

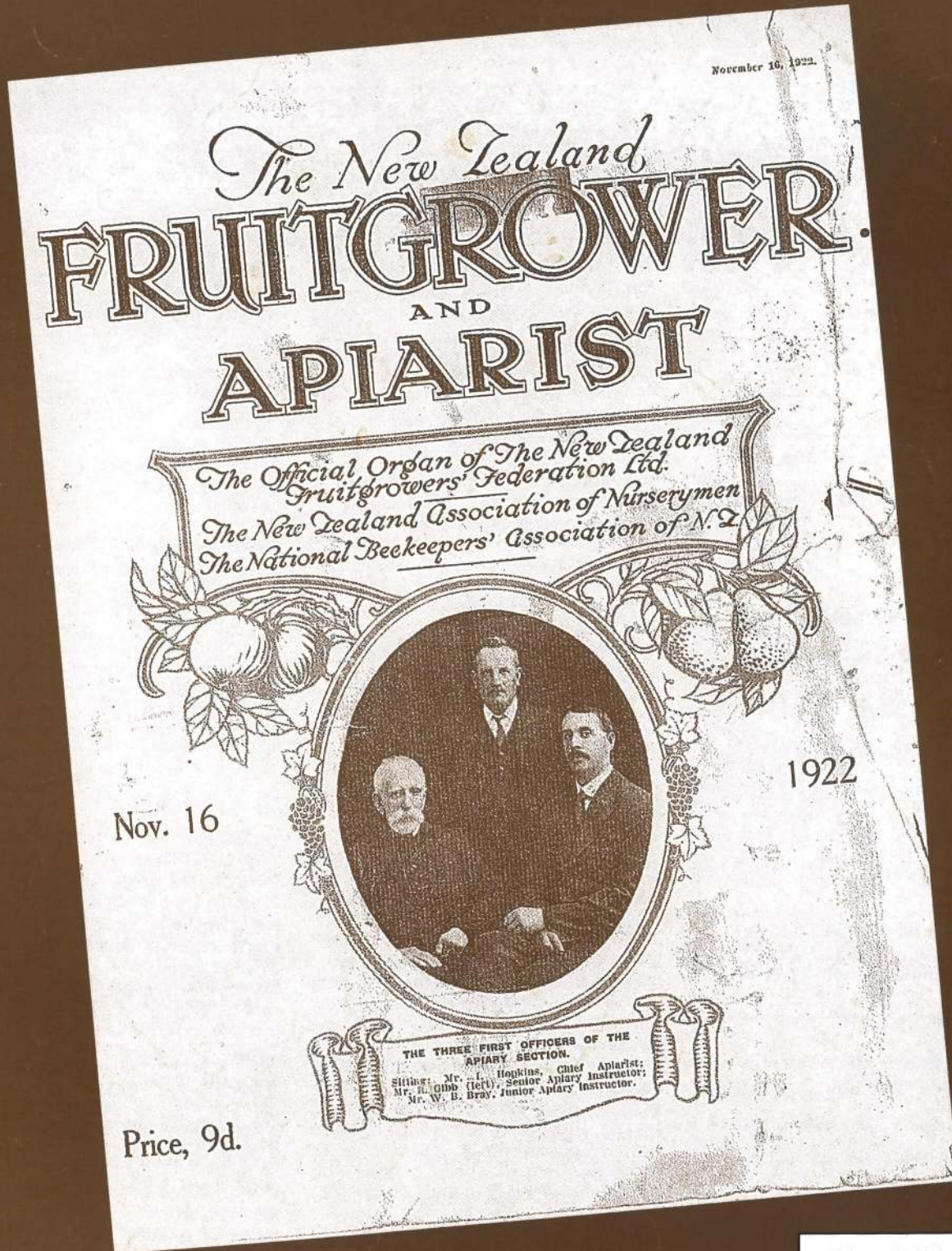
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The New Zealand BeeKeeper

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November 16, 1922.

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Vice-President:

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

Executive:

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

Don Bell

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

Lin McKenzie

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

Bruce Stevenson

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

Editor *New Zealand BeeKeeper*:

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

Executive Secretary: Harry Brown

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

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BRANCHES

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

FAR NORTH

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

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

NORTHLAND

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

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Sheddock Apiaries, RD 1, Paparua,
Nth Auckland.
Tel: (09) 431-7348

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Woodhaugh Apiaries, RD 3,
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Jim Thompson
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Ohaupo Apiaries
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HAWKE'S BAY

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Barry Foster
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Email:bjfoster@xtra.co.nz

SOUTHERN NORTH ISLAND

Robin McCammon
Utuwai
RD, Ashurst.
Tel: (06) 329-4861

Frank Lindsay
26 Cunliffe Street, Johnsonville,
Wellington 6004.
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SOUTH ISLAND

NELSON
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Motueka.
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Michael Wraight
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MARLBOROUGH

Hamish Harper
Mahau Sounds, RD 2, Picton.
Tel: (03) 574-2482
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Jeff Hook
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Sandy Richardson
Napoleon St, Ahaura, Westland.
Tel: (03) 732-3724, Fax: (03) 732-3774

CANTERBURY

Richard Bensemann
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Leeston.
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Trevor Corbett
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North Canterbury.
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SOUTH CANTERBURY

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

OTAGO

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

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

NORTH OTAGO

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

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

SOUTHLAND

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

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

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The *New Zealand BeeKeeper* is published eleven times per annum; February to December. All copy should be with the Editor by the 1st day of the month of publication except for December when copy should be received by 20th November.

Notes from the Executive

by Russell Berry

I quote from my article in the March 1999 *New Zealand BeeKeeper*:

"I suspect you want more from your Organisation than you are willing or can afford to pay for! So if you don't want to pay or can't pay, tell us what you don't want us to do."

