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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF NZ (Inc.)

President:

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

Vice-President:

Terry Gavin, PDC, Titoki,
Private Bag, Whangarei.
Tel: (09) 433-1893
Fax: (09) 433-1895

Executive:

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

Don Bell

Annat Apiaries,
Frasers Road, Sheffield,
RD, Canterbury 8173.
Tel: (03) 318-3869 - Fax (03) 318-3862

Lin McKenzie

Box 34, Ranfurly
Central Otago.
Tel/Fax: (03) 444-9257
Email:lin.mckenzie@xtra.co.nz

Bruce Stevenson

Kemp Road,
Kerikeri.
Tel: (09) 407-7190
Fax: (09) 407-7194
Email:beecrazy@xtra.co.nz

Editor *New Zealand BeeKeeper*:

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

Executive Secretary: **Harry Brown**

National Beekeepers Assn of NZ,
PO Box 3079, Napier.
Tel: (06) 843-3446, Fax: (06) 843-4845
E-mail:natbeeknz@xtra.co.nz

Hon. Librarian: **John Heineman**

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New Zealand Honey Food & Ingredient Advisory Service

OF THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF N.Z. (INC.)
312 Scott Street, PO Box 32, Blenheim, New Zealand.
Tel: (03) 577-6103, Fax: (03) 577-8429, Email: bill.floyd@clear.net.nz

BRANCHES

The first named person is the President/Chairperson. The second is the Secretary.

FAR NORTH

Bob Banks
Taupo Bay, Northland.
Tel: (09) 406-0692

Graham Wilson
Waimate Road, RD 3, Kerikeri.
Tel: (09) 407-9068

NORTHLAND

John Gavin
PDC, Titoki, Private Bag, Whangarei.
Tel: (09) 433-1892
Fax: (09) 433-1895

Edna Hoole
Sheddoek Apiaries, RD 1, Paparoa,
Nth Auckland.
Tel: (09) 431-7348

AUCKLAND

Brian Alexander
Woodhaugh Apiaries, RD 3,
Kaukapakapa.
Tel/Fax: (09) 420-5028

Jim Thompson
125 Queen Street, Pukekohe.
Tel: (09) 238-7464
Fax: (09) 232-8429

WAIKATO

Lewis Olsen
Ohaupo Apiaries
Great South Road, RD 3, Ohaupo.
Tel: (07) 823-6706

Tony Lorimer
'Kahurangi-o-Papa', RD 3, Hamilton.
Tel: (07) 856-9625, Fax: (07) 856-9241

BAY OF PLENTY

Gerrit Hyink
271 Lindemann Road,
Katikati.
Tel/Fax: (07) 549-1223
Email: hyink@xtra.co.nz

Nick Wallingford
55 Watling Street,
Tauranga.
Tel/Fax: (07) 578-1422
Email:nickw@beekeeping.co.nz

HAWKE'S BAY

Tom Taylor
Box 48,
Onga Onga,
Central Hawke's Bay.
Tel: (06) 856-6610
Fax: (06) 856-6611

Ron Morison

6 Totara Street, Taradale.
Tel/Fax: (06) 844-9493

POVERTY BAY

Peter Burt
27 Murphy Road, Wainui,
Gisborne.
Tel: (06) 868-4771
Email:pwburt@clear.net.nz

Barry Foster
695 Aberdeen Road, Gisborne.
Tel/Fax: (06) 867-4591
Email:bjfoster@xtra.co.nz

SOUTHERN NORTH ISLAND

Peter Ferris
Happy Honey Bee Apiaries
RD 11, Opaki, Masterton.
Tel/Fax: (06) 378-7632

Frank Lindsay
26 Cunliffe Street, Johnsonville,
Wellington 6004.
Tel/Fax: (04) 478-3367
Email:lindsay.s.apiaries@xtra.co.nz

SOUTH ISLAND

NELSON
John Moffit
Pigeon Valley, R.D.2, Wakefield.
Tel/Fax: (03) 541-8143

Michael Wraight
15 Titoki Place, Motueka.
Tel: (03) 528-6010

MARLBOROUGH

Mike Taylor
802B Paynters Road, RD 2, Blenheim.
Tel: (03) 578-0749

Jeff Hook
RD 4, Blenheim.
Tel: (03) 577-5489

WEST COAST

John Glasson
34 Shakespeare Street,
Greymouth, Westland.
Tel/Fax: (03) 768-4793

Sandy Richardson
Napoleon St, Ahaura, Westland.
Tel: (03) 732-3724, Fax: (03) 732-3774

CANTERBURY

Geoff Bongard,
205 Alford Forest Road, Ashburton.
Tel/Fax: (03) 308-3927
Email:g.bongard@xtra.co.nz

Trevor Corbett
80 Glenmark Drive, Waipara,
North Canterbury.
Tel/Fax: (03) 314-6836

SOUTH CANTERBURY

Peter Lyttle
NZ Beeswax Ltd
RD 22, Geraldine 8751.
Tel: (03) 693-9189 Fax: (03) 693-9780
Email:beeswax@xtra.co.nz

Peter Smyth
Templer Street, RD 22, Geraldine.
Tel: (03) 693-9889

OTAGO

Blair Dale
PO Box 23, Middlemarch, Otago.
Work Tel/Fax: (03) 464-3796
Home Tel/Fax: (03) 464-3122
Email:blair.dale@clear.net.nz

Mike Vercoe
Box 241, Alexandra.
Tel/Fax: (03) 448-7811
Email:dmvercoe@xtra.co.nz

NORTH OTAGO

Bruce Steffens
RD 2 C, Oamaru.
Tel: (03) 432-4030

Bryan O'Neil
RD 4 K, Oamaru.
Tel: (03) 431-1831

SOUTHLAND

Carne Clissold
113 Waikaka Road, RD 5, Gore.
Tel: (03) 208-0673 Fax: (03) 207-1866
Email:clissold@esi.co.nz

Don Stedman, Catlins Apiaries,
Pine Bush, RD1, Wyndham.
Tel/Fax: (03) 246-9777

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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

How are you getting on with the guessing game for this season? The Rewarewa is not only having a really heavy budding but it looks as if it will flower over a long period of time and there is plenty of moisture in the ground in most areas where the Rewarewa is growing. This adds up to the prospects of a huge crop with a little bit of luck, the best crop in 25 years. The lack of a winter chill, very wet in some areas and very dry in others, all adds up to a most unusual season.

The kiwifruit does not know whether it is summer or winter, some vines started to grow in the middle of winter. Very poor budding of kiwifruit this year with a big variety of bud size which will probably make for a long flowering season. I said probably, because two weeks ago we were told by several orchardists that kiwifruit would probably be late flowering this year but it is now starting to flower one to two weeks early.

We have been told by several beekeepers that the Manuka flowering in the Northland area is very poor so far. Let's hope the later flowering is better. Manuka is now a very important source of income for New Zealand beekeepers. The good news down South is that there is a lot of Dandelion flowers which seem to be yielding well. We hear from the West Coast that the whitebait are running well and they are getting some queens mated despite all the rain. We hope your hives are not being washed away and feel for those queen raisers who are suffering from winds and rain this year. Generally the East Coast of both islands has been great for bees, but not so good on the West Coast. At the time of writing, Hawke's Bay is very dry.

What will be the effect of the clover weevil on our crops this year with the strange weather we are experiencing? What will be the effect of the German wasps this year?

People we have spoken to and our experience over the past few years indicates the very serious wasp problem seems to have just about gone away. This is wonderful, but why have their numbers decreased so dramatically and will they return with the warm weather? We hope not!

Honey stocks appear to be fairly low in New Zealand at the moment. Some honey has been sent from the North Island to the South Island. This shortage of some types of honey should keep the honey prices to the producers at a reasonable level, despite world honey prices falling.

As you all know, to make a success of running a beekeeping business, it is very important to get as much related information together as possible, put all your experience and your gut feelings together and get on with the job of farming your beehives which is so critical at this time of the year. I hope the above helps a little in making those very important beekeeping decisions one has to make every day.

One matter that came up at Conference was whether a person who is going to be a member of the Executive would be eligible to take up the office of President or Vice-President. New Executive members do not take up their positions until the end of the annual general meeting.

Please find part of the letter from Bisson Moss, Barristers and Solicitors, from whom the NBA receives advice on legal matters, backing up my interpretation of the Rules of the NBA. A full copy of this letter has been sent to the Branches.

Quote from this letter:-
"Rule 16(b) provides that the members of the Executive shall hold office for two years commencing at the conclusion of the annual meeting immediately following the election. In order for a President or Vice-

President to be validly elected in accordance with Rule 15 and 16, the President and Vice-President be elected from the members of the incoming Executive.

It is our opinion that the Rules should not remain as they are due to the potential for any election held to be objected to on these grounds.

This could be remedied by altering the Rules by altering Rule 16(b) to read:-

"the members of the Executive shall hold office for two years commencing at the beginning of the annual meeting immediately following their election and shall at the expiration of the term be eligible for re-election." End of quote.

