that probably all of you have heard of that criteria for property investment before, but always remember it. Especially when you are being shown that "real steal" by the slick sales person trying to flick off that block of shops which are now so peaceful — following the rerouting of the main road around your local town! Always do your homework on property that is for sale. Why is it on the market? Is the area about to be re-zoned by the council? Is that industrial area

Continued on page 18



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Retirement

Continued from page 17

going to be split down the middle by a new motorway? How good is the current lease? Is the tenant about to be taken over or put out of business by the huge new development to be built down the road? Do the premises compare favourably with what else is being offered at a similar price in the neighbourhood?

If you do decide to become involved in this type of investment make sure that you have a watertight lease drawn up to protect your interests. You can never be certain that your tenant won't "fall over", but try to get some form of personal guarantee from him and always have rents paid automatically into your bank account. Normally you arrange for these payments to be made around five working days before you receive your statement so that you know immediately if a payment has not been made. If a payment has missed, check it out by phone right away, it may be a simple error — or it could be an early warning sign that your tenant is having some cash flow problems. Make sure also that your agreement to lease has a distraint clause in place. This gives you the right, after a stated time, to move in and remove goods to the value of rent owing or lock the doors with a separate lock to prevent a tenant from carrying on his tenancy. Check these points with your lawyer, he should be aware of all the clauses that you will need to ensure that your investment is protected. Another point to consider is the physical size of your commercial investment. I have found consistently over the years that it is always much easier to lease two smaller units than one big one. The rental received from a commercial property determines its value, so if you are contemplating this type of investment keep in touch with the market and look for properties that may be currently undervalued for the area. By being aware of what the market can stand you may well buy a property which has room for a rent increase and so pick up an immediate capital gain. Finally, in the area of industrial or commercial investment, don't rush into signing up the first person that answers your ad to lease. Ask some pertinent questions and satisfy yourself that the prospective tenant will be what you want. There are a lot of cowboys out there.

I want to move on now to other forms of investment which may be of interest to the older beekeeper who is closer to the age of actual retirement and has some cash in the bank which he wants to invest on what I would call medium term at maximum returns. I go back to my initial investment criteria. Any investment made with money which you cannot afford to lose (and this is another area which I will touch on in a moment) must be made so that your capital is guaranteed and you will receive at least a fair rate of return on that capital. This brings up the question of what is a good rate of return on investment?

Many people are happy to get eight or nine percent on their money these days, but if you analyse your net on this after inflation, even at 2%, and then income tax, your net returns won't take you to the Gold Coast or Fiji very often! What you need to be looking for are returns which are both tax free and guaranteed.

Recently a company has set up in New Zealand called Wealth Investments. It is promoting a concept of buying up surrendered life policies with around five years to run. They show around 8% to 10% tax free after the five years, plus your capital is guaranteed by the insurance company that issued the policies. Another big plus is that because they are tax paid in your hands they are not assessed for the calculation of surtax, and this could possibly increase their potential earning yield up to 14% or more. For these reasons this type of investment could prove a

useful tool to be used when you are approaching your retirement years. The tax department have ruled that the system is OK by them, and if you want to learn more about it I have some brochures which will be available after my address.

I mentioned earlier that if you have some money which you are prepared to have a bit of a flutter with, then don't overlook the share market. It can be risky, but with good advice and continual surveillance, the returns can be very good. Over the past 20 years the share market has shown the best after tax returns of any of the other types of investment which I have mentioned, but don't forget 1987. Always remember Isaac Newton's discovery, "That which goes up can also come down", so don't be greedy, watch the trends, use a recommended share advisor and maybe add some good shares to your portfolio of investments. Would it be a fair question to ask how many of you bought Warehouse stock when it was floated? If you have I am green with envy!

Well I have tried in the time available to cover the topic of planned retirement from beekeeping and touch on some of the possible investment options open to you. I hope that I have stimulated some thought, tossed in some options and may possibly have helped some of you by drawing on a few of my own experiences. I have enjoyed the opportunity to address you and I look forward over the next few days to renewing many old friendships and hopefully making some new ones.