We have heard very little from you regarding what you don't want us to do. But we are hearing a lot about you not wanting to pay. We are listening very hard and cutting costs. But how about telling us some of the things you don't want us to do.

Is the value of your work recognised?

What concerns me is the high cost to us all of the voluntary time given by NBA members. I know most of us enjoy the work but do you enjoy it as much as a day's fishing, skiing, playing with your grandchildren, or yarning with your fellow beekeepers? If you are a commercial beekeeper, meetings etc should count as work. To show you what I mean, take one branch, which has three meetings, involved with conference remits. Say 20 people at each meeting travel an average return trip of 100kms @ 50 cents = 1,000
7 hours each member @ \$20
per hour = \$140 each x 20 2,800

x three meetings x 3 3,800
One branch three meetings 11,400
Say total for one branch for one year 20,000
Say for 15 branches \$300,000

Add in all sub-committee and executive meetings and you soon find that the cost of time involved in NBA affairs is far higher than the total apiary levies paid by the beekeeping industry. Beekeepers are extremely generous in giving this huge amount of time to the Industry. You never hear any grizzles about the cost. You never hear comments about what this time is costing their businesses or any requests for reductions. In fact most just ignore the cost altogether and haven't a clue what the costs are to their beekeeping businesses each year.

One of the crazy things is that the cost of work hours thinking about, trying to reduce, or stretching the budget and general financial management of the NBA, is probably not far behind the total apiary levy. Where are we going wrong? We are such a small organisation with such a small turnover doing such a great job for New Zealand beekeepers and for the public good and public benefit of New Zealand as a whole. And yes, we do our part for the benefit of world beekeeping as well.

I am not saying we should not cut costs, we should wherever we can, and we will, but please remember that the big cost is voluntary time given by many of our members. It would be helpful if some of our members would remember that we are not Telecom or Air New Zealand, Fletchers or a government department, but just this wonderful NBA. What we should be looking at even more is how to save money in our beekeeping businesses or create the correct environment for you to generate

extra income. There never seems to be any discussion as to whether the NBA structure generates the environment to allow beekeepers to make four million dollars, or five million or 10 million dollars extra profit by what we do.

I would like you all to contemplate this question in the bath for an hour or two instead of playing with those computer keyboards trying to be the first to send out some confidential information you have just received. Sorry, you may look a bit wrinkled after this exercise!

Pest Management Strategy

Now for the sacred cow! I always get hit over the head when I mention the PMS. Before I start, I am in favour of an efficient Past Management Strategy for eliminating AFB. But I wish government would help us to get on with the job instead of placing difficulties in the way. I also believe we have to recognise that very much stronger negotiating by the NBA has to be used in looking after the beekeepers' interest. I believe that if you feel you are paying more for disease control than a couple of years ago, but receiving less service, (did I hear you say, what service?), then I would agree with you.

But as soon as we mention costs savings in the implementation of the PMS, some people say no, sacred cow protected by law. Well, I say, Bull! Let us get on with cutting the costs of the PMS. Let us make it efficient, let us make it work. I understand the wording of the contract with AgriQual, which came into operation late last year, has still not even been finalised. I would suggest the PMS Review committee members should be given the opportunity to get on with reviewing the contract now, so we can get value for the money paid.

Marketing and Publication Sub-Committees

I am very glad to say that the other two major committees, Marketing and Publications, have both been working very well although we would have been happier still if the Marketing committee had been able to generate \$10,000 worth of income to defray expenses. The proof of how these two sub-committees are working - just look at a *BeeKeepers' Journal* of 10 years ago and look at it now and look at the research that has been carried out at the Waikato University on honey, compared with a few years ago, or just listen to Dr Peter Molan who is so excited about the future of New Zealand honey.

It seems that most people want the good work of the Marketing committee to carry on, but when asked to pay, they say that perhaps the Honey Industry Trust funds could be used to pay \$80,000 for one year of the Marketing committee costs. (I will be asking the Trustees this question before conference). Perhaps they would like to pay this every year from now on. Oops! Perhaps the Trustees have other ideas, that sometime in the future they might like to fund other projects or research. I hope the Trustees will be able to help us out for another year, but we all may have to face

up to the fact that user pays is here to stay.

Top Priorities

The very lifeblood of your business, both monetary and enjoyment, is I believe, to keep pests and diseases out of New Zealand.

To keep genetically modified plants and genetically modified nectar bearing plants out of New Zealand.

To influence Government Acts and Regulations and behaviour, so making them more user friendly to the NZ beekeeping industry.

To encourage government to recognise the public good and public benefit created by the beekeeping industry.

To this end your Executive has made the following submissions during the last three months:

Submission opposing the Proposal to Import Honey from Western Australia

Submission re Proposal to Import Honey and Propolis from Pitcairn Island

Submission opposing the Biological Control of Broom

Submission on Infant Botulism

Submission on the Animal Products Bill Supplementary Order Paper

Submission on Surfactants

This has involved us in a huge amount of paper, including reference material. We wish to pass on special thanks to Dr Mark Goodwin as a major contributor of scientific and research material for two of these submissions.

I hope you have enjoyed Conference and a winter holiday.

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The New Zealand BeeKeeper THIS ISSUE

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Cover: Your first copy of the magazine in 1922. Courtesy of John Heineman.

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 and are not to be regarded as representing the opinion of the Editor or Publisher."

Dear Sir

HealthCare in New Zealand

The above article in the May 1999 *BeeKeeper* horrified me by its utter meanness. Not so long ago we paid our taxes and our National Health Service looked after us all in case of need. State paternalism or state socialism, I don't care what name it had since it worked fairly well. People with lots of money and people with no money had equal needs, got equally sick and got equal treatment.

