ISSN 0110-6325

The New Zealand BeeKeeper

FEBRUARY 1999
VOL 5. No 1

The Official Journal of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Inc.),
PO Box 3079, Napier, New Zealand. Tel: (06) 843-3446, Fax: (06) 843-4845.
1474 members of National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Inc.)

If undelivered please return to: **National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Inc.)
PO Box 3079, Napier, New Zealand.**

**Permit Post
New Zealand
Permit No. 384
HASTINGS**

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
http://www.nba.org.co.nz

Hon. Librarian: John Heineman
C/- NZ Post Shop, Milton, Otago.
Tel: (03) 417-7197

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

1999 Subscriptions:
NZ $38.00 (GST Incl).
Overseas Airmail US $38.00.
Economy mail US $31.00.

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
Sheddock 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:lindsays.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

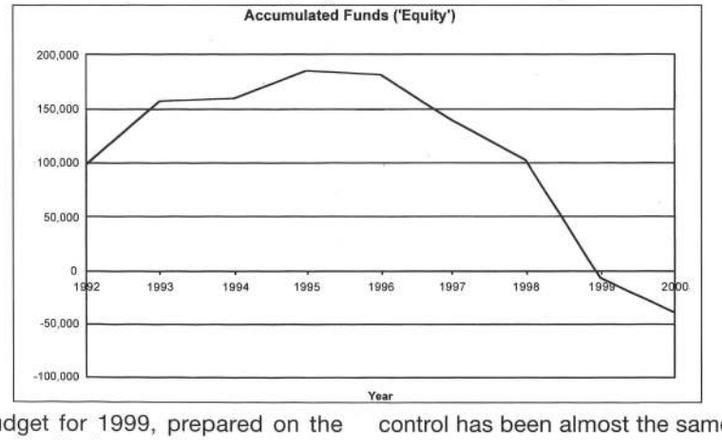
NORTH OTAGO
Bruce Steffens
RD 2 C, Oamaru.
Tel: (03) 432-4030
Bryan O'Neil
RD 4 K, Oamaru.
Tel: (03) 431-1831

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

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

All reasonably well informed members of the National Beekeepers Association are well aware of the uncomfortable reality that the financial situation of the association is perilous. In short, we are spending more than we are taking in levy. Analysis of the financial records for the year ending 1998 shows a deficit of income over expenditure of $37000. The deficit would look much worse was it not for the fact that $56,000 was received from the Honey Industry Trust for the purpose of assisting with the implementation of the Pest Managment Strategy. It is important to note that $25,000 of this grant is in the form of a loan to the NBA, which we begin to repay next year. We are in the process of exhausting the cash reserves of the association at a very rapid rate. From the mid 1980's onwards, our association was running surplus budgets that helped build up our cash reserves in to what is called the accumulated fund. This fund, or buffer, peaked at just over $180,000 in 1995. 1997 saw the beginning of an alarming slide, which if allowed to continue will see negative equity by the end of this year. In very simple terms the NBA expenditure is rising rapidly, and at the same time the income is declining.



My budget for 1999, prepared on the basis of achieving similar levy income and similar expenditure, indicates a deficit of over $100,000!

The executive, at the 1998 conference at Waitangi, presented a number of levy increase options to the members, and an attempt was made to obtain support for a least one of the options. Members rejected all of the options due to the lack of any credible financial information in support of any of the options proposed. The message was clearly given that members would require much more information on the vision or strategy being proposed, before they could consider any levy increase. A message was also relayed that members wanted to see analysis of how and why certain areas of administration expenditure appear to be, "out of control".

The impact of the Waitangi decision is extremely serious, as it has delayed any possibility for the NBA to balance it's books. If the industry agrees on a levy increase at this year's conference, it will still be into the year 2000 before that increase is reflected in levy income.

Justifications for a levy increase

When the NBA changed the basis of the levy from beehives to apiaries, the intention was to collect a total levy the same or close to the old system. In actual fact the statistics indicate that we have seen a significant reduction in levy take. Overall there are more beekeepers paying significantly less than there are beekeepers paying more. In the last year of the hive levy the income collected from levy was $384,000. The levy collected for last year (1998) was $345,000, as at 31 December. Clearly an adjustment to the apiary levy is one option that may be required to return the levy take to 1996 levels.

The implementation of the Pest Management Strategy will start to cost the NBA more than we used to pay for disease control in the past. The point needs to be made that in the 1998 financial year expenditure on disease control has been almost the same as in 1996 and 1997. This is because of the fact that the PMS is being phased in gradually and we don't see the full costs of the PMS until this (1999) year. In broad terms, we used to pay approximately $115,000 for disease control. The preliminary budget for the PMS indicates first year expenditure of $170,000 for 1999, falling to $153,000 for the year ending 2000.

The third and most difficult justification surrounds the rise in the expenditure for the administration of the NBA. We have seen a quite alarming escalation of expenditure to cover items such as postage, toll calls, photo copying and executive meeting costs. All of these costs have shown steep rises from about 1995 onwards. It is obvious to us all that the trend for these sort of increases has simply got to stop. I am anticipating that this situation will be addressed with a major review, to be carried out by the executive, of all administration services and costs that the NBA incurs. Tight budgetary constraints will need to be applied to those areas identified as going ballistic.

Do we need a levy increase?

The short answer to this question is yes, however I believe that it will need to be presented to members as part of a sensible package of measures needed to turn the financial affairs of the NBA round. My personal view is that we need to adopt a three point plan of action.

Our potential levy take for this year, and last year, is approximately $420,000. We need to establish very clearly why we are failing to collect all of this levy. I believe that it is possible to collect significantly more than the current approximate take of $350,000. A conservative, but realistic, target of achieving $380,000 would give us an additional $30,000.

We need to adopt an austerity budget that will limit expenditure in areas that have shown consistent increases. I believe that it is possible to present a budget that could trim approximately $25,000 - $30,000 from expenditure from the administration area.

Assuming that we meet the targets as outlined in points 1 and 2, we would still require an additional $40,000- $45000 to present a balanced budget. We would still require a levy increase of approximately $2.50 to $3 per apiary to achieve this increase.

The executive meets in March at Nelson, and I believe that members can expect to see that this issue will be fully discussed. I hope that we will achieve concensus on a strategy to deal with this crisis, and anticipate being able to release details of this and an approved budget for 1999.

Bruce Stevenson

Cover photo: Courtesy of Klaus Nowottnick, Germany.

The New Zealand **BeeKeeper**

THIS ISSUE

FOR THE HOBBY BEEKEEPER

S.A.F. - 4 Frame Manual Honey Extractors

Stainless Drum

Stainless Basket

Steel gears in sealed and lubricated gearbox (free-running)

Clear perspex lids with heavy bolt-on hinges

47mm Nylon Honey Gate

'Free Wheel' clutch on handle

3 sturdy Bolt-on legs

PRICE: $528.00 + GST

FOR THE COMMERCIAL BEEKEEPER

SPECIAL-SPECIAL-SPECIAL

Valid until 31st March 1999

Mencarelli (aka - Lega) 1 1/2" Bare shaft Honey Pumps

Normal List price $780.00 + GST

SPECIAL PRICE $650.00 + GST

C
C B S
S

Ceracell Beekeeping Supplies Ltd

HONEYCOMB FOUNDATION MANUFACTURERS
SUPPLIERS OF QUALITY BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT

24 ANDROMEDA CRESCENT, EAST TAMAKI, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND.
BOX 58-114, GREENMOUNT, AUCKLAND. PHONE: (09) 274-7236, FAX: (09) 274-0368

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

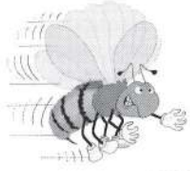
Hello! I Am a magazine features writer interested in bees/beekeeping, and "honey pot" collecting.

I am preparing a series of articles on these subjects. Would you contribute information and (original) photographs/ slides for publication?

All who contribute will receive full credit and tearsheets (copies of articles), along with much positive publicity. Please reply with your comments/questions. And thanks!

Barb Anwari

Writer@Work
13475 Longspur Court
Cleveland, Ohio (USA) 44125-5449
(216) 520-1427
fanwari@cyberdrive.net



Dear Sir

I am writing to clarify the problems experienced in calculating apiary numbers for Commodity Levy purposes this year. I wish to confirm that the apiary figures, on which the levies are based, were supplied to the NBA by MAF Quality Management (now AgriQuality NZ Ltd). I have no reason to believe that these figures have been altered in any way by the NBA.

Errors in the database can come from a number of sources; Statement of Inspections not being returned by beekeepers, forms being incorrectly filled out, inputting errors by AgriQuality NZ staff, and programming errors in the database itself. In this case we have uncovered a database error.

To assist the NBA in collecting levies, a new report feature that calculated "Leviable Apiaries" was added in 1998. This programme development was carried out by MAFQuality Management, prior to handing over responsibility for the database to the NBA, and at no cost to the NBA. Cancelled apiaries can remain in an archival file attached to the beekeeper's records and may not be permanently deleted as with the old database. This feature allows AgriQuality NZ to keep a record of AFB reports as well as re register cancelled apiaries if requested to do so by beekeepers. Unfortunately, the new report failed to distinguish between current apiaries, and ones that had been cancelled. Therefore some beekeepers have received levy demands for a larger number of apiaries than they now possess. Obviously, beekeepers who cancel then re register apiaries, and those that have scaled back their operations in recent years have been worst affected.

The bug has been fixed and a corrected list sent to the NBA Secretary as of February 1999. AgriQuality New Zealand wishes to apologise to the NBA Secretary and any affected beekeepers for the inconvenience that may have been caused.

Murray Reid, Nat/Manager Apiculture

Does the New Zealand Honey Producer lead the world... and in what?

The Marketing Committee has just completed an exhaustive and searching review of the industry's marketing programme, and we are now developing a new two-year plan to submit to the Executive for approval.

This review comes seven years after we started our generic marketing work: and we're now in a position to build on that, and create some exciting new concepts that we believe will spearhead a very ambitious (maybe even controversial) but exciting and rewarding future for the New Zealand beekeeping industry.

Our proposal will go to the Executive in March; and the final Plan will be in the April *BeeKeeper* magazine.

Marketing Questionnaire

The response to our Questionnaire on the role of Marketing and on how to measure performance was very good.

Only two very critical replies: both questioned the style of the questionnaire (and argued that the answers were obvious and therefore the questionnaire itself self-serving!).

