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A fun day at the office

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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

If ever your Executive and your industry has needed your encouragement and your support it is right now. The beekeeping industry is facing greater changes than it has ever seen before. Discussions with MAF RA officials have indicated that, inside the next few months, the industry will be expected to pay for almost all Government services, most of which we pay nothing for now. Coupled with these changes, Government is restructuring (whatever that means) MAF Qual but just what sort of structure this will be, nobody knows. We have been assured that little will change except the enterprise's name. I always treat the word 'restructure' with suspicion as this usually means that it will cost more. I guess the word will live up to its reputation in this instance as well. Whatever MAF Qual becomes they will be a State Owned Enterprise and expected to show a profit.

I do not need to tell members that our industry costs are high enough at the moment, what with large areas of the country getting little or no honey crop and those that did get a crop, having a problem getting an increased price. The New Zealand dollar has fallen over 20 percent but our international price has not risen, so, once again we gain nothing but will pay more for what we buy.

Executive has its hands full with a wide diversity of industry problems, such as arranging tests for residues in our honey, as demanded by the European Union, before New Zealand exporters can gain entry for our honey. Changes had to be negotiated in the method of sampling as the original method was too expensive. The Pest Management Strategy is taking an increasing amount of Executive's time with the Management Agency matters, such as organising tender documents, which have already been drawn up by the PMS Review Committee, but still needs supporting data before being sent to those having expressed interest to the advertisement in the March magazine.

There are still the every day things that past Executives have had to handle, such as someone's levy form did not arrive, by post, and when this occurred to the beekeeper, he asked for another form. On receiving the form he asked for a deferral form, but of course by then the 28th March had passed and a deferral could not be granted. The Executive Secretary, as the collector of the levy, has to adhere strictly to the Commodities Levy (Bee Products) Order or his decisions are illegal. This is one of the difficulties Executive faces. We must be fair to our member but we must also stay within the law. Being in a rural area,

I have also experienced mail not arriving, so can appreciate this member's problem. I trust, however, that he appreciates our problem.

The old problem of dwindling activity at branch level is also concerning Executive as, in the future, branches may be asked to contribute to industry activities in the form of manpower for hive inspections in the case of an exotic disease outbreak or even assisting with AFB auditing. Of course, AFB auditing would be on paid basis. I also suggest you read the 'Notes from the Executive' written by Don Bell in the February issue of the Beekeeper. Don has covered the subject on participation at branch level very well indeed so I ask you to have another look and think about how you could help.

Executive also takes an active part in the affairs of the Agricultural Security Consultative Committee and the Pest Management Strategy Advisory Committee. These committees are advisory to the Associate Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of

Biosecurity, the Hon. John Luxton. To participate on these two committees costs NBA nothing, only my time to attend which I feel is good value for NBA. Perhaps the greatest concern to Executive is the unfair criticism levelled by some members with suggestions of collusion within the Executive, incompetence in attending to small details by either the Executive Secretary or Executive members and general discontent. Your Executive is giving its utmost, most weeks I put in thirty hours or more on NBA business and I guess other Executive members do the same. For all that, I suggest we should be able to expect your co-operation in getting the best for our industry and ourselves. If you have a problem, get it to Executive and we will do our best to be of help. If we ask you for help, please do your best to assist us to assist the industry as a whole. There are some exciting times ahead for us all, with a wee bit of luck. Best wishes to you all.

Terry Gavin

Youthful Exuberance

Do you remember back to the days you started beekeeping. Youthful exuberance but little knowledge. We had books but still had to learn by our mistakes.

When we picked up the first swarms we heard that you needed smoke, but in our small community bee smokers were not known, so we made use of our Kiwi ingenuity. We improvised by putting a hole in the top and bottom of a baking powder tin. With burning sacking inside and a good puff in the bottom hole we could get a good jet of smoke over the bees.

The swarms we picked up had 'vigour' to put it mildly. A friend was helping me as the bees were nearly a two-man operation. He thought extra smoke was needed so was quite enthusiastically blowing in the base hole when all of a sudden his veil went up in a whoosh of flame.

The veil was replaced but it did take a while to regrow his eyebrows.

The same friend arrived another day with

enthusiasm to get started with the statement "They wont sting me this time".

He was done up like a spaceman with heavy overalls, his veil tucked inside the overalls and good heavy bee gloves protecting his hands.

He waded into the hives hardly waiting for me to get the smoker going properly, so great was his confidence.

Now one of the benefits of modern overalls and trousers is the simple gadget called a zip. Those days buttons were used and unfortunately there are always gaps between the buttons.

Our whole family were treated to a great display of back flips and a close resemblance to the jitterbug and other vigorous activities. Being helpless with laughter we were unable to assist. Being so well wrapped up he was unable to help himself either.

They say that time heals and brings wisdom.

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The New Zealand BeeKeeper
THIS ISSUE

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir

Thank you for publishing the unsanitised version of the NW Chap story from the WWW that I sent you, you didn't print my comments that followed.

Goodness gracious me, this chap certainly does get wound up doesn't he?

Thank you also for publishing the fact that he didn't offer the Web pages to the NBA free, but wanted \$400.00 per page, very interesting.

I repeat my comments of an earlier letter, why do you bother to print his vitriolic letters, they do not enhance the magazine at all, in fact, I believe his letters detract from it and I suspect the industry as well. I assume you have overseas readers, what do they think of this destructive attitude?

Is it not time he faced the fact, he did present a deficit budget? He can waffle on till he is blue in the face but, he was the President at the time and he must learn to accept the responsibility in that role, not try and blame every one else. I have not seen him do anything for the industry but blow his own trumpet. Look at the letter in last month's issue all about how wonderful he is and how slack every one else is. What does one assume from this attitude I ask? I can now understand why your Executive encouraged him to resign last year.

**B Peterson
Nelson**

Your "comments" that you refer too were not with the letter, they arrived a week later. Too late for the magazine. **Ed**

Apology

It has been brought to my attention we may have breached a member's copy right on the Nick Wallingford story, requested to be printed by B Peterson.

If this is correct we apologise to the member.

Editor, Anthony Tairaoa

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Dear Sir

I wrote to the Ministry of Agriculture of your country with a request for an opportunity to work as a beekeeper and also all activities related to beekeeping.



I would like to exchange my European experience and to learn all about the beekeeping in your country especially cultivation of bees, selections, production of bee-products and queen bees, ways of reproduction, activities against diseases and pests and also improvement of honey-bearing.

My profession is constructor in mechanical engineering. I'm also occupied with beekeeping (about 40 years) and also have world experience and scientific knowledge of experts from USA, Russia, Germany and Belgaria.

I founded the optimum technological method for beekeeping of dozens and thousands of beehives with minimum work and feeding only to the newly created families. I'm well acquainted with multicorps beehives (method of state Vermont - USA). I have very good and original methods for combating with diseases and pests.

If you have an opportunity and its not difficult for you please send me information about beekeeping in your country and prospective for development of it. I send regards to apiarists, and especially for apiarists-amateurs and wish them good health, success and good profits in beekeeping.

PS: For my activity in public and personal beekeeping, I can send letters of recommendations. I speak English satisfactorily and continue to study it.

Vasil Ivanov Nikolov - 10/5/40, Egn 4005102189 - constructor; I work in Emka - Ltd - Cable Company - Selvrevu.

My wife lanka Micheva, works in Emka Ltd. My son Filip Vasilev (17 years) student.

Bulgaria 5400 Sevlievo
Str. Mara Gidik 52A

With my best regards,

Vasil Ivanov Nicolov

Dear Sir

Dog Training with American Foulbrood.

Bruce Wardle's letter in the last BeeKeeper raises serious questions about the conduct of MAF staff in sanctioning the controlled use of American foulbrood in an informal field experiment. The remaining sections of the Apaiaries Act 1969 which control AFB until the advent of the pest management strategy are silent on the matter of research permissions but the Biosecurity Act 1993 is quite clear proposals for research involving unwanted organisms must be explicitly permitted or authorised under sections 52 or 53.

Advice on how to safely conduct such an experiment was given in the (mistaken) belief at that time that this was a matter for local discretion. Any future proposals will be referred to the Chief Veterinary Officer. Approvals would only be given by the Chief Veterinary Officer after consultation with the bee industry. I have instructed that all the disease material involved in the sniffer dog trial must be destroyed.

**Barry O'Neil
Chief Veterinary Officer**

Dear Sir

In the *BeeKeeper* of March 1997 I read about the pump switch that automatically switches the pump off when the drum reaches the required weight.

I had my son who is an electrician make up a similar unit which is small and compact and does not require any wiring (just plugs into a three point plug and the pump plugs into it).

I now have one fitted to my scales and it has certainly saved me a lot of time and worry and spilt honey.

I would like to thank David McMillan and Jack and Blair Dale for this great idea.

If anyone is interested and would like to purchase one of these units, we can make them at a cost of \$90 including GST and send it to you by return mail.

For inquiries please phone: (06) 274-8213.

**Chris Bromell, 76 South Road,
Manaia, South Taranaki**

*** I don't know the key
to success, but the key to
failure is trying to
please everyone**

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir

I write, (though writing is too much like school - the only good part of school was interval and lunch time) after reading the Marketing Report in the February issue.

