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**ASSOCIATION HEALTHCARE
SCHEME**
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ADVERTISING RATES ON
REQUEST

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

One of the things that appeals most to me about this beekeeping racket is one never knows what any given days is likely to toss up. Amazing how the best laid plans can all come to nothing despite the very best of plans and intentions. Take last week. Nucs to feed, the last half dozen queens to deal to and, more importantly a "one dayer" between New Zealand and South Africa to attend to.

Noon time and in wanders a neighbouring beekeeper, from "over the river", with a sort of "can't stop" look on his face. The running rescue type of thing. Even so there would be time for a brew seeing as how it was lunch time and I was screwing his arm.

We got to yarning about this and that as beekeepers are want to do.

We dealt to the "Gummint", honey prices, the crop - such as it was, truck tyres and so on. All good stuff you understand.

Two, maybe even three hours later, lunch and another brew and it was in my friend's considered opinion "time he was out of here".

As a parting shot he proffered one final thought which, at the time, I didn't take too much notice of. What he had to say was this. You know the trouble with beekeepers these days is, we sell ourselves, our services and our product too cheap; and we are developing a "beekeepers only - all others keep out-culture.

We are too quick to close ranks, particularly when it comes to those other "communities of interest" that exist around us.

We have created cliques and find consolation in inconsequential little internal power plays. We grouse about the price of honey, La Nina, Government policy - or lack thereof. Were suspicious of the Boffins, the PMS, the Marketers, Packers, Umpires who wouldn't know "leg before" if it stood up and bit them. In fact Uncle Tom Cobbly and all. Not that there is anything wrong with this, as far as it goes, its just that we keep it all "in house"- "preaching to the converted", instead of getting out there and mixing it with those interests on whom we have a dependence and who in turn depend on us and our services.

There are the farmers and orchardists who need our bees for pollination (even though they don't like paying for it). There are packers and marketers who need the products of our hives the retailers and consumers.

How often do we get out there and talk to these people. Listen to their peculiar needs and concerns and heed their

advice. Do we take the time to talk with them about the problems that beekeepers face as a consequence of their actions. Take this bad spraying business down South or do we just close the ranks and look for some sort of convenient scapegoat.

One of these days we might yet realise how vulnerable we really are on the home front, in the face of which this Aussie honey business might seem like chicken feed.

With this last warning he was away off down the road like a robber's dog and later than ever.

Pretty heady stuff, thinks I, must have been something in that packet of tea. And to cap it all off South Africa won by two runs. A six off the last ball of the day, a full toss-would you believe. Should have bowled underarm!!!

Nevertheless it was a good day by and large. Not much to show for it, work wise that is, but there is still tomorrow not even touched yet.

Later I got to thinking about what my caller had had to say. Was he right or was he wrong? Are we becoming isolated as a rural based industry? Too critical of the packers and marketers who process and dispose of our produce without fully understanding the circumstances they are facing. Critical of the Cocky for the way he has grazed off his hay paddock just when the second clover flowering is at its best. Intolerant of the Government and its agencies and the costs of compliance as a consequence of its policies.

Have we really become a group of "naval gazes" concerning ourselves with minutes, continually chasing the rats and mice while watching the elephants go thundering by? Blowed if I know. Might be worth thinking about though.

Don Bell

Liberty and self determination No 2

How are you getting on with covering those truckloads of honey and bees? And those adrenaline injections which I touched on in my last article?

As a follow on, we had a visit from a related Australian Beekeeper recently whose wife was allergic to bee stings. She was not keen on administering herself with adrenaline injections because of her shaky hands and nervous tension following a bee sting. So she was prescribed a "Medihaler-epi", for use in anaphylaxis, which she finds so much easier to inhale from than giving herself an injection. Sounds a great idea, if it

works in a general situation. Annette is seeking her doctor's advice and we will advise you of any interesting information later. Does anyone have any experience with this product? If you have, beekeepers I am sure, would like to hear about it in this Journal.

We have had several interesting experiences with bee stings. If you normally get lots of stings then do not get any for six months, do not jump over the electric fence to stand up your friends hives with no veil on. The hives may have been knocked over by bulls just a short time before resulting in you receiving a large number of stings and a serious reaction may follow. It does with me. By the way, I cleared the fences on the way back! (It was a few years and kilograms, ago).

Another thing we have noticed is that very late at night after working more hours than we should have, we have to be a little more careful about being badly stung. It is very easy to get wheezy from the smell of bees and stings in the still night air. Also, if your partner doesn't work bees, don't allow that person to wash your gear which is embedded with stings, as this is the probable cause of many partners becoming very allergic to bee stings.

Hopefully, we are nearly at the end of the peak of the robbing season. Remember it is the most dangerous time of the year for getting people stung. It is so easy to get robbing started, out in the field or around the honey. Something you have to watch very carefully, is not to get the bees stirred up when taking honey off, as under these circumstances after you leave the apiary, the bees will occasionally hang around a house near the apiary. This can be a real pest for the occupier of the house and can take days to settle down. The only cure I know of is to shift the bees out late at night or

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Cover photo: Courtesy of Klaus Nowotnick, Germany.

arrange for a day or two of rain. Perhaps the best answer if possible, is to take the bulk of the honey off the hives while there is still a honey flow on, particularly those big apiaries in built-up areas.

How often do you get rung up by a farmer who asks to have his bees shifted as he is going to plant a crop in the paddock the bees are in? But he doesn't know who the beekeeper is? You ask him for the registration number on the hives or any other form of identification, but no, he did not realise there had to be a registration number there or some other form of ID. He does not go near the bees after being badly stung after pulling some ragwort from between the hives two years ago, shortly after the beekeeper had worked the apiary. "Is his name on the truck", I asked. "No, not that I can see", he said, "I keep well away from that too as there always seems to be bees coming off the truck and he

always leaves little clumps of bees on the gates, just where I put my hand to open them. It wouldn't be so bad if they were on the hinge end!" Half an hour later, oops, (for the sake of the story), I find it is one of our sites. This little story highlights a few more codes of practise we should be adhering to.

Be proud of your truck, keep it clean and tidy, well painted and well sign written. And how about wearing some clean overalls, or if you can't keep your overall white, try green. Nothing looks worse for the beekeepers image, than getting out of the beautiful truck in badly stained white overalls.

Deal with those noxious weeds you have in your apiary, particularly when you are on a nice noxious weed free farm. Do not open gates with sticky waxy gloves or hands as it seems to attract bees to where you have placed your hands on the gate. If you must have bees coming

off your loaded truck as you are passing through gates and you have someone with you, stop 50 metres before the gate and get that person to open it and pick that person up 50 metres past the gate, and yes, I have been out with beekeepers who open gates on the way in and shut them after work in the apiary is finished. To do this you must have a very good memory - was the gate open or shut when you first went through it - and are there bulls or stock hiding behind a hill in the paddock?

To keep happy landowners, leave all gates as you find them. I know it sounds so basic, but most of us have failed this basic code of practice and suffered the consequences, at some time. Hopefully you have picked up something from this article which may be added to your own code of practice for farming beehives.

Russell Berry

High hopes for pest control

by Lisa Potter

Waikato scientists are hopeful that the spread of clover root weevil may not be as devastating as anticipated for this summer.

Ruakura Research centre scientist Dr Jim Crush says the next few weeks will play a vital role in how heavily infested areas will be by this serious pest.

With the larval stage lasting between two and six months, the clover root weevil female lays up to 3000 eggs. However, they only lay one generation a year in dry weather, which is what this summer has been to date.

If the following few weeks remain dry, scientists hope the weevil will only lay one generation of eggs. However, if it rains and conditions are wet, they are likely to lay a second generation.

Waikato farmers discussed the clover root weevil with scientists at a series of field days around the region earlier this month.

The effects of summer rainfall on build-up of clover root weevil populations were a key topic at the six field days held between February 10 and February 17, on farms in Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Northland, and at the Ruakura Research Centre.

Topics discussed included: The origins of CRW; why it is a serious pest in New Zealand; CRW's 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.

RULE CHANGE

Proposed Rule change and Remits for 1999 Conference.

Close of date for Proposed Rule changes, 9am Sunday 30th of May 1999.

Close off date for Remits for 1999 Conference, 9am Sunday 30th of May 1999.

Wee reminder

If you require a deferral I need your request by the 20th April to avoid penalties.

**Having difficulty paying the levy?
(The Executive can not waive the levy but will try and accommodate your request).**

**Confidentiality guaranteed
Call Harry on (06) 843-3446.**

"We were anticipating a wet and warm summer, with the La Nina pattern resulting in quite severe damage levels, but that has not happened yet to any significant effect," Dr Crush says. "The clover root weevil does not like these drought conditions and it breeds prolifically in wet, warm weather, so the next month or so will be quite critical.

"In damp conditions the female will reproduce heavily, but when it is this dry, she does not. While farmers are hurting from the dry weather, so is clover root weevil - we have to understand the development of the weevil if we are going to control it."

The researchers also updated farmers 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.

Acknowledgment Rural Waikato

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

Close to devastation - Sunday, 28th February '99



Dear Sir

Everyone who has watched television news or read a newspaper or heard news items on radio will be aware that Central Otago has been suffering a drought followed by two disastrous fires which burnt out 10,000 hectares of grazing land. Within that 10,000 hectares were a number of beekeeping sites operated by seven or eight beekeepers, most of whom had hives destroyed by the fires, which started on Sunday 28th February after two months of temperatures in the 30's and less 10mm of rain.

One beekeeper shifted a yard which was downwind of the fire and then went back to shift another one only to find that he was too late and that twelve hives were burnt.

In another yard of three hives, two were completely destroyed and although the third was badly scorched, the bees were alive and were transferred into new boxes to carry on as usual. I guess this shows how bees have survived fires and natural disasters for centuries as always some survive to carry on the species.

In a third case, the hives were at the head of a gully and the fire raced up the gully but just before reaching the hives it split into two and each branch of the fire went round the hives and they were undamaged.

Because of the drought beekeepers in this area were looking at crops of less than a quarter of what is usual, and to have the added losses from the fire makes life even harder.

One beekeeper claimed under an insurance policy which the company acknowledges it is liable for, but there is a dispute as to what is the value of a hive at this time of the year with winter stores and an estimated surplus which could have been extracted.

The good news is that on the 17th March it started to rain, and in the next 24 hours 35mm fell, which should ensure that there is some autumn growth in the paddocks which escaped the fire and some chance of recovery for the fire damaged pastures.

Russell Poole, Alexandra

Above: Not much left of two hives.

Above left: Burnt hive being installed in replacement gear - bees moving in badly charred box to left of picture.



A yard with some completely burnt out hives, but others ok as well as some self sown pines.



Ten hives in this yard were completely burnt but another ten escaped with a bit of external scorching.

Correction

The Following correction together with the letters of Mr Gaisford and Zhang Qian ought to have been published last month, but two of the items were omitted in error.

In an article published in the December 1998 NZ BeeKeeper magazine regarding moist burn ointment, it stated that the ointment was a 'honey containing herbal preparation'. It has subsequently come to the notice of the author and editor that the ointment in question does not contain honey. We understand that beeswax is a component of the ointment and wish to clarify that matter for readers. Since publication of the article the Association has received the following letters:...

Dear Sir

Having read Dr Peter Molan's article in the *New Zealand BeeKeeper* we are shocked by his conclusions about MEBO. As the Institute to develop MEBO we have to declare the following points:

1. MEBO has been approved by the Ministry of Public Health of China as a new drug and was named as National Significant Achievement by the State Commission of Science and Technology of China in 1988. It was also chosen as one of the ten medical achievements to be the first spread to rural and grass-root areas in China by the Health Ministry in 1989. Professor Xu's therapy and his MEBO have been granted two US patents. As the inventor, Professor Rongxiang Xu was granted the Humanitarian Award by the US National Burn Victim Foundation in 1993. These awards and the patents are based on scientific pharmacological and clinical data accumulated for ten years, "Chinese Journal of Burns, Wounds and Surface Ulcers".

2. The statistical data collected in China showed that almost 350,000 burned inpatients have been treated by MEBO each year since 1989, with a cure rate of 99.42% and in which extensive burns of over 90% TBSA survived at a rate of 92% and with a healing rate without scar for deep II degree of 87%.