My only comment to that is, it may have been obvious to them (and I actually respect both the people concerned) but not necessarily so to others.

The purpose of the questionnaire was not to count up the 'yes's' (sorry about the apostrophe's there, think I got it right) but to try and understand the reasoning behind any that disagreed, and see if there were views that we hadn't even be aware of.

The replies were resoundingly behind the core concept, that the marketing funds had to benefit NBA members who were producers and had to be developed from a producer perspective.

If this seems so obvious that it's a nonsense to even state it, that's not correct, because if we said the marketing funds had to benefit NBA members who were packers as well as producers, it would have stopped us trying to get new non-NBA companies to compete with existing NBA-member packers for the resource.

The questionnaire confirmed our opinion as a Committee that we can and should encourage new buyers into the New Zealand honey marketplace... that we need companies with capital and expertise to compete robustly for the honey crop, because that gives the New Zealand producer more people wanting his/her crop and gives them the best chance to get a better return for it!

And remember... the marketing funds come from a levy that is based on production units, so it is the producer we have to try to reward first. Of course we value the trader, the buyer, the packer, without them there is no sale of the crop! And there should be good relationships between all of the people in the distribution channel, but we don't want that good relationship to engender complacency, we don't want the packers and buyers to suppress possible prices to the producer because that's easier for them to push down a weak producer than putting their prices up to their own customers.

We look forward to your comments when the approved Plan is released!

The honey crop

It's amazing how two people can see the same set of facts and have two strongly differing conclusions: I see beekeepers hurting! I see drought and poor nectar production of key floral sources, I see and hear beekeepers saying that the crop is not looking good.

And I look at our crops and stock situations over the last two to three years and it all tells me that the price of honey should be stable or increase.

And yet I talk to some key people in the industry and they talk about possible price falls. Why? Got me... but if you get one of them, make sure they aren't talking to you about how much they'll pay you for your honey while they paint a gloomy picture.

As I said last year, it's bad enough that some beekeepers are facing very hard times, without the price of honey for whatever they can produce going down as well.

That's just farcical. Don't be duped!

I sure know that if anyone has anything remotely resembling good white clover, it must be worth a fortune. You want to see what some leading brands have been peddling.

One a brighter note

How to make a superb honey even better, chill it.

I've taken to putting my breakfast honey in the fridge, marvellous results! Must be on the same principle as chilling sweet wines, the chilled sugars don't swamp your taste buds to the same extent, and you pick up the varietal notes in the honey far better.

Very pleasing hot/cold contrast between the hot bread and the chilled honey too.

Cooking In A Minute's Allyson Gofton is Doing 'Time'

Well, Thyme actually. Went to my local butcher and they gave me a calendar (from Canterbury Meats).

Skipping through the pages and ***wham!***, a photo of corned beef with the heading "Thyme Honey Glazed Beef".

The same recipe was given by Allyson in her book "The Nest Book of Fabulous Food". The book also has a two-page feature on the honeys of New Zealand and how to cook with them.

The publicity for honey (and Thyme in particular) came from four years ago when your marketing levy helped sponsor Allyson's visit to Marlborough, she came down and spent half a day with me tasting honeys and talking about their cooking values.

The result: A world-class and highly popular cooking personality has a very positive attitude towards New Zealand honeys, and is still giving us exceptional value for that visit by promoting varietal specific honey recipes.

(I'll put the recipe in next month's *BeeKeeper*).

NBA Branch Field Days

Are you having a Field Day this year? The Marketing Committee is very keen to have the chance for us to discuss our promotion strategies "one-to-one" at Branch level and Field Days are ideal for that. Our budget doesn't let us go everywhere, but if we know your timetables we can look at the best options. Come back to me on that.

And I'm looking forward to the Southland Field Day in late February.

The Ministry of Health and label warnings on hive products

A copy of what I gave the local newspaper reported is in this month's BeeKeeper follows. I know the story has appeared around New Zealand, and it's an issue we won't all agree on. (The Marketing Committee still believes this is the right and proper policy for the industry as a whole.)

You'll also see that I've fired the first shots in our sugar-toad campaign, we're declaring war on refined sugar, should be fun (although I don't expect the toad to take any stings lying down).

Bill Floyd, Marketing Committee

Copy of Media Release prepared as a result of approach from Marlborough Express Newspaper for comments as industry spokesperson on Hive Product Labelling Regulations:

Hive products have proven potencies that come from naturally occurring compounds in the products. These compounds can have antibacterial, anti-inflammatory and even antiviral values.

These values have been established in published research in peer review scientific journals.

Millions of people around the world

consume hive products without any side effects. It appears, although there is no statistical data available, that a very small percentage can be allergic to them. Whether this is one person in a hundred thousand or one in a million isn't known... the risk is so small that the EU and the Codex General Standard do not require warnings on hive products. (It is generally accepted that more people are allergic to nuts and strawberries than hive products.)

In fact, the Australian and New Zealand regulatory authorities could not get support from the EU for this new hive products labelling requirement!

But, given that these products do have potency... that they do work!.. then it is appropriate that there be warning labels on them... in the same way that all pharmaceutical products have warning labels.

In fact, before the Ministry's ruling, many if not most marketers were already putting warning signs on their products as part of their consumer information.

For that reason the NZ Honey Advisory Service supports the Regulations. It allows hive products marketers to meet an ethical duty to inform all potential customers of the products potencies... those few who are allergic can abstain, and the majority of the community can enjoy the advantages. We think the working is overly dramatic, and the Ministry has put an unfair deadline on the industry to get overlabels in place on existing packaging... but that's their decision.

Probably the only worry about agreeing to the Ministry's over-cautious approach on hive products is that someone may be silly enough to want some sort of warning on honey itself. That would be a decision that bordered on the stupid... on a par with having warning signs on bottles of mineral water that "immersing your head in too much of this could drown you".

Honey has been eaten by humans for over 20,000 years... it is one of the most natural and complete foods... it is better for you than eating refined cane sugar... it is a balanced food that comes with micronutrients and compounds like acetylcholine and chromium that we now know allows your body to properly digest the different types of sugars in it.

The only caution of course is that people with sugar allergy problems such as diabetes should be careful when eating honey, as with any sugars. But even with that group we are now looking at the concept of 'diabetic's honeys'. Honeys high in fructose and very low in glucose sugars may be better suited to diabetics, and we will be initiating research into that this year.

It would make more sense for the Ministry to look at putting warning signs on refined white sugar, where the natural goodness of the sugar cane has been removed. In fact, given the possible link between poor diet and processed foods intake and adult-onset diabetes, it may have been better for the long term health of the community if they'd focused on that instead of hive products.

Bill Floyd, NZ Honey Food & Ingredient Advisory Service

Swarms...

One of the joys of beekeeping is watching a newly caught swarm trooping into their new hive. The carpet of bees all facing the same way make a lovely pattern. I often think the beekeepers of the world would make a big market for rugs with a swarm design.

Watching a swarm troop in, is one thing, but catching the swarm is quite another.

Why do a lot of swarms go right up as high as they can? I expect it is the ones with virgins.

As a teenager keen on gaining more bees I came across a nice swarm away near the top of a big willow tree. Not keen on heights I persuaded a friend to climb the tree and give the branch with the swarm a good poke with a long stick. Apparently he wasn't too familiar with the Law of Gravity. Soon learnt however. He was always a good runner and ran down the trunk faster than he could have fallen and disappeared into the distance. Only got two stings. Hardly worth the fuss.

The swarm ended up going back higher than before and after a few days disappeared.

Swarms in trees do test our ingenuity. I have tried hitting the branch with a stone. Usually doesn't achieve much as my aim is poor but the exercise must be good for you. I have found that throwing a stick a few feet long is more effective. Hitting the actual swarm is probably not a good idea as Murphy's Law will ensure the queen is the most likely to be killed.

Usually knocking the swarm off the branch will see them regroup higher up.

A better alternative is to throw a rope over the branch near the swarm. Then using both ends you can seesaw the rope until it is next to the swarm, (carefully). Then tie a cardboard box to one end of the rope. The box is pulled up and with a good jiggle most of the swarm will drop into the carton. It can then be lowered to the ground and as long as the queen is included the rest of the bees will soon enter the carton.

Recently I had a new challenge. A swarm had set up home in the apex of a very high workshop at the local coal corp.

Looking up it seemed to be just about out of sight. The workshop employee had the brainwave of parking a Euclid loader underneath to get closer. Even then it seemed a long way up.

The workman's idea was to place a ladder at the end of the tray with it leaning against the tray. He was going to hold the ladder while I climbed up to get the bees. A good idea but a few problems. First I am scared of heights and secondly I think he was lighter than me and my imagination saw us forming a seesaw with him being pulled up while I disappeared over the bonnet of the Euclid into space before hitting the ground far below. I didn't fancy that idea so back to the beekeeper's motto. THERE IS ALWAYS ANOTHER WAY OF DOING IT.

What was needed was a large box to catch the swarm and some way of dislodging the bees. Now the deck of a Euclid is a big box although steel instead of cardboard. Also the slope trapped a quantity of water at the cab end. Now how to dislodge the bees? Eureka or some other flash of an idea came. Was there a fire hose handy. No trouble and within a few minutes there was the fire truck.

It didn't take long to hose the bees and combs down into the Euclid tray. A stiff bristle broom soon rescued the bees from the water and they were shovelled into a carrying box.

When I opened the box later the bees came out looking none the worse for wear although their temper hadn't improved. I turned the box upside down on top of a strong hives and they seemed to be accepted okay. I don't know if the queen survived but if there is borod above the excluder next time then she survived the treatment.

Gary

Wee reminder ☺

Do you wish to apply for a deferral (spread over four instalments) of your Apiary Levy payments for 1999?

We need your application form and first cheque by the 20th of February to: Box 3079 Napier.

Precis from the December Executive meeting held in Dunedin

An Executive meeting was held in Dunedin 7-9th of December.

Some of the issues covered were:

Terry and Russell briefed the meeting on the work done with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and MAF RA in trying to gain or improve access for NZ Bees to the US and Korean markets. Plus to allow travellers to be able to take packaged Honey into Australia. This is permitted but the Australian Border Control people appear not to have all been advised.

There was a lot of debate over the European Honey Testing sample and testing costs plus the recovery of nearly $20,000 (unbudgeted funds) from the 1998 year. Dr Jim Edward's agreed that he would take back the NBA suggestion, that the cost of this exercise should be recovered from the exporters at the time of issuing the Export Certificate. It was agreed that the NBA represents levy payers and not exporters.

