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NBA gets tough on levy lapses



By Tim Leslie
NBA executive secretary

As the year has progressed, operation policies for the National Beekeepers Association committees and their areas of work have been developed.

As the Pest Management Strategy is a major part of the NBA's activities, the following policy has been developed for the holding of a Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement.

The NBA will operate the following policy towards all PMS DECA holders for non-compliance and non-payment of levy.

1. A "minor breach" might be a delay in registering an apiary, failing to supply an Annual Disease Return within 30 days of the due date, failure to report American Foulbrood within the time frames. The beekeeper concerned will be sent a letter of warning from the management agency.
2. A "moderate breach" will result from having five or fewer unregistered apiaries, failing to supply an ADR within three months or a total of three minor breaches. The beekeeper will have his or her DECA suspended for six months.
3. A "serious breach" is anything outside nine minor breaches or three moderate breaches. The beekeeper's DECA will be suspended for 12 months.
4. Two serious breaches will result in a beekeeper's DECA being revoked for three years.
5. A DECA will be suspended for non-payment of levy, until full payment has been received or arrangements have been made.
6. A beekeeper whose DECA is suspended for more than 12 months must re-attend a registered training course and re-sit the test.
7. Appeals will be heard only by the president, vice-president or AFB committee chairperson. If there is a conflict of interest, then the office holder concerned will excuse him/herself.

* The executive secretary is responsible for implementing this policy.

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Volunteers sought

By Jane Lorimer

Are you keen to help us with some work that has to be done to meet legislative requirements under the Animal Products Act?

The National Beekeepers Association is required to formulate a Code of Practice to help beekeepers (who export their product or sell their product to an exporter) formulate their Risk Management Programme (RMP). Everyone who needs an RMP will have to have it in place by November 2002.

All beekeepers involved in exporting need to be involved in this so an RMP is developed that remains a cost-effective mechanism to meet exporting requirements.

The Animal Products Act 1999 replaces the Apiaries Act 1969, and sets out to manage hazards to human health, animal health, risks to wholesomeness and risks from false or misleading labelling through the implementation of a Risk Management Programme (RMP).

The RMP will incorporate HACCP (Hazard Analysis/Critical Control Points), as does the Food Safety Programme (under the Food Act - Health).

Who will require an RMP?

All beekeepers involved in the export of honey. As yet, we do not know if this includes other bee products, like pollen and propolis.

Who is exempted from having an RMP?

Primary processors.

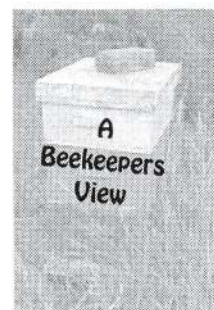
How are they defined?

A look at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry web site suggests MAF is not clear where a primary processor's role finishes and the

secondary processor's role begins. The last executive meeting issued a request they come and address us on this issue. Glen Neal, from MAF Food Assurance Authority, has now agreed to meet with me in the middle of June so some anomalies can be sorted out.

Are you interested in joining a team to get this implemented? Contact Jane Lorimer, Environment Portfolio sponsor, phone (07) 856-9625 or e-mail hunnybee@wave.co.nz

Levies stir up beekeepers - and AFB?



It is interesting to see how the present National Beekeepers Association executive is working so hard to spread American Foul Brood.

Many amateurs are getting fed up with the red tape associated with the apiary levy, the Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement, etc.

Many now are telling me that they have burnt their hives in response. The new idea of a charge of \$30 or so will accelerate the reduction in registration.

However, I suspect the enthusiast amateurs will just quietly relocate their hives to a less-obvious location. We will only realise this once AFB turns up in unexpected places.

I would much sooner know where these hives are, even if I subsidise their presence.

- Gary Jeffery, Westport.

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Apiary has own health and safety back-ups

By Ross Abernethy

I was brought up with bees, my father being a commercial beekeeper for 40 years. My first five years out of school were spent working bees and, apart from a short break, I've had over 100 hives of my own for 30 years. I have worked for commercial beekeepers at the same time, so one way and another, I've been around bees for half a century.

During that time, stings were a part of life, as well as a source of hilarity. I can recall a brother letting out a yell as he got stung on his bare foot in my father's extracting room and, as he sat down to scratch it out, roared and rose like a volcano, when he received another on his rear end.

New staff or part-time help usually came in for some ribbing, as their first few stings would result in a Cassias Clay fist, fat lip or occasionally, a closed eye. "OK, now you're initiated," they'd be told. "Now it will be plain sailing.

It always was, until recently.

Late last year, things changed. Although working inside, a Royal Jelly team member who has had her share of stings over a three-year period from bees that came in on equipment, unexpectedly reacted to a sting. When it became obvious the condition wasn't improving, she was driven to a medical centre to be checked out.

The doctor said she had to stop working near bees and get another job. Well, it was probably not very prudent, but precautions were taken and her work continued. But it did happen a second time.

She was taken to a different medical centre and this time the advice given was to carry an adrenaline syringe called an "EpiPen", designed like a diabetics insulin syringe with a short needle that can be self-administered. Already loaded, all you do is press the button. Refills are available from the chemist. She was also told to do a course of desensitisation.

Interestingly, the business used to have long needle syringes with adrenalin in the first aid kit - until Occupational Safety and Health came along, did its inspection, confiscated the needles and said we

weren't allowed to use them or get any more. No alternative was given.

Several staff members did the OSH-required St John's workplace first aid course. Again, we were told categorically: "You are not allowed to give injections - if the person was to die, you would be liable." No alternatives were given, except to phone an ambulance.

Recently, a retired gentleman was taken on to work half days, cleaning pollen and giving help where needed. He came out to the bees a couple of times and had a few stings with no problems. However, when helping extract honey, he was stung on the neck. It was immediately removed and didn't cause a problem. Two hours later, he complained of hurting his finger (it was discovered later to be a sting) and within seconds he was feeling ill.

He managed to walk to the house, then collapsed. One of the staff gave him the EpiPen adrenalin and rang the ambulance. His condition continued to deteriorate but the ambulance arrived in time. It did, however, call for back-up to meet them half-way as his heart was causing concern.

On the way to the hospital, the ambulance driver told me if we had not injected him with adrenalin, he would have died. No doubt about it!

I also learned that in a deteriorating situation, because the EpiPen only has 0.3 micrograms, it would have been safe to use a second one. Some say they are expensive at \$140 each, but what price do you put on a life? We now carry one in the vehicle as well as having two at the base.