This guy Floyd must have been asleep at the back of the classroom during the Biology sex lessons! He obviously didn't learn that ferns, being sporophytes don't have flowers, so do not get visited by bees to be pollinated.

Maybe Blenheim Primary School may take him on as a new entrant, but I doubt it! Though he needs to go back to school to learn about flowering plants and pollination, and ferns, with their gametophytes, archegonia, and antheridia, and how water ensures fertilisation. But definitely not bees.

Tony

Dear Sir

I am pleased to write to you today to inform you that the New South Wales Apiarists' Association plans to hold an Australian and International Bee Congress in the year 2000.

It is envisaged that it will be held in June 2000 at either the Sydney Convention

and Exhibition Centre at Darling Harbour or the new Royal Agricultural Society Facility at Homebush Bay (adjacent to the Olympic Games site).

We would appreciate the involvement of New Zealand beekeepers and will advise you of exact dates and venue as soon

as we have finalised arrangements.

Yours sincerely

**Margaret Blunden, President,
NSW Apiarists' Association Inc,
Goulburn 2580, Australia
Ph: 0061-29798-6240,
Fax: 0061-29797-8061**

Life

A holiday visiting beekeepers can be a real experience. I remember one beekeeper who used to like visiting other beekeepers during his annual holidays. He related to me one experience that will no doubt linger in his memory for some time.

On one occasion he visited an elderly bachelor. Now bachelors can become quite eccentric on occasions although still well worthwhile visiting.

Anyway on arriving he was given a warm welcome and after being seated at the kitchen table, was asked if he wanted a cup of tea. Being in a very warm part of the country, the offer was well received.

The elderly bachelor then took a cup and washed it in a bowl of water on the table. Nothing unusual in that except a piece of newspaper was left over the bowl the whole time.

Then the bachelor went into the other room to make the tea. You have heard the saying 'curiosity killed the cat'. The same applied here. The visitor kept wondering about the newspaper over of water so gently lifted the paper to see a pair of false teeth grinning at him from the water.

Some cups of tea are harder to drink than others, as it turned out that day, I don't think he accepted the offer of a second cup.

Pest Management Strategy Tender

The National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand Inc (NBA), being the Management Agency for a National Pest Management Strategy for American Foulbrood, invites tenders from interested parties to perform the following services on behalf of the management Agency, as set out in the association's June 1997 PMS proposal document:

- Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement (DECA) Administration
- Disease Recognition and Destruction Competency Test Development
- Disease Recognition and Destruction Course Development
- Training and Audit of AFB Course Instructors
- PMS Apiary Register
- PMS Inspection and Audit Services
- Bee/Honey Sample Spore Testing

All contracts require the performance of services to the beekeeping industry on a nationwide basis.

Further information on these tenders, including contract specifications, a copy of appropriate sections of the Management Agency draft operational plan, and instructions on how to make a tender, can be obtained from:

Executive Secretary, National Beekeepers' Association, PO Box 3079 NAPIER.
Phone (06) 843-3446, Fax (06) 843-4845

Closing date for tenders is 5.00pm, May 15, 1998. Post all tenders to:
PMS Tenders, PO Box 3079, NAPIER.

LOWEST OR ANY TENDER NOT NECESSARILY ACCEPTED

Marketing

The New Zealand Honey Marketing Strategies may become the core of a world honey-marketing strategy!

Yours truly (that's me) will be one of the key-note speakers at Apimondia 99 in Vancouver; part of a plenary session involving four speakers: Three from the USA and one from New Zealand. The session has been developed by the National Honey Board of America and has the objective of getting the honey industries in many countries around the world to look at adding value to their honey crops and increasing honey consumption within their own borders.

New Zealand is one of the few countries in the world (in fact we may be the only country!) where both honey consumption and the dollar value of honey sales has increased every year for the last four years: Often against world supply and pricing trends.

And this has been achieved in a country where consumption per capita was already the highest in the world.

The fact that honey can't be imported into New Zealand isn't the advantage some may think: because we produce more than we eat domestically. That 'over-production' (usually commodity non-varietal bulk honey) has to be exported overseas, where it only achieves the world commodity price. And so the exporter will try and sell it in New Zealand for around the same price to save the hassle of exporting it. This forces the domestic price of all honeys to be benchmarked against that commodity price.

Why is our industry succeeding? We'd suggest it can be summed up in two words: Decommoditisation and differentiation! And we're achieving these through... two more long words... organoleptics and nutraceutical. (No I'm not paid by the length of word but you'd think so.)

In other words our collective success is due, in large part, to the development of our floral varietal honeys as unique and exciting foods; and through the very professional ground-breaking research being done by the Honey Research Unit at Waikato University.

So, should New Zealand help other countries to achieve a similar result. Yes. Because New Zealand will benefit as honeys around the world rise in price as consumers, because of the new values discovered in their own honeys and eat more of them. The international honey consumer market will have developed an increased sophistication: and that means they could also become more responsive to the special honeys of other countries; and when it comes to special values New



Bill Floyd

Zealand has huge advantages!

This is an international strategic overview that the USA National Honey Board believes very strongly in: that's why they have always been very helpful to the New Zealand honey marketing committee.

And now the USA (and New Zealand) can take the proven message to other countries through the Apimondia forum!

Kiwis will be creating quite a clamour at Apimondia! Russell Berry (as Arataki Rotorua) will be speaking on live-bee exports; Peter Molan on the Research Unit projects; Alan Bougen from Comvita on hive health products; and me on generic domestic marketing strategies. (And, the USA Honey Board is paying my costs.)

But I should also acknowledge probably the most critical factor as to why our industry is succeeding: It's the attitude of the people within the industry!

No amount of generic promotional activity can create success: the Marketing Committee's role is to create an environment where innovation and entrepreneurialism can flourish, but we can't make that innovation actually happen: only the beekeepers and the packers and the producers and the agents can do that: and they (you) are!... and doing so brilliantly... in fact... leading the world! Hence I'm off to Apimondia; and so I suppose I owe each of you a postcard of the Canadian Rockies; and a sample pack of real maple syrup ... but of course, I know you'd all rather have New Zealand honeydew so I'll not bother and save on the freight.

Honey Research Unit projects developing...

Thank you to all those industry members

who have offered assistance in sponsoring the HRU projects we detailed in the Beekeeper. Some projects have now been put into company's R&D programmes: so next you will hear (hopefully) the announcement of exciting new products.

Peter Molan was invited to speak at a Wound Healing Conference in Australia last month: as a result of publicity about 'magic manuka honey' I was contacted by an Australian woman with an untreatable MRSA sinus infection. As at time of writing we're working with her doctor to see if we can get 'active manuka' honey onto the infection. (Thanks for donating that excellent quality active manuka honey, Bennett's!)

We do have a major problem with the HRU: both Peter Molan and Kerry Allen are inundated daily with requests for information: to the point where its affecting their research focus and the time available. As a result we've instituted a system where people need to go through me as Manager of the HRU. We'll supply research information already available at a reasonable cost: but if business's want advice from the research team it will have to be fully costed and charged for. Otherwise a few are getting huge personal gains for their own businesses from a resource funded by all of the industry.

Sunday Star Times gets buzzing...

By now you'll have seen the special feature article on honey in the Sunday Star Times (Planned for publishing Sunday, 7 April). We provided the reporter with both information and samples: interesting to get her response to the honeys! But I'll wait until I see the article before I comment in case she changed her mind.

Also a very good feature on honey coming up in the national retail trade magazine, Grocers Review: so your supermarket buyers will be aware of the very exciting values in different New Zealand honeys from different regions. Brands should be proactive and follow up on that article.

Waikato Field Day

I hear that Marketing Committee member Jane Lorimer's address on Marketing at the Field day was well-received. Waikato has been one of the Branches that always keeps me on my toes at Conference: so it was good to have a Waikato member appointed to the Marketing Committee. And, Jane is proving to be a valuable member of the Committee in her own right.

Those Manuka Standards!

As you all know, we don't, at this stage, have a Manuka Standard. I've set out

below what I believe should be my response if contacted by any media regarding 'manuka honey integrity'. And this is quite a strong possibility given the current furore over misrepresentation of varietal wines!

Pollen Analysis is the only internationally accepted identification technique for varietal definitions of honeys like manuka: and there is a manuka pollen standard used by the European Union.

New Zealand's diverse flora (with the potential complications of: bird-pollinated flora; close proximity of honeydew sources; and the ambiguity of manuka and kanuka pollen) means Pollen Analysis can produce anomalies: but companies practicing pollen analysis have found that it produces statistically consistent matches between the pollen readings and organoleptic profiles expected of those honeys.

And so the NBA supports the focus of those companies using Pollen Analysis to provide customer integrity; but cannot dismiss non-users of the technique as necessarily producing honey that is not true to type. Unfortunately there is no absolutely certain identification technology available at present.

So: not a good position for the industry to be in: but there is no answer at the moment that doesn't include Pollen Analysis... and so *caveat emptor*... although I would rather it was 'let the buyer be aware... rather than 'let the buyer beware'.