3. The mechanism of MEBO on burned tissues is on the basis to create a physiological moist environment giving favourable regeneration and repair of injured issues rather than simply to focus on killing bacteria, which results in serious differences of academic concept, protocol design for clinical trial and/or animal testing, topic treatment, debridement and systematic medical care from conventional therapy. It is essential, therefore that doctors using MEBO to treat burns should be trained first in the theory of Moist Exposed Burn Therapy (MEBT), especially for deep II degree and more or extensive burns. It is why we have paid strict attention to training doctors so as to ensure that doctors are qualified by the National Authority Agency. However none of the doctors who were the authors of the papers quoted by Dr Molan has been trained for MEBT/MEBO. Therefore, it is not to be surprising that those papers quoted had negative reports on MEBO since incorrect usage by the authors would lead to incorrect results, as happens with any other medicine or medical methodology.

4. MEBO now has been launched in South Korea, Thailand and a number of Middle East countries as a formal registered medicine following approval by their National Authorities. In Singapore, the Singapore Central Hospital has started to carry out 300, clinical trials. Last year, one of America's most prestigious Pharmaceutical companies specially assigned an expert-group to go to China and Singapore to compare the therapeutic effects of MEBO. After investigation in hospitals in Beijing, Dalian, Shanghai and Singapore Central Hospital as well, they highly valued the effect of Professor Xu's therapy and MEBO.

Since 1989, a number of doctors/experts from US, UK, South Korea, Thailand, countries of Middle-East, Israel and Singapore have paid visit to the hospitals in China to learn more about MEBO and to observe the efficacy of MEBO with their own eyes. All of them have made positive evaluation on MEBO.

5. As a specialised institute for researching and developing natural medicine on burns, wounds and ulcers, we have aimed all the time at establishing natural medicine including Bee Products as a respectable medicine through our efforts to

develop an effective product like MEBO. The successful clinical practice of MEBO either in China or in above mentioned foreign countries has obtained extremely positive reports and respect, and has attracted great attention worldwide. That, without doubt, should result in establishing good reputation of natural medicine, of course, including bee products because MEBO has some bee products although it is not honey. We hope this letter will clarify the shadow resulting from Mr Molan's paper, return the truth of MEBO and be helpful for the bee product researchers to establish their confidences.

6. We have no difference with the concept of any National Standards Body and that any imported medicine should be required to register first in accordance with the regulations. Where our difference is.

(a) that some countries requirements only for synthetic drugs and not botanic/natural drugs.

(b) that is not scientific evaluation (or correct evaluation protocol) to suggest/demand that a topic antibiotic drug is used as a basis to evaluate a botanic/natural drug to promote regeneration and repair.

It is these differences that led to postponement of the MEBO application in New Zealand. However, we believe, above mentioned problem will be ironed out with better communication and understanding.

Best regards

Zhang Qian,
Chief of Liaison Department, Beijing Guangming Chinese Medicine Institute, Beijing, China For Burns, Wounds and Ulcers

Dear Sir

May I suggest that any person interested in the truth for burns and skin ulcer treatment access the website <http://www.mebo.com.cn>. May I also point out that there is no provision under NZ law for natural or Botanic Drugs to be registered as a medicine (including honey) in fact only synthetic - chemical drugs are allowed.

Graham Gaisford, NZ AGENT MEBO

Dear Sir

I am somewhat disappointed to find in the March issue of our journal what appears to be a personal attack being mounted on Bruce Stevenson.

I do not intend to dwell on the long hours of unpaid effort put in by Bruce and his team over the years, any thinking member will be well aware of this. Equally I do not intend to enlarge on how our parlous financial position came to be as perilous as it is. To start pointing a finger would only be a personal attack. I do refer you to my Exec notes of August last year, the PMS costs were predicted long ago.

Graham Cammell puts up a well presented argument for the hobbyist to take up responsibility for their hives through their clubs, an argument I can listen to.

Brian Alexander says in his opening that "Bruce Stevenson argues..." The argument comes from the Executive via Bruce and the implication that it is Bruce's argument alone is erroneous. I accept and listen to Brian's arguments but would find it easier to do so if the personalising of that argument had been left out.

Stephen Lee's letter I find to be an attack on the person and I cannot understand what he is trying to say.

To attack the person rather than address the issue can only weaken any argument being put forward, it implies the presenter is running out of puff. By all means let us have robust debate, who would want it any other way. But argue the issue, not the person. The issue wont go away if you shoot the messenger.

Lin McKenzie, Ranfurly

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 350 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

MEBO is a respectable medicine

In the December edition of the *New Zealand BeeKeeper* Professor Peter Molan wrote an article concerning the progress of the MEBO products from China in somewhat (disparaging and impractical terms). Although the thrust of the article apparently was to support continuing research on honey, a truly laudable objective, the author hung his plank on out of date material about adverse clinical reports concerning the use of moist burn ointments.

The author was at pains to support a Ministry of Health, New Zealand decision to decline registration of MEBO ointment for burns treatment as a medicine in New Zealand, claiming that the clinical trial evidence was unsatisfactory and supporting the notion of sound evidence.

The article drew strength from trials carried out in China, however informed circles in China, the various tests and articles referred to by Professor Molan have all been discredited as unsound.

I have a serious complaint concerning the allegations and criticisms innuendos regarding the Chinese burn ointment recently advocated by Patricia Holborrow and for which I act as the New Zealand agent known as MEBO, which has a high reputation in China. It is widely used in Chinese hospitals and now has a proven track record through usage rather than clinical trailing in the country of origin. In my opinion it is only a reflection on the limited experience and restrictive views of Ministry of Health officials that prevent the product being available as a medicine in New Zealand when it is freely accepted in other countries as such.

The preparation of MEBO products are conducted under the highest laboratory standards by MEBO manufactures in China. It is a product far beyond the scope of herbal remedies which Professor Molan would claim, even though the components are naturally rather than chemically sourced. Even in the Western World there is now a growing requirement by patients for alternative therapies which have a sound European or Asian track record. The MEBO products are amongst these.

If as much support could be given to the MEBO programme for New Zealand as is given to the honey research unit in Hamilton, then MEBO products which clearly aid serious burns victims and in many instances cancer patients could be made available at reasonable costs to a wide variety of New Zealand patients.

I have for some years been able to support the MEBO programme without sponsorship despite difficulty and will continue to do so. If there are critics however, I would prefer them to be honouring their observations with accuracy rather than out of date material.

In support of MEBO products I invite readers to prefer the photographic and video evidence available on the success of these products as used in China. I am inviting New Zealand media representatives to visit and inspect for themselves and independently to report on the high degree of success that is now reached with MEBO products in that country.

I have pioneered the introduction of MEBO products to New Zealand in the genuine belief that they and similar products have much to offer New Zealand patients and while I welcome commentary, I urge readers not to accept that the data relied upon by Professor Molan is current or authoritative on this topic.

Graeham Gaisford, Levin

Dear Sir

In the March 1999 of the *BeeKeeper*, Bruce Stevenson states that a \$4.00 apiary increase effective year 2000 is the minimum levy increase to stabilise the budget and prevent a further erosion of reserves. I would have thought a review of the PMS budget and its costings and aims would help to achieve the same thing - a balanced budget but with no apiary levy increase, remember once the levy goes up, it will never ever go down again. All aspects of the NBA budget has been trimmed other than the PMS. The PMS budget does not seem to be - despite it being one of the most expensive items of the NBA.

Also, at the Waikato Field Day it was stated that the cost of the MAF course to become and approved beekeeper was \$110.00. The cost of marking the test is another \$25.00. Now according to my calculations, if half of the approx 1500 members of the NBA (750) went through the course, then \$82,000.00 will be the cost to beekeepers. Another \$18,750 would also be paid out to have the exam marked. In total, this is over \$100,000.00. This cost to the beekeepers is huge. I know that beekeepers of our branch would happily run their own course - the contents of it being the booklet that each approved beekeeper will soon get. I also assume that the test will be multiple choice questions, hence anybody will be able to mark it. I recently spoke to our local JP and asked him about it. He said supervising and marking the test would be no trouble at all.

I would like to suggest to the PMS committee and its chairman that the PMS is becoming too much of a financial burden to the industry. Its aims and methods of achieving them seriously needs looking at.

Brian Alexander, Kaukapakapa

Dear Sir

It deeply concerned me to notice the anti PMS feeling in the correspondence column of our previous magazine. It seems there are people (lonely voices) out there who even don't want to give it a chance.

Where are their alternatives. How do they want to control AFB. How do they want to protect our exports, how would they think of keeping foreign honey out of the country in future, etc. I thought our country has an excellent record on being democratic. I would say 80% is more than a convincing majority. What other system than the democratic one do they have in mind.

Our President quotes in his opinion (March *BeeKeeper* page 11 and not in the correspondence column): 'I am a great believer in education, discussion and common sense'. I agree on this but only if you are prepared to be educated and show the willingness to discuss it and also want to use common sense. Too often these words are spoken and not acted upon, other than sounding good at the time. In particular, I am a great believer in education, so let us, all 80% of us, pull together and try to educate these lonely voices.

Our PMS is just underway and it would be very imprudent to try to undermine it. What a waste of money and effort it would be, if it was all to no avail. No disease control anymore. Bring in the antibiotics and accept lower honey prices and also loose our 'clean and green' image.

As our President is a great believer in common sense. Isn't it time, that also for these lonely voices common sense prevails, instead of firing cheap shots at our PMS Review Committee Chairman.

So get on with business and stop the division.

Gerrit Hyink, Katikati

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 350 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

In reply to letters to the editor, March edition, concerning NBA finances and the PMS, I wish to reply to these letters one by one.

(1) Graham Cammell suggests that NBA should be a commercial beekeepers' organisation is an old proposal which has surfaced from time to time and each time has been discarded as being not in the best interests of the industry as a whole.

(2) Stephen Lee states that trickery has been used by Bruce Stevenson to deceive members. Bruce has honestly put the facts before members, on behalf of the Executive. Stephen, you have always been answered civilly and I object to the personalised nature of your criticism.

(3) Brian Alexander suggests an about face by those who worked on the PMS from the beginning. How he would do this we wonder? The strategy had the support of 80% of members during its development and we think that this support is still there.

I suggest the three authors think of our situation if we had a watered down disease control scheme, which did not have Government approval, or a deregulated situation. Government would have no grounds to refuse entry of any international bee products.

I would suggest that the beekeeping industry will be well served by the PMS if the industry is prepared to give it a chance. I also suggest that Bruce Stevenson has spent many hundreds of hours, at no cost to the industry, in managing the implementation of the PMS and should be thanked for his efforts.

If having a PMS gives Government the grounds to exclude overseas bee products, which could contain exotic bee diseases, from this country, then the beekeeping industry will be well served. A cost of 0.03% of the gross industry product would be small cost for a high bee health status.

Terry Gavin, NBA Vice President

Dear Sir

RE: The PMS, and NBA Finances

I was alarmed to read in the March "BeeKeeper" what appeared to be a concerted attack on the National Pest Management Strategy and on the PMS Committee Chairman, Bruce Stevenson personally - a classic example of "shooting the messenger".

It is true that this first full year of the PMS will result in more expenditure over the previous "AFB - containment" policy the NBA had been pursuing. This should be no surprise to anyone, least of all the Executive, because increases were telegraphed in every budget prepared and published for the PMS since 1995. However an examination of other cost increases for the NBA over the past two years from 1996 to 1998 reveals some interesting facts, as follows:

- NBA membership rose 31 % - from 779 to 1,024;
- Conference accommodation increased 99%;
- Conference Travel increased 157%;
- Executive meeting costs increased 60%
- Executive travel/meals increased 32%
- Postage, tolls and faxes increased 82%
- Journal postage increased 51%
- The Administration fee increased 33%

So before we are led astray by a minority seeking to blame the PMS for the financial woes of the Association, let us hear the full story.

Let us also see the Executive devoting more time to the recovery of outstanding levies due to the NBA for the period - a sum which is more than equal to the current deficit forecast for the Association in the 1999 year.