Kate in her lifetime produced an immense amount of wealth, she looked after her husband and children and grandchildren, she never made any money but when her hips have it away she went to hospital and came out almost as good as new. Her husband worked on the roads driving a roller, he also produced a lot of wealth for all of us but never made much money. He fell off the roller and broke his arm and went to hospital and had it repaired. James the stockbroker made a lot of money but never produced the slightest wealth for anybody. He had a bad heart and went to hospital and they repaired it for him.

Ten years later what would have happened? Kate would still have bad hips and be put on a waiting list for the rest of her life; her husband would not have been able to pay for her. His arm would get fixed all right at taxpayers expense. James would pay for his operation and receive excellent treatment.

Why should Kate miss out? Why did the author of the previous article, Adrian Robinson, have to wait in pain for a whole year with kidney stones? We have a greater population and presumably

more doctors and nurses to look after us. Doctors and nurses also produce a lot of wealth. As a Beekeeper I produce a lot of wealth for everybody each year but I never seem to acquire a lot of money. If I get something nasty and painful how long will it be before I am properly treated?

The only way out of this unethical system is to have a fair system of taxation, if we

all were taxed at 30% the man at the bottom of the financial heap on about \$15,000 would pay \$4500 (and he would grumble) and the man on \$150,000 would pay \$45,000 (and he would grumble even more loudly). And I don't think anyone on earth is worth \$150,000, not even Mother Theresa.

Yours faithfully

George Nichols

Dear Sir

Jac and Judy Olykan of Buchanans Road Honey Farm Ltd advise that due to circumstances beyond our control we are no longer contract packers to the New Zealand honey producers Co-operative Ltd. This brings to an end 30 years of service to the honey packing industry, 15 as manager for the New Zealand Honey Marketing Authority and 15 as the owner/proprietor of the Buchanan's Road Honey Farm Ltd, packing exclusively for the New Zealand Honey Producers Co-operative.

We would like to collectively acknowledge all those people within the industry who have contributed to our long and happy association, as you are all too numerous to mention individually. We look forward to thanking you all in person in the fullness of time. We have also had the good fortune to employ outstanding and long-serving staff, who have made our workplace a great place to be.

A special thanks to our very first visitor when we arrived here 30 years ago, his accent and quirky sense of humour are well known to the beekeeping fraternity, and John Smith remains a great friend to this day.

There have been beekeeping overalls at the back door since Jac was 12 years old and they will be there a while longer yet.

Yours sincerely

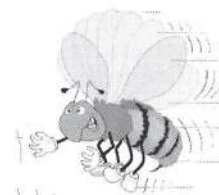
Jac and Judy Olykan

Dear Sir

Does a reader have a good way of cleaning leather beekeeping gloves so they will be left soft and supple?

Yours faithfully

John Mason



1999 Executive Election Results

The following votes were recorded for the 1999 Executive Election for the North Island.

Berry, Russell	-	643 votes received
Gavin, Terry	-	968 votes received
Hyink, Gerrit	-	718 votes received

I hereby declare, that Messrs Gavin and Hyink are the newly elected members for the North Island.

No election required for the South Island, Mr Don Bell was elected unopposed.

H Brown, Returning Officer

Canterbury Branch

July Evening Meeting

Date: 27 July 1999 Tuesday

Time: 7.30 pm sharp

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

Programme:

1. Report from the Conference by Delegates
2. General Business

Supper provided at \$1.00 per head.

TW Corbett, Secretary

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir

Over time my average yearly loss due to AFB has been \$0.00 per hive, chalkbrood less than \$1.00 (est.) per hive, NBA \$6.00 per hive, in severe cases up to \$22.00.

Obviously my only concern is with the hives infected with NBA.

In the past I may have unintentionally aided its spread, filling out locations etc.

I now keep things really clean, never fill out forms. In fact anything suspect of being NBA related, I carry at arms length, holding my nose, and drop in the trash can.

However, those already infected don't seem to be able to shake it off.

Does anyone have any ideas? My goal is to cut my loses down to \$1.50 per hive.

Phil Roche, Waitara

Beekeeping software for windows

Radford Consultants will be manning a stand at the upcoming Beekeepers Conference to promote their BeesPlus Beekeeping Inventory Management software for Windows. This will provide Beekeepers with a unique opportunity to view the software in operation, meet the author and to ask any questions they may have regarding the system.

The stand will be manned and operational for the full four days. During this period, staff on the stand will be in a position to install a full working retail copy of the software, free of charge, on to any computer brought to the conference. The installed system will be good for up to 50 logons and can be easily converted to unlimited use, upon purchase, by entry of a simple pin number.

This is a unique 'try before you buy' opportunity including free installation and hands on training. Beekeepers wishing to take advantage of this should bring their computer with them to the conference (only 'the box' is required). They should, however, first check the free space available on their systems - BeesPlus requires approximately 30MB for a full installation.

Auckland Branch

Convention Delegates Report Meeting

Date: Thursday July 29th
Time: 7.30pm
Hosts: Rob & Janey Johnston

Venue Signposted Residence, Runciman Road,
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Surveillance for exotic disease of honey bees

Quarterly report for period 1 Jan 1999 to 31 March 1999

Sample Collection

Requests for 500 adult bee and 500 honey samples were sent out to selected beekeepers early this year as part of the PMS. A reminder letter has recently been sent to those of you who have not yet sent in the requested sample. Please give this your urgent attention. Remember that these samples are tested for both AFB and exotic disease. Access to overseas markets for New Zealand bees and bee products is dependent on us being able to show that we are free of EFB and parasitic mites. This can only be done by testing a large number of samples collected from around the country.

Suspect Disease Investigation

Seven cases of suspect European foulbrood were investigated during the quarter. All tested negative. A well published episode of spray drift poisoning in Canterbury was investigated and samples taken for testing for exotic mites. No mites were detected. Spray poisoning can show similar symptoms to a case of severe exotic mite infestation so should always be considered as a possibility in such cases.