But it is up to Brands to create awareness and offer answers that add value not cost to their product: and I'll just wish you all well... except for any slumgums knowingly rorting us all with shonky product of course! (And I bet there's so few of them... but it only takes one to ruin it for all of course... ask the wine industry).

And that's all for this month... except for my favourite honey: its a beauty! Classy label... and very true to label: because the Bennett's go to a lot of trouble to make sure their honey is what it says it is: Including expensive small-batch sample testing... and it's their 'active manuka'. Beautiful big brassy manuka oaktype flavours.... but in this case the secondary nectars give a hint of citrus and help to balance the dominant manuka values. A honey with a huge future if all goes well with the Active Manuka Honey group this year! And Bennett's own marketing: with the very professional website and information package all adds credibility and value.

Regards

Bill Floyd

Auckland Branch AGM

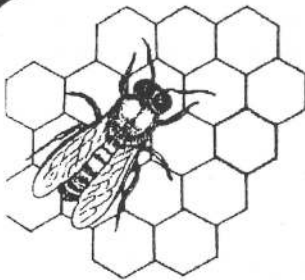
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Communication

by Ron Mossop

Having a mobile phone in your truck to communicate with your other vehicles, or the nerve centre, is an accepted part of modern beekeeping. A mobile phone is a huge improvement to our old way of keeping in touch between trucks, this may have been just a note with a stone on it left on top of a certain gate post, or perhaps a driver would merely put a few pieces of lawsoniana, used for smoker fuel, at the start of some roads to indicate to another truck driver where he was. After graduating from this stage we decided to install mobile phones in all our vehicles. We have found them to be very handy if one truck gets stuck in a paddock, or breaks down. I have heard of one beekeeper who finds his mobile phone useful to let his other truck driver know that traffic officers are weighing trucks at a certain spot and, of course, this enables the other truck driver to take remedial action.

When I see my grandchildren sitting about the room watching television I invariably have trouble trying to catch their attention, when I finally do get through to them I ask them how they thought we communicated when I was a child. We had no television, no radio, no newspaper apart from and Auckland Weekly and library books once a week. They say something about the "Dinosaur Age". They may be right, but I sometimes think that we were just as well informed about the things that really mattered as some of the modern youth are today. They seem to be bombarded with a great deal of information and it must be very difficult for them to sort out the wheat from the chaff.

We got all our news from just hearing people talking. My father would take his wagon loads of milk to the cheese factory and whilst waiting his turn to empty the milk cans and fill them up again with whey for our pigs he would hear the latest news from other farmers. At the evening meal he would tell us all the things that he had heard during the day, there was no television to divert our attention from what he was saying. Some of my father's stories were so well told that I can still remember them. For example, one story was about a well known man in our town who had died so dad went to his funeral. As the man's coffin was being lowered into his grave one of the pallbearers let the rope slip and the coffin crashed head first into the grave. His poor widow screamed, fainted and then fell head first into the grave as well. My father grabbed one of her ankles and a bystander grabbed the other, the



Ron Mossop

hapless widow was then dragged up out of the grave. My father gave a very graphic account of the whole episode. I was shocked and could not help thinking about it for weeks after. Several months later when I was about twelve years old a school classmate fell off his house roof and was killed. It was decided that some of his classmates should be his pallbearers. All went well until we had to let the ropes slide through our hands, it was then that I recalled my father's story so my hands took a vicelike grip on the rope and I was only able to do the job properly when my mate hissed at me to let the bloody rope go.

I think the influence of a good story teller should never be underestimated, a good example of rapid communication in our areas where there were few telephones was a time when Francis Chichester, a pioneer aviator, landed his aeroplane on Joe Mossop's farm.

I ran home from school since I was no longer allowed to ride a horse to school because a school mate living up our road fell from his horse on to a road fence and was seriously injured.

When I got home I was amazed to see our front paddock. There were dozens of gigs, buggies and saddle horses also a good number of Model-T Fords scattered about the place.

As I got to my house there were people standing on boxes looking in the windows. Inside, our big kitchen was jammed full of people all talking excitedly. I knew my parents were in there somewhere, probably by the kitchen stove, and I figured the only way to see what was going on was to get down on my hands and knees and crawl along the floor amongst and beneath the crowd. Eventually I found my parents, mum had a big teapot in her hands and a grin from ear to ear, beside her stood the great man wearing a pair of jodphurs with brown leather leggings. When it was time for him to go I was not allowed to go outside to see him take off as it was considered too dangerous. It was just as well that I was inside looking out the window because when his Gypsy Moth aeroplane roared over the paddock about the only things that didn't rear up on their hind legs were the Model-T Fords. Francis Chichester later became Sir Francis Chichester famed for his solo round-the-world yacht voyages.

One time we considered ourselves lucky if we had a telephone hanging on the wall but nowadays with these cellphones you are lucky if you can find the thing, especially if you have a granddaughter staying with you.

In the old days if someone walked about talking loudly to themselves people would wonder how long it would be before they were in a padded cell. Today, however, people walk about talking loudly into a cellphone and nobody takes any notice. Perhaps we should have stuck with a slate and slate pencil even though they used to make horrible scratchy noises.

The naked truth

I remember Jack Fraser in Southland talking at a field day about having a nudist camp next door to one of his apiaries.

On one occasion, while working hives with my son in an apiary a short distance from the beach a funny thing happened.

Looking up I saw a man walking steadily past the hives as if on a casual stroll. Nothing unusual about that except he didn't have a stitch on. He must have seen us some way off, and considering that other paths could have taken him past us without his being seen, it was quite unusual. I am seldom lost for words. He just said goodbye as he went past and being lost for words I asked if he had lost the beach.

Anyway he just carried on walking toward town as if he didn't have a care in the world. I never heard of anyone else seeing him, so perhaps he took to the back sections once he reached town.

Notes for beginners and others

That is another beekeeping season just about gone and winter will be upon us before we know. Have you done the following:

1. While taking off the surplus checked for BL (American Foulbrood)? If not do it now while there is still some brood in the hive;
2. Replace hive equipment in poor condition;
3. Replace poor quality combs, if not because they are holding honey move them to the outside of the super so that they will not contain brood next spring;
4. Check for winter stores? If wintering in two f.d. supers there should be the equivalent of a full super of honey (about 20-22kg). If bees have consumed a lot since harvesting or if you have taken too much away, supplementary feeding with either combs of honey or sugar syrup will be necessary. This should be done now or very shortly;
5. Restrict entrances to help bees guard against vermin and robbers (wasps, bees);
6. Remove the queen excluder if it is between the bottom and second super. If left the queen could become isolated when the bees cluster moves further up where the feed is. Excluders can be placed under the lid or taken home for cleaning in hot water. Alternatively it can be placed on the bottom board to act as a mouse guard but be careful for the wires can be easily distorted if a super lands on it in a wrong way;
7. Clean up round the hives so that there is no growth to keep wooden ware damp also check the hive bases so that hives sit solid and off the ground. Hives should slope slightly forward so that water will not run into the entrance;
8. Secure your sites against disturbance by livestock, in other words pay attention to the state of the fence;
9. Place weights on top of the hives or strapped them so that a vicious winter storm will not blow the roof off and let rain or snow get in;
10. Keep records so that you can reflect on past experience and possibly try to improve your future management?

Supplementary feeding with syrup must be done now before the weather is getting colder when it will become difficult for the bees to take up the syrup, process and store it. A strong syrup should be fed, 35kg sugar to 20 litres of water will give a 60+% solution. This

amount will dissolve in cold water but warm water makes it easier and speeds up the job. Trying to make the solution much stronger is not advisable as it may lead to granulation. There may be up to 25% loss involved as energy is needed for the transport, processing and storage of the syrup before it is fit as winter feed. Moisture content has to be lowered to about the level of ripe honey (18-20%). So one must feed more than just the amount of the shortfall. However don't over do it, bees need some empty comb space to cluster on. Now someone is bound to ask how to determine that a colony is in need of extra winterstores. If there is a full super of feed and also a bit of honey in the bottom box one can safely assume that there is sufficient.

With experience one can make a fair estimate by using eyes and feel, the last by lifting the hive with one hand, hinging it on the floor board. Many have not had the opportunity to gain that experience. In that case a spring scales with a hook is the answer. Take off the roof, crown board and excluder. Place a foot on the lip of the bottom board and the hook of the scales in the handgrip of the bottom box, lift it a few cm and read what it says. You have just lifted approximately half the weight of the two supers, the rear was still resting on the bottom board. We have found that if the scales register over 20kg things will be OK till the spring unless there are too many heavy old combs clogged up with pollen. The registered weight shows as 17kg so that hive needs feeding. Give it at least an amount of syrup holding 5kg of sugar. A little mental arithmetic comes in handy. 5kg sugar would dissolve in three litres of water. Feeding a good sized amount of syrup at once is better at this time of the year than small lots several times as the last may well boost brood rearing which is not wanted so late in the season.

Tall grass, weeds and growth in general must be kept away from the hives. Not only to keep the front door open for the bees but it helps in prolonging the life of expensive hive gear for a site choked up with weeds and long grass stays damp for a long time. Then there is the safety of the beekeeper. Long grass is a hazard especially when carrying heavy stuff. When I started working for a commercial beekeeper in the 1950s it was the slasher, sickle, spade and scythe (not many can handle the last one now) for the job. Time consuming and not too easy on the back. The appearance of an early version of the Hayter motor mower was a big help but the noise and vibration did upset the bees no end when getting close to the hives.