A final word to those who seek to destroy the PMS through personal attacks on hard-working members - kindly lay off the whip and put your back to the wheel to help solve the real problems of our shaky financial position.

Allen McCaw, Milburn

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Pest Management Strategy under fire

Some very vocal members of our association have begun to attack the PMS arguing that it may be too costly. They make the argument that if other areas of NBA expenditure have been "trimmed" why not the PMS budget. If one uses the analogy of an apple grower pruning his trees then the pruner carefully trims back the excess growth until it is back to what is was last year. This is precisely the sort of pruning that the executive has done to administration and marketing. It has used 1996 as a benchmark and attempts to bring expenditure back to where we used to be. A fair and reasonable expectation, one might say. On the other hand the PMS has no financial history. It is a seedling, taking root, and it is somewhat premature to be talking of serious pruning at this early stage. When the PMS has some history behind it we will then be in a position to give critical analysis to cost savings that may be made. It goes without saying that the expenditure for the PMS will, and is, being held as low as is possible to meet the legal requirements we have in delivering and implementing the strategy. It is the expectation of executive that it will be inside our preliminary budgetary expectations.

There has been some confusion, and misinformation concerning the issue of "approved beekeepers" and the competency test. I would like to set the record straight. You become an "approved beekeeper" as a matter of right when you have a DECA returned by Agriquality. As part of the Deca agreement you will undertake to complete a competency test. This may be done without going through a course, or as part of a branch run education course, or by attending a course offered by Agriquality or some other course provider.

Education costs

The argument that the total cost of education is far too much of a burden for the beekeeping industry does not stand close scrutiny. The value of education is always very difficult to accurately quantify but I would suggest that if all the beekeepers in New Zealand went through the course in the next 12 months the benefit would be far in excess of whatever costs are attached to the course.

For those beekeepers who feel that they already know everything they need to know in relation AFB the option is there to take the test without attending a course. The manual "Elimination of AFB without use of drugs" contains all the

information needed to pass the test.

The suggestion from the Auckland branch that they are interested in running their own course is good news. I applaud their initiative and urge other branches to follow the example. It may help some branches revitalise and provide a useful link between the commercial and hobbyist sectors. The suggestion that they want to organise to mark their own tests is interesting. This will, in my view, not be possible because our operational plan clearly states that the marking will be carried out by a central marking authority. There are a number of very sound reasons behind this requirement. I am expecting that an article will appear in the next issue of the Beekeeper dealing with the competency test.

The BIG questions

Some members believe that the cost of the PMS is becoming too much of a financial burden for the industry. My view is that their perspective on this issue needs to be broadened. The big questions are, can we afford not to have our PMS? What are the potential implications of having our PMS fail because of inadequate funding or interference in its implementation? What are the implications to export certification if we fail to successfully implement our PMS?

Unless these opponents of the PMS want to have to learn how to spell oxytetracycline, I would suggest they attempt to find answers to the big questions. Perhaps the 80% of beekeepers, who have continued to support the strategy, have already found the answer. Like it, hate it, tolerate it, we are all in the same boat. The PMS is now the cornerstone of the existence of the National Beekeepers Association. It remains in everyone's best interest to ensure its implementation is successful.

Bruce Stevenson

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Clover root weevil menace to farmers

by Lisa Potter

Since it was first identified in New Zealand three years ago, the clover root weevil has established itself on farms from Te Kuiti to Whanagrei.

Clover root weevil poses a particular threat to New Zealand pastoral agriculture as farmers rely heavily on white clover as a quality feed for stock.

Severe infestations of CRW can decimate clover in pastures. If the reduction in clover content is severe enough, farm production will fall while the cost of production will rise.

White clover has the highest nutritive value of any grass or legume commonly found in dairy pasture. CRW is at present having its greatest impact on white clover in dairy pastures.

AgResearch scientist Bruce Willoughby believes this may be because the white clover cultivars in dairy pasture are more vulnerable to the pest and because of the increased demands that dairy farmers place on their pasture to provide nitrogen and quality feed.

"It's likely that natural controls of CRW populations keep the numbers at levels that don't impact economically on their farming operations," he says. "A combination of favourable climate and higher clover levels has produced CRW populations in New Zealand that are around 10 times greater than those in Europe."

When clover root weevil was first identified in New Zealand in 1996, it had established in a large area (200,000ha) of the Waikato/Bay of Plenty and Auckland regions.

"Any attempt to try to eradicate it at that stage would have been unlikely to succeed and posed unacceptable human health, environmental and economic problems."

Clover root weevil continues to increase its natural distribution and is present in the North Island only from Te Kuiti to Whangarei. There is no evidence to date of any large leaps to new infestation sites.

Because of the potential economic importance of the CRW, AgResearch has given high priority to rapid development of management systems for this pest.

Researchers are seeking input from farmers about what is happening in their pastures. Farmers, in particular, are encouraged to talk to the researchers during fielddays or later.

Acknowledgment Rural Waikato

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Moira Haddrell - of Cambridge Bee Products

Moira Haddrell, a partner of Cambridge Bee Products, was voted by the readers of "Her Business" magazine as Businesswoman of the Year. Moira is an inspirational businesswoman, and mother of two toddlers, who has grown a hobby into a successful business through hard work and tenacity.

It all started as a hobby, keeping a few bees and now, five years later, after a lot of hard work and innovative diversification, Moira (34) and husband Richard (31) have turned their hobby into a thriving business.

The couple originally owned 15 hives and a landscaping business while Moira was teaching. "Landscaping was fine but it was very seasonal," says Moira. "In summer Richard could work 24 hours a day, seven days a week. But in winter we could barely afford to put petrol in the ute. We sold the landscaping business and thought - now what? At that stage we had to re-queen our 15 hives and we met an experienced beekeeper who was considering retiring. He suggested we look at beekeeping and he then became a sort of mentor to us."

Richard helped the beekeeper with his 300-odd hives, as well as working on their own hives. The Haddrells grew their 15 hives to 85 in the first year by buying 50 hives and growing and splitting the original 15 in half.

"The bank initially thought it was a bizarre idea but when we went back the following year they could see the growth over that time and agreed that it was viable," says Moira.

Richard was beekeeping full time while Moira was teaching full-time in Cambridge. The couple needed at least 450 hives for the business to be viable and enable Moira to leave her job. "We couldn't have grown the business as quickly in those first couple of years without the income from my teaching. Everything we made from the bees was ploughed straight back and we lived off my income," says Moira.

"Richard was driven by the idea of doing something he really enjoyed and this is such a positive lifestyle kind of business. In summer time we could sit in a field, by a stream, bees humming all around, eating our lunch. How stressful is that? Then I used to go back to my Form Two pupils. The two jobs were so different.

"We gradually built the business up over time, then our mentor retired and we bought 200 hives off him." In October 1995 Moira left teaching to have her son Matthew, who is now three, and then Benjamin who is 19 months old.

Today the Haddrells have nearly 600 hives. The bee season starts in September with hive preparation, apple pollination, followed by kiwifruit pollination, where the orchardist pays for each hive, and then all going well, the honey and pollen seasons.

The Haddrells built a honey extraction plant two years ago, which meant they could extract honey out of the hives for other beekeepers as well as their own, bringing in another source of income.

While Richard is responsible for the field work side of the business which involves shifting hives and extracting honey, Moira co-ordinates orchard owners and their hive requirements in the busy season. Moira also handles the product development, marketing and coordinates distribution of stock to retailers from her home office in Cambridge. "I'm stock-boy, labeller, packer, courier, - the whole works - as well as being a mother." Her skills from her teaching days come in handy she says, allowing her to think about, and plan for, a number of things at once.

The most recent development in the business is the selling of bee products through retail outlets country wide. "My goal was to get our product into the Country Store in Cambridge so tourists could buy a memento of Cambridge," says Moira. "We now have our products in 24 different health and tourist shops."

The jars of honey and bee pollen are packaged with bright blue labels bearing the name Haddrells of Cambridge. "We were looking for a name and a friend said why not use Haddrells of Cambridge, which incorporated the town's name and sounded like the Harrods of London. I wasn't going to use it but we ran out of time so the name stuck.

As well as selling honey and bee pollen, Moira also hit on an idea of another innovative way to retail the honey. "Back in August Sheryl Glover, manager of the Country Store, said that cosmetics like hand creme and body lotion were in demand. I decided to take a chance and go for it. I worked hard and fast to develop something in time for Christmas and the summer period. I found a recipe in a book, and a chemist in Rotorua had a bit of fiddle and put together a hand creme and body lotion using Manuka honey and lavender."

The introduction of the body lotion wasn't without a hiccup though. A friend picking up the bottle and twisting it in her hands discovered the ink from the label rubbed off onto her hands. Within three days the oils in the lotion had seeped through the bottle and broken down the sealant on the colour paper labels causing the colours to rub off. Moira's printer then suggested vinyl labels and the problem was solved.

"Having a product to retail was a real coup for me. I've met and worked with lots of fabulous, dedicated people like creative directors, printers, and lots of shop owners who have helped us." One example Moira recalls is the advice from Sheryl Glover. "She told me to stick to the same colour labels when we increased our product range from the honey and pollen to include the lotions.

"She said people recognise our product from the label and not to muck around with it. So I didn't, and when we had problems with our labels the first thing the printer said to me was we shouldn't use the same full process colour again. If I hadn't been really clear that I wanted the same colours, I could have easily changed it and gone with what the printer thought. Instead, I pushed hard until I found a screen printer who would do what I wanted. I was determined to find a way."



Like any seasonal business the Haddrells are dependent on the weather and income is irregular. "Basically we get three big payments a year; the honey crop, the pollination and the bee pollen in autumn," says Moira. "The bank manager is blown away. One minute we're in the red, then way up in the black, and then over winter we steadily work our way back into the red.

"We've got a very conservative accountant. Because he relies totally on the figures he initially said I'd never be able to give up teaching. He wondered how we'd pay the mortgage on such an irregular income, as opposed to a fortnightly pay cheque. I told him we'd just budget really carefully.

"The first year was particularly scary financially. I had finished work in October and we didn't get our first big cheque until February. We had virtually no income but still had the mortgage, power, phone and other running costs to pay. It was scary, really scary. I learnt to budget like I've never budgeted in my life. I could do about 56 things with mince and sausages."

Moira is adamant business success comes down to having a goal in the first place. "When creating a business out of something you really enjoy, you must have a clear vision of what you want from that hobby. Usually a hobby is quite narrow, and you have to ask yourself if there is enough scope to create a business out of it. What do you want at the end of the day? Will the patchwork quilts or embroidery give you what you want?"

Moira and Richard's success is due in part to the different facets of the business they have developed. "Our eggs are not all in one basket. If the honey crop did bomb like it did two years ago, we can contract honey extraction to bring in an income. I have got into making the body lotion and hand creme to target the tourist market. Then we have the orchard pollination, and most of that business has come through word of mouth, so we could work on that area a lot more.

"You have to look at your hobby from a business point of view and be quite clinical about it. We could have had grandiose ideas about everybody buying a pot of our honey but realistically people can only eat so much honey - and then what? Do your homework and ask advice from experts. We were very businesslike in the beginning. We sat down and planned the best way to make an income, and then planned for the worst scenario, and decided if everything completely bombed, I could go back to teaching. You need a backup plan," says Moira.

"We had to ask ourselves is this what we really want to do and bite the bullet big time."

Moira warns that when starting a business you must be prepared for hard work and sacrifices. "You have to be strong when it comes to spending money, in both the business and your personal life. I haven't had a brand new wardrobe for a while because personal spending just goes out the door. You don't dine out every night of the week, if at all. We have got a very good group of friends who are all working in their own businesses. We're all in a similar position and that can mean dinner together is sausages and steaks off the BBQ, eaten around the dining room table with our children. But I would rather do that, than say dine-out in Ponsonby.

"I have a friend who has a really successful business, and he has a high pressure, exciting lifestyle but he is stressed to the max. That's not for me. At the end of the day I want our business to provide us with a rounded lifestyle and that is why I think you have to have an unwavering idea of what you want. Business can be like a run-away train sometimes - it can be very exciting but if you haven't got a very clear idea or vision of what you want or where you're going, you can drown yourself in the excitement and never stop running."

