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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

So who is this Lin McKenzie anyway? He arrived on the Executive without biographical notes so who knows where he is coming from? Or where he is going for that matter.

I am married to Mavis and we have two children as well as a granddaughter we dote on (remind me to show you the photos sometime). I have no intention of telling how old I am. Personal interests include service clubs and the care of our older folk. I am known to spend the odd weekend fishing or curling.

We keep 1500 hives in Central Otago, they are supposed to keep us but that is another matter, El Nino has a lot to answer for. We pack the biggest part of our crop for the Dunedin market and produce some comb honey for export. I am a director of Southern Honey Exports and a past Otago Branch Chairman. I report for the Otago Daily Times on a casual basis and have stuff turn up in other publications from time to time.

A few years ago I became very concerned when it appeared to me that the NBA had lost sight of the beekeepers who earn their living by keeping bees. It was not apparent that anyone was listening when I expressed my concerns so I stopped paying my hive levy. Yes, that is correct, I am one of those dreadful fellows who didn't pay their levy. An executive member or two rang asking when I was going to pay, I outlined my position but it did not seem I was being heard. Our Executive Secretary finally convinced me I should pay up a couple of years ago by telling me my concerns were shared. In May people who knew my feelings approached me to allow my name to go forward for the upcoming executive election, and here I am.

I feel very strongly that open communication is a cornerstone of democracy. This is amply illustrated whenever a political coup takes place, newspaper offices and radio stations are primary targets for takeover. Communication must be available to all and must be verifiable.

In today's age the electronic media is cited as being the way to go and it certainly has the advantage of speed. However not everyone has access to a computer so this method is not freely available and the veracity of statements made in some of these mediums are certainly questionable. Our journal has editorial shortcomings, which are currently being addressed, particularly in the area of verification and credibility. Importantly, our association as a whole can maintain control of the journal



Lin McKenzie

through the executive who must continue to take editorial responsibility by setting out strict editorial guidelines and enforcing them.

I have mentioned a concern for beekeepers earning a living by keeping bees. In this El Nino year many have suffered poor or non-existent honey crops and for those who only have a honey crop to generate income, times are indeed difficult. I know there is always a crop failure somewhere and production figures for the year do not indicate a severe shortage of honey. That is no help to those who have no crop. There is no longer a government safety net and the dole is only available under pretty hard conditions, such as assets should be sold off and there will only be enough to put food on the table anyway. Beekeepers in Hawke's Bay were not included in the drought relief package and I understand this is the case in other areas also. Floods in Waikato and other parts of the country have doubtless taken their toll so there is probably a need to develop some sort of disaster strategy for members of our industry.

I attended our conference this year as delegate for North Otago and took up my seat on the Executive at the end of the conference. What a lot of expensive time was wasted on personal attacks and associated negative stuff!

I am somewhat bemused that an industry which five years ago voted strongly for a Pest Management Strategy now refuses to fund that same Strategy. I heard many people at conference say there was not enough information to justify any levy increase.

The NBA Annual Report for the year ending 31 December 1997 on page 2 of the financial report shows a deficit (after taxation) of \$40,990. This is confirmed

on page 6 where the statement of financial position indicates net assets have been eroded from \$180,691 to \$139,241, a loss of \$41,450. On page 5 total disease control costs of \$114,533 are reported. The PMS budget, on page 26 of the PMS document indicates Year One costs predicted at \$155,330, \$40,797 more than was spent in 1997. My sums tell me we have a shortfall, in round figures of \$82,000.

Page 32 of the PMS indicates we could burn between \$300,000 (0.8% AFB incidence) and \$740,000 (2% AFB incidence) worth of hives in a year.

This could be reduced to perhaps \$70,000 or even less by year ten, but it seems we can't afford to do so. I rest my case.

There were two possible scenarios to be put before the industry regarding the operation of the PMS, one for the MAFQual tender to be accepted and one for NBA to operate the strategy. I have perceived a strong wish among members that the industry should take control of its own destiny by picking up the PMS ourselves. Equally strong is the feeling that perhaps we are not yet ready to do this and that realistically MAFQual, who have the needed expertise already in place, are the only practical contender. I felt we should take up the challenge ourselves. In the event my good friend Keith Herron laid it on the line.

He pointed out the personal losses members of the Executive had experienced in the last year or two and the pressures they were already under and asked whether it was fair or indeed realistic to ask them to take up this massive challenge. I saw two members of your Executive in tears during the discussion held before Keith put this to the conference. The NBA option was withdrawn.

Lin McKenzie

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# Obituary - Arnold Henry Simpson

South Canterbury lost one of its longest practising beekeepers recently with the sudden passing of Arnold Simpson at age 78 years.

Only two weeks previously, Arnold had been awarded life membership of the NBA at a South Canterbury Branch meeting. This was a great surprise and thrill for Arnold and recognition of his part as a founder of the branch in the 1950s, and over 60 years in the beekeeping industry.

Arnold was persuaded to give an impromptu talk about how he started in beekeeping. "I tried engineering first, but even the Railways gave up on me - then cabinet making but the dust near choked me. I tried not to become a beekeeper but with no work around I couldn't avoid it".

Arnold started beekeeping in his father's Woodbury based business in the 1930s. In 1959, he took over the business and shifted his base to "Honey Corner" a few miles down the road on the northern entrance to Geraldine. In 1961 Arnold married Mildred and they ran up to 800 hives aided by their faithful assistant, Rex Coskie.

After suffering a heart attack in 1973, Arnold sold all but 50 hives and returned

to his original home and birthplace in Woodbury. He made a good recovery aided by regular exercise, a general zest for life, and his belief in healthy eating including pollen and honey.

With more spare time, Arnold and Mildred developed a passion for travel and did several world trips, making friendships with many beekeepers in other countries, and were in fact preparing to depart on a trip to Canada in July.

Arnold's other interests included entering competitions, and he once won a trip to Hong Kong by having most accurately

estimated the amount of fuel that a 747 would use on the trip.

As well as being a keen photographer, he also liked fast cars and owned a Sunbeam Talbot for many years before replacing it with a Fiat 124 sport coupe which he drove up until his death. Arnold was also well known for his 1939 Chev truck which he faithfully maintained. His father bought it new and it has been in the business ever since, now with over 194,000 miles on the clock.

Arnold will be sadly missed by all who knew him. He is survived by his wife Mildred and his sister Rita.



Hardly missed a beat in 59 years and 194,000 miles. Arnold Simpson and his one owner 1939 Chev truck.

## Precis from July 1998 NBA Executive Meetings

The Executive met on Sunday the 19th of July before Conference and on Friday the 24th of July after Conference.

A special thank you to those Branches who have returned the Branch Reports back to me for the Executive meetings. They were well received by the Executive. A lot of time was spent on how we could reduce costs for the NBA with some very good suggestions being implemented.

Some of the points of interest for you are, the Executive agreed to meet in Dunedin for the December Meeting, and in Nelson for the March 1999 meeting. I will be advising Branches of the dates so they can, if they wish to, meet with the Executive. These meetings are very good value both for the Executive and the Branches.

Manuka Standards were discussed and it was agreed that the Executive would wait on the JAG initiative on Honey Standards before they made any decisions on the NBA Standards. The industry will not wish to use two sets of Standards.

Terry Gavin expressed concern over the Order In Council for the NBA PMS still not Tabled to Parliament. He said he was assured that the launch of the PMS could be announced at Conference 1998 but not so.

Bruce Stevenson and Terry Gavin will be part of a team being formed to evaluate, negotiate and advise on the priorities and timelines of the PMS i.e. what will be the expected cost this year now we are late in

starting the PMS, what will be the 1999, and the year 2000 costs? A big exercise, with a Draft report to the September Executive meeting.

They will also confirm who the contractors will be for the first year. The Executive, in the interest of promoting harmony and reducing stress on Executive Members, decided to withdraw the offer to manage the PMS for the first year.

There was also some discussion on the new DECA Forms with the Executive trialing them before they are sent to a bigger group for trialing. This should make them more user friendly.

The President Mr. Russell Berry asked me to remind you we are looking for members for all the NBA Committees (refer October 1997 Magazine) as all Committee are reviewed at the September meeting each year. If you do have an interest in being on a committee (no promises you will be selected) please contact me as soon as possible so I may add your name to the September agenda.

Under a separate letter I will be writing to all Branches to see what costs/savings you could encounter if I were to send the Minutes of Meetings to you via E-Mail. One cost would be the Branch would have to print them out and there may be other concerns that we will have to address. The Branches that don't have access to E-mail will still receive them via mail as they currently do.

I will also be requesting copies of your Branch Minutes. The Executive has received a copy of the Bay of Plenty Minutes and they were an extremely valuable source of information to the Executive.

Russell reported on the very successful Canterbury Branch Promotion in the Eastgate Mall and the incredible public response, well done Canterbury.

Conference.

The President will be writing an article for the magazine on Conference so I won't steal his thunder.

The Conference was attended by about 130 people at Waitangi, a very well organised Conference and the two Branches, Far North, and Northland, can be justifiably proud of their efforts.

South Canterbury has offered to host the 1999 Conference, probably in Ashburton. Details will follow as soon as they are available. Conference 2000 is being hosted by the Poverty Bay Branch in Gisborne.

Mr. Russell Berry was re elected President for the 1998 - 1999 year and Mr. Terry Gavin was re elected Vice President, and of course you now have two new Executive members, Mr. Bruce Stevenson and Mr. Lin McKenzie, contact details are on the inside front cover.

This will be printed in the August issue of the magazine.

Kindest regards

Harry Brown, Executive secretary

# Letters to the Editor

**Letters are invited on the understanding that they must include the writer's full name and address. Non-de-plumes or initials will not be accepted for printing. Letters should be no more than 200 words, if longer they will be abbreviated. Letters not for publication should be marked NOT FOR PUBLICATION. Opinions expressed in the magazine are not necessary the opinions of beekeepers in general.**

Dear Sir

At Conference '98 Keith Herron gave a very passionate plea as to why the hive levy should increase to pay for the shortfall in the coming 12-18 months to get the PMS up and running, in dollar terms \$50,000-\$90,000.

The members at Conference voted against all of the suggested increases, the view being that we were paying more than enough already and any shortfall in fund should come out of the NBA reserves (rainy day fund).

Assurances were asked for at Conference that marketing funding allocation for the year should not be changed. If administration is the head and body of our organisation our main limbs are marketing arms and PMS legs. My analogy is this.

The arms should do a lot of waving around and get a lot of attention for our products which we are all thankful for but without legs sufficiently funded our organisation will topple.

What we need therefore is funding outside of the hive levy system.

All through the stages of the PMS we have had MAF help and support. What we have now is a model for our industry that a lot of industries can benefit from. MAF recognises this potential too, therefore they should be able to come to the party with funding for some of the PMS contract from other sources from within or without their organisation seeing they (MAF) will be using elements of our PMS with other organisations.

Marketing, these wonderful arms of our organisation. Now we have a honey JAG, which is going to give our product even more world wide recognition. We are all going to benefit from this. So when it comes to marketing and honey JAG budgeting priorities for how to spend your funding, don't forget the PMS. They

are the legs our good clean image stands on.

We will all gain from having good marketing and good PMS. Those who will gain the most I encourage you to do so. Just don't forget that somehow this wonderful system we have has to be paid for so put some of that good positive energy into finding a fair way to pay this and we will all have a lot to thank you for.

**TW Corbett. North Canterbury**

Dear Sir

I am the editor of the magazine Aussie Bee which we are swapping for issues of *The New Zealand BeeKeeper*. Thank you for your interesting magazines.

I have a New Zealand type query which I hope you might be able to help me with. Some friends of ours recently visited New Zealand and brought us some products relating to a character called Buzzy Bee. There was a rather old wooden child's toy, and a modern keyring, note pad and stamps. The manufacturer of the note pad has told me that "Buzzy Bee is a symbol of Kiwiana" going back some 50 years.

I was wanting to put an article on this interesting concept in a future issue of Aussie Bee, under the heading "Aussie Bee meets Buzzy Bee". However we need a little more information about the original Buzzy Bee if possible and I was wondering if you could help me.