Thankfully, the worker survived, but no thanks to OSH! They have been spoken to since and still carried on in a high and mighty voice:

"What are you doing employing people who are allergic to bee stings?"

(The fact was, that at the job interview he assured management he had never been allergic in the past.)

"Secondly, what are you doing injecting people?"

The fact he would have died before the ambulance arrived didn't seem to sink in!

Seems that you are damned if you do and damned if you don't. As for us, we plan to do what is necessary to save a life, rather than worry about the sting of OSH!

* *Ron Abernethy manages hives for Happy Valley Honey, Manurewa*

The Anaphylaxis Emergency Treatment Kit (Front Cover) is another bee sting relief package. Available over the counter at pharmacies, the kit has a small, self-administrative syringe containing 0.3ml of Epinephrine. The pack also contains a tourniquet and chewable antihistamine tablets. Dunedin's Albany Street Pharmacy (telephone 03 477-511 or <http://www.onlinepharmacy.co.nz>) will provide the \$60.50 packs to NBA members for \$55, including postage.

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Taranaki isolation could be its strength

Varroa infestation, co-operation with the professional/commercial beekeepers and hive levies are three issues the Taranaki Amateur Beekeepers Club is concentrating on this year, writes secretary/treasurer GEORGE JONSEN. The following report is a profile of the current club, whose membership is stretched between Hawera, Stratford, Urenui, Inglewood and New Plymouth.

Geographically, Taranaki is a special area. The Whangamomona Ranges and Awakino Gorge create natural boundaries to the north and with no migratory beekeepers, the club feels the region should remain a buffer zone, even after the present line is removed when the varroa mite inevitably crosses the present boundary. We could, we believe, remain mite-free for several years.

Enthusiastic and helpful commercial beekeepers are currently used by the club for assistance on field days. We hope to forge stronger bonds with them so we can co-ordinate pest control measures to benefit all concerned.

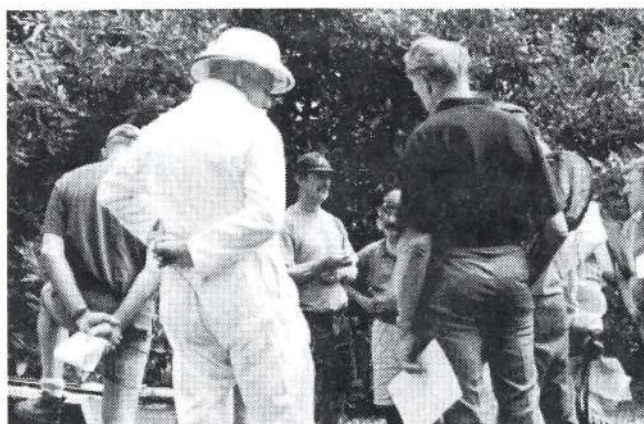
A major worry is the great number of amateur beekeepers who choose not to join the club. As part of our planned "Co-operation Strategy", we intend to hold and promote open meetings so all interested persons can come along and learn about the advantages of membership.

There is no doubt, if amateurs do not change their hive management and become knowledgeable about varroa control, they will not have hives to manage! Meanwhile, our concern is the damage they will do in providing a home for the mite before it destroys their hives.

The club has 18 members who are registered with the Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement and two who are "Authorised Persons", showing a strong core of beekeepers who are prepared to become more knowledgeable. We have



Members of the Taranaki Amateur Beekeepers Club prepare for a queen-cell rearing day, with hives in an avocado orchard.



Taranaki Amateur Beekeepers Club president Lester Mattson, third from left, talks to members about the theory of queen raising. Others pictured are members John Smillie, Jim Hall, Graham Stubbs and Brian Garnett.

also applied to the Taranaki Savings Bank for funds to enable us to bring in outside experts to talk to the club about preparing for varroa.

Levy

Our membership is very vocal about proposed changes to the levy system.

We feel that the time frame is far too short for meaningful debate and we are unsure of what is being proposed. We have approached National Beekeepers Association president Richard Hatfield, who was helpful, and we now await an NBA executive member to visit our club and discuss the issue.

We believe a flat rate for people who have one to 10 hives would be acceptable, providing that payment for one annual inspection by an authorised person or DECA person is paid for by the NBA, as part of the deal.

Recently, the club held a "Queen Cell Rearing Day", which was totally unsuccessful!! Mead-making demonstrations were also given.

Continued on next page

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Because our club is the only one listed in the telephone book's yellow pages, we get all sorts of queries about beekeeping and honey - from students in Northland asking about projects on varroa, to requests to remove swarms from places like Taumaranui and Hataitai. We have been asked whether we export honey to Korea and can we supply queens to the Philippines!?

The honey harvest this year in Taranaki, although shortened by unseasonably-cold winds in January, has been good; mainly dominated by clover, but some good crops of bush and manuka honey were also recorded. As is typical in Taranaki, it was very "local" and very much depended on where your hives were. Beekeepers in central and south Taranaki had good harvests.

Any amateur club wishing to have a report on matters it is concerned about/happy with, is invited to send something in. See inside cover page of this magazine for address details. (photographs welcomed)

Pugging pastures affect honey crops

Peter Singleton from Environment Waikato presented the following facts in a talk he gave this month.

- Moderate pugging damage may cost the average farm \$8000 to \$12,000 a year in lost production.
- Pugging, while long recognised as undesirable, is accepted on many farms as a daily fact of life during the wetter months. Observation would suggest the pasture apparently recovers from pugging in all but the most serious of cases.
- In the last few years, scientists have been looking more closely at pugging damage and its effect on the soil and pasture. Findings show significant effects on both the soil and pasture from even slight treading damage. Many

farmers may not realise even a low amount of damage is having a significant effect on pasture production.

- Minimising damage has significant financial and environmental benefits.
- Management tools and techniques exist to help farmers minimise treading damage.
- Dairy pasture treading studies in the Waikato show pasture and soil effects from treading can last many months, depending on soil type. In one study, soil pugging and compaction damage following a single pugging event depressed pasture production between 20 to 80%, depending on soil type. The effects lasted from four to eight months and may have caused an even longer-term seasonal effect. In that study, badly-pugged areas have not fully recovered, despite at least 18 months without further treading damage.
- Clover production can be decreased by 15 to 65%, while clover nitrogen fixation decreased by 24% to 70%.

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From the colonies



Hawkes Bay

Remember the branch meetings are now the second Thursday of the month - June 14, then July 12. The remit meeting will now be in July.