Eighteen months after Moira's mother died at 56, Moira's 27 year-old sister died in a plane crash in Canada. "That brought home to me what really is important in life. You might have a \$700 Armani suit in the wardrobe but life can be all over in an

instant. My vision of having a lifestyle that's happy and healthy is very clear now," says Moira.

"I want a business that can employ staff, will give us an income, but not ruin our lives because it's frantic. Although we're really busy from October through to January our pay-off comes in April when we have a really quiet time. The bees hibernate so we have a chance to catch up on things like maintenance. We can take a few weeks off in the winter to go away and the business just quietly ticks over.

"I love the flexibility of my work, being my own boss as well as being able to raise the children. I love being able to say "stuff it, the business can wait, we'll go and see some friends today or take the boys to the park."

"I also really enjoy helping to improve people's health," says Moira. Bee pollen is another facet of the business and is sold in dried or capsule form. The pollen is collected as the bees enter the hive, then dried and cleaned of foreign objects by Moira. The pollen is a natural source of vitamins, minerals and amino acids, and Moira swears by its health properties.

"A lot of elderly people living in Cambridge take our bee pollen. They've even rung to tell me they've thrown away their various medications and stuck to the bee pollen. It's really lovely to talk to people who have gained better health from using our natural products.

The Haddrells recently appeared on a Country Calendar programme that was based on their friends, Bryce and Sue Hooten, who are beekeepers in Matamata. "Bryce and Sue bring their bee pollen to us and the programme showed how we processed it. We received lots of phone calls after the programme aired and heaps of positive feedback."

Five years on, the tough times are finally behind Moira and Richard. "You have to be prepared for the hard graft and have the tenacity to hold on to that vision of where you are going. There were days when we shouldn't even buy fish and chips and I'd think what the hell am I doing this for. There were times when I thought I would go back to teaching to improve the bank account, but our lifestyle would have changed completely. The boys would have been at day-care all day, five days a week. I would have been a stressed out mess because we would have probably kept the business. It would have been bedlam trying to keep it all together, as well as trying to mark school reports. In the end we had our vision and we stuck to it."

Moira's success was also recognised by her recent win in the local BPW (Business and Professional Women) Woman in Business Award, though Moira herself hadn't appreciated how much she'd achieved.

"I never felt like I was truly succeeding because the bank account was always in the red. I would be forever saying I sold x amount of product this week but I still haven't painted the walls in the dining room. That was the way I thought and I undermined the fact that I did have a valuable success that week. I was forever stepping to the next step, thinking I have done this - but I haven't done that.

"A friend of mine told me off for not applauding my successes. She's right. I might have rung another shop or put another label on a honey pot, and when you are a mum, and have so many things on the burner, those things are successes," says Moira.

"Applaud your successes daily no matter how little it is, because each little step helps you to climb your mountain of success."

RULE CHANGE

Proposed Rule change and Remits for 1999 Conference.

Close of date for Proposed Rule changes, 9am Sunday 30th of May 1999.

Close off date for Remits for 1999 Conference, 9am Sunday 30th of May 1999.

Animal Products Bill 1998

Why New Zealand needs an Animal Products Bill

Foods of animal origin present one of the foremost risks to the health and well-being of humans because animals can transfer diseases and chemical residues to humans and other animals. To protect health, these risks must be managed. This requires the ability to apply risk management measures throughout the animal production and processing industries. The current Meat Act 1981 has been amended many times and lacks cohesion and a consistent approach to the management of risks associated with animal material. As well, the Meat Act no longer reflects current international scientific knowledge and thinking on the management of the risks associated with animal material nor the Government's current policy on the allocation of responsibilities between itself and industry.

Purpose of the Animal Products Bill

The purpose of the Animal Products Bill is to:

- minimise or manage risks to human or animal health arising from production and processing of animal material and products by instituting measures that ensure, so far as is practicable, that all traded animal products are fit for their intended purpose;
- facilitate the entry of animal products into overseas markets by providing the controls and mechanisms needed to give and to safeguard official assurances for entry into those markets.

Animal Material covered by the Animal Products Bill

The Animal Products Bill has the potential to cover all animal material (products and by-products) throughout the animal production and processing industries. Some animal material, such as some fibres and manufactured goods, are likely to be exempted because the risks associated with them are assessed as very low. Dairy products are excluded from the outset because they are covered by the Dairy Industry Act. A public information paper, Proposed Coverage of the Animal Products Bill, covers this in more detail and is available from MAF free of charge.

Framework of the Bill

The Bill is based on an optimum regulatory model which has three levels of responsibility:

- Level 1 Industries:* that establish risk management programmes and provide frontline inspection;
- Level 2 Verification Function:* (form of audit) performed by government approved 'accredited persons' employed by 'recognised agencies';
- Level 3 Regulatory Function* (standard setting, compliance supervision, official assurances, enforcement, approvals): performed by Government

Risk Management System and Controls

The risk management system is aimed at managing the known physical, biological and chemical hazards to an appropriate level. It will provide that animal product to be traded, consumed, or otherwise used, is 'fit for its intended purpose'. Being 'fit for intended purpose' means the animal product meets the appropriate New Zealand standard for that animal product given a particular use.

Risk management programmes are to be developed and operated by individual businesses to address the risks involved in the handling of animal material and products. They will

establish how businesses will deliver the outcomes required by New Zealand standards. A public information paper, Risk Management Programmes under the Animal Products Bill 1998, expands on the provisions covering risk management programmes currently contained in the Bill and is available from MAF free of charge.

Regulated control schemes, to be established by the Director-General of MAF as necessary, will be supplementary to or in place of risk management programmes. These schemes will

deal with hazards which are not able to be managed by individual business operators or where it would be more cost effective for the Government to manage. An example where such a scheme is likely to be implemented is for the random sampling of the national herd to ensure that chemical residue controls are effective.

Official Assurances

Official assurance requirements of foreign Governments may dictate that measures additional to New Zealand standards, be met. Where New Zealand has agreed to meet these additional measures, they will be notified to exporters and processors and official assurances will be able to be issued once requirements are satisfied. Official assurances, usually in the form of certificates, will be provided only when required by importing countries. The Animal Products Bill does not require mandatory certification of exports (as is now the case for meat and seafood).

Interface with the Food Act

The relationship of the Animal Products Bill with the Food Act 1981 is an important aspect of the Bill. An appropriate interface and clear boundaries between the two laws is necessary for consistency and to remove unnecessary duplication between the two regulatory regimes. To effect this, the Bill provides for the mutual recognition of risk management programmes under the Animal Products Bill and of food safety programmes under the Food Act 1981.

Cost recovery

The Bill provides for costs to be recovered for activities not funded by appropriation by Parliament. Any cost recovery process is subject to consultation with affected parties and must, in order to determine the level and method of recovery, have regard to equity, efficiency, justifiability and transparency. All cost recovery levels are to be set in regulation, other than administrative charges such as for copying, mailing, faxing, accessing websites etc. Costs can be recovered by fixed fees and charges, graduated fees and charges based on some unit such as hours, or levies.

Transitional provisions

The Bill does not currently contain transitional provisions. The transitional provisions are being developed as part of, but separate to the principal Act and are to be combined with the main Bill by way of Supplementary Order Paper for subsequent referral to Select Committee. The expectation is that there will be an opportunity for submissions to be made on these provisions. For the most part, the provisions will establish a three year transition period. During this time the Meat Act regime and the Animal Products Bill regime will operate in parallel except in a few key areas where only one regime will operate. A single regime will operate from year one, for example, for cost recovery, homekill and export safeguards.

STOP PRESS:

The Animal Products Bill was referred by Parliament to the Primary Production Select Committee in December 1998. The Bill will be of interest to many in rural New Zealand. Copies are available from Bennetts bookshops (cat no. 253-1, cost \$6.85). Any inquiries on matters relating to the Bill may be made to Carole Inkster, MAF, on 04 474 4297. Submissions on the main Bill closed on 22 February 1999 but further submissions will be able to be made in due course on a supplementary order paper to the Bill containing transitional provisions.

“HEALTHCARE SCHEME”

NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS’ ASSOCIATION OF NZ (Inc.)

Gaining access to quality healthcare when and where it’s needed is a concern for many New Zealanders these days, what with long waiting lists for some procedures in the public hospital system and so on.

Health insurance is an effective way to gain a measure of control over you and your family’s ability to find private care as an alternative to that provided in the public system.

Interestingly, despite the well-known delays in the public system, the numbers of New Zealanders buying health insurance is actually decreasing rather than increasing.

Why is this so?, cost is a primary concern for most and with premiums having risen quite markedly in recent years it is increasingly important that you get the right coverage at the right price.

With this in mind your association commissioned Advance financial Services Limited to seek out the best package deal for association members to enable them to purchase health insurance at concessionary terms and rates.

They have sourced a package deal with one of the country’s largest health underwriters, Aetna Health, which gives members access to:

- *Discounted group rates*
- *Immediate cover (no three month stand down period)*
- *Dependants covered to age 21*
- *Easy payments by monthly direct debit or invoice*
- *Qualifying health conditions covered for new members*

We are delighted with this package, because it means our members can now access health cover at terms and conditions not normally available to individuals.

What’s more, members who ‘employ staff’ may even find that they are able to improve on this arrangement if they meet certain criteria Aetna set.

Having special discounted premiums is certainly a great help, but the other consideration is purchasing the appropriate level of cover to suit your needs and budget.

More great news, you are also able to support your association by joining our healthcare scheme. Advance Financial Services Limited are more than happy to support your Association and National Executive with a return of commission arrangement that we have negotiated with them.

Many people over-purchase when it comes to health insurance, and end up paying larger premiums than they need to simply so they can claim the odd doctors visit. Yet in many instances, all they really wanted or needed was a good level of hospital cover, often at half the price (the money saved is very often sufficient to pay for any number of doctor visits or the like).

The beauty of the Aetna offer is that their policies are modular in structure, so not only are the prices competitive, but you can also cut your insurance back to the basics and make considerable further savings in the process.

Advance Financial Services Limited can give you more information on this special deal, simply complete the enclosed form and return it to them in the reply paid envelope and they will be in touch.

They will also be travelling around the country in the coming weeks, so if you would like to see them personally before making any final decisions, there will be an opportunity to do so.

We recommend this healthcare insurance scheme to you and strongly suggest that you take the time to look into it further, because a dollar saved is a dollar earned and none of us know what the future holds for us in terms of our health.

What we can be sure of, however, is that having the right sort of private health insurance will be a source of comfort should we ever be unfortunate enough to require treatment which is not readily available in the public hospital system.

Yours truly

National Chief Executive

National Beekeepers' Association of NZ (Inc.)

'Members Healthcare Scheme'

Advance Financial Services Limited is proud to be associated with the implementation of your 'Association Healthcare Scheme'. Whilst Adrian has been in constant contact with your association since late 1997, the real work for our team is only just about to begin. Adrian is our Senior Consultant and is responsible for the co-ordination and implementation of your Association Healthcare Scheme.

"The effective date for the implementation of the Association Healthcare Scheme is the 1st July 1999"

Due to the size of the group we have a lot of ground to cover apart from the co-ordination and logistic aspects. Each branch secretary will have a full copy of the 'Group Scheme Proposal document' for your perusal, plus Adrian and other members of our team will be travelling to each branch location to conduct centralised seminars and personal interviews if members wish this one on one service. We will advise you directly and through your local branches on timings and dates etc.

"The expeditious handling and return of the loose leaf form/coupon enclosed in this magazine would be very much appreciated"

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU AND A LONG AND HAPPY ASSOCIATION

"Proud Supporters of you and your Association"

Adrian Robinson

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PO BOX 4477
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Income Protection | <input type="checkbox"/> Mortgage Protection Cover |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Cover (risk) | <input type="checkbox"/> Good old fashion - Budgeting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Living Assurance | <input type="checkbox"/> Savings & Investments |

DECA Time

So we finally have our PMS up and running.

You will have received an application form for a DECA some months ago. Many beekeepers have already applied and received their conformity agreements back from Agriquality.

In essence the DECA is an agreement between the NBA (management agency) and the beekeeper on the "best practice" to deal with AFB. For most this is merely formalising the practices they already follow, but for some who have a significant problem with AFB, they may have agreed to change their procedures in order to make their disease control more effective.

