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# Notes from the President

## NBA Pest Management Strategy for Public Discussion

The Public Discussion Document of the NBA's Pest Management Strategy for American foulbrood (AFB) is open for comments from any interested party. The closing dates for submissions is 20 November.

I consider the development of our Pest Management Strategy (PMS) to be an excellent example of our industry rising to a challenge, developing our own vision and developing it in a fair and consultative manner. From the initial ideas of the possibility of eradication of AFB, the committee has repeatedly returned to the industry to validate the ideas and processes of the PMS.

The Disease Control Committee was set up by the NBA Executive. It comprises a representative selection of beekeepers, a variety of size and nature of bee businesses, including beekeepers from around the country. The goal of eradication put forward by the committee received resounding support at the 1993 NBA Conference. While not all beekeepers believe it will eventuate, as an aim it was overwhelmingly accepted when presented in three remits.

The first discussion paper outlining the details of the PMS was distributed in May 1994, and a number of comments were received and for the most part incorporated into the next version. At the 1994 Conference, the only PMS-related remit asked that the PMS include aspects of 'user pays' and that all beehives be inspected each year by an accredited person. This, too, was built into the PMS.

A seven page digest of the draft Pest Management Strategy ("The American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy and You") was produced by the NBA and distributed to all members in the February 1995 issue of the *New Zealand Bee Keeper*. The digest was written in a question-and-answer format and provided information on all significant facets of the strategy as it related to beekeepers.

In February and March 1995, a Road Show presentation was made at 15 venues around the country to describe the PMS proposals. Over 500 beekeepers attended these meetings to hear the details and put forward suggestions. A second digest was distributed in the June issue of the

### Cover photo

*Apricot blossom at the HortResearch Clyde Research Centre in Otago. Photograph by Peter Spring. The N.B.A. has a very close working relationship with the members of HortResearch particularly the Insect Science Division.*

*New Zealand Bee Keeper* to explain changes based on feedback from the Industry Consultation meetings, as well as written submissions made by individuals and groups.

The remits to the 1995 Conference supported the PMS, and asked the Executive to adopt it, present it to the Minister and offered the full support of the members in its implementation. Remit 2 was put to a poll vote, and 81% of the votes were cast in favour of the remit.

Subsequently, PMS opponents claimed this had not been a 'democratic' vote. The claim was made that it was a 'devious' attempt to obtain a vote of support. They argued that delegates came to conference instructed to vote against the remit, but changed their vote to 'support' based on assurances they say were made on the floor of conference.

An alternative proposal to control AFB was tabled during the discussion on remit 2. Opponents of the PMS claim that Mr Terry Gavin said that the alternative proposal would be incorporated into the existing PMS (Mr Gavin denies giving such an assurance, saying that the Disease Control Committee would consider the material, and only that committee could make the decision to include the elements of the alternative proposal).

Opponents of the PMS claim that delegates changed their votes from 'against' to 'for' based on this promise. They conclude that the 81% support figure is not an accurate indication of industry feeling toward the PMS, having been achieved by 'devious' means.

I was concerned enough at this claim that I recently sent questionnaires to each branch, to determine how their delegates had been instructed to vote. I can assure you that the PMS did have the support before any discussion on the conference floor. Delegates did not change their votes significantly because of the alternative that was given to them at conference. Terry Gavin did not promise to include the alternative proposals into the NBA's PMS. I am sorry that these misrepresentations have overshadowed the reasoned and thoughtful consideration of the PMS itself.

The PMS has not been foisted upon the industry, either from the outside (Government and/or MAF) nor from the inside (for instance, by 'capture' by a minority opinion). It has been developed by a representative committee of the beekeeping industry and for the beekeeping industry. It is a document and a consultation process that we should all be proud to 'own'.

I would like to sincerely thank the members of the Disease Control Committee. As well as the individual members, Terry Gavin and Ian Berry (both of whom have chaired the committee) deserve the respect and thanks of the industry for assisting the industry to propose our disease control plans and carry them through to this stage.

Dr Mark Goodwin has acted as a technical advisor to the committee. Mark's knowledge and scientific honesty has given the committee and backing and rationale to combine with the practical beekeeping experiences of the committee members.

Cliff Van Eaton has acted as an advisor and paid consultant to the committee. His excellent communication and writing skills have helped to ensure a document of the highest quality.

Though the time is now short, I would urge you as a beekeeper to make your own submission on the Public Discussion Document. Copies have gone to each branch and beekeepers' club, and to all people who have put in submissions on previous versions. Please don't let a vocal minority cast doubts on the PMS as a strategy that does have the support of the beekeeping industry. Have your say today.

### The New Zealand **Bee Keeper** THIS ISSUE

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# For those who live in fear of being stung

Allergy or hypersensitivity to insect stings is quite common in New Zealand and in some cases, especially asthmatics, is life threatening. For those people who are, or think they are allergic to stinging insects, a bee or a wasp sting is perceived as a serious and often a terrifying event. For them their allergy is a very serious problem and in extreme cases can present as a phobia. Reported deaths due to anaphylaxis caused by insect stings are rare, (between 40 and 50 deaths per year in the USA — statistically this correlates to about one death every three years in New Zealand), however allergic patients often suffer profound anxiety and many suffer major disruptions of their lifestyle in the effort to avoid contact with bees and wasps. Bee and wasp stings are intended for defence of the colony and hence the venom is formulated to cause severe pain to intruders. Honey-bee venom in particular has been analysed extensively; it contains many non-allergenic components as well as the two major allergens phospholipase A<sup>2</sup> and hyaluronidase. Why some people become sensitive to venom proteins while others who are similarly exposed, do not, is still a mystery to

immunologists and a great deal of research is ongoing.

In 1979 pure *Hymenoptera* venoms were approved by the FDA for use in the diagnosis and treatment of insect sting allergy. Both honey-bee and wasp (*Polistes and Vespula*) venoms have been available in New Zealand since that time and many patients have been desensitised successfully in this country. Desensitisation, or more correctly hyposensitisation, is recommended by WHO for all individuals who have experienced severe anaphylactic reactions to insect stings and who are likely to be stung again<sup>(1)</sup>. Obviously most New Zealanders and in particular, allergic beekeepers and beekeepers' family members, staff or neighbours who are allergic to venom, fall into this category. Severe local reactions are not regarded as an indication for hyposensitisation, although distinction from systemic (anaphylactic) reactions may be difficult with stings to the head and neck. In some patients with severe local reactions, stings become successively more severe and such cases should be monitored carefully as a true anaphylactic reaction may occur at any time. Conversely, in other cases

successive stings become less severe; to date there is no test to predict increasing sensitivity.

The following procedure is recommended for assessment and treatment of patients sensitive to insect stings:

When a severe systemic reaction to an insect sting is reported, the patient should be referred to a pathology laboratory for skin tests approximately six weeks after the sting occurred. Skin testing with pure insect venoms is used to demonstrate the presence of specific IgE antibodies which are involved in the allergic reaction, and will identify the offending insect when the patient is unsure whether he was stung by a bee or a wasp. Many people, especially young children are unable to identify the stinging culprit accurately and it is critical that the correct venom be used for hyposensitisation. Where skin tests are not available or the results questionable, blood samples for RAST (radio-allergosorbent test) or EAST (enzyme allergosorbent test) may be sent to hospital laboratories in the main centres. These tests measure the levels of venom-specific IgE in serum.

