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

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

Vice-President:
Terry Gavin, P.D.C., Titoki,
Private Bag, Whangarei.
Tel. (09) 433-1893
Fax (09) 433-1895

Executive:
Tony Tairaoa,
43 Princess Street, Waikari 8276,
Christchurch.
Tel/Fax (03) 314-4569

Don Bell,
Annat Apiaries,
Fraser's Road,
R.D., Canterbury.
Tel. (03) 318-3869

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

Executive Secretary:
Harry Brown
National Beekeepers Assn of NZ,
P.O. Box 3079, Napier.
Tel. (06) 843-3446, Fax (06) 843-4845
E-mail: natbeeknz@xtra.co.nz

Editor New Zealand Beekeeper:
Harry Brown
National Beekeepers Assn of NZ,
P.O. Box 3079, Napier.
Tel. (06) 843-3446, Fax (06) 843-4845
E-mail: natbeeknz@xtra.co.nz

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Bob Banks
Taupo Bay, Northland.
Tel: (09) 406-0692
Bruce Stevenson
Kemp Road, Kerikeri.
Tel: (09) 407-7190
Fax: (09) 407-7194

NORTHLAND

John Gavin
PDC, Titoki, Private Bag, Whangarei.
Tel/Fax: (09) 433-1893
Mrs Edna Hoole
Sheddock Apiaries, R.D.1., Paparoa,
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Brian Alexander
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Tel: (03) 464-3786 Fax (03) 464-3796
Bill McKnight,
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Tel: (03) 485-9268

NORTH OTAGO

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Shaun Lawlor,
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The New Zealand BeeKeeper is published eleven times per annum; February to December. All copy should be with the Editor by the 1st day of the month of publication except for December when copy should be received by 20th November.

Notes from the Executive

We wish to welcome all new members to our association. We hope that your beekeeping is made more enjoyable and more profitable by your membership. We certainly will appreciate your active support in our organisation, an organisation we are very proud of. An organisation which is being made even stronger by the inclusion of beekeepers with smaller hive holdings.

This is my first article as president of your association. Ten years ago who would have thought, including me, that I would become president of the National Beekeepers' Association. I thank everybody who has supported me over the years while I have been on the executive. I hope I can perform up to your expectations. I know I will sometimes fail, but rest assured that I will always be doing my best for the beekeeping industry of New Zealand.

A lot of you will not know me from a block of beeswax. I am 54 years of age, happily married for 30 years to my beautiful wife Annette and proud father of son Mark, daughter Tracey and grandfather to Miranda. I have worked beehives for 45 years during the weekends as a hobbyist beekeeper and I still get a thrill from seeing the nectar pouring into that super strong hive at the beginning of the honey flow, or even just sitting down listening to the humming of the bees working that first flowering wattle in the spring.

I am lucky I can carry on with my hobby during the week, the only difference being I have to be the leader of a team generating profit from beekeeping. I am a director and shareholder in Arataki Honey Ltd, a family business that farms 17,000 hives of bees, packs and markets honey, puts hives into crops for pollination, produces queen bees and exports live bees. We are also involved in many other facets of beekeeping.

My immediate area of responsibility is the Rotorua division of Arataki, from where we farm 12,000 hives of bees, pollinate kiwifruit orchards, raise queen bees for export and the New Zealand market, pack honey and export live bees. The developing of the live bee exports over the last 12 years has really been my big challenge in life, from researching the market in Canada and Korea, checking out aeroplane cooling systems, to designing new packaging systems, has all been very exciting work. Enough about myself.

The NBA executive is a team of people, all dedicated to see that you have the best environment possible to enjoy and make profit out of beekeeping. Some difficult executive decisions have been made

during the past six months. I am sure the new executive has the same integrity and fortitude to face the difficult issues in the future as it has in the past.

In the past this journal has had a monthly 'Notes from the President'. Now we have decided that you should hear from other executive members also. After all we are a team of people. Next month the vice-president of our association Mr Terry Gavin will be writing these notes. Terry is a very knowledgeable man on comb honey production, manuka honey production, queen breeding and in the last year or so in the development of the American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy.

Back to our new members again, a very important group of approximately 500 beekeepers. Most of you will be saying how can we help the NBA and ourselves? In one word - PARTICIPATION. Look at the inside cover of this journal for the address and phone numbers of your local branch. The secretary or president will be only too happy to let you know about the activities of the branch.

Some of you may be saying why did I have to become a member at all! It is really quite simple, user pays and we are still very fortunate we do not have to pay for everything. For example, border control for pests and diseases of bees. Do you want Varroa Mites, European Foulbrood, or Africanised honey bees in your hives? Somebody has to do the inspection work when planes or boats come into New Zealand (government) and somebody has to make sure the beekeeping in New Zealand is being adequately protected by the border controls (government and the NBA). Border Control is very, very important to NZ beekeeping. Another very important issue is the overall control of American Foulbrood in New Zealand. This has to be paid for by you, the beekeeper. Also for general administration of the NBA for such things as making sure you are able to keep bees in as many places in New Zealand as possible.

I believe New Zealand beekeeping has a tremendously exciting future ahead of it, particularly for those who make the effort to research and develop the various natural products that are produced in a beehive. Good luck to you all.

Annette tells me I love seemingly impossible challenges, naturally I agree! The latest one is to have all beekeepers of New Zealand as prosperous, participating, happy, fully paid-up members of this association, I will be working to this end.

Thank you.

Russell Berry

Welcome to the new President

Mr Russell Berry was nominated by Conference to the position of President of the National Beekeepers' Association.

Mr Terry Gavin was nominated to the position of Vice-President of the National Beekeepers' Association. (Contact details are on the inside cover of the magazine).

A very special thanks must go to Mr Nick Wallingford and Mr Richard Bensemann who did not stand this year, for their incredible efforts for the Association over a number of years. They will be a very hard act to follow.

As a new person to your industry I am staggered at the amount of time your Executive put in to this Association for no cost to the beekeepers.

Ed.

National Beekeepers' Association Committees

All Committees are reappointed at the September Executive Meeting (2nd and 3rd of September).

Are you interested in working on a committee?

Names to Executive Secretary by the 24th of August, contact details on the inside front cover.

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Front cover...

1997 Conference delegates posing for the camera in sunny Nelson.

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Letters to the Editor

If you write a letter to the Editor, or have an article you want printed as an article, can you clearly mark it as such. *Thanks, Ed*

I can sympathise with Neil Farrer as he and many other beekeepers were happily enjoying a hobby that provides enjoyment, as well as a financial return with very little input by Government. Well that's not quite right as they used to provide a full range of services to beekeeping through MAF but now a lot has fallen on to the National Association with the introduction of user-pays.

True hobbyists have only a couple of hives and remain at that number all their lives. But those of us who see a future in the industry or a chance to get your investment back, gradually increase our hive numbers.

There was a remit to our conference more than 10 years ago to reduce the number of hives down from 50 to reflect where true commercial beekeeping starts. Those with more than a few hives, produce honey for sale/barter etc, and received benefits from the industry through increased prices, health status etc.

Twenty hives is well over the limit of what I'd call a hobbyist beekeeper and yes there are seasons where hives only produce a few frames of excess honey. However we must take the good with the bad and put some away for the bad seasons.

If we look at the national average, production from a hive should be approx 25kg, therefore Mr Farrer's hives should be averaging 500kg. Some of our Wellington hobbyists produce between 50 and 100kgs per hive with good management.

If you're not producing the national average, you need help and that's where the National Beekeepers Association can help through their branches. The association is run on a shoe string budget and stands amongst other things, for "Better Beekeeping - Better Marketing".

Frank Lindsay

Dear Mr Brown

The letter to the editor published in the July issue, Vol. 4 No. 6, from Mr R N Farrer is beyond belief.

I am not about to criticise the author's very dubious and naive accounting practices, but it is a menace to have in our midst a person of Mr Farrer's extreme entomological ignorance.

"The disease risk is greater for those who are beekeepers for commercial gain "but most foolish of all is; ". . . the spread of any disease is through the beekeeper going from hive to hive. . . ."

The association will never succeed in levy extraction from such people, for it is in their hearts to see it only as a tax. The

final step is to publish Mr Farrer's address, so that it might be certain that his hives are inspected and that all beekeepers within flight range of Mr Farrer's apiary may elect to remove their hives.

James Bissland
(NZ's Southern-most Beekeeper)

Sir

Thank you for publishing the letter of R.N. (Neil) Farrer in your July issue. I too am a "hobby" beekeeper, but I beg to differ from Mr Farrer's opinions. I had started to reduce my hive numbers because of increasing age and other commitments on my time, and it is the legal/technical ramifications of the PMS which may hasten downsizing my operation, not the fee. If a beekeeper with between 30-50 hives cannot cover expenses and pay the levy, then he should consider another hobby.

I thank you for your glossy magazine, which itself must be worth at least half my levy fee of \$94.

Mr Farrer believes it is up to the government to ensure that no further diseases are introduced. But the rest of his letter indicates that he is an individualist, a supporter of the new deregulated environment. He, and others of his opinion, should realise that deregulation means that the government has got out of the business of governing. I was worried when the repeal of the Apiaries Act was announced that there would no longer be any control over the worst bee disease at present in New Zealand. The NBA is to be heartily congratulated for shouldering a responsibility that the government has abdicated.

The government has not been persuaded that a healthy bee population is essential in the national interest, not just for the personal profit of beekeepers. Previously the taxpayer supported bee disease control. Now the bean-counters in Treasury cannot put a dollar price on the benefit of bees to all New Zealand, so the beekeepers, as the nearest people to the problem, will have to pay the cost. I will pay my fee, and with my experience will sit the test to have my own DECA so I don't have to pay someone to inspect my hives.

Mr Farrer should get a copy of the PMS document, if he has not already done so. Much of it may appear to him to be "useless information" simply because it repeats great chunks of the Apiaries Act. Why? Because the NBA has boldly said that it will take over the job the Ministry of Agriculture used to do, and do it better than they have done over the past 900 years. I support the NBA in this, and I

pray that the number of beekeepers who share Mr Farrer's views will not hinder them.

I do have some minor quibbles with details of the PMS. I shall be writing to the Minister of Agriculture, John Luxton about these, and I invite Mr Farrer also to write to him expressing his opposition.

And I have a big thank you to Dr Mark Goodwin of Ruakura for Appendix 1 to the PMS. This is the best concise lucid clinical description of American foulbrood that I have ever seen.

Peter Kerr

Dear Sir

I have recently received from you an 'Annual Commodity Invoice' for 1997.

I would like to protest if I may regarding this levy. I consider that I am being charged retrospectively for having hobby beehives without being warned in advance that the number of beehives I have was suddenly considered enough to make me a commercial beekeeper. I considered myself a hobby beekeeper and would have appreciated the opportunity of choosing for the following season whether to downsize to fit your new criteria, and remain a 'hobby beekeeper' or register as a 'commercial beekeeper'.

I may be incorrect but it seems that I am being charged for the number of hives I had on 1 June 1996. I am happy for you to start charging me from a reasonable time in the future, say from my next declaration.

I do not wish to receive information about bee meetings or conferences in various places, or the issues to be voted on or discussed. Nor do I need to receive 'The New Zealand BeeKeeper'. I am not concerned about the beekeeping industry or what the beekeeping industry is doing. I am not affected if honey prices go down or sideways. I am concerned about having happy bees, not getting AFB and having enough hives to provide plenty of honey for my family in a terrible year. I make no attempt to obtain maximum yields from my hives. Be nice to the bees.

If it helps any, in 1996 I registered I think 16 hives, 13 were mine, 2 belonged to one son, and one to another. Now I have 10, one son has 3, the other son has 1. My sons are aged 15 and 13. My intention is to reduce my hive numbers and encourage the boys to build up their hive numbers. If you can register us separately, that would also solve the problem.

I thank you for your time and look forward to your reply.

Astley Paddison

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir

I am a beekeeper in my country. I love my work very much.

This year I intend to have a visit to your beautiful country for a few months, and I would like very much to work in one of your beehouses for a while.

Can you direct me and send me some information on how can it be done? (like addresses and beekeepers in your country). I will be very, very grateful.

With many thanks.

**Gruber-Rykmans Dona
Hagesher St. 23
Hod Hasharon
Israel
Fax: 00 972 97406567**

Dear Sir

Last year Ian Berry wrote an invaluable article on the treatment of AFB hives.

As I had found a couple I followed his advice and grabbed the bottom of the nearest redhead, after which I burnt the infected hives. As a result of these actions I'm pleased to announce the arrival of a potential labour unit (though at 7lb 3oz it may be several years before he can shift

hives into pollination), along with a reduction in foulbrood in the area.

Thank you Ian for your advice, wishing you all a good year.

Shaun Cranfield

Dear Editor

Mr Gavin did an excellent job of outlining the position of the NBA on the matter of AFB, (NZB, May '97, p3). However, I'm a little concerned that the wrong impression may have been given in respect of the controls used in Australia for the dreaded AFB.

In ALL the mainland states there is a policy of BURN and a strict policy of NO ANTIBIOTICS for AFB. Gamma irradiation is sometimes used for sterilising re-usable hive material.

Unfortunately we had to resort to the use of antibiotics for EFB control and there is no doubt that this has been a complicating factor in AFB control. It is even alleged, with some supporting evidence, that for some years a rise in the incidence of AFB has been attributable to this problem.

However, in recent years the incidence of EFB has dropped markedly and so has

the use of antibiotics. A few beekeepers rarely have to use more than one dose on affected hives each season, most use none at all. AFB incidence is also falling, although I believe more slowly and there appears to be other factors than antibiotics at work in this area.

On the other hand antibiotics have been used for many years to control AFB in the island state of Tasmania. They have a peculiar situation down there related to seasonal activity which encourages antibiotic usage although it is looked at rather sceptically by mainlanders.

While I'm on the subject of AFB, full marks to Gerard Martin for his letter in June NZB. This guy is really on the right track - I know because I spent 38 very frustrating years trying the other method - helping beekeepers get rid of their AFB, often without their help when they should have been tossed onto their own two feet and told to get rid of it themselves in their own interests and for their own gratification.

Kind regards

**R B Gulliford,
Editor**

The Australian Beekeeper

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir

A Reply to RN (Neil) Farrer

Firstly, I am writing to reply off my own bat - no one has asked me to do it. I am doing it because you deserve an answer and as a commercial beekeeper I need the co-operation of people like yourself to protect my hives from disease. I will try to answer your concerns one by one.

Under the old hive levy act it was very difficult to tell if someone was cheating but the levy was enforceable by law. The only "honesty basis" was that it was difficult to enforce as we had no official register available to get hive numbers from.

All hives have always had to be registered. It is a requirement of law, fully supported by the NBA but not a part of the NBA's functions. The hive register is run by MAF.

The question of the number of hives on which a levy is payable came up for a lot of discussion - now I am talking off the top of my head here, but I would say from experience that the three sites rule was put in because time spent on inspecting beehives is directly related to how many places you have to go to inspect them. The ten hive rule would, I assume, have been put in because running ten hives should put you into the category when the tax department starts taking an interest in you, i.e. the average person would take off more profit by way of honey than their costs. Hive levy is of course a tax deductible item.

As an example, I include my figures for the tax payable profit on 56 hives in the three years 92 - 93 to 94 - 95.

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94 - 95	=	-\$1745.31

94 - 95 was the worst year I have ever had in over twenty years and the only time I have ever made a loss on my hives. The following year was the best I have ever seen but I do not have separate figures for it. I should point out that part of the purpose of our magazine is to teach people the skills needed to gather the amount of honey this profit represents.

I presume you have been sent a copy of the Pest Management Strategy (PMS) and our balance sheet. I hope that they help you understand the reasoning behind this move.

As a member of the NBA, albeit reluctantly, you do of course have a vote which gives you a chance to exercise your democratic right within our organisation.

The disease risk varies from area to area but the crucial factor is the beekeeper's

commitment to eliminating AFB and their ability to identify AFB early and consistently. As a general rule, commercial beekeepers may well be more at risk of an initial infection but they are also better at spotting it. I have found one hive infected with AFB out of the 2,000 hives my brother and I run in the two years since we took them over. Other beekeepers in our area (Hawkes Bay) have had literally hundreds of hives burnt over the last ten years.