The advent of herbicides changed all

that. It is common practice now to use a chemical weedkiller, safe for bees, to keep a site clear of unwanted growth. Spraying is so easy and quick. It is efficient, for it gets an unprofitable job done in the shortest possible time.

That's all fine and dandy but there is a drawback. It is three summers now since we shifted into our house in town and I am still frustrated through peas germinating and keeling over after a week or so, same for beans while other less sensitive plants show very distorted and thickened foliage and poor growth. This is the result of the previous owner going to market with weed spray round the henhouse, fences, edges and odd places. We shifted three metres of top soil, tried leaching the stuff out with the hose but it is still there. A lot of weeds however don't seem to be affected and show lush growth. This just goes to show what some long term weedkillers will do to the soil. Long term alright!

Soil is a precious commodity. As beekeepers we need to conserve the environment, not only for now but for the long term. Leaving small plots with poisoned soil around the country is not the thing to do even if those few square metres we use seem to be insignificant. So consider using a product which does the job without the nasty side effect of leaving a harmful residue in the soil. A bio-degradable spray should be the solution. It works its way through the foliage to the roots and kills the plant. When coming into contact with the soil it breaks down and does no harm. To mind come Round Up and Network (I am not advertising, there may be others as good). If used under the right conditions and in accordance with the manufacturers instructions these will do a good job and are apparently safe for bees and other insects and life stock. Give it some thought please.

Library News

None, we seem to experience a real dearth recently.

But this time a request from the library. A number of issues of ABJ and Gleanings have not arrived here over the past few years. Can anyone assist with completing these volumes? Your help will be greatly appreciated. Please send them to: NBA Technical Library, C/- Post Shop, Milton. We will gladly re-imburse expenses.

Missing are: ABJ 1991 vol 131 no 1, 1993 vol 133 no 12, 1994 vol 134 no 1, 2, 6, 7; Gleanings 1993 vol 121 no 7, 8, 9, 10; 1994 vol 122 no 2, 3; 1995 vol 123 no 6, 7, 8; and 1996 vol 124 no 6, 7, 8, 10.

Beekeepers - beware of those frayed loading straps

Wanted, dead or alive, one slightly damaged loading strap.

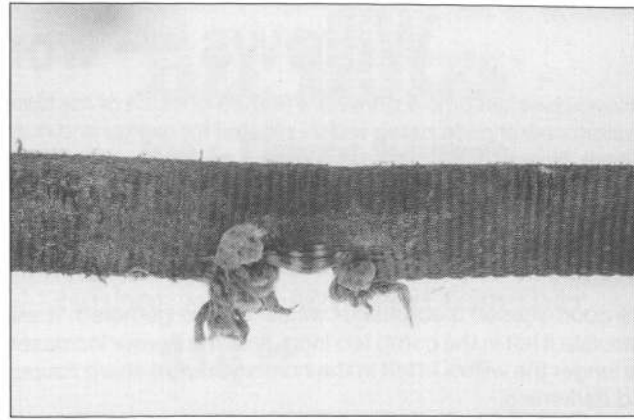
Reward - to government coffers

\$2000 instant fine!

Is this fair and just - is this what our fathers fought and died for?

The proud owner of this strap, having used it in a similar condition all Spring over beehives going into kiwifruit orchards, (I hope they were only stacked one-high on the truck)⁷ was quietly driving down the road with this strap over $\frac{3}{4}$ depth boxes of wet combs weighing an average of 9kg each which were stacked six high on a pallet with a strap over each row.

He would have been perfectly legal with ropes but the Police told this normally placid man that he had to replace this strap



instantly with another strap or be fined for insecure loading.

A \$2000 fine I could understand if he had used it over drums of honey, but empty boxes that could have been held on with bindertwine? (not legally).

Beekeepers Beware - do not bother about commonsense - bee legal.

I once was a placid man!

The highland fling

Watching an Apiary instructor at work can be quite inspiring. One instructor named Fred was a real quick mover.

One day I was following him into a property to inspect a few hives of bees. Being slower on foot than Fred, I was some way behind and was able to see Fred do a real classy highland

fling. I think two corgis on one ankle and one on the other helped inspire him to do that marvellous dance. Perhaps the addition of a kilt would have added to the occasion but I am certain most of Scottish ancestry would be approving of the way it was accomplished.

It did my funny bone the world of good as well.

Attention all NBA members

We are looking for nominations for the Roy Paterson Trophy for the 1998 Conference

Do you know of someone who fits
the criteria below?

The main theme of the award is "Innovation" and at the same time bring recognition to Roy Paterson. It can be for gadgets, inventions, science and technology that assist the beekeeping industry.

Nominations close 5.00pm, Monday, 15th of June 1998.

Last year's winner was
Mr John Thomson,
Waikato.

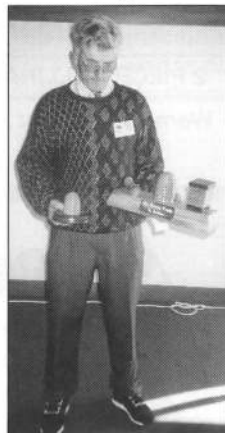
All nominations to:

Vice Chairman Mr Terry Gavin.

Phone: (09) 433-1893

Fax: (09) 433-1895

*Judge's decision is
final and no
correspondence
will be entered into.*



Notice of Annual General Meeting

The 92nd AGM of the Waikato Branch will be held in the Green Room, The Homestead, Ruakura on Friday the 24th of April commencing at 10.00am. This will be followed by a General Branch Meeting.

Other branch meetings for the year are...

Friday the 5th of June Branch Meeting to form Remits to the Annual Conference.

Friday the 10th of July Branch Meeting to vote on Conference Remits.

Friday the 7th of August Branch Meeting to report back from Conference.

All of the meetings will be held in the Green Room, Ruakura, commencing at 10.00am with a cuppa.

Members wanting notice of these meetings closer to the date - please notify the secretary.

The Secretary
AD (Tony) Lorimer
RD3
Hamilton
Phone: (07) 856-9625

Willows — worthwhile contribution

Willows have become a dominant feature of much of the New Zealand countryside being widely planted for shelter and river control. However from the beekeeping point of view willows make a very worthwhile contribution to feed reserves in the spring.

Without the willow a lot more sugar feeding would be necessary.

In a good season a surplus of willow can be gathered. It will granulate if left in the comb too long. Also the flavour increases the longer the willow is left in the comb gaining a sharp flavour and darkening.

Experience has shown that surplus willow should be extracted and sold quickly to obtain the best price for it.

There are a number of types of willow from the pussy willows of early spring to the white willow that flowers a little earlier than the common crack willow which usually flowers from around the 20th September until the second week in October. Most honey comes from the crack willow. The later flowering golden willows don't seem to have the same output.

In most areas it is the male willow that has been planted and these also give a good boost to the pollen reserves of the hives.

The Russian willows that tend to flower throughout the summer months were expected to have been a great contribution but haven't had the expected impact.

Willows do however, present beekeepers with a problem. As they are often hollow, they provide ideal homes for wild colonies. When disease enters these wild colonies then there is the problem of eliminating these colonies.

When I first considered killing colonies in willows I was told that they could be burnt out to destroy the honey as willow

didn't burn down. Only the center burnt out.

This was demonstrated to me quite clearly on one occasion. There was a big willow containing a colony that had to be destroyed right alongside a road. Anyway, we set fire to it and it burnt away merrily and to prove the exception to the rule half the tree collapsed into the paddock away from the road. How fortunate I thought as I went on my way.

Some time later I went past the tree and it looked fine but the road now had a horseshoe loop around the tree. "Funny" I thought so made some enquiries.

Apparently the day after the fire, a stock truck went sailing happily down the road as it usually did, but as it passed under the tree it ground to a halt. Apparently because half the weight of the tree had dropped into the paddock the other half lowered a little over the road. Just enough to catch the stock crate.

The council workman must have been conservationists as instead of just cutting the tree down they altered the road to suit.

One of the first willows I tackled gave me quite a surprise. After the tree was well alight I kept smelling burning cloth. I checked carefully but it wasn't me. The smell got worse when all of a sudden I experienced the South African necklace idea first hand.

A spark must have dropped onto my hat and set fire to the veil above the rim out of my sight. When the elastic burnt through the burning material dropped down to surround my neck.

Burning out a willow tree takes a little animal cunning. As many trees only had the one opening without a through draft, any fire tended to go out too soon leaving unburnt and perhaps diseased honey.

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We devised a good system to improve the draft. First diesel was put in the hole to kill the bees and to provide plenty of heat for the later burning. Then the tree was examined. If the tree was quite solid, about a pint of petrol was added to the hole. Then left a while before igniting.

The more sound the tree, the longer it would be left. When the match was finally used to ignite the petrol, the excitement began. As the petrol exploded knots would fly out various places leaving gaps to give the fire the necessary draft.