Do you know why Buzzy Bee is regarded as a symbol of Kiwiana? Does it, like Blinky Bill and Ginger Meggs in Australia, have some special connection with some early children's literature etc in New Zealand? Could you tell me the name and phone number/address/email of a person or perhaps a museum that might be knowledgeable on the subject?

The toy my friends bought me was wooden and had plastic wings. Were the original toys completely wooden? Did the original toys come in just one size or were there a variety of styles? Are Buzzy Bee toys similar to the old ones still on sale in New Zealand today?

Could you tell me the name and address of someone who sells the keyring variety of Buzzy Bee in shops today?

Regards

Dr Anne Dollin, Australian Native Bee Research Centre, Promoting the Preservation and Enjoyment of Australian Native Bees, PO Box 74, North Richmond, NSW 2754, Australia. Ph: 045 761-495, Fax: 045 761-196. Visit our new Website!  
<http://www.zeta.org.au/~anbr/>

Dear Sir

I am a 28 year old male seeking beekeeping work, two full seasons experience, hardworking with truck licence, will work anywhere in New Zealand.

Phone Darren: (03) 472-7639 or email: [scottdsplash@hotmail.com](mailto:scottdsplash@hotmail.com)

## Apology

I would like to offer my sincerest apologies for the number of corrections required to the 1997 AGM Minutes. It won't happen again.

*Harry Brown,  
Executive Secretary*

## SPRING QUEENS

We are now planning our queen rearing for the 1998/1999 season

Order early to avoid delays.

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after 8pm weekdays

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Waikato, Rotorua to Dargaville

Phone: (09) 439-4264

## Wanted to BUY

50-60 Beehives

Reasonable condition

North Island cash buyer

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# President's Report 1998

Beekeepers, Ladies and Gentlemen

We suffered a very sad loss this year with the sudden death of Ted Roberts, a fellow member of the 1942 Club. He was a very well respected and active beekeeper. Many of us have received valuable guidance from Ted, not least, your Executive. He is sadly missed by us all. I am sure Ted would have wished for harmony during this Conference.

This Conference has a very special meaning for another well respected member of our industry. This is Keith Herron's 50th Conference. No, not quite, he admitted very apologetically to me that he missed a conference in 1966. It is 50 years since he attended his first conference and he served 13 years on your Executive. Sorry Keith - I have something in store for you during this conference, I am sure I can get you into the Chair at some stage, even if it is only to tell the story of the nurse leading you down the corridor. Thank you Keith for your wisdom, humour and insight. I am sure you will have a very important role to play at this conference.

Conference last year was a fairly difficult time, to put it mildly, for your incoming Executive, and in consideration of the membership, I will not tolerate a repetition of what happened last year or anything similar. Please remember we are here to increase the enjoyment and profitability of beekeeping, not to get bogged down with rule interpretations etc. This difficult start last year, had the effect of uniting the Executive. We have kept our heads down working on beekeeping matters. After all, you the beekeepers, the people who take the lids off beehives, are the ones who pay the bills of this Association and we are your representatives. You are not normally the ones who write the critical E-mails. I believe that you, the beekeepers, should not have to put up with some of the derogatory comments we have seen on Email. I believe that you, the beekeepers, should not have to put up with increased administration expenses by these same few members. We do believe that Email is part of our means of communication for the future. Please make this an enjoyable, constructive, harmonious conference.

The weather has made it a difficult year for beekeeping, too dry in many areas, too humid and wet in others, with some hard frosts in January. Beware, if you go boating in the Bay of Plenty or out from the Waikato Heads, as there are many beehives running the high seas from the recent severe floods.

Your Executive has spent a lot of time during the last year on the implementation of the National Pest Management Strategy for the Elimination of American Foulbrood. We hope by the time this is presented that we will have the second Draft of the Order In Council and the assurance from Government that it will be in place early in August. Oh for the good old days before MMP, the days when we could actually get governments to do something - even if they got it wrong sometimes, they at least got something done. It is easy of course, not to make mistakes, just do nothing!

The Executive have decided to put two options in front of you, one where the MAFQual Tender is accepted for a number of requirements for the PMS for one year and the other for the National Beekeepers' Association to implement a number of requirements for the PMS instead of MAF. The Executive also believes that long term it will be in the interests of beekeepers that we implement as much of the PMS ourselves as possible. The future of MAFQual is uncertain, soon to be made into an SOE. Will it be sold off? Who will it be sold to? Wrightsons?

Your Executive believes that the Register, the one currently operated by MAF, could be considerably streamlined if the NBA was running it. The NBA is disappointed with the high number of apparent errors found in the Register. We have yet to evaluate these. Maybe a few beekeepers are not being

100% honest when they say they have not kept bees for the past 10 years, for example.

The NBA would like to streamline the sending out to all beekeepers, information held in the Register to assist the beekeepers with their "Certificate of Inspection", for those without the Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement, (DECA) and the furnishing of the "Annual Statutory Disease Declaration by all beekeepers". The Strategy requires all owners of beehives to furnish a statutory declaration once a year on June the 1st, providing the following information:-

Update and confirmation of registration details for all apiaries.

All findings of American Foulbrood in beehives owned (on registered sites and elsewhere) in the proceeding 12 months (including the date found and the date destroyed).

Transfer ownership of any beehives during the past 12 months and the Total number of beehives owned.

We are acquiring information currently from a consultant regarding the best methods of sending out information on disk to beekeepers, for them to input the information onto the disk and return to the NBA for input into our main computer programme. This would greatly decrease the input time and save the beekeepers' many dollars. We believe that a high percentage of beekeepers now have access to a computer, either their own, their children's or friends, or through commercial organisations in their local towns. We also believe that most branches would have a computer expert within their membership, who would be willing to bring a laptop computer to a meeting to assist members upgrade their information for the Register. This would particularly apply to hobbyist members or bee clubs. Not only would it save beekeepers a considerable cost of inputting information into computers, but it would encourage computer literacy among our members. It would also help to strengthen the Branches by giving them another activity they could be involved in. We believe at a later date, this information could be electronically transmitted, but it is probably too early at this stage, so lets get started by using floppy disks.

We are taking advice on the feasibility and best way of implementing this, to accommodate a large variety of computers and software and personal skills. There will be some people of course, who will not be able to make use of this new system and they will have to continue supplying their information on paper.

The above initiative shows to the beekeepers the fundamental difference between doing the jobs ourselves or getting outside contractors to do the jobs for us when there is limited competition. We are driven to do the job as efficiently, simply and cheaply as possible, whereas the contractor is not motivated to the same extent in doing it simply and cheaply. A good example of this is the cost involved in collecting 30 honey samples. If the NBA had collected the samples, the cost would have been greatly reduced from the \$10,000 charged by MAFQual. Contractors have to be motivated into making profit for themselves, we are motivated into doing the job as effectively, simply and cheaply as possible, thus saving beekeeper's money.

Your Executive is working for you, the beekeeper. There are a few people who do not seem to appreciate that this is what motivates your current Executive members.

Unfortunately, world honey prices at the moment are dropping. Whether this trend continues or not, will be determined by northern hemisphere crops and the economy of honey importing countries. Currently, sugar prices are low because of the lack of demand. This does not help honey sales. I am still very optimistic about the future of beekeeping. It probably will not revolve around the production of honey, but more around other products of the beehive and pollination.

The exclusion of exotic pests and diseases from New Zealand is absolutely essential to the future economy of the NZ Beekeeping Industry. The Executive had the good fortune of looking around the improved quarantine facilities at the Auckland airport. The occurrences of the fruit fly and tussock moth scares have greatly improved, I believe, the efficiency of Quarantine and certainly encouraged the spending of money on increased x-ray machines and the training and use of dogs on baggage and mail coming into New Zealand. We greatly appreciate the observant eye of an Auckland branch member who found Chinese honey which had been packed in Britain, in a gift range pack in Auckland. I understand that all the illegal imported product was found. Well done, Auckland branch.

I wish to thank all of MAFQual's apiary section and MAF Regulatory Authority, for the friendly, approachable service they have rendered to the Beekeeping Industry over the past year under difficult circumstances, which the New Zealand Government of today has forced upon them. Thanks also goes to the members of our Association for their support and input during the past year and please remember we are forever looking for articles for the New Zealand BeeKeeper. Many of you have brilliant ideas or interesting experiences, hints etc, related to beekeeping. Please share them with our fellow beekeepers. Thanks to all members of the sub-committee of the NBA. Without them we would have difficulty in functioning. Our special thanks to Bill Floyd in the marketing field. I have also received tremendous support from the other Executive members and our secretary, Harry Brown. The very high workload expected of your Executive this year has been very much a team effort, made enjoyable by the comradie and good humour of those concerned. I would also like to take the opportunity of thanking my son Mark and our 30 staff members of the Rotorua Division of Arataki Honey for tolerating the lack of direction from me because of my

involvement with the NBA and finally, not many of you realise that my wife, Annette, does approximately 30 hours a week above her normal work for Arataki, for the NBA. Without this assistance I would not have been able to be your President. As an example, she is typing this report at the beautifully romantic time of 4am. And no, we are not early risers! Not many men are fortunate enough to have a wife with the forbearance of Annette. Thank you.

*Russell Berry*

# PRESS RELEASE

## "Prize Winner"

Ecroyd Beekeeping Supplies Limited are pleased to announce that the winner of their "NBA Conference Competition" was Dave Moore, Opotiki.

Apparently, due to Dave's unauthorised purchases at Conference, his wife, Wendy ended up with the prize, a Bee Healthy polar fleece jacket worth \$279.

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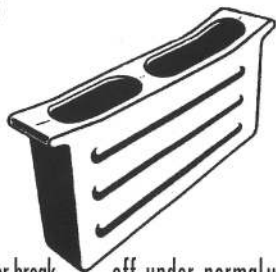
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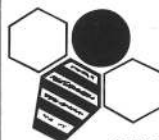
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# Notes for beginners and others

John Heineman

This is for the very beginner. Seeing the requests received by the library from schools and young people for info, literature, videos and posters for help with school beekeeping projects or a 6th or 7th Form assignment, one can be assured that there are some budding beekeepers about. Most of those who become infected with beeites will become hobbyists or perhaps part-timers in time, a few will make beekeeping their career. To the would-be hobbyist I would like to say: You certainly have chosen a prime subject to fill some of your leisure time for it will be a source of unending interest and learning, fascinating and satisfying. It will give you much pleasure and also lead probably to friendships with like minded people.

Once having decided that a start should be made, one has to make up his/her mind about the best way to go about it. There are several options. You can buy one or more complete hives with bees and all the gear needed and try to manage these as good as possible. Preferably with the help of someone experienced. The main advantage is that you have a supply of build out combs

(hopefully of decent quality) and by the end of the season have a good chance of surplus honey to extract. But you will be carrying on where someone has left off.

Another option, the one I would choose, is to buy three or four supers, frames, wire, sheets of foundation, an excluder from a beekeeping equipment dealer and put these together. The floorboard, roof and crown board can be made up of scraps laying about at home or in a builder's yard. While you are spending money on this consider spending a little extra and purchase "Practical Beekeeping in New Zealand" by Andrew Matheson. A good investment. Tells you a lot about equipment and a great deal more about the bees and beekeeping management. Alternatively you can borrow a copy of this book from the NBA library. There is the choice between full depth or three-quarter depth gear. The fd is good for a fit person, the three-quarter somewhat lighter to handle but you need four supers with frames of the latter against three for fd. Up to you, but stick to one kind as it will make the work easier especially at the beginning stage. Assembling the hive parts will give you

a taste of this aspect. Be accurate and thorough, a well done job gives satisfaction. The next item: Bees. A nuclei would be my choice, if possible a four frame one with a laying queen of reasonable gentle disposition. Commercial beekeepers, queen breeders or some beekeeper you know can help there. Best is to get a nuc as early as possible in the season. A common condition when buying a nuc is that one replaces its combs with the equivalent number or with frames with foundation.