Beekeeper Education in Exotic Disease Recognition

Training courses in American foulbrood recognition, for Approved Beekeepers under the PMS, are about to start. These will include an exotic disease recognition component.

Reporting on Suspect Cases and Testing Turnaround Time

Restructuring of the reference laboratories as part of the split of AgriQuality New Zealand from MAF has caused problems

including slow reporting and slow turnaround times. This has caused some anxiety to those of you who have had suspect cases sent in from your hives. New systems for submission and reporting have had to be developed which we hope will speed up this process.

A new approach to surveillance for exotic disease of honey bees

The apiculture surveillance programme has two objectives:

- To meet the reporting requirements of our trading partners to facilitate trade in bees, honey, and bee products.
- To assist in the detection of a new or exotic disease of honey bees.

The New Zealand beekeeping industry have taken responsibility for control of American foulbrood (AFB) by way of a Pest Management Strategy (PMS). The new MAF Regulatory Authority **Standard for Surveillance of Diseases of Honey Bees** (Nov 98) aligns the surveillance programme alongside the PMS. This acknowledges the importance of beekeepers in recognising and reporting exotic disease and takes advantage of efficiencies to be gained by taking the samples collected for AFB testing and testing these for exotic disease.

As part of this programme a brochure with coloured photographs of the most serious exotic diseases of bees and the endemic diseases with which they might be confused has been printed. This has been distributed to all 5,356 registered beekeepers. All new beekeepers will be sent a copy when they first register.

As part of the PMS all beekeepers have been invited to sign up to a Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement (DECA). This is a document, set out in multi choice format, in which a beekeeper describes the management practises he/she uses to control and eliminate AFB. The National Beekeepers Association have agreed to add a section to the DECA covering inspection for, recognition and reporting of suspect exotic disease.

Beekeepers who have an approved DECA, will become "Approved Beekeepers", with exemption from the requirement to furnish an annual Certificate of Inspection. We expect most beekeepers to become "Approved Beekeepers". The National Beekeepers Association have also agreed to have a section of this training course devoted to recognition and reporting of exotic disease. This course will be delivered nation wide and will include videos of exotic bee disease signs.

To audit the compliance of "Approved Beekeepers" to the requirements of the PMS, five hundred samples each of honey and adult bees have been requested. These samples will initially be tested for AFB. Bee samples will then be sent to the National Plant Pest Reference Laboratory at Lincoln for testing for internal and external exotic mites. The honey samples will be sent to the National Centre for Disease Investigation at Wallaceville for testing for the presence of *Melissococcus pluton* the causative organism of European foulbrood.

Any suspect exotic bee disease cases reported direct to AgriQuality New Zealand or through the animal disease emergency freephone are responded to immediately, with an inspection by an AgriQuality Officer, or if considered appropriate by asking the beekeeper to send in a sample. So far this season 12 suspect European foulbrood cases have been reported and responded to. All were found negative.

Derek Bettesworth, Process Manager Apicultural Surveillance, AgriQuality New Zealand Ltd, Whangarei

BEEKEEPER REQUIRED

Beekeeper required for Methven Bay based business, producing clover, honey dew comb, and pollination.

Any one interested would need a strong desire for beekeeping, preferably an understanding of cell-raising, a good work ethic plus an HT licence.

Owner flexible on ideas of remuneration. All interest treated with confidence. Please reply in handwriting with any references to:

**Dougal Mackintosh
Franks Road
Lyndhurst
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ASHBURTON**

Government red-faced over food assurance backdown

The Government is facing an embarrassing backdown over its proposed establishment of new Food Assurance Authority within the Ministry of Agriculture on July 1.

Failure to get support from a parliamentary select committee, means it must either force its proposal through a divided Parliament - and quickly - or strike a compromise.

At the time of writing, compromise seemed the better option.

At the nub of the issue is the Food Amendment Bill, which seeks to integrate in a single authority all the responsibilities on food requirements previously shared by MAF, the Ministry of Health and local authorities.

This would include food safety for export as well as domestic supply, regulatory services, protection of public health, and facilitation access to markets.

But the proposal was stymied by Parliament's select committee on government administration. Opposition by Alliance, Labour and NZ First MPs resulted in a tied vote and a recommendation that the Bill should not proceed.

The committee says that while the Bill's objective is relatively simple its wider implications are "extremely important and complex", adding:

"One of the great issues of the 21st century will be the relationship between biotechnology and our food supply.

We are already witnessing the beginnings of this issue with the current debate over the production and labelling of genetically modified foods.

"The BSE or 'Mad Cow' crisis in the UK has shown us how terribly wrong things can go if food administration and safety is not addressed effectively.

"Lives can be lost, reputations destroyed and industries ruined. In New Zealand we cannot afford to make the same mistakes.

"While half of us are confident the Government is on the right track, the other half of us would have preferred legislation creating a stand-alone food assurance agency."

Labour, the Alliance and New Zealand First are concerned about the proposed agency being part of MAF.

They claim MAF has a strong emphasis on creating opportunities for industry whereas food safety is concerned with protecting the health of consumers.

It is understood the Government rejected the notion of a stand-alone agency because it would be too costly to set up, but the committee found no costings had been done.

As a way out of the problem, Labour's agriculture spokesperson Jim Sutton says the Food Assurance authority should be established as a stand-alone and independent agency.

He also wants to combine the administration of the principal statutes involved in food safety; the Food Act, the Dairy Industry Act and the proposed Animals Products Act.

Mr Sutton claims such an approach is favoured by key stakeholders, including consumer interests.

If this is done, he says Labour will facilitate rapid enactment of the law setting up the Food Assurance Authority.

Acknowledgement, Central Otago News



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Honey and beer and mustard and truffles in the USA

Sandee and I have just spent (an exhaustive) five weeks in the USA working for the NZ Greenshell Mussel industry. Our time was spent working with and talking to chefs, foodwriters, retailers and food manufacturers!