Thinking back I wonder how we avoided having to visit the hospital to have knots removed from various parts of our anatomy.

I had a worrying time one day. I was eating my lunch at the local hotel, when the county engineer turned up to tell me I had burnt a bridge down. The only wooden bridge I could think of was a massive structure over the local river. Imagine my relief when I was shown a small bridge over a drain into a farmer's property. I had my suspicions as it looked like a trail of petrol had been lead from the burnout tree along the bank of the drain, along the edge of the bridge taking a foot off each board and then back up the other side of the drain.

It cost the department \$60 which is a fraction of what I expected. I did however gain the reputation as the bloke who burn the bridge down.

One episode involving finding wild hives in willows had the appearance of a "Last of the Summer Wine" plot.

My cobber and myself used to methodically examine each willow along the local river to ensure all colonies were found as disease was well established in the willows.

As the willows were on both sides of the river and it was very frosty, we got tired of taking our boots off to cross a freezing river every few chains.

I had a brainwave. Why not use the extension ladder on the car to act as a bridge as the river was quite narrow? So off we went for test run.

We reached the river edge and placed the ladder across. Didn't quite reach the other bank, but plenty of length still on our side. "Give it more wooph" I said, so we did. A pity neither of us remembered to hold on, so there it was neatly placed on the other bank.

"Will get it later" I said, so off we went down the river. Just out of sight around the corner was a nice little footbridge, so over we trotted to get to the other side.

We carried on checking willows down stream and then saw some that needed checking on the other bank. Talk about planning. We hadn't thought of having one of us on each side.

We carried on checking willows down stream and then saw some thought of having one of us on each side.

At that stage my cobber disappeared, so I thought I had better check the willows myself. Took off my boots. Was just about at the other bank when I heard a loud splash upstream.

Apparently my cobber was trying to copy Tarzan. He had climbed a big willow, got right out on a branch and made a flying leap for the other bank-and missed.

Never mind we went back to the tried and true method of wandering back and forth across the river as necessary, but did find keeping our boots on did help combat the ten degree frosts.

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Northland Branches National Beekeepers Association Conference 1998

Regarding Conference 1998, this is only a tentative programme, as yet not confirmed and still containing gaps.

Monday am - Registration
 pm - Speciality Meetings
 5pm on - Social get together to mix and mingle
 with American Tour Group
 Light fingerfood evening meal
Tuesday am - Seminar begins
 Some of the guest speakers will
 include the following:

- * Peter Barret speaking on "Northland, Cradle of New Zealand Beekeeping"
- * Dr Keith Delaplane from the USA speaking on topics to be confirmed
- * Bill Floyd speaking on topics to be confirmed also

Tuesday 12.30-1.30 Seminar lunch (included in cost
 of Seminar)
Tuesday 1.30-5.00 Seminar continues
Tuesday 8pm Sponsors Hour followed by
 Honey Tasting Competition
Wednesday 9.00-4.30 Conference/AGM
Thursday 8.00-9.00 Special Meeting to discuss
 Proposed Rule changes
 9.00 Return to Conference/AGM

Social Evening is to be confirmed for either Wednesday or Thursday evening.

Look forward to something a little different from the usual!!

**The Conference is taking place at
Cophorne Resort Waitangi
Phone: (09) 402-7411, Fax: (09) 402-8200**

Room Rate \$110 incl GST per room,
based on single/share twin.

**Contact for further information or assistance
Cushla Gavin, Conference Secretary
Phone: (09) 433-1892, Fax: (09) 433-1895**

Viewpoint

If I had any sense, I'd be pulling out my sailing dinghy and heading off into the deep blue yonder, but it's dark outside and the thought of carousing (my spelling) in the inner harbour with only a torch for a pilot light doesn't seem like a great idea, so here goes.

There are a number of people who feel a bit uncomfortable with what I call the 'policing' which has been going on for some time between the past president and the executive of the NBA.

The approach and attitude of Nick Wallingford is I believe being counter productive, both in terms of how people view the NBA as an organisation and how people view Nick Wallingford as a person.

I would start by saying that the NBA has a very good structure, the election of members on the executive, the balance of North and South Island members and the 'rotation' of executive members, combined with the functions of branches throughout the country and the annual conferences means the NBA has the ability to provide for the needs of its members, and to attend to the work that needs to be done.

The X factor (unpredictable) is the nature and behaviour of the people involved, and I think it needs to be remembered that the NBA is the people who are involved, and not something other than that.

To illustrate what I mean is that the 'community' as such can't fix your problems or provide for your needs, only the people in the community can do that for you.

One aspect of the 'kiwi' psyche that stands out, (a bit like whinging Poms!) is that kiwi's are known for being too critical of each other, for continually knocking each other down. To put it another way, criticism is often not constructive in its approach, and after all we can always look for something

negative to focus upon if we wish, but as you all know if applied to most human relationships this type of behaviour is very destructive for both parties.

I believe the executive need to be and needs to show itself to be responsible, and to be responsible means being able to respond to concerns raised by people.

Most of the concerns seem to be about money, and the escalating administration costs of the NBA are a concern to many people, especially as has been suggested that there might need to be an increase in the levy to cover any deficit.

The past couple of years have seen an increase in the costs of running the NBA and producing the magazine. I would imagine that with the changes brought about by the PMS and commodity levy the executive have faced some unexpected costs due to an increase in the amount of work involved, while some people feel this has been too high there are also realistic people who are aware of some of the costs of doing business in today's world.

In regard to the financial state of the NBA, to me its fairly healthy, the administration has quite reasonable cash reserves to help it through fluctuations and I also believe very strongly that some of the costs of implementing the PMS and the commodity levy should be met by the Trust Funds, these changes are for the benefit of future beekeepers, and these changes incur extra costs which should not be borne entirely by today's beekeepers.

And also in regard to Trust Funds, which have grown from an initial \$600,000 to over \$1million, these are here to help the industry and its people. The trustees are more than willing to consider applications which have merit and I believe are very interested in the future welfare of beekeeping in New Zealand.

AGM Hawke's Bay Branch

**Where?
Arataki Cottage
Arataki Road
Havelock North**

**When?
20 April, 7.30pm.**

Why?

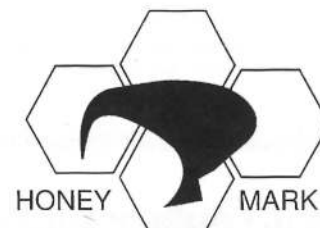
To give all members the chance to throw out the old branch officers and have their team running the show. An inducement to attend is the light supper to follow the meeting.

Questions call Ron (06) 844-9493

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Woe to beekeepers in the future if the NBA becomes like the Meat and Wool Board with more money than they know what to do with while farmers are being financially crippled, and this is not an exaggeration.

The responsibility for financial expenditure and control rests entirely with the executive, most members past and present have had very humble beginnings and should know how to keep costs down and make tough decisions. I know they are capable of this or they would not now be still in business, at the same time you can't run a business or an association like a number crunching accountant, it just doesn't work.

I also believe the executive deserves a lot more support from beekeepers throughout the country, they have the industry interests at heart, just as much as anyone reading these words, and after all could you, or your business afford the time to put into the NBA what they do?

One issue I feel strongly about is that the cost of administration and editorial of the magazine should be separate and stand alone from the administration costs of the Executive Secretary. This industry should be able to see what the costs are and the cost to beekeepers. It means that people are in a position to make decisions and changes in the future if needed.

I think the executive made the right decision in renewing the contract with the current Executive Secretary, if everything is allowed to settle down and get organised we are then in a better position to make decisions for the future. If there are then areas of the administration that the executive want to re-evaluate, or decide to do differently, then they will be in a better position to do it.

And a few words about our current President? Well, with Russell Berry I guess you either like him or you don't like him, or you respect him, I probably fall into the last category. While some people find him a difficult person to deal with and very strong on his own opinions, I would certainly give him credit

for behaving with some dignity when he gets pulled into line, he accepts the situation and gets on with the job.

The industry does need strong leadership, and I think the best leaders the world has seen are those who can accept the most good advice.

Colin McLean

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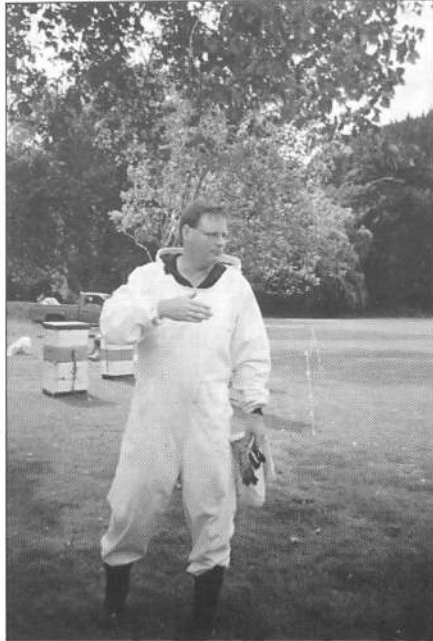
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Southern North Island beekeepers swarm in Pinehaven



Cross my heart they are not nasty bees! Frank Lindsay



Look mum!