It was agreed that the following people be re affirmed as honorary members:

Sir Edmund Hillary, Mr Cliff Van Eaton, Dr Peter Molan, Dr Mark Goodwin, Dr Jim Edwards, Mr Murray Reid, Mr Steve Olds.

We also invited Mr John Heineman (Librarian) to join us for a meal as a thank you for all the work he has done for the NBA now and into the future. Mrs Heineman due to other commitments was unable to join us. Russell presented John with a bouquet of flowers to take home as a thank you for her work as well.

Election dates for 1999 were set.

It was agreed that the Nomination form would be placed in the April *BeeKeeper* magazine (Wednesday the 15th). Close off for the acceptance of nominations, 5.00pm Saturday the 16th of May. Voting forms to be mailed out by the 23rd of May. Voting forms returned by 5.00pm Wednesday the 23rd of June.

Proposed Rule change and Remits for 1999 Conference.

Close of date for Proposed Rule changes, 9am Saturday 29th of May 1999.

Close off date for Remits for 1999 Conference, 9am Saturday 29th of May 1999.

PMS

Bruce reported that AgriQual (formerly MAF QM) had approval to start work on the requirements of the PMS for the NBA. Though people wishing to be authorised persons where still very slow in applying for this option.

Bruce reported that the NBA PMS Web page was up and running. (http://www.nba.org.co.nz)

The PMS requires a Disputes Arbitrator, and Russell was able to advise the meeting that Mr. Keith Herron had accepted this position.

Publications Committee reported (Tony Taiaroa) that the Budget v Actual was under budget.

He also briefed the meeting an article that was too long. The writer was given the opportunity to reduce the size of the article so it meet the size required for the magazine.

The budget for 1999 is being set and a number of different options for printing have been received and will be worked through.

Lin will have the Profile magazine ready for the printer by January.

We had a number of Otago members join the Executive meeting on Tuesday afternoon and I am sure they received a good insight into the workings of the NBA. We also met with other members of the Branch on the Tuesday evening.

The Executive approved the Marketing report and budget for the first three months of 1999. The Marketing Committee has a two-day meeting in February to finalise the Budget and to Plan into the future for their Committee.

Approval was granted for the Marketing facilitator to carry out work for other members of the NBA as per the

Library News

Some time ago we received a letter from Mrs Mildred Simpson of Geraldine telling us that her late husband Arnold had left his bee books and boxes full of magazines to the library. Arnold was one of the group of beekeepers who originally started the collection through donating books or money. He had kept the interest of the library at heart all along. Some of the books are additional to what we have, some others are welcome extra copies. The magazines mean a chance to fill some gaps and complete volumes. There are also some articles and papers of interest.

Our thanks to Mrs Simpson, also to Noel Trezise, Geraldine, for collecting all this material and delivering it to the library.

The following are additional to the collection and should be noted in your copy of the catalogue.

Books:

Stratton-Porter G: The Keeper of the Bees. 315pp, 193?, UK (an older novel. If you like reading and have the time here is something to enjoy.

Cowan TW: Wax Craft, 1908, 172pp, UK (it has been written 90 years ago, but is still of value today, gives many recipes).

Philips GW: Modern Queen Rearing, 1905, 33pp, USA (a little Root Coy publication of years ago but still very useful).

Crane E: A Book of Honey, 1950, 193pp, UK (as with all books from Dr Eva Crane, a collection is incomplete without it).

******

A good start to the year for our library as two new books have been donated. "Producing Royal Jelly - a guide for the commercial and hobbyist beekeeper", by Ron van Toor, 1997, 85pp, NZ. Donated by the author.

An impressive little book covering the different aspects of this bee product; composition, hive management and production method, harvesting, storage, marketing and diseases.

A must for anyone wanting to try his/her hand at RJ production. Colour photos and some clear diagrams. Thank you Ron for donating the book and for the work you have done in research and practical application.

Passed on by our secretary Harry Brown: "Honey Bee Pests, Predators and Diseases". Third edition by Roger A Morse and Kim Flottum, 1997, 716pp. US. A much updated version of the 1978 edition which we already have. A very comprehensive reference work as well as a practical guide for beekeepers. A large number of eminent authors from the US, UK, Canada, Mexico and New Zealand have contributed the different chapters. It has been published by the Root Company in hard back with b/w photographs and diagrams, thanks Harry.

That's not all. Mr and Mrs J Squires who parted with their bee business near Invercargill came along with a box full of goodies. As I have not had the opportunity to sort it all out, anything additional to our collection will be listed in the near future. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated Dianne and John.

Guidelines laid down, i.e. the Marketing Committee Chairman must approve any work that is carried out, before it is done. Any monies obtained from this initiative come back to the NBA.

It was also reported that Steve Olds and Graham Cammell had both accepted the offer to be part of the Marketing Committee as per the September Minutes.

A comment that Tony will take it to the Committee is, should it change its name to the Marketing Research Committee? It is felt that this would better explain its role. I will advise you of the outcome of this in the future. What do you think?

One of the questions asked of the Executive by the Branch members was, should a retainer (and not the full levy) be paid on seasonal sites i.e. a site that is not used for a number of years may attract a fee of say $10.00? What do you think? Why not just de register them?

It was suggested that the levy may have to increase by $5.00 per Apiary site and how did the meeting feel about this? It was felt it was essential that the justification was communicated to the membership but it must be communicated as soon as possible, that there is a likelihood of an increase in the levy. The increase is substantially a catch up on the decrease in levy payers. The PMS is based on a desire to eradicate AFB in New Zealand beehives. Funding for this goal (and others) is based on collecting moneys under the Commodities Levies Act.

Bruce has offered to write an article for the February *BeeKeeper* outlining the reasons for a possible increase in the Levy.

Well what action has been taken on your remits to Conference?

Remit 7 from Conference.
Sent to the Canterbury Branch for input and it will be addressed in the off season to try and find an equitable type of levy.

Remit 8.
Sent to the Southland Branch for comments and thoughts. They will review their Remit in the winter and advise the outcome.

Remit 11.
Russell is to write an article which will be published in the February issue (one of a number) to stimulate discussion.

Remit 12.
Terry reported that he had discussion with Border control in Auckland and Whangarei and they confirmed that the required Training Programme for the people concerned was underway.

Proposed new Road User Charges.
Concerns were raised over the proposed increase in Road User Charges and the effect this would have on NZ Beekeeping, it was agreed that we would prepare a submission on this issue and encourage individual beekeepers to do the same. Will you write one and send it in?

Dr Jim Edwards and Tracy Grosse (MAF RA) joined the meeting to brief the Executive on a number of changes for the industry i.e. the proposed new Animal Product Act (now the Meat Act) currently under development, would affect the Beekeeping industry. This will include the rollovers from the Apiary Act. This is part of the new partnership, where the Government recognises that beekeepers are the experts on the Beekeeping business and not the Government of the day. The Animal Products Act will cover items ranging from beef to chocolate biscuits.

It is planned to have the Draft Bill presented to the Select Committee before Christmas. The plan is, the Act would be in place by 1st of November 1999. It is believed there will be up to a three-year implementation process.

Some of you will have followed the discussion on the NBA Structure.

A discussion paper was received from Don Bell, and he agreed to carry out some more work on this and present it to the March meeting in Nelson. What is the core responsibility of the NBA?

Executive meetings for the coming year will be in Nelson on March 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Wellington for the May meeting 17th, 18th and 19th. Ashburton for the July meeting in conjunction with Conference Sunday the 11th of July. Note, Conference and AGM are now a week later to avoid the school holidays. Now Wednesday the 14th and Thursday the 15th of July at the Ashburton Hotel. Phone number is 0800 330 880 in case you want to book.

Any questions or concerns please feel free to contact your nearest Executive member. Contact details are on the inside front cover of the magazine.

Harry Brown, Executive Secretary

Wee reminder ☺

Do you wish to apply for a deferral (spread over four instalments) of your Apiary Levy payments for 1999?

We need your application form and first cheque by the 20th of February to: Box 3079 Napier.

Warning statements for royal jelly, bee pollen and propolis products

This letter advises you of new mandatory labelling requirements for warning statements on foods, including dietary supplements, containing royal jelly, bee pollen and propolis.

In November 1997, the Ministry of Health issued a discussion document proposing mandatory warning statements for royal jelly, bee pollen, and propolis products. In response to submissions, the Ministry modified the proposed warning statements. The new warning statements are detailed in Amendment No. 11 of the New Zealand Food Standard 1996 (attached for your information).

A copy of the submission summary is attached for your information as Attachment 2.

New Zealand Food Standard 1996 Amendment No. 11.

Amendment No. 11 was gazetted on 17 December 1998. The standard will come into force on 17 February 1999, two months after gazettal, to allow time for industry to revise labels or place 'overstickers' on existing stocks with the required warning statement.

If you require specific information on labelling requirements, please contact a health protection officer in the public health unit of your local Hospital and Health Service.

Yours sincerely

Gail Powell, Manager, Regulation Development

Refer page 23 for more details.

Hints on honeydew

In many ways honeydew production is very much like tropical beekeeping with a cold winter to confuse things.

The bees are continually packing honey into the broodnest particularly in the autumn and in extreme cases they get weaker and weaker and may even die out altogether.

When we first started running hives on honeydew, we thought all that was necessary was to put the bees in a double brood chamber, an excluder on top and then honey supers above. Then get ready to remove the full boxes at regular intervals.

In fact we had to rethink our beekeeping entirely.

First the location of the beech forest affects when the flow will start and finish.

Starting in the early spring, the honeydew seems to first start yielding nearer the coast and at low altitudes. Then as the season progresses the honeydew starts to yield further inland and up higher. During the autumn the reverse happens. At very low altitudes, honeydew can be gathered all winter following frosty nights. It is also produced inland but is too cold for the bees to collect it.

When working low altitude forests you need to stimulate the bees to produce brood early in the season as they need to be at full strength by early September. As long as the gorse flowered in the autumn and again early spring, persuading the bees to produce brood early is not too difficult. If pollen is in short supply however, it becomes more difficult.

As long as pollen is available a good syrup feed will often get things going.

Most areas probably require the bees to be at maximum strength by early October. Sometimes this can be achieved by moving hives out to willow sites in the autumn and back to the bush site in early October as the willow flow is stopping.