Pick the spot where you want to place the hive. Make a footing for the floorboard from bricks, blocks or other suitable material so that the floor will be off the ground. The floor should be level sideways but leaning a little down forward so that water will not run into the hive. Place one super with the frames with foundation on the floor. When the nuc arrives its four combs should be placed in this super so that the combs are in the centre of the super with three sheets of foundation on each side. It is important to keep these nuc combs together. It will probably have two combs with brood, that is eggs, larvae and

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pupae with some honey and pollen in the other combs and of course enough worker bees to look after it plus the queen bee. After having done this part of the job turn the nuc box upside down and add the adhering bees to the super, a gentle bump onto the edge of the super will dislodge them. Place the crown board and roof on top and restrict the entrance. Then leave the little colony alone for a few days so that it will settle down. Restrict the entrance to two to three centimetres opening. The next step is feeding, for those bees have a big task in front of them. Building out the foundation into combs takes a lot of energy and at the same time you want to boost the little colony along so that it grows into a big one. There are as yet not a great number of bees available to gather nectar even if there is an early flow. You could use a plastic feeder taking the place of a comb or make a board such as a crown board and cut out a round hole with a fret saw so that a jar or plastic honey pot can be placed over it. Puncture the lid of the pot with a small nail or drill, say about 25-30 x and fill with a 50/50 sugar solution. Remove the crown board, have a little peep if every thing is OK. No need to find the queen as long as you can see some eggs. Place the board with the holes on top and an empty super above it. Then place the pot or jar over the hole with lid facing down. Some of the syrup will run out for a start but that will stop and the bees will soon clean up the drips. Refill after three or four days. Always close up the hive properly and feeding is best done late in the day.

You will now notice that the bees are working on the foundation and comb is appearing. They will work from the centre towards the sides. The bees are often reluctant to tackle the outsides of the end combs. Simply swap them with the next one. This building of combs will only

progress properly when there is a good supply of food. So, unless fresh nectar is coming in modest quantities of syrup have to be supplied. Once the combs in this first super have been completed add the second box with foundation. Do not place the foundation into the centre of the brood but along side it. Those combs from the bottom box will act as bait especially if there is brood in it. They go into the centre of the second super. By this time the broodnest will have expanded considerably and while the combs in the second super are being built the queen will move up too. Proceed in the same manner and again move unfinished foundation a little towards the centre. A good number of weeks will have passed by the time the second super is finished and the little four framed nuc will have grown into a proper colony. Also, hopefully, the time of the honey flow has arrived. Then no more feeding is required. Time to place the queen excluder on the hive and the third super with foundation onto it. Again bait this super with a couple of combs from below, brood and/or honey but be careful not to raise the queen. Best to give those combs a shake before you raise them. Same story, move unfinished foundation nearer to the centre to get them built out perfectly. That is three fd supers with foundation or four three-quarter d the bees will have to cope with and you will find that this is what will be completed during the majority of seasons in this country. However real good years do occur and another super may be required. If you have decided on three-quarter equipment I suggest to have three supers under the excluder. As you can see, starting with a four framed nuc gives you the opportunity to follow the colony's development from A to Z. It means real hands on education. A small colony for a start is not difficult to handle and you will gain confidence during the

process. By the end of the season you will have a full blown colony of bees, three or more supers with first class combs of which any beekeeper can be proud. A good basis to work from in case you want to expand a little next year. And last but not least a super full of surplus honey.

I can think of a third option. Have all gear assembled as above, don't buy that nuc but wait till you can get your hands on a swarm. House them in the first super and proceed from there. There are a few buts. Swarms don't usually come along before later in the spring, there may be none in your neighbourhood. So there is no certainty. If you do get one you don't know if it is a big one or a small one and it can just as well be crabby as gentle. Nasty tempered bees are not good to start with.

What any beekeeper should have, beginner or otherwise is a smoker, hive tool and hat plus veil. A pair of bee gloves if wanted, but a complete bee suit if you operate a few hives is definitely not needed and in my books an unwarranted expense. Keep them off your face and you don't want them crawling up sleeves or trouser legs of course but try to tolerate them walking up your hands or arms, they probably won't sting. GOOD LUCK AND HAVE FUN!

And to you who are not beginners any longer: It is August and time for that first inspection of the season. Spring and autumn inspections are the most important and the most involved. Stores of honey and pollen, queen quality, colony health, shifting of poor combs to the outside of supers for later removal and replacement, replacing bad hive parts and cleaning bottom boards. Removal of any winter losses after making sure no BL infection is present. Lots of things to attend to - just get busy.

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## Swarms!

On reading "Handling nasty hives" in the June issue, I did a recall of my early days in beekeeping when on a learning bent with the Auckland Bee Club. The tough old beekeeper tutor worked the hives while describing what he was doing and what he was looking for etc.

All credit to him, his form of instruction was excellent, except in one area. He wore no veil. "Too difficult to speak through a veil." Nor did he wear any gloves. "Like wearing waders while having a bath" was how he explained it.

Now one day, a swarm settled on site and our tutor tackled this with enthusiasm, explaining that swarms are always quiet. Now I had already picked up a few swarms, and so I explained to a new chum how I had taken one from the top of a punga. They were black as

the punga trunk, and as I stood on top of a step ladder they were still above my head. So while I held a nuc box under the swarm I got my misses to give the punga a good push with a forked stick. Worked a treat in dislodging the swarm, but it missed the box and landed on me instead. Now I did have my full gear on but as it was nearly dark, I learned that at this time of day, the darned things just crawled over my overalls until they found a thin spot through which they could sting. Well, I was too new to openly disagree with the tutor, so I just put it down to gaining experience.

At the next meeting I spoke to that new chum again and he explained he had had several days in hospital, as he had tackled a swarm just as he had seen done at the last meeting, using no

protective clothing, but he had got about 40 stings around the face and it was this that had landed him in hospital. He wanted to know what he had done wrong?

That was the day I begun to suspect that some people can work bees and not get stung, while others (myself included) seem always to attract the..

Really what this is about, is that to recommend not to wear protective clothing is dangerous and that some people will never handle bees without attracting stings. I've tried all types of advice from showering before working them, to rubbing lemon on the hands, and I don't accept they sense fear, after beekeeping for 20 years.

*Jim Thompson*

# Marketing

*This month...*

**Otago beekeepers take 1998 Honey Tasting Championship**

**Four companies get Innovation Gold medals**

**Supermarket sales show New Zealand honey sales continue to rocket by volume and value**

**Park Royal chef wins NZ Honey Advisory Service-Sponsored Dessert Trophy at Salon Culinaire in Christchurch**

**Where's The Marketing Plan at ...?**

**Honeys needed for demonstrations**

**Otago beekeepers the New Zealand Champions**

One hundred and five delegates and partners enjoyed the Second National NZ Honey Tasting Championships at Conference 98.

Teams representing each branch sniffed and tasted their way through six honeys... but the result was a four-way draw between Canterbury, Otago, Bay of Plenty and Auckland.

So a Champion was selected from each team (Richard Bensemann/Canterbury;



*Bill Floyd*

Peter Sales/Otago; Graham Cammel/Auckland; Lawrence Edwards/Bay of Plenty) to go into a sudden death 'Lick-Off'. (Blindfolded, they were given a honey and then had to make a snap guess as to the honey type).

All Champions got it right on the first round... but Peter Sales showed gustatory genius (look it up), and took the National Championship for Otago when he was the only one to identify the

Marlborough-based Erica honey on the second round.

The Otago team (1998 NZ Honey Tasting Champions are: Peter Sales, Lin McKenzie, Allen McCaw, Maree McCaw, Ivan Dickinson). (*Congratulations team... it wasn't an easy competition!*).

The competition planners are developing the event so that next year there will be a fun event for teams and a more serious event for a new Supreme NZ Champion Honey Taster (Individual) Award.

**Excellent nominees for the Innovation Awards resulted in four Medals plus one certificate this year.**

*See Award Profiles (published in this issue).*

**Supermarket sales of honey continues to grow by both volume and value**

We have been monitoring the sales of honey through supermarkets for six years now. Each year there has been an increase in the amount of honey sold through supermarkets, and an increase in the value of that honey.

Manuka sales have rocketed this variety into number one slot ahead of clover. But also very pleasing is the slow, steady



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growth of other named varietal honeys. The increases have come through during a period of record crops in New Zealand and dramatic drops in overseas prices.

The outlook now is very good. Overseas prices appear to be firming, international demand is matching production, New Zealand export sales will rise as the dollar advantage locks in, and the prices for honeys for the domestic market should stay firm. In fact there's strong justification for further price increases in the domestic market: for quality honeys that are well-marketed!

A summary of the last six years Supermarket Statistics published separately in this issue of the *BeeKeeper*.

### **Park Royal chef wins Honey-Sponsored Salon Culinaire Dessert Competition in Christchurch**

Christchurch Park Royal's chef de Partie, Hamish Robertson, took the NZ Honey Advisory Service-Sponsored Trophy for Best Dinner in the 1998 Canterbury Salon Culinaire Competition. Eight of Christchurch's top young chefs each produced a dessert that included either Vipers Bugloss or Manuka honey in it.

The winning dish was a steamed pudding soaked in a spice syrup served with macerated oranges, mascarpone and chocolate parfait, garnished with a honeycomb chocolate chard, sugar stick, and tamarillo coulis. (The Vipers honey was used in the syrup, with the oranges and in the coulis; giving significant mouthful enhancement to those).

### **Where's the Marketing Plan at...**

During a discussion on next year's NBA activities a motion was put from the floor asking Conference to give the Executive an indication of support for the Marketing activities. (Moved by Mike Stuckey and seconded by Peter Berry). A very pleasing result: 80% voted for the budget and activities being maintained. This was important for the Marketing Committee to know. We believe the



*Bill, Peta and Hamish at Salon Culinaire, Christchurch*

strategies are working... and the stats support that; but we also need to know the grassroots feeling of the NBA membership.

One criticism given to me at Conference was that there should be a plain and simple summary of the Marketing Plan available for people to read. That will be in next month's *BeeKeeper*, along with a Budget summary for our 1998 activities.

### **Honey needed for demonstrations**

As part of our work with New Zealand chefs and foodwriters and the like we do honey tastings.

If you produce one of the following honeys and would be prepared to tender to supply us for the tastings: please write to Box 32, Blenheim or fax us (03) 577-8429 with the following information:

Name, contact details.

Type of honey available: (Can be liquid or creamed, in bulk (2kg) pack). We need the following: Manuka, tawari, rewarewa, rata (southern), thyme, honeydew, kamahi, nodding thistle, vipers bugloss. Plus 200gm units of comb honey (in a

mild clover-based flavour). Please indicate your costs per unit including freight to Blenheim. We estimate needing 5-10kgs per year of each type. Unit packaging needs to be unlabelled, we cannot promote individual brands in these exercises and therefore need to pay for the honey and then be able to use it as we want.

Please reply before 30 August if you can provide and at what cost.

Plus... we are always looking for honeys to use as gifts (and prizes). These can be branded and will promote your own company when we give them out. For example, the Park Royal chef Hamish Robertson will get a selection of honeys from us as part of his prize.

But... the honeys we select must have very definite varietal definition. And in the absence of Standards that's a subjective call that I have to make, what we can't have is a selection of honeys all tasting and looking very similar to each other! ... so, look forward to hearing from (some of) you.

## **Chinese treatment for burns**

A treatment for burns, successfully pioneered in China, sees most patients recover quickly without pain or scarring and little need for plastic surgery.

Physiologist Dr Patricia Holborow visited China with husband Professor Les Holborow, former vice-chancellor of Victoria University, and saw the treatment while attending the centennial celebrations of Beijing University.

During their visit they visited the Beijing Guangming Chinese Medicine Institute for burns, wounds and ulcers.

Mrs Holborow says patients at the institute were receiving treatment with specially-developed ointments applied daily, without the use of any other treatment.

The most exposed burn ointment (MEBO) and moist exposed burn therapy were invented by Professor Xu Rongxiang of Beijing and are used in 30 hospitals around China, Mrs Holborow says.

