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The New Zealand BeeKeeper

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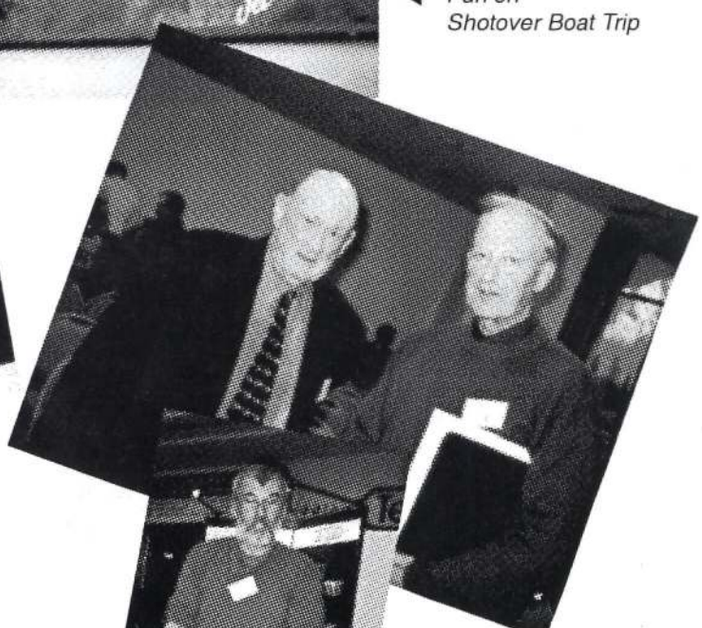
Presentation of Roy Patterson Trophy Don Bell to Graham Cammell on behalf of Auckland Beekeepers

- Michelle Taylor
- Paul Bolger
- Dr Dennis Anderson
- Dr Mark Goodwin

Fun on Shotover Boat Trip

- Don Bell , President
- Murray Reid , New Life Member
- Alan McCaw, Conference Convenor



Don Bell & Terry Gavin

Gerrit Hyink

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- Grant will strengthen industry
- West Australia's honey gets closer

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NBA must stay focused on serving needs of the industry.

Servicing the beekeeper community "to every extent possible" will guide the National Beekeepers Association executive over the next term, says new president Don Bell.

The former vice-president has been on the executive for the past five years, a period of ongoing change in the industry. Strategies started shifting in the late 1980s, of course, when government service agencies were restructured into state owned enterprises and New Zealand's user-pays economy developed.

Don was living in Nelson in the 1980s, working as national park district ranger for the former Lands and Survey Department. But beekeeping had been an "off and on" interest since his school days in Waikaka, near Gore.

That was in the 1950s, when young Don used to hang around apiaries owned by the late Bill Heron, a beekeeper who had earned national recognition. He eventually gave the boy a hive of his own to look after and although it didn't survive for a long time, Don's interest in beekeeping was set.

In 1998, he and his wife Gwyn moved to Sheffield, 50km west of Christchurch, where he now runs Annat Apiaries, a commercial operation producing pastoral honey, like manuka and some honeydew.

Like other South Island apiarists, Don has not had to personally battle varroa yet, but the mite's discovery around Auckland early last year has had a major impact on the industry throughout New Zealand. It has also put a sharp edge on the NBA's operations.

"Whether we like it or not, we are seen by government ministers and many of the Crown agencies to be, in fact, a de-facto industry spokes body."

In the past, an organisation like the Ministry of Agriculture was relied on to co-ordinate research, set policies and maintain a national network of advisory officers whom beekeepers could turn to for assistance. In the contemporary climate, it was necessary for beekeepers to corporatise their institution, Don said.

The NBA is responsible for the industry's political, financial and policy profile and must create resources to replace services no long freely available through government agencies.

Consolidating the general moves made in the past 12 to 18 months will be a focus for the newly-elected executive, Don said. "We want to support beekeepers, particularly in the face of varroa."

New NBA president Don Bell, right, with retiring NBA executive member Terry Gavin.

Letter to the Editor

Honey prices

I attended the 1960 National Beekeepers Association Auckland conference, where the mayor, Sir Dovemeyer Robinson, stated during his opening address that honey was too cheap and that we should find ways at increasing our returns.

At the Queenstown conference 41 years later, Lakes District mayor Warren Cooper asked why honey was sold at such low prices when it was quite evident there was a lot of work involved in producing it.

Nothing has changed in all those years, except my hair has turned grey trying to understand why some beekeepers are selling their honey to supermarkets at low prices, dragging down honey prices generally. Perhaps they have other incomes to subsidise their sales!

It has been proven over the years that price-cutting does not increase sales overall, as supermarkets will swap and take a cheaper supplier.

The NBA has financed research into marketing, engaging universities and others, but it seems to no avail. One thought I have is that: are there too many packers for an industry as small as ours?

- Gerard Martin, Murupara

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S. Farming Fund grant brings hope to beekeeping industry

Helping beekeepers strengthen their businesses so they can survive and prosper post-varroa, is the objective of the Expanding Options for New Zealand Beekeepers project. NBA vice president LIN MCKENZIE outlines the Sustainable Farming Fund.