If there has been a good willow flow, excess above basic feed needs should be removed to avoid contaminating the honeydew with willow which will affect the flavour and cause granulation.

Hive management is different in the spring to the autumn. In the spring we prefer to keep the queen in a single fulldepth brood chamber with an excluder above and then one super. If the super fills, preferably extract it and put back but otherwise undersuper with another super.

Honeydew tends to be a very dry honey and you can often get away with extracting before it is fully sealed but don't overdo it. Usually 2/3 sealed will do.

Honeydew tends to yield in northwesterly conditions but hives can easily starve in hot easterly weather. You need to monitor the feed reserves carefully in the October/November period. During this period hives may collect two boxes or starve to death just as easily depending on the weather.

Of course gale force northwesterlies don't help much either.

When summer comes, you need to plan ahead and change your methods. Often over the summer it gets too dry for the honeydew to yield unless there is a period of overcaste low cloud type weather. Then a surprise amount may be gathered in conditions that you would think were too cold and miserable for bees to fly.

If on low altitude beech forest, it is often worthwhile moving hives out to clover from mid November through to February. Moving back to the bush is best left until there has been heavy rain in February. When the next northwest period arrives, the honeydew should yield well.

Often hives are moved back to the bush earlier than this and all they do is create problems for those with permanent hives

in the area as they rob any hive opened in the area within minutes of being opened.

A portable robbing cage could be quite an asset as in many areas hive density could be as high as anywhere in the world.

During the summer you need to plan for the autumn flow. In the past most honeydew was gathered in the autumn. Now because of wasps, most is gathered in the spring when wasp numbers are low.

If you want anything more than a little feed, you need to have an active campaign to rid the immediate area of wasps. After a few seasons you will start to know where most nests will be found. They like creek banks and under flax and toitoi. Wasps seem to be mainly near the bush edge and in areas where there is a large amount of beech forest the bees can often outfly the wasps and reach honeydew further away.

During the summer, late January or February is the time to requeen. A young queen will keep the brood nest open for longer and every frame of brood will make a big difference to your crop. Old queens can become a liability so it pays to requeen each season instead of every second year as is common practice on clover. I think the need to requeen annually relates to the queens laying for nearly the entire year and not getting a mid winter break.

Requeening before moving to the bush will avoid trying to requeen and cope with robbing at the same time. Acceptance is better during the clover flow.

As soon as you move to the bush in the autumn you have to change your beekeeping from the spring management. First take off the excluder and put under the lid. Remove all surplus clover honey except for a good comb each side in the bottom box for a feed reserve. Reduce each hive to two boxes with the top box containing as dark combs as you can.

Then you start working the hives. After the first flow reorganise any gathered honey to the side of the top box with empties in the centre. After the next flow hopefully the box will be full. Don't remove and extract but rather start to "milk" the hive. If the bees are covering 5 frames in the centre, remove the 5 full frames and replace with dark extracted combs. If only covering three frames remove three combs of honey etc.

This may seem rather time consuming but it is surprising how much honey you end up with. It has the advantage that you basically have enough left in the top box for winter at all times.

It also encourages the bees to move honey out of the brood box and keep the brood area large. If the queen lays into the second box it is more brood for increasing production so no problem.

If the autumn flow is particularly heavy you can undersuper with more dark combs but the bees will gather less overall than if you keep milking them.

This can be demonstrated by an experiment we carried out a number of years ago.

We were operating double 3/4 depth hives. In one yard we ended up with 50 hives jammed solid in the two boxes except for a small area of brood in the lower box.

We took every third hive and took off the second box completely and replaced with a fresh extracted box.

The next third of the hives were undersupered with a fresh box. The final third were top supered.

We examined them a week later and the hives with the top box replaced had gather six full combs of honeydew on average. The undersupered hives had gathered three and the top supered hives nothing at all and no change below so had obviously stopped working altogether.

What this indicates is that if there is no honey above the brood nest the bees will do their best to fill the gap. However if white combs are used much less will be put upstairs.

Speading combs eight per box instead of nine will also reduce the crop. Being colder in the autumn the bees obviously find nine frames easier to keep warm.

One other thing we found over the years, is always locate apiaries on ridges or hillsides rather than in hollows as the low areas can act as frost traps preventing the bees from gathering any honeydew over the colder months.

The breed of bee has some affect on production. Generally darker bees do better in colder weather but lighter bees seem to do better in hotter weather so overall you need to choose a bee that will maintain a large brood area as long as there is a flow in progress.

I realise that many who produce honeydew will be convinced that their methods are better than mine, but perhaps "proof of the pudding is in the eating."

When extracting honeydew, it extracts best if only held in the hot room over night. If left several days it loses too much moisture and becomes too sticky to extract properly.

Always keep a good sample from each drum as you fill it as a sample from the tank may not be as representative because the honeydew tends to layer into different types in the tank.

If you have ordinary floral honey mixed with your honeydew it will cause granulation and make exporting difficult. Mixed lines are best sold for manufacturing.

Gary

HONEY INDUSTRY TRUST

Honey Industry Trust applications close twice a year, on February 15 and August 15.

Application forms are available from the NBA, Box 3079, Napier.

Applications will be considered within six weeks of receipt of recommendations from the NBA Executive.

National Pest Management Strategy for American foulbrood

Do you have unwanted beehives?

The Pest Management Strategy (PMS) for AFB provides a six month Amnesty Programme for unwanted beehives (Clause 19.6.7).

Call the Management Agency on: (06) 843-3446 (Harry), or fax: (06) 843-4845

Top ten reasons to participate in Apimondia'99

(Vancouver, Canada, 12-18 September 1999)

10. Apimondia congresses are rarely held in North America, so take advantage of this opportunity to visit western Canada and attend the best beekeeping congress ever held!

9. The relatively low value ofthe Canadian dollar (1$CAN = US$.65) makes Canada an attractive destination for foreign participants

8. Participants can compete for medals in contests relating to beekeeping equipment, photography, films and videos, commercial exhibits, books, and other categories.

7. Vancouver, the site of Apimondia '99, has a wide range of accommodations to meet your tastes and budget, including nearby recreational vehicle sites, hostels, bed and breakfasts, suburban motels, and first-class hotels.

6. The Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre, the venue for Apimondia '99, is one of the most attractive and functional convention centres in the world.

5. More than 200 authorities, selected on the basis of their expertise and their ability to communicate to beekeepers, have accepted the invitation to speak in the more than 30 plenary sessions and symposia.

4. Vancouver, British Columbia, was voted the best international destination in 1998! As a tourist destination, the city is unsurpassed, and it serves as the starting point for trips to the nearby coast and mountains.

3. The seven Plenary Sessions will feature world authorities talking on all aspects of honey bees and beekeeping. Their presentations will be translated simultaneously translated into French, Spanish, and German.

2. ApiExpo '99, the International Exhibition and Trade Show, will allow beekeepers to view beekeeping supplies and products from throughout the world.

1. Apimondia '99 will provide beekeepers and scientists the opportunity to exchange ideas with colleagues from throughout the world. Throughout the week, from dawn to dusk, there will be ceremonies, plenary and symposium presentations, ApiExpo '99, scientific posters, and the mid-week excursion to keep you entertained.

Apirnondia '99, the biennial congress ofthe International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations, will take place in Vancouver, Canada, 12-18 September, 1999. Plan now to participate!

For additional information, see the website: http://www.apimondia99.ca

To receive the 2nd circular containing details about the congress, send your name, contact inforrnation to:

Apimondia '99, c/o Venue West Conference Services, Suite #645-375 Water St., Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6B 5C6

Fax: 604-681-2503; E-mail: congress@venuewest.com

Oops... We forgot to acknowledge Oliver Vercoe as the author of "A weekend in the High Country for Marlborough Beekeepers" December issue pages 14 and 15. Sorry Oliver.

Editor

Attention all NBA members

We are looking for nominations for the Roy Paterson Trophy for the 1999 Conference

Do you know of someone who fits the criteria below?

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

Nominations close 5.00pm Monday, 14th of June 1999.

All nominations to:
Vice Chairman Mr Terry Gavin.
Phone: (09) 433-1893
Fax: (09) 433-1895

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

Ron's column...

by Ron Stratford

As my first attempt at beekeeping came to an end in 1956, I had decided I had neither the time or chance to get a living from the venture so I gassed the lot of the hives I had taken to the West Coast to the rata flow that looked like but never happened, after having the huge heap of hives stacked under a big tree for the winter months. As I was shifting jobs from Murchison to Havelock in the Blenheim area there was only one solution, so as to not spread any chance of disease (I had shaken all the dead bees out and there were no signs of such). They were put on my big trailer 10' x 7' fastened onto my tractor and down to the riverbed we go (there were several loads) and burned, the hot wax running into the sand almost made me cry because I remembered the first wax I bought cost four pound per lb (= about $8) and here it was hiding in the sand to escape hell fire.

As it happened the shift to the new job proved to be like chasing the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, the workmate on this farm was better known to the settlers in the area and when I told him one of these people never cared to see me when I passed by quite closely, he said you will have to be here 20 years before that happens so I replied by saying I've been here 19 years now so I shall not have long to suffer him, will I.

Having gone there in February, I waved them good-bye in October and was back on the road with my shearing handpiece. I went to their annual show shearing, and won the cup to be told years later they (the Blenheim people) were amazed to have a Nelson man win their shearing cup, this person was told I would not be the last Nelson shearer to do that and how right those words were.

However, the shearing season almost to a close and was talking to a neighbour of the Murchison area and he asked, "What are you doing because I could do with your help to shear the lambs on Mistlands". So with job in hand and those lambs finished "Farmer Brown" who knew my ability offered me a job which eventually led to manager.

The living quarters were rather primitive and after two years my wife got sick of the conditions so we pulled out from there and came back to the Waimea area where she liked to go and work in the tobacco and hop gardens. It was not long after, actually October 1964 that we went one Sunday, to a nephew up beyond Tadmor and after arriving had lunch. My eldest son and wife had come from the South for a break before the main shearing started for the summer. However, early in the afternoon, my wife had a seizure or clot and died immediately so that altered the focus. I was managing a stud stock (sheep and cattle) property at the time so it was not easy without an efficient kitchen on a job like that. I engaged a housekeeper but in those days they were people who could not manage their own so that's why they were available, the good thing about it was it came to an end.

As the years went by I remarried a lady from Canterbury and after being married we bought a property in Brightwater in the late sixties within 1/2 mile of where I had spent 10 years with my young family prior to May 1956.