Library News

Another aid in our battle against bee diseases:

HONEY BEE DISEASES EDUCATION KIT

Some 25 laser copies of the best photos available. The 20 x 30 cm enlargements are beautiful clear images of a number of endemic and some exotic diseases and pests we all should be able to recognize. This kit should be of great value for branches or clubs which plan to hold a disease education session or to the individual beekeeper. Each print is mounted on ivory board and laminated.

Clearly printed description and a direction for the user as to sequence of display for gaining the maximum benefit.

Good things hardly ever come cheap, neither did this lot. The loan fee has to be \$5 but postage no more than \$1.60 using 2 large envelopes.

Make use of it, you won't be disappointed.

EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES and other material as sent to Branch Secretaries are now also filed with this library and thus available to any interested person.

Bee congress hive of activity

Lausanne, Switzerland

It was Winnie the Pooh's dream.

Hundreds of honey pots with dozens of mouthwatering varieties: Clover, eucalyptus and chestnut, to name a few.

Then there was honey wine, honey beer and honey champagne. Not to mention various beautifying honey potions.

Not a single live bee was to be seen at the recent beekeeping world's biennial exhibition in Lausanne, Switzerland, although there were plenty of Cuddly stuffed toy bees, bee badges and musical hives for sale.

But behind the commercial hype, the Apimondia congress buzzed with serious business.

The five-day' congress, attended by an estimated 4000 bee enthusiasts and experts from more than 65 countries, was packed with debates and exhibits on bee diseases, pollination, conservation and medicines.

"It's the reunion of the big apiculture family — the chance for amateurs and professionals to meet researchers and scientists — and the chance for the public to get to know the fascinating world of the bee," said Jean-Paul Cochard, organiser of the event.

For the uninitiated, display boards' gave

detailed explanations about this all-purpose insect 'with its strictly hierarchical social structure: The all-powerful queen; the drones, which die after mating with her; and the workers, which build the combs of wax and gather the pollen.

A worker has to visit up to 1500 clover plants to gather enough nectar to fill, its "honey stomach".

It takes between 800,000 and four million such trips to produce 10kg of honey.

In Switzerland alone, there are 23,000 beekeepers, who raise an estimated nine billion bees, the equivalent of 1300 bees per inhabitant.

Their presence is vital to 'agricultural production.

For instance, many varieties, of fruit trees need cross-pollination by bees to thrive.

In an experiment, a plot of three hectares produced , 5500kg of golden delicious apples.

Apple trees of another variety were added and 12 hives placed nearby.

The harvest increased seven-fold, according to conference literature.

There are experiments under way in the United States with bees dusted with micro-organisms that then brush off on flowers and plants to kill more harmful micro-organisms that attack crops.

In Slovenia, studies have shown that bees can be important pollution monitors.

Honey from hives near coal-fired power stations reveals the levels of sulphur dioxide.

In the Gambia in Africa, amulets containing dead bees are sold to protect against such evils as traffic accidents and "devils met in the bush at night", one display board explained.

In addition to the economic, environmental and cultural importance of the bees, it was the 'medicinal properties that attracted the most attention at the congress.

For centuries, honey has been prized for its soothing qualities.

But now there is increasing research into the role of bee venom — extracted from its poison glands — in combating a whole range of ailments ranging from tumours to arthritis to hearing difficulties.

Hundreds of interested visitors packed a darkened auditorium to hear the latest wisdom of the medicinal value of the bee from a line-up of international experts.

Others had more simplistic motives.

"I'm here because I like honey," said 11 year old Lisette, clutching a bagful of goodies.

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Sensory Beekeeping

When you start out in the world of beekeeping, you find yourself lost in a new language as well as a new environment. As you progress, certain natural processes going on around you increase your knowledge. In today's world of pre-packaged materials and ideas, we tend to drift away from our own creativity. This article is designed to spark some of that creative thought back into the art of beekeeping. Sensory beekeeping is making full use of your own senses to better understand the functions of the honey-bee.

Listening In listening to the "voice" of the honey-bee, there is much to be learned. Remove a cover from your hive. Does the voice rise then subside or does it remain at a high note signalling that something is wrong in the hive? One day I was examining hives in search of AFB. As I opened one hive I noted, "something is wrong with this hive." On further examination the brood chamber disclosed a case of AFB. The bees were voicing their plight. If you are a good listener, you can hear the deep voice of the drone and the high voice of the worker. If you listen closely, when the bees are around your ears, you can tell if they are pleased or upset at your presence.