The date for the next Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement course and test is August 4 at Arataki Honey, Havelock North. Get your name, address and phone number to John Berry, 46 Arataki Rd, Havelock North, or Ron Morison, 6 Totara St, Taradale.

What of the varroa mites? Those who didn't see the video last month should contact Ian Berry who owns it. Apistan strips are being inserted in hives considered to be in a high risk area in the bay and to date, no infestations have been found.

Don't relax because of this. Study all the information you can get, and plan your beekeeping for when the inevitable happens.

The National Beekeepers Association recently mailed two Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry papers to us: *A Review of Treatment Options for Control of Varroa Mites in New Zealand* and *Risk Assessment of Varroa Introduction into the South Island*. Both are very interesting reading.

The icing sugar dusting was excellently covered in a recent web page, and while it is not listed in the MAF paper, it looks promising for the hobbyist.

If, because of the impending impact of varroa or for any other reason you or a friend are thinking of getting out of beekeeping, don't just walk away from your hive(s). They are an asset you can sell while they are free of diseases and will be a source of infestation if neglected. One of our members, Chris Robinson (phone 06 878-4588), has a reputation for bringing buyers and sellers together.

- Ron Morison

Southern North Island Branch

Extraction is now coming to an end and beekeepers are settling hives down for the winter.

Despite drought conditions, most beekeepers produced a good, slightly-above-average crop.

Surveillance is about to be undertaken along highways and at-risk sites (honey houses and hives involved in the 1999 kiwifruit pollination in the Bay of Plenty).

Four "Diseaseathons" were held during the year. This year, we targeted all hives, including commercial beekeepers' apiaries. Twelve teams inspected 409 hives in 91 apiaries. One hot spot was located and follow-up action was undertaken.

During the last 12 months, the branch conducted eight DECA courses and the Wellington Beekeepers Association held another four courses. A total of 226 beekeepers have taken the course.

New Zealand Beekeepers June 2001

At the last branch meeting, the Movement Control Line was discussed and "what if" proposals put forward. A majority of members voted for the continuation of the line to slow the spread of the mite. However, the actual re-drawing of the line will depend upon where the mite is found and will require consultation so beekeeping businesses are not cut in half.

- Camp Rangī planning is advanced and applications are coming in. A spring field day is planned for September 29.

- Frank Lindsay

Gisborne

Hives have been shifted on to their wintering sites and are being fed where necessary. A couple of good cold snaps should have killed off any wax moths in the stored supers.

The willows were badly affected by the sawfly last summer so we are hoping they survive the winter.

The autumn Diseaseathon found no American foulbrood. Nor was any varroa found in a sample of hives surveyed in the East Cape "bubble".

We are attempting to liaise with citrus growers to avoid the spraying of insecticide on trees in full flower which occurred in parts of this district last spring.

The annual general meeting and remit meeting is being held this month, in preparation for the Queenstown conference.

- Peter Burt

Bay of Plenty

Work on the colonies has slowed, wintering hives has pretty much finished. Some are still wondering about treating hives for varroa, others have done it anyway, treatable levels or not.

Up to now, only Apistan® is available. It deals with mites effectively but causes high residues in wax and propolis. When the low proportion of fluvalinate has passed into the wax, it may be transferred to the purified propolis during the alcohol extraction process. Even after a first time treatment with Apistan, scrapings from hives can show residue levels above the allowable limit.

I understand, the current market is still accepting high residue level propolis, as the buyers are able to lower the level using uncontaminated propolis. In future, this would mean

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BK29

Receive the audited Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Performance
Receive the budget for the current financial year (2001) and following 2 years
Appoint an Auditor
Appointment of Association Solicitors:

Criminal Work	Morrison Kent
Civil Actions	Michael Smith

Conduct any general business – other reports (if time allows)

Apicultural Research	Dr Mark Goodwin, Dr Louise Malone
AgriQuality New Zealand Ltd	Mr Murray Reid
Telford Rural Polytechnic	Dr David Woodward

11) Dr Jim Edwards, National Manager International Trade, Biosecurity Authority Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Launch the consultation phase for the importation of honey from Western Australia, based on its regional freedom for EFB.

12) Lunch and Break away for “The Great Buzz off Tours”

Thursday 26 July 2000, Second day of Conference

13) **7.30am Start Days Proceedings**

14) **Special meeting to consider proposed rule changes**

15) **Resolutions from the executive (coming from the rule changes)**

16) **8.30am Special Guest Speaker:**
Professor Dr. Klaus Ammann, Director Botanical Garden University of Bern

17) (10.00am) Morning Tea

18) (10.15am) **Conference of Branch Delegates (Moved forward if AGM finished previous day)**

19) **Procedural Motions**

Appoint timekeeper
Appoint two Scrutineers
Determine speaking times. Recommendation:
5 minutes mover
3 minutes seconder
3 minutes subsequent speakers
Meeting to be advised of remits received for which notice has been given 45 days prior (rule19c)

Agenda:

1. Remit policy
2. Remit report from exec
3. Consider remits as per remit paper

20) 12.00pm – 1.00pm: Lunch

21) **Reconvene Conference of Branch Delegates**

22) 3.00pm – 3.30pm **Afternoon Tea**

23) **Reconvene Annual General Meeting**

Elections
23.1 Elect the President and Vice President
23.2 If the proposed rule changes are passed, the meeting will be asked to elect pending registration of the new rules, the positions of Treasurer and Island Representatives to the Executive/Board

Any outstanding business carried over from AGM
Conduct any general business
Vote of thanks to the Otago Branch NBA.

24) Closure

NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

Remits AGM 2001

NB:

The remits are being circulated in the order they have been received. Presentation order and numbering at the AGM may well differ.

Remits from Bay of Plenty Branch

Remit 1.

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that each Branch receive a grant each year and that the grant is not less than 1 1/2% of the total levy and Ordinary membership fees collected from that branch.

Rationale

This would have the effect of providing branch capitation which would directly relate to the income generated to for the NBA from the branch, and would equate, based on the 1999 accounts, to a total \$5,850 total capitation to branches. This is approximately the amount provided to branches in previous years.

Remit 2.

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that they make a request to Government for an increase in the number of Apicultural Advisory Officers with AgriQuality.

Rationale

In the early 1970's there were approximately 17 apicultural staff to service our industry's requirements. Today there is the equivalent of only 4 to 5 full time apicultural staff. With the Varroa mite present in New Zealand this has created an even heavier workload for the current few Apicultural Advisory Officers and their effectiveness in assisting the beekeeping industry to help control the mite will be affected.