One of the things we have to give consideration to is whether you believe it is in the best interests of our membership, for a newly elected person to Executive to be made President or Vice-President? Or is it better to give them the chance to become acquainted with the current affairs of the Executive for at least one year before being eligible for one of these positions? If you think that they should be there for at least one year, then I believe the Rules reflect this but I believe the Rules could be tidied up a little. It would seem to be the sensible thing to do. But if you think one should be able to go straight into the President or Vice-President's position the Rules should be changed to reflect this requirement, take your ideas along to the next Branch meeting and discuss them.

There are a number of exciting things happening in the beekeeping world, particularly in New Zealand. Let's be enthusiastic and thankful for the wonderful environment we live in. Have a great season.

Russell Berry

The Pest Management Strategy goes online www.nba.org.nz

I am pleased to give notice of the development of a new Web site for our Pest Management strategy for American the eradication of foulbrood. Worth checking out now. This site is owned, managed and administered by the National Beekeepers Association and will provide beekeepers with a user friendly source of information relating to the Strategy and beekeepers legal obligations in relation to the strategy. We have commissioned the considerable skill and expertise of Mr Nick Wallingford to design this web site. It will provide some general information, and promotional material on the PMS as well as links to other "bee sites" of interest.

Many beekeepers will find that using the Internet will actually save them money, as well as being easier and more convenient than having to fill forms in manually and send via the postman.

Features

- **Online form filling.** Beekeepers will be able to register, de-register sites, notify disease. The online forms are Emailed

direct to the PMS contractor, saving time and money for both parties.

- **Print off forms.** Forms like annual disease declarations and certificates of inspection should be available to "print off" for your use.
- **FAQ page.** Frequently asked questions will be featured on this page, and also details of where to go should you require assistance.
- **The Manual for eradication of AFB.** Will be available online, and in the interests of saving costs we will be encouraging members to access this important document from the net.

PMS Contract

By the time this issue is printed, we anticipate having a contract signed with AgriQuality for the provision of services for the implementation of our PMS. While the Order in Council gave our strategy legal status on 1 October 98, we did not in effect have any ability to enforce the law until the NBA signed the contract with AgriQuality and our contractors started work. My

thanks to all involved in the development of our contract, both Agriqual personnel and members of the PMS review committee.

Bruce Stevenson, PMS Chairman

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I urgently need front cover type photos. They will be returned. Ed.

Letters to the Editor

Letters are invited on the understanding that they must include the writer's full name and address. Nom-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 those of the writer.

Dear Sir

Please send any info or suggestions as soon as you can. We're currently trying to pin down our stories and the areas we want to visit - so any wild, eccentric beekeepers information would be greatly appreciated!

My address is:

Pilot Productions, The Old Studio, 18 Middle Row, London W10 5AT, United Kingdom.

Paul

Dear Sir

Hereby I send you a photograph, which shows my husband Gerrit and our son Wouter. They are both wearing a jersey, 100% made by me:



I spun the wool, made the designs and knitted them both. At a close look, they are already different: Wouters one is charcoal colour and has only bees on the front, Gerrit's one has the scientific name on it and also bees on the back.

As our son Wouter - he is one of the students at Waikato Honey Research

Unit, doing a PhD - lost his jersey as results of a burglary, that took place end of September. Being a student, he doesn't possess much and what he had, they took. He is very attached to it, I would like to make the following request! The best chance it will be recognised lies with a beekeeper. As it is the one and only existing one, it might be a good idea to put the photo in our magazine. Wouter would love to have it back. As a reward to the person, that is able to return it: I can make him or her another jersey to size and wishes. In the hope you can help, kind regards.

Ireke Hyink, ph (07) 549-1223

Dear Sir

In my opinion Bill Floyd needs a round of applause for his statements on his Honey of the month. (October issue, a real lesson in Mediocrity).

Having been involved in launching a brand during the last 18 months, many times has the situation Mr Floyd described been evident when presenting our product to retail outlets.

I realise that certain markets demand very competitive pricing. But the consumer buying for a family of four or five, deserves the same quality and value for money as say the 'double income no kids' consumer purchasing a more premium product.

All I can say is well done to all those going that little further, and putting a quality product on the market. To those 'Dipsticks', (if the shoe fits!), out in the market, filling a honey pot with bits of this and bits of that, you do no one any favours, and quality product will get you in the end.

Roll on some standards for this industry! Keep up the good work Bill.

Colin Caldwell

Dear Sir

This letter is written on behalf of the Bay of Plenty beekeepers who in the last year or so have had hives stolen. To date in just over one year around 300 hives have been stolen. The beekeepers who have lost hives are Arataki Honey, Dave Klausen, Trevor Bryant, Steve Weenink, Kevin Thomas, Ken Richards, Mark Nichol森 and Dale Gifford.

It appears that in most of the cases a single tyred ute or similar was used. The tyres had a mudgrip type tread, and were probably the standard crossply mudgrip tread, and the amount of hives taken each time would suggest likewise.

It would appear that someone with more

than a hobbyist skill level is removing these hives and most likely is receiving a copy of this journal. Someone out there also knows of this thief or thieves, hence a reward of \$6000.00 is being offered for the recovery of these hives.

If anyone has any information please phone Steve Weenink on (07) 543-0984.

Yours faithfully

Steve Weenink

Dear Sir,

There are a number of issues I would like to comment on:

I find the current censorship of letters to the Editor unacceptable. As levy payers it is our right to have controversial letters printed without one sided censorship.

The Lin McKenzie article concerned me, it should have been under Letters to the Editor and limited to 300 words. It is not Executive Notes, Lin has no background knowledge of the events leading up to the protests of R Berry's advertisement and splurge in the Kiwifruit Journal. What upset most of us was the multiple mentions that he is the NBA President. This stems from the Gore conference when Mr Berry stood up and said he was there to increase beekeeper profitability at the same time as circularizing all orchardists and cutting \$15.00 plus off the average pollination price of the day, and costing beekeepers thousands of dollars. Mr Berry needs to be more responsible with his advertising.

I understand that the testing for the European market could have been done for thousands of dollars less by making a less confrontational attitude and allowing MAF to take these samples during their travels without making special trips at the last moment at considerable cost.

The industry has voted for the PMS. Why are some executive members stalling its introduction? They are there to do the industry's wishes. On that issue I would like each member to state in the journal with a YES or NO. This position on drug feeding, I think the membership would benefit from this continuing on this line. I cannot understand why the anomaly of an unfair levy is allowed to continue. The Industry is now levying all the beekeepers with 10-55 hives and collecting less levies. Most of us with average to large apiaries are paying less. Myself close to \$1000.00 less. This needs addressing then maybe we will have enough for an effective PMS.

Yours faithfully

Steve Weenink

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Dear Sir

For fifteen years I have heard Frank (letters September) saying the same things as he does now but the world has moved on and the New Zealand Bee Industry will never improve if it recycles the same tired old ideas.

If New Zealand is a small country and the industry is small it should be positive rather than negative and work smarter with new ideas welcomed rather than resented and blocked.

Terry Gavin (P3 September issue) touches on the future with reference to by products and a prosperous future if a little goodwill by all.

Having attended four Asian conferences in five years including Apimondia/Beijing, representing two major Chinese pharmaceutical companies, and having spent the last five years trying to register the first pharmaceutical into New Zealand under the NZ 1981 Medicines Act, I am well aware of the difference between opinion and scientific fact. That no other New Zealander or Australian was present makes me a freak (as was Columbus).

China is the world's leader in production, research, breeding and marketing of bee based products including medicines. Going from a 1949 base of 500,000 colonies and 8000 tonnes of honey to 1979 5.2 million hives and 109,000 tonnes with specialised research groups for Royal Jelly, venom, propolis and bee pollen coordinated by a state (industry) board.

By 1992 there were 10,000 senior apicultural and technical workers of a minimum of Peter Molans level and above and university trained.

One of my friends is vice-president of Beijing Medical University and Chairman of China's new drug assessment committee. No New Zealand Bee Industry leader could be bothered to attend with me or support my visit to Tokyo last year where it was announced by the senior doctors and academics of Japan, China and Korea that "chemical medicine has failed and that apitherapy is the third medicine for the 21st century".

China has held out the hand of friendship. The next move is for New Zealand to open its mind for mutual prosperity, health and long life.

Graham Gaisford

Dear Sir

NBA President Russell Berry said he would not have accepted a nomination for Bruce Stevenson at the Annual Meeting in July. He said that his interpretation of our rules, backed up by legal advice, indicated that only Executive members who had already served at least one year were eligible to be President or Vice President.

The President and the Executive Secretary were not willing to provide me with a copy of the legal advice the President referred to, even after the questions I raised in a letter to the Executive in August and in the last issue of the magazine. Executive member Bruce Stevenson should be congratulated for being honest and open enough to do so.

The advice states that "We would consider that the intention of the Rules are such that it was intended that the President and Vice President be elected from the members of the incoming Executive." Previous legal advice to the NBA was even more adamant that Russell Berry's interpretation of the rules was incorrect.

Russell Berry should now confirm to the membership that he will abide by the legal opinions received when the issue arises at the next conference. The membership has always intended that there be six people to choose from when they elect the President and Vice President. The current President should accept the wishes of the industry and the intent and previous application of our rules. He should put aside any private agendas when acting as NBA President.