Based on what we know about the disease, and how to eliminate it, if you follow proven management techniques, this will result in a steady reduction in AFB incidence. In the AFB manual, provided to DECA holders, there are examples of how this has been accomplished in beekeeping outfits in recent times.

Do the right things for a few years and disease is history. Of course for years most of us have thought we WERE doing all we could and that a certain amount of disease was inevitable, after all it just kept coming up. Apart from anything else, a constant or increasing AFB level is very demoralising.

In contrast, to see the level of AFB decreasing steadily nationwide over the last few years is cause for satisfaction and should give heart to those who still believe this is something we can't beat.

THE FACT IS, WE ARE WINNING THE BATTLE. AFB IS DOWN

Using the search, target and destroy approach combined with better beekeeper knowledge we have seen the incidence of AFB fall steadily for the last six years. This graph reviewing AFB statistics says it all. You can see that over just six years we now burn 2000 LESS hives annually.

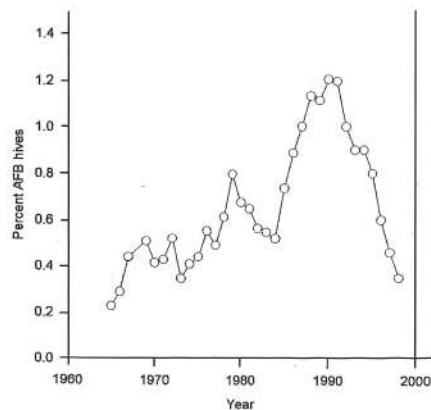


Figure 1. The percentage of hives in New Zealand reported to have AFB each year.

That's a fantastic improvement and results in more profitable beekeeping.

The current strategy, although it has its critics, is a recipe for continued success.

Some of these critics object to it because of their conviction that the elimination of AFB is not possible. Sadly the belief itself may be one factor in a self fulfilling prophecy that may see some beekeepers tolerating continuing levels of AFB, when changes in practice could see elimination of disease as a realistic goal for them also.

I personally believe that elimination of AFB in managed beehives is achievable within the next decade. At the time we began developing our PMS, we set an objective of a 10% reduction of AFB per annum. At the time, some people suggested the objective wasn't achievable.

However, in the last seven years, we have met or exceeded that figure in all but one year, and over the period have reduced AFB incidence in New Zealand by an average of 12% per annum. No other beekeeping country has been able to show such an abrupt and sustained decline in AFB levels, and this decline gives me confidence that AFB elimination is a distinct possibility

Post it Now - the best option

For those of you who have not applied for your DECA yet, please consider doing so as soon as possible. Remember that if you don't have an agreement in place by November 30th, you will be required by the PMS to complete a Certificate Of Inspection (COI) instead.

In reality because the contractor has to process, and possibly contact you and modify your DECA, you will need to apply well before then. The contractor will send out COI forms in August to all those beekeepers who have not obtained DECA's, as under the strategy those beekeepers are required to have their hives inspected between August 1st and November 30th. Under the PMS, those without a DECA must have their hives inspected by someone who has a DECA. This could incur some expense unless you have another beekeeper who is a

DECA holder prepared to do this for you for free. For those with a few hives this is possibly a realistic option. You do not have to have a DECA, but if you do there are two immediate advantages.

1. You will receive a free copy of the 80 page Manual for disease elimination.

2. You will not be required to complete a certificate of inspection each spring. If you apply for your DECA after August 1st and have it approved before the return date of the Certificate of Inspection's (December 15th), then the COI you have received will be waived.

If you do not hold a DECA, and fail to have your hives inspected by a qualified person and return a COI by the due date, then you would be in breach of the PMS and Biosecurity Act. After due process of notice and law, you could be liable to pay for any inspection work done on your hives by the management agency contractors. It is hoped no beekeepers find themselves in that situation.

Annual Disease Return (ADR)

Whether or not you have a DECA, all beekeepers will still have an annual disease return to complete each winter. The ADR will be sent out during the first part of April and is due to be returned to Agriquality by June 1st.

To reach the goal of AFB elimination it is essential that all hives are inspected by competent beekeepers every year. The incidence of AFB is at historically very low levels, and now is the perfect opportunity to see it gone for good. The strategy will however only succeed if we all play our part.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the PMS review committee, to thank all beekeepers for their patience and tolerance over this implementation phase of the PMS. It is a continuing learning curve for both the NBA and our contractors, Agriquality NZ and Hort Research. The process is being undertaken with a spirit of goodwill and cooperation between the parties, which bodes well for the future of the strategy.

Peter Sales, Member PMS Review Committee

Wee reminder

If you require a deferral I need your request by the 20th April to avoid penalties.

Having difficulty paying the levy?

(The Executive can not waive the levy but will try and accommodate your request).

Confidentiality guaranteed

Call Harry on (06) 843-3446.

The Little Cart

The truck got stuck at the bottom of the hill,
So out came the little cart....
To relate the performance that followed
I hardly have the heart.

Recalling last year's episode
With the supers and the cart,
I despaired but quickly accepted the fact
'Of the beekeeper's day, this could be a part'

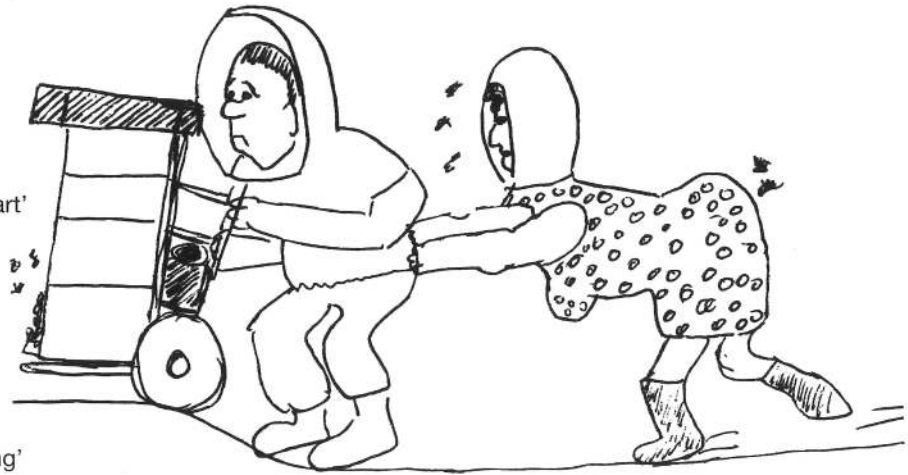
Twas 7:00 o'clock in the morning
(Yes, we'd made an early start
To bring the hives to the mountains
Along with the little cart.)

The sky, of course, was overcast -
- Rain predicted on 'weather chart'
- (The reason for always 'just bringing along'
The thing for the job 'that' LITTLE CART!)

There were 29 hives, all 'burdensome beauties'
(The beekeeper pulling - his wife pushing the CART)
To transmit to the Top from the Bottom of the hill.
(In the end - we had it down to a fine ART!)

UP cow-hoofed- trodden paddocks
You CAN'T exactly 'dart'
But each trip we took at a jiggitty-jog
Tracks made in the mud by the
wheels of the CART!

Like a couple of rugby professionals
How we exercised that CART!
Some people get paid for their efforts...
For example: Mr Hart!



We could be a Hillary celebrity
Or a flying Amelia Erhart
But, we're simply West Coasters (with truck in the mud)
By nature o'erwhelmed - at the mercy of a CART

"This exercise is doing me good"
Quoth the beekeeper - (UPSTART!!)
"He's got one thing right" I suggest,...
'The HORSE BEFORE the CART'

I'm thinkin', " Glad no one is watching
West Coasters moving hives with a CART"
Such a story would hit the headlines -
"the Beekeeper and His Tart".

The Beekeeper cheers: "We're half-way there!"
As I race down the hill with the CART
(With every trip UP hill, you know,
There is its counterpart)

I must keep my mind on the JOB...
(What's that? - Pushing the CART!)
And I admit. " It's more exciting
Than pushing one round at K-mart.)

It's a bit like playing the piano...
(At which I'm definitely not a Mozart!
And when it comes to driving a vehicle
You've guessed it - My SPEED is a CART!

But 29 hives at the Top of the Hill!...
- Hop in truck - abandon the CART.
Another beekeeper we're to meet at 11.00...
He'll be wondering "WHERE THOU ART?"

Time was up...yes, we'd taken too long!
ALL MORN messin' 'round with THAT CART.
We'd have to return to complete our job -
"supers yet to go up " - (we'd later make a fresh start)

You're probably thinking. "I woe the day
that Someone invented A CART"
But - Since I can't drive at truck
At 60- I'm just a 'kid at heart'

And if there's one vehicle I can control
Well, my friend... It's Dudley Wards CART!
Tho' I'm hoping: "I'LL NEVER HAVE TO USE IT AGAIN
In ' My Museum' of memories, It's played a big part.

You and Me and EFB

Actually it reminds me of that song, 'Me and You and a dog named Boo...' but it wouldn't be the dog crying if EFB gets here.

About this time last year I had a visit from a commercial beekeeper from Perth in Western Australia. He was staying with some people in the area and heard I bred queen bees and was keen to call in for a chat before he went back.

He ran 500 beehives and as with most Australian beekeepers moved them from site to site chasing honey flows - mostly Eucalypts. In fact he usually had around 100 hives on a site and there might be another site two km down the road, they extracted in a small mobile 'caravan'. Boy it must get hot in there - I thought. He was a member of the Rottneest Island Bee Breeding Programme which is now in the hands of participating beekeepers - no longer being government run. Each member has one or two lines of bees and selects the best queen from a line, each spring a large number of daughters are raised and all the nuc's and mother/drone colonies are taken over to Rottneest Island to be open mated with all the other members bees. After mating the nuc's hives are moved back and selection takes place during the season for next year's stock.

He expressed the opinion which reflected my own, that if EFB was introduced into Western Australia then the best approach for beekeepers there would be to bring in EFB resistant queens from the Eastern States.

This would be the most rapid and effective way of dealing with an introduction of EFB.

Last year we had a bad drought here, he made the comment it looked like the thistles could do with a bit of a drink. "Yes", I said, "they looked like that four months ago too".

"Do you ever give them water?" he asked.

I guess the question begged asking.

"Well, not usually", I replied.

Sometimes in Western Australia after inland rains, they will shift bees into the desert country around Kalgoorlie, water is pumped in 600 miles from the coast, and this beekeeper would buy water and fill some open troughs to feed the bees, he would place pieces of cork on top for the bees to land on.

I looked out of the window hoping things wouldn't come to that! It was an interesting meeting and prompted me to write the following article on EFB.

I would ask beekeepers to give it careful thought. While I don't have a university paper to tell you how good I am, the content of this article is based on my experience of breeding queen bees commercially for the past 12 years and an understanding of breeding queen bees.

The aim of this article is (hopefully) to explain things in a way that can be understood by most beekeepers, there are aspects of this article which could be open to different interpretation and some people might like to argue the toss on various points raised, but essentially it is based on sound principals both from a genetic and a practical point of view.

My concern is that there seems to be an idea developing amongst some members of the exotic disease committee that should EFB get into New Zealand then the best response would be to import drone semen from EFB resistant stock to inseminate queens here to then breed from.

The only advantage this idea has is that it eliminates the possibility of introducing acarine or varroa mites, however if queen bees were imported from Australia where there are no mites then this is not an issue, pre-sampling of beekeepers stock and analysis of attendant worker bees would also safeguard this.

There is a huge advantage in importing disease resistant mated queens as opposed to drone semen for the following genetic and practical reasons:

1. Genetic Factors involved in Disease Resistance

Most of the literature on disease resistance has focused on hygienic behaviour. There are certain genes which stimulate the bees to uncap a cell with diseased larvae and to remove the larvae, these are known as recessive genes which means they have to be in both the queen mother and the drone to

be expressed (to be effective). This basically means you have to breed from a disease resistant queen if you want disease resistant daughters.

Another genetic influence stimulates the bees to ingest diseased larvae at a very young age, this may be tied-up with the response bees have to diploid male larvae in a situation of inbreeding.