Remit 3.

That this Conference recommends to Executive that the Beekeeper magazine be published six times only per year.

Rationale

This would give additional funds per issue, which would allow for an improvement in content and quality.

Remit 4

That this Conference recommends to Executive that AgriQuality remain responsible for the maintenance of the Apiary Register.

Remit 5

That this Conference recommends to Executive that persons appointed as Authorised Persons (Level 1) under the Pest Management Strategy is from an independent agency only.

Remit 6

That this Conference recommends to Executive that this industry express its total opposition to the use of Imidacloprid (Gaucho).

Remit from Southland Branch

Remit 7

That this conference recommends to the Executive that they take the needed steps to ensure the antibiotic *tetracycline* is registered with the appropriate authorities for use in New Zealand beehives in the event that European Foulbrood is declared endemic in New Zealand.

Rationale

1. The Southland Branch wishes to promote discussion on this topic.
2. The normal time frame to register a substance with the Animal Remedies Board can be measured in years. We were fortunate to be able to fast track the registration of *Apistan* in six months but even that shortened time period gave Varroa a head start. Any registration could/would require a ministerial "sign off" in the event that EFB were declared endemic in NZ.

Remits from Otago Branch

Remit 8

"That this Conference recommends to the Executive that, The NBA commission an investigation into the options available for the treatment and or eradication of European Foulbrood in New Zealand."

Rationale

Overseas research and experience may suggest a range of options available if EFB arrives in NZ. Treatment with antibiotics brings with it some other problems. If there are viable alternatives to treating with antibiotics, we need to weigh up the choices before we are in a crisis situation.

Remit 9

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that they ensure that any policies adopted by them are formulated in accordance with the provisions and spirit of the Rules of the Association and comply with governing legislation.

Rationale

The formulation of policies by the executive is accepted management practice. However on at least two occasions over the past year, the executive have adopted policies which are in conflict either with the accepted interpretations of the NBA rules or Regulations under which our Association is required to operate. These occasions concerned a policy on the enforcement of the Pest Management Strategy for AFB, and policy concerning the acceptance of remits to the conference of Delegates.

Remits from Canterbury Branch

Remit 10

This conference recommends to the Executive that the cost of EU Residue testing be directed to and funded from the Honey Marketing Committee

Remit 11

This conference recommends to Executive on behalf of the New Zealand Hobbyist Beekeepers that Executive negotiates with Government for the removal of the Statutory Declaration clause

Footnote - ADR should be recognised as an official document of their hobbyist status

Remits from Southern North Island Branch

Remit 12

That this conference recommends to the Executive that the marketing committee presents to the AGM of the NBA, a report that shows expenditure for projects for the ensuing 12 months for delegates to vote on.

Remit 13

That this conference recommends to the Executive that they establish template contracts to be available to beekeepers for the purchase/selling of bees, hive products and services.

Remit from the Northland Branch

Remit 14

That the line between the buffer and infested zones be maintained and defended for as long as possible and, if Varroa is found south of the line, the line be shifted to a sensible geographical line."

Rationale:

Maintaining and defending the line between the buffer and infested zones is one of the most important things that can be done to slow down the spread of Varroa to the South Island.

It is critically important that MAF defend the line and ensure that adequate resources are expended to ensure that beekeepers do not breach the line. It is important that the beekeeping industry demonstrate its resolve and determination to slow the spread of Varroa. This determination will send a clear signal to MAF that the line is important and must be defended. This remit may also send an important message to the few renegade beekeepers who seem determined to breach the line.

Those beekeepers who have Varroa know how devastating Varroa is and how important it is that its spread be slowed as much as possible. It is clear that the Government is not going to provide free Varroa treatment in the future, consequently those beekeepers are going to be at a disadvantage.

Remits from the Waikato Branch

Remit 15

That this Conference recommends to Executive that they facilitate the development of clover that produces Nectar and persists for many years in pasture.

Rationale

Beekeepers in the northern half of New Zealand have been noticing a decline in the production of clover honey. We have been very quick to blame one agent for causing this decline e.g. the advance of the clover root weevil down the country, the overuse of Urea on pastures that have decreased clover growth. One other factor that was brought to our attention after a presentation from an Environment Waikato employee was that pugging in pastures could also be a contributing factor - extending the regeneration time of pasture.

Many of us have had discussions with farmers who are becoming more aware that pollination of clover is not happening. We believe that it would be beneficial to work with organisations to get them to produce a suitable clover plant that will have the desired growth characteristics for the farmer and will produce nectar to ensure bee visitation to ensure that seed production does occur.

We would then be able to put a package together (in collaboration with regional councils and Ag Research) that would point out to farmers an alternative to Urea application, that will help create a lower cost and more environmentally friendly way of maintaining pasture production (there would be less Nitrate poisoning, less nitrogen runoff into waterways)

Remit 16

That this Conference recommends to Executive that they seek a Government enquiry into the handling of the Varroa Situation.

Rationale

With differing viewpoints currently in the industry we believe that it would be a chance to clear the air and for all sides to be able to put forward their case. We would request a breakdown of Expenses in relation to the funds allocated by Government for the entire Varroa Management.

Remits from Auckland Branch

Remit 17

That this Conference recommends to the Executive, that they consider that the following become an essential memorandum for all future Conference procedure: -

That Delegates be asked at the opening of the Remit Session, to respond to the question: - "Are Branches satisfied with the Exotic Bee Disease Surveillance that has been carried out in the past 12 months?" If a Branch Delegate replies in the negative, then that Delegate must give reason/s. The Executive should then take note of such reason/s and act appropriately.

Rationale

On 10/11 April 2000, the discovery of Varroa Mite in Auckland, brought home the realisation that Border Control had failed and routine Exotic Bee Surveillance had been woefully inadequate, given that Varroa must have been in the region for about 18 months to 2 years. This unhappy situation had arisen because successive Governments had reduced funding for Bio-Security, despite an ever-increasing traffic through our Airports and ports, and more deplorably Exotic Disease Surveillance had been reduced to a few 100 x 400ml polyjars of bee samples.

However it appears that the beekeeping industry, may have got what it did not very energetically prevent, through lobbying government and Bureaucracy. In short, we did not question, accepted the status quo, became complacent and are now paying the price. This must never happen again.

The Remit will cause every Branch every year to question and examine the current surveillance situation and in effect, will become 14 review committees.

Our Branch feels that we must have better Border Control to remain clear of the numerous exotic diseases and pests which have not yet arrived.