The cream is patented in the United States. The main ingredient is sesame oil, but the rest are secret ingredients, she says. "The Chinese believe there are factors in these substances that stimulate regeneration of the skin.

"We saw patients that were being treated, some had been treated for several weeks, some had just arrived. One patient had a third of their body burnt in a scalding accident.

"They were able to talk to us about the

treatment through an interpreter. They all appeared to be quite calm and comfortable."

MEBO has been available in China for about 10 years, she says. The Chinese are constantly developing new treatments and MEBO is only one of these.

"We have been trying very hard to get this treatment registered in New Zealand. Our medical system has become terribly commercial, and the drug companies are very against anything that will reduce the use of their drugs.

"Treatment with this product is very minimal, and the medical establishment probably do not believe it works."

**Acknowledgement, Dominion**

# New Zealand Industry Innovation Awards - 1998

**Innovation Gold Medallion Award for Innovative Food Using Honey: Kapiti Cheeses Ltd: Honey and fig ice-cream**  
 Ross McCallum, the Managing Director of Kapiti Cheese describes this ice-cream as "... Bloody nice! The honey flavour (manuka) dominates... with the fig adding an extra and interesting dimension to it. Plus of course, you get that full rich mouthful that comes from having honey in the ice-cream."

Kapiti produce a range of honey ice-creams, and supply most of New Zealand's specialist honey shops. This new flavour won the Supreme Champion Award at the 1998 New Zealand Ice-cream Awards... against 81 other ice-creams which included 26 Gold and 15 Silver medal winners.

It was especially pleasing to see the development of these gourmet honey-based ice-creams following the very successful presentation of them by New Zealand Honey's Executive chef Dennis Taylor at the Nelson NBA Conference.

**Innovation Gold Medallion Award for Innovative Honey Packaging Airborne Honey Ltd: Snappak Honey IPU's (Individual Portion Units) and the 6-pack New Zealand honey selection**

This is an upmarket packaging concept that allows for high quality graphics and user-friendly functionality. Creates a consumer retail product where the actual honey content is just one of the values the consumer gets, the others are the visual imagery and the souvenir-postcard value, and sheer convenience for single use applications.

The product has significant potential for export development. Has potential to create increased market placement opportunities within domestic market.

**Innovation Gold Medallion Award for Promotion of New Zealand Honey by an Innovative Food Marketer: Unifoods NZ: 'Continental Honey Chickens'**

The Unifoods Concept team leader for this product was Sarah Brown (Category Foods Manager).

The product was launched with a major TV advertisement campaign that explains how you simply 'add honey' to create the superb dish.

This has major advantages for New Zealand honeys, we get promoted as an exciting 'adding-value' ingredient on nationwide TV, and the customer adds honey themselves and as such can change the flavours of the dish depending on the honey used.

In turn this creates a number of honey promotional opportunities, for example: A joint promotional campaign looking for the 'best honey matches' (an initiative that we are investigating), and in-store tastings between a honey brand/Continental/retailers.

**Innovation Gold Medallion Award for Honey Alcoholic Beverage:**

Pilot Bay Brewing Company is base in Tauranga. (Managing Director John Martin; Brewer Jim Dowling). The company developed the beer with manuka honey because of the positive publicity about manuka and the intention

to export the beer, particularly to Asia. The company believes that honey-beers are the dark horse of the beer industry... and growing trend around the world!

Jim Dowling describes the beer "the honey doesn't dominate, instead the honey and the hops combine to soften the bitterness and enhance the aftertaste, the hops glow on the palate!"

The development of honey beers using stronger honeys such as non UMF™ manuka, and perhaps standardised bush and pastoral blends would have a significant effect on the take-up of these honeys from the retail marketplace, and the product's high profile also gives substantial publicity to honeys generally.

**New Zealand Honey Innovation Certificate Awarded to Happy Honey Bee Apiaries (Peter and Judi Ferris, Masterton): PJ's Pickled Onions with Honey**

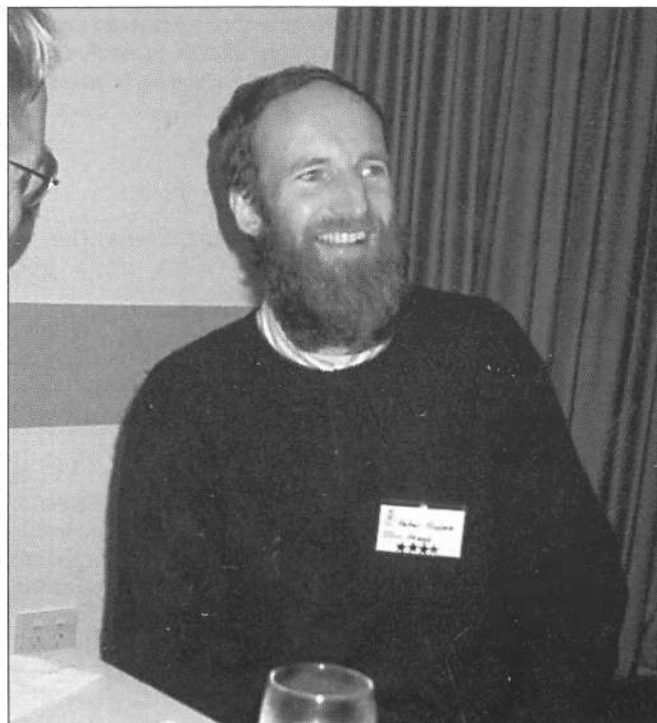
Good use of honey in place of sugar, with the honey adding an extra dimension to flavour and mouthful of onions.

\*\*\*\*\*

Once again the Innovation Awards were able to acknowledge companies that are helping to create real market opportunities for New Zealand honeys.

The Marketing Committee's work with manufacturers is only a small part of our generic strategies but the success of, for example, the honey beers and honey ice-creams, can have a major positive effect on honey demand and honey promotion.

**Sandee Floyd  
 Innovation Awards Organiser**



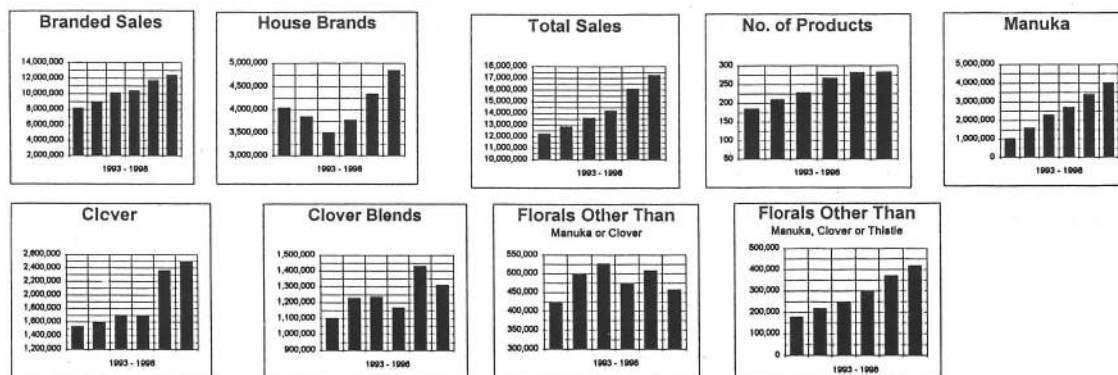
**Honey Tasting Champion Peter Sales, Otago**



**The President congratulating Peter Bray, Airborne Honey**

# Honey Retail Sales - Key Markets

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Total No. of Products	186	211	229	268	283	285
Branded Sales	\$8,193,856	\$9,010,774	\$10,138,634	\$10,449,700	\$11,743,328	\$12,426,775
Clover	\$1,535,598	\$1,603,432	\$1,703,084	\$1,677,316	\$2,363,926	\$2,503,200
Clover Blend	\$1,102,233	\$1,227,031	\$1,236,140	\$1,167,827	\$1,431,272	\$1,310,717
Manuka	\$1,041,629	\$1,623,876	\$2,312,085	\$2,713,834	\$3,414,152	\$4,016,143
Manuka Blend			\$4,183	\$19,924	\$6,234	
Borage	\$8,775	\$9,471	\$9,414	\$13,252	\$30,560	\$70,557
Honeydew	\$608		\$6,480	\$33,387	\$33,214	\$17,220
Kamahi	\$18,192	\$24,167	\$28,557	\$31,185	\$42,761	\$35,339
Pohutukawa	\$99			\$722	\$4,526	\$297
Rata	\$84,507	\$101,436	\$108,416	\$96,898	\$111,637	\$158,743
Rewarewa	\$29,877	\$33,643	\$33,859	\$50,116	\$59,715	\$64,075
Tawari		\$969	\$3,059	\$13,284	\$34,768	\$26,862
Thistle	\$242,200	\$278,086	\$277,052	\$172,203	\$138,266	\$38,360
Vipers Bugloss	\$36,839	\$49,615	\$60,141	\$59,844	\$53,214	\$46,134
All Floral Excl. Clover & Manuka	\$421,096	\$497,387	\$526,978	\$472,891	\$508,661	\$457,587
Florals Excl. Clover, Manuka & Thistle	\$178,896	\$219,300	\$249,926	\$300,688	\$370,395	\$419,227
Comb	\$59,079	\$71,798	\$67,900	\$96,603	\$120,783	\$112,411
Fruit/Pollen/RJ mixes etc.	\$5,243	\$4,222	\$10,532	\$20,716	\$70,683	\$55,227
Other Blends, No description	\$4,028,774	\$3,982,974	\$4,277,690	\$4,281,309	\$3,945,275	\$3,971,489
Controlled Label	\$4,043,589	\$3,855,484	\$3,509,664	\$3,781,850	\$4,345,412	\$4,846,536
Total Sales	\$12,237,445	\$12,866,257	\$13,648,298	\$14,231,550	\$16,088,740	\$17,273,310



The shortage of Thistle honey in the last 3 years has severely limited the sales potential of this honey type. Splitting this honey type out from the other floral sources demonstrates the trend of increasing named floral varietal sales.

Caution - Scaling of graphs may distort significance of trend.

© Copyright 1998 Airborne Honey Ltd.

## Burning issue

Burning is often seen as a quick and useful way for orchardists and farmers to get rid of winter prunings or to clear land. However, before you burn, there are a few things you need to know about the Regional Council's Air Plan and the rules for burning. These rules have been written to ensure that there are minimal effects on the environment and our health.

### You cannot burn:

- animal waste (unless generated on production land)
- tyres or other rubber
- waste oil
- treated wood
- plastic
- asbestos
- medical waste or chemical waste

All these things can create toxic gases and clouds of black smoke when burnt. These deteriorate air quality and aggravate health problems like asthma.

### What else must you do?

- the waste must have originated on the property - you can't burn your friend's and neighbour's rubbish.
- smoke, ash, odours or other gases from the fire must not cause a problem beyond your property eg smoke blocking visibility on nearby roads, or smoke and ash drifting onto your neighbour's property.

### Good burning practices

- don't burn material that is still green or wet as this causes lots of smoke.
- take account of the weather conditions, such as wind direction and speed

- avoid burning in winter months when the weather is very calm, as an inversion layer often forms. Smoke rises until it reaches the inversion layer, where it is trapped, and then spreads out in a big cloud layer that can be seen for considerable distances. This often occurs over the Hastings area.
- be considerate of your neighbours
- contact your District or City Council to make sure that you comply with their bylaws, as permits may be required.

For a copy of the Regional Air Plan, or for more information about burning, please contact:

Hawke's Bay Regional Council, 102 Vautier Street, Napier. Ph: (06) 835-9200 or 0800-108-838.

# Queen Excluders

What the experts say...