Some years back in Otane, a small local community, we suffered an outbreak of AFB. We lost a number of hives, reported it to MAF and then helped MAF check all the hives in that area. Virtually all hobbyist hives had to be destroyed over the next couple of years because they were infected. It is now safe to keep bees there again but without the NBA PMS a similar outbreak now would be more likely and harder to contain.

Without an effective pest management strategy we would be back to the bad old days of rampant AFB and they were very bad indeed. I can assure you that the hive levy is cheaper than the alternative.

All this and the glossy magazine costs money, in reality everyone with even one hive should be paying a levy, but the inequity and practicalities would be too great. You have to pay the hive levy because if you don't you will end up in court. If shown to be breaking the law you will lose but I would far rather that you and others like you paid it because you felt it was useful to yourselves to do so.

I personally spend a day each year in our local area doing what we call a "diseasathon"- going around with two or three hobbyists checking mainly hobbyist beehives for AFB and teaching the hobbyists with me, and those whose hives we are checking, many things which they find interesting and/or useful - which they would not otherwise have been able to find out without working a large number of beehives. I and a number of others do this free of charge and provide our own vehicles also free of charge.

I do my little bit willingly so how about you doing yours. This money is needed to keep your bees safe from my bees and mine from yours and without the Beekeepers Magazine you would have had nowhere to complain to and I would have nowhere to give an explanation.

The NBA does of course do a lot more than disease control and prevention but the larger the number of hives you have the lower the disease conformity costs per hive the NBA faces - so although large beekeepers get more value from marketing, lobbying etc, the costs even

out. Hobbyists have been getting an awful lot of assistance from the NBA for years but a lot of it is stuff you would only know about if it had not been done - and hobbyists have been getting it for free.

Please Mr Farrer and other hobbyists out there who have been put in this unexpected and annoying to say the least position, please think about what I have written and then pay our (that is yours as well as mine) levy or else drop your hive numbers to what the law (at the NBA's instigation, but after much thought and consultation) regards as a true amateur level.

Peter Berry

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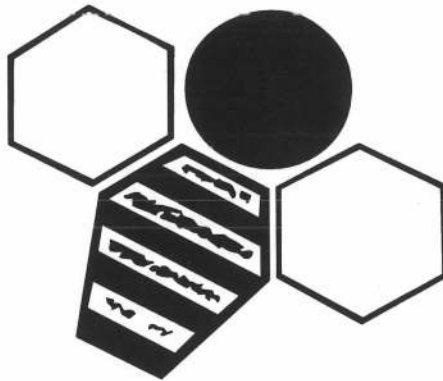
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President's Report — 1997 Annual Meeting

Those of you have either heard or read the last two President's Reports that I have delivered at the Annual Meeting will know that I have used a 'historical' theme. I have done this as a means of reminding us that many of our issues are not entirely new, and that there are things we *can* learn from the past. I will continue that approach for this, my third and final President's Report. I won't be going back *quite* so far into the history of the Association this time, but will confine the historical material to that of this city in which we are meeting.

While there have been annual conferences of the NBA going back to the early years of the century, it wasn't until 1961 that such a meeting was held in Nelson.

Let's put that time into context. Billy Bray, Peter Bray's grandfather, had just recently been asked by the Executive to write a history of the beekeeping industry.

Vince Cook, had just become an apiary instructor at Oamaru.

Beekeepers were busy discussing an "Apiaries Registration Fee" — they didn't call it a Commodity Levy back then. The Department of Agriculture didn't want this registration to jeopardise disease control and insisted that such a scheme must have the general support of producers.

At meetings such as the North Otago Field Day, NBA members would gather to discuss the future of the industry in much the same way as today.

The Executive, just prior to Conference, agreed that the annual Dominion Conference should be opened with a prayer, and a suitable form of prayer was adopted — as near as I can tell, in the same form you heard it earlier today.

Dudley Lorimer, Tony's father, stood for election to the Honey Marketing Authority.

Dudley Ward was advertising a motorised barrow — look carefully and you'll see young James Ward on the roof of the truck!

The Dominion Conference was run by President Jim Barber. His Annual Report began "Every year brings fresh problems. The past year has been no different. The only difference is in the problems themselves. This is what we tell ourselves year after year, but we err. Because there is one major problem which has been with us for years and has been steadily growing in size and importance."

The problem that he perceived was APATHY, and the need for beekeepers to become self-reliant and step out from under the umbrella of the Welfare State. I don't think there is a lot of that umbrella left, by the looks of education, health and the government-funded advisory service these days.

When I was reading the Conference notes, I was struck by a headline. "Farewell 'Foul Brood'." What? Did the industry decide to eliminate AFB all the way back then? Was the goal of our PMS attempted more than 35 years ago? As it turned out, the plan was less ambitious: The NBA of the day wanted to stop referring to the disease as 'American foulbrood' and call it 'Bacillus larvae'.

A frightening aspect to me as President was that this Conference had 46 remits for consideration!

Considerable discussion took place on the need for an appropriate means to fund the industry activities, in the form of a 'Hive Registration Fee'.

It was at this 1961 Conference that Mr C R Paterson was made a life member of the NBA. When accepting the honour, Roy Paterson claimed a record for the shortest term ever as a branch president, as the first President of the North Otago branch. He resigned 15 minutes later to take up the office of branch secretary! You'll hear more of Mr Roy Paterson later in this Conference.

Mr T L Cropp was President of the Nelson Branch during this 1961 Conference. By the next time we met in Nelson, 1973, his son Phillip Cropp was performing the same role!

Ivan Dickinson was NBA President for that conference.

The NBA at that time was going through yet another serious financial crisis. I don't know that we fully appreciate how fortunate we are to have the reserves that we currently enjoy, and the freedom for action that they provide to our Association.

Again, for the personalities of the day, you can see that there are a number of multi-generation beekeeping families. That conference involved Glassons, Berrys, Cloakes, Herrons and Haines — I believe that every one of those families is still represented at this conference.

Accommodation at the newly opened Rutherford Hotel was \$17.50 for a twin room. There was a new apicultural advisor for Southland — Trevor Bryant.

Murray Reid was also working as an advisory officer, not that long in the job.

The NBA was working to a new set of rules for 1973, and a number of the remits reflected the uncertainty of their meanings. Otago called for one man one vote, saying that voting on hive holdings wasn't really representative. The remit was not carried. There were 51 remits to conference that year!

Just four months after conference, a letter from an American hobbyist appeared in the NZ Beekeeper magazine, seeking employment in the industry. That was my introduction to NZ beekeeping.

That brings us up to the last conference held in Nelson, in 1983. By that time, I had taken up a new job at the Bay of Plenty Community College.

Paul Marshall presented the first report from the newly formed Apicultural Unit at Telford, and we continue with that tradition at this conference with a report from David Woodward, newly appointed to a similar position at Telford.

Tony Clissold did not seek re-election at the conference, being followed by Ian Berry.

Mike Stuckey nominated "A young man I think has a contribution to make and who will go far in the industry, Allen McCaw" to the position of Vice-President. He joined Tony Lorimer on the Executive.

The gavel still used by the NBA was presented by the final HMA chairman, Ivan Dickinson. It had been presented previously to Russell Poole by the Honey marketing Authority staff.

And once again, we find ourselves in Nelson. While many of the problems have changed considerably, they have a basic similarity. Two themes that emerge are the control of AFB and the funding of the Association.

Since delivering my last President's Address, major changes have occurred in both of these areas.

Pest Management Strategy

The NBA has continued the tortuous process of doing what is necessary to maintain the disease control programme we require. AFB was first regulated in 1906. If no Pest Management Strategy is in place by October 1998, little more than one year from now, AFB will be, effectively, deregulated.

You will hear later in conference that the PMS has been notified by the Associate Minister of Agriculture. The Disease Control Committee is continuing with the work required to ensure the effective implementation of the Strategy once it has been approved.

I believe the degree of consultation and communication to date

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AND SELECTED BEEKEEPING STOCKISTS

has allowed for any beekeeper to be kept fully informed. My views differ from some on the Executive - it was recently suggested we should send a fully copy of the PMS, 100 pages at a cost of approximately \$10 each, to all beekeepers with more than 50 hives. Simply spending money and chopping down trees will not lead to better understanding of the obligations and implications of the PMS. That can only come about through an interested and involved industry, recognising the responsibilities of the individuals to come to grips with the details of the strategy. I implore you all to do so.

Commodity Levies (Bee Products) Order 1996

The NBA has experienced a number of financial crises through its existence. During the periods of history I referred to earlier in my address, the Executive was obliged to write to branches asking that they forward the funds held by the branches for the use of the national organisation!

We are fortunate that we have financial reserves at the current time. They provide the 'backstop' that can allow the NBA the freedom to plan and operate without the constant worry of budget and cashflow restrictions.

With the promulgation of the Commodity Levies (Bee Products) Order 1996, the NBA has retained a degree of financial security.

Some say that if the NBA were providing the services to members appropriately, there would be no need for a compulsory levy system. While laudable in theory, I do not believe that ideal could apply to an industry as small as our own. As well, the fact that non-contributors would still be able to obtain much of the information and advantage that the Association provides would ensure ill-feeling and ultimately further reductions in contribution.

The levy as currently implemented is not ideal, by any means. The industry discussed the need for a levy system for fully 10 years, going back as far as the 1986 Conference held in Rotorua.

Over that time, a variety of ideas and approaches were investigated. Without going into the detail, I would remind you that ten years of Conferences and ten years of your National Executive members have worked to arrive at the system we have arrived at.

I recognise that some beekeepers are faced with a considerable increase in levy payable. I would also state some beekeepers have had their levy reduced. The total levy to be collected was designed to be the same as that collected by the Hive Levy.

Now that the NBA has obtained information contained in the Apiary Register (after the use of solicitors, Office of the Ombudsman and involvement of the Privacy Commissioner) we are confident that the amount potentially collectable exceeds budget to a small degree.

The challenge to the Executive, however, is to actually collect the levy due. The current levy collection, contrary to the expectations of some members of the Executive, is currently projected to produce a \$65,000 reduction in income expectation. When combined with the \$30,000 deficit budget that the Association is operating, this should be sending up all sorts of warning flags about financial controls and accountability!

Closing remarks

Having the support and confidence of this industry has been essential to me as your President for these last three years. I have received considerable personal satisfaction while doing the job, and I appreciate the opportunity to do so.

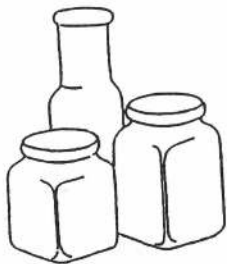
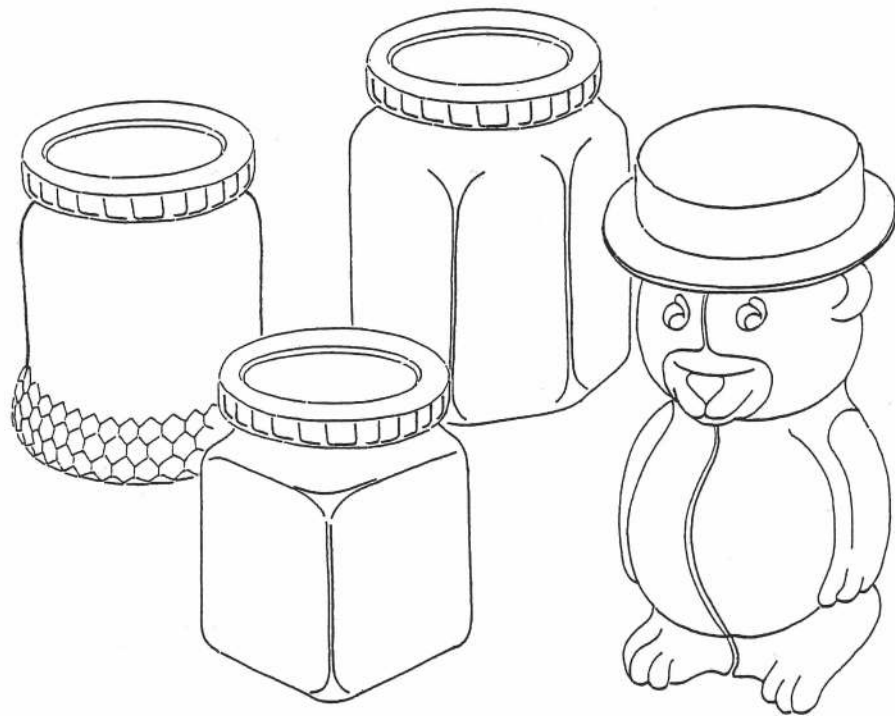
I will not be accepting nomination when the election for President is held tomorrow. You may well be aware of the tensions that have existed over the last few months within the Executive.

I would like to hope that the skills I do have to offer the beekeeping industry may be able to be appropriately utilised at some point in the future.

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Conference 97 a huge success ...

I know that Nelson Branch was only able to muster up a small organising committee but what a great job they did the Conference had a relaxed and enjoyable but still businesslike air about it that is the hall-mark of a successful event. Well done!

Marketing featured on the Conference 'menu' a number of times and the Marketing Committee appreciated the chance to explain our activities in detail to delegates.

The Inaugural NZ Honey Tasting Championships

For the last four years we've propounded the similarities between the honey and wine industries. And this year we took that one stage further by taking a leaf out of the wine industry's promotional strategies and holding a honeytasting competition. We divided delegates into teams (by NBA Branch); 12 teams in all. Teams were then given five honeys (in sealed containers) and during (what I hope was) an enjoyable hour the teams sniffed and tasted the honeys and answered multi-choice questions ... after teams had decided on their answer and had it scored I gave the correct answer so that it could be used as the basis for the next question. That way we could build up the identity of the honey and end up with a good chance of teams not only identifying the variety... but whether it was North or South island and what pollen percentage the dominant nectar source represented.



Bill Floyd

What impressed me was how good the teams were ... there was 18 questions in all. The winning team got 14 correct 2nd equal 13, 4th equal 12. So there was only two points difference between the top five Branches!

The Champion team was Canterbury. The team was: Peter Bray (Captain); Don and Gwynn Bell; Claudine and Richard Bensemann; Trevor Corbett; Allan Hill, Gavin White. And they were feeling pretty pleased with themselves... and so they should! The honeys were a Northland Manuka, an Otago Clover/Noddingthistle blend, a Southland Kamahi, a Rewarewa/Tawari blend, and a Solomon Island bush honey yes, that last one had them guessing ... I was accused of substituting maltexo for honey in the jars!

And the other placings? A composite team of Northland, Far North and Poverty Bay took second equal with Southland and Hawkes Bay and Mid Canterbury took 4th equal.

Good fun and we've been asked to make it an annual event. I've even had a national supplier company offer to sponsor a handsome trophy for it... more details once all confirmed.

I won't mention the name of the beekeeper who didn't recognise his own honey ... because he might get picked on by everyone ... he did come into the competition hall late and maybe was getting his breath back as he tasted the honey... pity...Southland was soooooo close!

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the world is ready for a honey beer

immediately after the Honey Tasting Competition delegates enjoyed tasting a medley of honey-based alcoholic drinks.... there is certainly a window of opportunity for someone to help people develop recipes for homebrew mead making some of the homebrew samples had you clawing at the back of your throat and a honeybased sherry type port-like drink that was very old (as in decades) was an absolute waste on me (but would have been great for stripping the barnacles off my boat anchor though!)BUT.... main attraction (for me) was the honey beer except that my homebrewer friend had the froth up a bit and we had to hold it over to the next night ... when it performed superbly!!!! I think everyone at Conference tried it and what a beautiful flavour.... definitely honey... definitely sweet ... but a rounded mouthful and a crisp, clean and fresh aftertaste. I'm off now hawking the concept to all the breweries to excite one of them to adopt it as a new product.

and the honey industry now has it's own Chef-Consultant....

in previous years we've held cooking demonstrations as part of Conference... but the delegates themselves have not been part of them ... and only ever got to see the Presentations to the winners, and provide the applause ... so this year we changed the format ... and Chef-tutor Dennis Taylor did a demonstration in front of the delegates... and it was incredible! I left it to Dennis to decide what he would do and he chose to create a presentation around a honey-dessert theme. The resulting dish: a medley of natural honey-based icecreams, honeycomb biscuit, mead and saffron sauce and spun honey decoration, was simply superb.