Yours faithfully

Nick Wallingford

The Executive Secretary as you well know, (refer November 4th 1997 letter to you) is not permitted to release this type of information without approval. The Executive Secretary is not a member of the NBA, but a Contractor to the NBA.

Yours faithfully

Harry Brown, Executive Secretary

Dear Sir

The following is an insert for the NZ BeeKeeper that might be of interest to beekeepers who need to carry larger than legal loads.

Over the past few months the Land Transport Safety Authority have changed conditions for larger than legal loads. They have produced a booklet called "Overdimension Vehicles and Loads, A guide to Operating Requirements". This booklet can be obtained by phoning the Overdimensional Permit Issuing Agency on freephone 0800-683-774.

Meeting the requirements of the booklet and carrying the booklet with you then becomes your permit to carry the load.

All the best

Abernethy's Honey

Dear Sir

Hi my name is Sonia, I'm a seventh form student at Matamata College. I'm currently taking Primary Production and Marketing and as part of our course we are required to produce an in-depth project on a chosen primary product.

I have chosen honey and have been obtaining information from Arataki Honey. However they wouldn't help me with gross margin figures.

I would be most grateful if you could send me any information regarding the gross margins of honey production.

Thank you

Sonia Schweizer, RD 1, Tirau.

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IBRA prepares for the new millennium

IBRA's services are very much in demand and in order to maintain these activities by the same methods and in the same manner it has been necessary to draw upon reserves at an unsustainable rate. Therefore the Council has decided upon a radical restructuring so that the Association and the invaluable services it provides can go on into the new millennium.

Sadly this has meant reductions in staffing. It is distressing to have to lose able and experienced staff but the alternative of having to close IBRA is totally unacceptable given the continuing level of member support.

IBRA will continue to produce its leading apicultural journals: Bee World recognized and admired worldwide for the broad content and geographical spread of its articles and Journal of Apicultural Research which is appreciated by scientists for its technical excellence. Articles in both these journals, under the able editorship of Dr Pamela Munn and Dr Tom Rinderer are peer reviewed so enabling IBRA to maintain frequent and effective contact with the leading apicultural scientists in government and institutional organisations throughout the world as well as those working in related fields in industry and elsewhere.

Other services at present provided by IBRA will also continue making increasing use of computer databases and the dissemination of scientific information in a modified form more suited to electronic media. This will include a modified

electronic version of Apicultural Abstracts which is already available on diskette. Hard copy will be available for those that need it although this will be in the form of laser printed in-house productions so saving a great deal on printing and external publishing costs.

A commitment has been made to continue the production of new IBRA publications including conference proceedings already at the printers. While the next conference on Tropical Apiculture is scheduled to take place in Chiang Mai, Thailand in March 2000.

The Eva Crane Library will be maintained again by using alternative methods. It will continue to make visitors welcome.

The restructuring is radical but IBRA believes that its members will continue to communicate with staff and make all the normal requests associated with membership. For its part IBRA will endeavour to meet those needs and if it cannot do so then it will clearly respond with a reason.

Plans are already being made for a 50th Jubilee AGM on 2 October 1999 and topics for other conferences and events to disseminate bee related information are being planned.

For more information contact:

The Director, IBRA, 18 North Road, Cardiff CF1 3DY, UK. Tel: (+44) 1222-372409, Fax: (+44) 1222-665522, Email: ibra@cardiff.ac.uk



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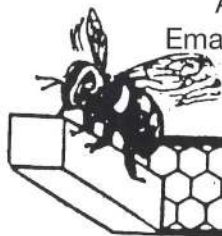
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Marketing

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Mrsa and now Vrsa threaten mankind with untreatable infections. The overuse of antibiotics in food production is accelerating the emergence of these 'super-bugs'. But the world honey industry may hold the key to future safety with one of the world's oldest and most trusted food-medicines...."

The above (in italics) is part of a media release put out by the NZ Honey Research Unit this month. It announces a new initiative by the NBA: a strategic research alliance with the USA's National Honey Board.

This Strategic Research Alliance has huge benefit ramifications for New Zealand... it's not only a recognition of our research strategies to date, but will create significant market opportunities for our honey exporters **and** will allow us to find new values for our 'cinderella' honeys... the multifloral darker blends! Because both the USA and New Zealand have the same research objectives: to find consumer values for the glucose oxidase/hydrogen peroxide rich honeys (and in NZ's case that means the darker blend honeys!).

Both the HRU here in New Zealand and the USA's National Honey Board have been looking at the relationship between honeys rich in glucose oxidase/hydrogen peroxide and high levels of antioxidant. The issues are very complex but the upshot may be that our 'cinderella' honeys have significant antioxidant values. The USA Research grant will allow us to explore this concept: and a positive outcome will create a new honey value that could be simply staggering in terms of consumer demand.

The Grant from the USA is worth around \$200,000 over the next two years. Added to the just renewed NZ Honey Trust Grant of \$60,000 over three years.... it means that Peter Molan and Alistair Wilkins and their teams have significant funds to research concepts that can ensure an exciting and profitable future for the NZ beekeeping industry.

One of the most satisfying things to come out of our discussions with the USA Honey Board was to realise just



Bill Floyd

how respected our honey research scientists are internationally.

We have a tremendous asset in Peter and Alistair.

New Marketing Committee to Review "Where we've been, where we're going, and are we using the best way to get there!"

The Marketing Committee appointed for 1998/99 represents the biggest changes to the Committee since its formation 6 years ago.

Our strategies to date have been proven in the marketplace: but success can bring complacency and so the Marketing Planning meeting this month will revisit the fundamental issues and principles: what are we doing and why; who must benefit from what we do; what can we be doing with our marketing resources that we aren't doing now?

I attended a Marlborough Branch meeting last month as guest speaker. the Marlborough Branch has always been a pretty fierce critic of the NBA's generic marketing programme and so their comments and reactions a good litmus test for how the industry at large may feel about the above issues.

Very good meeting... good comments... and their feedback will be tabled at the Marketing Committee meeting.

But highlight of the night for me (at the Branch meeting) was a video of the Branch's Field Day (overnight stay) up the Muzzle Station in the South Island High Country. What beautiful country and what a good keen group of people they looked... especially as they forded window-high mountain rivers in their 4WD's and found innovative ways to get over locked gates (someone brought the wrong key!).

I'll be going with them next year... (but my pristine pajero will be staying at home... I don't care what they say about the rivers not hurting it!).

The honey hive deserves to be a national retail success story.

Went to Christchurch's Gardenz Garden Show last month. Wandered the displays

and stalls and thought... hey!... honey should have been here!... and right on cue wandered into the next tent: and into the Honey Hive Display.

This company has got its act together!... superbly.

It deserves to become a nationally franchised retail operation. The range of products is simple awe-inspiring... so it was time to taste... (and this is my honey of the month)... The Honey Hive's Ginger & Honey.

I've never been a fan of honey and fruit products: although I believe there's a growing market for them. But for me the real attraction is to combine honey with herbs and spices or nuts and savoury flavours. And the Honey Hive's Ginger Honey is a perfect example of this: absolutely moreish and delicious! In fact... last week brought an extra big knob of stem ginger and immediately after typing this column will be making my own combination... going to be interesting trying the ginger with different honey varieties... will keep you informed. But highlight of the day... the week... the year: The Honey Hive's Meadery Selection. And this is no ordinary mead range...

I sampled **lovers mead**... a clover kamahi based mead... and then **bee pee**... a manuka rewarewa blend mead. The names, the label graphics, the whole marketing package... is in-your-face invigoratingly different... **and it works!** While I was at the stand I watched a continuous stream of young people trying and buying the meads. These products could become cult classics... good on yer, Honey Hive!

(And remember beekeepers, there's around three-quarters of a pound of honey in every bottle of mead: this is a serious honey use-up product!)

But, what did the meads taste like? The **lovers mead** was along the lines of what I'm used to...which means a slightly bitter aftertaste (is it a quintinea thing from the kamahi block?)... but still nice... but the **bee pee**: it was beautiful. Either the secret is in the meadmaking or the manuka and rewarewa transforms into liquid magic in the process: a simply superb and smooth drink... not at all sweet and not a simple honey flavour as such... the flavours probably deserve a more sophisticated name but the name is a paradigm-breaker and it sells.

Guess what I'm drinking tonight. And I have a honey chef class coming up... I'll be keen to see what they think of it as the basis for a sauce for greenshell mussels. (Yep... its a terrible job but someone's gotta do it!)

Regards

Bill Floyd



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Library News

"How to start Bee Farming in Solomon Islands" by Rex Ramoiau (production and design by Cliff van Eaton). 1997, 64 pp, Sol. Is. - NZ.

A marvelous little book because of its very simplicity. It puts the message across in the best possible manner as it is aimed at those who would like to own and operate hives but as yet do not know the first thing about bees and beekeeping. Besides it being very useful for Solomon Island conditions it could well be used right here when dealing with new comers. Thanks Cliff for donating a copy to the library.

Video (31) "Telford Rural Polytechnic Beekeeping". This tape is part of a promotional pack. In first instance meant for the would be student (residential course, correspondence or queen rearing) it will also be a good aid when talking to a school or group of people. There will be no loan fee but the borrower will have to pay the postage.