Remit 18

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that they consider the introduction of Varroa tolerant bee stock to the New Zealand Beekeeping industry, to reduce the effect of Varroa and improve the economics of the beekeeping industry.

Rationale

Our branch feels that we should investigate the potential for setting up a selection programme to select Varroa resistant bees so as to provide these to the industry.

To also investigate the potential for setting up an importation and selection programme to select for Varroa resistant bees and provide these for the industry.

And to investigate the revision of the import health standards, with the view of making them easier to safely comply with.

Remit 19

That this Conference recommends to the Executive that the Beekeeping Industry endeavour to co-ordinate rural industries to speak with one voice to increase pressure on the Government to provide better border security.

Remit 20

That this Conference recommends to the Executive, that an approach be made to the Government to get all incoming containers opened and their contents inspected, to control the importation of exotic diseases and pests, such as is believed being put into practice in Australia.

Rationale

It alarms the Auckland Branch members on how many interceptions, recently reported in an article originating from the Right Honourable Jim Sutton, are being made by Border Control, from overseas travellers entering New Zealand.

The many incidents of pest escaping and the costs in attempting to eradicate these same pests are becoming astronomical and so acute, that eventually we will lose our precious "Clean Green Image" as well as accumulating all of the world's pests.

Remit 21

That this Conference asks the Executive to bring to the notice of all relevant departments, "That all Government Departments, including MAF and those responsible for Border Control, should be controlled by the same rules as we the public are, in that in 1999, huge costs were placed on New Zealand and all Beekeepers by being lax in allowing the entry of Varroa Mite through their Border Control, which we believe is contained in their contract.

Rationale

There is a MAF paper out which says that Beekeepers can be given 5 years prison and/or a fine of \$100,000.00 if they break the certain rules with regard to Varroa Infestation Control, yet they themselves in 1999 lost 109 samples which our Branch together with the Waikato Branch had collected during a surveillance exercise organised by MAF and AgriQuality, which seven months later was found to be heavily infected and in fact was dying from Varroa Mite Infestation for which the MAF had been contacted, which should have been tested we believe, for exotic diseases and pests.

The contract of the testing has not been released by MAF, even though requested through the Official Information Act.

Remit from the Varroa Oversight Advisory Committee (VOAC)

Remit 22

"That the line between the buffer and infected zones be maintained and defended for as long as possible and, if Varroa is found south of the line, the line be shifted to a sensible geographical line."

Rationale

The "line" as established by MAF, in consultation with the representatives of those beekeepers in areas most affected, is an integral element in slowing the spread of Varroa into areas to the south, including the South Island.

As such the line is fully in accordance with the Cabinet determination, spelled out by the Minister of Agriculture in his communiqué dated, 6 November 2000, "the aim of the plan (approved by Cabinet) was to keep the South Island Varroa free for as long as realistically possible, and to minimise the economic impacts in the North Island."

Maintaining and defending the line, between the buffer and infested zones, is seen as an essential tool in achieving the Cabinet's objective to limit the southward spread of Varroa mite into areas currently unaffected.

It is, therefore, critically important the MAF defend the line and, further, ensure that adequate financial and technical resources are made available to ensure the integrity of the line is not breached.

It is no less important for the beekeeping industry, nationally, to demonstrate its resolve and determination to slow the spread of Varroa into otherwise (at present) clean areas for as long as practicable. This is demonstrated by respecting the line and the reasons for its existence.

Such determination will send a clear signal to Government that the line is strategically important and must be defended. Furthermore, this will show that the beekeeping industry is a responsible body and that by reinforcing the line, is prepared to honour its part in the overall partnership between Government and industry.

Rule Changes, 2001 AGM:

Proposed by the Executive

15 Elected Officers

The following officers shall be elected by General Meeting of the Association as set out below from the members of the executive elected or appointed for the next term of office following the AGM:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Honorary Treasurer

15a. President

The President shall preside over all matters of the association including Executive meetings, general meeting, special general meetings and other meetings as determined by the Executive.

The President shall have the powers of committing the association to agreements, proceedings or actions in consultation with the Executive. The executive may direct the president only if all members of the executive vote unanimously for that direction.

The President shall be responsible for ensuring that the association maintains legal compliance with current legislation and shall be responsible for all legal matters. The president shall consult with the Vice President and Honorary treasurer in all matters of a financial and legal nature.

The President shall be the nominal holder of the Common Seal.

The Executive Secretary shall report to the President.

15b Vice President

The Vice President shall act in a supporting to President in all matters and shall be an advisor to the President. The Vice President will assume the powers of the President if the president is either:

- a. Officially absent as declared by the President in writing to the Executive Secretary, or
- b. In an emergency, Is unavailable for a period of at least 48 hours by normal communication means. Any decision or commitment shall require the ratification of at least two other executive members in writing to the Executive Secretary.

15c Honorary Treasurer

The Honorary treasurer shall have the powers over all of the associations finances to direct and manage them within the Policies set by Annual General Meeting or other General Meeting or by the Executive via policies. Also they shall coordinate the activities of the Auditors and direct officers of the association to comply with reasonable auditor requests.

The Honorary treasurer shall ensure that Legal compliance to the financial requirements of current legislation. The Honorary Treasurer shall also be responsible for conducting any investigation involving financial impropriety.

15d Removal From Office of Elected Officers

The Elected Officer can only be removed from office if:

- a. The Elected Officer does not remain a member of the association or is in default of any undisputed payment to the association.
- b. That a 75% majority of a general meeting votes on a motion to remove the Elected Officer.
- c. In the unanimous opinion of the executive members the Elected Officer has acted in a manner that would bring the association into disrepute or render the association liable for civil or criminal action. In such cases the Elected Officer can request and it shall be granted independent binding mediation at the expense of the association.
- d. The Elected Officer is convicted of any offence (Civil or Criminal) that relates to statutory instruments related to Beekeeping or a criminal offence that has a custodial penalty.

15e Election of Elected Officers

The election of Elected Officers of the Executive shall be at a convened General meeting (annual or special in the case of removal) will be by simple majority and where there is a tie then a revote shall take place until a majority is achieved.

If an elected Officer is removed during their period of office then the Executive Secretary shall hold a ballot of members in accordance with the rule 27.

15f Council of Elected Officers

The Council of Elected officers shall be responsible for the overall direction of the association working with the wider executive members in the implementation of the policies, procedures of the association. The Council may make decisions on behalf of the association subsequently ratified by the Executive at a normally nominated meeting.