The other area of disease resistance is genetic immunity, some bees are more 'immune' to diseases than others. This can clearly be observed with sacbrood virus, if you requeen a hive which has sacbrood with a resistant queen, the sacbrood will be gone in 1 or 2 weeks - you won't have to wait for more than 3 weeks for the bees from the new queen to hatch and clean up the infection, sacbrood is not infecting the new larvae so it disappears.

2. Genetic Inheritance of a Virgin Queen Bee Compared to a Drone (or Drone Semen)

A bee has 32 chromosomes, 16 from the queen mother and 16 from the drone, but the unusual thing about drone bees is they develop from an unfertilized egg (parthenogenesis) which means they only get 16 chromosomes from the queen mother, this number is then duplicated to give it a full set of 32 chromosomes, for this reason all the sperm from a single drone is identical. When you look at the drones in a hive you are basically looking at the genetic make-up of the queen of the hive. Each drone receives a random selection of the queen's genes, so when you see different coloured drones, it means that the queen has a more diverse genetic make-up, she may have had a light Italian bee mother crossed to a black drone father so you will get both light and dark coloured drones.

A queen bee will have a wider genetic base from the fact that she has 16 chromosomes from the queen mother and 16 chromosomes from the drone father, because she develops from a fertilized egg.

When a queen lays an egg - it receives a random selection of these genes.

3. Genetic Inheritance of a Mated Queen Bee

A mated queen bee has a wide genetic base because she also mates with 8 to 12 drone bees, each egg she lays has a random selection of her own genes and each egg is fertilized from one of perhaps 12 different drones. The genetic

BEE HIVES

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Contact

J & S Brown

Ph: (07) 549-0810

Fax: (07) 549-2810

Executive Committee Members

Nominations for 1999

Close off for the acceptance of nominations

5.00pm Saturday, 15th of May 1999

Just heard!

Claudine and Richard Bensemann
have their third son, Loughlin.

All well

Congratulations

combinations arising from a queen mother is obviously very large and the genetic base of a disease resistant queen mated to disease resistant drones is far greater than what you would get from drone semen.

4. Genetic Influence of Daughters raised from a Disease Resistant Colony

The other useful advantage beekeepers have is that when you raise enough daughters from a queen mother, the drones of the daughters give you the genetic inheritance of the mother colony (as opposed to just the mother queen), because the drones of the daughters represent the genetic make-up of all the worker bees in that parent colony.

What it means is that if you raise lots of queen bees from a good queen, you flood the area with good drones, regardless of what the daughters mate with. You can then raise queen bees from some of your other disease resistant colonies to mate with these disease resistant drones.

This is a most important factor in breeding, you cannot get this advantage from using drone semen. Even a beekeeper getting queen cells from another beekeeper will get this advantage and the drones now flying in your hives will have some genetic disease resistance.

I should make the point right here that I have no opposition to someone using

drone semen to inseminate disease resistant queens, however I do think the progress will be more limited in terms of making a large number of disease resistant queens available to a large number of beekeepers spread throughout New Zealand. The availability and cost of inseminated queens has not been assessed and to my knowledge there are only a very few people in New Zealand who have the necessary skills and experience to make it feasible.

Should New Zealand beekeepers be limited to this one option?

5. Antibiotics

Overseas experience with EFB has shown that for beekeepers to be able to provide pollination strength hives and to be able to produce a honey crop will usually require for a period of time the use of antibiotics. The experience in Queensland is such that over a number of years, resistant bees have developed and EFB is now hardly seen, when I was there 3 years ago chalkbrood was a far greater problem. In other areas of Australia and America, beekeepers sometimes find they need to use antibiotics once or twice a season, sometimes more, in some areas beekeepers don't use them at all. There are geographical and climatic influences as well as nectar and pollen sources which have an influence on EFB.

I don't have a lot of knowledge and experience from other areas but the point

is that you may need to use antibiotics for a period of time following the introduction of EFB, the alternative is maybe you will go broke, or at least lose a lot of money.

6. Conclusion

I hope no one feels defensive about what I have written but I believe there needs to be more consideration given to this issue. There are a number of options that should be worked through. There is and should be more than one option available to New Zealand beekeepers.

I believe the Exotic Disease Committee should:

- a) Investigate the protocols, time frame and costs of importing mated queenbees from Australia.
- b) Investigate the protocols, time frame and costs of importing drone semen from Australia and other countries.
- c) Investigate the practicality, quantities and costs of someone supplying inseminated queens in New Zealand.
- d) Investigate the protocols, time frame and costs of having antibiotics registered for use against EFB in New Zealand, should it arrive.

Footnote:

To overseas readers, we do not have EFB in New Zealand and would like to see it stay that way.

Any comments on the likely effect of EFB for New Zealand beekeepers should it ever get here would be welcomed.

by Colin McLean

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Precis from the March meeting of the National Executive Committee

Issues as usual, covered very broad areas from Budgets to imports to beekeepers with no crop and limited funds, and everything imaginable in between.

The 1999 budget was approved with a deficit predicted for 1999.

Cost cutting was carried out right across all cost centres except the PMS (formerly disease control), and the Publications budget. Bruce Stevenson is to prepare a report for the magazine, with Russell's input, outlining the reasons for the proposed increase of the Apiary levy for the year 2000 collection. (Refer March issue)

Royal Jelly Pollen and Propolis warning labels were covered with Terry Gavin and Don Bell reporting on their meeting with the Associate Health Minister and said we would continue to question the requirements for labelling. We also disagree with the scientific justification for labelling. Submissions have been made to the Food Standards Review Committee.

Don and Terry are to establish who the Australian counterparts are and request their support for a stand against the labelling requirements.

The labelling requirements are now delayed until the 17th of April 1999.

The closing date for submissions on the Western Australian Honey issue has been extended to the 31st of March.

Russell Berry reported he is still working on the Honey analogue issue.

It was agreed due to the very serious drought position in some areas the Executive would delay the closing date for the request for a deferral to the 20th of April, and they would view each applicant individually.

Lin McKenzie will write an article in the May issue of the magazine outlining this initiative.

The Executive does not have the power to waive the levy, only the power to delay payment. Special thanks to the North Otago Branch who wrote to the Executive on this issue.

If you know of some one that is having difficulties with the levy please ask them to contact me in confidence.

How about a site at the at Mystery Creek Field Day in Hamilton managed by the Waikato Branch?

It was agreed this was an excellent idea from the Waikato Branch and the Executive totally supported it. It was suggested that Waikato Branch approach all the North Island Branches and the Marketing Committee for assistance. It was also suggested that the public good from pollination be promoted and Waikato should approach the organiser's for reduction in

Notice of AGM, Canterbury Branch NBA

Date: Thursday, 6 May 1999

Venue: Visions Training Restaurant, Christchurch Polytech,
Corner Madras Street and Ferry Road, Christchurch

Programme:

1. 12:15pm - 1:15pm Lunch
2. 1:30pm AGM Canterbury Branch NBA
 - a. Guest speaker
 - b. President's Report
 - c. Treasurer's Report and Balance Sheet
 - d. Election of Officers
 - e. General Business
3. General Meeting
 - a. Canterbury Branches remit on Apiary Rating system
 - b. General Business

NB: The Canterbury Branch has been asked by Executive to come up with ways of a fairer levy system for its members. If you are unable to attend the general meeting please forward your suggestions to the Canterbury Branch President, ph/fax: (03) 308-3927.

Please make bookings for lunch with Canterbury Branch Secretary as soon as possible, which is necessary to plan the catering requirements for the day. Ph/fax (03) 314-836

NOTICE OF REMIT FORMING MEETING

Date: 25 May 1999, Tuesday

Time: 7:30pm sharp

Venue: Burnside Cricket Club Rooms Burnside Park,
Avonhead Road CHRISTCHURCH

Programme:

1. Preparation of remits for 1999 Conference: NB typed, prepared remits would be appreciated.
2. Nomination of conference delegates
3. General Business

*Dogs think they are human,
cats know they are.*

Bay of Plenty Branch Fieldday

Date: 22nd May - 10am

Venue: Steve and Lorraine Weenink's Honey House,
Lower Kaimai, near Tauranga

Topic: New ideas in Honey Processing

More details in May Issue

Any inquiries: Gerrit Hyink Phone/fax: (07) 549-1223

Email: hyink@xtra.co.nz

Beekeeper's Conference 1999

July 12-15

Venue: Hotel Ashburton, Racecourse Road Ashburton

Programme: Monday - Exec and Specialty groups meet

Tuesday - Seminar Sponsors evening

Wednesday - Conference Bus tour

Conference Dinner and Branch Competition

Thursday - Conference

For accommodation contact:

Hotel Ashburton, Phone/Fax: (03) 308-3059

Rates vary: Executive suite \$120

Twin, Double, Single suites \$80 & \$90

Family units \$120

Enjoy the atmosphere - stay at the Hotel Ashburton

Branch notes from South Canterbury

A hot dry summer resulted in a slightly below average honey crop being extracted in South Canterbury this season, the most common comment being "at least it was better than last year".

Planning is well under way for this year's Conference and Seminar in Ashburton in July. Ashburton is a large rural town, very central to all parts of the South Island.

Timaru, Christchurch and Mt Hutt skifield, approximately one hour travelling time away. The "Racecourse Hotel" is an excellent spacious venue, and we have negotiated a very affordable room rate price.

We are hoping for a big turnout of beekeepers from around the country.

It's disappointing to see the very popular, and important "from the colonies" section practically non-existent now. It was always interesting reading what was going on in the various branches up and down the country. One feels the magazine has lost that "what's happening at grass roots level" with the demise of this column. Maybe its time to appoint some new branch reporters.

Peter Smyth

I agree - Ed

site costs, as this was an educational site not a product selling site.

The Executive agreed 4-2 that pollen analysis should be used as the method of identifying Manuka honey, until a cheaper and superior method comes along.

NBA PMS home page. The Chairman of the PMS Review Committee, Bruce Stevenson said people will very soon be able to de register sites, print out the forms etc as required from this page: <http://www.nba.org.nz>.

The Executive agreed with the PMS Review Committee's recommendation that the AFB Manual be given out free to anyone who has a confirmed Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement (DECA). (This contains all the things you need to know to pass the Competency Test.) They agreed the educational value was very high for the industry and we should make this available. The Executive adopted the PMS Operational Plan for the NBA's PMS.

One of the suggestions put forward was, could an AFB training course be held at Conference?

It was agreed this was an excellent idea and this will be raised with the PMS Review Committee.

Anthony Taiaroa, Publications Chairman reported that the end of year result for the magazine was under budget, plus it had contributed \$30,000 to the NBA funds from subscriptions and advertising income.

Bee poisoning in the South Island was discussed and we were advised that the issue is now with the AgriQual investigation unit so the next step can be taken. I am to contact Dr Goodwin for an update on the Surfactant work he is carrying out. I will advise you in due course of the outcomes.

EU Honey residue survey collection of samples for 1999 is now completed and we are waiting on a price for the testing of the samples.

ACC changes is an interesting subject and you will see an article in the March Magazine to hopefully assist you with this new challenge.

Special thanks to John Moffat and Michael Wraight for all their work in ensuring the night was a success for those who attended.

Terry Gavin said to remind you all that he is looking for nominations for the Roy Paterson Trophy for 1999. (Nominees required by the 15th of June). Terry's phone number is (09) 433-1893.

Don't forget the Diary Conference in July at the Ashburton Hotel. Seminar days 12th and 13th, AGM Conference 14th and 15th of July. See you there?

You will note in the December issue of the magazine I have printed all the School term start and finish dates for you. Is this of assistance?

If you know of anyone going to Apimondi could you ask them to contact me, as we are trying to have a NZ contingent there.

I am still desperate for stories and photos for the magazine. Can you help? Know someone who can?

Harry Brown

WEE REMINDER

Have you paid your magazine Subscription for 1999? If not, sorry, last issue!



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**COMVITA — PROMOTING
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Lethal parasite tightens grip on honey-bees

by David Brown, Agriculture Editor

HONEY supplies are more at risk than ever from a deadly parasite that has devastated bee colonies in England and Wales and is now threatening Scotland, beekeepers warned yesterday.