Highlights, from a honey perspective, (we couldn't help seeing what was happening) were the number of honey beers available, the phenomenal amount of honey mustard being consumed everywhere, and a gourmet's dream: jars of honey with white truffle oil drizzled through the honey.

My pick of the beers were Michelob's Honey Lager: very clean and crisp and with a longlasting fine bead. Close second was Peter's Honey Wheat Beer, more full-bodied than the Michelob but with a looser bead. Neither beer used any sugar at all except for the honey. The Peter's promoted the honey variety used (pure clover). Both had a lovely golden colour; and both had a relative dryness that was refreshing!

The honey mustard we weren't so keen on: it was always spread on very thick in cafes, and the commercial brands we tried were too sweet, (not balanced enough with the mustard-flavour). I noted that the big commercial brands used others sugar syrups as well as honey... but the marketing and packaging heavily emphasises the honey value.

And then we discovered Honey and Truffle Oil: WOW!

A huge, earthy pungency that hits you hard on the back of the palate, creating an amazing contrast to the honey's

creamy sweetness... brilliant combination! (Brought back some truffle oils so we can experiment with some New Zealand honeys. It should work very well with an innocuous pasture blend honey: may even iron out the rough spots in a lower grade Kamahi.)

Honey has a very high profile in and on menus in the States: the National Honey Board's investment in food technology is paying off.

Even found that Starbuck's offers sachets of honey as an alternative to sugar in their coffees!

Our top USA exporters are doing a good job too: saw "our honey" in classy stores and delis in New York, Chicago and Los

compared to 'ownable' technological innovation. Reality is that New Zealand could never 'own' the research results... so by working with the NHB we get progress across a number of areas.

Once the USA research is done... New Zealand is in a very unique position to get exceptional and disproportionate publicity value from it... because we will be able to publicise how it has simply verified the coaching genius of Arthur Lydiard... and the fact that NZ's sports greats ate honey before their track golds!

Plus... it's obvious to Peter Molan and I that, for the HRU's concepts to really take off, we need company's with BIG R&D and promotional budgets... and it

seems more likely that an Australian or American market innovator will create the new opportunities for the NZ BeeKeeper, than New Zealand based companies... (I'd love for someone to prove me wrong... so would Peter).

So linking our research with the NHB is creating a conduit for us with American manufacturers... that's the theory anyway: and we intend to make it work.



Angeles. Nice packaging and good quality varietal honey that looked true to label. One of my pet dislikes is seeing New Zealand honey selections in supermarkets in New Zealand (or overseas) where the packer hasn't had the skill or foresight to make sure that the varietal honeys have a strong visual distinctiveness from each other.

American Research will prove Lydiard Right on Honey

Published separately in this month's Beekeeper is a copy of a media release put out by the National Honey Board regarding honey as a sports energy source.

That work is part of the joint programme being undertaken by the USA and New Zealand.

We made up a list of the six hottest concepts to be explored and divided them between New Zealand and the USA: New Zealand got the antibiotic and antioxidant work... and the NHB took on sports energy and osteoporosis (and two others). With the USA's NHB funding all of it!

There's been some mumbling from some quarters in New Zealand that the NBA is wrong to work with the USA's NHB; on the basis that we should be doing the research and keeping it to ourselves.

Those people confuse the opportunities available from scientific discovery as

An Internationally Marketed NZ Icon Dish featuring Greenshell Mussels and Manuka Honey!

And on the subject of international partnerships: our work with Greenshell Mussels has connected us to a major American food manufacturer. That company is now developing a "New Zealand Icon dish" that will include Greenshell Mussels: and is looking at the dish also including manuka honey. If the project is successful it will create a requirement for significant volumes of honey.

And what we need, as a group of New Zealand honey producers, is to create off-shore demand for our product! The New Zealand marketplace is too small for our honey's potential. Some good competition for the supply wont do anyone any harm!

Valentine's Day is Gonna Be A Sweetie

In looking at the New Zealand market we have a fundamental problem in that most domestic sales are through supermarkets: and the supermarket chains have been very ruthless in culling brands and some varietal lines. (There isn't the volume as they see it to warrant giving the shelf-space.)

The answer for us is to provide our varietal honeys in outlets that are new, where the same high volume turnovers aren't required: and so we give the

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smaller packers and brands and innovators a chance.

And there is an obvious and logical retail outlet for honeys: florists. And the best time of the year to launch such a concept: St Valentines Day!

Florists have already started to use honey themes in their gift-lines: note the Honey Bears and other beekeeping lines sold as gifts last St Valentine's Day!

The next step is for innovative packers to create honey gift lines with strong floral themes for florists to include in floral arrangements or in unique themed love-packages with just the honey itself.

Over the next few months we're working on some concepts and publicity strategies (Honey and love/the honeymoon link etc): but we also want innovative packers to pick up on this initiative and do their own thing! And profit from it!

Waikato's Bush Blend a stunner!

I hear that so much Waikato Bush blend was produced last year its created a problem. Funny problem: because it is a superb and delightful honey... the samples from Lorimers certainly were!

I included the Bush Blend in the sampling sets for a recent Polytech training class. 25 senior students and tutors tried the honey after I explained it was a "homeless orphan": they loved it... for half the class it was the nicest honey they tasted of the six we tried.

And it made some delightful sauces!

AND it's almost certain to have a high antibacterial activity value.

But no-ones doing anything significant with it!

There's a limit to what the Marketing Committee can or should do. The obvious answer is that if packers and buyers don't appreciate the honey, and haven't the ability or just don't want to

create profitable solutions with it, then the producers need to look at a cooperative approach: get together, and develop your own marketing strategy: take the opportunity away from the existing packers/buyers.