15g Executive Portfolio Holders

Each member of the Executive excluding the President shall be responsible for portfolios determined from time to time being required to operate the association. The Portfolio Holders shall be accountable to the Executive for their portfolio and report to the executive at every meeting. Each portfolio holder will prepare a report to the membership as a part of the annual report. All committees related to that portfolio will report to the Portfolio holder through the Committee Chair.

15h Delegations

The Executive may from time to time determine policies and procedures on the delegations of financial or decision making authority to individuals or organisational units. These policies and procedures shall be available from the executive secretary on written request by any member of the association.

Rule 16:

The Executive. (The Executive becomes a Board and all reference in the Rules of the Association to Executive is changed to read National Board)

(a) Amend to:

The National Board shall consist of eight (8) persons who are either members of the Association or the representatives of corporations which are members, four being resident in the North Island and four being resident in the South Island.

One member of the National Board from each Island shall be a branch chairman whose major role on the Board will be to act as Branch liaison people for their respective islands. They shall be elected to the National Board by branch delegates at the Annual Conference of Branch Delegates held in conjunction with the Associations Annual General Meeting.

Rationale:

There is always an issue in the Association that the branches are not informed. By having Branch Liaison people on the Board to act as a conduit for information this should help alleviate the perceived problem.

(b) Amend to:

The members of the National Board shall hold office for two years, commencing at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting following their election and shall at the expiration of their terms be eligible for re-election unless in the case of the two branch chairmen they have ceased to be a branch chairman.

(h) Amend to:

5 members shall constitute a quorum.

16 k

The Executive of the Association may co-opt additional members to executive that have all the powers of an executive member excluding voting. The co-opting shall be by motion at a full executive meeting and a unanimous decision. The Executive can remove a co-opted member to the Executive by motion and a simple majority.

18 b v

Replace with: The Executive is required to provide a three year rolling budget updated annually with a strategic plan. This will be ratified at the general meeting by the membership and form the overall direction of the Association for the next three years.

23 e

Special Interest Groups representing sectors and industry groups of the association's membership. Special Interest Groups can be created in the same way as a branch and have the operating powers and responsibilities of a branch.

23 f

Branches and special interest groups shall establish rules of operation and conduct of meetings compliant with the Constitution and Policies set by the executive.

Rule 24: Operation of Branches:

(f) New Rule:

Branches to report a summary of their activities to the National Board quarterly in April, July, October and September.

Rationale:

As the Branches are part of the consolidated operations of the Association, quarterly reporting will enable the Board to maintain complete oversight of the Associations affairs.

28

Change Executive to Council of Elected Officers.

31. Policies

The Executive may make matters of policy any matter that it considers necessary to be a policy and that policy shall be binding on all members of the association in the same way that this constitution is binding. The Executive does not have the power to make policies that directly or indirectly contravene this constitution.

All policies shall be available from the Executive Secretary on request by any voting member of the association.

Prepared by Nick Wallingford

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE 1:

Rule 16(a) currently reads: "The Executive shall consist of six persons who are either members of the Association or the representatives of corporations which are members, three being resident in the North Island and three in the South Island."

The proposed rule change is to insert the following parenthetical expression after the words "six persons":

"(or fewer than six if the Executive chooses to not appoint a replacement Executive member in the event of a casual vacancy)"

RATIONALE: In recent years, the Executive has chosen to operate with fewer than six members, by not appointing replacements for casual vacancies. This proposed rule change would bring the rules (or at least the expressed intention of the rules) in line with recent practices of the Executive.

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE 2:

Rule 17(c)(vii) currently reads "Forwarding to Branches copies of minutes and reports of meetings of the Association and the Executive, to be within 14 days of such meetings being held."

The proposed rule change is to delete the phrase "to be within 14 days of such meetings being held".

RATIONALE: This change would revert the wording of the rule to that in place prior to 1998 when the rule was amended. It is not the practice of the Executive to provide the minutes within 14 days of the meeting, so this proposed to change is to bring the rules in line with the current practice of the Association.

propolis producers, who are serious about managing residue levels could bail out the not-so-serious ones. But that can't be sustainable and if you are serious about scraping your hive gear to produce a product acceptable to the market, you have to start managing residue levels. Don't delay making that decision!!!

Our June branch meeting will focus on residues. A competitive treatment will soon be available to reduce residue levels. The risk of high residue levels also highlights the need for treating hives, when treatable infestation levels are present. That in turn, requires putting a reliable infestation monitoring system in place.

The Bay of Plenty branch will organise another DECA course, plus exam for July 7, to be held in Tauranga.

At the time of writing this report, the field day organisation for June 16 is in the final stages and I would like to thank branch members for putting in their time and effort to make it a successful day. It is good to see a collective approach.

The branch is also looking forward to the varroa extension/education programme over the winter months. I understand a one and two-day workshop will be run for branches in infected areas. As branch president, I extend my gratitude towards MAF for helping our industry equip ourselves to deal with this pest. It certainly makes a big difference.

- Gerrit Hyink.

Otago

The big news keeping colonies in Otago occupied is the national conference being held in Queenstown from July 23 to 26.

Apart from that, most hives have wintered down although, apart from two cold weeks in May, the weather has been mild.

An early spring may be on its way with some hives already starting to crack open their first signs of brood. Pollen is coming in on warm days around coastal Otago and gorse is a good protein source in other areas.

- Blair Dale

Southland

Writing remits about problems in the industry has been keeping Southland beekeepers busy as the annual conference in Queenstown approaches.

Another thing keeping many people occupied is the South Island varroa tests, which have reached Southland now. The exercise is hampered by bad weather and the layers of snow still covering high country areas and making some rural roads almost impassable.

- Findlay Abernethy

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BK24

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EHB with great success. He says the combs are much straighter than the plastic, which are normally bowed, and cause a lot of trouble in the hive and uncapper. He is also using a "pricker" with no problems. But you don't have to be a Manuka producer to take advantage of these benefits.

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BK23

Bees develop varroa tolerance

Dr Jeff Harris of the USDA Honey Bee Breeding Laboratory in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, provided some exciting information at the latest meeting of the south Alabama Beekeepers Association in Mobile, reports the Apicultural Research Service Web site.

The suppression of varroa mite reproduction is a genetically-inherited trait that may result in varroa-tolerant bees.

The characteristic, called SMR, is just one of several found in Africanized honey bees that have potential use in selection programmes (<http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/~mts/apishtm/apis97/apmay97.htm#2>).