Although venom sensitivity differs between individuals and the dosage

*Continued on page 5*

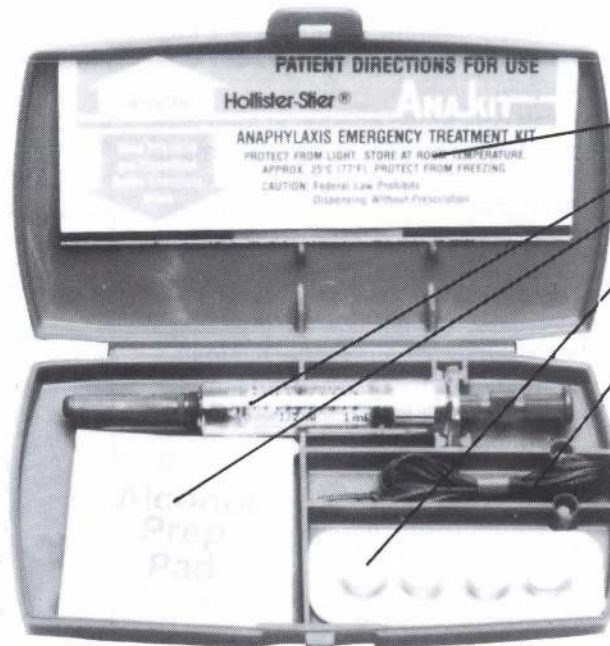
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**Continued from page 4**

schedule may have to be adjusted to suit the individual patient, the majority of patients follow a standard programme which consists of a series of 12-15 weekly sub-cutaneous injections of increasing amounts of pure venom administered on an out-patient basis. Then at monthly intervals a dose equivalent to two bee stings is given as a "maintenance" dose. The mechanism by which the hyposensitised individual becomes able to tolerate these increasing amounts of venom is still not fully understood, however it seems that lymphocytes begin to produce antibodies which block the IgE mediated allergic reaction. The monthly maintenance doses act as "boosters" to the immune system, somehow "reminding" the lymphocytes to continue to produce the blocking antibodies.

Occasionally allergic reactions do occur during the initial phases of hyposensitisation so patients are required to wait in the doctor's surgery for about an hour after administration of venom products, and as delayed reactions have been reported, albeit rarely, patients should be instructed in the use of, and have available, an emergency anaphylaxis kit for the self-administration of adrenaline during the initial treatment phase.

The recommended maintenance dose of 100 ug of venom is considered about equivalent to two stings and protection against field stings is well documented. Hyposensitisation has been shown to be effective in 98% of patients and the remainder suffer much milder reactions that they experienced before treatment<sup>(2)</sup>. Monthly maintenance doses for five years are necessary for continued protection. The decision to discontinue maintenance therapy after five years is a clinical one to be made with due consideration of the patient's lifestyle and the results of current sensitivity tests<sup>(3)</sup>.

There is no evidence of any adverse effects of long-term immunotherapy with insect venom.

In New Zealand bee and wasp venoms are available on a Special Authority Pharmaceutical Benefit from the Ministry of Health; a specialist must apply for this on behalf of the patient who may then be referred back to his own GP for treatment. The venom is available from hospital pharmacies, the usual prescription charges apply but there is no charge for the actual venom products.

Although there is a relatively small population at risk of an allergic reaction following a sting, with the passing of the Health and Safety in Employment Act in 1992 more attention will need to be

paid to the management of allergic reactions to insect stings in the work place. To cope with emergencies, beekeepers should consider having adrenaline on hand at all times if they or staff members are known to be allergic to insect stings.

References:

- 1 WHO. the Lancet; Feb. 4:259-261. 1989
- 2 Hunt et al, N.Eng J Med; 299:157-161. 1978
- 3 Sutherland D. Patient Management. Oct. 1993

**Written by Dr V. St. A. Crump  
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**Note about the author:**

Dr Vincent St Aubyn Crump graduated from the University of the West Indies, MBBS in 1980. He undertook post-graduate training at the Institute of Dermatology, St John's Hospital in London, U.K. He was admitted as a member of the Royal College of Physicians of the U.K. in 1988. He is a member of the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy, and the Thoracic Society of Australasia. He has worked as a Specialist Physician in New Zealand Hospitals and is now director of the Auckland Allergy Clinic, 134 Remuera Road, Auckland 5.

**From the Colonies**

**Canterbury Branch Notes**

A wet spring has made beekeeping difficult so far this season. However generally hive condition is good, the only problem areas being inland Canterbury where hives suffered from a colder than usual winter.

Queen rearing has been difficult with poor weather for mating.

We have had a good dandelion flow and provided we do get a summer, prospects look good for a reasonable season. However experience tells me anything could happen yet.

On November 1st our first MAF discussion group meeting was held under the guidance of A.A.O Robert Rice.

Discussion groups or any gathering of beekeepers which provides the opportunity for any of us to further our knowledge of beekeeping are always well worth the time and effort to attend.

The cost of attending such meetings or courses (whether they be compulsory or voluntary) should be regarded as a good investment.

The beekeepers who concern me the most are the ones who think they know it all when in reality you never stop learning.

All the best for the coming season.

**Warren Hantz**

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# Early honey gathering

I would like to recount one of my fathers stories to you. Maybe this is what helped along my interest in beekeeping, which has continued for the last 63 years.

Before the 1914-1918 war my father with three other men were bush felling on a block of very hilly country on the Whanganui-Raetihi road near Otoko Pa. The property at that time belonged to a Mr Burrell. High on a divide was quite a big old dead tree with a large protruding branch close to the ground. There was a very active beehive going in about a 3" knot hole. In those days honey was a good commodity in the old whare, as both a food and a sweetner, in those days Sunday was the only day off, so they decided to get some honey. They organised the day, took some empty four gallon tins and good keen sharp axes and of course the know how!!! Beekeepers will know that if you jar a beehive two or three times the bees will tuck into a good feed of honey, making them fairly docile to handle, but in this case Dad walked up to this very large limb, gave it several hefty thumps with the back of the axe and stood back.

To his amazement he told me there was about a 4" culvert of bees, thousands of them, coming straight at him. He ducked under heavy undergrowth, not of course before getting many stings which did not worry him too much.

Some old hand at the same game, told him to leave the bees, till early evening just before sunset, then light a nice glowing fire just out from the hive, go behind the hive opening before you jar the limb. The idea worked wonders as thousands of bees went straight into the flickering flames to meet a sure death. This left the hive with a fairly docile bunch of bees to deal with.

They had no trouble opening the large limb up and got 3 four gallon tins of nice white combed honey a very good score in those days. Apparently in the area at that time you had to be fairly careful at what time of the year you took wild honey, as there was an abundance of Rangiora tree flowers. The honey from this in an unsealed state was inclined to be a bit poisonous.

Apart from the honey side of it, Dad used to tell us it was quite common

two or three times a week for the dogs to catch a wild pig, so living in the back blocks at that time, it was one of your main meals and very acceptable too, as was a wild Pigeon for the Sunday roast.

Otoko Pa is about 28 miles from Whanganui, so one day a month the men would walk to town and back again. This journey on the wagon used to cost them, return trip a days wages, so you had to save your money.

My Dad spent four years at the war. On his return he was one of those fortunate enough to draw a ballot farm some distance nearer to Raetihi, from where he was bush felling. Full of excitement he could not get there quick enough to have a look at this farm. Disillusioned he could not believe what he saw. He said that if he lay on his back, he could see all of the farm, "straight up". Not a great start to a farming career.

My father had many interesting things to share with us, maybe you too, will find this interesting.

*From a small Dannevirke  
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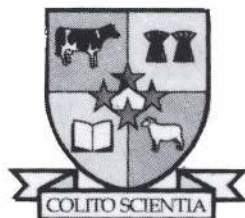
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# Resource consents — a fact of farming life

(This article by Pippa Wallace is the second in a series examining the resource consent procedure set out under the Resource Management Act 1991).

If all the parties have a clear understanding of each other's positions, then a proposal can often be scoped in a sensitive way. This may then avoid the need for a protracted wrangle further down the track.

Most farmers will be involved in the resource consent procedure at some time in the course of farming life. This may be as an applicant for resource consent or as a submitter in opposition or support of another's application. Farmers are regularly involved in resource consent applications for activities such as farm diversification, effluent disposal, subdivision, cottage industry and factory farming.