Conference Meetings

There's no formal presentation of the Marketing work at Conference this year. So we've arranged for two breakfast session Open Forums. Tuesday 7am-8am is an open session Q&A on general

marketing issues; Wednesday 7am-8am is specifically on Manuka Honey and Standards!

Should be interesting... will be robust!

That's all from me for now: see a lot of you at Conference.

And my honey of the month - Lorimers Waikato Bush Honey: superb!

Regards

Bill Floyd

National Honey Board Funds Clinical Studies Assessing the Impact of Honey Supplements on Exercise Performance and Recovery

LONGMONT, Colo., June 29/PRNewswire/ - The National Honey Board, in cooperation with IMAGINutrition(SM) and MetaResponse Sciences(SM), is funding two clinical trials at the Exercise and Sports Nutrition Laboratory at the University of

Memphis to determine if honey really is more than just a sweet treat.

"The trials are centering on the value of honey during exercise performance and recovery in endurance and weight training individuals," said Rick Kreider, Ph.D., lead investigator for the honey study.

Although often overlooked as a dietary supplement, honey is a naturally occurring combination of various

sugars and antioxidants in a gel form. Recently, the consumption of carbohydrates in a gel form has become a popular means for athletes to ingest carbohydrates prior to, during and/or following exercise. In support of the study on honey, numerous clinical trials have indicated that the ingestion of carbohydrates during exercise can enhance exercise performance.

The unique carbohydrate profile of honey may favourably alter the way the body burns fuel during exercise. Recent evidence also indicates concurrent carbohydrate and protein ingestion prior to and/or following exercise may reduce exercise-induced muscle protein breakdown and be beneficial for all athletes involved in intense training. A separate trial to be conducted at the University of Memphis will study the effects of honey on hormone metabolism and performance during exercise cycling.

"If honey fosters a more favourable hormone profile than typical carbohydrates, this could lead to quicker recuperation after exercise," suggests Dr. Kreider.

The National Honey Board, a non-profit institution, is funding a variety of studies exploring the health benefits of honey.



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A world wide breakthrough - A Reduction of bee diseases

For years bee diseases usually show up in the brood when the disease has taken over, hence a large reduction in production of honey. I am sure this letter will illustrate a way to **reduce** bee diseases - hence keep production of honey up and probably increase production.

We know that a small number of American Brood disease spore must be left at a particular point (ie the mouth of a larvae under 24 hours old) at a specific time to infect that larvae. We also know that a hive has thousands of spores on the inner walls of the super, on top of, under and along the sides of the frames. Spores are most probably in empty cells.

European disease is also contaminating all **surfaces** in the hive. No doubt there are many other disease 'resting' on all the woodwork and in the cells in the hive, waiting to cause damage to our industry.

Chemicals have been used to try and control diseases with a huge risk of contamination to the honey by **residues** in the honey.

My idea is to fumigate all woodwork and combs by the use of deadly poisonous **ozone** gas. This gas is very cheaply made by having a fluorescent tube with a special recipe in it to give a light wave length of 254/253 nano metres which will turn oxygen O₂ into ozone gas O₃.

Ozone gas will kill any living thing that it touches on any surface. When the electric supply is turned off - the ozone returns to common oxygen - so there are no residues - most important!

I have enclosed photographs of how I intend to use the ozone for fumigation of frames and combs in supers.

The fluorescent tube-transformer is a commercial production costing about \$A600. I have fitted the tube into a large lid capable of covering three stacks of supers. A 50mm gap is under the supers so that an electric motor driving a small fan in the ceiling of the lid will circulate the air containing the ozone gas.

For bases and lids, they will be stacked into a large wooden box and the ozone lid will be placed over them. A shipping container could be used in large apiaries.

It is my intention to fumigate a base; super with frames and a lid in early spring - to the apiary - take frames of brood and bees and put them into a ozone clear home. The material that has housed bees for the winter will be fumigated with ozone; at my home base later. I strongly believe this **must** reduce bee diseases. Later in spring; supers and frames will be ozone fumigated first - then added to the expanding hives.

When it is time to extract the supers of honey - the supers will again be stacked on my special base board; ozone

fumigated for a time (more later) so that any diseases on all surfaces will be killed.

The frames will then be extracted and 'clean' material returned to the hive - hence further **reducing** the chance of **any** diseases showing up in the hive.

Ozone gas will not penetrate. I am sure there is **no** problem with a honey surface, of a cell; for practically **no** depth; becoming 'honey oxide'. Ozone does **not** affect wax!

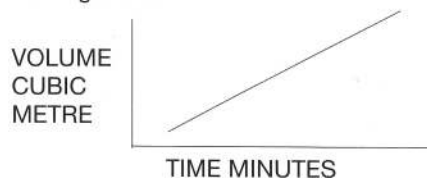
Ozone I 'know' will reduce bee diseases. It is not a 100% kill because the gas can **not** penetrate a scale and kill the disease buried beneath the scale. However, there is a very limited chance of getting a scale if the ozone gas has reduced the spores in the hives by 90%, together with a **reduction** of many other diseases, earlier.

The ozone fumigation was offered to the Australian industry but they were reluctant to speculate that their disease problems could be reduced. One department of Agriculture officer, Mr Russell Goodman of Melbourne, could see the huge potential of this worldwide breakthrough and did apply for money to do ozone fumigation experiments with the assistance of UVS. Ultra Violet, manufacturers of the ozone machines. (UVS. Ultra Violet can be contacted at 8 Keith Campbell Court, Scoresby Victoria Australia 3179 or phone: 61-3-9764-1444 or fax: 61-3-9764-1700.)

While the bee authorities refused the finance requested for the experiments, I am sure it was because they wanted a 100% kill.

I want a constant reduction of problems in the hive that could cause diseases.

With your scientific methods you will be able to ascertain the concentration of ozone gas (parts per million) required to be effective on bee diseases. Your experiments will reveal the time in minutes ozone gas takes to be effective. As a result you will be able to draw a graph of time-V-volume for a particular ozone generator.