After getting back to Brightwater, I had already gathered up six or seven hives of bees and it was at this time that I went on to eventually get where we are today. The first person after Cliff Greig from whom I gathered a lot of knowledge was a man, ex-schoolteacher Fred Galea from England, who certainly knew bees and then a few years later came another from England, an early retired policeman, Ray Durbin now deceased, from Bristol. They both supplied information for my empty larder. To both of these people I am most grateful. There are a lot of people from whom you can get information on bees and a lot of it rubbish at that. The most annoying is reducing the brood chamber by one frame for easier working. If only they knew of the extra work given to the bees to build brace comb to get their spacing for ventilation and air circulation correct and the extra drome comb and dromes to feed along with the honey used to produce wax for all this futile exercise, it may surprise them that if they are keeping bees to produce honey for them, one could suppose 1/2 lb of brace comb could use 4lbs of honey and as much again to feed the extra dromes produced in it.

However my two friends whom I could well refer to as my learned advisors, certainly had a big grasp of producing honey, they too had a good knowledge of queen raising of which I was more interested in although their system was named smellgrows, I preferred the brush grafting method, it suited our purpose very much better; as I was to find out later that the multi mating unit (six queens) was the best of all at starting and furnishing good cells and right on the job too.

The multi hive is a normal size super 16 x 20 or its equivalent, divided into six equal parts, the length divided with a wooden centre about 1 1/2" thick and the two ends divided into three equal parts with a metal divider. The short frames used are called DV frames (Chris Dawson, Harry Cloake accredited as authors - all partitions are well fitted flush to the top, on that I made a dry feeder divided like so, 3" deep, metal partitions with a wooden centre only 1" thick to support the separators (metal). This feeder has location pins to fit in the bottom box frame rebate.

The purpose for this feeder is a must because to get the unit fat it must have extra food to get enough bees to release into a community super 3/4 with eight frames with drone comb which we reprint from 3/4 foundation or blank wax, when the right time comes the feeder is removed, a queen excluder with a fillet piece, hardboard or ply, fitted inside the excluder frame and six holes to coincide with six units under, then on top of this the 3/4 super. Replace the feeder on top, then the lid. When the unit has run 10 days of the 20 day round, we graft into the community box 10 cells on a rail that will jam between two centre frames. Next morning on inspection, any duffer ones cells removed. Those that have done extra well (some will start 20 out of 20) the extra are taken away to ordinary hives with a packet of tucker and they will usually oblige with very nice cells.

The next 10 days when these cells are 10 days ripe is the 20th day round, the resulting of the resident queens to be picked and the cells be put in to start the next 10 day cycle, a suitable comb placed in the breeder queen unit to be ready to have brood hatching for grafting on that particular day. All these exercises have to coincide exactly or the system fails.

In seasons of reasonable nectar production, these multi units will gather two supers of honey for their winter carry over food which is better than sugar-based food - in this case last winter was too mild and they made too many bees too early and they paid a price. For winter, withdraw the two metal dividers each end and leave a queen in each end with nine combs - any space through it being one frame short is left at half on each side. The bit of brace comb, if any, is better to deal with than the would be 10th comb at re-dividing time in the spring.

Clover Root Weevil - the war progresses

Scientists in AgResearch's Grasslands Division are now tackling a serious threat to New Zealand's pastoral farming - the clover root weevil - with a comprehensive research programme aimed at controlling this pest.

The clover root weevil *(Sitona lepidus)* is a recent arrival that poses a substantial threat to New Zealand pastoral agriculture.

In addition to the Public Good Science Fund, significant funding was recently granted by several agricultural organisations, including the New Zealand Dairy Board, Meat New Zealand, Wools of New Zealand, the New Zealand Garne Industry Board, the Foundation for Arable Research, The New Zealand Fertilisers Manufacturers' Research Association, and several agrochemical companies.

Projects already underway at AgResearch include:

- Weevil biology and population ecology.
- Interaction between the weevil and white clover-based pastures.
- Biological control by fungal or bacterial pathogens and parasitoid insects.
- Clover evaluation for weevil-resistant or tolerant species and cultivars.
- Pasture management options.
- Pasture renovation techniques.
- Studying the effect of adult weevils on clover seed production.
- Possible chemical controls.

The weevil was first identified by AgResearch entomologists in March 1996. The MAF Regulatory Authority immediately surveyed the extent of infestation and found that eradication was as the insect was distributed over 200,000 ha.

Spread in the north

Initially clover root weevil was found around Tauranga extending to the Waikato, and just north of Auckland. The weevil appears to spread naturally at about 35 km/ year and is now found infesting pastures throughout Waikato, as far south as Reporoa, throughout most of the Bay of Plenty, and as far north as Whangarei.

Given its distribution overseas and the adult weevils' ability to "hitch" rides readily on vehicles, the spread of weevil throughout New Zealand is inevitable.

Overseas origin

The clover root weevil is found throughout Europe and North America. The adults are brownish-grey, 4-5 rnm long, and feed on clover leaves, causing characteristic C-shaped notching of the leaf margins.

The crescent-shaped larvae are creamy white with brown heads and are from 1-6 mm long. They feed on clover nodules and roots, causing a reduction in the plant's nitrogen fixation, and increasing root loss and disease infection.

The adult weevils feed at night and hide at or near the ground at the base of the pasture during the day.

Both adult and larval forms feed exclusively on clovers, especially white clover, and severe infestations can result in complete removal of clover from pasture. This leads to losses in animal production, either directly through lower pasture quality, or indirectly through lower soil fertility.

Thriving in Paradise

AgResearch scientists say clover root weevil is a far more serious pest in New Zealand compared with elsewhere. Numbers can be up to ten times higher than in overseas pastures, with up to 1500 larvae per m2, possibly because here it has few natural enemies and plentiful food.

The weevil can complete two generations per year in Waikato. Under favourable conditions, adult weevil numbers peak in late spring/early summer and again in late summer/early autumn while larval numbers peak in late September and again in February.

In addition, the adults are long-lived — both adults and larvae can be present in infested pastures most of the year.

No easy solution

The scientists are in for the long haul as "quick fixes" usually just don't occur for problems like this, according to Dr Stephen Goldson, AgResearch Grasslands national science leader for biocontrol and biosecurity.

"There is every reason to believe that good, well-directed research, coupled with input from industry will produce methods of dealing with clover root weevil," says Dr Goldson. "It is likely that the answer will lie in a number of approaches acting together rather than a silver bullet."

Unusul survival patterns

The scientists have found that, even on the most severely affected farms, healthy productive clover plants were thriving along ditches, drains and races, and in lawns. They also noted that damage on adjoining properties could differ, depending on farming operations.

These observations strongly indicate that the way pastures are managed in spring and summer is critically important to white clover survival.

The AgResearch agronomists know that white clover is the sensitive partner in the clover/grass relationship. Excessive stress, caused by competition from "companion" grasses, inadequate fertiliser application, hot, dry weather, pasture pests and harsh grazing management, can result in poor clover persistence.

The AgResearch weevil researchers believe that, if pastures can be managed to lessen the stresses on clover, the clover is more likely to withstand the attack and should recover from weevil infestations.

Drs Stephen Goldson, Deric Charlton, AgResearch, Lincoln, Palmerston North

Single fulldepth brood nests

Have you ever considered running your hives in single full depth brood nests instead of following the fashion of two full depth brood nests?

The double brood nest usually has enough honey in the second box for wintering as long as you don't have top storing bees. However if you use threequarter depth boxes for honey supers there is a problem that honey can not be put down or brood lifted up because of the different frame size.

The single brood box has the disadvantage of not holding enough honey to get through to the next season, unless you have good willow or some other reliable spring honey source. However in a normal autumn most hives will pack in enough honey to survive the winter so will only need feeding in the spring.

If feeding is necessary in the autumn try to do it early, February/March while pollen is still available for brood rearing, otherwise the hive will lose strength converting the sugar into stores and will dwindle and may even die out.

If feeding in the autumn, do it as quickly as possible to avoid stimulating the brood rearing too much, or you will end up with a strong hungry hive by spring.

In the spring, I find feeding raw sugar on the bottom board is better than syrup as syrup encourages swarming. In a wet climate dry white sugar can be used but bees cannot work it if too dry and can starve.

The bottom board holds about 3kg of dry sugar so several feeds will be needed.

I remember a quote from Ivor Fortster "that more hives die in November than any other month of the year" so don't be tempted to stop feeding when you see a little fresh coming in. Wintering in single full depth boxes with 3/4 honey supers is an ideal combination from my point of view. With the present value of honey compared with sugar removing all the crop down to the excluder and wintering in the single fulldepth makes economic sense. If you prefer to winter with honey, leave the first honey super on the hive but don't forget to remove the excluder as the queen can get trapped below when the bees move up in cold weather.

Being a threequarter super you can put extra honey down if it isn't heavy enough.

A threequarter of honey will usually get the hive through to the willow but extra feeding may be necessary in October/ November.

Some beekeepers think a fulldepth box is not enough room for a good queen, but work it out. Each comb holds up to 5000 larvae. Usually the queen will lay fully in 8 combs although in our district they sometimes expand to fill all 10 with no honey or pollen. Anyway this gives at least 40,000 bees to hatch over a three week period. About 2000 a day. As long as the hive reaches its peak at the start of the flow you have a very big work force available.

If you examine a double brood nest hive, you find the queen keeps moving up to the top box and during the flow most of the lower box ends up full of pollen instead of brood.

The single brood nest tends to move into the supers rapidly, not sulking like the two storey hives often do.

During the spring single brood nest hives possibly need more attention, but being only in one box they are easy to work.

First of all a regular check is needed for feed.

When the hive gets strong, I sometimes let the queen into the first honey super to relieve the pressure a bit during swarming time. The bees are shaken down and the excluder lowered once the flow starts.

Another technique I use when hives get strong is to regularly remove a single comb of brood and bees and replace with an empty comb or preferably foundation to keep the hive at the strength required. When I get 5 or 6 combs of brood and bees I add a queen and make up a top above a division board, or put into any dead hives from the winter.

Another quote from Ivor Forster "you need to replace 10% of your hives every year, just to keep hive numbers constant".

During the spring I end up by removing perhaps 2 or 3 frames and replacing with foundation, so helps reduce Nosema concentration in hives. This same technique is a way of building up hive numbers without hurting hives too much.

One benefit I have found using single brood nests is working hives for manuka honey.