## \* Classification of activities:

The need to make a resource consent application, and the success of that application will be dependent upon the classification the activity receives by virtue of the relevant Regional and/or District Plan. There are five classes of activity.

### 1) Permitted:

No resource consent is needed if activity is permitted, provided all the relevant criteria in the plan is met. In a rural area, a district plan will often contain a definition of a farming activity and such an activity may well be a permitted activity in that area. Another example of a permitted activity would be a residential dwelling in a residential area.

### 2) Controlled Activity:

Resource consent is required for a controlled activity. However, in respect of such activity there is a presumption that the activity will be allowed, provided conditions specified in the plan are met. Subdivisions are often listed as controlled activities in specified areas of a district plan.

### 3) Discretionary and restricted discretionary activities:

Resource consent is required for each activity listed in this category. The consent authority, then has the discretion as to whether or not resource consent will be granted. The consent authority will scrutinise the effects that a particular activity will have on the environment. A common example of a discretionary activity would be factory farming in a rural area. By classing such an activity in this category, the consent authority then has the

discretion to grant or refuse consent, depending on the ability of the applicants to satisfy particular conditions.

### 4) Non-complying activity:

This is an activity that contravenes a plan but is not prohibited. A consent authority will not grant resource consent to such an activity unless the authority is satisfied that the environmental effects will be minor or the grant of consent will not be contrary to the objectives and policies of the relevant plan. By way of example, in many plans the subdivision of large rural blocks into small residential units will be a non-complying activity.

### 5) Prohibited Activity:

This is a new category of activity. If any activity is listed as prohibited in a regional or district plan, then no resource consent can be obtained. Examples of prohibited activities in particular areas include the manufacture and production of radioactive material or the demolition of scheduled heritage item.

Once you have identified the classification of an activity, you will know if a resource consent is required. You will also by virtue of the classification have some indication of the ease with which consent will be granted. Basically the further down the list you fall, the tougher it is for the application to be approved.

### Consultation:

Having formulated the proposal and discussed the matter with the local consent authority it is then wise to give consideration to consultation with other parties who may be affected by your application. The relevant consent authority, for instance your local district or regional council will generally offer assistance in identifying these parties. Parties involved will usually include neighbours, local iwi and possibly local interest groups. Effective consultation with these parties at a early stage, is recommended. If all the parties have a clear understanding of each other's positions, then a proposal can often be scoped in a sensitive way. This may avoid the need for a protracted wrangle further down the track.

*Pippa Wallace is a solicitor specialising in Resource Management Law at McCaw Lewis Chapman, Cambridge.*

**Article from "Straight Furrow"  
October 23, 1995.**

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Ecroyd Beekeeping Supplies wishes to advise its customers that it recently changed its toll free number. The new number has been advertised for a while, but we are still getting a few calls on our old number (0508-22-5056). This old number will soon be disconnected, so please note our new number now:

**Toll Free EBS Orderline 0800-33-5056**  
*(This number is for orders only please)*

## FOR SALE

- 1 Symes Honey Extractor
- 1 1" Mone Honey Pump
- 1 Penrose Uncapping Machine
- 1 Capping Reducer
- 1 3 Tonne S S Honey Tank and Stand
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All the above plant is in good  
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# Progress report — AFB Pest management strategy

Following approval at this year's Annual Conference, the draft strategy has now been released as a Public Discussion Document. The document, accompanied by a letter from the NBA President, has been sent to over a hundred individuals and organisations, both inside and outside the beekeeping industry. All branch secretaries have also received a copy.

Your Disease Control Committee requests that all letters of support, as well as any ideas for changes to the draft strategy, be in the hands of the NBA Executive Secretary **no later than November 20th 1995**. This deadline for submissions has clearly been stated in the letter attached to all copies of the public discussion document, and the committee will therefore not be in a position to consider submissions received after that date.

It is the intention of your committee to have the final version of the PMS (entitled The National Pest Management Strategy for American Foulbrood Eradication) approved by the NBA Executive and officially presented to the Minister of Agriculture on December 5th,

1995. However, if your committee is unable to give proper consideration to all properly received submissions before the December 5th deadline, then the presentation to the Minister may be delayed.

Once the Minister officially receives the PMS document from the NBA, he is required by law to determine if the strategy meets the criteria set out in the Biosecurity Act, and specifically if the benefits of having the strategy will outweigh the costs. The Minister will also determine if there is significant opposition to the strategy from those likely to be affected by it. If he decides there is such opposition, he is required to call a Board of Inquiry, with all expenses to be borne by the proposer (the NBA). This does not necessarily mean that the strategy won't be passed by Cabinet and put into law, just that it will cost our Association more money than it has already done if we hope to get the strategy in place before the AFB provisions of the Apiaries Act are repealed on June 30th 1996.

**Terry Gavin**  
*Disease Committee Chairman*

## Career opportunity

If you are an experienced capable beekeeper, self motivated and energetic, and you are interested in an involvement with over 1000 hives in prime manuka sites... We'd like to talk to you.

We are looking for a person who is able to assume responsibility, use initiative and is looking for an opportunity to gain ownership of this very productive sector of our business.

Happy Valley Honey Limited is also engaged in packaging and marketing of all hive products with large export orientation, providing future assurance of markets for the person able to eventually purchase the production hives.

Alternatively, we would consider offers of outright purchase and contracts for sale of honey produced back to our company and will discuss any sensible proposal as we wish to reduce our own involvement.

For the first step, please tell us about yourself and your ambitions, abilities and strengths, special interests and so on. You may write to P.O. Box 319, Manurewa or telephone: (09) 267-6228 or fax: (09) 267-7881.

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#### 1st shipment has arrived!

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# BEE BOOST WITH QMP FOR BEE MANAGEMENT

**BEE BOOST with QMP** — A new  
**Beekeeping tool**

**BEE BOOST** with **QMP**, an innovative product for **beekeepers**, contains Queen Mandibular Pheromone, (QMP)\*. Introduced into a hive, or package of bees, **BEE BOOST** is treated much like a queen.

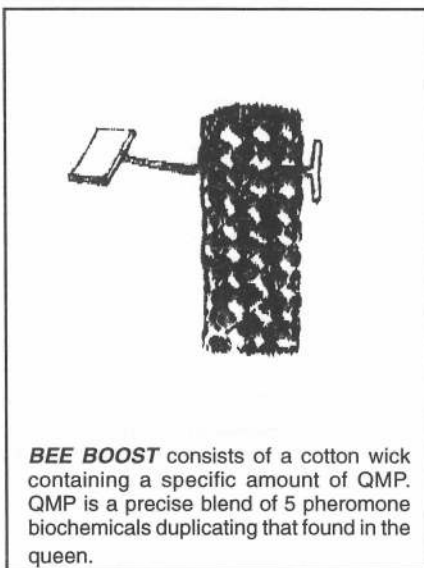
#### USE BEE BOOST WITH QMP:

- \* To ship queenless packages and nuclei
- \* To improve queen mating success and mating nuclei stability
- \* As a temporary queen replacement in a variety of situation

QMP, the active ingredient in **BEE BOOST** is the most important pheromone of the hive, it is a "primer" pheromone, which exerts a fundamental level of control over bee behaviour, and governs many honey- bee activities.

In the hive, worker bees surround the queen, removing QMP from her head and body. As they leave the queen and move about the hive, these bees disperse QMP to others. This continuous process keeps the hive queenright, allowing it to function normally.

QMP was identified, synthesized and first tested in 1988 at Simon Fraser University (SFU) in British Columbia, Canada. Research into this powerful pheromone is continuing.



**BEE BOOST** consists of a cotton wick containing a specific amount of QMP. QMP is a precise blend of 5 pheromone biochemicals duplicating that found in the queen.

\* **QMP** — Queen Mandibular Pheromone is produced and released by the queen honey bee. Pheromones are naturally occurring chemicals used for communication by bees and many other insects and organisms.