Fortunately, the trait is widespread in the US honey bee population and so is readily available in the present gene pool. However, in order to begin a selection programme, there must be a technology to measure the trend.

A full description of the work done by Dr Harris, along with Dr John Harbo, appears in the May 2000 issue of *Bee Culture* (Vol. 129, No.5, pp.34-39) and on the ARS Web sit (<http://msa.ars.usda.gov/la/btn/hbb/SMRD/SMRD.htm>)

According to the authors, female varroa in a bee colony do not all attempt to reproduce at the same time. Generally, one-third of the mites can be found on adult bees and the rest in the brood cells.

Fifteen to 25% of mites that enter brood cells do not, in fact, reproduce. These individuals may be mites that die before laying eggs, live but do not lay eggs, produce only a male and no females and/or produce progeny too late to mature before bee emergence. One or all of these categories may be found in any one honey bee colony.

The number of non-reproducing mites in a colony is measured by examining about 30 singly-infested brood cells

and recording the reproductive success of each female found there.

Several environmental variables affect the percentage of non-reproducing (NR%) mites. These include temperature and humidity (increase NR%), season (higher NR% in summer) and climate (larger NR% in the tropics). NR mites also often have no sperm (have not been mated) and in some cases, dead mites are found "entrapped by the pupal cocoon".

Over 50% of mites in colonies selected for NR have been found so entrapped. Of passing interest is the fact that non-reproducing mites deposit their faeces on the bee pupae, rather than beside it.

It takes about six weeks after requeening a colony with an SMR queen to see results. This is called by the authors "delayed mite suppression" or SMRd. Mite suppression also occurs immediately in some populations, and is called SMRi.

To show how SMR queens affect change in a colony, the authors performed several queen exchanges between control and SMR colonies and found that mite populations became more or less reproductive based on the queen received.

They conclude: "... We are confident that honey bees will become resistant to varroa mites." More encouragingly, they say that in the future "... bees will need fewer chemical treatments to control mites. Eventually they will need none."



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BK19

Autumn treatment programme ends



By Paul Bolger

In the May issue of the *New Zealand Beekeeper*, I reported that approximately 250 beekeepers had been sent 45,000 Apistan strips. While the official deadline was on May 15, AgriQuality was instructed to continue processing applications until Friday, May 18.

A last-minute flood of applicants (including 72 in the last week) pushed the totals to 354 beekeepers and 126,542 strips. This exhausted the Apistan stocks held by MAF, and the supplier had to air freight a shipment from the United States to complete the distribution. This delayed mail-out of strips by up to a week for some commercial beekeepers, who had waited until the last minute before putting in their applications.

The budget in the two-year programme for treating infected hives is \$316,000. This amount will not even cover the full cost of the Apistan used, without taking into account costs associated with processing applications and mailing out strips. Any overrun in this area will have to be funded with savings from other areas of the programme. The Varroa Management Group planned to look for possible savings at its meeting in mid-June.

MAF intends recalling all strips from beekeepers for safe disposal after use. Letters requesting their recall will be mailed approximately eight weeks after the last strips were sent to beekeepers from Ruakura. That was the end of May, so beekeepers can expect to receive a recall letter in August. Beekeepers who fail to return strips will be invoiced for their cost.

South Island surveillance

Surveillance activities are continuing throughout the South Island. At June 1, more than 1500 apiaries containing around 23,000 hives had been allocated to beekeepers for inspection.

Supply of sticky boards has been a problem at times, with boards being used in the field at a faster rate than the manufacturer can supply them. Carrying out testing at a time when there is no brood in the hives gives the best possible chance of detecting low-level infections. Unfortunately, there is a trade-off

between this and gaining access to sites in some areas in winter conditions. AgriQuality NZ reports that beekeepers acting as Authorised Persons who are carrying out the testing are highly enthusiastic about the surveillance programme. Beekeepers whose sites have been selected for testing have been extremely co-operative in almost all cases.

North Island surveillance

North Island surveillance during May was also delayed by the sticky board shortage described above. Sampling materials have now been sent to a number of beekeepers south of the Movement Control Line to carry out testing of high-risk sites.

Varroa Mite spread

Because of the large volume of requests in the last weeks of the autumn treatment programme, MAF authorised AgriQuality to postpone entering new reports of varroa infection into the apiary database until the applications had been processed.

As the autumn treatment programme is now complete, the backlog of infected sites is being entered into the database. As soon as data entry is complete, the on-line maps on the MAF website will be updated (www.maf.govt.nz/biosecurity/pests-diseases/animals/varroa/). Beekeepers in the North Island with Internet access will be interested in the large area over which infected hives have been reported. Entering sites from the original area of infestation has been given a low priority, as confirming further sites in Auckland is less important than tracking spread.

Varroa Guide book

The Varroa Guide Book has been extensively reviewed, both by New Zealand beekeepers and overseas varroa experts. Over the last month, HortResearch has put considerable effort into revising the book, in line with comments from the reviewers. A final draft has now been submitted

to MAF, and production details are being finalised with the printer.

Varroa Research Funding

Information about the process for allocating government funding for varroa research is contained elsewhere in this magazine. Because contracts for research have not been finalised, MAF is reluctant to release details of the research projects that are being funded. I hope to be able to include these in next month's issue.

Formic and oxalic acid trials

HortResearch is carrying out field trials on the use of formic acid and oxalic acid to control varroa. These trials are taking place on a warm-climate site in Auckland and a cool-climate site in the National Park area. The purpose of the trials is to gather data to support an application to register the chemicals for use in New Zealand. More information on these trials should be available to beekeepers in the spring.

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Permits required to ship bulk honey

Beekeepers and honey packers are reminded that movement controls designed to slow the spread of varroa are still in place. As such, movement of a range of risk goods between the three movement control zones is either restricted or prohibited. Both honey supers and bulk honey (that is, extracted honey not packed for retail sale) are classified as Risk Goods.

According to the current movement control conditions, a permit is required to move bulk honey from the upper North Island (Infected Zone) to the lower North Island (Buffer Zone). Permits are also required to move bulk honey from any place in the North Island to the South Island. The permit conditions are:

- Drums and containers must not be attractive to bees (for example have spilled honey), and
- Drums and containers must be either screened to prevent access by bees, or shipped in bee-proof vehicles or containers.

Permits will be issued on a beekeeper or business basis for a specified period of time, rather than for individual shipments.

To obtain a permit, phone AgriQuality NZ Ltd on 0800 424 490.

Obtaining a permit is the responsibility of the person shipping the honey (in most cases the producer). Honey packers are urged to remind suppliers of their obligation to comply with these conditions, to minimise the risk of spreading varroa into new areas.