Book Review - Producing Royal Jelly

by RF Van Toor

Every time I read a book I learn something and this book is no exception. Although only 86 pages, it is easy to read and understand, contains up-to-date information and tips.

The book takes you through the theory behind RJ, its possible uses, apiary set up, step-by-step production methods right through to its storage ready for sale. It has a good index, clear photographs throughout, plus a section on diseases.

Royal Jelly is not something you just decide to do, it takes planning and time to set up, and a covered yard. Check out marketing opportunities and work out your cost of production before you start.

Basically, the commercial set up uses thirty production hives with another thirty for back up production of brood and bees and a number of nucs to obtain grafting larvae or use a transfer system. Work is rostered around a two days on, one day off routine which looked easy to achieve if you are totally dedicated to RJ production. However, it also provides information for a hobbyist to produce RJ for one's own consumption.

Personally, I have not produced Royal Jelly but have some experience with queen cell production which is similar. I'm not sure whether hives used for continuous production could then be used to obtain a honey crop. My hives tend to collapse after intensive queen cell production.

There are a few minor suggestions I could make to improve this book for its second reprint. One would be the addition of a time line. (ie trap pollen, select hives and set up - control nosema, stimulate hives and build up reserves, then follow the easy steps for RJ production).

Another would be a system for production grafting larvae but this might interfere with the two on, one off system.

An excellent book, well worth buying whether for RJ production or just as a reference book. Oh, and if you were wondering, yes I have it on good authority that RJ does put zest into your life especially when used straight from the hive, so watch out.

Frank Lindsay

FOR SALE

14 pollen traps, near new, offers.

PHONE: (07) 843-4613

The Newton Brothers

As young beekeepers we learnt a lot from observing the beekeeping of others.

In my travels with the Department of Agriculture I saw beekeeping varying from terribly bad to extremely good.

I was particularly impressed with the beekeeping of Ron and Roy Newton (Newton Brothers) of Ashburton.

Ever since then I have had their beekeeping as a standard to aim for, although did not reach their standard.

They used to run 800 hives in the Ashburton district with 500 six frame nuclei which were established on good willow sites.

When working their hives, they used to carry a few six frame nuclei on the truck with them. If they came across a hive not doing well, they would remove the old queen with a frame of brood and bees and replace with the six frame nuc.

The nuc with the old queen was taken back to the nuc yard, and every now and then would rear cells and requeen a batch of nucs with old queens. When built up they would be used again.

One feature of their hives, was when you saw one hive then all hives in the outfit would be similar.

Ron used to say that you had to have all hives on the point of swarming all the time. They had to work from daylight to dark to get the hives how they wanted them.

Each year they used to put on a big stack of new frames and foundation and the resulting perfectly filled combs of honey were put in the feed stack. They never extracted new combs as felt it damaged them. Instead the combs of honey were put through the brood nest and after strengthened by cocoons were then used for extracting.

All bee boxes were made up a little over depth and after being nailed up and left to season a while were then resized on the saw bench to the exact size. This reduced burr combs between boxes to a minimum.

They often had big crops even in drought years as often the Eucalyptus trees yielded very well in those years.

Being interested in queen-rearing I paid attention to Roy who told me that one afternoon he grafted a frame of queen cells and next morning found that he had forgotten to put them in the hive to start. He said they still looked okay so put them in the hive and got good acceptance. Being a cool night, they hadn't dried out, so it indicated to me that heat rather than cold is a problem when grafting.

Newton Brothers apiaries were nicely set out to suit them. They would select a site and then arrange with the farmer to fit a cyclone gate into the fence so that they had ready access without the usual hassles of having to drive through the farm, cross sticky paddocks etc.

No doubt other beekeepers still in business are also a source of knowledge for you nowadays. Keep your eyes open and aim for perfection.

Gary

National Pest Management Strategy for American foulbrood

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From the Colonies

Canterbury Branch Field Day 98

(Wet or fine \$5 per person, \$10 per family)

Saturday, 21 November 1998

Allenton Rugby Clubrooms, Melrose Road, Ashburton

Theme: Border control

Time: 9.30am start - get together morning tea.

10am: Opening by President.

First Guest Speaker: Trevor Weatherhead, Australian MAF Apiary Officer (Australia's response to an exotic incursion) covering the Apis Cerana EDPR in Darwin and work in the Torres Strait region.

Lunch: 12.30 to 1.30pm bar-b-que lunch with venison sponsored by Stuart Ecroyd.

Practical Queen Raising: includes rearing, marking and finding at Geoff Bongard's cell raising yard.

2.15: Trevor Weatherhead to discuss Carniolon/Caucasian strains with slides.

Third Guest Speaker: Richard Bensemman with overview on DECA and AFB Control.

3pm: Choice of hearing more on AFB, ie for hobbyist and beginners or Trevor Weatherhead on other subjects.

4.30pm: Closing time.

Boot Sale: Area put aside for this.

Bar Facilities: Are available throughout the day and evening.

Note: 1999 Conference of Delegates is at Ashburton and this will give you an ideal opportunity to check out the accommodation.

Sponsors: Stuart Ecroyd, Beeline Supplies.

Southland Branch Report

Winter/Early Spring 1998

Temperatures: Winter - mild, few frosts

Early Spring - Aug winter arrived, snow to sea level

Sept - mild north west winds

Rainfall: Winter, average

Early spring, above average

Ground conditions: Ground was wet and very soft for the first round of hive inspections

General comments: Hives have opened up strong and in good condition after the mild winter. Though some are finding stores on the light side. Strong west-north west winds have stopped bees from gathering pollen in some areas or blown lids off and might have an affect on the coming willow flow and early queen matings needed by those who have to make up winter losses from queen failure. Early bush plants produced a good nectar flow. Heavy flowering of gorse, kowhai, pussy willow and other spring sources. Hives at the end of Sept are a good month ahead of themselves.

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North Otago Beekeepers' Association Field-Day

Saturday, October 10, dawned dull and cool with a forecast for mild, drizzly showers. By noon the sun shone brightly and at 1.30pm the President of the Branch, Bruce Steffens, welcomed about 40 people to a Field-Day, which was held on Bryan O'Neil's property - "Bee Inn Apiaries", Georgetown.

First on the programme was a practical demonstration by Graeme McCullum, covering the spring inspection. As there was a good mix of both hobbyist and commercial beekeepers present, Graeme was very thorough in that he covered all aspects from pollen and honey stores, good brood patterns to a variety of methods for detecting AFB and other brood diseases in the hive.

Next was queen-raising and Bryan showed us how the young larvae were transferred to prepared cell cups and then returned to cell-raising queenless hives. A good many of the group tried their hand at grafting but with limited success. Bryan had made it look too easy!

Following afternoon tea, Lin McKenzie, (as a member of the NBA executive), spoke on the problems confronting the Association. Now we are talking responsibility for disease control and eradication through the Pest Management Strategy. But at what cost? Lin urged the small operators and hobbyist beekeepers to get in behind the Executive and assist in every way possible to ensure that the NZ Bee Industry is maintained at the highest levels.

Local hobbyist beekeeper, Dick Lord, spoke on the new District Plan which is soon to be released by the District Council. This includes regulations concerning the location of beehives and apiary sites. The land is divided into seven zones of which only four are of interest to beekeepers as hives are not permitted inside the Oamaru boundary. These are as follows; Rural General, Rural Scenic, Rural Residential and Townships. Beehives and apiary sites are permitted on all land classified as Rural General but with Townships, Rural Residential and Rural Scenic Zones, Planning Resource Consent is required for the establishment of new sites. Where an existing site is in an area which would require consent, existing rights apply. However, if hive numbers or site location change, Resource Consent is required. Council has discretionary rights in all situations, particularly where complaints are received. Dick summed up by saying that it was up to us as responsible beekeepers, especially those who operate on the fringes of residential areas, to maintain good neighbourly relationships.

A well known North Otago beekeeper, Allan Rawson, had two interesting pieces of equipment and explained the process of pollen trapping and it's preparation for market. Allan showed three different types of traps but the important thing was to ensure a beetight hive so as to force the bees through the trap. The other was a cleaner unit which separated the good pollen from the dross. He added that the market was very fickle at times.

Bryan then gave a guided tour of his honey house and showed samples of the honey products being supplied to the Japanese markets. He felt that New Zealand should strive for the overseas niche markets for a better return on our high quality honey.

A very successful afternoon concluded with a barbecue and special thanks to Max Lory, our chief cook and to Bryan and Ngairita O'Neil for their excellent hospitality.

Acknowledgement, Dick Lord, Oamaru

Beekeeping- Spring Management

Four months August to end November Purpose

Each hive to have a high population of adult bees ready for the start of the nectar flow, 60,000 to 80,000 bees per hive.

Basic needs

Young queen: less than 2 years old
Plenty of stores: pollen and honey
Suitable comb: dark brood comb
Management: good timing

Population dynamics

A queen laying 2000 eggs on a day will fill a full depth comb every 3 days. In 21 days she will fill 7 full depth combs in the centre of two brood boxes.

If the life span of an adult bee is 28-35 days (average 31 days) total population can build up to 55,000.