(And the recipes will be in a future Beekeeper magazine! The more technical amongst you would have been intrigued with how Dennis made his own)

To be able to use substantial quantities of honey in any dish is

not easy: but Dennis's medley used eight different honeys in four different elements within the one dish. It was quite brilliant and required considerable creative and technical skills. The end result is that we, as an industry now have this delicious and visually superb cuisine 'icon' to use in general promotion.

The NZ Honey Industry has asked Dennis if he would accept the appointment of 'Consultant-Chef to the NZ Honey Industry'; he's agreed.... and you can expect more creative excellence from Dennis with honey.

And please note, honey brands, Dennis could be available to develop dishes and products for your own promotional strategies.

Dennis is a chef tutor at Christchurch Polytechnic ... and before that was a chef at Park Royal Christchurch. He was trained in the RNZ Army and has been based in both Singapore and Scott Base; has worked on food exhibitions for trade missions to Japan and was a chef for the Heads of Govt Meeting at Tuvaalu. Plus, with his work for the Marketing Committee over the last three years, he has a great background knowledge and appreciation of NZ honeys that you can capitalise on.

One of the highlights of Conference, for me, was to see delegates arguing passionately over which honey made the best icecream.... Dennis used Rewarewa, Tawari, NoddingThistle, Manuka, Thyme, Honeydew, Rata and Kamahi to create the eight different flavours. My favourite was Rata, or was it Noddingthistle, no...I'm sure it was Tawarialthough Kamahi was great too like trying to pick your favourite beer, when you like them all! What I do know is that the differences in flavours was HUGE .. there is no other word for it and boy, did people enjoy trying to decide.

those manuka standards

I presented a paper on manuka standards to the Packers Assoc meeting at Conference. Note that although it's the beekeepers who need Standards (to stop some packers selling 'pretend

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manuka' and undercutting the price unfairly) it's the Packers who have to agree to it and use it.

Some good constructive criticisms from the Packers meeting .. they are being addressed now .. an update in next month's Beekeeper....

Has the investment in 'marketing' paid off for NZ beekeepers.....

Set out in this month's Beekeeper are the latest supermarket scan data Statistics... the Marketing Committee purchases these from a company called Nielsen NZ Ltd.

When you buy any product from a supermarket they scan the bar code on the product to add up the costs. That applies to every single item including every jar and pack of honey. The information is sold by the supermarket to Nielsen, who in turn sells it to companies who want information to help make business decisions..... and so your own Marketing organisation, the NZ Honey Advisory Service is able to know how sales of every brand in supermarkets is performing ... each year we'll summarise that and present it to Conference, and then publish in the Beekeeper. Although we know how every individual packer is performing we won't give out that information ... instead we produce it in general terms and show trends and the trends are excellent! NZ'ers are buying more honey... more different types of honey...and paying more for it! NZ's mono-floral honey strategies are working!

Of course, that doesn't mean that beekeepers are automatically getting more for their honey. But it means that somewhere between the producer and the consumer the price has gone up.... and it's up to the individual beekeeper to negotiate with his or her own buyers as to what is the beekeepers fair share of that increase.

and my favourite honey this month?....

I actually tasted it last month came in some comb samples from the West Coast (Sth Isl).

More-ish and with a Kamahi-type butteriness, hints of mushroom and that kerosene-type flavour that you associate with a superb aged riesling wine..... but there was also a flavour I'd never come across before and then I remembered the flavour of dried Ronicre cherries (from my brother's orchard). A complex set of flavours beautiful honey and from Paul Jeffery at Kawatiri Honey and his Buller Gorge site: Cyathodes Fasciculata.

On the subject of which!!!! Sandee is looking for samples again.... please help us to help you ... we need samples of honey for the research work at Waikato ... you wouldn't believe how hard it is to extract honey from you lot as a beekeeping industry. (I might have to see if Ecroyd's have an industry size pricker that we can run across both Islands and free the samples up.)

Honey Innovation Awards Choose Four Gold Medallists....

In next month's Beekeeper I'll profile the four winners from this year's Awards. There is some incredible work being done with using NZ honeys in foods and beverages, cosmetics and toiletries, and now medicinal products we look at our winners next month! And we look at NZ's most innovative and creative brand marketer bear with me until next month for the details (...and did you realise that's how they pronounce their own brandname?....)

And that's all for now ...

Except to congratulate the new President on his election ... you produce some nice Kamahi Russell but sorry, even though you're President now, I still have to say it'll never match Keith Herron's! (.... and sorry you were late getting to the tasting Keith!)

Regards

Bill Floyd
Marketing Committee



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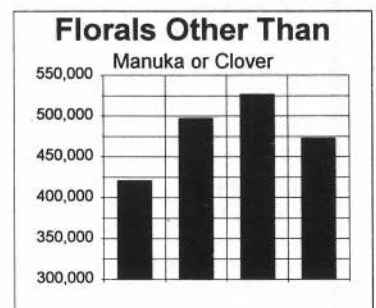
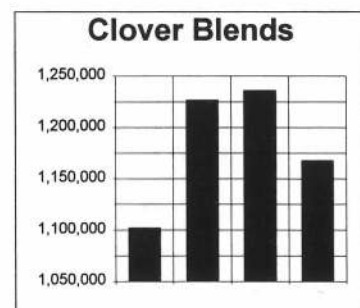
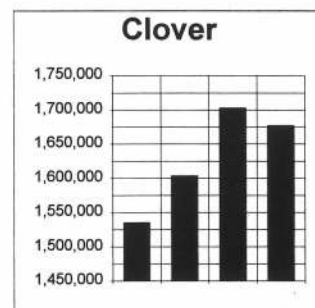
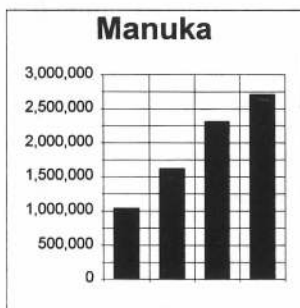
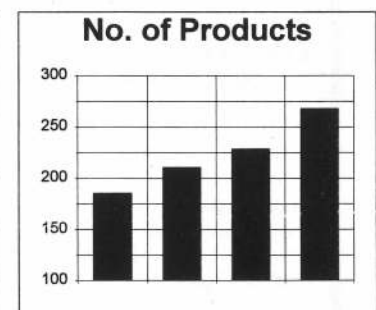
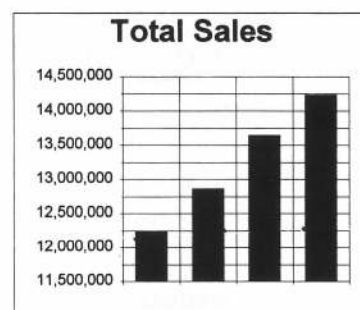
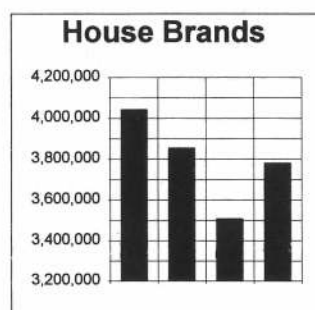
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Honey Retail Sales - Key Markets

	1993	1994	1995	1996
Total No. of Items	186	211	229	268
Branded Sales	\$8,193,856	\$9,010,774	\$10,138,634	\$10,449,700
Clover	\$1,535,598	\$1,603,432	\$1,703,084	\$1,677,316
Clover Blend	\$1,102,233	\$1,227,031	\$1,236,140	\$1,167,827
Manuka	\$1,041,629	\$1,623,876	\$2,312,085	\$2,713,834
Manuka Blend			\$4,183	\$19,924
Borage	\$8,775	\$9,471	\$9,414	\$13,252
Honeydew	\$608		\$6,480	\$33,387
Kamahi	\$18,192	\$24,167	\$28,557	\$31,185
Pohutukawa	\$99			\$722
Rata	\$84,507	\$101,436	\$108,416	\$98,898
Rewarewa	\$29,877	\$33,643	\$33,859	\$50,116
Tawari		\$969	\$3,059	\$13,284
Thistle	\$242,200	\$278,086	\$277,052	\$172,203
Vipers Bugloss	\$36,839	\$49,615	\$60,141	\$59,844
All Floral Excl. Clover & Manuka	\$421,096	\$497,387	\$526,978	\$472,891
Comb	\$59,079	\$71,798	\$67,900	\$96,603
Other	\$5,243	\$4,222	\$10,532	\$20,716
Controlled Label	\$4,043,589	\$3,855,484	\$3,509,664	\$3,781,850
Total Sales	\$12,237,445	\$12,866,257	\$13,648,298	\$14,231,550



Caution - Scaling of graphs may distort significance of trend.

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From the Colonies

Wairarapa Hobby Beekeepers Club

Peter and Nan Laing of Castlepoint hosted the bee club for their November meeting. Peter must have saved all the questions and problems for our day out there. Although only ten of us made the journey the hives we saw and the things we did would interest everyone with or without bees.

We left Masterton at 10am and the first stop was at Peter's son and daughter-in-law's where we enjoyed a cup of tea and a chin wag. Then down to the Tinui bee yard. Peter has a number of hives next to the old church, and with a quick look around, this place would be great for bees. The area had thistles, clover, manuka and many flowering trees but all this food is no use if you get the weather like the first two weeks of November - really strong gusty winds with near frosts at night. Pete's queen rearing doesn't seem to be going too good and it could be the weather that is the culprit. We checked all hives at the site and heavy feeding is necessary and some doubling up of weak and small hives is the best thing at this stage as time is marching on. No foul brood.

The next stop was a hive check on two hives at Forbrae - these hives have been on this property for about nine years and not looked after so Peter went in to get them. Considering they had to be levered apart they both looked in good condition and were just needing some good weather to get them up to strength. Nice place for bees, plenty of food at all times throughout the season.

Our tummies were screaming out for food by this time but one more hive to check said Peter. A stop between the two saddles we found this two storey hive hidden in the scrub. It was in pretty good shape with a good queen cell Peter wanted to transfer. Traffic Officer Victor backed us all out on to the road and off to Castlepoint for lunch. Peter and his good lady had lovely cooked fish, moki I believe, and paua fritters for us to eat with our sandwiches. Thanks heaps Peter.

After a bite to eat and cup of tea we were off to Mataikona Station. This is the home of Margaret and Alec Foreman and Peter has bees on this property. While some folk checked the bees, the others wandered through the garden. A most interesting and lovely garden for the bees and birds. A shining cuckoo let us know he was there and Alec told us of bell birds that nest near by. It was a good finish to our day out on the coast and thanks to the Foremans for allowing us to visit their place.

At this stage some folk took off for home but four of us stopped at Manukaroa to check Peter's two hives, both holding two

queen bees. These hives were doing all right but need warmer days with less wind.

A lot of information was given to us in one day. Perhaps a little too much to absorb but many tricks and ideas we could use. "Do's and Don'ts" show up when someone else tries them, ideas work well and at other times create other problems.

When settling your bees on site, look to bushes and plants and know what plants flower at what times of the year. In Peter's Manukaroa site, manuka and many native shrubs surround the area plus farm paddocks with clover and dandelions. We find many native bushes have late summer and autumn flowering but willows and English trees are early spring flowering and form catkins full of pollen, essential for bees.

We also found when feeding bees, dry sugar is better than nothing but, mixed syrup is easier to take up and use. The question arose when to cull foundation - as we found out at Peter's hives, very dark brown or black foundation was making egg finding difficult but eggs were easy to see in light coloured combs so recycle in a sun melter, melt those dark ones back into usable wax. You will ask, why do we need to find eggs. Well it is good to find a queen bee, but its better to know that she is laying. The bees that live at Mataikona Station have got it made. Their environment is the best you could find. Margaret Foreman grows all kinds of plants, flowering at all times of the year - great for bees but Margaret has bad reactions to bee stings so must be careful.

Thanks for your interest.

Benny the Beekeeper

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Why?

Recently we read that an amateur beekeeper, I think in the Hutt Valley was getting passers-by stung when he was removing honey. Then more recently the *NZ BeeKeeper* reported that a dog was stung to death.

Why do these things occur?

Do we take a perverse pleasure in tolerating really nasty bees? Perhaps we are starting to follow in the footsteps of some of our British friends.

A year or so ago, I was talking to a British couple on holiday here in New Zealand. They apparently had real man-eating bees and needed the real flash bee suits we are starting to see here, as well as good leather gloves.

What surprised me was that they seemed to think it quite normal and reasonable to tell the adjoining tennis club to stop playing games the days they wanted to look at their bees. Perhaps the tennis club had experienced the kamakasi bees in the past as it seemed to agree quite readily.

I get the impression that a number of New Zealand beekeepers have similar attitudes. And I don't mean just amateurs. I know a number of commercials believe that their nasty hybrid bees gather more honey than the quiet Italians. Perhaps they do, but I haven't seen any evidence that nasty mongrels do as well.

Anyway, assuming there is more honey, what a problem trying to remove it without getting everyone nearby as well as stock stung.

Perhaps we are spoilt as we seem to have lost our bee gloves and can usually take off honey in most conditions with the minimum of smoke, shaking the bees off the combs and usually don't need overalls. Makes life much more enjoyable in hot weather.

The only time there can be a problem is if robbing starts as then even quiet bees get nasty. However robbing can often be solved by removing honey late in the day when the bees are coming home, or when it is fairly cool.

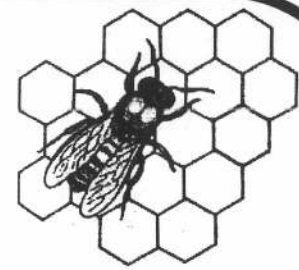
The trouble with having nasty bees, is that everyone assumes that all bees are the same, and we end up with restrictive council bylaws etc that make it difficult for everyone. If you take care with your stock, replace supersedures regularly etc, you should be able to safely put hives up driveways, alongside houses, school etc with no problem to anyone at all.

Anyway, perhaps a little thought about re-queening and management will present our industry in a better light as well as giving the individual enjoyment from his beekeeping.

Gary Jeffery



N Z BEESWAX LTD



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Foundation	Dimensions mm	Sheets per kg approx	Kg per carton	Prices per Kg	
				Conversion	Ex Stock
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Seven Sheet Special	422 x 200	15.5	16	\$2.10	\$10.76
Extra Heavy Brood	422 x 200	13.25	16	\$1.90	\$10.67
Thin Super Full Depth	422 x 200	25	15	\$3.20	\$11.70
Thin Super 3/4 Depth	422 x 145	35	15	\$3.60	\$11.82
Thin Super 1/2 Depth Std	394 x 98	55	15	\$4.25	\$13.02
Thin Super 1/2 Depth	422 x 98	50	15	\$4.25	\$13.02
Thin Super 1/2 Depth 108	422 x 108	45	12.5	\$4.25	\$13.02

All prices G.S.T. exclusive. On conversion only, cartons are charged at \$4.00 each. The Ex Stock price includes the carton. Returned cartons in good condition, complete with layers and dividers, net-returnable at \$3.00 each. Incomplete cartons without layers and dividers \$2.00 each. For less than carton lots of conversion 25% surcharge applies. For less than carton lots of ex stock 10% surcharge applies.

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South Canterbury			

For details of our closest agent to you, please contact us

BEEFAX

Vol. 2, No. 10



August 1997

AUSTRALIA REMOVES QUARANTINE

In the June edition of *BeeFax*, we suggested to readers that Australia was about to make a change to its policy regarding imports of New Zealand bee products. Now Dr. Jim Edwards of the MAF Regulatory Authority is able to advise us that on July 4 the Australian federal government removed the requirement for bee product exports to Eastern States of Australia to be heat-treated and tested for chalkbrood.

An import permit will **still be required** for the following apiary products: beeswax, honeycomb (including honey containing honeycomb) and pollen. Used beekeeping equipment is still prohibited under the Australian government's Quarantine Act 1908.