Looking Time spent observing your bees from inside and outside the hive is most advantageous. I recall one occasion when a piece of grass had become lodged in the entrance of the hive. Three or four young bees attempted to drag the grass from the hive. Each took her turn, only to fail and be laughed at by her peers. Then like magic, the piece started to move out of the entrance. One of the bees had gotten on the other end and, with a little leverage, managed to remove the unwanted material as the others stood by and watched in awe. Look at your hive as a home. Is the house holding up? Is the family healthy? What about the neighbourhood?

Smelling Odours play an important part in the hive. Each honeyflow

has its own distinct odour which emanates from the hive. Another odour is the fear or alarm door given off by the bees when they are upset. I recall one evening that my wife was putting on nail polish and I nearly jumped from my chair as my nostrils picked up the familiar odour. Once you know the alarm odour you become very aware of its presence. An unhealthy hive also gives off its odours. After a long winter the bees may have dysentery, a very recognisable odour indeed. If you have a hive with AFB you can recognise its odour as well. Let your nose "be your guide."

Touching Get in touch with your bees. Become friends with them. The first time that you go into your hive without gloves be gentle. Move very slowly and make as little disturbance as possible. Place some honey on your finger tips and let the bees lick it off. You let a dog lick your hand to pick up your scent so why not the bees? Oh, by the way, try not to laugh too hard with all those little tongues tickling your fingers.

Tasting Pollen, royal jelly, honey and wax — all of these can be tasted. Trap some pollen and sort it by colour. Then taste each colour and you will find each has a separate taste all its own. Honey too has a variety of tastes at various times of the year. Be your own connoisseur of local honey.

The Sixth Sense — that sense which enables you to discover and create your own "personal" approach to the art of beekeeping. What is right? What is wrong? Are there exceptions to the rule? Is there a different approach? These are questions that continually confront the beekeeper, whether he or she is a novice or a professional. Manipulate your sixth sense by sorting out the facts and figures and organising them into a good feeling about what you are doing.

From an article in Hawke's Bay's Buzz Sheet

Thanks Hawke's Bay

Disease Exercise

TAURANGA — Hundreds of bee-hives in the Tauranga region have been inspected for disease in a combined exercise by beekeepers and agriculture officials.

Apiaries in a 160km band between Waihi and Edgecombe were under scrutiny in a two-day sweep.

The Bay of Plenty has a high concentration of hives, with the bees used to pollinate fruit crops, particularly kiwifruit.

While the beekeepers are conducting their annual search for American foulbrood — a contagious bacterial disease specific to honey bees — the Ministry of Agriculture used the inspections to train staff how to find and contain an outbreak of the exotic European foulbrood.

Nationally, a little under one percent of apiaries were found to be infected with American foulbrood, while the European variety has never been found in New Zealand, said the communication manager for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr Peter Grace, of Hamilton.

The procedure for inspecting hives for both the foulbrood diseases is the same. A similar exercise, with the ministry and the National Beekeepers' Association combining forces, was held in Christchurch last spring.

Others are planned at Palmerston North and Timaru.

Courtesy — NZ Herald 26-8-95

All beekeepers are again warned that this product, which claims to be 100% pure beeswax actually contains up to 30% paraffin wax. As such it is doubtful if it will be accepted by bees in any but the most unusual circumstances. But, more importantly it will foul up supplies of wax when combs are rendered for wax sale for foundation or other legitimate chemical use.

Such contamination can only bring the industry into disrepute as an unreliable supplier of pure products and destroy the long-term market for wax.

Moral of the story; *A cent saved now is a dollar and a market forever lost in the future.*

Adulterated foundation importer identified

Information in NSW Agriculture's report to the NSWAA annual conference indicates that the importer of contaminated Chinese comb foundation has been identified and will

be interviewed by the Victorian Department of Agriculture.

Supplies have been offered to a NSW reseller but it is not known if any sales have been achieved.