A lower laying rate (consequence of an older queen and food storage) plus presence of disease, means only half this population is reached.

Bees that begin foraging earlier, live longer:

The larval stage of the honey bee lasts 5 days whereas the nurse bee stage of the young adults lasts about 10 days.

It is possible that one nurse bee can feed more than one larva. In stronger colonies this releases a significant surplus of nurse bees to become foragers at an earlier age.

Begin foraging 28 days, forage time 8-9 days. Begin foraging 15-16 days, forage time 14-15 days.

These extra foragers add to the efficiency of a stronger hive. One hive of 60,000 bees will produce more than two hives of 30,000 bees each.

Timing

Intensive egg laying from the middle of September through to end of November is necessary to build up a force of field bees for the crop.

Refer to the attached chart. It is based on: egg to hatching 21 days, inside hive duties 21 days, outdoor foraging 9-10 days.

An adult bee to begin foraging at start of nectar flow first week December will begin as an egg laid about 20th October.

Resources: Pollen

The kind of breeding programme we aim for is very expensive in terms of feeding. It has to support the rearing of 200,000 bees. It takes 10 bee loads to provide enough food for a nurse bee to rear one bee. This is for brood production only.

Pollen and nectar is eaten by the nurse bee for the production of a milky fluid which we call Royal Jelly.

Young adult bees need pollen themselves in the first 34 days of life, and pollen is also used by bees producing beeswax.

Ideally we should have hives placed where there is enough pollen available in spring.

In town this is not a problem. Out in the country brood rearing can come to a halt with pollen shortage. Pollen substitutes can be fed.

Resources: Honey

Hives usually have enough honey left on them to take them through the winter.

Queens will start breeding again soon after the shortest day. July and August are not prolific months for breeding so most of the extra weight in a hive is from stores (honey and pollen), to a much lesser extent weight of brood.

However when breeding gathers momentum, stimulated by fresh pollen and nectar being gathered, the demand for feed is greater than what is freshly available.

This is where a monthly check is necessary, and supplementary feed is given.

Starvation is the biggest single cause of death in colonies. So often it happens only one or two weeks before the nectar flow. Just one more feeding round of the hives at a small cost per hive, would have saved the hive and saved a crop.

Standard spring routines: August

Check stores: feed honey or supplements

Check Brood: for laying pattern of queen

Check Brood: for disease

Check Woodware: replace or repaint

Clean: top bars, bottom bars, collect scrapings in container

Re-arrange: frames - keep brood nest in centre of second box

Remove: entrance guards

September/October

Check Stores: feed as required

Check Brood: for disease and requeening

Check Swarm Cells: reverse brood boxes: if second box full and overflow activity is beginning in first box

November

Same as above.

Join up weaker colonies towards end of month.

Prepare to add first honey super (use of queen excluders optional).

Other spring procedures.

Swarm control

Swarming is nature's way of solving a problem (but it is not helpful to the

beekeepers!).

Swarming is due to strain of bee, broken weather, lack of storage space, congestion of brood nest, an aging queen (lack of queen substance).

Queen cells

Emergency) near centre of the combs, darker in colour fewer

Supercedure) in number keep biggest for requeening.

Swarm Cells - on edges of combs especially bottom edge lighter in colour more in number. Check weekly and destroy.

Swarming seems to subside once the nectar flow starts, provided adequate supering is underway.

Strengthening up weaker hives

Unite with another (requires killing off one queen), add frames of sealed brood (with some adhering bees) from a strong hive, swap places with a strong hive, reverse the brood nest.

Controlling strong hives (before main nectar flow)

Take out frames of capped brood with all bees attached to make up composite colonies (new queen needed).

Replace with new foundation on each side of centre frames with brood.

Make up a top nuc which can be rejoined at start of nectar flow.

Add another super.

Note

It is a good idea to have at least two hives, not one, to allow transfer procedures like the above.

When transferring gear from one hive to another, check on disease status.

Requeening

There is the option of requeening in the autumn, instead of the spring.

Mated queens are preferred - the gap in egg laying is only a few days.

A queen cell will hatch, mate and begin laying after about one month. An option with queen cells is to introduce them to mating nucs, or splits, then join them up with a colony once the new queen starts laying.

Conclusion

Each help we give the bees, allows them to reach their full potential.

We are not asking them to do anything they are not designed to do.

Whatever we do at the hive has to achieve something - even if it is just to relax and enjoy them.

Your reward - weather permitting - will be a crop for you to harvest.

*John Brandon, Commercial
Beekeeper, Wanganui*

Acquiring bees

You have read all the books and are as keen as mustard to get bees. It's a dear hobby but very rewarding. If you are doing it just for the honey - its cheaper to just buy honey from the shops. There is generally a love affair/fascination with the insect. Although you think you know what and when to do something, the bees will fool you and do the opposite, (they haven't read the books).

If possible, work along-side another beekeeper for a season to get the hang of it.

Can you handle stings? They all hurt but what sort of a reaction do you get. Some beekeepers develop allergic reactions after a while. (Most beekeepers need to be stung once a month to keep their immunity up).

Is it possible to keep bees in an urban area?

MAF requires that all hives are registered under the Bio-security Act.

Council by-laws. Will your neighbours object (some people just don't like bees). Is your property suitable - morning sun, dry, sheltered, away from main activities. (High hedge is most suitable. Get a fellow beekeeper to check out your garden and advise you of the best location).

Swimming pools and clothesline locations are very important. The flight paths have to be determined.

Number of hives

Maximum two in urban areas (remember you get up to 40,000 bees flying in a big hive). This leaves one to learn on and one to produce honey. The second also gives a backup if anything goes wrong with the other.

Gear Required - Is there a sewer in the family - this can cut down costs considerably as some items can be made. A lot of items can be purchased second hand if a beekeeper is selling all his/her hives.

You need: Smoker, essential - purchase stainless steel if possible as this will last - steel ones rust quickly.

Hive tool purchase or make from old file, car spring etc

(screwdriver can be used if lost). Hat (not felt), veil, boiler suit, gumboots or purchase a full suit. Gloves - purchase or make (lots of alternatives -rubber gloves, leather driving gloves and sew on parka nylon armlets).

Hive woodware - do you make or purchase it. You can make everything but I recommend you purchase frames as these are the heart of modern beekeeping and must be accurate. Use untreated timber and protect it with a non-toxic wood preserver. Metalex or other. (Larger beekeepers paraffin wax dip hive parts).

Do you purchase a hive or a nuc? Depends upon a lot of things: Money, knowledge of working bees, how old are the boxes and frames (showing rot, dark frames. How high 3 or 4 supers).

How do you acquire bees:

Trade and exchange advertise bees for sale.

Clubs advise of bees for sale.

National Beekeepers magazine.

Some beekeepers sell hives or nucs.

Queen breeders sell queens and nucs.

Some beekeepers give away bees to start a new person off.

Evaluating a hive. **Take along an experienced beekeeper.** Look at condition of the woodware - has the hive been opened recently - clean tidy easy to remove frames. Are these light colours, minimum drone come, honey supplies, laying pattern, and most of all flying well. Bees must be flying well and bringing in pollen.

Problems with purchasing hives

- If a beekeeper is giving up, normally the hives are not in a very good condition and will require a bit of work, replacement frames and woodware.

Purchase agreement

- Get a bill of sale -its the law and the only way of settling disputes.

States who owns the bees and the purchaser, when moneys

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Queen-bees

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In spite of the wet weather we have been having a good queen rearing season and can supply your queen bee requirements promptly.

Still time to benefit from requeening hives that are doing poorly. A young queen established at the start of the flow will still give you increased crop as hive strength will be maintained throughout the season.

Now is the time to plan for summer and autumn requeening. Requeening during the flow gives excellent acceptance.

Requeening in the autumn gives hives that go into winter with a population of young bees able to survive the winter much better.

Preferably ring in the evening, or leave a message on the answerphone. You can also fax to the same phone number.

Good value at \$14 each including GST and postage.

Gary Jeffery

Phone: (03) 789-6929

are due, what if disease found within months. In writing what happens if hive should develop BL within two months of purchase (or November in case you brought it during the winter), replace or get your money back. The chances are very low (0.5% of apiaries have disease) but it is worth covering yourself.

Description of hives and any brands.

Money - best to pay half and rest later after 1-2 months or a good disease inspection. Depends upon the time of year.

Signed by both and dated.

Sale price. \$100 4 supers high - can be higher or lower depending upon condition and supply and demand. (\$15 boxes of drawn frames). The seller must have a permit from MAF in writing before - not after.

Quarantine bees and equipment for at least one season to make sure it doesn't have BL. A trick to find out if there is any BL in stored equipment to spray the frames with sugar syrup and put them on the hives to clean out. Disease will normally show up within a month if anything is wrong.

Or you can catch a swarm or put out a bait hive. In all cases you need to fill in the MAF form and register your apiary.

Best time to start

- October - its the beginning of the season, hives are just starting to expand, early swarms could be issuing. You grow in confidence as the bees grow in strength.

Bees have come through the winter and are easier to inspect. Catching a stray swarm - they will come to you!! Put a box on a shed roof, with one or two old frames (the rest foundation inside and an entrance no wider than 2.5 cm.