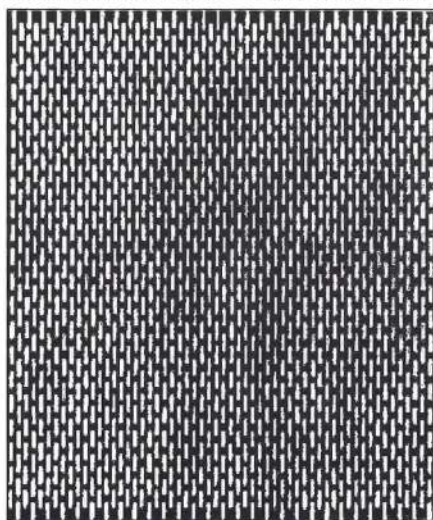
The following is copied word for word from the 40th Edition of The ABC & XYZ of Bee Culture, published by Al Root Co. Copies of this excellent resource book are available from Ecroyd Beekeeping Supplies Ltd at \$82.50 including GST, plus \$5 postage and handling.

**Excluders** - We do not know who invented the first queen excluder but the origins probably lie in the idea of using small diameter holes in a board through which workers but not queens and drones might pass. When a board with many such holes was placed above a brood nest the worker bees would move through and store honey, without brood, above the excluder board. The metal queen excluder, made by punching holes in a piece of metal, was probably first made in France, using rectangular holes, sometime in the 1960s. At about the same time beekeepers in England made metal queen excluders with round holes; these had the disadvantage that if the bee was carrying pollen it would be scraped off of the legs as the bee moved through the holes. In fact, most pollen traps use wire screening with square holes, or perforated metal with round holes, to force the pollen off of the legs of the bees as they drag their hind legs behind them and move through the metal screen.

The first practical queen excluders were made using perforated zinc sheets. However, some beekeepers thought that the rough edges on the perforations might cut the wings of the bees, which is a thought not supported by any data. In fact, if one observes a worker bee under a microscope while she is moving through a perforated zinc queen excluder it will be noted that she does so with ease and there is no reason to suggest that her wings might be torn in the process.

Because the flat metal zinc excluders were

rejected by some beekeepers queen excluders made with stiff iron wires were invented. Presumably they had no rough edges on which a bee might catch her wings. The wires were separated in a variety of ways. The correct distance between the wires, or the width of a perforated hole in an excluder, is 165/1000 of an inch (.165 inches). A normal queen, because



"Punched Stainless Steel Frameless Queen Excluder"

her thorax is wider than that of a worker, cannot move through a queen excluder with the proper spacing. Undersize queens will sometimes not be restricted by a queen excluder. Drones are likewise trapped behind an excluder.

It is unfortunate that the flat metal queen excluders did not continue to be popular. They were cheaper, easy to store both because they lay flat and took up little space, and were especially easy to clean. If one places a flat zinc excluder on the top of a hive cover the sun's rays will eventually melt off the wax and propolis thus cleaning it. The wax and propolis will also serve to protect the cover as would paint. They are also easily cleaned in a steam chest where the wax may be melted from them. Recently we have seen flat plastic queen excluders that resemble the old-fashion zinc excluders being marketed. While they probably have a shorter life than the zinc excluders they appear to be satisfactory. An advantage of the wooden bound queen excluders is that the wood may be painted and thus colour coded.

Whether or not a beekeeper should use queen excluders is a question that has prompted much debate. The opponents state that queen excluders affect ventilation, which they probably do. We have known of beekeepers who have called them honey excluders which is probably a rash statement. However, if they are placed on colonies only three weeks before the honey is harvested, so that the brood above the excluder may emerge, there will be little difficulty in this regard. Those who support the use of queen excluders point out that it is possible to remove the honey much more rapidly since the beekeeper need not check to determine if brood is present in the honey storage supers or not.

Now, it's up to you whether or not you use excluders, and which type you prefer. At Ecroyd Beekeeping Supplies Limited, we believe it is our duty to provide you with the facts, then offer you the choice.

We currently have queen excluders available in five variations:

- A) **Welded Wire - Standard:** A heavy duty (2mm wire) grid with a 16mm deep wooden frame.
- B) **Stainless - Standard:** A punched stainless steel sheet with a 16mm deep wooden frame.
- C) **Stainless - Flat:** A punched stainless steel sheet without a frame, full beehive size.
- D & E) **Wire & Stainless - Extra:** The same as A & B above, but with a 19mm deep wood frame.

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# Beekeeping Memoirs

## Embarrassing moments

by Ron Mossop

In the summer of 1946 I bought two beehives, a veil, a smoker and a book about beekeeping in New Zealand by Tom Winter. I wanted to know more about beekeeping and frequently visited Ray Clark, a Matamata commercial beekeeper. He told me that he was going to Hamilton to hear experts talking about beekeeping and that I was welcome to go with him. That particular week I was on night shift and finished work at four in the morning. On the day we went to Hamilton I only managed a few hours sleep before I drove to Matamata where I met up with Ray and we both set out for Hamilton, about 40 miles away. After we heard the first speaker, we had a meal. At the table were Ray Clark, a surveyor before he took on beekeeping, and another man who had been a garage proprietor. Over the years I have met many men who became fascinated with bees and gave up well paid jobs to earn a living doing work that they enjoyed. After lunch we went to hear the second speaker. He droned on, and on, and on during which time I tried desperately to keep awake, but it was impossible. I woke up lying on the floor with the chair on top of me. This happened over 50 years ago and I have never fallen off a chair again whilst listening to an after-lunch speaker since.

I was a shift worker for 14 years and learned to sleep in all sorts of odd places. I used to fish for trout around the Matamata district with a fly rod, a silk line and a small spoon. One fine day I felt tired so I walked up from the stream and lay down under a tree and was soon fast asleep. I was awakened by strange noises and opened my eyes to see about a dozen cows staring down at me. I sat up so suddenly that all the cows took fright and stampeded to the other side of the paddock. I expect milk production was down a bit that evening.

On another occasion I was in the South Island in the Hamner Springs area trying to catch brown trout using the nymph fishing method. I was wearing polaroid glasses and thigh gumboots. It was a very hot day and the fish were proving too smart for me so I lay down in the shade of a willow tree and was soon asleep. I woke up hours later because my legs seemed to be on fire, the sun had shifted around so that my legs in the gumboots were then in direct sunlight and got very hot indeed. I wasted no time getting back into the water to cool my legs off.

We got to know the South Island very well and visited many beekeepers, who always made us welcome at their homes,



Ron Mossop

offering us cups of tea and frequently a meal as well. I well remember one place where they insisted that we stay the night. Next morning the beekeeper and I set out for the Birch Forest with his truck loaded with beehives. He unloaded his hives with a Kelly-boom loader and hoped he would get some Birch honeydew.

Years ago the Bay of Plenty beekeepers held their field day about the middle of January, usually on the first Saturday when it was high tide, about midday, so many Waikato beekeepers came to our field days. One of the local beekeepers brought along his high speed V8 powered motorboat to give the children a thrilling ride. It was launched and laden with excited children, and took off with a swish and a roar. After awhile it came back towards the shore spluttering and gurgling. Everybody abandoned ship as it sank deeper into the water. It turned out that the driver amidst all the excitement around him had forgotten to put the drain plug into the boat when he first launched it.

I remember Dr Haydak once giving us a talk on pollen substitute. It was probably the first time that many of us beekeepers realised that we could do something about some of our pollen deficient areas. Dr Haydak told me that just after the first World War he fought with the White Russians against the Bolsheviks and lost. He escaped to America but he always regretted that he could never go back to Russia to see his old mother who was then still alive.

One day, Bruce Forsyth, who was then the President of the Waikato branch came to Tauranga and thought he would drop in and see me at my honey house. My van was outside the honey shed, and I had obviously been extracting honey

that morning, but he could not find me, so he looked about the section and eventually saw a pair of boots sticking out of the grass under a Sycamore tree. He found me fast asleep. I had just had an extended dinner hour. I got a lot of stick from him at the next field day. There was quite a lot about poor Waikato beekeepers working their fingers to the bone whilst at least one Bay of Plenty beekeeper had time to sleep under a Sycamore tree. When I started to employ labour I could no longer afford the luxury of a sleep when I felt like it as I had to keep my man gainfully employed at all times.

The Waikato branch had their field days in March so many of us from the Bay of Plenty went over to their field day, usually held at the Matamata Hot Springs. On one occasion Ed Hillary gave us a talk on beekeeping in India and the Himalayas. His wife and new baby were with him, so most of the beekeepers' wives spent a lot of time fussing over baby Peter Hillary.

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# From the Colonies

## Canterbury Branch Newsletter

### NOTICE OF MEETING

#### August evening meeting

Date: Tuesday, 25 August 1998

Time: 7.30pm sharp

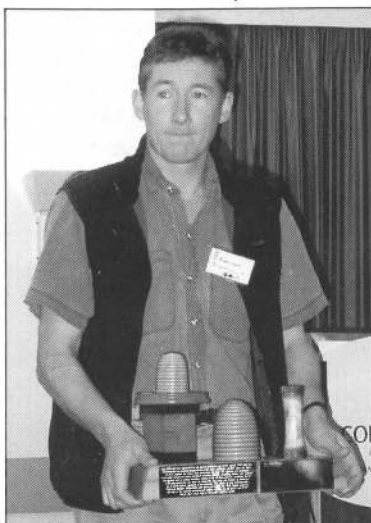
Venue: Burnside Cricket Clubrooms, Burnside Park, Avonhead Road, Christchurch

Programme: 1. Discuss Field Day 98  
2. General Business  
3. Guest Speaker - John Smith from Pest Irradiation Control talking on pesticides and how they affect bees. All interested welcome.

Supper provided at \$1.00 per person

*TW Corbett, Secretary*

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## Executive election results

The Executive Secretary in his role as Returning Officer reported that no election was required for the South Island, as only two nominations had been received for the two vacant positions. Mr Tony Taiaroa and Mr Lin McKenzie were therefore declared to be the duly appointed representatives for the South Island.

For the North Island, two nominations were received for the one position, Mr Bruce Stevenson and Mr Nick Wallingford.

*Results were:*

**Mr Bruce Stevenson 742.**

**Mr Nick Wallingford 360.**

Mr Bruce Stevenson was declared to be the duly elected representative for the North Island.

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# Conference Remits results

## **Remit 1. Nelson Branch.**

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that:

- a) The role of the Executive Secretary be defined.
- b) The job description of the Executive Secretary be defined.
- c) The evaluation of performance of the Executive Secretary be defined.
- d) The length of term of appointment of the Executive Secretary be defined.
- e) The procedure for appointment and dismissal of the Executive Secretary be defined.
- f) The remuneration of the Executive Secretary be detailed.
- g) All Branch Secretaries have a copy of the job description of the Executive Secretary.

THE MOTION WAS LOST • 7-9-0

## **Remit 2. Bay of Plenty Branch.**

That this Conference recommends to Executive that a set of written editorial standards are developed as soon as possible for the *New Zealand BeeKeeper* by a committee established for this purpose, the committee to be made up of a cross-section of association membership and current users of the magazine (science/technical writers, columnists and advertisers), and that these standards form part of a written performance contract for the position of Editor of the *New Zealand BeeKeeper*.

THE MOTION WAS LOST • 7-8-1

## **Remit 3. Canterbury Branch.**

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that a full review of the performance of the Executive secretary be undertaken by an independent party.

THE MOTION WAS LOST • 4-10-2

## **Remit 4. Otago Branch.**

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that, the Executive secretary can not hold any other office or position in the Association.

THE REMIT WAS WITHDRAWN

## **Remit 5. Canterbury Branch.**

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that the current Editor of the *New Zealand BeeKeeper* be removed and an independent Editor be appointed.

THE MOTION WAS LOST • 3-8-5

## **Remit 6. Auckland Branch.**

That this Conference recommend, that the Executive investigate the use of drugs in honey producing hives with a view to having all drugs banned.

THE MOTION WAS LOST • 4-11-1

## **Remit 7. Canterbury Branch.**

That this Conference recommend to the Executive that the apiary rating system be reviewed with a view to improvement where necessary.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED • 12-2-2

## **Remit 8. Southland Branch.**

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that a standard bee product trading agreement be developed for the industry.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED • 8-6-2

## **Remit 9. Southland Branch.**

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that if the implementation of the PMS in its current form is likely to add more than \$4.00 for each levied apiary in New Zealand, then an alternative solution to AFB elimination should be investigated.