What this announcement means for New Zealand exporters is that honey (and products containing more than 1% of honey) may be imported into Australia (except Western Australia) without an import permit and without heat treatment or testing for chalkbrood. Additionally, imported propolis and royal jelly will no longer need to be accompanied by a manufacturer's declaration stating that the product contains less than 1% honey or pollen (w/w).

Commercial importers wishing to distribute honey or apiary products into Western Australia will need to contact the Chief Veterinary Officer, Agriculture Western Australia, 3 Baron-Hay Court, South Perth, WA 6151, phone 61-8-9368-3342; fax 8-367-6248.

Passengers arriving at ports in Australia will still be required to declare any honey or bee products that they have with them. Those arriving at ports outside of Western Australia will be advised of the restrictions regarding Western Australia.

Any honey or apiary products arriving at ports in Western Australia without the correct permits and certification will be placed under quarantine and either destroyed or subjected to appropriate laboratory examination at the importer's expense.

Dr. Edwards is continuing his attempts to negotiate free access to Australia (Eastern States) for our comb honey.

- Ted Roberts, Apiculture Export Certification Manager

NEW APIARY DATABASE

Over the last 9 months, MAF Quality Management has been installing a new Apiary Register database. The old system, which has served us well, was first developed about 15 years ago in a DOS (non-Windows) based program called Kman. The old Apiary Register was maintained in 7 separate databases throughout the country, in each Apiary Registrar's office, and essentially ran on stand alone computers with single user access.

The new database uses a Windows environment (ie, it has buttons, and pull-down menus, and allows the use of a mouse). It is also stored at a central location, with access from all apiary registrars' offices. While Registrars in individual Apiary Districts are still the ones that input and update apiary information for that district, these same Registrars (and AAO's) can look at apiary information for any beekeeper, anywhere in the country.

The new database system is made up of three parts:-

- **The Database** - this is where the information is stored. (For those of you who are into computers, the system uses a relational database, running on Microsoft SQL Server™). The data for the whole country is stored on a file server in Wellington. This means we all have "read access" to the data for the entire country, allowing all AAO's to search for information and run reports for any Apiary District. However, as I mentioned above, apiary information can only be updated by the Registrar legally responsible under the Apiaries Act for maintaining the Apiary Register in the Apiary District where the apiary is located.

- **The Front End** - In our individual district offices, AAO's and Registrars use a front end that provides us with our desk top environment to work in, and connects us to the database in Wellington. (Again, for those interested in the technical side, the front end is programmed in Power Builder™, which runs in a Windows environment where all the data is entered and a couple of reports are "hard-coded" in).

- **Reports** - When we produce inspection lists, or AFB statistics, or beekeeper lists, we first need to generate a report. To generate a report, we begin by retrieving information from the central database. To do this, we

use a third product call Impromptu™. Impromptu is a "report writer" which allows us to retrieve the information from the database on an *ad hoc* basis.

The beauty of Impromptu is that we don't have to employ a programmer every time we want to produce a new type of report. We can relatively quickly and easily do our own programming that will give us the information we need. The report writer offers us a flexibility we never had in the old Kman system (where the reports had to be produced by a programmer, and were "hard-coded" in and couldn't easily be changed).

Disease Recording

The new database allows us to store and manipulate disease information much more effectively than in the past. We can now store each incident of disease for an apiary, instead of just the total for that season. Among other things, this makes carrying out disease area freedom clearances for export certification much easier and more accurate.

We would therefore ask that in the future when you report a case of disease to us (particularly on a Statement of Inspection) that you make sure you actually record the date (as accurately as possible) when the disease was found.

Other Advantages

Among the many other advantages of the new system, the database will help us streamline our exotic disease outbreak procedures, and allow us to handle authentication and accreditation systems. The system has also been designed to be easily modified, so as to accommodate future needs.

Statements of Inspection

When you receive your Statement of Inspection (S of I) this year, you will see some small changes that we hope will simplify things for you. If in the past you have received two or more S of I's (because you have apiaries in more than one Apiary District), you will now receive just one.

There is also a new field on the S of I called "Beekeeper No." This allows the beekeeper to use his/her own numbering system to dictate the order that the apiaries will appear on the S of I. You can thus list your apiaries in the same order as you work them. Another field has also been added, called "Site Name". This will allow you to include the name you normally use to identify that site (eg. "Willows" site, or "Old Bridge", etc...).

If you would like to see how the new Apiary Register database system works, feel free to drop in on your local AAO and he'll give you a demonstration.

- David McMillan, AAO, INVERMAY

[Editor's note: David is the person in our group who was most responsible for managing the move to this new system. There was a lot of work involved, and inevitably (because computers were involved!), more than a few headaches. Under the circumstances, however, David did an excellent job! We'll no doubt

have a few more hiccups along the way as we "shake down" the new system this coming beekeeping season, so please bear with us. I'm sure you'll find the new system much more user-friendly.]

MYSTERY BEE COMB FOUND

On 11 June, on the Napier wharf, a bee comb was found under a container that had been lifted up so that the container's bottom could be inspected. The comb was carefully removed and sent to MAF Quality Management's Lynfield Plant Protection Centre to be checked for mites. There were no bees on the comb when it was found.

Traceback on the container found it had come in empty, direct from Singapore. Before that it had travelled to Singapore from Kenya.

The entomologist who examined the comb reported that there was no sign of brood or any mites. However he did note that the comb contained some fermented honey.

Potentially this comb could have been produced by the African bee *Apis mellifera scutella* (the strain responsible for the Africanised honey bee in the Americas), or if it was made in Singapore, by the Asian honey bee *Apis cerana*, or the dwarf honey bee *Apis florea*. The Asian honey bee is the original host of the varroa mite.

Measurement of cell size would have told us what kind of bee made the comb, but unfortunately the comb was destroyed before this could be done.

Agriculture Quarantine is not funded by government to routinely examine the undersides of all containers that arrive in this country. The find was made only because the container was being checked for structural soundness, and was reported to MAF because the marine surveyor carrying out the work recognised the potential risk involved.

- Derek Bettsworth, AAO, WHANGAREI

WASP NEWS

We haven't had too bad a wasp problem for two seasons now, but that will change no doubt. In the meantime, the Landcare wasp team based at Lincoln and Nelson continues to work on ecological research, population modelling, biological control and development of poison baits.

The following notes are taken from the wasp research newsletter *Wasp Times*, No. 25, January 1997:

- **World Record** - Wasps are probably more abundant in South Island beech forests that have honeydew than anywhere else in the world -- up to 50 nests per hectare.
- **Queen Flight** - Queen wasps can fly up to 70 kilometres to establish new colonies.
- **Effect on Ecology** - Wasps are having a huge impact on the biology of beech forests -- they eat many insects,



spiders and caterpillars. They also affect the feeding behaviour of tuis and bellbirds.

• **Parasites** - The European parasitoid *Sphecohyphaga vesparum vesparum* was first released more than 9 years ago all over New Zealand and has established in at least two sites.

A new parasitoid, *Sphecohyphaga vesparum burra*, from America, was released in September 1996 by Landcare and Donovan Scientific Insect Research. Three sites were chosen for the release: Marlborough Sounds, Arthurs Pass (North Canterbury) and the Waitakere Ranges in Auckland. This parasitoid has been reared in captivity at Lincoln since 1992 and tested to ensure it wouldn't attack honey bees, bumble bees or leafcutter bees.

• **Wasp Baits** - The search continues for a selective bait, and especially sweet baits that would repel honey bees but not wasps. Researchers are looking at formulating a bait which honey bees cannot pick up with their mouth parts or will not choose to eat.

Finitron, a ready-to-use bait containing the insecticide sulfluramid in canned sardine cat food is the only protein bait currently available for wasp control. However, the bait is expensive, since it has to be kept frozen up until it is used. Trials were undertaken in 1995 using a 20% concentrate of sulfluramid mixed into canned sardine cat food to give a final concentration of 0.5% sulfluramid. This non-frozen formulation was as effective at reducing wasp numbers as the more expensive frozen Finitron. No decision has been made yet about the commercial availability of the new sulfluramid concentrate, but formulation trials are underway.

• **Wasp Brood Diseases** - The Landcare team are busy studying brood diseases of wasps to see if something can be found that will help knock them out. Some brood diseases recorded include species of the fungi *Beauveria* and *Aspergillus*, as well as cricket paralysis virus, Kashmir bee virus and the bacterium *Serratia marcescens*.

• **Australia** - Australia now has the common wasp, as well as the European wasp. But unlike New Zealand, the common wasp has up to this point not spread very far. It seems to be confined to the eastern suburbs of Melbourne and a few other high rainfall areas of Victoria. European wasps are found through much of SE Australia and modelling predicts they will spread across Southern Australia and up the east coast to Central Queensland. There are many local reports of wasps being a real nuisance around homes, schools and picnic and camping areas, just like in New Zealand. The Australians have imported a bunch of the parasitoid *Sphecohyphaga v. vesparum* and released them, mainly in suburban areas. So far no parasitoids have been recovered from wasp nests, but it is early days yet.

• **Argentina** - The European wasp has also established in Patagonia (South West Argentina) and is spreading. They are making a nuisance of themselves and

plaguing tourists and local beekeepers. Beekeepers are helping to fund research work on the wasps.

• **Wasp Biology** - The Landcare team have undertaken a lot of work on basic wasp biology, like how many eggs does a queen lay per day, how long does a larva/pupa take to develop, and how many cells does a worker build each day, etc. To answer these, and other questions, the team established wasp nests in boxes where they could see what was going on (a wasp observation hive, in fact) and also dissected over 100 nests. The team found:

- a) Once nests get beyond a certain size the queen will lay around 200 eggs per day,
- b) Wasp colonies in and around Palmerston North are bigger than colonies from Nelson beech forests,
- c) The average end-of-season colony from Palmerston North contains 7,500 worker cells and 1,250 queen cells, compared to 4,900 worker and 800 queen cells from Nelson beech forest nests,
- d) Larger colonies appear to build more queen cells than smaller colonies.

The team will use the wasp model information they now have to gauge the effects of the parasitoids as well as poison baits.

- Murray Reid, AAO, HAMILTON

ILLEGAL QUEEN IMPORTS

First fireblight, now queens! According to the May 1997 edition of *The Australasian Beekeeper*, illegally imported queens were smuggled through Sidney airport late last year. The Federal Council of Australian Apiarists Associations reported that six queens and escorts from Canada were hidden in a suitcase, and brought in by a courier acting for a beekeeper.

Few other details are given. According to the editor of the magazine, it is unclear why there has been no official report from the Australian Quarantine Investigation Service (AQIS), or why no charges have been laid.

Given that both tracheal mites and varroa are present in Canada, this illegal and uncontrolled introduction is shortsighted and reckless in the extreme. However desirable an exotic strain of bees might appear, it would never make up for the devastation which could be caused by either one of these parasites.

The case is doubly puzzling because it is possible to legally import queens into Australia under controlled conditions. Normally, the parent stock are imported, induced to lay in a hive in an indoor flight facility, and then destroyed. Breeder queens are then reared from the young larvae. The facility, which was purpose-built for the job of queen quarantine, is located at the Eastern Creek Quarantine Station in New South Wales.

The smuggling case in Australia should serve as a particular warning to New Zealand beekeepers. There are always a few people out there foolish enough to



endanger the livelihoods of the rest of us, and it is up to responsible beekeepers to help protect our industry. Any information on illegal imports should be reported to MAF immediately (FREE PHONE 0800 809 966). Rest assured that your report will be investigated thoroughly, and that your confidentiality will be maintained.

- Paul Bolger, AAO, PUKEKOHE

GADGETS AND GISMOS

(More interesting info from Murray Reid)

Heat Exchangers -The 'quiet' months of winter are the time to think (or maybe just dream) about honey house design and processing equipment. Anyway, if you are thinking about honey heaters or heat exchangers, then the line of Teralba Dimpleflo equipment may be for you. Dimpleflo heat exchangers come in plate and tube form, but the tubular models will be the best for honey.

There are several models to choose from within the range of tube heaters, too. The Mono-Tube is a single tube heat exchanger, of whatever diameter you want, surrounded by a hot water jacket, and it can be custom insulated if you wish. The tube can be any length or a series of tubes can be stacked one above the other and joined at each end by a U-bend to give a continuous length. The U-bends are removable for easy cleaning.

Teralba also make a Multi-Tube heat exchanger which is a series of smaller pipes encased within a hot water jacket. The Rolls Royce model is their Multi-Annular, which consists of a series of concentric tubes. The primary fluid, or honey in our case, flows one way, while heating or cooling fluid flows in a surrounding tube in the opposite direction as a counter current. The closing plates at each end of the concentric tubes accept the honey and hot water for collection and distribution.

What I like about these heaters is that you can monitor each o-ring seal and see which one may be leaking. It is possible to remove just the one tube for repair without affecting all the other ones. The tubes come in lengths from one to six metres.

All the heat exchangers can also be used for cooling as well as heating, and some applications, especially in the wine industry, use the same unit for heating then for cooling. However, you will need more capacity for cooling than heating, so the initial design specification is important. The NZ agent will assist with all that.

All the Dimpleflo units are made of stainless steel. They are self-draining, and temperature probes and gauges can be incorporated. The units can be insulated and they can be mounted on mobile platforms or supplied as fixed units.

All the units have many large dimples in the heating surfaces, hence the name Dimpleflo. The dimples are designed to increase the flow of honey and increase heat transfer. Teralba also make side-entry or rim-clamped stirrers ranging from 0.3kW-25kW. Propellers, shaft length and configurations are tailor-made for your product, as is the direction of flow (ie, do you want the honey to rise up the shaft and down the walls or vice versa?). Teralba also make units for mixing product in closed or open mouthed drums, as well as rotary cleaning heads units to wash drums.

Teralba Dimpleflo units are made in Australia, but the New Zealand stockist is Dave Goddin, Aurora Agencies, 28 Strowan Ave., Hamilton, ph (07) 855-4733.

Tamper-Evident Pails - In recent issues of *BeeFax* we have mentioned tamper-evident lids for liquid packs and jars. Now there is an equivalent for pails. Reese Viscount have a range of products that may interest beekeepers apart from their tamper-evident Top Pail. These include their freight-efficient Space Savers, straight-sided Top Cans, and the super-tough Pry Off. Reese Viscount is in Auckland (09) 276-8679, Wellington (04) 387-3129, and Christchurch (03) 365-4382.

Sanitary Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement - There have been a number of articles and talks to beekeeping conferences on the topic of international trade and the importance of the 'new' rules under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The SPS is part of that process. Under the SPS, imports cannot be prohibited unless there are justifiable scientific reasons to do so.

The Regulatory Authority of MAF and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade have joined forces to produce a very attractive and informative glossy brochure called "Trade Opportunities - How the World Trade Organisation's Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement Will Benefit New Zealand Primary Producers".

The 14 page booklet, which has a foreword from the Minister of Agriculture and International Trade, gives a brief historical background to the development of the GATT and WTO agreements. The main part of the booklet, however, concentrates on the principles of the SPS agreement and looks at the conditions that must be met by the 130 countries who are signatories to the WTO. It talks about necessity, consistency, harmonisation, equivalence, assessment of risk, determining the appropriate level of protection, regional conditions and transparency. The booklet also addresses how the SPS will affect imports into New Zealand and how it will benefit exporters.

For more information, or to request a booklet, write to the MAF Regulatory Authority, PO Box 2526, Wellington, ph (04) 474-4100, fax (04) 474-4133, or E-mail sps@ra.maf.govt.nz.



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Hon John Luxton, Associate Minister of Agriculture, speech to the AGM of The National Beekeepers' Association, Nelson

10am Wednesday, 23 July 1997

Special Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for inviting me to talk to you today to open your AGM. I know you have a pretty strong membership of 1200, which accounts for well over 90 percent of the hives in the country.

Your industry is important to New Zealand for several reasons.

Firstly, for the year ending January 1997, the honey crop was estimated at 8537 tonnes, of which 2771 tonnes were exported and valued at \$11.2 million, up from \$10.5m the previous year with a yield per hive of 29.5kgs.