**BEE BOOST** is a new beekeeping tool with a wide variety of uses in both queenless and queenright situations. Beekeepers will want to have a supply on hand to help in many beekeeping situations.

\* **Improve queen rearing success**  
**BEE BOOST** used in queen mating nuclei in early spring can maintain significantly higher bee numbers than in non-treated nucs. Nuclei which become queenless do not have to be re-established, mating success is improved significantly and well-

established, self perpetuating nuclei result.

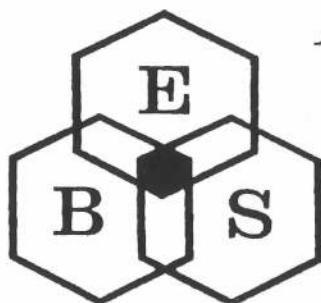
Queen loss is common in the first round of spring queen rearing. Queens may not emerge or may not return from mating flights. Some do not mate. In such units bee populations dwindle drastically, resulting in the need to re-establish the nuclei for a second round of queen cells. **BEE BOOST** can prevent these bee losses and reduce the need to rebuild nuclei.

**BEE BOOST** significantly improves mating success. This may be due to higher bee numbers and the additional pheromone. Once the mated queen begins to lay eggs, the higher number of bees present due to **BEE BOOST** provide increased warmth for brood rearing, and leads to early establishment of a self-perpetuating unit.

Insert one **BEE BOOST** wick in each mating nuclei when it is established, or when the queen cell is inserted.

\* **Ship queenless packages**  
**BEE BOOST** calms bees shipped in queenless packages. Bees arrive at their destination in good physical shape and mortality is significantly reduced. Use one wick per queenless package.

Use the plastic hanger to place the **BEE BOOST** wick as if it were a queen cage.



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# Notes for beginners and others

By John Heineman

Writing these notes about a month before they are printed and delivered to the customer does have its problems. There is always a bit of guesswork as to prevailing conditions in the meantime.

Here in South Otago it is wetter at present than it has been all winter. Vehicles cannot enter some pad-docks. In accordance with the radio Waikato beekeepers too are facing difficulties, the same will apply to some other areas. It goes to show how important it is to have sufficient stores of both honey and pollen on the hives to see them through a period of such adverse conditions.

Good weather or bad weather Christmas is drawing nearer and it is the critical time to get the hives in good shape for the hoped for main honey flow. One can do only his/hers best and after that is done it will all be in the hands of the gods.

Keep up the feed, use foundation, provide extra room and any other management tricks to keep the hives from swarming. A lost swarm probably equals the loss of half the hive's population. Watch out for weak colonies. It would mean carrying passengers returning nil profit. Two weak ones are a liability, put them together and it makes one strong hive with potential for surplus. Again see last year's notes if you feel a need for that.

There was a letter with a parcel of returned library books. It contained the following question: "why do you always advocate re-queening so often when my hives with queens aged 2 years and older are doing okay. I have some 3 year olds doing a perfect job. Why not wait till the queen shows real signs of giving up?"

Nothing wrong with that question, queens in their third year may perform well but..... let us have a brief look at a queen bee's life.

After a queen is born (emerged from the queen cell) she remains for several days within the hive and is shy of daylight. She runs about thus exercising a lot and is fed increasing amounts of the goodies by worker bees. She becomes stronger and sexually mature. Soon she will be fit for flying. About a week after emergence she will forget her shyness of light, seek the hive's

entrance and take off for her first short flight. Orientation flights of increasing duration follow and then culminate in the mating flight. That all important flight may last up to 30 minutes and take her a fair distance (2km or more) away from home. When drones come within visual range of her and close enough to be attracted by the queen's sex pheromones he will mate with her (in flight). For long it was taken for granted that one drone, the strongest and best, had the privilege. Not so, it has been established that several drones are needed to have a job well done. It takes 6 to 8 of the poor fellows for their reward will be death.

If everything has gone as nature intends the queen returns to her hive with a maximum amount of semen stored in her spermatheca. The sperm to be used for fertilising all those worker eggs she will lay. After re-entering the hive workers will feed her and fuss around her. Then egg laying will commence after a number of days, 1 to 8 but 3 to 4 is usual. This egg laying is not just a haphazard business. A queen will first select a suitable cell and after deciding on one will push her head as well as her fore legs into it. If she finds it up to standard she turns and puts her abdomen into the cell to deposit an egg onto its base. She did use her fore legs to measure the cell. If the egg went into a worker cell the queen will release spermatozoa to fertilise it, but if the egg went into a larger drone cell no sperm will be provided. It takes something like 10 seconds to complete this action. Then on to the next cell and so forth with stops for rest and refreshment along with the way.

At the height of the breeding season some 1500 or more eggs may be laid every day. That figure will of course be much lower at the beginning or at

the end of the season while most queens will stop laying for some time during the winter in our temperate climatic zone. A conservative estimate shows that a well mated, good quality queen bee will produce some 150,000 eggs annually during her first two years, may even go on somewhat longer at that rate. Altogether she may be capable of producing a half million eggs during her full natural life span. But the rate of production declines after the second year. Also the production rate of her several pheromones decreases and that has a negative influence on the optimum functioning of the colony for it are those royal chemicals which keep it ticking over properly.

This means that after the second year the risk of finishing up with a queenless hive, a drone layer or supersedure is much greater than is the case with a younger queen. There will also be a greater tendency to swarming.

A commercial beekeeper has to manage groups of colonies, yards, not so much individual colonies. It is more efficient to treat all units of a group in the same way at the same time. It is not possible to look at them every day or very frequently. So the rational thing is to have regular systematic re-queening included in the management programme. It is somewhat different of course for the hobbyist with half a dozen or less hives. There each colony is regarded individually and treated as such. But the person who is away from home all day cannot watch for swarming hives which results in loss and perhaps upset neighbours etc. So it is better to play safe than it is to hope that the 3 year old queen will do for another season.

I still advocate systematic, regular re-queening with preferably the best quality queen bees available.

## Organic Honey Supplies

Where are you???

I have an interested party who wants to be able to Market Organic Honey overseas. As this is in a very early stage the organisation has asked all enquiries come to myself initially.

*So please send your details to me to collate*

Harry Brown  
Executive Secretary

Box 307, Hastings.  
Fax: (06) 878-6007  
Ph: (06) 878-5385

## Andrew Matheson to return to New Zealand

Andrew Matheson, formerly a MAF Apicultural Adviser and editor of *Buzzwords*, will return to New Zealand to take up a position with the MAF Regulatory Authority in late January. Andrew has been the Director of the International Bee Research Association (IBRA), based in Cardiff, since leaving New Zealand almost five years ago.

The position with MAF RA involves compliance with the Gatt Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS). The acceptance of this agreement *should* provide our industry with exciting new opportunities to access markets that have until now been 'protected' for whatever reason. The role will also examine New Zealand's own importation restrictions to ensure that they comply with the technical requirements of the SPS.

A recent IBRA electronic newsletter (taken from the Internet) refers to:

"The new round of Gatt, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and the new World Trade Organisation are designed to break down protective barriers so trade can proceed more freely. It is not the intent of Gatt or the World Trade Organisation to allow countries to replace one set of barriers (such as tariffs or unjustifiable Zoosanitary requirements) with even more undesirable barriers based on quality or sanitary measures".

Let's hope Andrew's work in this new role will help the New Zealand beekeeping industry to achieve improved market access, consistent with our enviable pest and disease status. Andrew's many friends in New Zealand will, I am sure, welcome him back.

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We are members of the New Zealand Bee Genetic Improvement Group, and as bee stock improvements come, they will be passed on to you in the Queens we supply.

We offer an instrumental Insemination Service with Breeder Queens available.

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Hobbyist supply welcomed.

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All prices include G.S.T.