Collect swarms

Some bee clubs have a list of beekeepers wanting swarms, the nearest beekeeper is sent. If not, contact your local council, police, regional council, SPCA, pest destruction firms and leave your telephone number. Remember once you agree to collect swarms, you should continue to collect them that season even though you don't need them.

Best to use old gear as there is a very very slight chance of a swarm having BL.

Care of swarms. Requeen and feed for at least a week or until the flow starts.

List of equipment to collect swarms

Large bag (wool sack) or box (2'x1'). Rope to tie bag or throw over high branch, (some use a long pole with a hook). Tape to secure bees into box, secateurs or lopping shears, all your protective gear, smoker and fuel. Box with frames just in case you can't get swarm. Six foot extendible step ladder etc.

Bees don't usually sting when swarming - but some do so don't take chances.

Don't take risks - don't work above your head - bees in a swarm are heavy!!! Tie ladders where possible if you are on your own. Hire lifting equipment for tall swarms or ask the fire brigade if they want a training exercise.

Tips on health. If you are not used to being stung - take some vitamin C tablets to boost your immune system. Have first aid handy. Some sort of anti-histamine handy.

Wash your gear after it has been used. Old stings on clothing attract stinging bees.

Don't store gear in or near the living areas. Children take in air-born venom and can develop allergic reactions around puberty. At some time you can have a very bad reaction, even after keeping bees for many years - be prepared.

Harvesting of honey

Its something we look forward to. Summer is well under way and pastures are starting to dry out. Have our hives produced a bumper crop of honey? They have been working like mad and just lately activity has been declining.

Now its time to remove the honey crop.

Lets do some planning. Depending on your situation will determine the method used.

The main important points are: How are we to remove the honey with the least disturbance, to me, my neighbours and to the bees.

There are various methods:

Brushing - soft brush, manuka branch, goose wing.

Fume boards - Benzhaldimite almond gas - dangers - spontaneously combusts, taints honey. Escape boards - many different types.

Mechanical blowing. Each have their advantages.

Choose a nice day when all the field bees are out and neighbours are not sun bathing or mowing the lawn. Inspect all brood frames to determine that the hive is disease free.

How much honey should I take?

How much does the hive require?

It all depends upon a number of things:

Do you get a late flow, is there a dribble of honey coming in through the whole season? You have to know your district. (Keep a notebook and write down what's happen in your hive, is there pollen and honey coming in and note what's flowering in your area. This way you build up a picture of your area).

Until you open your hive up you don't know what's been happening. Sometimes every frame is full of honey - capped wall to wall. Other times it can sometimes be only a few frames. Many things contribute to a good honey crop.

First off - don't be too greedy. Hives require at least a full super of honey to winter on so I would leave at least 1.5 supers of honey, (that is 1 full super above the brood nest and the rest below.)

If it's a new hive or this year's swarm, perhaps a few frames could be spared. My rule of thumb is anything over three high is mine.

Select the frames that are fully capped and a few that are more than 3/4 capped. Any frames with brood in them should be put down in the brood nest and an outside frame moved up.


Prevent robbing by covering all exposed frames. Use canvas covers or escape boards. If robbing starts, close everything up quickly and look again in a few days. Preferably late in the afternoon.

Minimum disturbance is essential. Always keep the hive under control.

I recommend escape boards in urban areas. Twice the work but minimal disturbance.

They won't work if the queen is in the honey super, or brood in in the super, or the super is not completely bee proof. Holes or splits should be taped up.

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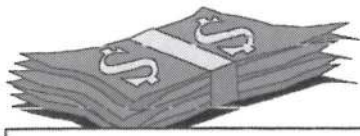
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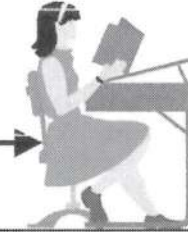
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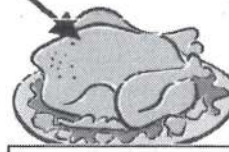
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"It is a strange anomaly that people will insure their houses, their merchandise and yet neglect to insure their lives - surely the most important of all to their families and more subject to loss"

Benjamin Franklin

Folks, why do people think like this, why do we do it to ourselves and more importantly, why do we neglect the future security and stability of our families? The above statement is all too true. It is as relevant today as it was in Benjamin Franklin's day - we apparently still have not got the message - we still value things (replaceable stuff!!!!), more than we value our families or ourselves.

Folks, in case you have not already figured it out, insurance, risk management and health care risk is one of the industries that I have been involved in for a number of years now. My wife and I started a Financial Services Brokerage a number of years ago now and "Risk Management" is an area that has given us the most headaches, frustrations, particularly when dealing with this "chattels before people" mentality. However, this particular facet of our business has also been the most rewarding - we have been able to put a smile back on the faces of a great many of our friends (clients), at a time when they most needed the help.

We all like to think we are invincible. But accidents do happen. And we do age and become sick. What if something happened to you? What if you had an accident or illness? What would happen to you? Your spouse? Your children? Your business? Your home? Your Lifestyle? Look at the startling statistics shown here. They highlight the necessity of having a plan in place to protect yourself and all that is dear to you!!!!

Major Causes of Death in New Zealand - Heart Disease 29%, Cancer 27%, Stroke 10%, Chronic Lung Disease 1%, Accidents (incl. motor vehicle) 4%, Disease of Arteries 2%, Other 27%.

Over the past few months, we have been talking to your National Executive about addressing the major issue of "Health Care" and to use the combined power or numbers of your

group to obtain good group age banded discounted rates for a "National Beekeepers Association of New Zealand - Health Care Scheme."

In case you have not already noticed, we are already neck deep in the "user pays" philosophy and I believe the government still has a few surprises in store for us when it comes to medical health care and who pays what. As an organisation and as individuals you must take the bull by the horns and start putting yourselves and family before chattels!!!

Folks, to have a great, secure and stable "Lifestyle" is not a myth, it is an absolute reality - it is only a matter of priorities and focus. Good sound "Risk Management" is an integral part of establishing your future security and lifestyle.

As business people, you would regularly (I hope) conduct audits, assessments on your progress, business goals and constantly upgrading plans for your future developments. This, as always, is a constant quest to always improve your bottom line and more importantly to increase profits (ie what can we do better?!!!!). When was the last time that you conducted a full assessment and audit on your personal lives, risk management (lifecover, health insurance, income protection etc) and future personal goals and savings etc. Most people would not dare to neglect these things in business, however, everybody seems to overlook these things in their personal lives!!!

I trust that we may be of help to you in the not to distant future and I would like to thank your Executive and you, for the privilege of being able to write this brief editorial or look at the need for good "Risk Management" in your personal lives as well as business.

*George McIntyre, Member IIAA, Managing Director,
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Beekeeping through to the flow

In simple terms, all you have to do is keep the feed up to them, give the bees room to expand and stop them from swarming. Just before the main flow starts (Mid December for most) put two or three supers on to collect the honey crop. Sounds simple but in fact there's a little more to it than that, timing is everything.

Queens are now in full lay with masses of brood everywhere. (These are the bees that will eventually bring in your honey crop). Older queens tend to break down about now as they can't sustain continuous egg laying. Patchy brood is the indicator that she needs replacing. If you are up with things, you would have already replaced her or have a nuc ready to unite, to cover this eventuality. (Kill the old queen and unite a nuc on top using a sheet of newspaper).

During the month reverse the bottom and second super again so the queen is not constrained for space to lay. If the bees are covering all the frames from bottom board to lid, add another super, (although by this stage they may have started queen cell development, so check a few brood frames for queen cells). Place an outside frame of honey in the centre of the new super to encourage the bees up into it.

Just when things are going so well, there is usually a dearth during November when nothing is flowering. Strong hives can starve very quickly. They can chew through three frames of honey in a week, so this is the minimum amount of stores that must be maintained in a hive. One week they are heavy, the next they are light and on the verge of starvation, it is a quick as that. To maintain strong hives, without stimulating additional brood rearing, feed "raw sugar" in a top feeder. This gives field bees something to do, converting it to food. Continue to feed weaker hives a 50/50 syrup mix until the flow starts. (Note: Raw or Brown sugar is not to be used for syrup as it ferments and gives the bees dysentery).

If you are new to beekeeping and are looking into your hives often, you will notice that the bee numbers tend to expand in waves. IE the queen lays in all the available cells the bees can keep at brood temperature (34 degrees C). After these are all full, laying subsides until these bees emerge, and off she goes again. Hence there appears to be a stop start regime rather than a continuous expansion of bee numbers. Consequently the brood nest expands in relation to the number of bees in a hive. Swarming can be triggered when bees are cramped for space, (boiling over with bees) or when queen substance levels drop within a hive. Lack of queen substance triggers the development of the fundamental ovaries in some workers and this leads to queen cell production. This is why most beekeeping books recommend that queens are changed

every two years. (Yearly is better and some follow this practice). It saves an awful lot of work looking for queen cells. Check for queen cells every 9-10 days. Simply tilt back the top brood super and looking along the bottom bars for queen cells. Once queen cell development has begun, (an egg or larvae in a cell), you must remove the cells and some bees to reduce congestion (artificially swarm the hive) and bring the hive back into equilibrium.