THE MOTION WAS LOST • 4-12-0

## **Remit 10. Southland Branch.**

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that in the view of the forthcoming implementation of the PMS and

Apiary register, the structure of the NBA should not be significantly changed at this stage.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED • 9-5-2

## **Remit 11. Southland Branch.**

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that they form a committee to formulate a national code of practice for the beekeeping industry, as a matter of urgency.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED • 14-2-0

## **Remit 12. South Canterbury Branch.**

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that pressure be maintained on Government to retain and improve border surveillance methods for exotic disease detection and funding be met by the taxpayer. (Note: Rewording to comply with Rule 19 (d)).

*Amended by Hawke's Bay to read:*

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that pressure be maintained on Government to retain and improve border protection and surveillance for exotic bee disease detection and that quarantine staff undertake training bi annually, a course in bees and bee product risk items and funding be met by the taxpayer.

"The Amended Remit was CARRIED by a vote of 16 For - 0 Against - 0 Abstentions."

## **Remit 13. Bay Of Plenty Branch.**

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that a honey standard for manuka honey be implemented in line with the previous recommendations of the NBA Marketing Committee.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED • 9-6-1

## **Rule change 1. Proposed by the NBA Executive.**

"Every beekeeper who has paid his/her levy, when due, as prescribed by the Commodity Levies (Bee Products) Order 1996, shall be deemed to be a commercial member of the Association". THE MOTION WAS CARRIED • 10-2-4

## **Rule change 2. Proposed by the Otago Branch.**

"Forwarding to Branches of copies of Minutes and reports of the Association and Executive, to be within 14 days of such meetings being held". THE MOTION WAS CARRIED • 11-5-0

## **Rule change 3. Proposed by the Auckland Branch.**

"Each Branch may transact its ordinary business as it may from time to time decide, but it shall hold each year an Annual Meeting of its members (which shall be held before the end of the month of May?) and at least one other meeting either of its members or its management committee". THE MOTION WAS CARRIED • 8-5-3

## **Rule change 4. Proposed by the Bay Of Plenty Branch.**

Proposed rule changes to reconstitute the executive committee, establish a management committee and establish the position of executive director. THE MOTION WAS LOST • 1-13-2

## **Rule change 5. NBA Executive Resolution 1.**

That the Levy rate for a beekeeper's first Apiary be \$55.00, with each subsequent Apiary to be levied at the rate of \$24.20 for the 1999 year. THE MOTION WAS TIED 8-8 • POLL VOTE RESULT 405 FOR - 682 AGAINST

## **Resolution 2.**

That the Levy rate for a beekeeper's first Apiary be \$57.50, with each subsequent Apiary to be levied at the rate of \$25.30 for the 1999 year. THE MOTION WAS LOST • 5-11-0

## **Resolution 3.**

That the levy rate for a beekeeper's first Apiary be \$60.00, with each subsequent Apiary to be levied at the rate of \$26.40 for the 1999 year. THE MOTION WAS LOST • 2-14-0

## **Resolution 4.**

That the levy rate for a beekeeper's first Apiary be \$62.50, with each subsequent Apiary to be levied at the rate of \$27.50 for the 1999 year. THE MOTION WAS LOST • 15-0-1

# Annual Conference

by Russell Berry, President

I write this report on our annual conference with some misgivings. The people, the venue and the host branch were the makings of a great conference. I failed in my duty in making it that great conference, as I could not stop the constant niggings and points of order from a few individuals who seemed to consider it more important to score points and make the job of chairing the meeting difficult, rather than allowing free discussions, debate and decision making for the good of beekeeping in New Zealand.

I must apologise, as I did to conference, on behalf of the secretary and the executive, for the mess we made of the Minutes of the 1997 conference. We do not yet know how it happened. It was a pity the immediate Past-President did not let the secretary know of the problems, which he appeared to be aware of well before this conference, rather than wasting time during this conference in correcting errors.

The total cost of conference is expensive by the time you take your travel, accommodation, registration, time and food expenses and multiply this by the number of people attending conference, it costs something in the vicinity of \$5000

per hour. Well worth every cent of it when you achieve good communication and sharing of ideas between members. Let us hope that common sense prevails next year.

The Executive is naturally very disappointed at being hamstrung with no levy increase next year. There are so many improvements being implemented that will have to progress more slowly because of the lack of funds. We will be very reluctant to dig too deep into the remaining reserves we have as we feel that it is prudent to have funds available for emergencies and this is not an emergency.

What concerns us the most is the realisation that many members do not even read their NBA Annual Report including the Financial Statements sent out with the Journal and the costings related to the PMS compared with the past AFB programme. I spoke to a beekeeper with a large number of hives, who said he never reads the accounts of the NBA. This really shows up a problem. What we find strange is that people who should have known better about the financial situation, were the very ones who caused us to not get any increase. I hope they have had time to

reflect on their actions and the efforts of these actions.

We will of course endeavour to work within the financial strait jacket you have given us, but please assist us by paying your annual levy promptly and saving us expenditure wherever possible. This will help minimise the cuts in service we will be providing to you. As you will see from reading the NBA's Statement of Financial Performance to 31 December 1997 and the PMS and taking into account the user pays stance taken by Government, we will be approximately \$90,000 in deficit for the year ending 1999. We will allow this \$90,000 deficit to occur, so pruning of costs or attempted income generation in some form other than apiary levies will need to be implemented.

It was hoped to generate harmony, improve performance and save money by successfully promoting an additional option of the NBA carrying out much of the work for the PMS, by employing people rather than contracting the work out. We became aware during conference that this option would not decrease the constant unreasonable pressure being placed onto executive members, so it was withdrawn.



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# Conference highlights



*Pirate Peter Berry, from Hawke's Bay*



*John Berry and Trevor Corbett*



*Annette Berry's presentation at Conference*



*Mary Ann preparing to say grace?*



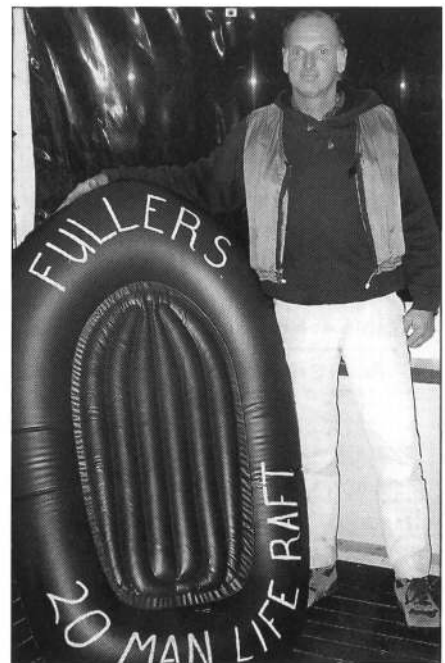
*Bill Floyd talking about his Marketing Budget*



*Ross Ward, a 1999 Innovation?*



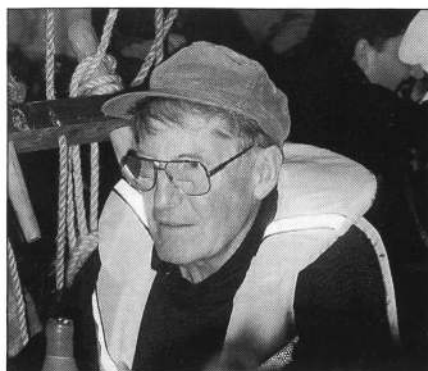
*Lin McKenzie (left) and Bryan Clements (right)*



*Tony Lorimer preparing to abandon ship! Only men on this life raft?*



*Frances Trewby*



*Michael Wraight ready to abandon ship*

# MAF Quality Management (MQM) Report to the Annual Conference of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand - Waitangi, 22-23 July 1998

## 1.0 Organisation and Personnel

During the year the Ministry of Forestry and the Ministry of Agriculture were merged into a new Ministry with the Border Services, and parts of meat inspection and verification being relocated in core MAF.

The rest of MQM remain as separate business units within the new Ministry until 1 November when MQM will become two State Owned Enterprises (SOE's). One SOE, called SOE1 (for the time being), involves meat services while the other, known as SOE2, comprises livestock, plants, animal and plant health laboratories, dairy and apiculture. SOE2 has a staff of over 600 and a turnover of around \$50 million.

The viability of the National Apiculture Business Unit (NABU) within SOE2, will depend on securing contracts from the industry as well as government through the MAF Regularity Authority (MAFReg). Retraining, relocating or 'right sizing' will be some of the options necessary if NABU's income stream is significantly reduced.

We lost three staff during the year with the resignation of Robert Rice from Lincoln and Cliff Van Eaton from Tauranga. Tribute has been paid to these officers in BeeFax December 1997. Sadly we also lost the services of a revered colleague Ted Roberts from Palmerston North who passed away in April 1998. Ted had been active in the bee industry since emigrating with his family from the UK via Uganda in 1970. Ted joined the MAF as an Apicultural Advisory Officer in 1985 and his sudden departure is still being deeply felt by his former colleagues.

## 2.0 Beekeeping Statistics

### 2.1 Beekeepers, apiaries and hives

There were 5356 registered beekeepers owning 298,921 hives on 23754 apiaries, as at 30 June 1998 (Table 4).

### 2.2 Honey Production

The total saleable crop was assessed at 8081 tonnes (27.0kg/hive) which is a decrease on last year's crop of 8537 tonnes (29.5kg/hive). The six year average is 8697 tonnes or 29.7kg/hive (Table 5). Per hive figures are taken over all registered hives not just the productive ones.

### 2.3 Live bee exports

There were 25,722 x 1.5k equivalent packages of bees (each with one queen-bee) exported in 1997/98 and 20,815 queen-bees.

## 3.0 Exotic Disease and Pest Response (EDPR) Capability

As reported in the September issue of BeeFax, an outbreak response exercise involving NBA and MQM staff was run from a base in Hamilton during the last week of August 97. A total of 2525 hives in 261 apiaries were inspected by 35 teams

over two days. This was a most successful test for our response procedures as it involved 33 MQM staff, 45 beekeepers from the Waikato branch and 11 from the Auckland branch. We were planning to run a similar exercise in the South Island based at Cromwell. Unfortunately this coincided with the rabbit virus response and had to be cancelled.

Restructuring of MAF and the imminent creation of two SOE's from MQM means that outbreak response will be delivered differently in future. These changes are well underway. In future, responses will be managed from the Exotic Disease Response Centre (EDRC) operating out of a permanent facility in Wallaceville. This will remain a core MAF function although in a response, specialist staff will be contracted in. Field work will be managed from a temporary Satellite Headquarters close to the scene of the action.

MQM have the contract to manage the field part of the operation and to provide technical experts to the EDRC. As part of this contract we are to maintain a staff training programme and develop new procedures for communication between the EDRC and the Satellite Headquarters. Unfortunately this contract does not include funding for a joint exercise this financial year but we are hopeful that this can be done the following year to test out the new structure.

New Outbreaks Response standards and contracts from MAFReg are clearly moving in the direction of requiring all primary industries to make a greater contribution toward any future response affecting their industry. The beekeeping industry is well ahead of any other in this area. However it is probable that MAFReg will require this commitment to be formalised in some sort of contract setting out the responsibilities and contributions of all the parties.

One of the issues that will be part of such discussion is access to the information on the apiary register in the event of a response. Timely response to an exotic disease would not be possible without immediate access to high quality information from this database. Another area that needs to be formalised is accreditation of beekeepers and Authorised Persons to carry out inspections and other activities in a response. Clearly it would make sense to integrate this with accreditation as Authorised Persons under the PMS for AFB inspections. The process of accreditation of Authorised Persons under the Biosecurity Act is more difficult than the process of appointment of Temporary Inspectors under the Apiaries Act which will no longer be possible.

## 4.0 Surveillance

During the 97/98 season, samples of adult bees were collected from 402 apiaries, by MQM staff for exotic mite testing and 688 were submitted by exporters. In addition 380 larval samples were collected and tested for EFB using PCR technology. Thirty seven suspect EFB and three suspect mites samples were submitted and tested negative.