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They come ready to use — just lightly stuff with bracken for a bee ladder.

We believe that these feeders are the most durable, robust and longest lasting plastic frame type feeders available on the New Zealand market (and possibly in the world).

### FEATURES INCLUDE:

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- Rotational moulded products can be dipped in hot paraffin wax if sterilization is required.
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F.D. 3.5 litre and ¾ D. 4 litre . each	8.71	9.80
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100	750.00	843.75
Plastic One Place Twin.....	10 128.00	144.00
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pic of feeder

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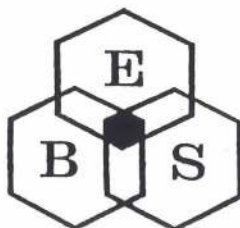
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## \* Tradenz is Backing New Zealand Honey Industry

The Marketing Committee's activities over the last year or so are starting to develop "compound interest". Allen McCaw, Marketing Committee Chairman and I recently attended a meeting with Stephen Lee the Business Development Executive for processed food and beverages. NZ Trade Development Board.

As a result, Stephen Lee is now preparing a paper on the honey industry that will be available to the Tradenz international network. That is a tremendous marketing resource that is going to help every member of the industry.

The bottom line for me is that if we can develop our export trade opportunities, that helps to take honey offshore; it helps to increase the value of the honey going offshore; in turn that creates new opportunities for domestic packers and stops the international commodity price suppressing the value of New Zealand honeys.

## \* International Honey Situation

The world price for honey as at time of writing is continuing to rise and every forecast shows that the world is going to be, some people say, "desperately short of honey". What a marvellous opportunity for New Zealand beekeepers. It is a seller's market and whether we have a good nectar flow this season or not there is every reason why every beekeeper should be able to get a better return on their efforts.

One area where the Marketing Committee can help beekeepers more is by making sure that they have access to international market information. To that end we are going to ensure that the beekeeper each month will get an indication of the crop and price movements internationally. This data will start next month and although you may not be an exporter yourself, it means you are aware of what is happening with honey demand. It puts you in a position to be more astute when accepting prices from your own honey packers.

Once again I need to emphasise that the Marketing Committee's brief is to improve the return to beekeepers.

That could be seen to put us at odds with honey packers in that you as a producer will want a better price from the honey packer. That makes the packer be less commodity sales driven and look to getting a better return themselves through improving their own marketing strategies. Then everyone benefits.

I know that many beekeepers have cash flow problems but if we give you good market information you can make your own judgement call as to whether to hold out for a better price or not.

## \* Those Halcyon Days?

Murray Reid from MAF sent me a very interesting article from his archives:

"July 16, 1936, the NZ Smallholder Magazine incorporating the NZ Food Grower and Apiarist" ..... an article entitled "Treatment of Low Grade NZ Honeys" an address by a Mr R H K Thomson of the Cawthorn Institute in Nelson explained how honeys of bad flavour may be able to be improved in value by removing the colloidal matter present in the honey that makes them dark. The honey was to be flocculated by naturalising its electric charge and after addition of charcoal and a filtering substance the resulting undesirable flavours of kamahi, ragwort, manuka etc are almost completely removed."

It probably seemed a great idea back then but then of course they didn't know about manuka and the stronger flavoured honeys like kamahi, manuka, and rewarewa have a very exciting future as specialist ingredient and gourmet honeys.

I don't think we'd get much support from manuka producers if we guaranteed to take all of the "manuka" out of it and reduce it to a sweet flavourless syrup.

## \* Peter Molan Does it Again

Peter Molan is an exceptionally good friend of the honey industry! Perhaps the only criticism I've heard of his work is that it has not done for other honey types what it has done for manuka. The very good news however is that Peter applied to the Lotteries Commission for a grant to explore possible nutraceutical benefits for New Zealand honeys other than manuka. The Lotteries Commission,

because of Peter's reputation, have given him a grant of \$10,000 to explore the potential of other New Zealand honey types.

It is a wide-ranging brief and a marvellous opportunity for the honey industry. What Peter needs now is for beekeepers to send him samples of their mono floral (i.e. predominantly of one floral nectar source) honey. Peter will look at various attributes within the honeys that he receives. There could be another "rags to riches Cinderella" honey out there as yet undetected. Everyone remembers what manuka honey was earning before science proved its value; the same could be happening to the honey variety in your area.

If you want your honey to be assessed, send a sample to Peter Molan of approximately 50-100 grams. It must be clearly labelled. It is also important that the honey be truly representative of the type you label it. Wrap well and post to:

Dr Peter Molan  
Honey Research Unit  
Waikato University  
Hillcrest Road  
P O Box 3105  
HAMILTON

Unfortunately you have got to pay the postage but I think you will agree that it is not a problem. What Peter does need is the support of beekeepers to provide him with samples and who knows what exciting opportunities may be created from that.

Depending on the response we can't guarantee that Peter will personally reply to every beekeeper but we will be using this magazine to let you know what is happening.

## \* Don't Forget Mall Demonstrations

I was up in Palmerston North a few months ago and the Clarks had a very good display of their honeys. Good innovation by them, bringing out a range of monofloral honeys in squeeze tubes. I wish them well with the introduction of that added-value line.

## \* Science Continues to Create Opportunities

Barry Foster of Tawari Apiaries

*Continued on page 14*



sent me a copy of a very interesting article in an American food magazine. Titled "Honey Helps Unstick Product Development Hang Ups", the article explained how scientists had been struggling to create microwave products that live up to consumers' expectations. It then went on to point out that honey could be the secret ingredient in product development that actually made microwave products look better and taste better. The claims are supported by complex scientific data and a copy of the article appears in this issue of the *Bee Keeper*.

**\* Massey Students Stuck on Honey**

I gave an address to a group of food science students at Massey Food Technology Department in September. The address was very well received and once again it confirmed to me that general lack of knowledge of the differences of New Zealand's honeys. By talking with chef students we are getting that message across to people who are tomorrow's product development decision makers.

As with the chefs, I carried out a taste exercise with six New Zealand honeys and we discussed differences between them. We then talked about the functionality applications of New Zealand honeys and their potential in innovative product development. Of

vital interest to those people of course is the fact that most New Zealanders believe that honey is better than sugar and as a result if they can create products that include honey they will command a better shelf price and have a very good chance of being successful.

**\* Foodwriters' Conference a Great Success**

Sue Jenkins from the Marketing Committee took our honey display unit and an information pack of New Zealand's honeys to the 1995 Foodwriters' Conference. The material was very well received and in fact Claire Ferguson, a UK foodwriter and key speaker at the conference, was so impressed with the differences in flavour between our honeys that she created a special ice cream recipe using a New Zealand honey. This will be published in the January issue of *Next* magazine.

So we are flat out on the marketing front! Our core strategies are starting to pay back with an increasing awareness amongst manufacturers, foodwriters, and retailers; the overriding message is that New Zealand honeys have got something very special going for them!

Regards  
Bill Floyd

## Bytes and Stings: NBA on Disk

Nick Wallingford, NBA President and erstwhile 'computer jockey', has developed a disk of information about the NBA for use by beekeepers and to distribute to other organisations. It contains such things as a comprehensive telephone/fax list of beekeepers and related organisations, committee memberships, the NBA rules, compilations of remits on specific subjects and even an electronic version of *New Zealand Beekeeping — An Industry Profile*. The disk is full of interesting reading and reference material.

The disk requires an IBM-type computer using the Windows operating system (sorry, 'Apple' not spoken here!). It uses the Windows Help system and is designed to be easy to install and useful for virtually any computer-using beekeeper.

To get your copy, send a disk (MF2-HD or MF2-DD. That is, 1.44Mb High Density or 720kb Double Density IBM type disk) to: Nick Wallingford, 55 Watling Street, Tauranga.

If you pack the disk with just a bit of cardboard, you can post it in an ordinary envelope for 40 cents!