A major advantage of this 'cheap' ozone generator is that each apiarist can have his own set up to do the fumigation at his home base. Once the generator is purchased the running cost is similar to a normal fluorescent tube. The tube is replaced after 'x' hours and they are a little expensive. **Strong warning - Do not look at the tube when lighted. A glance will blind you.** Chemicals are costly and can be dangerous. Cobalt

irradiation involves transport cost, time and a fee for the use of the specialised factory.

The copies of some literature enclosed indicated that the concentration of gas needed is very low (.3-.9 parts per million) and the time is only minutes. Temperature and relative humidity might be considered in your experiments. It is common in Australia to have ozone tubes in large channels of water to kill diseases for a town water supply.

I forward this literature in hope that you and your staff can perform the reduction of many bee diseases with ozone gas fumigation. I would be very grateful if you could please let me know your results.

Closing in anticipation, yours faithfully

Geoff Hammond, beekeeper

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Winter

While things around us are cold and barren, within the hive, there is constant activity. Within the cluster, the bees are active, while those on the outside form tightly compacted layers that produces an insulation shell that expands and contracts depending upon the surrounding air temperature. Bees have the ability to generate metabolic heat by shivering their flight muscles (the amplitude is too small to be seen) that holds the internal core temperature between 6-8°C no matter the outside temperature.

Up to this time, very little of the honey reserves have been used, however, around about mid-July the bees raise the temperature of a small area in the middle of the cluster to 35°C which triggers the queen to start laying again. This is the beginning of the new season's build up, initially providing a supply of replacement bees.

This is before the bees start flying so they use the reserves of stored pollen and honey. However as I write this, the bees are happily flying enjoying the third hottest autumn recorded. If you paid attention to the wintering requirements of the hive, plenty of food, young queen etc then everything will be proceeding well.

Winter work

Now is a good time to assemble supers and frames. Commercial beekeepers staple them together using air guns. They use jigs to hold the assembled frames in place so multiples can be stapled at one time. Time and efficiency count when you have thousands to assemble and wire.

A hobbyist with only a few items to put together doesn't need all that expensive equipment. They can take their time and pay attention to detail. After the super sides and ends have been preserved and dried, they are ready to assemble.

But first select the side of the timber that is going to be on the outside of the super. Large flat pieces of timber tend to warp slightly and it's important that they warp inwards, otherwise in a year or two, it will be hard to get the hive roof on certain supers. The pith of the timber (centre of the tree) should be to the inside. If you are not sure, look down the grain from the end to see which way it is slightly warped. Place the concave surface to the inside. Mark the sides so you do not forget.

Some seal the ends with an undercoat and glue once the undercoat is dry (use waterproof glue). Others just glue the ends for strength and to seal the timber. Place an end board flat on a low stool or bench and fit in the sides and the other end piece. These can be held square using clamps or just placed against a flat surface to hold it square, then nail or screw together using 60x3.15-mm galvanised flat head nails (minimum length) or zinc coated pozi drive wood screws. Once a few nails or screws are in place, check that the super is square and then continue to put in the rest.

If you are out of practice using a hammer or are using Macrocarpa timber, pre-drill the holes to half the depth. Use at least five nails in each corner, as the supers are very heavy when full of honey and have to stand up to a fair hiding during their twenty-year life.

Before painting the supers, I like to slightly round the bottom corner edges with a rasp or sander. This makes it a little easier



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to push in the hive tool when splitting them apart. You can also fire brand your apiary registration number or your initials on the outside of all supers. (This makes it a little easier to trace them in the unlikely event of theft). Undercoat and top coat the outsides and edges of the supers and they are ready for use. Whether you use oil or water based paint it's up to you. I tend to use what ever is closest to hand.

If you live in an area with a relatively damp climate or have a lot of condensation in the hives, the frame lugs tend to rot out fairly quickly, (three-five years). You can prevent this by placing the ends of the top bars in a 1cm deep solution of wood preservative for 30 minutes, (before they are assembled). Frames are now ready to wire but should not be waxed until the weather warms up.

For about the same price as a fully made up wooden frame (when you count the labour & materials), you can now buy plastic frames. These seem to work quite well but purchase them pre-waxed, as the bees seem to draw these out more evenly.

There are some advantages and disadvantages to using plastic frames: they don't get stuck up with propolis. A 3/4 super full of honey holds 2-3 kg more than wooden frames. They are strong and won't break, don't rot, but sometimes the wax separates from the plastic midrib if the uncapping knife/machine is not hot enough. They have their place, however reading an old article; they could cause problem for those who winter in singles in icy conditions. The frames don't have holes to allow the bees to pass from one frame to another so could prevent the cluster moving to a honey frame. Steve Taber suggested a hole be drilled in the frame to allow internal access, as the bees won't go around the outside in cold weather.

Purchasing hives

About this time a lot of people seem to get the beekeeping bug and want a hive of bees. Hives sell anywhere from \$60 to \$120 depending upon condition, stores and the amount of equipment sold with it, (2 or 4 honey supers, excluders etc).

Winter is not the best time to purchase beehives. They can't be inspected for disease and it's difficult to assess the condition of the woodware and frames, etc. The best time to purchase a hive is in October when they can be opened easily and checked for AFB. If this is not possible, get a written agreement that you will pay half now and the rest after the October disease inspection. Any diseased hives found in the spring should be replaced.

I recommended you take an experienced beekeeper with you when assessing hives as it takes an experienced eye to point out the pitfalls. Check the supers for rot with a small screwdriver, end bars broken or rotted away, dark frames and those full of drone brood, distorted, etc., will all require replacing in a short time. All devalue the asset.

Hives that have been left unattended for a few years or abandoned may be only worth the value of the bees and the honey reserves. Come spring and you may have to replace everything. A good prospect if you are starting up in business as all the replacement gear will be tax deductible, however not much fun if you are a new inexperienced beekeeper.