FOR SALE

BEE BOOST: Now is the time to order or enquire about supplies of bee boost for the coming season. Please contact us for full details and brochure, if required. For orders, please contact us soon to ensure we can have supplies to you when you require them. Prices are expected to be slightly cheaper than last year.

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The Swarm

Remember the year the schools closed early due to the polio epidemic? The end of 1947 it was. Quite a blow in a way, as the Napier Boys' High School agriculture students (3Ag1 was my class) had already completed our exams so that we could help out on the school farm at the time when the other pupils would be enduring that agony.

Due to the very contagious nature of the disease and its crippling results for those who survived, the schools closed early and all the usual summer entertainments were closed, folk being discouraged from congregating.

It so happened that I was offered a job on the "rehab" farm of a Kiwi returned soldier at Kereru, a Central Hawke's Bay district a few miles south-west of Hastings where an elder brother was working as a shepherd. The job was supposed to be "fleece-o" for two or three fairly slow (fortunately for me) "shearers".

It was quite a blissful experience, what with the area alive with rabbits and plenty of .2 ammo. The boss's wife made fabulous ice-cream with the aid of a kerosene fridge (no power) and their own loganberries and cream.

All went well until one afternoon the even tenor of country life was altered when a swarm of bees settled just inside and above the doorway of the outside "dunny".

For a day or so the "necessary" was done in just about any place but the one made for the purpose and it soon became evident that "something must be done".

The boss and my brother being the senior men must have got their heads together and decided on some action.

One evening they prepared themselves with stockings over their heads, an apple box, and something to scrape the quite large quantity of comb which the bees had been so busy installing in their dark, dry "possy". "Just the place", the bees seemed to think.

On reflection, bees are not all that discerning as to odour!

About half an hour later, two rather sore men had managed to scrape most of the bees and comb into the box and, with a good number of bees over themselves, walked a few hundred yards up the drive to where they thought they would like the bees to be returning rather wounded, but pleased with their removal effort. Next morning two still rather sore men, plus the boss's wife and myself not at all sore — we had observed from a distance — soon found that the bees had returned to the "dunny". The boss and my brother went off to consider the next move while they did a bit of farm work.

I was thinking about the problem even though I was never asked for a contribution, but by then, any suggestions would have been gratefully received. I'd vaguely remembered reading of burning sulphur to kill bees so I suggested to the boss's wife that if they had some around, I would try burning some. Most shearing sheds in those days had some sulphur — maybe for treating foot-rot or some other antiseptic use.

Anyway, it didn't take long to make a wee fire in a "treacle" tin, drop some small lumps of sulphur into it and gingerly push it through the dunny door, then stand well back.

The results soon became quite impressive as the bees began to be affected by the fumes and in a short, time the yard was full of flying bees and they were off to goodness knows where to start their hive again.

I recollect being quite popular for a day or two.

I little knew then that the day would come when I would enjoy the experience of keeping a few hives and finding this a pleasure.

"Herby" (Iain H. Lennox)

SPRING FIELD DAY

The Southern North Island Branch of the National Beekeepers Association are holding their

SPRING FIELD DAY

Saturday 30 September, 1995

at

Garry and Helen Tweeddale's
Marangal Straight,
Wanganui.

Just 10k south of Wanganui on State Highway 3.

A full programme to appeal to commercial and hobbyist beekeepers has been prepared, all welcome. \$4.00 each or \$8.00 per family.

Morning session: — PRACTICAL: — SMOKER LIGHTING COMPETITION

Split into small groups (6-8 hives of various strengths for members to look into). PROTECTIVE GEAR REQUIRED.

Equalizing Hives (Practical demonstrations continued).

Afternoon topics: — PROPOLIS PRODUCTION AND COMB HONEY PRODUCTION

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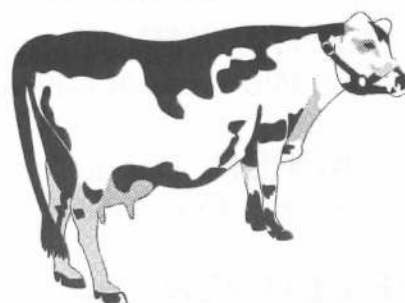
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Honeycombs

Various headings will be used within this section as required by advertisers and will include: Branch notices (no cost), plant, situations vacant, Beeswax, Honey, Bee Products, Woodware, Beekeepers supplies/accessories, Queens & packaging bees, Packaging materials, FMG Insurance, Extracting services, laboratory services; Sugarbees plus. The cost will be \$15 per comb, per issue.