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## The Beekeepers go to the Beehive

On 3 October Nick Wallingford (President), Richard Bensemann (Vice-President) and Harry Brown (Executive Secretary), met with Hon. Denis Marshall (Associate Minister of Agriculture). We discussed the NBA's Commodity Levies Act progress (or lack thereof!) and the need for an extension to the Hive Levy Act.

A last minute legal opinion obtained by MAF Policy indicated the NBA would not be allowed to use the Commodity Levies Act for a levy based on apiary site numbers. Because the NBA had consulted on that basis, it was clear that *even if we changed the levy basis*, there would not be time to consult and ballot before the Hive Levy Act is revoked at the end of this year.

There was a discussion on why the NBA does not want to levy on beehives rather than apiaries. It retraced grounds previously covered, including difficulties with the current Hive Levy Act, problems with collection of levy, perception by beekeepers that some are not declaring fully and the changes to hive numbers through the season.

Mr Marshall said that changes to policy, such as adding 'apiary' to Commodity Levies Act or extension to Hive Levy Act would need to go before the caucus' policy making committee. He said that any significant changes would not be considered favourably, but such minor changes as these might get support. Mr Marshall reiterated that he could not foretell the degree of support that would come from his colleagues. Some, he said, had already expressed misgivings about the percentage of votes cast in the ballots that had previously taken place for other industries.

He asked what we spend the levy on. The Pest Management Strategy then dominated the discussion, with Mr Marshall saying that it should work well in our favour to be so far down the track with what we are doing. The NBA's was the furthest advanced proposal from a producing organisation, and Mr Marshall was genuinely concerned that we be allowed to proceed.

We reiterated the need for timely actions before the end of the year, adding that the NBA Executive Committee meeting in December would need to make financial decisions for next year.

The meeting was amicable, with Mr Marshall acknowledging the expense, time and effort that the NBA had put into the last five years since Commodity Levies came into effect. His final reminder, however, was that though he agreed with us, he could not provide any assurance that he could convince his colleagues.

Subsequently, a discussion paper was prepared by MAF Agriculture Policy. At the time of writing (1 November) we understand that the paper supports our two requests (change to Commodity Levies Act to allow us to levy based on 'apiaries' and a one year extension to the Hive Levy Act). The paper is to be considered in the very near future by a Cabinet committee.

As soon as any decisions are made, I will attempt to get the information out to the industry through the branch structure and the (often quicker) 'bush telegraph'.

As always, I would welcome direct contact from any member who would like to know the current status of this or any other NBA issue.

**Nick Wallingford**  
**NBA President**  
**ph/fax (07) 578-1422**

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# Letters to the Editor

## Regional air plan: progress

The Hawke's Bay Regional Council has released its October 1995 Proposed Regional Air Plan.

This appears to address the submissions we offered on the draft. Dischargers of agrichemical sprays will be required to prepare an annual property spray plan. Besides owners and occupiers others likely to be affected shall be given a copy of this plan. These others are to be notified of any particular discharge if they have so requested.

Burning for disease control, as we do with AFB hives is not a prohibited activity.

Provided these conditions remain in the final plan it is now up to those personally affected to ensure that they receive copies of the relevant annual plans.

Other branches are urged to watch for similar regional air plans to ensure they contain similar provisions for the protection of beekeepers.

**Ron Morison**

## Can anyone help

I am the Chairman of the 1996 Israeli conference on: "Bee Products: Properties, Applications and Apitherapy" (May 26-30, 1996). I am in a process of writing a book on Bees and Bee Products.

The book is going to be published in Hebrew.

If you have any story, experience, unique pictures etc. related to bees, hives and bee products you believe is worth to be included in the book, please send it to me (on a complementary basis) to my following address:

Prof. Avshalom Mizrahi

32 Gordon Street

Tel Aviv 63414

ISRAEL

Telephone: 972-3-5234030

Fax: 972-3-5241633

## Stop Press

With deep regret I wish to advise you all the passing of Norm Keane of Foxton on Thursday 9th November. Our deepest sympathies to his family. (Details to follow in the next issue.

Dear Sir

The Auckland branch of the National Beekeepers Association is putting the following to the Pest Management Strategy Committee:

1) That individual beekeepers can apply for an exemption from a course on American Foul Brood Disease Recognition and Destruction. We feel that a beekeeper's past history of disease and a random audit of some of his bees, honey and hives will be a much more accurate assessment of a beekeeper and his ability to control AFB than what any course will give.

2) We feel that the PMS review committee of eight people is too large and expensive. We also feel that the review committee should be made up of people outside the PMS Committee.

3) We feel that the cost of the DECA Scheme Maintenance (\$56,000 of a \$143,630 budget for the first year) is far too high. This is more than a third of its total cost. The use of standardised forms should reduce the anticipated two hours (at \$25/hour) of analysis of each commercial beekeepers DECA Scheme. Likewise for non-commercial beekeepers. The cost of \$39,200 out of a total of \$126,830 for years 2-5 also seems very high. A 30% reduction from year 1 seems very low. We also do not know where the cost of the Apiary Register will fit in.

4) We feel that branches as long as they agree to National guidelines should have as much input as they choose. They should be able to take on as much or as little as they feel they can, remembering that every branch is different and has a different set of problems. Any scheme will only work if members feel involved.

The Auckland Branch is for having a Pest Management Strategy but feels that for the good of the industry, the viability of any scheme, both financially and effectively, is of the utmost importance.

*Yours faithfully*  
**BJ Alexander**  
President  
Auckland Branch



The Editor

Dear Sir

When the Commodity Levy Legislation was proposed it was compulsory to have a vote to introduce a levy. A compulsory levy that was to cover three areas:

1. Administration
2. Marketing
3. Pest Management

This change had been imposed by Government.

A major reason for that vote was to see whether we agreed with the PMS as it was presented. Because of a delay in bureaucracy we are now being told by PMS committee and Executive that we are going to proceed with the start of the PMS without a vote.

The industry ever since the beginning of the talk about Commodity Levy and Biosecurity bills has always specified we would have a democratic right to vote on what the industry wanted.

I feel it is very important that the members be given a say as to what they want before PMS is put into place and not after it is implemented. I am not saying we should not have PMS, I am saying we were promised we would be given the opportunity to vote on it.

The PMS Committee and the executive are saying that on a poll vote at conference, 81% agreed to proceed. That was under 1000 votes of a total pool of approximately 2500 votes and not including the new beekeepers which will come on board when the commodity levy bill comes into place.



**G.Cammell**  
Auckland

## OOPS!!!!

Yes we got the magazine cover wrong. Thanks to all those people who phoned and faxed. Some even suggested for the Northern hemisphere people it would be around the right way for them!! So our apologies.



# Letters to the Editor

The Biosecurity Act does not require a referendum to create a Pest Management Strategy. It is possible to raise a levy to fund a PMS using this Act, but still no referendum is involved.

The Commodity Levies Act does require a referendum before a levy order is created. The levy order sought by the NBA using the Commodity Levies Act will be preceded by a ballot of the potential levy payers.

If that vote does not indicate support (by both beekeepers and by number of apiaries), the NBA will not have a means to raise the money to pay for the PMS. Without funding, the PMS could not be implemented.

The PMS proposed by the NBA will affect all beekeepers, not just those who are present or future levy payers, so it is important that you send your comments on the PMS discussion document to the Executive Secretary by the 20th of November.

If you want a copy, call now on 06-878-5385

**EDITOR**

Letter from the Editor

As I relinquish the Editorship of the *New Zealand Bee Keeper* after 20 issues and after having spent great deal of time having to justify what we did and have done over the past two years I felt that it was necessary to reiterate what my brief and belief was.

I have never believed that we were producing "just" a magazine or journal. What we have endeavoured to produce was an up to date communication medium or vehicle **for all the many stakeholders of the Beekeeping industry**. Not for just one small, or even large sector, but for all stakeholders, the over 1000 persons who receive this.