Permits are **not** required when moving honey within the same zone, for example from one part of the upper North Island to another part of the upper North Island. Nor are permits required to move lines of honey in retail packs or processed honey products between movement control zones.

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Varroa research carefully managed

By Lucy Martinez

The need for a research advisory group to direct and monitor the use of funding allocated for a two-year varroa transitional management programme was recognised last December by the Varroa Management Group (VMG).

The resulting Varroa Research Advisory Group (VRAG), with representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), National Beekeepers' Association (NBA), and Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (FRST), had its first meeting in January.

As a research objective, it was decided all projects approved must contribute towards sustainable management programmes for commercial and hobbyist beekeepers around New Zealand.

Varroa Research Policy

The research policy established by the VRAG is:

1. New Zealand must add value to applicable international knowledge (i.e. don't re-invent the wheel).
2. Research projects must support the objective of the research programme.
3. Research should be robust and appropriate.
4. Co-operation where appropriate between researchers/institutions, both within New Zealand and offshore is encouraged.
5. Researchers should have appropriate linkages with end-user groups.
6. Research must take account of the policies of end-user groups.
7. Beekeepers will be involved in research where possible/appropriate.
8. Research proposals will be assessed in a transparent and contestable manner where practicable.
9. Research providers must have appropriate expertise and experience for work proposed.
10. Research proposals must fit within acceptable risk profiles.
11. All research proposals will be assessed in confidence.

While formal qualifications in research are not compulsory, research providers need to have a good research design and prove themselves competent to carry out their proposal.

Risk profile

Because funds for varroa research in New Zealand are small, compared with the amount spent internationally, priority will be given to projects that address issues relevant to New

Previous research activities

Several research projects have already been completed or are underway. These include:-

- * An assessment of whether NZ varroa show resistance to fluvalinate.
- * Sensitivity trial of the Apistan/sticky board test for surveillance.
- * Re-use of Apistan strips for surveillance testing.
- * The potential of Apistan strips to spread AFB.
- * Irradiation as a means of sterilising AFB-infected Apistan strips.
- * Relative effectiveness of Apistan and Bayvarol for surveillance purposes.
- * Feral colony eradication trials, including risks to non-target insect species
- * Depopulation of managed colonies.
- * Review of treatment options of varroa in New Zealand.
- * Risk assessment of varroa movement to the South Island.
- * Population dynamics trial initiated.

Zealand beekeepers and not likely to be adequately addressed elsewhere. Preference will also be given to projects likely to provide useful information in the short-term.

Priority research topics

Research proposals on any subject will be assessed on merit, but key issues identified by the VRAG as having priority were: Treatment thresholds; efficacy of control products in New

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Zealand conditions; efficacy of varroa monitoring techniques; parasitic mite syndrome; symptoms/diagnosis from AFB; range of resistance/tolerance of bees to varroa; development of management programmes.

Funding

In November 2000, the Government approved \$500,000 for urgent varroa research, and indicated MAF could seek more funding for the next financial year if required.

MAF intends to seek this funding, via the New Initiatives round, which calls for initial bids by November 2001. The VRAG will identify, on behalf of MAF, further projects suitable for research funding. Any money allocated will become available for the 2002/2003 financial year.

In the longer term, MAF is likely to play a less significant role in varroa research, meaning the beekeeping industry needs to look for alternative sources of research funding, such as the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology.

Money obtained by the South Canterbury Branch for its small cell trial from the Sustainable Farming Fund demonstrates how beekeepers who design a good proposal and actively seek funding can obtain money from a variety of sources.

Current research proposals

Twenty-one research proposals were received from seven potential research providers in March this year. After meeting in April to discuss them, the VRAG made recommendations to the Varroa Management Group in mid-May. Contract negotiations are still underway but detailed descriptions of the successful bids will be published in the July *Beekeeper* issue.

** Lucy Martinez is the MAF Biosecurity programme advisor.*

Ecroyd Beekeeping Supplies Ltd have recently provided a copy of the video "Bayvarol - Control of Varroa" to the NBA Library and in addition have forwarded a copy to each branch president. Anyone wishing to view the video should contact their branch.

Apology

In the May issue of the *New Zealand Beekeeper*, credit to the source of a story written by Lloyd Spear and headlined "Golden Harvest" was omitted.

The article, a look at the nutritional value of pollens and their importance to honey bees, first appeared in *Bee Culture* magazine, published by A.I. Root Company in Medina, Ohio, USA.

It is with regret that the material was printed before permission was sought from *Bee Culture* or Lloyd Spear.

British Researcher Visits NZ

A leading British bee researcher is visiting New Zealand this month to study the range of viruses currently associated with varroa in New Zealand.



Dr Brenda Ball

Dr Brenda Ball is on the Invertebrate Pathology team at the Institute of Arable Crops Research -Rothamstead, which is the largest land-based research institute in the United Kingdom. She has published a number of papers on the possible interactions between varroa and bee viruses, particularly the role of viruses in varroa-induced bee colony collapse.

Dr Ball is in New Zealand from June 15 – July 2, and will be hosted by HortResearch at their Mount Albert research facility in Auckland. She plans to look at the range of viruses currently associated with varroa in New Zealand, and pass on her knowledge of sampling for bee viruses to New Zealand researchers. Dr Ball will also update the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on several bee and varroa-related research issues.

She was to speak at the Bay of Plenty branch field day on June 16, and with the Auckland Branch the following week.

Dr Ball's visit to New Zealand has been made possible with the assistance of the C. Alma Baker Trust, which supports agricultural research linkages between New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

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Articles published in the NZ Beekeeper Magazine are subject to scrutiny by the Associations publication committee but do not necessarily reflect the views of either the Association or the publisher.

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CHRISTCHURCH HOBBYIST CLUB

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 Contact: Maggie James, 21 Humboldt St, Christchurch 8002. Phone: (03) 337-2421

DUNEDIN BEEKEEPERS CLUB

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 Enquiries welcome to club secretary, Dorothy, Phone (03) 488-4390

FRANKLIN BEEKEEPERS CLUB

Meets second Sunday of each month at 10.00am for cuppa and discussion and at 10.30am open hives.
 Secretary - Liz Brook
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 Mobile: 025 720 761
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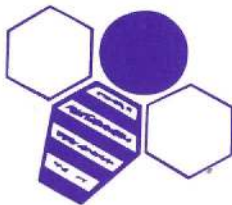
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