When the flow starts I let the bees fill the first super of 10 frames on mixed sources such as kamahi. Then when full I interspace empty frames, (no wires or foundation). The bees fill the empty combs with their own comb and honey. By holding to the light we can separate manuka from other types of honey. We then press the manuka out to ensure we have a good product, avoiding heat etc.

This method started in an emergency but worked so well that have continued using it. By interspersing full combs with empty frames you can get hives with four or five supers full. Don't intersperse until the first combs are nearly ready to be sealed or you get fat and thin combs.

One of the big advantages of the single brood nest, is that it is relatively easy to requeen throughout the summer, and I usually keep a few queens in my pocket so if any queen is not doing as well as she should, she is easily replaced. Requeening during the flow usually gives better acceptance and you don't end up with a poor hive going into winter.

Everyone develops a method to suit them, but this is one that I have found produces more per hive with less work. Perhaps worth a try?

Gary

Beekeeping in Pitcairn Island

The Island of Pitcairn, is one of four Islands making up the Pitcairn Islands group that lie between 23.9°S-24.7°S and 124.7°W-130.7°W in the South Pacific Ocean. All islands are isolated from the other with the Island of Pitcairn, an area of 6.6 km^2 (Linnean Society, 1995), being the only group member to support the Pitcairn Island community[1]. The Pitcairn Islands are a collection of unique sub-tropical Islands that have a number of interesting flora and forna species. One species that is not unique is the honey bee, *Apis mellifera*. This is to be found on the island of Pitcairn and is at the centre of Pitcairn's latest agricultural practice.

Beekeeping has become a growth industry due to AgriQuality New Zealand Ltd. (Formally MAF Quality Management) and the Department for International Development (DFID), under the guidance of James Driscoll.

History of Honey Bees on Pitcairn Island

It is generally believed that the darker European honey bee, *Apis mellifera mellifera*, was probably first introduced by missionaries and/or expatriates to Pitcairn in the 1800s but, in 1970 all honey bees died out without explanation. People on Pitcairn referred to insecticides as the reason for the sudden disappearance, disease another (though this would seem inconsistent with experiences in other countries). In-breeding and a lack of gene viability may have caused problems but generally, reasons for the departure of the honey bee still remain a mystery. With this loss of honey bees came difficulties with pollination of fruit trees and gardens. For almost eight years Pitcairn had no bees and people became tired of having to hand pollinate crops. In fact, the mango trees stopped yielding almost completely and hand pollination[2] of plants such as watermelons and cucumbers, became a required practice. Other insects were recognised to play a small part but they were not sufficient enough for Pitcairn needs. So, in 1977 the possible reintroductions of honey bees was discussed with the then Commissioner of Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands, Garth Haraway. The importation was approved and in 1978 two honey bee colonies were brought from New Zealand. These hives were the property of the Pitcairn Island Government and were the responsibility of the forester, Jacob Warren. No honey was at this time taken for selling and 'bucket loads' of honey was left to sit around to be either 'tipped out' or given to passing yachts or generally to who ever wanted it.

In total there have now been two successful reintroduction, of the predominantly Italian yellow strain of honey bee *Apis mellifera ligustica* (1978 and then again in 1992). Both introductions consisting of two hives with each shipment from New Zealand. This is now the predominant strain found today with little evidence of *Apis mellifera mellifera* resulting from these introductions.

Seven families keep bees as a result of this project and at the time of training were represented by Dave Brown, Pawl Warren, Mike Warren, Meralda Warren, Jay and Carol Warren, Terry Young, Betty Christian, and Hendrik and Nicola. Pitcairn Islanders are set to increase the number of colonies and today, approximately thirty managed Langstroth hives are to be found on the island.

Disease Status of the bees on Pitcairn Island.

Twenty managed beehives and seven feral colonies were located and sampled at the time of the project. Brood was examined in all of the managed colonies and in two of the feral colonies. Of the 22 colonies inspected, 20 had drone brood that was also examined for parasites. Three feral colonies were subsequently recolonised into beehives at the request of the Islanders. As a result, Pitcairn Island honey bees have been found to be notably 'disease free'. The bacterial diseases European foulbrood (*Melissococcus pluton*) and American foulbrood (*Bacillus larvae*) were not found. None of the parasitic mites, *Acarapis woodi, Varroa jacobsoni* and *Tropilaelaps clareae*, nor evidence of the fly Braula coeca were found. The minor pathogens, chalkbrood (*Ascosphera apis*), Sacbrood virus or nosema (Nosema apis) were also not present on Pitcairn Island. No field evidence of the very aggressive African strain of honey bee (*Apis mellifera scutella*) was seen.

The relatively harmless condition in bees known as Halfmoon disorder was observed in six cases. All cases of halfmoon were tested for AFB and EFB and proved negative. Three cases of Chronic Bee Paralysis Virus were observed. This disease is not economically serious and can usually be controlled by management practices such as requeening. Greater wax moths (*Galleria mellonella*) were also reasonably common and proved to be a problem in weaker hives, while ants proved only to be a nuisance to managed hives on the ground. Termites, though, are a major pest to the wood of hives.

Protecting The Industry

Pitcairn Islanders have recognised the importance controlling

the importation of risk products that may carry damaging brood diseases such as, American foulbrood (*Bacillus larvae*) and European foulbrood (*Melissococcus pluton*). The community is also aware that any live bee importation will need to be controlled as these may also bring serious brood diseases or pests. Because of this need to protect their beekeeping industry, an Ordinance has been drafted[3] to provide the foundation for the Quarantine Officer to be able to undertake surveillance, endemic or exotic bee disease prevention. The Quarantine Officer[4] also, at least once every two years, is likely to conduct a bee disease check of hives on Pitcairn which would include sending samples to New Zealand under protocol for examination. This would provide continued recognition of Pitcairn's bee disease status.

The Future of the Beekeeping Industry on Pitcairn

Though the industry will never be large compared to New Zealand Standards[5], Pitcairn Island is in a unique situation with its heritage and natural resources. The honey is "clean and green'"with a medium amber colour and tangy fruity taste

that has a very marketable quality. The Islanders have also had no difficulties in selling honey to the passing ships and as a result of this positive feedback the industry is expected to move from strength to strength.

Beekeeping has been met with enthusiasm and there is at present an infant industry with the people involved working hard to build beehive numbers and despite the limited resources available to the island, though there was a reasonable amount of bee equipment to be found at the time of the training. This included protective clothing, smokers, hive tools, beehive wood-ware, honey extractors and associated tools. Combining this privately owned equipment with that of publicly available material owned by the Pitcairn Island Council[6], the island should have the means for managing hives and processing honey.

Beekeeping is an agricultural industry that fits well with the life styles of the people there and as incomes are low, and as Pitcairn Island is reliant on developmental support from Britain (DFID) and other foreign aid organisations, there is a need for the development of income generating opportunities such as beekeeping. This industry appears favourable with costs of setup being moderate and the rate of return potentially very good. Positive indicators for Pitcairn Island include the high amount of floral sources for nectar collection, availability of land, lack of major season variations, and disease free honey bee stock. Inhibiting factors revolve around the present growth phase for this industry. It will take at least two years[7] before the island has a satisfactory number of hives to maintain effective exports.

The health status of the bees was extremely good with no serious bee diseases occurring on the Island at the time of the survey. Thus, this should enable bee products to be exported to markets world wide with relative ease so helping with the development of the industry. In fact, beekeeping should be a profitable export product for the island as the honey not only has a very unique and attractive flavour but also because of Pitcairn Island's appeal to the outside world.

1 In April 1998 there was a population of around 50 people on Pitcairn Island.

2 Pitcairners removed a flower from one plant and brushed the flower of another.

3 Pitcairn Island already refuses the entry of bees and bee products but are seeking legislation.

4 The Quarantine Officer, Jay Warren has been trained in New Zealand and in Pitcairn Island in bee disease recognition.

5 The total production of honey for the island is not expected to be greater than 3000kg per year.

6 As a part of the training programme new equipment was supplied for the purpose of developing the industry.

7 This expectation was made in April 1998 and appears to be 'on track'.

James Driscoll

From the Colonies

Canterbury Branch

Notice of Meeting

February Evening Meeting

Date: 23 February 1999 (Tuesday)
Time: 7.30pm sharp
Venue: Burnside Cricket Club Rooms, Burnside Park, Avonhead Road, Christchurch
Programme: 1 Discuss programme for 1999 year
2 General Business
3 Guest Speaker

NB: Canterbury Beekeepers, throughout the year we only have eight meetings, one AGM and one Field Day where industry matters can be discussed and acted upon, so please make best use of these opportunities the Canterbury Branch of the NBA provide you with to air your concerns, suggestions, views that can then be put forward to the NBA Executive. The 1999 Conference is in Ashburton so you should be thinking of what remits we require now.

Supper provided at $1.00 per person.

TW Corbett, Secretary

Auckland Branch

Belated Christmas Bash

Date: 4 March 1999
Time: 7pm
Hosts: Brian and Christine Lipscombe
Venue: 110 Marae O Rehia Road, Waiuku
Programme: Barbecue food provided. Bring your own sweet-drink and utensils. Followed by an interesting guest speaker.
Directions: From Waiuku - first road on right after One Hundred Km sign on Main Peninsular Road. Brian's phone: (09) 235-8585

A New, 25 Minute, Training Video Instrumental Insemental Of Honey-Bee Queens

With Susan Cobey

This training video presents the technique of instrumental insemination in specific detail. It is designed for the beginner as well as the beekeeper who wants to refresh and update their technique. The Schley instrument and the Harbo large capacity syringe are used for demonstration purposes. In addition, a review of various types of instruments is presented.

In step by step detail; eversion of the drone, semen collection, positioning the queen, bypassing the valve fold and insertion of semen are explained and demonstrated. Key aspects of each of these topics are reviewed with trouble shooting sections focusing on common problems.

Working with stored semen is also featured. To check your technique and success, the video also shows a simple field dissection method of the queen's spermatheca.

Review By Dr Harry H Laidlaw Jr.

An excellent video of instrumental insemination of honey-bee queens that is practical and covers the essential details of the operation has been produced by Sue Cobey, Dept. Of Entomology, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210-1220. This is a teaching video that is suitable for self-learning or as an adjunct to lecture and for demonstration. Sue is an expert honey-bee inseminator and a competent instructor, and as this video opens she puts the students at ease by visiting the Rothenbuhler Honey Bee Laboratory apiary prior to entering the laboratory building.