Varroa, a parasitic mite unknown in Britain until it crossed from the Continent in 1992, is now tightening its grip remorselessly, they said.

Having already wiped out huge numbers of bees as it swept its way through thousands of hives across England and Wales, it is now poised to inflict similar chaos in Scotland.

The mite has established an expanding foothold in the western Scottish borders and has also crossed to the Republic of Ireland.

"Incidence in the UK is continuing to increase.

Doing nothing is not an option," said Adrian Waring, general secretary of the British Beekeepers' Association yesterday.

He was speaking at the launch of National Varroa Week, designed to make Britain's 30,000 beekeepers more aware of

the dangers of varroa and ways of guarding their hives against it.

"Raising awareness of good hive management has never been more important.

We have to collaborate if we stand any chance of trying to eradicate varroa from our hives."

The parasite has totally defeated efforts to halt its invasion. It has proved so aggressive that the Ministry of Agriculture abandoned efforts to eradicate it within months of its arrival.

It now seems as though it is here to stay and all that beekeepers can do is try to minimise the damage most experts believe. Varroa kills some bees, but weakens the colonies, making them more susceptible to other diseases and pests.

Beekeepers have been urged to sift through the debris on the floors of their hives for signs of the mite. If varroa is found the hive could be treated with strips impregnated with Bayvarol hung between the honeycombs.

Medwin Bew, head of Central Science Laboratory's National Bee Unit, said: "Mites can build up to damaging levels much faster than people imagine. It is essential that beekeepers finding it for the first time do not assume that they have plenty of time."

The pest crossed into Scotland late last year. Since then it has established itself in Dumfries and Galloway and parts of Roxburghshire.

Dr Flora Isles, spokesman for the Scottish Beekeepers Association, said: "We have about 6,000 beekeepers in Scotland and only a third belong to a recognised association. Our main concern is to inform non-members how important it is to take action."

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Ignore bees at your peril

Growers who spray insecticides without taking into account nearby beehives, are likely to be the masters of their own misfortune.

Bee deaths were a problem in Hawke's Bay this spring because of patchy flowering.

According to Arataki Honey director Ian Berry, this meant parts of some orchards were being sprayed after petal fall, while other varieties were still flowering.

"While most orchardists are aware of bee toxicity and get hives off-orchard before using post-petal fall sprays, some hive losses occurred because some growers just don't care," he told NZPA.

While Mr Berry said beekeepers would no longer provide pollination services if the problem got too bad, AGCARM executive director Jack Richardson says there's a more indirect threat - ERMA regulations.

"The Ministry for the Environment is developing regulations for ERMA to control eco-toxic products like insecticides," says Dr Richardson.

"There was an early suggestion that users would have to notify all beekeepers with hives within a two km radius before spraying.

"[It is important that users are responsible, so a realistic set of procedures is approved."

Acknowledgment
Auckland Review Dec 99

SNI Field day Cheltenham March 1999

Forty beekeepers, (mostly commercial) sacrificed a beautiful day away from their extraction plants to gather and swap ideas in a peaceful part of rural Manawatu.

Following a cup of tea and scones, James Driscoll went through the DECA requirements. A DECA just summarises what you normally practice in the bee yard. Fill in each section, selecting the alternatives or use "other" if yours differs from that suggested. Unless there is something strikingly amiss, it should be granted. Hopefully a few more will decide to get that paper work, we tuck away for a rainy day, out and sent into his office. An important day is that this must be granted by 1 January next year, otherwise it could be very expensive for you if somebody else has to come in and inspect your hives.

Our second item covered changes to the ACC brought about by the new Accident Insurance Act 1998. The Branch and District Managers from Farmers Mutual Group presented an overhead explaining the changes to the Act, that will soon allow all employers and the self employed to select their own health insurer for 24 hour accident requirements. We do not have to make a decision until 1 July 2000 as ACC will continue to provide cover, but most insurance providers are providing cover from 1 July 1999.

Farmers Mutual Group is the only New Zealand wholly owned company, and being a mutual society, does not have to make a profit for shareholders, consequently their policies reflect this. Also a small part of the premium comes back to the NBA if you say you're a beekeeper. Their policy to Cover Accidents, tailored to farmers is called "Recover".

Some of the main points to consider are:

When deciding to change, remember you will need to pay up front (or in instalments throughout the year) where as ACC is taken out at the end of the year. This effectively means we will be paying two premiums in the year you make the change, so

budget for this, (now). There is also a bit more added to your tax in the form of a "Residential Claims Levy" to cover the 3.1 billion dollars required for those already on ACC.

When considering changing you'll need some specific information (see last month's beekeeper page 18). Because Beekeepers incomes fluctuate, you can now add a top-up to your accident insurance that will allow a decent wage as well as providing for extra labour while you are off work.

If an outside agency provides a risk profile on your business, the premium could be up to 20 % cheaper, (this could be a saving for bigger business who have an accident free record and good documentation). Get an assessment from Farmers Mutual before you sign up with an insurer.

After lunch we looked at Kym Matthewman's nuc yard just opposite the hall. This showed the effects of a hot dry summer. Some were light on stores and will need additional feeding to bring them through to the spring. Those present had a good opportunity to discuss different techniques, wintering down and to assess quiet, gently bees.

Back at the hall, Harry enlightened us to the activities of the NBA, and explained his position as the agency provider for the PMS. A discussion followed on funding, apiary sizes and seasonal apiary sites. He suggested we should formulate this as a remit to Conference suggesting changes.

Frank gave a brief summary on the clover weevil and it's spread from information via the Internet. This was followed by a discussion on the crop. Most districts reported the crop was down on past years and varied from apiary to apiary. Manuka and clover were down while darker honey prevailed. Late flows of Lacebark and koromiko had been stacked around the brood nest

Somebody left a bee top behind - contact the Lindsays.

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Frank reflects...

by Frank Lindsay

Daylight saving has finished, the sun's coming up later and going down earlier, although still warm, nature is making preparations for winter and so should we. Wintering down is very important, good preparation now provides the foundation for the next season's honey crop.

Requirements:

Disease free, adequate stores of honey and pollen, a young queen, plenty of bees, (enough to cover at least a super of frames), then there are environmental aspects to look at:

Position hives out of the wind. They must have full sun for at least a few hours in the morning. A good foundation and sloping towards the front. Sound woodware and in some areas, top ventilation.

Stores

How many supers and how much honey do I leave on the hives, are the questions most asked. Basically it all depends on when your honey flow starts and whether you wish to feed hives in the spring.

A number of commercial beekeepers reduce their hives to a single full depth super once brood rearing has finished. They leave approximately six frames of honey in the hives and commence supplementary feeding of sugar syrup (and pollen substitute) from August, until the flow starts. This way they control the build up of their hives right up to the main flow at Christmas.

Others winter two high, leaving a full super of honey (22 - 24 kg) and start their rounds a little later, only feeding those hives that are light. I prefer to winter my hives three high with a large population of bees as we get very early spring honey flows and unless the bees have room to expand, they swarm.

The bees don't always sort things out nicely for you. I don't use queen excluders and will in the autumn sometimes find brood in the third super. This is put down into the second super and replaced with honey. Sometimes hives get "honeyed out" - the bees fill up every frame apart from a small patch of brood in the two centre frames. Generally this happens with an old queen. Add a super to the bottom of the hive, restrict the entrance to 25 mm and replace the queen as soon as possible. Another sign of a failing queen is an abnormally large amount of pollen in a hive.

Some hives don't gather enough honey to support themselves and require immediate supplementary feeding to increase the stores. Use an internal feeder and continue feeding thick syrup (1 part water -1 part sugar until stores are adequate. I do not usually do this, preferring to unite a good colony "on top" of the weak on, (using two sheets of newspaper to allow slow uniting).

Queen

The queen is the heart of the colony. Her egg laying ability is directly proportional to the honey crop you receive next season (provided you control swarming). Ideally, she should be less than a year old but unless you mark them, their age is hard to gauge. Look at a patch of 4-7 day old larvae and note whether the larvae are all the same size. Larvae of different sizes can be an indication of a failing

queen.

If you have an old queen in the hive, order a new queen now for the spring. Unfortunately, due to the fickle weather conditions in the spring, queen breeders can only supply when they have mated, laying queens. Quite often, cells are put out into nucs but the weather conditions do not permit mating, so while you are sitting there saying where's my queen, so are the breeders. That's why it's a good idea to replace queens between January and March. It's easier for queen breeders and while there's a flow on, you get a better acceptance.

Enough bees

For wintering, we require a lot of young bees to carry the hive through, (enough to cover a full depth super). Older field bees gradually die off during the winter, the younger autumn bees have to raise the next generation. Brood rearing in the spring is very hard on bees and unless there are plenty of bees, pollen and honey, stress disorders start to show up, (chalk brood, sac brood, and nosema).

Environmental Conditions

It's not until winter that you find out just how good your site is. It should be sunny, sheltered and away from neighbours, etc. Those without apiaries may need to protect them from stock. I tie mine with a nylon rope through the pallets they sit on.

WINTERING DOWN

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Excellent condition

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That way, if they are knocked over, the supers stay together and the hive survives. A tip when looking for a hive site on farmland is to ask the farmer where's the warmest spot on the farm. If not sure, look for where the cattle congregate at night.

As you are preparing the hive for winter, check the hives foundations for rot. Make sure the bottom board is off the ground so there is airflow under the hive, (spray or cut away grass) and it has a slight slope towards the front. Landing boards are always of interest. How big really depends upon how much sun the hive gets. Bees returning early in the spring are chilled and often land short of the entrance. A sloping board in front allows them to walk in. If however, the hives get plenty of sun, they soon warm up and make their way in.

Replace any woodware that needs attention and remove, or move any dark, broken frames to the outer edges of the supers.

I restrict my hive entrance to 75x9mm to prevent rats and mice wintering over in my hives, (my hives are close to the bush so these are a problem and they can cause a considerable amount of damage). Others nail 75mm pieces of tin on the bottom boards so it forms a tunnel at the entrance. This gives protection against the wind and stops rats enlarging the entrance. Yet other lucky beekeepers don't have these problems and leave them wide open all year round.

If you restrict the entrance, you may have to provide a little top ventilation. This really depends on your location and climate. Some areas are very dry and the moisture given off by the bees during winter dissipates, but where I am it's quite wet and condensation builds up on the top bars causing them to rot within a few years. Hence I provide a 25 mm slot in the crown boards (I use them as split boards in the spring) which allows a slight airflow all year round unless the bees block it up. (Research indicates that bees require a change of air every hour during the winter). Others put drawing pins or matches under each corner to raise the roof a little. The idea is to get a balance where hives are dry but not draughty. (If you overdo the ventilation, the bees quickly chew through their stores just to keep warm).

Unfortunately not all hives make it through the winter even though you set them up correctly. This is the reason why most

hobbyists have two hives and commercial beekeepers winter over nucs. A number of extra frames of honey are required to over-winter a nuc but they can be worth while to make up dead-outs, sell or use in the spring to make two queen hives.

Storage of supers

One of your most valuable assets you have is your drawn honey frames and these should be protected from the ravages of wax moth. Again there are several methods for this.

Some store their dry honey supers in windy sheds (covered by queen excluders) where it's too cold for the wax moth larvae to survive. Others freeze them for 24 hours to kill eggs and larvae and then store them covered. Others store them "Wet", (ie stored immediately after extraction and covered to prevent robbing) but this is not recommended as it can also spread AFB if you miss a hive during your inspection.

Smaller beekeepers can use PDB (Para Dichlorobenzene) crystals - **DO NOT USE MOTH BALLS.**

Place a newspaper on the floor and stack up to eight supers on top. Seal any cracks with tape or paper. Place a heaped tablespoon of PDB crystals on a sheet of paper or in a saucer on the top supers and cover. The crystals convert to a gas and expel the air thus killing all the larvae. Repeat again in a month, as this treatment will not kill wax moth eggs.

Note: Frames and supers must be aired for a few days before they are put on the hives in the spring.

Summary of Activities: Winter down, close down entrances, replace rotten woodware, control grass and protect your honey supers from wax moth. Clean and put away your extraction gear.