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F/D 40mm wide 3.5 litres

C.O.D.

\$1.60 each + GST

LES GERA

26 McMeekan Avenue
HAMILTON

TO ALL BRANCH SECRETARIES

If it is any assistance to you N.B.A. H.O. can print your area's mailing labels for your newsletters each month.

Just allow one day's notice and they will be printed and mailed to you immediately.

*Contact: Harry Brown
Executive Secretary*

For Sale

Metal containers with wing openers suitable for polish etc . . .

Outside dimensions 32mm high x 110mm diameter.

Contains 170ml

Please contact:

Jan van Hoof

Phone: (03) 693-9760

MEETING — CANTERBURY

The next meeting of the Canterbury Branch will be on **26th September** at the Merivale Rugby Clubrooms, at 7.30pm.

AGENDA — There will be a short meeting followed by a discussion, be there to find out more!

Hawke's Bay Branch Spring Field Day

Saturday 8 October 1995

If you missed the great day at Ruakura don't worry. Be at the Pakowhai County Park, Pakowhai Road, on the Hastings side of the Ngaruroro River on the main road from Napier. There will be a sign at the gate.

- ◆ Apimonda reflections from Ted Roberts.
- ◆ Economics of beekeeping from Harry Brown.
- ◆ Honey by-product. *Guess what this is about?*
- ◆ Hands on as the hives are opened for a closer look.

◆ 12.30pm a light lunch provided by the local branch.

◆ Gadget Competition. Bring your inventions along.

◆ There might even be another sort of competition.

Then get back into the hives or take the opportunity to bounce your ideas off some of the other beekeepers. Take the chance to boast about how you manipulate your bees.

There will be a charge of \$5 per queen or drone and you can go any time after 3pm or stay talking till late in the night.

**Remember everybody
is welcome..**

featuring

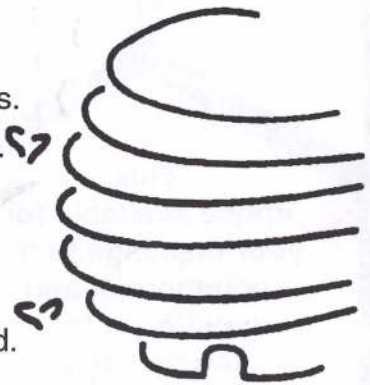
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PLASTIC FANTASTIC

The proven complete one piece hard plastic embossed foundation and frame. Developed over 20 years. Millions of these frames are in use.

NOW AVAILABLE IN NEW ZEALAND

- ▶ No assembly required.
- ▶ No pulled top bars.
- ▶ No broken or rotten lugs.
- ▶ No blow out or bowed combs during extraction process.
- ▶ Extract at high speeds by radial or tangential methods.
- ▶ 15% more cell space.
- ▶ Well accepted by Queens & Bees unwaxed or waxed.
- ▶ Use in brood nest or honey supers.
- ▶ Compatible with frames currently used in New Zealand.
- ▶ Control waxmoth and rodent damage.
- ▶ Ease of recycling old or damaged combs. Just scrape back to mid rib and place back in hive.
- ▶ Eliminate heat damage to combs when shifting hives in hot weather or when that hot-room thermostat sticks.



We believe that this frame will revolutionise extracting Manuka or Ling Heather Honey. By being able to run extractors up to 300 rpm the need for pricking combs should be eliminated. Thus increasing the amount of honey extracted per man hour and removing all the honey from the comb. Cost savings should be in the order of 10% of honey value.

Considering all these advantages and the wax value you recover from the combs replaced with the Pierco Plastic Fantastic Frames; you will soon realize the financial advantage to your business.

Be at the cutting edge of our industry.

Be competitive and more probable. The US dollar value makes buying frames NOW! a wise investment especially coupled with the current high wax prices.

Contact our exclusive sales agents for New Zealand and Australia NOW! for prices and delivery (Volume buying discounts apply).

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