The student is then introduced to various insemination devices that are used, or have been used in the past, where some familiarity with the instruments is gained.

This video teaches visually and verbally by demonstration and explanation of each manoeuvre as it is performed by the instructor. The student views from the instructor's side or through the microscope as the insemination progresses, which creates a feeling that the student is performing the operation. Cleanliness and care are emphasized, especially in sperm handling.

Possible difficulties are listed in appropriate places.

This video is so interesting, and makes it so easy to visualize the process of insemination that it should encourage beekeepers with a scientific bent to use instrumental insemination for maintaining or improving characteristics of their bees, including temper and resistance to disease and parasites. Instrumental insemination is integral to any carefully planned bee breeding program and is no longer the exclusive breeding tool of the scientist.

USD $67 Post Paid from:

Susan Cobey
The Ohio State University
Dept Of Entomology, B & Z Rm 103
1735 Neil Ave.
Columbus, OH 43210
Fax: (614) 292-5237
cobey.1@osu.edu
http://iris.biosci.ohio-state.edu/honeybee/breeding

Bees from hell

I was asked recently to remove a swarm of bees from a shed, "Please don't kill them" was the plea. This turned out to be a vain hope.

The swarm was a real piece of cake to remove compared with most I have had to do. It was nicely positioned behind a sheet of corregated iron. No trouble removing the nails up the wall with the step ladder already positioned alongside nicely. Within minutes the bees and combs were exposed and ready for removal. Just one problem. The bees were that nice mixture of yellow and black and appeared to be queenless and were keen on letting their upset be known.

Within minutes I had received at least 50 stings, so retreated to reconsider the situation.

Never mind, back to our motto, "There is always another way of doing it" so off home for some Ammonium Nitrate.

On getting back to the hive put some in the smoker and within minutes was producing a good cloud of laughing gas.

Positioned my grandson below to catch the bees on a sheet of tin and proceeded to smoke the bees, being careful to avoid setting the shed on fire with the heat from the smoker. Within minutes the bees began dropping, but instead of looking groggy as they revived, they took off like fighter planes and very soon we were both back in the bushes to recover.

Back to the drawing board. I decided I would try one more time and kill them if no progress. Sure enough they attacked in big numbers once again. I wonder why the grandson decided to stay in the van?

Anyway, I borrowed a can of Black Flag fly spray and gave them heaps. Felt guilty how much I was using. Next morning I arrived to cut out the combs but lo and behold there were the bees still nicely clustered on the combs with no any sign of losses.

Obviously more thought was needed. Decided Actellic Dust was the answer so arranged to get some from a friend.

In the meanwhile the owner of the shed who is a spray painter decided to have a go himself, so filled his container with a mixture of thinners and petrol and saturated the bees and combs with the spray. Eventually they drove him away and once again there were the bees covering the combs as if nothing had happened when I arrived back with the Actellic Dust. I gave them a good dusting all over the bees and combs.

Tomorrow will go back to see if the story will continue or end there. If they are still alive I can see them staying until old age claims them.

Gary

Clover Root Weevil Field Days

The effects of summer rainfall on build-up of clover root weevil populations will be a key topic discussed at field days being held during the next two weeks in areas affected by this serious pest.

Six short field days will be held between 10 February and 17 February, on farms in Waikato, the Bay of Plenty, Northland and at the Ruakura Research Centre.

These meetings will update farmers and service industry people on developments with clover root weevil (CRW). The New Zealand Fertiliser Manufacturers' Research Association (FMRA) is underwriting the field days.

Topics to be discussed include:

- The origins of CRW, why it is a serious pest in New Zealand.
- CRW's current distribution and spread.
- CRW effects on white clover and other pasture legumes.
- The effect of weather patterns on year to year variation in CRW numbers.

The researchers will also update those attending on progress with:

- Re-establishing clover in weevil-infested areas.
- The overseas search for bio-control organisms for CRW.
- Testing and eventual release of potential bio-control agents.
- Selection of weevil-tolerant clovers.
- Pasture management methods to minimise the weevil's impact.

Each meeting will start at 10.00 am and end at 12.30 pm. There will be ample opportunity for questions to be discussed following brief presentations by AgResearch CRW researchers.

The field days schedule is.

Monday 15 Feb, Keith Holmes, WIlliams Road, Tauhei Morrinsville - (dairy)

Tuesday 16 Feb, Tony Drabble, 225 Wilsons Road, Te Puke - (dairy)

Wednesday 17 Feb, Ruakura Research Centre, Hamilton (sheep and beef)

Contacts: Dr Jim Crush, Dr Pip Gerard, Dr Han Eerens, AgResearch Ruakura, Hamilton. Telephone (07) 856-2836. Fax: (07) 838-5155.

Wee reminder ☺

Do you wish to apply for a deferral (spread over four instalments) of your Apiary Levy payments for 1999?

We need your application form and first cheque by the 20th of February to: Box 3079 Napier.

Apimondia '99 Programme a gem in the history of beekeeping

Scientists, beekeepers, extension people, honey packers, and marketing personnel of the highest calibre will speak in Vancouver at the Apimondia '99 Congress, September 12-18, 1999.

"We've put together an astounding program, one that will set a new standard for such international meetings in the future," says Program Coordinator, Dr Mark Winston of Simon Fraser University, Burnaby BC.

"We're very proud of how our program has developed. We consulted the beekeeping communities in over 40 countries to find the most exciting new research, the best speakers, the most highly esteemed scientists. Over 85% of the speakers we invited have already accepted - an unheard-of response for an international meeting and an indicator of the kind of support we have been receiving. Whether a participant's interest is in bee biology, queen rearing, beekeeping equipment, management, pollination, diseases and parasites, or apitherapy - there will be significant sessions on the subject, delivered by extraordinary speakers."

Winston is well known in Canada as an astonishing organizational force. Add an elite group of provincial apiculturists, university and research experts to the planning committee and the result is nothing short of volcanic potential. It is highly unusual for a conference this large to be this well organized this far ahead of time. The scope and sheer volume of inforrnation speak volumes about the organizers' commitment to producing the finest Apimondia Congress ever seen, and is reflected in the early and positive response.

Over 180 speakers will be participating in over 30 plenary and symposium sessions. This part of the planning is nearly complete. With the addition of submitted papers and posters, organized through the Apimondia Committee in Rome, and which should be complete by the end of March, some 350-400 papers will presented at the meeting.

"Clearly," says Winston, "We're well on our way to fulfilling our goal of making this the most spectacular meeting ever held in the history of world beekeeping."

To receive more information, check the website at: http://www.apimondia99.ca.

To receive the 2nd circular with meeting details, please contact: Venue West Conference Services, Suite 645-375 Water St., Vancouver, BC, Canada V6B 5C6 Fax: 604-681-2503; E-mail: congress@venuewest.com

~Hint~

Place a layer of Penny Royal between empty bee boxes during the winter. No more problems with wax moth.

L Andrews

Bee venom proves a winner

Knowing nothing about business, four out-of-work Russian immigrants started their own company collecting bee venom, and are now collecting business awards.

Scientific Technology and Ecology Ltd walked away from the recent Waitakere City Business Awards winners in the Innovation and Best New Business categories - but it has not always been a life of honey and clover for the company.

Nikolai Nikolaev and his wife Tatiana left their East Siberian home of Irkutsk two years ago to start a new life, attracted, as biologists, to New Zealand's environment as much as wanting to secure a future for their 11-year-old son Nikolai.

"We tried to test ourselves again," said Tatiana.

However, despite a combined experience of more than 40 years in the field of biophysics, the pair, like many of their highly skilled immigrant friends, struggled to find work.

Combining their expertise with a long-held interest in beekeeping, they decided to go into business with partners Alexander Samorukov and Marina Strioukova.

The plan was to extract venom from bees for use in the growing number of health products used to treat pain, blood disorders, neurosis, asthma and skin problems.

Only business skills, local knowledge and finance held them back.

Based in New Lynn, the partners approached business agency Enterprise Waitakere which helped them set up a company structure, secure a loan, market their product and establish contacts in the pharmaceutical industry.

Eighteen months on, the company has secured a New Zealand patent for its unique method of venom collection, and is doing business with six New Zealand companies who use their products.

A deal with an offshore distributor is on the verge of being signed which could open the company up to the lucrative North American market.

Developed by Nikolai, the company's collection method involves placing a plate of glass on the top of hives, rented from local beekeepers, which the bees, agitated by electric pulses, sting.

As their stings cannot penetrate the glass, they do not die, unlike other collection methods, and the dried venom is scrapped off and processed.

Acknowledgement, NZPA

Keeping bees in Coromandel and Eastern Bay of Plenty

MAF has revised the statutory permits which are required before bees may be kept in the Coromandel and eastern Bay of Plenty restricted beekeeping areas. The new permits will be valid for the next two honey-producing seasons. They will expire on 1 May 2000 so that renewal can be aligned with the reporting period for the American foulbrood pest management strategy.

The permits, a requirement under the Apiaries Act 1969, are being directly mailed to all beekeepers who have registered permanent or seasonal apiaries located in the restricted areas. Compliance will be administered by AgriQuality New Zealand Ltd (formerly MAF Quality Management) from their Tauranga office.

The two restricted areas were declared because of the risk to humans from consuming poisonous honey. Honeydew produced by the passion vine hopper insect when it feeds on the toxic plant tutu is sometimes collected by bees. During the high risk period (eg 11 December to 30 April in the eastern Bay of Plenty) when the passion vine hopper is most numerous and other risk factors are present, no honey may be taken for purposes of human consumption.

Ashley Edge,
Policy Advisory Officer,
phone: (04) 474-4213,
Email:edgea@maf.govt.nz

Wee reminder ☺

Do you wish to apply for a deferral (spread over four instalments) of your Apiary Levy payments for 1999?

We need your application form and first cheque by the 20th of February to: Box 3079 Napier.

-WANTED TO BUY-

Cappings processor for small operation, eg hot-top, melter or small spinner.

Phone:
(07) 823-1331 evenings.