Just to go back a step, once you find a developing queen cell, put the frame aside and continue to inspect the hive. Look for eggs - that means you still have a queen. Then look for other developing queen cells. If more cells are found along the bottom and tops of the frames, then this is swarming. If one or two cells are found in the centre of the frame, this indicates supersedure and they should be left.

Pinch or cut out all the swarm cells you can find, then give the frames a sharp jerk downwards to remove the field bees and see how many you missed. Bees construct cells in unusual places, especially at the base of the comb where they come out like a drone cell. I missed one of these in an observation hive even though I was looking at it every day.

The simplest way to reduce field bees and congestion is to swap hives. During a nice warm day when the bees are flying well, swap the strong hive for a weak one. Field bees returning will go straight in and will be accepted without fighting. If you don't have a second hive, make a nuc and place this on the original hive stand. Move the original hive back on the stand and turn it around so the entrance is facing backwards. This can be expensive as you require additional bases and lids but are easier to maintain.

I make split boards. They are the same as a crown boards but have a 25 mil slot cut in them on one side to create an entrance. These stay on the hives all year round, slot down when not in use to allow top ventilation, slot upwards to form a entrance for a nuc.

To make the nuc place two frames of brood and accompanying bees, (one with good size queen cell along the top of the frame) in the middle of spare super, a frame of honey and pollen on either side and fill the rest of the super with drawn frames.

Place the split board on top and then the original hive on top of this. The field bees will exit from the top hive (from the rear) and return to the bottom nuc and soon fill it. Order a new queen and when this arrives, kill the swarm cell queen and introduce the new mated queen. Leave her in the cage (inside the hive) for a few days, then break the seal so she can be released by the bees. A slower release into a full strength hive gives better acceptance, (also pays to feed to simulate a flow).

Keep these hives separate and work them independently until just before the honey flow starts. Check for disease, then reverse the hives, new queen to the top. Find the old queen and kill her (or put her in a nuc box if you want to make and increase). Replace the split board with two single sheets of newspaper and you have one very strong hive again once they have united. Put three honey supers on top and wait for the flow. If you can't find the old queen, unite with paper and you have an 80% chance the field bees going down through the newspaper will kill the old queen. (There is also a chance that both queens will die so be prepared for this).

I leave entrance closures on all year, 100 mils wide by 9 mils high. To some, this may seem strange but our climate is not known for its heat (generally averages around 25 degrees C). We also experience a fair bit of wind (seems strange when we get a still day). Reduced entrances allow the queen to lay right down to the bottom of the frames as it is warmer. I adopted this practice after reading some Canadian research article where hives were wind tunnel tested and air flows calculated. Surprisingly a lot of air enters the hive between the supers and under the lid. Fanning bees at the hive entrance created a vacuum and suck air down from above. Wide open entrances tend to short circuit their efforts unless you have perfect gear which is nicely sealed. Experiment with a hive, leave one with the entrance block on and measure the difference. Bees queue up to get in or exchange nectar loads at the entrance, however this doesn't seem to affect their efficiency. (Note: feral hives prefer a small entrance and use these all year round).

Feeding the books suggest feeding a thick sugar/water mix to the bees There are numerous methods, division board, top feeders, entrance feeders etc. If you have neither, add another super, place a tray on top of the frames with pig fern in it and fill with syrup. Another method is to fill a plastic bag with syrup (seal it) and lay it across the top of the frames and put a pin hole in the "top" centre of the bag. Press down on this until there is a small pool of syrup. The bees will come up and will take it away. Their weight will force more out until it's all gone. Feed 4-6 litres a week until the flow starts or they have three frame of nectar stored.

Just before the flow starts (early December) assess your hives. A strong hive will out produce two weak ones. Unite all the weak ones together. (Save new queens in nucs).

If you collect the odd swarm, after it has settled and the queen is laying, kill her and unite this to a weak hive, (new queen on top), an instant strong hive.

Before you put on your honey supers, you should have considered what you

are going to do with the honey and how are you going to extract it. Most hobby clubs loan extractors so normal frames are used. Those who use queen excludes above the second super could use manley frames. These are wider (43 mils) and fit eight to the super and are used exclusively for honey storage).

Section honey production requires strong hives and is specialised. You don't produce as much honey as you have to force the bees to work them, (don't mix section supers with normal honey supers as the bees will leave the section supers alone). Cut comb is an alternative but required thin super foundation otherwise the midriff of the comb is a little thick. (Store cut comb in the freezer to stop it from granulating).

If you are a new beekeeper and have to draw out foundation. Lift drawn frames from the outside of the brood nest into the centre of the new super. Or if you have some drawn frames, interspace them with foundation frames and the bees will draw them out quicker. They will be of an uneven width but after extraction will all end up the same width. Bees are often reluctant to go into a full super of foundation and will not draw more than one super at a time. Add additional frames and supers when most frames are drawn and are partly filled with honey.

How many frames should you have in your supers? Most commercial

beekeepers prefer nine in the brood nest (pushed tight together) and eight (evenly spaced) in the honey supers. They do this as it is easier to remove frames for inspecting without rolling bees and possibly killing the queen. Eight in the honey super make the bees extend the comb out further so it is easier to uncap. Eleven new frames (33 mils wide) can fit into a super with a squeeze but ten is better for the above reasons. Once a year, clean the propolis from between frames to maintain the correct spacings.

Once the honey flow starts, (for those with drawn comb) put on several supers at once. Some used to say, you put on additional supers when you see white wax on the top of the frames. This is often too late as you might have missed the main part of the flow. Put on extra supers and keep the bees working as it increases their hording instinct.

I have not covered under-supering (lifting the top box and placing the new super just above the brood nest). Stimulates the bees into gathering more honey but is a lot more work.

Or demareeing (find the queen and placing her along with one frame of brood in a bottom super of foundation) queen excluder above, young brood in the next super and honey supers above these. Good for very short flows or weak hives, or drawing out new frames in the brood nest, greater production as this method causes a break in brood rearing.

Requires a lot of extra work but for the hobbyist can be worth it.

There are many other techniques used by beekeepers to control swarming. If you have one that works, please share it with us.

Just to recap for November work: Check feed, check pollen, BL check, Raise queen cells, supering hives, requeen hives, swarm control, cull old frames, fit foundation into comb honey frames.

Please send in any questions or Email to lindsays.apiaries@xtra.co.nz

References: Lots of other beekeepers, Dadant's, The Hive and the Honey Bee, Bee Hive Ventilation by V Shaparew, Gleaning in Bee Culture, September 1986.

REMINDER
Deadline to receive
advertising and
article for the
December issue is
the 25th of
November.

The fascination of swarms

Right from an early age I was fascinated by the swarms of bees we used to see while watching birds nesting during the weekends and after school. So much so, that quite often we would come across a swarm housed in a benzine box. After dark I used to seek the aid of an elder brother and away we would go with a good chaff sack and box. Carefully placing it we then took the ears of the narrow end.

One night after negotiating a rough gap in a gorse hedge with a couple of pieces of barbed wires strung across, with victory almost complete, when nicely out on the road one of us stumbled and over went the box, off the sack, upside down. No torches in those days, and we took off after about 20 yards. I began to think the box sounded hollow, and by this time my vision seemed to be good enough to sneak back to see what might be in it. Yes you've guessed it, it was empty. They had done the dirty. They were there this morning, I saw them, but as we had done the first ¼ mile, we looked on this as experience. However, they did not all fall off the sack.

I remember getting one swarm home in particular. We got the bees into a nice white painted box with a nice little pop hole to go into. It was nicely noticeable from the road, actually too much

because about the next day when I arrived home for lunch, (we lived next to the school all my school life) a flash looking gentleman was at the door talking to my grandmother, (who was housekeeper for the day). Bees could not be kept like that as their house had to have moveable frames. I didn't know what that was and neither did grandmother, but didn't she enjoy telling mother those boxes had to be destroyed. I did my best to save them and actually saved a box, bees, and all in the corn crop out of sight, but someone saw me going to have a look at them so was told they must be destroyed. The man said so, mother sent her pet son with a slip rail, (used to have them for gater) to push the box over. As soon as I got a chance I would slip in and put it high and get another sting. However they either panicked or got sick of the situation. I did not know they relied on a king as a queen in those days, so there ended chapter 1, verse 6.

It was not until 1946 that I interested myself in bees again but as I had a young family and honey was 6 pence a pound and equipment very dear I built 100 hives and components for them. As I had learned to shear sheep in the days of the depression to survive, it became the best paid employment. But bees and shearing

did not mix so a large number of these 100 got gassed and introduced to a match and sent away in smoke.

My next and final attempt to become a beekeeper was 1960. I had acquired a few hives from a Mr Alan Bogle who had too many.

It was soon after that we bought a house at Brightwater within half of a mile from my first start and I started all over again. I had quite extensive experience with good quality sheep and cattle and thought I would like to raise queen-bees. As I didn't care for bad tempered bees I decided to go in for some better tempered ones. Chris Dawson, in return of a favour, gave me a nuc and a colony of very tidy mannered bees. That was 20 years ago and they certainly left an imprint on my mind, so much so that we have retained the good handling element thanks to the association of my friend Fred Golan.