Secondly, as well as exporting honey, there is also a thriving export of bees and thirdly, and probably most importantly, is the big contribution that your industry makes in terms of pollination and the impact on our other primary industries, such as horticulture and the pastoral sector.

While some may see the bee industry as small, your industry's contribution, both directly and indirectly to the economy is very large.

Today we live in an ever changing world which seems to be getting smaller every day.

Advances in technology and the process of globalisation are continuing at pace.

In today's world, labour, capital and technology know no national boundaries. They simply shift to where they can be best utilised. The challenge for New Zealand and our export sectors in particular, is to make sure that we retain our competitiveness so that we can attract the capital and technology, use our labour, and increase our standards of living. Not only is this a discipline that we are going to have to get used to, but an opportunity and resource we are going to have to get better at tapping.

Globalisation and new technology are the drivers for the uncertainty and change of the future.

They challenge our traditional thinking. We have to be able to adapt and respond quickly to these changes. I was interested to see your organisation using technology so that I was able to check into your homepage on the Internet, something that couldn't be done a few years ago.

For New Zealand, smaller niche industries such as your industry play an important part in our progress as a nation. While we may not be the biggest bee industry, we have to work hard to be the best.

I was delighted to recently present a Tradenz export commendation to Waikato Honey Products for exporting more than \$1million over the last two years. This company has grown from small beginnings and adapted well to their changing environment to make the most of their opportunities.

Globalisation has had and will continue to have significant impact on our trading relationships and patterns. We need to have the marketing structures to make the most of the opportunities. Like our national sports bodies, we need to continue to bring our domestic industry structures into the real world. Rather than cast them in stone and protect their past, we need to future proof them.

I believe one of the few core roles of Government long term is to continue to work in the international arena at a diplomatic and political level to ensure that New Zealand's trading interests are progressed. The trend from bilateral to multilateral trade agreements will also continue. CER may be deepened to include more areas and broadened to include other countries.

Our involvement in the WTO, APEC, NAFTA, Cairns group and the like needs to continue.

We are also working on freer trade arrangements in both North and South America, Asia and in other countries. China is also

a huge potential market for the produce from our clean green paddocks and our beehives.

These negotiations will always be conducted at a political and diplomatic level. However we also know, and forestry is an example, that overseas investment also can give great benefits with overseas market access.

The bee industry is pro-active in seeking and maintaining export markets. The NBA and MAF have worked together on this. Last year the NBA provided funds for Jim Edwards who is the National Manager of International Animal Trade from MAF RA to travel to the Republic of Korea to maintain this as a major market for the export of live bees and queens and to the United States to advance the case for access to that market. In June this year as a follow up to this visit, MAF maintained pressure on the United States to get market access issues resolved.

The export of bee products has been doing well despite the high dollar and lower returns for other agricultural exports. The export of live bees has increased substantially, particularly packaged bees to Canada which is the major market for bees.

Pest Management

I know that it is also important for beekeepers to have protection from diseases which could severely hamper the industry.

American foulbrood (AFB) is a bee disease that affects hives. It is a disease that is not curable; once a hive is infected it will die.

In response to this your organisation (the NBA) has developed a National Pest Management Strategy (PMS) under the Biosecurity Act 1993. The PMS is seen as a tremendous opportunity rather than a threat to improve the current control programme of AFB.

The PMS was notified in the Gazette on Thursday 3 July 1997, notified in national newspapers on Saturday 5 July 1997, with submissions due to my office by 14 August 1997.

In my press release at the time I said that in setting a goal of eliminating American foulbrood through the use of a pest management strategy, the National Beekeepers' Association is taking a proactive step to control a disease of significance to its members. I applaud you for your initiative.

Along with you I am looking forward to finally having a formalised AFB control programme once the submission process has been completed.

Import Management Policy

A current major concern in the bee industry is the disease risk associated with the importation of bee products which have the potential to severely harm the bee industry. Nick Wallingford (NBA President) has voiced his concern that there is not an adequate risk analysis programme.

The current practice is that import standards are based on the risk analysis of each bee product imported. This risk analysis was carried out in 1994. It has been claimed that the risk analysis was not formalised and was created in an ad hoc manner. I understand this has been cause for major concern within the bee industry.

A review of this risk analysis has begun. Part of this review is to determine what exotic diseases could enter New Zealand. I understand you have heard from Jim Edwards and Barry O'Neil from MAF RA on the risks and safeguards associated with the importation of bee products earlier this week.

Several years ago there were concerns about the disease risks associated with the importation of Australian honey. The Australian beekeeping industry is affected by the European Foulbrood disease. Research funding has been allocated to determine whether any safeguards can be used in order to

enable trade but keep European Foulbrood out of New Zealand. This disease is exotic to New Zealand and a small number of South Pacific nations but affects the rest of the world.

MAF recently received information from the NBA and beekeepers about imported pollen. As a result of this information, the importation of bulk pollen has been suspended and an intensive international investigation is being undertaken by the MAF Enforcement Unit.

However we must ensure that any restrictions in the name of disease control are scientifically based and not in the name of preventing competition.

Commodity Levies (Bee Products) Order 1996

The Commodity Levies (Bee Products) Order 1996 came into effect on 2 January 1997.

On 23 May 1997 the register of beekeepers was released to the NBA by MAF. The information released is a record of all beekeepers with more than 10 hives or more than three apiaries; these are the levy payers. The NBA will use the register in collecting the levy.

Although the implementation of the Commodity Levy (Bee Products) Order was a long and drawn out process, the NBA now has a firm basis to levy members and help progress your industry.

Size and role of Government

While Government has a specific role to play in your industry, my personal view is that the size and role of Government in general is still too big. From over 40% of GDP we have reduced Government as a proportion to about 34% of GDP. To me, below 20% is a better level, because after all, governments don't create wealth, they merely transfer it. Our fast growing Asian neighbours have a government sector of about 20% of GDP while some of our slow growing and indebted European friends are running government at levels over 50%.

Bigger Government doesn't bring a bigger economy, normally the opposite. **Or perhaps put another way, we are better to have you building new beehives and putting bees in them than Government building beehives in Wellington and putting more politicians in it.**

Governments should keep out of your way and free you from needless constraints such as compliance and regulatory costs, so that you can get on with the job of creating the wealth we need to meet our social and environmental goals.

I also think we need to continue to free things up a bit to remain competitive. If we remain constrained we will fall behind. For example the 1991 Employment Contracts Act freed up the labour market in New Zealand and gave our productive sector the flexibility in labour arrangements to remain competitive. It didn't lower wage rates overall, but did give greater variation.

Conclusion

In conclusion Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to wish you well for a successful conference, and a successful year ahead. I would now like to officially declare the national Beekeepers Conference, open. Thank you.

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Outcome of the Remits to Conference 1997

- Remit 1. Sth Nth Island: THAT THIS CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS TO THE EXECUTIVE THAT IT VIGOROUSLY LOBBY GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING SURVEILLANCE AND EXOTIC DISEASE (EDPR) CAPABILITIES FOR THE BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY.
- The motion was **CARRIED** 15 - 0
- Remit 2. Hawkes Bay: THAT THIS CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS TO THE EXECUTIVE THAT A SUB COMMITTEE BE APPOINTED TO DEVELOP A CLOSER WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH MAF BORDER CONTROL TO ENSURE THIS INDUSTRY RECEIVES MAXIMUM PROTECTION FROM THE INTRODUCTION OF EFB AND THAT THIS SUBCOMMITTEE BE GIVEN ADEQUATE FUNDING TO CARRY OUT THEIR WORK.
- The amended Motion was **CARRIED** 15-0
- Remit 3. Southland: THAT THIS CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS TO THE EXECUTIVE THAT IT EXPRESSES ITS CONCERN TO GOVERNMENT AND ITS OPPOSITION TO THE IMPORTATION OF BEE COLLECTED POLLEN.
- NOTE: REWORDED TO COMPLY WITH RULE 19 (D)
- The Motion was **CARRIED** 14 - 0.
- Remit 4. Southland: THAT THIS CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS TO THE EXECUTIVE THAT IT EXPRESS ITS CONCERN AT THE POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS OF RECENT IMPORTATION OF SOLOMON ISLANDS AND NIUE ISLAND HONEY.
- The Motion was **CARRIED** 8 - 5.
- Remit 5. Auckland: THAT THIS CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS TO THE EXECUTIVE THAT IT IS CONCERNED THAT POLLEN AND ROYAL JELLY IS ENTERING NEW ZEALAND IN A FORM, WHICH COULD BE A RISK TO OUR DISEASE STATUS, AND WISHES THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES TO INVESTIGATE THOSE RISKS, AND TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION WITH URGENCY.
- The Motion was **CARRIED** 15- 0.
- Remit 6. Otago: THAT THIS CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS TO THE EXECUTIVE THAT THEY MAKE STRONG REPRESENTATION TO THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE THAT HE SHOULD PROVIDE AND FUND THE TRAINING OF QUARANTINE OFFICERS IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF BEE AND BEE PRODUCTS.
- The Motion was **CARRIED** 15- 0.
- Remit 7. Hawkes Bay: THAT THIS CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS TO THE EXECUTIVE THAT FUNDING BE MADE AVAILABLE IN THE DISEASE CONTROL BUDGET TO ASSIST BRANCHES IN RUNNING THEIR DISEASE INSPECTION DAYS.
- The Motion was **LOST** 6 - 8.
- Remit 8. Hawkes Bay: THAT THIS CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS TO THE EXECUTIVE THAT FUNDING BE PROVIDED UPON APPLICATION (AT TIMES RETROSPECTIVE) TO BRANCHES TO CARRY OUT SPECIFIC PROJECTS OR EVENTS WHICH BENEFIT THE BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY AND OTHER BEEKEEPERS.
- The Motion was **LOST** 7 - 8.
- Remit 9. Auckland: THAT THIS CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS TO THE EXECUTIVE THAT A CENTRAL FIELD DAY BE HELD EACH YEAR IN ALTERNATE ISLANDS, OPPOSITE TO THAT IN WHICH CONFERENCE IS BEING HELD.
- The motion was **LOST** 3 - 10. 2 Abstentions.
- Remit 10. Waikato: THAT THIS CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS TO EXECUTIVE THAT THEY USE THEIR MAXIMUM EFFORT TO RESEARCH THE EFFECT THE CLOVER WEEVIL — *SITONA LEPIDUS*, WILL HAVE ON THE BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY, AND KEEP THE INDUSTRY FULLY INFORMED.
- The Motion was **CARRIED** 15 - 0.
- Remit 11. Waikato: THIS CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS TO EXECUTIVE THAT THEY ENCOURAGE THOSE DEVELOPING NEW CLOVERS, TO PRODUCE VARIETIES THAT YIELD NECTAR THAT IS ACCESSIBLE TO BEES, AND RESISTANT TO THE CLOVER EEVIL, *SITONA LEPIDUS*.
- An amendment was proposed to change the word "Assist" to Encourage
- The Amended Motion was **CARRIED** 14 - 1.
- Remit 12. Auckland: THAT THIS CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS TO THE EXECUTIVE THAT AN INVESTIGATION BE CARRIED OUT TO DETERMINE THE NECTAR POLLEN AND SEED PRODUCTION FROM THE DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF CLOVER AVAILABLE AT PRESENT IN NEW ZEALAND.
- The Motion was **LOST** 6 -8.
- Remit 13. Otago: THAT THIS CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS TO THE EXECUTIVE THAT THEY CONTINUE TO SUPPORT AND FUND THE WORK OF THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION MARKETING COMMITTEE AS CARRIED OUT ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP.
- The Motion was **CARRIED** 14 - 0.
- Remit 14. Auckland: THAT THIS CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS TO THE EXECUTIVE THAT THE MARKETING COMMITTEE BE AUDITED FOR ITS EFFECTIVENESS.
- The Motion was **LOST** 2 - 10.

Remit 15. Blair Dale and Barry Foster:

THAT THIS CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS TO THE EXECUTIVE THAT THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION RECOGNISE BIO GRO AS THE PRE-EMINENT STANDARDS FOR ORGANIC HONEY IN NEW ZEALAND.

The Motion was **LOST** 5 - 7.

Remit 16. Otago:

THAT THIS CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS TO THE EXECUTIVE THAT THEY COMMISSION A FULL REVIEW OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE NZ BEEKEEPER MAGAZINE, WITH PARTICULAR REGARD TO THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS:

Motion was **CARRIED** 8. - 6.

Remit 17. Auckland:

THAT THIS CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS TO THE EXECUTIVE THAT THE SECRETARY/ EDITOR BE CONGRATULATED ON THE HIGH STANDARD OF HIS COMMUNICATION SKILLS IN HIS POSITION OF SECRETARY AND HIS EXCELLENT PRODUCTION OF THE NZ BEEKEEPER MAGAZINE AS ITS EDITOR.

Remit **withdrawn**.

Remit 18. Waikato:

THAT THIS CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS TO THE EXECUTIVE THAT THE METHOD BY WHICH THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT ARE ELECTED, IS CHANGED TO ALLOW ALL MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE, RATHER THAN JUST THOSE ATTENDING THE A.G.M. BEING ABLE TO VOTE FOR POSITIONS.

Motion was **LOST** 2 - 12.

Remit 19. Otago:

THAT THIS CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS TO THE EXECUTIVE THAT THE COMMODITIES LEVIES (BEE PRODUCTS) ORDER 1996 BE AMENDED TO MAKE THE APPROPRIATE LEVY PAYABLE ONLY ON APIARIES CONTAINING BEEHIVES ON THE ANNUAL DECLARATION DATE.

The Motion was **LOST** 1 - 12.

Remit 20. Bay of Plenty:

THAT THIS CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS TO THE EXECUTIVE THAT THE 1998 CONFERENCE BE AT A FIJI VENUE.

The Motion was **CARRIED** 9 - 5.

Remit 21. Canterbury:

THAT THIS CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS TO THE EXECUTIVE THAT IT UNDERTAKE TO CARRY OUT A FULL, INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION REVIEW.

The Motion was **LOST** 5 - 7

Remit 22. Canterbury:

THAT THIS CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS TO EXECUTIVE THAT THE INDUSTRY PLAN BE RE-VISITED AND CIRCULATED TO THE BRANCHES.

An amendment was proposed "that a new industry plan be developed with Branch Input"

The Amendment was **CARRIED** 14 - 0.