Even for a beekeeper, the initial sight of strange people in white clothing and veils wandering the grounds of Pinehaven School still appeared 'unusual'. I wonder what the locals thought? However, it was worth the trip from

Levin to share in yet another successful Southern North Island Field Day. Although targeted at Wellington members (mostly hobbyists), there was still something for all 50-odd attendees to learn and as always, there was the

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opportunity for beekeepers to chat to each other. (Like, "Yep, I had a pretty bad season, too"). There was plenty of beekeeping equipment for sale on the day.

PJ introduced the day, reminding those present about the SNIBA Buzz Weekend at Camp Rangī Woods, Pohangina in August. James Driscoll discussed disease identification and control. Visits to the hives, provided by Robert Hatfield, covered finding queens and removing the honey crop in suburban areas (how to use escape boards). I learnt that nuc boxes can be made from painted corrugated cardboard, which will last one season quite satisfactorily. Robert demonstrated how efficient they are as mousetraps. I also learnt that Frank Lindsay can get nucs through the winter quite satisfactorily and get two supers of honey off them (very big nucs, very small supers?).

The sausage sizzle was complemented with barbecued sweetcorn in the husk. It doesn't matter if the husks charcoal a bit, the corn is great.

The afternoon session consisted of an airgun demonstration by Tony Redding of Airgun Services. He covered usage, safety, types available and cost. Guns have come down in price, (and weight!) in the last decade and are worth considering by large hobbyists and commercial beekeepers. There is a cordless airgun available now (no air compressor!), but the cost per staple is rather high.

Richard discussed the principles of queenrearing. He emphasised the importance of the selection of young larvae from queens with the desirable characteristics of being relatively gentle, producing a large honey crop and being prolific breeders. He also described the non-grafting Miller method of queenrearing, as well as grafting techniques, management of queenrearing hives and how to introduce new queens to production hives.

Manawatu won the day's competition, which involved lighting a smoker, nailing and wiring up a frame and putting on effective

and elegant protection (from bees, you understand). There was also a written multi-choice exam. Unfortunately, from a purely parochial standpoint, Manawatu was unable to peg back Wairarapa, who won the Bee's Knees Trophy for accumulating the most points during the season's field days. Thanks to Robin McCammon for organising the competition. NBA executive secretary, Harry Brown, said a few words (quite a few, actually) about subjects of national interest to beekeepers, including: the issue of pesticide testing of honey bound for Europe; progress with the Pest Management Strategy, which may be in place by 1st July and changes in MAFQM.

Frank and Maryanne Lindsay were wished well during their impending OE.

Well done all those people involved in organising and running the day, particularly Robert Hatfield, and thanks to Tony Redding of Airgun Services for making his time available.

Bruce Bycroft

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Bay of Plenty Branch Field Day

DATE: 23 May 1998

VENUE: New Comvita Factory, Paengaroa

TOPIC: The Need for Standards

*Selling our products -
what can we expect in future?*

SPEAKING ON RESEARCH:

Peter Molan

(Director Honey Research Unit)

Professor Alistair Wilkins

(Chem Dept, Waikato University)

ON MARKETING: Peter Bray of Airborne Honey
Allen McCaw of Milburn

AND MORE

—Details in the May BeeKeeper—



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Waikato Field Day



John Thomson winner of the Gadget Shield

Just a few notes from yesterday's (Sat 21 Mar) Waikato Field Day, held just outside Cambridge, at the honeyhouse of the Haddrells.

There would have been 75-80 beekeepers in attendance, with some from Hawke's Bay, Auckland and Bay of Plenty.

Lewis Olsen, Waikato Branch President, opened the day and welcomed everyone.

The first speaker was Russell Berry, NBA President. His talk covered recent matters being dealt with by the NBA Executive. He described a visit to the quarantine facilities in Auckland, where they got the chance to see the xray machines and sniffer dogs in use to maintain our agricultural security at the border. He talked about the pending charges for residue testing, previously discussed on this list. The current requirement will mean one sample for each 300 tonnes of honey produced. You can get the details from the latest *NZ BeeKeeper* magazine. Other topics he discussed included emergency response, publications (specifically the

new advertising rates), the clover weevil and the proposed label warnings for pollen, propolis and royal jelly products. Murray Reid, AAO from Hamilton,



Stuart showing a "good" frame for the South Island

discussed the history and current situation regarding disease control, outlining the loss of the Apiaries Act (in force since 1906!) this coming 1 October. Without a PMS in place by that date,

there is no statutory regulation of AFB.

He also outlined the organisation situation of MAF, describing the individual sections such as the Regulatory Authority and MAF Quality Management, helping to distinguish their functions as they relate to beekeeping. He indicated the pending/possible change in structure, with possible splitting off of MAF Qual into a State Owned Enterprise. He was optimistic that the same 'bee' people will still be there, but will have to be fully 'earning their living'...

Mark Goodwin then gave a description of the obligations that the PMS will impose on beekeepers, identifying that almost all are directly the same as currently in the Apiaries Act. He then described from a personal point of view how the PMS will affect beekeepers, describing the sorts of mailouts to expect and what they will mean. He gave a commonsense description of the DECA scheme, the agreement that an

approved beekeeper will need to have with the management agency. He described something of a multichoice form to fill out, describing what steps a beekeeper will have to take during the year related to disease. If the plan that results is sound, and the beekeeper meets the other requirements, no statement of inspection will be required. But anyone who is not an approved beekeeper will have to provide a statement of inspection signed by an approved beekeeper.

Lunchtime gave everyone plenty of time to socialise, see the extracting plant in action and see Malcolm Haine's split boom loader, as well as view the various trade displays.

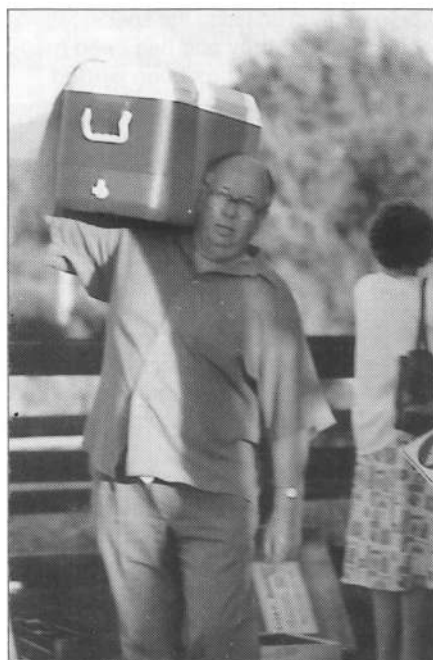
After lunch, Cliff Van Eaton described his new post with Comvita. He emphasised the opportunities (near necessity!) for added value products, and especially the bee products other than honey. He detailed the need for quality systems to allow for both consistent products but



Some of the crowd

Waikato Field Day

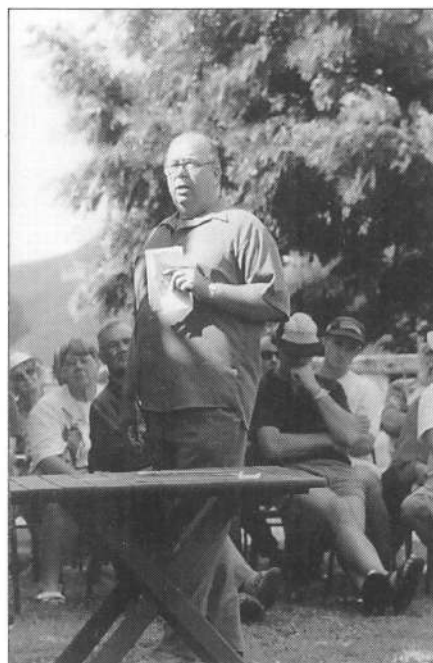
also for traceback if the need requires. I heard a lot of beekeepers murmuring appreciatively, and I think the ideas are well on the way to acceptance. Interestingly, when Cliff was describing



The President with his lunch? Where is Annette's?

the problems that can come about if, say, things like bees' legs made their way into a pollen product, and saying how important production/handling were, a beekeeper near me muttered "But that's not OUR problem..." I think he was in a minority in understanding the partnerships required...

Jane Lorimer gave a brief but very informative report on the activities of the NBA's Marketing Committee. She was



National President Mr Russell Berry

very upbeat and positive about the present and future value of the marketing initiatives being undertaken. While there were no questions to her, I felt a pretty supportive audience, which was pleasant to see - the Marketing Committee has not always received such a positive hearing from the Waikato Branch!