Had E-mail from a happy Levin Hobbyist. He has had his best year yet, 154kg from his best hive, something to aim at.

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Executive Committee Members

Nominations for 1999 -

Close off for the acceptance of nominations

5.00pm Saturday, 15th of May 1999

WEE REMINDER

**Have you paid your magazine Subscription for
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For Sale...

**18 Frame Rotary Extractor
(baskets)**

Good condition - Offers

Phone Bruce on: (07) 533-1295
State Highway 2, RD 6, Te Puke

Wee reminder

**If you require a deferral I need your request by the
20th April to avoid penalties.**

**Having difficulty paying the levy?
(The Executive can not waive the levy but will
try and accommodate your request).**

**Confidentiality guaranteed
Call Harry on (06) 843-3446.**

Driving hours, Logbooks, Goods Service Licence

Exemptions and the use of hubodometers

On 1 April 1993 changes occurred in transport safety legislation relating to driving hours and logbooks.

Driving hours

Since 1 April 1993 a driver's minimum continuous rest period every 24 hours has been nine hours, not 10. This change has allowed drivers more flexibility in the way they use an hour of time off during the day. The legal maximum number of driving hours in a 24 hour period has remained the same, at 11.

The legal rest period drivers must have at the end of a working week was also made more flexible. Instead of having to take a 24 hour day off every seven days, drivers are required to rest for 24 hours after either 66 cumulative driving hours or 70 cumulative "hours on duty", whichever comes first.

Logbooks

Logbook rules were also altered to reduce bureaucracy. Operators may now apply to the Director of Land Transport Safety to use alternative devices such as computers to replace logbooks. To be acceptable the devices must be able to record all the information logbooks do, including details of the previous ten days. It is an offence for drivers or operators to keep more than one logbook (or other device doing the same job) in use at a time.

Logbook exemptions

Drivers of certain goods service vehicles may not have to fill out a logbook if their vehicles:

- * have no more than two axles fitted
- * have a manufacturer's gross laden weight of less than 14000kg
- * operate within a 50km radius of the operator's business location or the normal base of operation for the vehicle is not being used for hire or reward

If vehicles fit into a category that is outlined in the Transport (Drivers Logbook Exemption) Notice 1990 then they are also exempt from the logbook requirements. This notice is shown on the reverse of this fact sheet.

Goods Service Licence exemptions

Some vehicles do not require Goods Service Licences. All goods service vehicles over 6000kg gross laden weight require a goods service licence when operated, regardless of whether goods are carried for hire or reward. The law change has meant that the goods service licence requirement for ancillary operators only applies to vehicles over 6000kg. However, this requirement does not apply to those operators running services for hire or reward, like couriers. All goods service vehicles that are used for hire or reward require goods service licences.

The change was made because the

previous weight limit made things unnecessarily difficult for ancillary operators like farmers drain layers and manufacturers. Now, those people carrying their own goods in smaller trucks are free of the goods service licence requirement. Ancillary operators using vehicles weighing over 6000kg to carry their own goods still require a goods service licence.

Use of hubodometers

Hubodometers must be used on heavy vehicles at all times. Penalties apply to drivers and operators using vehicles without hubos. The offence brings with it a fine and drivers and operators also receive 50 demerit points on their records. If operators or drivers accumulate 200 demerit points within 2 years, the Director of Land Transport Safety will disqualify them from operating or driving for five years.

For further information contact:

**Land Transport Safety Authority,
Head Office, PO Box 2840,
Wellington
Freephone 0800-699-000**

The Transport (Driver Logbooks Exemption) Notice 1999

SCHEDULE

Part A

Vehicles and Classes of Vehicles Declared to be Exempt from section 70C of the Act

1. Every vehicle (other than a passenger service vehicle) owned and operated by a territorial authority, a telecommunication authority, an electrical supply authority, and driven by an employee for whom driving is secondary to their principal employment.
2. Every harvesting machine travelling between harvesting sites a distance not exceeding 10 kilometres.
3. Every vehicle owned by the owner or manager of a farm and used in an agricultural operation related directly to the management of that farm within a 50 kilometre distance of that farm; including a vehicle used on a road to transport farm products, farm implements, stock, or farm requisites of any kind within such a distance.
4. Every vehicle driver, for the purpose of obtaining a certificate of fitness, a warrant of fitness, or a permit under section 79(3) of the Act, if the vehicle is being driven to the nearest place at which such a certificate, warrant or permit is obtainable, and every vehicle driven from that place to the operators normal business location.
5. Every goods service that has two axles and is towing a trailer having more than 1 axle, where, on journeys not exceeding 100 kilometres, the total combined gross

laden weight of the vehicle and trailer does not exceed 3500 kilograms.

6. Every logstacker, forklift, and straddle carrier used exclusively in off-road areas to which the public does not have access as of right.

7. Every aircraft refuelling vehicle operating within a three kilometre radius of the control tower of the international airport at Auckland or Wellington or Christchurch.

8. Every vehicle operated by any person recognised by the Director of Land Transport Safety as a person who suffers from a medical condition that results in a physical inability to keep logbooks.

9. Every vehicle operated by any person recognised by the Director of Land Transport Safety as a person whose principal employment does not involve the driving of vehicles to which 70B of the Act applies, used within a 50 kilometre radius of that person's place of work.

10. Every vehicle operated by any person operating solely as a domestic rubbish collection service on contract to a local authority for collection between 0500 and 1900 Monday to Friday.

11. Every goods service vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of 6000 kilogrammes or less operated within a 50 kilometre radius of the owners business location.

12. Every goods service vehicle operated on a service within a 50 kilometre radius of the operator's business location where the timetable and driver roster has been approved by the Director of Land Transport Safety Authority.

Part B

Services Declared to be Exempt from section 70C of the Act

1. Every service not being a vehicle recovery service licensee engaged solely in the manufacture, mechanical repair, road testing, sales, servicing or demonstration of new or used vehicles within a 50 kilometre radius of the service organisations business location.
2. Every vehicle recovery service, in as much as the recovery of vehicles is carried out solely by a vehicle that is, apart from the fitting of a tow hitch or ringfeeder, not otherwise adapted to lift or carry a disabled vehicle, and where the vehicle under tow is in a roadworthy condition apart from a mechanical or electrical defect and when the towing takes place between 0700 and 1800.
3. Every service engaged solely in the refuelling and reloading of agricultural aircraft when operating from an airfield or airstrip, but not whilst operating on the public highway.
4. Every transport service operated on Chatham Islands, Great Barrier or Stewart Island.

Thanks to Brian Alexander

Moroccan Spiced Hummus

- 2 (15-1/2oz) cans garbanzo beans, drained and rinsed.
- 1/3 cup honey
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp minced garlic
- 1/2 tsp salt
- cayenne pepper (dash)
- 2-3 tbsp chopped, fresh cilantro or parsley
- Toasted Pita Triangle or crackers

Combine all ingredients except cilantro and Pita Triangles in a food processor or blender. Process until smooth. Remove mixture to a serving bowl. Stir in chopped cilantro or parsley. Serve with Pita Triangles or crackers.

To make Pita Triangles: Separate and cut rounds of pita bread to form 2 circles each. Cut each circle into 6 or 8 triangles. Place on a baking sheet. Bake at 400°F about 5 minutes until crisp and lightly browned at edges. *(Makes 2-1/2 cups dip).*

Roasted Honey-Pepper Pork

- 1 boneless pork loin roast (about 2-1/2 lbs)
- 1/4 cup honey
- 2 tbsp Dijon-style mustard
- 2 tbsp Crushed mixed peppercorns*
- 1/2 tsp thyme, crushed
- 1/2 tsp Salt
- Honey Cranberry Relish
- Garnish: fresh thyme and cranberries

Carefully score roast 1/2 inch deep completely around roast, taking care not to cut string holding roast together. Combine all remaining ingredients; mix well. Spoon or brush 2/3 of honey mixture over pork to coat. Place meat on roasting rack in baking pan. Roast at 300°F 1 hour; brush with remaining honey mixture and cook about 45 minutes or until thermometer inserted into thickest part registers 170°F. Cool 10 minutes before slicing. Garnish with fresh thyme and cranberries. Serve with Honey Cranberry Relish. *(Makes 8 servings).*

Honey Cranberry Relish

Coarsely chop 1 package (12 oz.) fresh or frozen whole cranberries** and 1 medium orange in food processor or by hand. Stir in 3/4 cup honey. Bring to boil over medium-high heat and cook 3 to 4 minutes. Cool.

Tips: Line baking pan with aluminium foil for easy clean-up. Orange blossom honey adds exceptional flavour to relish.

*Black or white peppercorns can be substituted.

**One can (15 oz.) whole cranberries can be substituted. *(Makes 2-1/4 cups).*

Honey Herb Sauce for Vegetables

- 1/4 cup honey
- 2 tbsp. onion, minced
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine
- 1/2 tsp thyme, crushed
- salt and pepper, to taste

Combine all ingredients in a small saucepan and bring to a boil; cook 2 minutes. Toss with vegetables of choice such as peas, zucchini, spinach, broccoli, green beans, etc. Serve over couscous as a vegetarian entree or alone as a side dish. *(Makes about 2/3 cups).*



Mexican Coffee

- 4 cups hot espresso-style coffee
- 3/4 cup half-and-half
- 1/2 cup honey
- 2 tbsp unsweetened cocoa
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- Sweetened whipped cream
- Chocolate shavings

Combine coffee, half-and-half, honey, cocoa and cinnamon in blender and blend 1 minute on high. Pour into mugs; garnish with whipped cream and chocolate shavings.

Notes: Hot strong coffee can be substituted for espresso. *(Makes 4 servings).*

Honey Make My Morning Muffins

These muffins are easy to make and they are very moist.

- 1/2 cup milk
 - 1/4 cup honey
 - 1 egg, beaten
 - 2 1/2 cups buttermilk baking mix (sometimes called biscuit mix)
- In a medium bowl, combine milk, honey and beaten egg; mix and stir until moistened. Spoon into greased muffin tins. Bake at 400°F for 18-20 minutes. *(Makes 10 to 12 muffins).*

Honey-Kissed Chocolate Drop Cookies

- 1 cup honey
- 6 tbsp. butter or margarine, softened
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- Rainbow candy sprinkles
- Chocolate candy kisses

In medium bowl, cream honey and butter until light and fluffy. Beat in flour, cocoa powder and baking soda. Pour rainbow sprinkles into separate bowl. With hands, shape dough into 1-inch balls. Drop balls into rainbow sprinkles and roll gently to coat. Place balls on well-greased baking sheet and gently press one chocolate kiss into center of each cookie. Bake at 350°F for 10 minutes. Do not overbake. Remove cookies from sheet and cool on wire rack. *(Makes 3 dozen cookies).*

Old-Fashioned Oatmeal Pie

- 3/4 cup honey
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 3/4 cup quick cooking rolled oats
- 1/2 cup coconut
- 3/4 cup dried cranberries, currants or raisins
- 3/4 cup chopped walnuts
- 9-inch unbaked pie shell
- whipped cream, if desired

Combine all ingredients except pie shell and whipped cream; mix well. Pour into pie shell. Bake at 350°F 40 to 45 minutes or until filling browns and knife blade inserted near center comes out clean. Cool. Top with whipped cream, if desired and serve. *(Makes 8 servings).*

Honey fruit Truffles

- 6 oz. unsweetened chocolate, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup honey
- 2 tbsp. butter or margarine
- 2 tbsp. heavy cream
- 1/2 cup dried apricots, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder

Combine chocolate, honey, butter and cream in top of a double boiler. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until chocolate is melted and smooth. Stir in apricots. Refrigerate 1 hour, or until mixture is firm. To form truffles, roll rounded teaspoonfuls into balls. Roll each ball in cocoa powder. Store in an airtight container until ready to serve. *(Makes about 24 truffles).*

Microwave Method:

In a medium, microwave-safe container, combine chocolate, honey, butter and cream. Microwave on High power for 1 minute. Stir smooth.

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

17th, 18th, 19th May 1999 WELLINGTON
12th July 1999 ASHBURTON

1999 BEEKEEPERS CONFERENCE

JULY 12th to 15th 1999
AGM - 14th, 15th of July

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