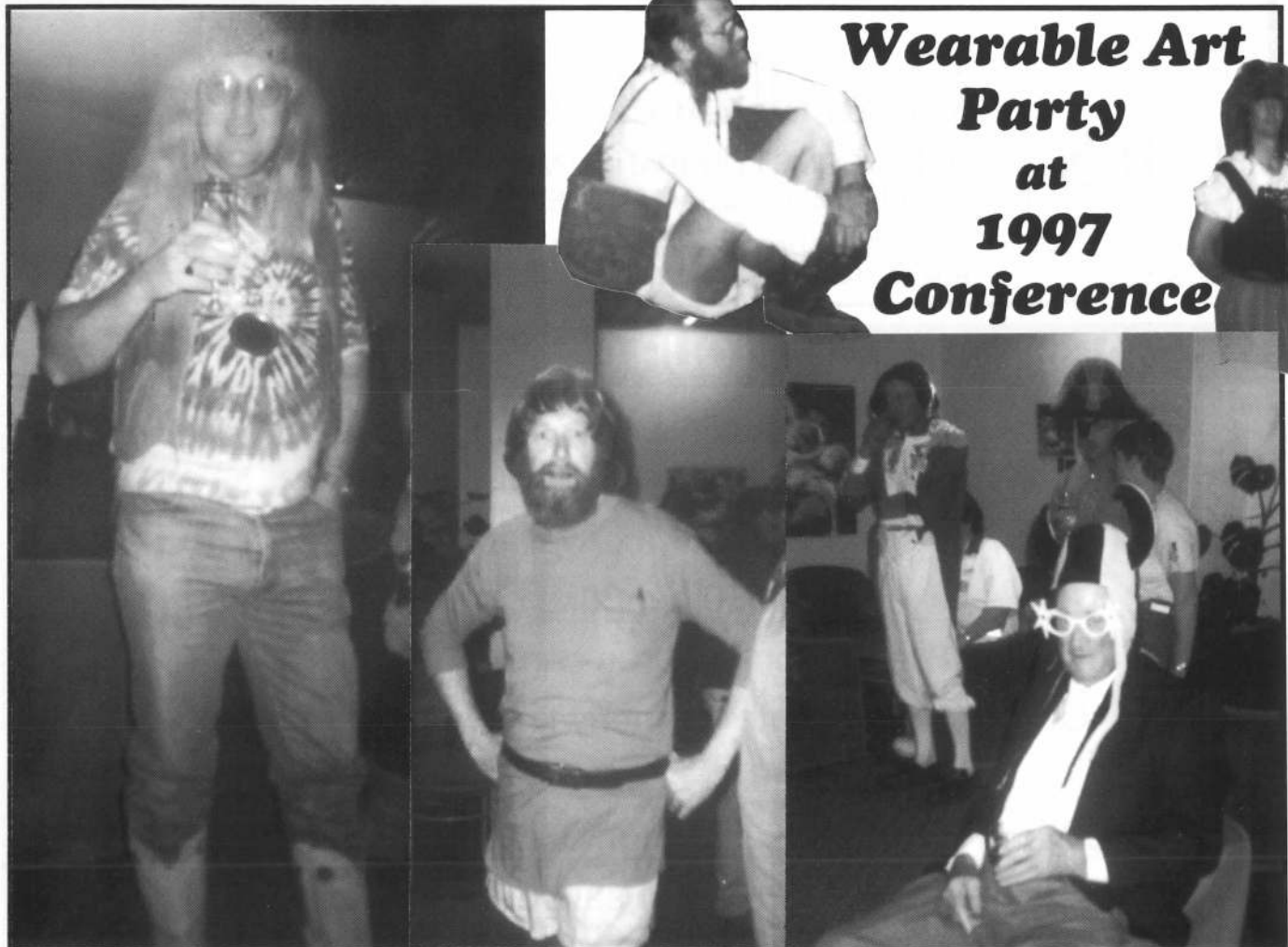
Late remit 1:

THAT THIS CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS TO THE EXECUTIVE THAT THE NEXT CONFERENCE BE HOSTED IN NORTHLAND BY THE NORTHLAND BRANCH.

Conference voting:

For: 10 Against: 3 Carried.

The Motion was **CARRIED** 10 - 3.



Notes for beginners and others

That's another winter behind us, not that we don't get some bad breaks from now on, they always happen. But it gives one a good feeling, those nice spring days when everything round us seems to show a new lease of life. That is one advantage of living in a part of the world with a temperate climate.

It never stops to amaze me that we encounter such great climatic differences within relatively small areas of this country. Not only the distance between North and South but also being coastal or inland, at sea level or at alpine height, bush or clean farming land cause these differences. One can find it all in an area of perhaps no more than 200km², not a big stretch of country by any means. That makes for a variety of conditions: temperatures, shelter or lack of that, precipitation and flora. It all has to influence the development of a bee colony and a beekeepers management. It makes the beekeepers job an interesting albeit not always an easy one. Taking El Ninos and La Ninas into account, surprises, pleasant and unpleasant, are always on the cards.

Notes about early beekeeping in New Zealand (Cotton, Hopkins) tell us that the imported colonies adapted very well and gathered great amounts of surplus honey from the bush. Quantities unheard of in the old country. Things have changed somewhat since those early days. From straw skeps and box hives to the moveable frame hive and from bush to mostly cultivated pasture and an average production of less than 30kg per hive. That's not to say that the early settlers knew more about the job than we do today. Far from it. New Zealand beekeeping is not backward, its standard is somewhere in the top layer of international beekeeping. Things have just changed drastically during the past 1½ centuries, many more people, many more hives and beekeepers and a lot less bush and

variety of bee pasture. Also how many of these early hives did put on those marvellous crops and how many of them did not because of lost swarms etc. It is my suspicion that it was much of a hit and miss affair without a proper system of management.

Now it is well into August. Have you got a plan or system of management, are you trying to make things happen or is it just waiting quietly for whatever may come along? Do the last and you just could finish up with a hive full of honey, could be four f.d. supers to extract, but alongside this outstanding producer are probably another three hives which have swarmed, gone queenless or simply petered out altogether for some reason. Brings it back to one super honey overall + three hives in bad shape or no shape at all. That is not just a bit of imaginative writing, it has and will happen unless a beekeeper does get his or her act together.

Management implies forward thinking and forward planning as needed for every undertaking aiming for a fair degree of success. Anticipate what may happen and act accordingly at the right time.

In the case of beekeeping where a good honey crop is the aim this translates into managing colonies in such a way that it will have a maximum adult worker bee population to coincide with the onset of the main honey flow.

To do this properly one should:

- a: know the particular area where the colonies are kept, its climate, altitude, rain fall, soil type(s), farming practice, weather pattern;
- b: have a basic knowledge of the flora within working distance of the colonies, the species which will yield nectar and pollen during spring and early summer, when to expect a



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death and when to expect the main sources to start flowering (main flow);

- c: consider the suitability of the apiary site, the arrangement of the hives (nice straight rows cause drifting) shelter and access;
- d: care for the colonies from early spring till summer - supplementary feeding with honey or sugar and pollen - bee health;
- e: watch queen performance - replace when needed;
- f: prevent swarming, young queens, reverse broodnest boxes, insert foundation into brood nest, swap places between weak and strong colonies, give extra comb space;
- g: provide extra supers with drawn combs or foundation for the surplus nectar.

With the geographical and climatic differences of this country it is impossible to pin point a date when the main flow can (or may) be expected. However if (in a normal year!) we take December 1 (earlier in the north, later in the south) as the time that we need that strong force of bees and we know that it takes some eight to nine weeks for a colony to expand and reach that peak it is clear that the first week in October is the right time to facilitate the rapid build-up of the colony's work force.

If queens have to be replaced during that period it is best to use mated/laying queens or by uniting a nuc with a laying queen thus avoiding a break in the brood cycle. A break of a week during this crucial period can make a considerable difference! September is the month things are really starting to move. Inspect for disease, make some early nucs for cell or virgin queen introduction, raise some queens if you want to and can. Watch those brood patterns, they tell a story.

And all along make sure of plentiful stores, feed extra in good time, don't wait until a hive is nearly starving. From early spring some fresh nectar and pollen may come in, but rarely enough to sustain a colony's requirements right through spring and early summer. It is important to learn about these sources in

your particular patch. That leaves August (NOW). If you have not done so till now it is time to have that check, see about stores. Especially over-wintered single colonies, nucs and tops may need attention, don't leave it till it is too late. Thinking that the willows will take care of it is the wrong policy. Play it safe. For a start a brood nest will only expand slowly. The over-wintered bees will now start to die and not till replacements exceed losses and so can take care of more brood can we expect much growth of the brood nest.

Since nice warm days with a little nectar and fresh pollen coming in will really speed up this process. Keep your fingers crossed. A lack of pollen will always retard development of the brood nest. Keep an eye on that.

AUGUST Hives "waking up", slow expanding of brood nest. Check feed situation, unite queenless colony with queen right, nuc, top.

SEPTEMBER Queen rearing time. Re-queen with cells or virgin queens, make some early nucs, thorough disease inspection, supplementary feeding.

OCTOBER first half Re-queen with mated queens, direct into hive after de-queening, through making splits or tops which are later united. From now on avoid any prolonged break of the brood cycle.

OCTOBER second half
NOVEMBER The critical period for colony expansion to reach maximum field bee force for main and honey flow. Any re-queening to be done by uniting a nuc with laying queen. Swarm control, young queens, reverse brood nest supers, use foundation in brood nest, give extra space, swap places between weaker and extra strong colonies.

DECEMBER Start of the main honey flow. Honey supers onto the hives, drawn combs or comb foundation. Unite any weak colonies. Unite tops, nucs and splits if not already done. Flow may be short or prolonged, anyway be prepared so as to catch what can be caught.

This is only meant as a guide, give or take some weeks depending on where you are. For more info get hold of a copy of Practical Beekeeping by Ray Chapman-Taylor and Ivo Davey.



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Random Thoughts — Beekeeping

Today's random thought is about horses

by Ham Maxwell

The message on the answerphone was to say that some hives were over up at the Judgeford yard. A club member was passing the site, and with the hives being visible from the road, noticed some were not where they should be. Now this is the sort of co-operation that we get within our club, each member has a good idea of the location of other members hives, and it pays off in situations such as this.

On arrival at the yard it was found that two hives only were over, but had stayed intact, even the lids were still on. Strong stuff that propolis! Out with the spade and level the site again, then replace the base, firm it in position and restore the supers one by one. One hive accepted this ministrations on good faith, hardly any bees came out and braved the somewhat cold, blustery conditions. Not so the other hive. As soon as I went to move the supers they were out, spitting tacks and telling me just what they thought of my efforts. Fortunately I cover up from head to foot, so was not unduly worried by them. Just how badly I would have fared from their attention is something left to wonder about.

Examination of the site showed all the signs of horses having been grazing around the hives. Deep hoof marks were aplenty in the soft soil, the grass was flattened, and the hives at four supers high were just the right height to get a

good scratch from. A word with the property owner was in order, but he was out, and the big black alsation was not inclined to let me leave a note pinned to the door. As the owner has an unlisted telephone number it now means another trip back to see what can be done about the horses. More expense.

It must be the season for having upset hives. A call from a fellow club member saw us both repairing to the backblocks to restore to normal upright condition eight of the ten hives he has on a rural property. This time it was cattle causing the damage, and damage it was. Being isolated, the hives had been over for some time before the beekeeper was notified. One hive had died out, two others were in many pieces, the frames broken and comb disintegrated. Only one hive was sufficiently aggrieved to come out and tell us all about it, the others were too busy covering the exposed ends of the supers to worry too much about us. Despite being the middle of winter season some of the hives had uncapped honey in the cells, a sign of any early spring perhaps?

Many had a good brood pattern, so the signs are that those bees are well on the way to taking advantage of a mild winter and an early spring. Apparently the site is known for its early cropping ability.

A coloured wire single strand fence was erected around the hives. No fencing unit was available, and it is hoped the cattle will recognise the wire and avoid it. An added precaution was to spray around the hives with diesel fuel to kill off the grass and so remove any temptation for the cattle to want to graze there. Again the cost to the beekeeper was considerable, the yard being a long way out of town, the loss of a hive of bees together with the broken combs, all adds up to cost to the beekeeper in materials and time.

Incidents such as these are a reminder that if profits are to be considered then not only the beekeeper, but the landowners also should be aware of the dangers of stock and beehives together in the same paddock. Sure, the beekeeper should take steps to secure the hives from stock, but it is often after assurances of no stock being placed in the paddock that an incident occurs. Someone forgot, was not told beforehand, just did not think, we have all heard the excuses after the event. When starting a new yard allow for all eventualities, consider what each visit will cost, and in the likelihood of stock sharing the paddock, take positive steps to secure the site. Thinking ahead and planning for all eventualities is simply good housekeeping.

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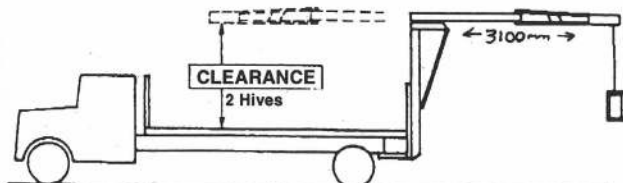
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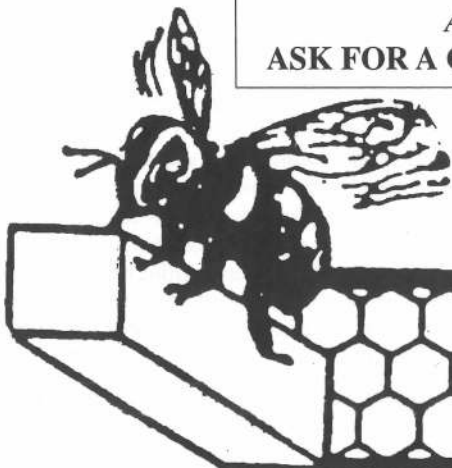
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Another poor honey crop

by Ron Mossop

About five years after I first went to Kawerau to work during the winter time I had another poor honey crop and was faced with the prospect of going out to work again. I was still determined not to borrow money. At this time they wanted fitters at Kawerau for expansion work to the Paper Mill. I took my fitter's certificate and applied for the job. To my surprise they told me that they were not taking on anybody who had worked on the chemical recovery boiler because of the industrial trouble the previous contractor had experienced on that job. When I mentioned that I had worked for a big dairy company for 14 years, the personnel officer said he would ring Hamilton and get a report on me and I was to come back in half an hour. When I arrived back at his office, the personnel officer and his office girl had big smiles on their faces. The personnel man asked me if I knew a certain person who was the superintendent engineer of the dairy company. I replied that I knew him when he was a chief engineer of one of the factories but was not aware that he was now the superintendent. It appears that he had given me a good reference, good enough to obtain a prime minister's position. I told the personnel officer I wasn't particularly interested in the prime minister's job but a fitter's job would do me fine. I got the job and went away laughing. I did not tell him that I probably got the excellent reference because I could play a mouth organ.

I should explain that in the off-season, usually in May, when there was no milk coming into the dairy factories, and when winter overhaul of machinery was being carried out, the factory shift engineers and chief engineers held their social evening at one of the three large factory sites that maintained their own powerhouses, either Waharoa, Waitoa or Te Awamutu. At this time the dairy company had 28 other factories hence there was a bit of competition as to who could put on the best food, drink and entertainment. When Waharoa's turn came to put on an evening I wondered what we could do for entertainment. I remembered that I could play a button accordion and my friend, the company's Works Chemist could play a mouth organ very well. One of the shift engineers had a banjo, so we now had our band. Following our food and a few drinks our band got going. I thought we were doing very well, but like a lot of my plans they sometimes go astray. I did not know that the banjo man could not stop drinking rum once he got going on the stuff. After a while his playing deteriorated badly until



Ron Mossop

someone in the audience called out his name in a loud voice and said that he had played a "bum" note. To my amazement the banjo man leapt to his feet raising his banjo high above his head and charged into the audience intent on denting someone's head in. He was "debanjoed" and rolled under a table where he spent the rest of the night. All this while my friend and I carried on playing, but it was difficult. Like many people who can play a button accordion I can also play a mouth organ, and the chief engineer who later became the superintendent engineer of the company loved to sing the old songs, especially Irish ones, so he got me to accompany him on my mouth organ. He was, of course, also present on the night of the banjo incident. He never forgot me, and when someone asked him years later what sort of an engineer I was, he gave me an excellent reference. I expect it goes to show that it is not what you know, but who you know, that counts most in this world.

I was on the job as a fitter in Kawerau for about a week when one morning my foreman came to me and said that the head construction engineer wanted to see me at his office. He was a big Canadian who came straight to the point. He told me I must have office experience so he gave me some paper and told me to do a tally of all the tools and machines (electrical, hydraulic and pneumatic) also micrometers (both inside, outside and dial types) and everything else on both the site and in the tool stores. Later that day I took my list back to him. He compared it with a list on his table and did some rapid calculations. He was not pleased. There were about 30 half inch electric drilling machines, 25 4" disc grinders, numerous micrometers and

other tools missing. He said that the place was a bottomless pit, he was going to put a stop to it and I was going to help him do it. So we got all the remaining tools shifted into one on-site storeroom and established a card system where every fitter, fitter's mate and leading fitters had to sign for everything they drew out of the store and had it crossed out when they brought it back. There was a remarkable improvement in the missing tool situation. I was given an assistant to help me when things got busy so that I could go out and round up tools that had not been returned. I had orders from the head engineer to send anyone I found who would not co-operate directly to him. Two men tried to beat the system and were referred directly to the Canadian boss. They disappeared. It was rumoured that they went down the track so fast that you couldn't see their heels for dust.

Every man working on the job could be identified by the colour of his hard hat. Fitters or fitter's mates had green hats. Leading fitters had a white strip on a green hat. All foremen had white hats. Electricians, painters, riggers, carpenters and welders had different coloured hats. Tradesmen supplied their own hand tools. No foreman was allowed to lift a tool of any description. We had seven engineering foremen who all got in the habit of asking me if there was a certain tool that they wanted in the store and if there was a limited number of that particular tool. I would then find where it was and deliver it to them. The result was that I got about the job a lot and even had a bit of fun whilst I was about it.