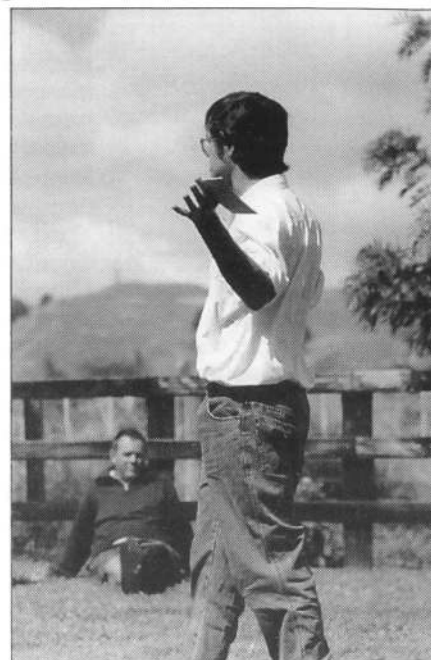
The gadget shield was contested with three gadgets. A variation on a hive tool and a hive strapping variation were both submitted but considered not inventive enough for the first two prizes. The runner up was a propolis collection box. It had a drill with a wire brush fitted inside a hooded box, allowing for the grinding off the frames of propolis. The winner was a propolis collection device which was, in effect, a frame replacement (rather than 'over the hive' type collector as is more common). It consisted of a series of bars held together with a pin each end. After the bees have filled the gaps, pulling one of the pins allow the scraping of the propolis.

The various honey buyers and trade display people each briefly addressed the crowd. Steve Lyttle from Timaru said he felt the South Island crop would be smaller than mentioned in the magazine. He mentioned buying in prices in the \$2-80 to \$3-00/kg range, with one purchase he had recently made at \$3-25/kg (with the loss of the drum in this case). He was surprised at the amount of honey actually coming out of the sheds, as he didn't think there was that much about (with



Tevor Cullen — we don't have this sun problem in Auckland!

only Southland and the irrigated parts of Canterbury really having a decent crop). He mentioned his desire to obtain more comb honey, with prices of \$7-50/kg as



Mark Goodwin describing the size of the fish that got away!

cut from the comb with a \$20/super deposit, the rest of the payment over six monthly installments. Various other trade display people, including Stuart Ecroyd (Ecroyd Bee Supplies), Trevor Cullen (Ceracell), and Ken Parkinson (Mahurangi Hiveware) described various items for sale and the other products they had available to beekeepers.

Russell Berry led a discussion on the use of plastic frames. Malcolm Haines (who has sold about 100,000 of these this past season into New Zealand!) provided expert advice on their preparation and use. Discussion on the brushing on of wax (about 50gm per frame) versus spraying (about 15gm per frame). Other discussion on the feeding of sugar syrup, including some discussion on whether feeding it warm provides any advantage. About the time the robber bees found the bits of drawn comb being used the discussion finished pretty abruptly!

When the main part of the field day finished in the late afternoon, another cup of tea gave everyone another chance to natter and argue, just like beekeepers always do!

As I had my two daughters with me, I didn't stay for the barbeque, but there still seemed to be quite a number there when we left.

Except for Stuart Ecroyd, who had taken off to Cambridge to get more beer!

Thanks to Nick Wallingford.

This has been reprinted with permission from the NZ BeeKeepers e mail discussion List. To join this informal discussion group, send a email message to subscribe@beekeeping.co.nz or go to <http://www.beekeeping.co.nz>.

No Pedigree



A lack of blue blood has not stopped the country's first mongrel drug-detecting dog from making a big impression in his new job.

Noel Thorburn, a customs dog handler, is the first to admit that his new partner - a Labrador collie-cross

whose ears earned him the name Spock - appears an unlikely guardian of the border. "He is not regarded as the prettiest thing on earth, but he has started off real well. He had five 'hits' in the first month," he said on Wednesday.

The Auckland-based handler said Spock was plucked from a dog pound in Wellington on the day he was due to be put down.

"They showed us some other dogs, but he was out the back. They didn't realise we will take cross-breeds."

Spock replaces Mr Thorburn's previous dog, Ben, who was retired after intercepting more than 800 drug importation's in an eight-year career that covered Auckland Airport, wharves, the international mail centre and house searches.

He showed he still had a nose for the job by beating his successor to a drug-laced training package on a mail centre conveyer belt.

A customs inspections manager, Noel Dravitski, said Ben had been adopted by a woman who worked at the mail centre.

"We don't normally let our dogs go, but this one we did. People might want to use them for the purpose for which they have been trained."

*Acknowledgement, Roger Wakefield,
Auckland Sunday Star Times*

PMS Report

Much is being done in preparation for the launch of the PMS on July 1st 1998. Tenders will be called from interested parties for the major part of the PMS programme in this issue of the *BeeKeeper*. Advertisements will also appear in the major daily newspapers throughout New Zealand at about the same time. We, the committee agreed that we only want national tenders.

The operational plan is being drawn up using the specifications suggested by MAF Regulatory Authority and has been made much more simple by the way strategy has been written.

The Apiary Register is a difficult issue as it is used for other purposes than disease control. However, discussions are still continuing with Ministry of Agriculture but a final picture has not emerged at this stage. A recent conference call of this committee spent considerable time discussing how this problem could be overcome. After further discussions with Government, the committee will discuss the above problem further.

The committee appointed Bruce Stevenson of Kerikeri as vice chairman of the PMS Review Committee. Bruce was one of the original Disease Control Committee Members appointed in 1992 and has done grand service to this committee. Many thanks, Bruce.

I have reviewed a number of previous reports addressed to you, the readers of this magazine and I feel a little inadequate in advising you on PMS matters. I am saying the same things I said a year or even two years ago in these reports but have still not got the strategy in place. The Minister has had the strategy document for two years now, yet we have still got things to sort out. This is not criticism of the Minister, but just the way that things are done at Government level.

Sorry there is not more to tell you at this stage, except that things are progressing and we trust that all will be in place on July 1st next.

Terry Gavin

1998 Rules and Remits Timetable

Don't forget any Remits or Proposed Rule changes are to be with the Executive Secretary by 9am, 6th of June 1998.

Remits and proposed Rule changes must be in at least 45 days before Conference.

Last Day for Remits and Proposed Rule changes is 9am, 6th June 1998 (45 days before the start of conference)

Rule 19.

c) Notice of every remit to the Conference shall be delivered to the Executive Secretary at least 45 days prior to its commencement; but a Remit of which such notice has not been given may be considered by the Conference unless more than two Delegates object.

d) All remits passed by the Conference shall be in the form of recommendations to the Executive.

Proposed Rule changes must be in at least 45 days before Conference

Rule 30.

c) Any member or Branch proposing an alteration to the Rules shall submit a notice of motion thereof to the Executive not less than 45 days prior to the date of a Special Meeting of the Association.

There will be a special meeting 8am, Thursday the 23rd of July 1998.

Yours sincerely
Harry Brown
Executive Secretary

Beekeeping in the world of entertainment

Excuse me a minute, but I've got to get Glenda to fix the computer up. Ah that's better, every time I wrote the word "THE", it wrote, "DANIEL IS WONDERFUL", I'll tell you one thing, my fountain pen never did that to me. This month, apart from trying to keep our hives alive by feeding them thousands of dollars worth of sugar, often without the benefit of a smoker, (both the feeding and lack of smoker being due to our extreme drought conditions), I've been doing a bit of reading and also been to the movies. The books that I have been reading are two novels about beekeepers and the film is of course Ulee's Gold. Anyway I thought I'd write a review of them, bees not being a subject that comes up in fiction all that often. If you are getting a computer make sure that you don't let your kids on it, when I wrote "BEES" in that last sentence it came up as "BIG HAIRY MONSTERS", I should have left him down the crack in the lawn that he fell down the other day.

Book number one, The Keeper Of The Bees, by Gene Stratton-Porter.

This is a heartwarming tale of an American serviceman's search for a return to health after the, I think, First World War, it is preachy, longwinded and old fashioned, but it is also a lovely story. Bees play an integral but not a huge part in the story and it is interesting to read the somewhat quaint ideas that used to prevail with regards to bees and the keeping thereof.

Book number two, The Honey Flow, by Kylie Tennant.

Mallee is a female would be beekeeper who sets out in this book to find out all she can about migratory beekeeping in the south east of Australia. It is set just after the war and I can't vouch for its accuracy regarding Australian beekeeping practices back then but I can vouch for it being a dam good read. Our cousins across the ditch might get huge crops but they still have to work for them, if this book is anything to go by - the migratory beekeepers in the fifties led lives interesting enough to make me glad I'm a New Zealand beekeeper.

And the film of course is Ulee's Gold

staring Peter Fonda (complete with beekeepers back), Patricia Richardson (complete with her gorgeous honey silk voice), a real genuine blast from the past, Kelly Boom Loader, Tupelo (pronounced two pih low), a high value mono floral honey and a whole lot of BEES. Some beautiful film of bees, beekeeping and honey in it, the rest of the story wasn't so great but it was all right, it was the bees that held it together, a must see for all beekeepers. A word of warning though, don't take your wife, we sat next to my brother in law and he and I discussed the merits and otherwise of the beekeeping parts of the film as it went along and for some reason Glenda got a bit techy about what was a perfectly reasonable and well informed accompaniment to the film. And in case it makes you wonder when you see the film, the way they had the hives all set out in long lines was just to show you how not to do it, it has to be, I can't think of any other justification for setting them up in such an awkward, drift prone, ask the stock to come and knock them over and then thank them fashion.

Peter Berry

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To replace sugar with honey

1. Substitute $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of honey per cup of sugar.
2. Reduce amount of liquid by $\frac{1}{4}$ cup for each cup of honey used.
3. Lower baking temperature by 25 degrees F.
4. In baked goods add $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp of baking soda for each cup of honey used.