I have only a few hives available for charging up mating units and some hives to evaluate the honey gathering ability of the strain. Pretty bees are not any good if they don't know how to get honey. That is what it is all about.

I thought I knew enough about bees to fill a book, but what I found was that what I did not know and should have known, would fill the library.

Ron Stafford

Antibacterial buzz for manuka honey producers

Successful research into the antibacterial benefits of New Zealand manuka honey has led to export sales in Taiwan and Hong Kong for some North Island honey producers.

The new honey product is the result of work by Waikato University's Honey Research Unit, which has discovered that some New Zealand manuka honey possesses special antibacterial properties.

The cause is not known but it is believed to be due to a naturally occurring compound that exists only in some manuka tree nectar.

The component is known as the "non peroxide activity" or the Unique Manuka Factor (UMF). It destroys the bacteria associated with stomach ulcers.

Recent research also shows it is effective against many other penicillin resistant strains of bacteria.

Trade NZ's Hamilton-based representative Judith Saunders approached Joanne Bedford, an independent business consultant, to work with a group of honey producers to form a supply network. Bedford says the honey producers' decision to work together and share information was not easy as they were used to operating as rivals in a highly competitive industry.

They recognised that unless they united they would always remain "price takers" to the packing and exporting companies who received higher prices for the product but were not passing on premiums to the producers.

The beekeepers are keen to protect their honey supply. There

are only a few sites in New Zealand where honey with consistent levels of UMF can be found, and the location of those sites is being carefully protected by the beekeepers.

A manufacturing and marketing network has been formed. It includes the largest health food company in New Zealand.

The Unique Manuka Factor in some manuka honey combats bacteria associated with stomach ulcers.

Zealand, Healtheries of New Zealand which specialises in marketing products with therapeutic value that are unique to New Zealand. Bee & Herbal Ltd, a Cambridge-based company specialising in processing bee products, provides the processing facility and product development initiatives.

Trade New Zealand's Hamburg, Vancouver and Kuala Lumpur offices carried out initial market analysis.

"This exercise proved very useful and also helped to demonstrate how important it was to work with an experienced export marketing company," says Bedford.

The networks are working with distribution companies in Australia, Taiwan, USA and Europe.

"With Healtheries providing the marketing expertise, we are able to link with their international network to ensure our future export plans cover many more countries," says Bedford.

A UMF manuka honey product has recently been launched in New Zealand and is now available in pharmacies and health food shops throughout the country.

Acknowledgement, Export News

Overseas Investment Opportunity Niue Honey Industry

Niue is located in the South Pacific - 19° South and 170° East. It is a raised coral atoll 259 square kilometres in size with a typical tropical climate. The population is 2100. It uses the New Zealand currency and has a sound infrastructure, including excellent roads, and an international airport.

The Niue honey industry was established in 1967. It currently consists of one private operator with up to 600 hives. Experience indicates that Niue can sustain about 2000 hives. The industry is disease free and has developed a small clientele base overseas over the years. It has not yet developed to its potential.

The factory is situated three kilometres from the main centre of Alofi, near the airport. It occupies approximately a land area of half an acre. Factory space is 9.144m x 21.336m.

The existing layout of the factory is capable of handling production of over 80 tonnes. The factory and some of the equipment will probably require a major overhaul in order to increase efficiency.

Expressions of interest are being invited to take over the existing operation. A strong background in beekeeping and honey production is highly preferable but not essential. Those with enthusiasm and motivation in related fields are encouraged to apply as well.

Please send applications or requests for more information to:

*Head, Economic Planning Development & Statistics
Planning and Development Unit
Premier's Department, Alofi, Niue.*

Ph/Fax: (683) 4148, Email:levi@mail.gov.nu

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Walnut and Date Candies

- ¼ pound butter
- 1½ cups honey
- ½ pound crushed walnuts
- ¼ pound dates

Place the butter, honey and walnuts in a pan. Cook over low heat mixing constantly, until a drop of the mixture dropped in a glass of cold water forms a hard ball.

Add the dates, and pour the mixture in a rectangular oven dish, lined with aluminum foil and buttered. Cut into squares while still warm. Keep these candies wrapped in aluminum foil.

Coconut Candies

- 1 tbsp butter
- 1 cup honey
- Pinch of salt
- 1 cup grated coconut
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla

Place the honey and salt in a pan, bring to boil mixing occasionally, until the mixture is thick. Remove pan from flame and add almost all of the coconut and the vanilla and sugar, this mixture must be very stiff. Butter a rectangular oven dish and sprinkle well with coconut. Pour the mixture in the pan, spreading it with a knife. Cover with the leftover coconut and cut into small squares before it hardens.

Apricot Sticks

- 1 cup ground dried apricots
- ½ cup ground walnuts
- 2 eggs
- 1¼ cups honey

Beat the eggs with the honey, add the walnuts and the apricots, and blend for another 1/2 minute. Shape this mixture into small sticks and place over a cookie sheet lined with buttered aluminum foil. Bake at 350° for 10 minutes.

Bran Muffins with Walnuts and Honey

- 1 cup flour
- ½ tsp baking soda
- ½ tsp salt
- 1½ cups bran
- 1 cup honey
- 1½ cups milk
- ¼ cup ground walnuts

Sift the flour with the baking soda and the salt. Add the other ingredients and mix until well blended together. Grease some muffin moulds, pour the mixture into them, and bake at 400° for 25-30 minutes.

Palermo's Pizzicata (Recipe from Sicily)

- 4 cups flour
- 1½ cups honey
- 2 ounces candied citron rind, cubed
- 1 tbsp sugar
- Grated peel of 1 lemon
- Grated peel of 1 orange
- 5 eggs
- Pinch of salt
- 3 tbsp butter (or shortening)

Mix (in a blender or by hand) the flour, sugar, lemon peel, salt, eggs, and butter. Work the dough into small balls and deep-fry in hot oil. Drain on paper. Heat the honey with the orange peel in a double boiler and pour over the balls. Place the balls on a serving dish and serve when cooled.

Spicy Spanish Bread

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup honey
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp powdered anise seed
- ½ tsp powdered cinnamon
- 2 tbsp thyme
- 18 ounces sifted flour
- 1 cup water

Melt in a pan sugar, honey, and baking soda. Remove from heat and add anise, cinnamon and thyme. Then little by little add the flour. Mix with a wooden spoon until the paste is homogeneous, adding water as needed. Pour into 2 round 10" square baking pans lined with greased aluminum foil. Bake for 5 minutes at 400°, then lower heat to 350° and bake for 1 hour.

Glazed Pork Fillet

- 3½ pounds pork fillet
- ¼ cup dry white wine
- 1 tsp powdered ginger
- 1 cup honey
- 8 tbsp soy sauce

Marinate pork in wine and ginger for 12 hours. Drain and dry with paper towels. Cook in oven at 425° for 2 hours. Brush once in a while with honey melted in soy sauce. Serve with fried or boiled rice.

Indian Pudding

- 1½ quarts milk
- 12 ounces corn meal
- 1 pound honey
- 1¼ cups sugar
- 4 tbsp butter
- 1 tsp salt
- 1½ tsp powdered cinnamon
- ½ tsp powdered nutmeg
- ½ tsp baking soda
- ¼ pound dates

Simmer milk and flour in a large saucepan for 20 minutes. Add other ingredients, mix well, and pour into a rectangular baking pan 12" long and lined with foil. Cook at 325° for 2 hours. Serve hot with a chocolate sauce or with ice cream.

Acknowledgement, American Bee Journal

Goss Korner...

*Just heard, Moira Haddrell,
Cambridge Bee Products
(cambees@xtra.co.nz), has been selected to go
forward to the finals of the
Business Woman of the Year competition.
Sincerest congratulations from us all Moira.*

For Rent...

New three bedroom holiday home
(two bathrooms).
On the water front at Lake Tarawera.
Panoramic view. Excellent fishing.
Jetty and boat shed available.
Contact: John on (06) 855-8057

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 1998

BRANCHES SEND YOUR MEETING DATES IN FOR 1998. NO CHARGE.

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

COMING EVENTS...

EXECUTIVE MEETING DATES

| | | |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|
| 7th-9th | December | DUNEDIN |
| 1st-3rd | March 1999 | NELSON |
| 1999 Conference | 5-8 July | ASHBURTON |
| 2000 | Conference | GISBORNE |

—DETAILS AS SOON AS AVAILABLE—

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

NZ QUEEN PRODUCERS ASSN
Call: Mary-Anne (06) 855-8038

AUCKLAND BRANCH
Call: Jim (09) 238-7464

AUCKLAND BEEKEEPERS CLUB INC
Editor: Colin Bell
Phone: (09) 818-4325

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 Margaret Cooper
Phone: (03) 383-0368

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

MARLBOROUGH BRANCH
Meets every second Thursday in every second month.
Call Jeff on: (03) 577-5489

MANAWATU BEEKEEPERS CLUB
Meets every 4th Thursday in the month at Newbury Hall, SH 3, Palmerston North.
Contact Andrew MacKinnon
Phone: (06) 323-4346

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.