RECIPES

Honey "Barbecued" Chicken

4 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves (about 1 1/2 pounds)
Salt and pepper, to taste
1 cup thinly sliced onions
3/4 cup tomato sauce
1/4 cup honey
1/4 cup cider vinegar
2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
1 teaspoon paprika
1/4 teaspoon bottled hot pepper sauce
1 teaspoon paprika
1/4 teaspoon bottled hot pepper sauce

In large baking dish, place chicken in single layer. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. In medium bowl, combine remaining ingredients; mix well. Pour mixture over chicken. Bake uncovered, at 350 degrees F for 30 minutes. Turn pieces and bake 20 minutes more, or until glazed and thoroughly cooked. *Makes 2 servings*, with 2 reserved for South of the Border Salad.

South of the Border Salad with Honey-Jalapeno Dressing

1/4 cup cider vinegar
2 tablespoons honey
1 tablespoon olive oil
1/2 teaspoon minced garlic
1/4 teaspoon salt
minced fresh or canned jalapeno peppers, to taste
4 cups mixed greens
1 can (8oz) kidney beans, drained
2 Honey "barbecued" Chicken breasts, shredded (about 1 1/2 cups)
1 cup shredded pepper jack cheese (about 4oz)
1 tomato, quartered

In medium bowl, whisk together vinegar, honey, oil, garlic, salt and jalapeno. Set aside. Divide salad greens between two plates. Layer each evenly with beans, chicken, cheese and tomato. Drizzle each with 2 tbsp of sauce.
Makes 4 servings.

Smoked Turkey Grab 'N Go

4 large flour or whole wheat tortillas
1/4 cup honey
1/4 cup prepared barbecue sauce
1 can (16oz) black beans, drained
2 cups packaged coleslaw mix
1/2 pound smoked turkey breast, shredded (1 1/2 to 2 cups)
2 cups shredded pepper jack cheese (1/2 pound)

Place tortillas on plate and microwave on high for 10 to 15 seconds or wrap tortillas in aluminium foil and warm for 10 to 15 minutes in 350 degrees F oven. In small saucepan, heat honey and barbecue sauce until hot (do not boil). Place tortillas on plates and top evenly with beans, coleslaw mix, turkey and cheese. Drizzle each with 2 tbsp of sauce. *Makes 4 servings.*

Honey-Glazed Carrots

1/4 cup honey
1/4 cup butter or margarine
1/4 cup bourbon whiskey or apple juice
1/4 cup water
1 package (16oz) baby carrots (about 3 1/2 cups)

In medium saucepan over high heat, bring honey, butter, bourbon and water to a boil. Add carrots. Reduce heat and simmer, stirring occasionally, for 10 minutes, or until liquid is reduced to a glaze and carrots are tender. *Makes 4 servings.*

Sweet and Savoury Rice Pilaf

1 3/4 cups water
2 chicken or vegetable bouillon cubes
2 tablespoons soy sauce
2 cups instant rice
1/4 cup dried cranberries or diced apricots
1/2 cup whole almonds, toasted and coarsely chopped
1/4 cup honey

In medium saucepan, combine water, bouillon cubes and soy sauce. Bring to boil. Stir in rice and dried fruit. Cover immediately and remove from heat; let stand for 5 minutes. Uncover rice and fluff with fork. Stir in almonds and honey. *Makes 4 servings.*

Honey Soda Bread

2 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup whole wheat flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup cold butter or margarine
1 cup golden raisins
2 teaspoons caraway seeds
1 cup nonfat plain yogurt
1/3 cup honey
2 tablespoons 2% milk

In large bowl, combine flours, baking soda and salt until thoroughly mixed. Cut in butter and blend until mixture resembles coarse meal. Mix in raisins and caraway seeds. In separate bowl, whisk together yogurt and honey; blend into dry mixture. Turn dough onto lightly floured work surface; knead until smooth, about 1 minute. Shape dough into a ball. Place on lightly greased baking sheet. With a sharp knife, cup a shallow "X" on top of round. Brush top with milk. Bake at 325 degrees for 45 to 50 minutes, or until crust is golden brown and firm. Cool before serving. *Makes 1 loaf (6 servings).*

Honey-Caramelised Bananas and Oranges

2 large bananas, peeled and halved lengthwise
1 orange, peeled and sliced
1/4 cup honey
2 tablespoons chopped walnuts
3 tablespoons brandy (optional)

Place bananas and orange slices in small flameproof dish. Drizzle with honey and sprinkle with walnuts. Broil 4 to 6 inches from heat source for about 5 minutes, or until heated through and lightly browned but not burnt. Remove from broiler. If desired, pour brandy over top and flame. Serve immediately. *Makes 2 servings.*

Lemon Dream Pie

1 prepared or home-made 9-inch pie shell
1 1/2 cups water
1 cup honey
1/2 cup lemon juice
1/3 cup cornstarch
2 tablespoons butter or margarine
1 teaspoon grated lemon peel
1/4 teaspoon salt
4 egg yolks, lightly beaten
1 1/2 cups heavy whipping cream, whipped to soft peaks

Bake empty pie shell according to package directions until golden brown. In medium saucepan, combine water, honey, lemon juice, cornstarch, butter, lemon peel and salt. Bring to boil, stirring constantly. Boil for 2 minutes. Remove from heat. Stir small amount into yolks. Pour yolk mixture back into honey mixture; mix thoroughly. Pour into pie shell. Chill. To serve, top with whipped cream. *Makes 8 servings.*

New Zealand Food Standard 1996 Amendment No.11

Pursuant to section 11L and 11Z of the Food Act 1981, the Minister of Health issues the following amendment to the New Zealand Food Standard 1996.

Food Standard

1. Title
This standard may be cited as the New Zealand Food Standard 1996, Amendment No.11

2. Commencement
This food standard shall come into force two months after its notification in the Gazette.

3. Amendment
The New Zealand Food Standard 1996 is hereby amended by:

(i) Omitting clause 4 and substituting the following clause:

"4(1) **The Food Standards Code** - with the exception of the matters specified in clause 4(1)(a) and 4(1)(b), the Food Standards Code, as it exists on the date of issue of the New Zealand Food Standard 1996, Amendment No.11, is to form part of this standard:

(a) Standard A14;

(b) Standards K2(4) and K2(8)."

(ii) Omitting clause 6 and substituting the following clause:

"6. **Mandatory Food Standard** - For the purpose of section 11Z of the Food Act 1981, it is declared that compliance with the following standards is mandatory:

(a) Standard A18 of the Food Standards Code concerning food produced using gene technology, gazetted in Amendment 40 to the Food Standards Code on 13 August 1998, and as incorporated into this standard by clause 4; and

(b) Standard A1 clauses (19)(e) to (l) of the Food Standards Code concerning the folate health claims pilot project, gazetted in Amendment 41 to the Food Standards Code on 28 October 1998, and as incorporated into this standard by clause 4.

(c) Royal Jelly - The label on or attached to a package of a food, including a dietary supplement, containing royal jelly, must include, in a prominent position so that it can be easily seen by the consumer when purchasing the product, in a standard type of not less than 3mm, the statement

(i) in the case of a product that is comprised solely of royal jelly - 'Warning - This product is not recommended for asthma and allergy sufferers as it can cause severe allergic reactions'; or

(ii) in the case of a product that contains royal jelly (but is not solely comprised of royal jelly) -

'Warning - This product contains royal jelly and is not recommended for asthma and allergy sufferers as it can cause severe allergic reactions';

(iii) instead of the statements in 6(c)(i) and 6(c)(ii), in the case of a product that is comprised solely of royal jelly, or a product that contains royal jelly (but is not solely comprised of royal jelly) - 'Warning - This product contains royal jelly which has been reported to cause allergic reactions and in rare cases, fatalities, especially in asthma and allergy sufferers.'

(d) Bee Pollen - the label on or attached to a package of a food, including dietary supplement, containing bee pollen, must include, in a prominent position so that it can be easily seen by the consumer when purchasing the product, in a standard type of 3mm, the statement - 'This product may cause severe allergic reactions'

(e) Propolis - the label on or attached to a package of food, including a dietary supplement, containing propolis, must include, in a prominent position so that it can be easily seen by the consumer when purchasing the product, in a standard type of 3mm, the statement - 'Propolis may cause severe allergic reactions'.

(f) Size of Package - if the size of package of any product referred to in clause 6(c), 6(d) or 6(e) is so small as to prevent the use of letters in 3mm type, a reduced type height may be used, but no letter may have a height of less than 1.5mm.

(g) Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition - nothing in clauses 6(c), 6(d), 6(e), or 6(f) shall apply to any product comprised of or containing royal jelly or bee pollen, to which section 10 of the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997 applies."

Issued at Wellington this 8 day of December 1998

SW English, Minister of Health

Explanatory Note

This note is not part of the standard and has been included to explain its general effect.

This amendment to the New Zealand Food Standard 1996 is to come into force on 17 February 1999 and has been issued to enable New Zealand to comply with its obligations under the Agreement Between the Government of New Zealand and the Government of Australia Establishing a System for the Development of Joint Food Standards.

This amendment incorporates the following changes to clause 6 of the New Zealand Food Standard 1996:

* A warning statement for foods, including dietary supplements, containing royal jelly. This warning is consistent with the requirements of the Australian Food Standards Code (AFSC) prior to the commencement of Amendment No.37 of the AFSC on 31 December 1997.
* An alternative option of a warning statement for foods, including dietary supplements, containing royal jelly that is consistent with Amendment No.37 of the AFSC has been included to form part of this standard.
* A warning statement for foods, including dietary supplement, containing bee pollen. This warning is consistent with the existing requirements of the AFSC Standard K2(4).
* A warning statement for foods, including dietary supplements, containing propolis. There is no existing warning provision for propolis in the AFSC.

Compliance with clause 6, sub-clauses (a) to (g) of the New Zealand Food Standard 1996, has been declared to be mandatory in New Zealand under section 11Z of the Food Act 1981.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 1999

BRANCHES SEND YOUR MEETING DATES IN FOR 1999. NO CHARGE.

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

COMING EVENTS...

EXECUTIVE MEETING DATES

1st-3rd March 1999 NELSON

1999 BEEKEEPERS CONFERENCE

JULY 12th to 15th 1999

Hosted by the South Canterbury Beekeeper Branch of the NBA at the Hotel Ashburton, Racecourse Road, Ashburton.

Hotel phone: (03) 308-3059 • or Peter on: (03) 693-9189

2000 Conference GISBORNE

—18th-22nd of JULY - Contact Barry on: (06) 867-4591—

★ ★ ★ 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: James Scott, 280 Major Drive, Kelson, Lower Hutt.
E-mail: JLscott@clear.net.nz

CHB PRINT, WAIPUKURAU, HB, NEW ZEALAND — 5018