If you are purchasing hives or beekeeping gear make sure the seller has the correct paper work. Contact your nearest AgriQuality Apiary Advisory Officer if you are not sure. The minimum requirement is a registration form that you fill in and the seller returns to AgriQuality NZ. This information is used for surveillance purposes and in the event of a disease outbreak.

Moving hives

When planning to move hives consider what is required and plan for something to go wrong. It will also take twice as long as you think. Carry enough fuel for the return journey. Petrol stations don't like flying bees as these could disrupt the station for hours especially at night when bees will fly to the lights.

Carry gauze, foam plastic strips or the like to block the entrances and scrim or shelterbelt cloth to cover the load if you are moving during the day. (In cold weather the bees can be closed up for two hours). If the hives are full of bees, add another super a few days before hand so the bees have time to stick it down).

Carry tools for any breakdowns, towrope etc.

Have a spare hive tool, smoker, rubber gloves and gear to supply another person should you need a hand.

If a non-beekeeper is going to assist you, carry antihistamine tablets and have them eat vitamin C before hand to reduce the effects of strings.

Strap the hives to prevent them splitting apart. Some use emlock strappings or ratchet tie downs.

Use proper lifting techniques as heavy hives and improper lifting techniques can cause permanent damage to your back.

Tips

Use heavy metal mesh 0.3x0.6 of a metre to put under the wheels if you get stuck in soft pasture. If you don't have these, fit snow chains to the driving wheels for extra traction.

Carry a bottle of soapy water to wash your hands.

There is very little you need to do to the hives at this time of the year but it could pay to check your hives after storms. I tie mine with nylon rope so if they fall or are pushed over by stock, at least the supers stay together and the hive survives.

Training

Last month I gave a list of books to read but some just can't glean information out of books. A lot of training is one to one along side another beekeeper or attending field days or through bee clubs. We also have two recognised courses run by the Telford Polytech. One is a one-year, full time, live-on campus course that spits out beekeepers with all the skills to take on, or assist with a commercial operation. The other is a two-year correspondence course you do in your own time, module by module with a number of practical sessions that sets you up for a life time of enjoyable beekeeping.

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Honey Snacks and Desserts

The first recipe this month is quick and easy to make for your kids and their friends who may drop by. It is also a good option when you need that quick "two dozen homemade snacks" for a school, church or other function. The next two recipes are desserts that might be more appropriate for a special occasion where you want to try something a little different. All three recipes come from the American National Honey Board. Pull up their wonderful web page on your computer at: <http://www.honey.com>.

Honey Crispies

- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 1 1/2 cups crispy rice cereal
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1/2 cup chocolate or multi-coloured candy sprinkles

Place a sheet of waxed paper on a cookie sheet so cookies won't stick.

Combine powdered sugar, honey and peanut butter in a medium bowl.

Stir until mixed well. Stir in cereal and raisins.

Using hands, shape mixture into 1-inch balls. Roll balls in sprinkles and place on a cookie sheet.

Refrigerate for 1 hour. Cookies should feel firm when touched. Serve right away or place in tightly covered container and store in refrigerator. *Makes about 30 cookies.*

Chocolate Honey Brulees

- 1 can (12oz) evaporated low fat milk
- 1 cup whole milk
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1 tbsp cocoa powder
- 2 tsp grated orange peel
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 3 tbsp sugar

In a medium bowl, whisk together evaporated milk, milk and eggs until well blended. Mix in honey, cocoa powder, orange peel and vanilla. Divide mixture evenly between 4 (3/4 to 1 cup capacity) ovenproof custard cups in a baking pan. Fill pan with boiling water to reach halfway up cups. Bake at 325°F one hour or until knife inserted in centre cup comes out clean. Remove cups from baking pan and allow to cool. Cover and refrigerate custard cups until chilled, four hours or over night. Before serving, sprinkle sugar evenly over tops of custards. Place cups under broiler; cook until sugar melts and caramelises. Serve at once. *Makes 4 servings.*

Frozen Chocolate Peanut Butter

Ribbon Cake

- 1 1/3 cups honey, divided
- 1 cup heavy cream, divided
- 3/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 3-oz package lady fingers
- 1 quart chocolate ice cream, slightly softened
- 1 cup smooth peanut butter
- 1 8-oz package cream cheese, softened

To prepare chocolate sauce:

In a small saucepan, combine 2/3 cup honey, 1/2 cup cream, cocoa powder and vanilla. Cool about 5 minutes, stirring constantly, over medium heat, until mixture is well blended and smooth. Set aside; cool to room temperature. Press ladyfingers, curved side out, upright around sides of a 9-inch springform pan. Pack ice cream in even layer into bottom of pan; freeze while preparing peanut butter mixture. In a medium bowl, mix together peanut butter, cream cheese, and a remaining 2/3 cup honey until well blended. Whip remaining 1/2 cup cream until soft peaks form; fold into peanut butter mixture. Spread peanut butter mixture over chocolate ice cream layer in pan. Top evenly with cooled chocolate sauce. Freeze 2-3 hours, or until firm, before serving. *Makes 12 servings.*

Super Fast Honey Snacks

- ★ Drizzle honey over fresh grapefruit halves. Microwave one to two minutes - depending on how cold the grapefruit was to start - for a warm treat.
- ★ Microwave honey in a small microwave-safe bowl or pitcher for 15 to 30 seconds. Pour warm honey over toaster waffles, fresh slices of apples or berries.
- ★ Toast English muffins and spread with cream cheese. Top with silvered almonds and drizzle with warm honey.
- ★ Mix 1/2 cup peanut butter with 1/4 cup honey. Use as a dip for carrot and celery sticks, and pear and apple slices.

Acknowledgement, National Honey Board

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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