Table 4: New Zealand Beekeeper, Apiaries and Hives Statistics by Apiary District as at 30 June 1998

Apiary Register	Beekeepers			Apiaries			Hives		
	1998	1997	% Change	1998	1997	% change	1998	1997	% Change
Whangarei	1153	1135	+1.6%	2616	2647	-1.1%	31522	30252	+4.2%
Hamilton	511	522	-2.1%	2955	2893	+2.1%	48722	39692	+22.8%
Tauranga	536	518	+3.5%	3029	3242	-6.6%	46852	47964	-2.3%
Palmerston North	1365	1333	+2.4%	3770	3831	-1.6%	39460	37055	+6.5%
Blenheim	487	469	+3.8%	1884	1986	-5.1%	24102	22894	+5.3%
Lincoln	799	790	+1.1%	5024	5294	-5.1%	58926	58452	+0.8%
Invermay	505	519	-2.7%	3746	3861	-3.0%	49337	51149	-3.5%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>5356</b>	<b>5286</b>	<b>+1.3%</b>	<b>23027</b>	<b>23754</b>	<b>-3.1%</b>	<b>298921</b>	<b>287458</b>	<b>+4.0%</b>

Table 5: New Zealand Honey Production in Tonnes as at 30 June 1998

YEAR	Northland Auckland Hauraki Plains	Waikato King Country Taupo	Bay of Plenty Coromandel Poverty Bay	Hawke's Bay Taranaki Manawatu Wairarapa	NORTH ISLAND	Marlborough Nelson Westland	Canterbury* North Otago	South and Central Otago Southland	SOUTH ISLAND	NEW ZEALAND	Yield per hive (kg)**
1993	1033	811	958	577	3379	560	1611	1536	3707	7086	23.3
1994	1295	1946	1524	1442	6207	493	2883	2236	5612	11819	40.8
1995	354	962	1426	1200	3942	499	1685	1921	4105	8047	27.5
1996	829	1639	1077	1367	4912	607	1287	1804	3698	8610	30.0
1997	766	829	933	1112	3640	919	2339	1639	4897	8537	29.5
1998	1014	1404	1314	1230	4962	598	1238	1283	3119	8081	27.0
6 yr ave	882	1265	1205	1155	4507	613	1841	1737	4190	8697	29.7

\*Includes honeydew

## Library News

### Technical Library - Report to Conference 1998

Lending has dropped compared with previous years. In general the library seems to be under-utilised. One would expect a greater use of the excellent video tapes on endemic and exotic bee diseases and the bee diseases education kit, especially by branches and clubs. Their value as an aid with disease recognition does not seem to be fully appreciated. Very pleasing is the interest of some schools and individual students in borrowing library material for projects and assignments.

Reciprocal arrangements between the *New Zealand BeeKeeper* and a number of overseas magazines has worked well for many years with the result that our library now holds a considerable number of complete volumes. More recently gaps are appearing. A request for help in the *New Zealand BeeKeeper* to fill these has met with a NIL response. Magazines have gone from the Executive Secretary's office to some people prior to sending them to the library. This with the best of intentions, saving time and postage. However these items are apparently not returned, possibly passed on to others and become lost. I have urged the Executive Secretary to stop this practice and pass the material directly to the library. Anyone wanting to borrow has but to ask and we do our best to oblige. Thus we can have control. Of course there will be the normal conditions of loan fees and postage. Sorry, it seems to be the only way. I wish to make it clear that this does not include Floyd Marketing, they are always regular and prompt with sending any material on. Publishers have to be approached for back issues which will take library funds which could be put to better use.

The library committee considered a request by the South Pacific Community Commission for assistance with the establishment of a collection of beekeeping literature at Fiji. It was agreed that we could help with some surplus material providing that any freight should be paid by the recipient. Selected were a number of extra copies of books and magazines and photocopies of articles. Two small crates were forwarded to Suva and arrived in good order. The freight costs amounting to \$240 have been refunded.

Books to the value of about \$90 have been purchased. The inflow of research papers and articles has been at an all time low. Recently a new publication was passed on by our Executive Secretary. Many thanks.

There will be no need at present to increase loan fees. The library fund is healthy with some \$700 held in the cheque account and \$1000 on term deposit with WestpacTrust.

John Heineman, Honorary Librarian

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# Nosema infection disrupts protein digestion in bees

by Dr Louise Malone, Dragana Stefanovic and Dr Heather Gatehouse, HortResearch, Auckland and Palmerston North

Nosema is a protozoan parasite of adult honey bees. Colonies infected with nosema produce around 25% less honey and do not pollinate crops as well as healthy colonies<sup>1,2</sup>. It's been estimated that up to 98% of New Zealand's bee colonies may be infected with this disease<sup>3</sup>. However, because it produces no obvious symptoms, most beekeepers will be unaware of its presence.

Bees infected with nosema seldom live as long as healthy bees, even though they may look as active and busy as their uninfected hive-mates<sup>4</sup>. We know that nosema invades the bee's gut lining, eventually taking over every gut cell<sup>5</sup>. Presumably this means that the bee can no longer absorb the food it needs and dies, but exactly how this happens is unclear.

Adult bees must digest both protein and carbohydrate foods. Protein digestion is particularly important during the first

week of adult life, and is why young bees eat pollen<sup>6</sup>. Without pollen, bees won't develop their larval jelly (or "brood food") glands<sup>7</sup>. Without these glands they won't do their nursing duties well and the whole colony may suffer. Bees also need the carbohydrates that honey provides, and they eat this throughout their lives. This provides the fuel they need for flight<sup>7</sup>.

In our lab we've discovered that young bees often become infected with nosema as they emerge from their cells. It seems that they pick up the odd nosema spore as they chew their way through the wax cappings covering their cells. We've noticed that if we help them out of their cells, so they don't chew any wax, they don't become infected unless they meet up with some infected bees later on.

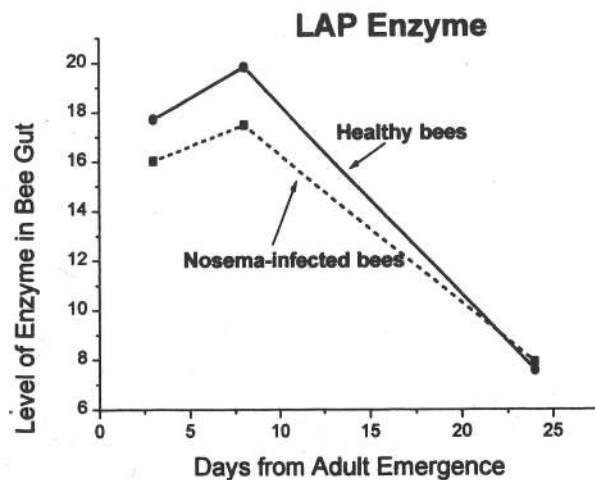
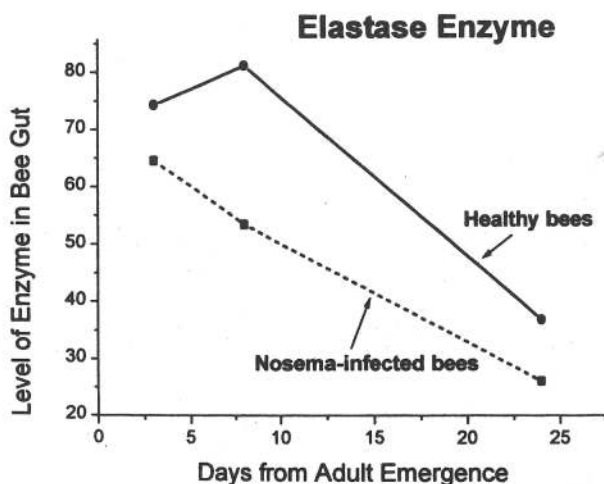
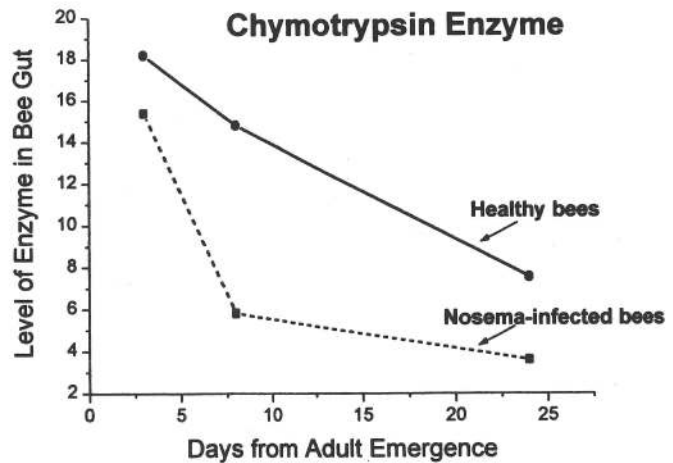
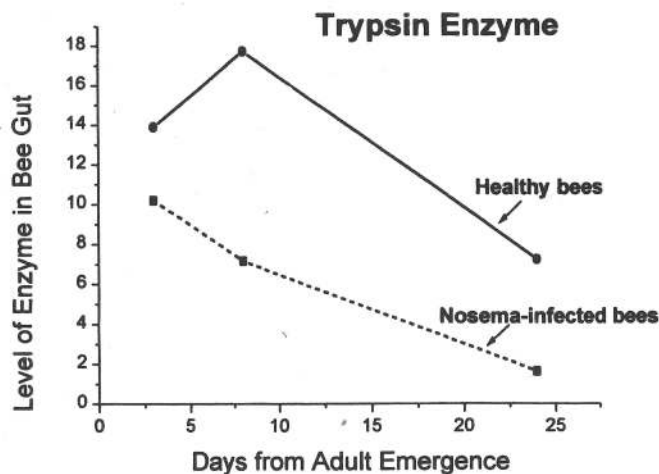
So nosema can attack very early and one of the ways it could harm bees is by interfering with that critical time in early

adulthood when digestion of pollen is so important.

To find out how nosema interferes with food digestion, particularly protein digestion, we deliberately infected a group of newly-emerged bees and measured the activities of four protein-digesting enzymes in their digestive tracts. These were compared with a control set of bees that were not dosed with nosema.

We looked at the levels of four enzymes - trypsin, chymotrypsin, elastase and leucine aminopeptidase - at 3, 8 and 24 days after infection. As the graphs show, in nearly every case the nosema-dosed bees had significantly lower levels of enzyme activity<sup>8</sup>. This means that infected bees are less able to digest the protein they need.

The graphs also show that in the control bees, enzyme levels start off high, when the bees need to digest lots of protein,



and then drop as they get older. This fits with what we know about how bees feed during their lives. There's a similar pattern evident in the dosed bees, but the enzymes are at a much lower level over all. The only exception is LAP (leucine aminopeptidase) at 24 days, when levels are extremely low in both dosed and control bees. Probably this enzyme just isn't needed at this time.

It's interesting to note that this effect is apparent just 3 days after emergence and infection. It takes about 7 to 9 days for the bee's gut cells to become packed with nosema<sup>5</sup>, so the enzyme effect that we are seeing is not just due to mechanical damage to the gut.

Our findings fit with an observation made by overseas researchers, that bees infected early on with nosema don't develop their larval jelly glands in the normal way<sup>9</sup>. Clearly they're not getting the protein they need to do this and perhaps this is why they don't live as long as healthy bees.

This is all very interesting, but how does it help us find better ways to control nosema? One thing we might be able to do is to feed those young infected bees with a mix of amino acids. These are the building blocks of proteins and, incidentally, are used by body builders as a dietary supplement. When a bee eats protein, it is broken down by the

digestive enzymes into amino acids. By giving bees the amino acids they need directly, we may circumvent the need for these enzymes and so infected bees could develop normally and perhaps live as long as healthy bees.

Of course we need to do a proper experiment to check this theory. This strategy could backfire horribly if we find that nosema feeds off the amino acids too and grows even faster than it usually does! We will be doing this experiment in the spring and will report our findings to you then. If it works, we may be able to invent a handy dietary supplement for bees that could counteract the effects of nosema.