One day whilst on the second floor I took a short cut around the back through some large steel pipes. One pipe, about two feet in diameter and eight feet long with a blank welded in one end, had a pair of boots inside just visible. I knew that somebody had had a heavy night down at the Kawerau pub and had crawled in there for a siesta. The situation was too good to miss, so I picked up a piece of heavy steel and judged where his head would be, hit the top of the pie as hard as I could. I then moved off very smartly as I didn't want to be within a bull's roar of that place when he came out of the pipe. If he had a headache before he lay down in the pipe he probably had a worse one when he sat up suddenly and hit his head on the inside of the pipe. I expect his ear drums were vibrating for some time after.

I went home at weekends to look after my hives. Neil, my fourth son, was making himself useful about the place and would

get bags of sugar to keep the bees alive. For a 16-year-old youth he did very well. The only hives we lost were caught by a twister that came in from the coast picking up about eight hives and dumping them in a nearby swamp. Strangely it did not even dislodge the other hive lids and did not damage an old shed that the previous beekeeper owner had once used for doing his extracting after he took his extractor and honey tins to every apiary in his Model A Ford. One of the hives destroyed was a mystery breed. It was a very black bee that produced a good crop of honey and yet was very much quieter than any other hive in the yard.

Getting back to Kawerau, the contractors on the job supplied all the meals free. The food was of a good standard with ample servings. After work I would clean myself up and go to the dining room for a leisurely meal. One evening I sat amongst some workers from a Southern European country. A violent argument broke out amongst them and I was in the middle of it all. I kept close to the table top for three reasons. The man opposite me was shouting with his mouth full of food and I had enough food on my plate without any more being added. The man on my right was gesticulating with his table fork and every so often missing my ear by a fraction. The man on my left was waving his table knife about just as vigorously. From then on I gave their table a miss and sat with the Irishmen at their table.

These men were mostly in their 40's and had spent years working throughout the world on various jobs, mainly in English speaking countries. I liked to hear them swapping yarns about their adventures and I had no trouble understanding their Irish brogue since as a child I had become used to it for my father and his parents were from County Tipperary.

On returning home I bought a few hundred hives in the Rotorua area and found that by spreading my hives in different areas I could avoid a feast or famine situation and I never had to go out to work again. There is no doubt that I learnt beekeeping the hard way. I would advise any young man who intends taking on beekeeping seriously, to get a job with a competent beekeeper and participate in a two-year part-time study by correspondence with the Telford Rural Polytechnic as my grandson, Ryan, has done. From what I have seen of the course with its written knowledge questions assisted by video tapes, it is first class and should set any man in the right direction to own his own business or be employed in New Zealand or even overseas. Many young men want to get out of New Zealand and get an exciting job in some other country. I have heard stories about Canadian beekeeping in the Peace River area, keeping one jump ahead of an angry bear should be exciting enough for a young New Zealand beekeeper.

Contributors

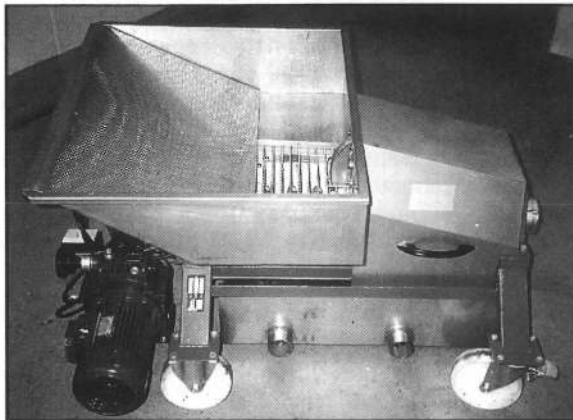
Sorry if you haven't had an article printed in this issue. It will be printed in the September issue — I have run out of space. Also the balance of the reports from Conference will be in the September issue.
Thank you for your patience.
Ed.

Don't forget if you wish to attend an Executive meeting, please call for an invitation. We are meeting in Wellington in September and Christchurch for the December meeting. Dates on the back cover.

An
"OUTBREAK RESPONSE"
(formerly EDPR)
Exercise is being held in conjunction with the Waikato Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association, 27th and 28th of August. Contact Tony, on (07) 856-9625.

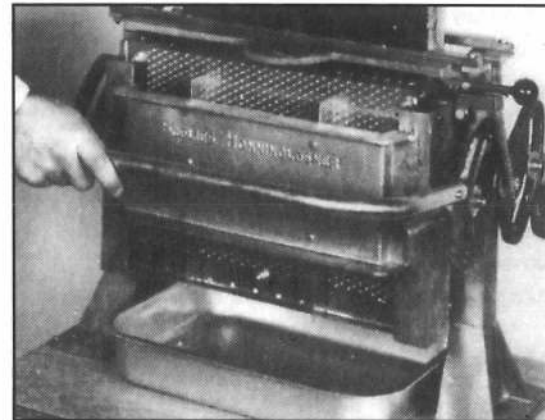
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Bill Floyd — the unauthorised version

I will start with a story

Once upon a time I came across, deep in the forest, a honey tree - to be precise, a manuka bush. At first the bush looked like any other manuka bush but looking more closely, I found it was indeed a magic honey tree.

The bush, the host, had four companions - a saprophyte, a parasite, an epiphyte and a symbiote. The first, the saprophyte, was a honey fungus eating out the vitality of the manuka and living on its decay. The second, not a great rarity perhaps, but small and subtly hard to pick out, was a parasite - a mistletoe not trying to kill the host but just quietly suck some of its life force for no return. In the manuka's crotch was a little epiphytic fern, pretty, delicate and graceful, lovely to behold but of no use to its host - but doing no harm either. Scratching in the leaf litter I saw the fine threads of fungus growing around the root hairs. These lowly threads were the symbiote working with the manuka to gather nutrients for the bush and getting sugars in return.

Here my allegory falls down, as Bill Floyd is most definitely not an insignificant fungal thread, despite the fact that I consider him a symbiote.

Some of you may wonder at times, as you get back up off the ground after pushing a string under a hive only to find you have just lain in a fresh cow pat, just why we give a portion of our hard earned cash into this man's hands. Is he simply a parasite feeding off our industry, taking but not putting much back? Is he an epiphyte perched in our bit of sun, decorative

but not much use? He is obviously not a saprophytic decay fungus, they lurk only in dark, dank places and Bill is definitely a creature of the light, shows much more tendency to bounce than to lurk and his life and vitality is quite frankly tiring just to watch. No, that is unfair, he is actually very good at enthusing people and rubbing off his interests onto those around him. It is only after a night spent with him (and Stuart the bear breasted hussy) at the conference social that you realise just how tired you really are.

The manuka tree would, a few years ago, have looked like a manuka tree to me, nothing more nothing less - because I had not studied it and I had not looked carefully at it. Bill Floyd, a few years ago, looked like a follicly challenged bloke who was getting some of my money. So I set out to study a bit of what he was doing and look bloody carefully to see if it was of benefit to a beekeeper whose overalls smell of cow manure. Bear in mind here that I am just that, just a beekeeper, not a marketer.

Here is what I found out. Bill finds things out which are useful to us, he suggests to people who find out things which may be useful to us, the things which will be most useful to us and he finds useful people then finds a use for them. He has ideas of his own but more than that he gathers the ideas of others and builds on them for our benefit. Then, and this is the crucial bit, he finds ways to tell the world all about the wonderful things that he and other people have discovered about our major preoccupation - honey. Some of these discoveries are made at Bill's prompting, some are made independently of him but Bill feeds them out to the public at very little cost by using his nut to get the maximum results for the least effort and expenditure - just like us working our beehives. He inspires confidence. He is a nice guy. He costs money but more than that, just like a well run hive, he makes us a darn sight more than he costs us.

Now I wrote this article because a lot of us do not get to go to conference or talk to the leaders in our industry often and I know that some of these marketing types give a lot of us colic (probably caused by a lot of hot air).

Reading back through these notes it sounds unfortunately like a cross between a botanical essay and a promo for Floyd Marketing. But you will just have to take my word for it that I approached the whole marketing drive with a great deal of scepticism and distrust and felt the same only more so about this Bill Floyd character. Of course he is in it for the money but more, just like us, he cares for and is passionate about our industry. He really is interested in what makes beekeepers hum.

Physical Profile - Taller than Harry Brown but shorter than Stuart Ecroyd. Older than me but younger than Terry Gavin. Hair - varying toward red grey, much of which has migrated down the sides of his face. Eyes - I don't look deeply into other men's eyes, so you will have to ask one of the ladies present. Dress - a very fetching pink ensemble worn at the conference social had me worried but it seems he is married to a very nice lady called Sandee. Sandee who Bill has so far managed to keep hidden from me (fear not Bill I may be better looking but I'm already married) is the reputedly the brains behind the operation and Bill's right hand woman at Floyd Marketing.

PS. If you havent guessed yet, he went to the social as Pink Floyd, or so my wife who wasn't even there informs me. I thought he must have come as something vaguely obscene, but I wasn't sure what.

Peter Berry


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European Foul Brood

Part of the seminar at conference was on exotic bee diseases, during discussion agreement was reached that the most likely exotic disease to reach New Zealand is European Foul Brood, it was also considered the least likely to be controlled and eradicated. As I understand it and I am no expert, EFB would probably affect us very badly for a few years, then lessen in its effects as we breed up a more resistant strain of bee. We could of course do what a lot of people have suggested would be our only course of action and feed antibiotics. Antibiotics mask both EFB and AFB, they cost money, they leave residues in the honey and wax and they have been fed for a long time overseas, so long in fact that resistant strains of EFB are now showing up. If we get EFB the chances have got to be pretty good that the strain we cop will be, if not already resistant then it will be at the least a long way down the road to developing resistance. If we got EFB tomorrow we might and I emphasise might, have to feed drugs just to keep our industry alive.

There may however be an alternative, at the conference it was suggested that there may be a possibility of mitigating the affects of a EFB outbreak. Three of the possibility are as follows.

1. Hire a researcher, possibly a student, to research and collate all the available data on EFB to try and get a better idea of what we may be in for and the best strategies we can use to lessen its impact.
2. Find out where the most resistant overseas strains of bees are, (preferably of a similar strain to our own) so that in the event of an outbreak we have a plan in place to be able to immediately import semen with a high chance of passing resistance on to our lines of bees.
3. As we send a large number of bees and queens to countries already infested with EFB it should not be all that difficult to

test some of these various strains to find out just how resistant our bees are. All things being equal it should be possible to do at least some selection in our own hives for EFB resistance, it would certainly be a good selling point with our overseas customers.

Now I haven't got a clue on how to go about any of this work so what I'm doing is writing to the NBA to get them to get the ball rolling, however I would be glad to receive any and all information or ideas on this subject and to pass them on to whoever gets to do this work. It would obviously cost some money so even notes of support for the concept sent to me or the NBA be much appreciated. This is a chance to do something for ourselves, to get in and fix or at least lessen the financial impact of a nasty just waiting behind the door, in newspeak they call it proactive, I call it hedging our bets and just plain old fashioned common sense.

*Peter Berry,
14 Lucknow Road, Havelock North.
Ph. 06-8774183*

Library News

No additions this time.

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Methyl Bromide: an update - July 1997

This Update reports on responses the Ministry received after the March 1997 Update. It also discusses the outcomes from the recent international meeting on the phase-out of methyl bromide. It outlines the expected process for developing and implementing a phase-out schedule in New Zealand this year. It proposes a modified phase-out schedule for New Zealand and calls for submissions on the new schedule and New Zealand's international negotiating position by Friday 22 August.

Responses to the March 1997 proposed phase-out schedule

In March 1997 the Ministry for the Environment put forward a draft methyl bromide phase-out schedule (for uses other than quarantine and pre-shipment applications) for New Zealand. Responses were requested by 1 May 1997.

Responses to the proposed schedule
Eight written and two phone responses were received by the end of May. Again, it was clear that there was no agreement among those who responded as to what an appropriate phase-out schedule for New Zealand should be.

Few submissions commented on the 25 percent reduction proposed for 1998 and those that did felt that it would not pose a significant problem.

Most submissions from users argued that they could not meet the 75 percent reduction in 2001 without significant costs. The environmental groups again argued that a 100 percent phase-out was technically achievable and environmentally desirable in 2001.

The two verbal submissions, (Nurseryman's Association and NZ Vegetable and Potato Growers (VegFed)) indicated that their members were already reducing methyl bromide usage

due to adoption of other, cheaper alternatives. They both indicated that they were not opposed to the draft phase-out schedule.

March 1997 version of proposed New Zealand methyl bromide phase-out schedule

Year	Reduction	Exemptions
1991	Base Year (100%)	
1995	0%	OPS
1998	25%	OPS
2001	75%	OPS
2005	100%	OPS + CAU

Notes

All dates refer to 1 January of that year
QPS = Quarantine and pre-shipment applications

CAU = Critical agricultural uses - The term has not yet been defined by the Montreal Protocol. New Zealand is likely to adopt any definition agreed internationally.

The Berryfruit Growers Federation, representing nearly two thirds of New Zealand's methyl bromide use, proposed an alternative schedule with increasing reductions each year, leading to 45 percent cut in 2001. The submission argued that a smoother phase-out would force growers to continually look at alternatives and allow them to become increasingly confident in their use. The submission also argued that the cumulative amount of methyl bromide used under their revised schedule would be about the same as in the Ministry for the Environment proposal.

Most users argued that New Zealand should not adopt a phase-out schedule which was faster than any agreed internationally. Several specifically mentioned that the schedule should not be any faster than Australia, which was seen as a major competitor.

Virtually all submissions mentioned the

need for New Zealand-based research and information on existing alternative technologies. Information papers from the international conference on methyl bromide alternatives discussed in the March Update remain available from the Ministry.

Consultation

As noted, this will be the last opportunity for comment on New Zealand's domestic phase-out schedule before regulations are prepared. Submissions on New Zealand's negotiating position must be received by Friday 22 August 1997 if they are to be incorporated into the New Zealand position before the meeting starts on 9 September.

Submissions may be in writing or by phone.

We will communicate with users and other interested parties after the September meeting to report on the outcomes of the meeting and the final content of the domestic regulations.

Submissions on whether New Zealand should adopt the domestic phase-out schedule outlined above are sought.

As with our request in March, although submissions expressing support or opposition can be made, if they are to be useful in establishing a consensus and providing advice to Government, they should give clear explanations for their position and where appropriate, outline alternative positions.

Any submissions should be received by the Ministry for the Environment by 22 August 1997. All submissions will be acknowledged.

Please send any comments or submissions to: Iain McGlinchy, Pollution and Waste Group, Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10-362, Wellington. Ph: (04) 498-7498, Fax: (04) 471-0195, Email: im@mfe.govt.nz

NEW OTAGO BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES OUTLET, OPEN 7 DAYS

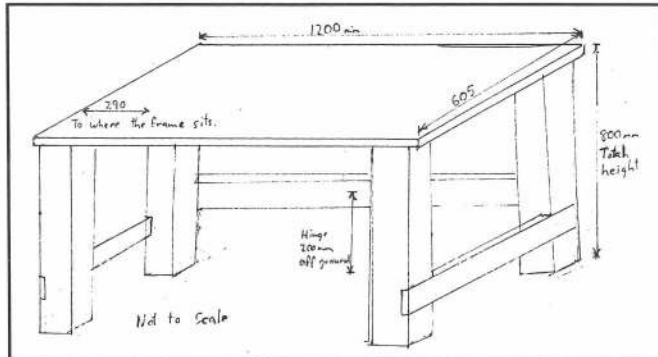
As from the 1st August 1997, Otago and Southland beekeepers have a new alternative for purchasing their beekeeping requirements.

Bill and Agnes Ross at The Honey Shoppe, Main Road, Allanton (20km south of Dunedin) are stocking a full range of beekeeping equipment. They plan to service the entire Otago and Southland region of both commercial and hobbyist beekeepers from their shop, which is open 7 days. They also offer a mail order and courier delivery service.