All products and services must meet the expressed needs of their respective clients ... a magazine is no different, the same rules of marketing apply. Having Edited national magazines of over 13,000 per issue I know only too well that editors are never going to always meet "every" requirement of their customers.. we can never be all things to all people. Editors are also human and make mistakes.

From my view as a marketing and management consultant to national and local organisations I believe that the

Beekeeping industry does get a tremendous deal where for about \$2200 per issue the industry receives a communication medium that for the most part meets the needs of the stakeholders (assessed from those many people who have written or phoned in over two years).

I've got to say that there were and still are some who would want to run their own agenda and see their own newsletter printed and that has been a festering sore to me as I tried to negotiate the swamp.

A national organisation must have a national journal, not a newsletter, but a recognised journal. To do anything less would be to demean the industry to which you belong. And for just over \$2000 per issue you are receiving good value.

Finally, many thanks to those who have contributed to "the industry's journal" over the past two years, your contributions have been welcomed. Thanks to those who have "understood" the major difficulties that we have had to confront and who have been supportive, that has been valued.

**Regards Ron Rowe**

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# BEE BOOST WITH QMP FOR BEE MANAGEMENT

## \* Hold queenless splits and nuclei

**BEE BOOST** can hold queenless units for several days. Bees will not drift away or build emergency queen cells and will continue to forage normally. Use **BEE BOOST** to prepare splits or nuclei in good weather, ahead of queen availability.

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## \* Temporary queen replacement

A hive will perform normally for several days with **BEE BOOST** as a temporary queen. Such problems as poor queen performance, queen supersedure, queens that produce bad tempered bees and queenlessness can be handled immediately.

Find and remove the queen or remove queen cells and place a **BEE BOOST** wick in each brood box. The hive will forage normally and the usual drifting from a queenless hive will be curtailed. When a queen is available the **BEE BOOST** wick is removed and a new queen introduced.

## \* Pollination in cages

**BEE BOOST** used instead of true queens, has proven successful in nuclei used for cage pollination. In the presence of **BEE BOOST**, worker bees continue to perform normally for as long as brood is present — approximately 10 to 14 days.

In the development of hybrid seed and plant breeding lines initial

crosses are made in screened cages to avoid contamination from undesirable pollen. The worker bees and queen are quite exhausted upon removal from the cages and of little future use. The use of **BEE BOOST** in place of a true queen reduces the beekeeper's costs.

## \* Stabilize disposable pollination units (dpu's)

**BEE BOOST** used instead of a true queen reduces the cost of DPU's. If brood is present, a DPU will forage as well as or better than a queenright hive, for up to 10 to 14 days. DPU's established in a disposable plastic or cardboard box with no comb or queen are unlikely to perform as well as a DPU with brood.

DPU's may have a place in situations where distances, access, quarantine restrictions, or other factors make it difficult to recover hives from pollination sites. To be economic there must be an abundant supply of bees and a high value crop with a generous pollination fee.

## \* Stimulate performance in small hives

Initial tests show that **BEE BOOST** stimulates hives newly established from package bees or nuclei. During the first two weeks, pollen collection has been shown to increase by 80% and brood production by 10%. **BEE BOOST** applied to large hives at other time has not been beneficial.

## \* Additional uses

There are undoubtedly many other speciality uses for **BEE BOOST** which have not been explored. We encourage beekeepers to discuss their ideas with us.

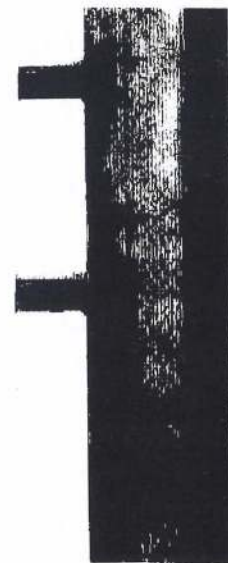
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# Stan Young

11.5.28 — 12.10.95

The Southern North Island Branch reports with sadness the sudden death of Stan Young at his home on 12 October 1995.

Stan lived all his life in the New Plymouth — Opunake district of Taranaki. Early in life Stan worked on the family dairy farm and later in a local dairy factory. In his youth Stan played rugby and it was during a spell in hospital following a scrum collapse that he met Joyce, then a nurse at New Plymouth hospital. Stan would joke that this was his 'One lucky Break!' Later, Stan's recreational interests turned to bowls and of course to his Lodge.

He came into beekeeping in his middle years when he bought the business of Cliff Leatherbarrow for whom he had worked part-time for some years. It was one of the last "12 frame outfits" in Taranaki and some of these man-sized boxes are still around.

Stan was a steadfast supporter of the branch rarely missing a meeting in spite of three hours travelling each way to attend. He served for several years as Branch President and earlier this year Stan was made



a Branch Life Member in recognition of his services to the Branch. Stan also supported the wider industry, being a member of the New Zealand Queen-Bee Producers Association, the Honey Packers Association and was a founder participant in New Zealand Bee Genetic Improvement Group Limited. He served on the NBA National Executive 1987-89.

The bare facts rarely paint a full picture of the man, this is particularly the case with Stan. He was always cheerful and, with Joyce, welcomed many visitors to Oakura. He was always prepared to find time to talk about his bees, whether to small children or to community groups; he never lost his wonder at the ways of the bee or enthusiasm for his subject. He was known affectionately as 'Uncle Stanley' by younger beekeepers within the branch.

The industry has lost one of nature's gentlemen and we in the branch have lost a dear friend. To Joyce, Jenny, Ralph, Bran and their families we extend our deepest sympathy and support in their grief.

— Picture courtesy of Lindsays Wellington —

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# Library News

Received with thanks from Mr Murray Reid, something very different:

Yard Books (records) and a school book 1914 - 1918 (school book 1905) kept by Mr Tom Mannix who was a beekeeper at Waihou and sold his outfit later to Mr Ray Robinson. This is interesting beekeeping history.

## Bee Boost

(Phero Tech. Inc., Can)

Introduction of this product containing Q.M.R. (Queen

Mandibular Pheromone, synthetic). Has application as a temporary queen replacement, stabilizing nuclei, mating, pollination and even increased resistance against wasp attacks. Ecroyd Beekeeping Supplies is the agent for New Zealand. We understand that some Hawke's Bay beekeepers have been using this product and are sure that a report on its value will appear in this magazine sooner or later. It certainly sounds very interesting.

The librarian and his Mrs have moved about 7km further south from Milburn to 3 Jura Street, Milton. The library will follow shortly, anyone wanting to have a look at the collection is most welcome. The mailing address for library material is the same as before and so is our phone number. See first page of this magazine.



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## Bees react angrily to TV Reporter's hair gel

A TV Reporter's hair gel apparently attracted a swarm of bees that stung him more than 30 times.

KVEW reporter Mychal Limric, 24, was doing a story on the science of beekeeping on June 20 when bees from a hive about 50 feet away suddenly darted toward his head, KVEW-TV News Director Tom Spencer said.

Camerawoman Dao Vu and bee-keeper Irv Pfeiffer tried to brush the bees off, then Pfeiffer slammed a protective hood over Limric's head — which also turned out to contain bees, Spencer said.

Limric took cover in a vehicle. He was treated at a hospital for more than 30 stings on the scalp and face, Spencer said. Limric wasn't expected to have any lasting ill effects.

Spencer said Limric's hair gel seemed the only logical catalyst for the attack, since the stings were mostly on his scalp. Vu and Pfeiffer, who weren't wearing any gel, were standing next to Limric but were not attacked. Spencer wasn't able to say exactly what was in the gel.