**Acknowledgement:** This work was funded by the Public Good Science Fund, contract C06503.

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**Fig 1.** These graphs show how nosema reduces the levels of four different protein-digesting enzymes in the guts of adult bees at 3, 8 and 24 days after emergence. The enzymes are called trypsin, chymotrypsin, elastase and LAP.

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# Honey Expo 98, Eastgate Mall, Christchurch

Thanks to the Editor and Photographer (Russell Berry) for giving Canterbury's Honey Expo 98 Centrefold in the July 98 issue of our beekeeping journal.

It was planned to take place over a year ago but our Honey Promotion Committee was to put our plans on the backburner as the Mall had double booked our week cancelling all our efforts at the eleventh hour. This year with the Committee and members keen, the date was set. The Mall Management did a lot of work with advertising, artwork, displays, photocopying and all the arrangements to get local primary schools to visit, with one classroom of 20-30 students every half hour for three days from 9am to 3pm each day. How good is your maths? (240-300 students per day).



To keep things going at a nice flow a classroom was arranged in one of the unused shops to give students a brief overview of what bees do, and how honey is produced, before visiting the displays. Our President, Geoff Bongard, became teacher for the three days, with help from John Symes and others. Imagine giving the same 10-15 minutes talk every half hour for three days.

After the talk students knew honey came out of the hive in frames. From here they were given a practical demonstration in extracting honey, with a sample to keep showing them how packaging was done. Then on the main stand where Airbourne Honey had set up a sampling stand of all their honeys. Each student got an assortment of stickers and containers from Airbourne Honey to keep, and a chance to see pollen cells under a microscope.



The Runny Honey Company, (Rae Blair), did a lot of wax candle demos, giving the students more momentos to take home.

Christchurch Polytech Tutor, Dennis Taylor, and three students, did cooking demonstrations using honey recipes. The Pork Board provided meat for this, with the Mall paying for most other ingredients. Ladies, and some men, helped out at the cooking display. Special thanks go to Daphne Symes, Linda

White and Barbara Hill for organising this part of the Expo. Lots of pleasant tasting memories.



For people interested in beekeeping as a hobby, career or business, there was lots of help and advice on hand from the Christchurch Hobbyist Beekeepers Club, Telford Polytech and the commercial beekeepers helping out. We had 34 beekeepers rostered to help out over five days and others came in to help too. It was a very good chance to get together, having time to discuss issues with no pressure to be anywhere else.

Ecroyd Beekeeping Supplies helped out in a big way to decorate the Mall, which gave our Expo a very high profile that week, even though Stuart Ecroyd was verging on fatherhood.

The MAF Border Control and Surveillance team display of confiscated items (encased) drew a lot of attention along with a video of their dogs in everyday activities.



The honey mountain was huge, showing the diversity of honey and beekeepers in our region.

After three attempts to get a wheelbarrow for the raffle (Warehouse Ashburton, Northlands and Linwood), Richard Bensemann finally had enough parts to make a kitset wheelbarrow full of Bee Healthy products from Ecroyds. Richard and his team worked relentlessly to sell raffle tickets. Well done team. The winner was a local from in the Linwood area of Christchurch.

The whole Expo was well attended by beekeepers from this area, with welcome guest appearances from other branches, and a visit from NBA President Russell Berry and his wife on the Friday. To all the companies and people who took part in the Canterbury Branches Expo 98, our Honey Promotion Committee thank you. If you have any suggestions or comments that would help us with future Mall based promotions, or other venues, please send them to the Branch Secretary.

**TW Corbett, Canterbury Branch Secretary**



# ApiExpo 99

ApiExpo Tradeshow of Apimondia 99, Vancouver, Canada. September 1999

As member association of the International Federation of Beekeepers Associations, we hope you are excited about the upcoming 36th Congress of Apimondia at Vancouver, Canada in September 1999! We like to see the Vancouver conference become the most exciting Apimondia congress ever! ApiExpo will play an integral part in the overall success and we are confident that Vancouver will offer an unprecedented opportunity for exhibitors to showcase their products and services to the world.

As organisers, we aim to attract the largest number of exhibitors and participants from all over the world to come to Vancouver. This is only possible by offering highly competitive exhibitor rates and incentives. You may note that we offer further discounts to early registrants with the additional advantage to select the location of their own booth(s). Compared to some previous Congresses, we have made it so attractive that exhibitors can simply not afford to miss the event!

In your prominent role as Beekeeper Association, I would like to request your assistance in making prospective exhibitors in your country aware about the upcoming Apimondia Congress. If prospective exhibitors are interested in receiving their own information package, please contact me with their mailing address or have them contact me directly.

You may also visit our website: <[www.apimondia99.ca](http://www.apimondia99.ca)>, where you can access detailed information about ApiExpo and all other aspects of the upcoming event.

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Paul van Westendorp, Chairman ApiExpo99 Committee, 1767 Angus Campbell Road, Abbotsford, B.C., Canada V3G 2M3. [apiexpo@apimondia99.ca](mailto:apiexpo@apimondia99.ca), ph: 1.604.556-3129, fax: 1.604.556-3030.

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# Doctors urged to be open-minded

Doctors trained in conventional Western medicine should be prepared to explore treatments that have been successful in countries such as China, says Wellington physiologist and health researcher Patricia Holborow.

Dr Holborow told a public meeting in Levin that interest in alternative therapies and alternative health practitioners was mushrooming in New Zealand.

She believed the reason for this was the fact that some of the alternative therapies produced results. Yet most doctors were ignorant of them.

Dr Holborow said Chinese herbal medicine had much to offer. Some of the remedies had been used and refined for more than 2000 years.

The treating of illnesses through nutrition also held promise, she said. She urged doctors to keep an open mind on alternative therapies. Some were

incredibly cheap and simple, yet worked well.

Dr Holborow visited China recently, and observed the use of a burns ointment at a Beijing hospital. The treatment reportedly heals severe burns without the need for skin grafts.

Levin man Graeham Gaisford applied to the Health Ministry to have the ointment registered as a medicine in New Zealand, but his application was turned down because the ministry was not satisfied with the information and evidence supplied by China.

Dr Holborow showed the meeting a video of an alternative treatment for cancer, which involved inserting needles into tumours and then passing an electric current through the needles.

*Acknowledgement,  
Rachel Forde, Evening Standard*

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**Gingerbread Loaf**

- 1 egg, well beaten
- 1 cup dairy sour cream
- 1 cup honey
- 2½ cups sifted all-purpose flour
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 2 tsp ginger
- ¼ tsp cinnamon
- ¼ cup oil

Preheat oven to 180°C. Beat egg well. Combine sour cream and honey and blend into beaten egg. Sift dry ingredients together. Add sour cream mixture. Beat well and blend in oil. Bake in a 2.5 litre pan for 30-40 minutes. Lovely served with the following Honey Cheese Spread. *Makes 1 loaf.*

**Honey Cheese Spread**

- 1 cup cream cheese
  - ½ cup honey
  - grated rind of 1 orange
  - ½ cup chopped walnuts
- Mix together the cream cheese, honey and orange rind. Sprinkle the copped walnuts on the top.

**Cinnamon Honey Horns**

- ¾ cup honey
  - ¾ cup sugar
  - ¾ cup butter
  - ¾ cup finely chopped walnuts
  - 1 tsp cinnamon
  - ½ recipe Sweet Roll Dough
- Bring honey, sugar and butter to a boil and remove from heat. Stir in walnuts and cinnamon. Using half recipe of a sweet roll dough, roll out two circles 30-35cm. Spread each circle with ¼ of topping, saving half of total to spread over top of honey horns while baking. Cut each circle into 8 or 12 pie-shaped pieces. Roll each horn from wide to narrow side of pie-shaped pieces. Put on well-greased cookie sheet with sides. Turn points under, shape into horns. Let rise until double, about 45 minutes. Heat oven to 190°C. Bake 10 minutes. Spread with remaining topping. Bake about 15 minutes longer until golden brown. Remove from pan and serve while warm. *Makes 8-12 horns.*

**Honey Pecan Sauce**

- ¼ cup honey
  - ¼ cup whipped cream
  - ¼ cup chopped pecans
- Bring honey, cream and pecans to a boil and boil gently about 5 minutes. Cool slightly and pour over sauteed bananas or ice-cream. *Makes 175mls. Serves 2.*

**Pfeffernusse Gingersnaps**

- 1 cup honey
  - 1 cup brown sugar
  - 5 tsps butter
  - 5 tsps shortening
  - 3 eggs
  - 4 cups white flour
  - 1 tsp baking powder
  - 1 tsp ground cloves
  - ¾ tsp allspice
  - ¾ tsp ground cinnamon
  - ¾ tsp ground cardamom
  - ¼ tsp ground white pepper
- Cream honey, sugar, butter and shortening. Add eggs and cream well. Mix dry ingredients and add to honey mixture. Mix until smooth and well

blended. Drop by full teaspoonfuls onto a buttered baking sheet, 3cm apart. Bake at 190°C for 10-12 minutes. Frost, if desired, with Honey Icing (below) and decorate with sliced almonds.

**Honey Icing**

- ¼ cup icing sugar
  - 1 tbsp honey
  - 2 tsps grated lemon rind
- Place all ingredients in a small bowl. Microwave on medium power about 1 minute. Stir to mix and frost cookies. Add a few sliced almonds if desired.

**Corn Relish**

- 5 cups frozen corn kernels, thawed
  - 1 green pepper, chopped
  - 1 red pepper, chopped
  - 1 large onion, chopped
  - 2 carrots, chopped
  - ½ cup honey
  - 1 tsp dry mustard
  - ½ tsp celery seeds
  - ¼ tsp turmeric
  - 1 cup cider vinegar
- In a large saucepan combine all ingredients. Bring mixture to a boil, stirring occasionally and simmer for 25-30 minutes until vegetables are just tender and liquid has thickened slightly. Spoon into hot sterilised jars, fill 1cm of the top. Wipe rims with a damp cloth, apply lids. Use the hot bath method with hot water covering the jars by 5cm. Bring to a boil and process, covered, for 10 minutes. Remove, cool and store in a dark, cool place. *Makes about 1.5 litres.*

**Note:** When removing jars from the bath, do not set directly on a cold surface such as tiles. Place on a dry dish towel or bread board.

**Honey Cookie Rolls - Extra Special Treat**

- ½ cup honey
  - ½ cup butter
  - 1 cup cake flour
  - ½ cup sugar
  - 2 tsps ginger
  - 1 tsp cinnamon
- Bring honey just to a boil. Remove from heat and stir in butter. Sift together cake flour, sugar, ginger and cinnamon. Stir in flour mixture until well blended. Drop by ½ tsp lots onto well greased cookie sheets about 5-7.5cm apart. If you use greased parchment paper on the cookie sheet, the cookies are much easier to remove. Bake in a preheated oven 150°C, 15-18 minutes. Remove cookies from oven and cool.

*Acknowledgement, American Bee Journal*

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## COMING EVENTS...

### EXECUTIVE MEETING DATES

7th-9th	September	WELLINGTON
7th-9th	December	DUNEDIN
1st-3rd	March 1999	NELSON
1999	Conference	ASHBURTON
2000	Conference	GISBORNE

—DETAILS AS SOON AS AVAILABLE—

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

**AUCKLAND BRANCH**  
Call: Jim (09) 238-7464

**AUCKLAND BEEKEEPERS CLUB INC**  
SECRETARY - Terry Buckley  
Phone: (09) 415-9853

**NORTH CANTERBURY CLUB**  
Meet the second Monday of every month  
March to November inclusive.  
Contact Mrs Hobson  
Phone: (03) 312-7587

**SOUTH CANTERBURY BRANCH**  
Peter Lyttle  
Phone: (03) 693-9189

**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.  
Arataki Cottage, Havelock North.  
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**  
Contact: Kevin  
Phone: (03) 545-0122

**OTAGO BRANCH**  
Phone: Mike (03) 448-7811

**NORTH OTAGO BRANCH**  
Bryan O'Neil  
Ph: (03) 431-1831

**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.