Honey Chicken Wings

- 3 lb wings, tips cut off
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup soy sauce
- 2 tbsps catsup
- 1 cup honey
- 2 tbsps vegetable oil
- pinch of garlic salt

Cut each wing into 2 parts. Sprinkle with garlic salt. Combine remaining ingredients. Place chicken wings in pan. Pour sauce over and bake at 375 degrees F for 1 hour.

Fruit Smoothie

- $1\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup honey
- 1 tsp vanilla
- dash of ground nutmeg
- 2 medium bananas, peeled
- 1 cup plain or vanilla yogurt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp cinnamon

In blender or food processor, combine all ingredients. Process until smooth. Add up to 5 ice cubes, one at a time, and blend until smooth.

Honey Sweet Potato Balls

- 2 cups mashed sweet potatoes
- honey
- cornflakes
- small marshmallows

Take a small amount of potatoes (about $\frac{1}{4}$ cup) and place a few marshmallows in the centre and make into a ball. Roll in crushed corn flakes. Place in buttered baking dish and pour honey over the top. Bake at 325 degrees for 30 minutes. *Yields 8-10 servings.*

Hot Honey Cider

- 2 quarts apple cider
- 1 orange, cut in 6 slices
- 16 whole cloves
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup honey
- 1 tsp whole allspice
- 10 cinnamon sticks

Cut two orange slices into quarters and set aside. Combine remaining orange slices, cider, honey, allspice, cloves and two cinnamon sticks in saucepan, and bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer 15 minutes, stirring well. Pour into serving mugs; garnish with a slice of orange and cinnamon stick. *Yields 8 servings.*

Honey French Toast

- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cups milk
- 8 slices bread
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup honey
- dash of salt

Combine beaten eggs, milk, honey and salt; dip bread in mixture and fry. Serve with topping, below.

Topping:

- 1 cup honey
- 2 tbsps butter
- 2 tbsps lemon juice

Combine all three ingredients in saucepan over low heat.

Fruit Dressing

- 2 egg yolks
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup honey
- 1 tsp lemon
- 1 cup cream cheese, softened
- 3 tbsps milk
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp vanilla

Beat ingredients together until fluffy. Refrigerate. Serve over fruit or use as a fruit dip.

Honey Candy Rolls

- 1 cup dry milk powder
- 1 cup honey
- 1 cup peanut butter
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp vanilla

Mix all ingredients together. Shape into bite-size rolls. Refrigerate.

Can also be dipped into your favourite chocolate coating. A great all-natural treat for wholesome Easter eggs.

Chocolate Honey Fudge

- 2 cups sugar
- $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp salt
- 1 cup evaporated milk
- 2 tbsps butter
- 1 square unsweetened chocolate
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup honey

Boil sugar, chocolate, salt and milk for five minutes. Add honey and boil to soft ball stage (240 degrees). Add butter and let stand until lukewarm. Beat until creamy.

Back to Nature Cookies

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup shortening
- 2 eggs
- $1\frac{1}{4}$ cups whole wheat flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup chopped nuts
- 1 cup raisins
- 1 cup honey
- 1 tsp vanilla
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp baking soda
- $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp salt
- 2 cups quick oats
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup apple, finely chopped

In large mixing bowl, cream shortening and honey until fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each. Stir in vanilla. In medium bowl, stir together flour, soda, baking powder, salt and cinnamon. Add dry ingredients to honey mixture, beating until smooth. Stir in oats, nuts, apple and raisins. Drop by teaspoon onto greased cookie sheets about 2 inches apart. Bake at 350 degrees 10-12 minutes or until cookies are golden brown. *Makes about 5 dozen.*

Honey Butter

- $\frac{1}{3}$ cups honey
- $\frac{1}{2}$ lb butter or margarine

Keep ingredients at room temperature for several hours to soften. Mix together with electric mixer.

Honey Chocolate Ice Cream

- 2 cups milk
- 3 eggs
- 1 quart cream
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp vanilla
- 2 squares chocolate
- $\frac{1}{8}$ tsp salt
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups honey

Make a boiled custard of the milk, melted chocolate, Honey, eggs and vanilla. When cool add cream and freeze.

**Acknowledgement,
Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association**

Beekeeping for the very beginner

We beekeepers often hear people say "I have always been interested in bees, how do I get started?"

Beekeeping is an art, a science and a fascinating hobby even for commercial keepers with years of experience. Yet there are some warnings for those thinking of becoming apiarists. Beekeeping is addictive in that one hive leads to two which leads to several more and before you know it your life revolves around bees and their needs. They don't just fly in and out of their hives. They need to be managed.

For a start one has to think about where the hive(s) will be located. Bees can be kept in an urban situation but the neighbours must be considered. Are the bees going to fly out over their clothes line or parked car relieving themselves as they take off? Are there people nearby who are allergic to bee stings? Will your neighbours accept a gift of honey? You should consult your local authority and consider having your bees on a friend's farm but keep a reasonable distance from other peoples' hives.

Before starting find someone who is keeping bees. Talk with them, get out in the apiary with them and ask all the questions you can think of. The Hawke's Bay Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association has hobbyist and commercial members who can help you.

How does one get a hive? There are two parts to this answer. The woodware to house the bees and the bees themselves.

Woodware consists of a base with a couple of runners to keep the hive up off the ground, a flat board with upstands around the two long sides and one short side, hive boxes, an inner cover, a lid and frames with wax foundation. These may be bought from a beekeeping supplier in kitset form or made up. Some parts can be made by a competent woodworker. Bees can be obtained by purchase of a packet of bees or by capture of a swarm. Another alternative is to buy a hive complete with bees if a seller can be found by advertising or asking around.

Besides the bees and their home will need protective clothing consisting of a bee proof suit, a veil for face protection, a hive tool for opening the hives and a smoker to pacify the bees as you work with them. Once you get started you will find there are other minor items which make the work easier.

Let's assume you have a hive. In the spring the bees will fly out gathering pollen and nectar so that they can feed the young larvae which the one queen in the hive will produce. As summer advances the bees will store nectar which they will convert to honey for winter stores if the beekeeper does not take it off in the autumn. In the winter the bees form a cluster within the hive living on their stored honey until the days are warm enough for them to go out foraging on the early spring flowers.

Harvesting the honey crop involves removing the frames which have had the honey stored in the cells capped over, uncapping the cells and spinning the honey out for straining and putting into containers. The beginner with one hive can take the comb honey from the frame for eating or placing in a mutton cloth bag hung over a bucket so that the honey can drip through. The wax remaining can be washed and used for candle making.

If you are interested in beekeeping get along to the meetings of the local branch of beekeepers' club.

The Law Letter Damages sought for Health & Safety breaches

Punishment for employer, not just compensation for victim

In the minefield of the Health & Safety in Employment Act, 1992 there has been a move by employees or others who have suffered accidents in the workplace to claim exemplary damages through the Courts. Exemplary damages are awarded by Courts with the intention of punishing the offender rather than merely compensating the victim.

It is interesting to note the comments of the High Court, Whangarei in a case where an employee of a Northland timber company issued proceedings claiming exemplary damages of \$500,000 for negligence, breach of statutory obligations under the Health & Safety in Employment Act and breach of fiduciary duty to the employee.

The Court felt that there is nothing to prevent exemplary damages being awarded after a defendant has been convicted under the Health & Safety in Employment Act nor the Accident Rehabilitation Compensation & Insurance Act, 1992 prevent a claim by an employee for exemplary damages based on negligence or breach of statutory duty.

Carelessness not grounds

However the Court noted that carelessness alone was not a sufficient ground for an exemplary damages claim but most importantly the High Court observed that the Court "should resist the temptation to supplement inadequate compensation under the ACC Act with exemplary damages. Until recently the quantum of awards has been somewhat modest."

The employee had intended to have the matter set down before a jury, presumably in the hope of a larger award being made and the Court observed that "based on precedent to date it would need to be an exceptional case for the Judge to indicate in a negligence claim a maximum figure of above \$30,000."

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EXECUTIVE MEETING DATES

MAY 98 - 25th, 26th and 27th - WELLINGTON

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

COMING EVENTS...

NELSON BEEKEEPERS CLUB — Contact Pete and Kevin 546-1422

Diary Now!! 1998 Conference

1998 NBA Conference is being Hosted by the Far North and Northland Branches. It will be held at the "Cophorne Resort", Waitangi (Bay of Islands).

Dates:

Specialties meetings, Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st, Conference Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd of July.

Hotel Phone number:
(09) 402-7411
Fax: (09) 402-8200.

Branch contact details on the inside the front cover of the magazine.

Diary NOW 14th, 15th, 16th of August 1998 for a BUZZ weekend

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Any questions call: P.J. (alias BUZZ) on (06) 378-7632

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SOUTH CANTERBURY BRANCH
Phone: Noel
(03) 693-9771

CANTERBURY BRANCH
Meets the last Tuesday of every month.
February to October.
Field Day November.
Contact: 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
Contact Barry (06) 867-4591

SOUTHERN NORTH ISLAND BRANCH
Phone: (04) Frank 478-3367

SOUTHLAND BRANCH
Contact Don Stedman,
Ph/Fax: (03) 246-9777

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.