*Savannah Morning News June 21, 1995 From the Speedy Bee Volume 24*

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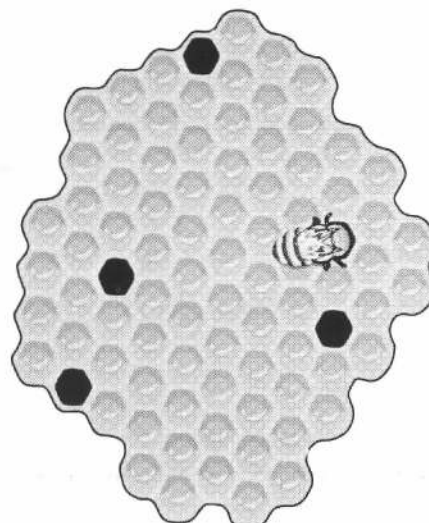
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# Honeycomb

## Happenings and Classifieds

Various headings will be used within this directory as required by advertisers and will include: Branch notices (*no cost*) — Used plant, situations vacant. 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 \$15 per comb, per issue.

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### Canterbury Branch Meeting

28 November

at the Merrivale Rugby Club

We would like to take this opportunity to remind members to include grid references on their hive returns to MAF. Failure to do this causes extra expense for Packers and Exporters for Export certification. These cost will in the future be passed on. SO please do your bit — help.

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# Making microwave ingredients user-friendly

*Honey helps unstick product development hang-ups. Kitty Kevin — Associate Editor*

Since the advent of microwave technology, product developers have been struggling to formulate microwave products that live up to consumer expectations.

But if the number of microwave products actually hitting the shelves is any indicator of success, food scientists are losing the struggle. "The Food Channel" newsletter reports the number of new microwavable food products as peaking in 1990 at 959. That total equalled nearly 10% of all new product introductions. Last year, microwaveable foods accounted for less than 3% of new products. And at least one reason for these underwhelming numbers is formulation, says Triveni P. Shukla, Ph.D, president of FRI Enterprises Inc., a food research consultancy in New Berlin, Wis. "One of the reasons microwave foods are not going anywhere is because we have understood what it takes to formulate them. We don't know the character of products, whether they are microwaveable or not," he says. "Many products have been taken and given microwaveable cooking instructions without really exploring their intrinsic capacity to be microwaved. Consequently, this has resulted in many failed products. There are no ingredient specifications as to microwaveability."

But that scenario is changing at least one ingredient: honey. A newly completed research project sponsored by the National Honey Board and conducted by FRI Enterprises explores the microwaveable properties of an ingredient - honey - and how it functions as an integral part of product formulations.

The research provides an actual road map of how honey functions in the microwave, giving food scientists specific guidelines and data for development, while aiming to reduce the trial-and-error process of development that has become the standard in creating microwave products. And it's an example of the type of research that's necessary to improve the quality and consumer satisfaction of microwaveable products.

## **SURFING THE (MICRO) WAVES**

"The whole science of microwave

cooking is fairly complicated," says Shukla. "It involves true mathematical formulas based on electric and magnetic properties."

Heating patterns in a microwave field are determined by geometry and the physical properties (density, thermal conductivity and specific heat) of a food. To see how honey will function in a microwave oven, first its dielectric properties must be examined. Heating rate and the extent of heating depend on a food's dielectric properties, including penetration depth, reflectivity, and concentration and temperature dependence of such properties.

The dielectric constant and the dielectric loss factor are two measures that need to be established. The dielectric constant is a ratio that indicates how much energy is concentrated into a food without being reflected away. It's also a measure of a material's ability to reflect microwave energy. If energy can't get into a food, it can't heat it.

The dielectric loss factor, on the other hand, tells us what fraction of the microwave in the food will really become heat. It is a measure of a material's ability to absorb energy to heat a product both by polarization and conductive effects.

The dielectric constant of honey is a lot lower than water. When a microwave hits water, it is reflected, so water doesn't allow as much transmission of a microwave as honey does. In fact, honey heats up twice as fast as water. Honey acts as a susceptor because of its complex composition. The presence of mixed sugars, phosphates, gluconic acid, delta-gluconolactate, metal salts and organic acids in honey makes it more reactive with good conductance effects. Honey is also more microwave reactive than high fructose corn syrups and sugar solutions because of the presence of ionic solutes or electrolytes.

Because honey is a microwave reactive ingredient with better water management ability than other sweeteners, its constituents immobilize water, promoting more even cooking. The higher the sugar and honey content in a formulation, the lower the dielectric constant. And the higher the microwave absorption, the higher the

dissipation rate, meaning that products designed with high honey/sugar solids will heat, cook or bake faster.

## **A TASTE OF HONEY**

One of the biggest drawbacks of microwave baking is that although products cook thoroughly in the microwave, they don't brown. Researchers found that honey could be used to overcome this shortfall. When heated in a microwave, honey becomes darker brown. Heated a little more, it becomes even darker. So by coating products with honey, the browning that was missing can now be achieved.

Honey-based coatings containing up to 5% glycerin promote browning reactions in meats and baked goods. The coatings can work as good surface heating films and high heating rates can be accomplished without the aid of any physical susceptors. Using honey as a coating on microwaveable baked products reduces the need for metallic susceptors, like the specially designed cardboard that is placed under microwaveable pizza.

Baked goods are a natural fit for formulation with honey because of the extensive use of sweeteners in and on them. On an equivalent sweetness basis, up to 40% sugar can be replaced with honey in any baked good formula.

Muffins, cookies and brownies are the most likely products for replacing sugar with honey. "In cookies and brownies, the amount of total sugar and sugar-like components is high," says Shukla. "So if you put 50-50 combination of sugar and honey in them, you can get the benefit of browning from the honey without changing the sensory profile." If the honey ratio were increased, the key functionalities of the sugar might be lost and then the taste profile would be altered.

For more information on the honey and microwaveable foods research, contact Triveni P. Shukla, FRI Enterprises Inc., 414-782-8228; The National Honey Board, c/- Thomas J. Payne Market Development, 0800-356-5941.

*Acknowledgement "Food Processing" December 1994.*





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Extra Heavy Brood	422 x 200	13.25	16	\$1.79	\$9.65
Thin Super Full Depth	422 x 200	26.5	12.5	\$2.99	\$10.53
Thin Super ¾ Depth	422 x 145	35	12.5	\$3.40	\$11.16
Thin Super ½ Depth Std	394 x 98	57-61	12.5	\$4.11	\$11.68
Thin Super ½ Depth	422 x 98	53-57	12.5	\$4.11	\$11.68
Thin Super ½ Depth 108	422 x 108	45	12.5	\$4.11	\$11.68

All prices GST exclusive. Cartons \$4.00 each. Cartons in good condition, complete with layers and dividers, net-returnable at \$3.00 each. Incomplete cartons without layers and dividers \$2.50 each. For less than carton lots 30% surcharge applies.

### **“Bio Gro” COMB FOUNDATION**

**we are New Zealand's only approved manufacturer of  
“Bio Gro” organic comb foundation.**

*contact us at*

**NEW ZEALAND BEESWAX LTD, Opuha Street, ORARI, South Canterbury.**

**Ph (03) 693-9189, Fax (03) 693-9780, A/H Peter Lyttle (03) 693-9080**

*or one of our agents*

#### **AUCKLAND AGENT**

The Bee Shop  
850 Dominion Road  
Mt Roskill  
Ph (09) 620-6551

#### **HAMILTON AGENT**

Phil Reed  
Tuhikarama Road  
Frankton  
Ph (07) 825-2632

#### **TAURANGA AGENT**

The Hive & Honey Centre  
298 Cameron Road  
Ph (07) 577-0481

#### **CHRISTCHURCH AGENT**

Ecroyd Beekeeping  
Supplies  
26B Sheffield Crescent  
Ph (03) 358-7498

## **BEESWAX WANTED**

We urgently require beeswax to fill an order and are buying anywhere in New Zealand.  
If you have 100kgs or more of any grade of wax for sale, please phone me  
Peter Lyttle, work (03) 693-9189, home (03) 693-9080.