Their phone number is (03) 489-4244

Wired for sound

One night, while shifting hives up one of the local goat tracks which pass themselves off around here as roads, we stopped to do the decent thing and throw a large board off the middle of the road. It was 12 x 2 over a metre long which would not have been very healthy for a car or motorbike. Actually it looked quite useful so I poked it between some hives commenting to John that it would make a good wiring bench top if there were two of them. Of course there wasn't another one around the next corner but some miles up the road, smack in the middle once again, was the wiring bench part B.



Now, come winter, John and I put together this wiring bench, mostly from odds and ends lying around. It is not a radically new design, my family has been making wiring benches for over 50 years so we just copied an old one, making a few improvements. This winter John brought a new property which is neck deep in assorted junk so we fished some of it out and built another one.

We moved the frame holder slightly to the left and made the anti-spring guards out of custom wood with nice round edges, because it hurts when the wire breaks (either I'm getting stronger or the wire is getting weaker) and you smack the back of your hand into the sharp plastic edges on the old one.

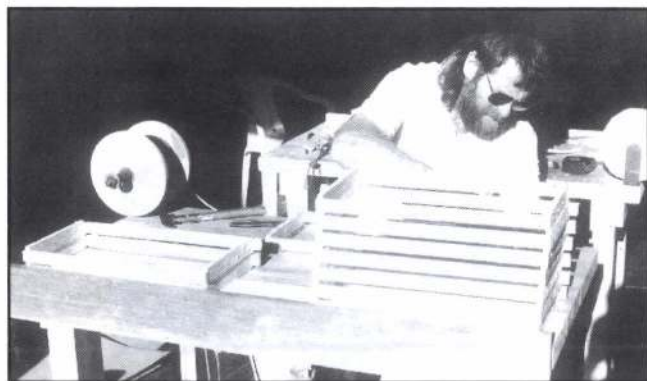
To make this bench you would need a minimum of a handsaw, drill, chisel, hacksaw and someone to do the welding. The large spring comes from a place called "Just Springs" in Orchard Road in Hastings and cost the huge sum of \$2-00. The top could be made of custom wood at a pinch but remember it is really only high grade cardboard.

The bench is made for a person 5 ft 11 inches in height and the only really critical measurement is the height above the ground of the hinge on the foot board. Fit the lever in first and use a frame to position all the other pieces. Please Note! This configuration is for a four wire frame.

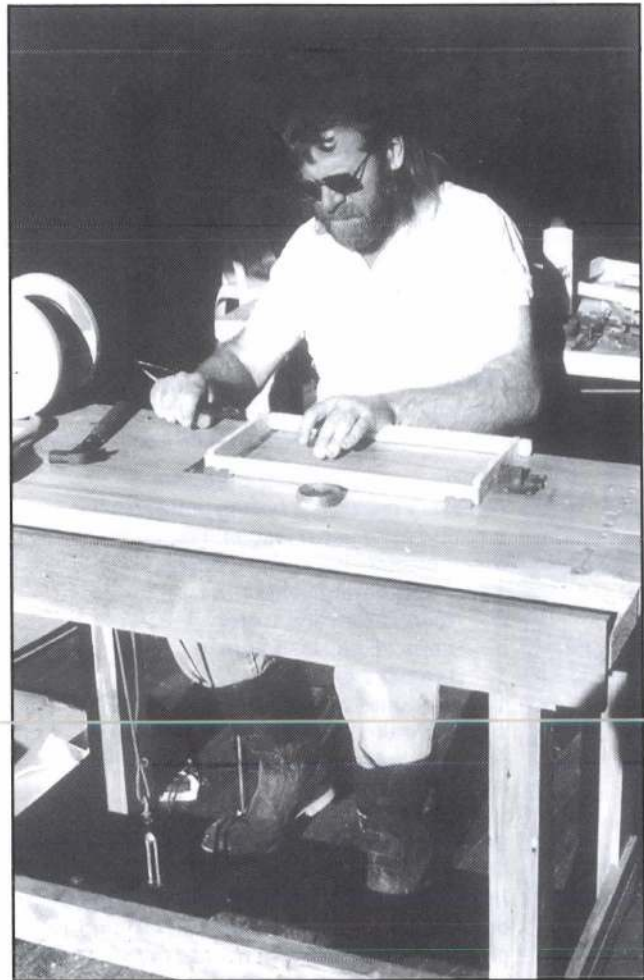
If you would like full size plans these can be obtained by sending yourself and a tape measure around to our place sometime and measuring it.

So there you have it - one wiring bench. At a guess about 16 hours to make, when you take into account all the mucking around - but when you have to do a job like wiring you might as well be as comfortable and as fast as possible.

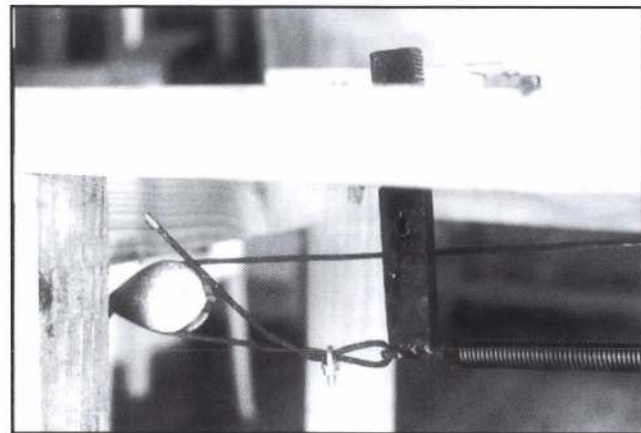
Peter Berry



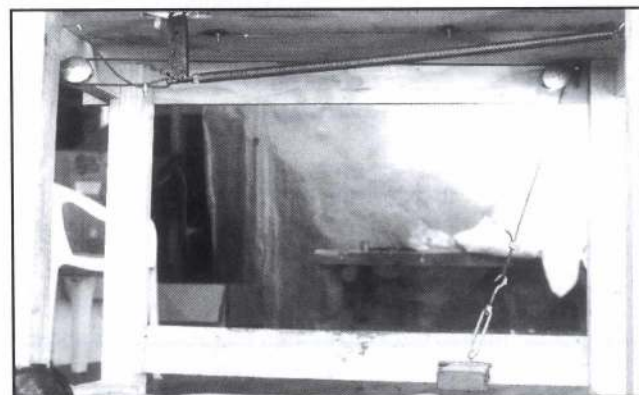
The bench in use. Note the room on the bench for stacking frames, we normally do 20 on each run.



John pulling the wires tight on a frame.



The lever — note ridges filed in lever for grip and the curtain pulley used for the wire.



How it all fits together.

Honey Biscuits

Biscuits are really easy to make. The only trick is to mix quickly and let the batter be lumpy. With this recipe you can cut biscuits quickly - biscuits don't have to be round.

- 2 cups flour
- 2 tsps baking powder
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ cup butter or margarine (cold)
- ¼ cup honey
- 1 tbsp milk

Sift dry ingredients together. Blend honey and milk. Cut butter or margarine into dry ingredients with pastry blender or two knives (pea-size is fine). Gently mix in honey and milk mixture (add more milk, if needed, until dough barely holds together). Form 6" x 9" rectangle, cut into six squares and then into triangles. Bake in 425°F oven 10 to 12 minutes, or until lightly brown.

Tarheel Biscuits

Not every biscuit is a baking power biscuit. Here's a recipe for a yeast biscuit. Yes, comb honey on these biscuits will be a rare treat!

- 1 package dry yeast
- 2 tbsps lukewarm water
- 5 cups all purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 cup butter or margarine
- 4 tbsps honey
- 2 cups buttermilk

Dissolve yeast in warm water. Sift dry ingredients. Mix honey with buttermilk. Cut butter or margarine into dry ingredients. Add honey and buttermilk mixture. Stir until flour is damp. Knead on a floured board for a minute or two. Roll, cut, and bake at 375°F for 12 to 15 minutes. *Yield 3 dozen.*

Honey Corn Bread

A piece of hot corn bread is always welcome. Cut your piece crosswise and put a chunk of comb honey on each half. Since corn bread always has nice holes, the comb honey will just settle in and give you a wonderful flavour.

- ¾ cup cornmeal
- 1 cup flour
- 3 tsps baking powder
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 cup milk
- ¼ cup honey
- 1 egg, beaten
- 2 tbsps melted butter

Mix together dry ingredients. Add milk, honey, egg, and melted butter. Bake in greased 8x8x2-inch pan at 400°F for 25 minutes.

Honey Waffles

Waffles have holes, too, although they're big ones. Comb honey will do just fine on a hot waffle.

- 2 cups sifted all purpose flour
- 3 tsps baking powder
- ¾ tsps salt
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 6 tbsps melted butter
- 2 eggs, separated
- 1¼ cups milk
- 1 tbsp honey

Sift dry ingredients and cinnamon together. Add melted butter to beaten egg yolks; then add milk and honey. Pour this mixture into dry ingredients and mix quickly, just to moisten. Fold in stiffly beaten egg whites. Bake on a hot waffle iron.

Chocolate Waffles

Not every waffle is a breakfast waffle. These chocolate waffles can be a dessert, with comb honey, of course.

- 1½ cups all purpose flour
- 3 tbsps unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ cup sour cream
- ⅓ cup melted, cooled, unsalted butter
- ⅓ cup honey
- 4 eggs, separated
- pinch cream of tartar
- pinch salt

Sift together flour, cocoa, baking powder, and salt. In a small bowl, combine sour cream, butter, honey, and egg yolks. In a clean bowl, beat egg whites with a pinch of cream of tartar and salt until they hold stiff peaks. Add sour cream mixture to flour mixture and stir until just combined. Fold in egg whites gently but thoroughly. Bake in preheated waffle iron.

Whole Wheat Pancakes

Now for the pancakes. Certainly, comb honey works on pancakes. Put a piece of comb honey on each pancake as it comes from the griddle.

- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp baking soda
- ½ tsp salt
- 2 cups buttermilk or sour milk
- ¼ cup butter, melted
- 1 tbsp honey
- 2 eggs, beaten

Sift dry ingredients together. Mix remaining ingredients together and add to dry mixture. Stir until combined. Pour ¼ cup batter for each pancake onto a hot, lightly greased griddle. Cook each pancake until edges become dry, and surface is covered with bubbles. Turn and cook second side until golden brown.

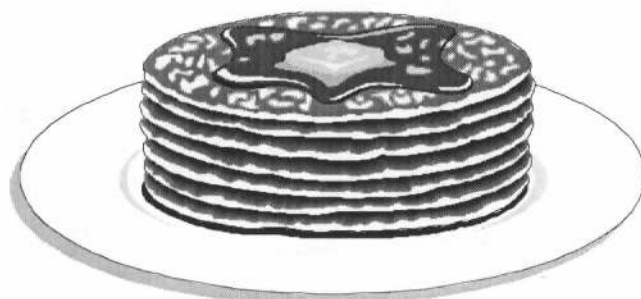
Baked French Toast

French toast is another wonderful way to serve comb honey. You probably have your own quick way of fixing it. However, you might like to try this next recipe which is slightly different since the French toast is baked. It's an excellent way to fix French toast for a number of people.

- 3 large eggs
- ¾ cup milk
- 5 teaspoons honey
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4-8 thick slices of French or Italian bread
- ¼ cup sweet butter

Melt butter in 9" x 13" baking dish. Beat eggs, milk, honey and vanilla together until well-mixed. In a flat bowl, let bread sit in mixture about one minute on each side. Place bread in a single layer in the buttered pan and bake 15 minutes in 400°F oven. Turn and bake an additional 10 minutes. *Serves 4 to 6.*

Acknowledgement Bee Culture



INCREASE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE FASCINATING WORLD OF BEEKEEPING

A Telford Rural Polytechnic course of study will enhance your awareness of the many diversities in beekeeping. Applications are invited for our Certificates in Apiculture which may be studied by:

One year of full time study in house

Two years of part time study by correspondence


For those wanting to study full time, Telford's one year Certificate in Apiculture will provide you with the practical skills and theoretical knowledge needed for a career in the beekeeping industry. Enrolments currently being received for 1997 September intake and 1998.

ENROL NOW!

Our correspondence course may be commenced at any time and is ideal for beekeepers already in full time employment, or hobbyists who want their hives to perform as well as any professionals.

We can also create programmes tailored to your individual needs.

DON'T DELAY — CONTACT US NOW FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

TELFORD RURAL  **POLYTECHNIC**
Te Whare Wanaka O Puerua

FREEPOST 73901

**The Apiculture Secretary,
Telford Rural Polytechnic,**

Private Box 6, Balclutha, New Zealand.

Telephone: 64-3-418-1550 Fax: 64-03-418-3584

OR USE OUR TOLLFREE NUMBERS

0800-805-657 OR 0800 TELFORD

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 1997

BRANCHES SEND YOUR MEETING DATES IN FOR 1997. NO CHARGE.

EXECUTIVE MEETING DATES

SEPTEMBER - 2nd and 3rd - WELLINGTON

DECEMBER - 2nd and 3rd - CHRISTCHURCH

MAGAZINE Copy/advertising deadline 1st of month. EXCEPT for DECEMBER issue. DEADLINE 25 NOVEMBER

COMING EVENTS...

AUCKLAND BEEKEEPERS CLUB INC.

SECRETARY - Terry Buckley Ph: (09) 415-9853

★ ★ ★ BRANCHES... PUT YOUR MEETING DATE IN HERE... FREE ★ ★ ★

AUCKLAND BRANCH

Call: Jim (09) 238-7464

NORTH CANTERBURY CLUB

Meet the second Monday of every month March to November inclusive.

Contact Mrs Hobson

Phone: (03) 312-7587

SOUTH CANTERBURY BRANCH

Phone: Noel

(03) 693-9771

CANTERBURY BRANCH

Trevor Corbett

Phone: (03) 314-6836

CHRISTCHURCH HOBBYIST CLUB

These are held on the first Saturday each month, August to May, except for January on which the second Saturday is applicable.

The site is at 681 Cashmere Road, commencing at 1.30pm.

Contact Peter Silcock

Phone: (03) 342-9415

DUNEDIN BEEKEEPERS CLUB

We meet on the first Saturday in the month September - April, (except January) at 1.30pm. The venue is at our Club hive in Roslyn, Dunedin.

Enquiries welcome to Club Secretary, Dorothy phone: (03) 488-4390.

FRANKLIN BEEKEEPERS CLUB

Meet second Sunday of each month at 10.00am for cuppa and discussion.

Secretary — Yvonne Hodges,
Box 309, Drury.

Phone: (09) 294-7015

All welcome — Ring for venue.

HAWKE'S BAY BRANCH

Meets on the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm.

Cruse Club Taradale.

Phone: Ron (06) 844-9493

MANAWATU BEEKEEPERS CLUB

Meets every 4th Thursday in the month at Newbury Hall, S.H. 3,

Palmerston North.

Contact Joan Leckie

Phone: (06) 368-1277

NELSON BRANCH

Phone: Michael

(03) 528-6010

NELSON BEEKEEPERS CLUB

Phone: (03) 546-1422

OTAGO BRANCH

Phone Bill (03) 485-9268

NORTH OTAGO BRANCH

Phone: Mr Peter Cox,

38 Rata Drive, Otematata

Ph: (03) 438-7708

POVERTY BAY BRANCH

Barry Foster (06) 867-4591

SOUTHERN NORTH ISLAND BRANCH

Phone: (04) Frank 478-3367

SOUTHLAND BRANCH

Contact Don Stedman,

Ph/Fax: (03) 218-6182

TARANAKI AMATEUR BEEKEEPING CLUB

Phone: (06) 753-3320

WAIKATO BRANCH

Call Tony (07) 856-9625

WAIRARAPA HOBBYIST BEEKEEPERS CLUB

Meet 3rd Sunday each month (except January) at Kites Woolstore, Norfolk Road, Masterton at 1.30pm.

Convener Arnold Esler.

Ph: (06) 379-8648

WELLINGTON BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Meets every second Monday of the month (except January) in Johnsonville. All welcome.

Contact: Shauna Tate,

6 Martin Street,

Porirua East.