Last month, Sustainable Farming Fund manager Kevin Steel advised the National Beekeepers Association that its application for assistance had been approved, subject to a few issues being addressed.

Briefly, we have been granted assistance to the sum of $291,000. In addition, $100,000 from the Industry Trust Fund has been applied for. A further contribution of $98,000 "in kind' from the industry has been budgeted, along with $42,000 from allied industries. Funding for the total project amounts to $531,000, to be used in three years.

Healthy businesses will be able to offer better employment opportunities and continue to provide the pollination services that underpin the New Zealand agricultural economy.

Sub-objectives to the overall goal are:

* Provide trained and effective leaders for the beekeeping industry.
* Establish a financial monitoring and benchmarking service for beekeepers and associated industries and organisations.
* Identify and evaluate new business options.
* Establish regional sector groups, representing the different agricultural industries and to develop joint solutions to pollination problems.
* Have beekeepers trained and confident in taking advantage of new options.

The varroa mite threatens the livelihood of beekeepers and affects the primary industry sectors such as horticulture, cropping and pastoral farming, all dependent on honey-bee pollination services. Varroa could prompt up to 30% of beekeepers quitting the industry, resulting in the loss of regional income and employment. The effect on farmers and growers will be even greater, with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry estimating costs of up to $900m by 2035. Environmentally, more nitrogen will be required to replace the role of clover.

This project aims to give positive leadership to an industry possibly approaching crisis.

Beekeepers in each region will be affected differently and accordingly will need to find different ways of doing business. For some, pollination charges will be increased; for others, pollination services will start being charged. Some beekeepers may expand into propolis, or develop a higher market appreciation of the value of current products.

Currently, MAF estimates that costs to treat varroa will be around $40 to $50 per hive annually (Varroa in New Zealand, Economic Impact Assessment, MAF Policy November 2000). This project aims to help New Zealand's 700 commercial beekeepers generate an extra $12 million income, to meet the varroa costs. Barriers to going forward are often a lack of vision, little confidence or few skills to tackle the unknown.

Central Government has provided $7.3m to assist beekeepers adapt to an environment with varroa, but this money is tightly tied to technical control of the mite, not to beekeepers' business operations.

The project will be delivered through NBA branches, allowing each region to tailor the resources so specific needs of local beekeepers are met. Through a national management committee, the NBA will co-ordinate resources between the branches. Within these regional differences, the project is designed to deliver in five major stages.

Stage 1 - Industry leadership.

To help the national management team and branch co-ordinators provide industry leadership, a three-day workshop covering project management, communication skills, team leadership and meeting management will be held. Detailed regional project plans will also be made at this stage.

Stage 2 - Financial monitoring and benchmarking

A financial monitoring of apiaries, along the same lines as MAF Farm Monitoring, will be contracted out to provide a statistically sound base for business evaluation and planning. The survey will be based on the 700 commercial beekeepers.

Two models, one where pollination fees are a major income source and the other where honey and other products make up the bulk of the revenue, will be developed. The models will be available to government and service industries as well as beekeepers. Agriculture New Zealand will conduct the surveys and develop the models.

Stage 3 - New business options.

Beekeepers will be informed at branch level of the monitoring results. Information on identified business options, co-ordinated at the national level, will also be provided.

Opportunities for products and services, such as propolis, or bee venom, will be evaluated. Market, financial and technical information will be provided to branch co-ordinators.

Interest and knowledge will be assessed and workshops may be organised. If a small group of local beekeepers wishes

to explore a common option, the branch co-ordinator will facilitate help and support for the group.

Stage 4 - Liaison with other sectors

Once beekeepers have a clearer picture of the health of their businesses and explored the impacts of varroa and potential new business opportunities, consultation with agricultural and horticultural neighbours will be needed.

The interdependence of the sectors means any change to pollination services, including fees, must be discussed locally. Other sectors may not be able to pay the pollination fees required and beekeepers may not be able to continue in business without the fees. Regional forums are seen as essential to find local solutions.

Stage 5 - Improved business skills

The arrival of varroa has put many beekeepers under severe financial pressure, some lacking the business skills to adapt to new ways of doing business. Stress compounds decision-making difficulties. Skill training needs to be part of a total package where all the components are integrated into a business plan, using information from the evaluation.

Courses to be held for beekeepers will be designed to help them develop a business plan, monitor business performance and evaluate new options. They will focus on providing beekeepers with the confidence to put new knowledge into practice.

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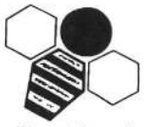

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NZ assesses WA bid to export honey here

Jim Edwards
MAF Biosecurity Authority

IN an application for New Zealand to recognise that Western Australia is free of European foul brood, Biosecurity Australia has presented the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry with the control measures taken against *Melissococcus pluton*.

That is the bacterium that causes European foul brood (EFB) and the information provided to MAF will soon be distributed for public consultation.

A 1994 risk analysis for honey imports from Australia concluded Western Australia could export honey to New Zealand if it demonstrated its regional freedom of European foul brood. Western Australia is isolated, thanks to a natural (desert) barrier and a regulatory barrier against the entry of bees, equipment and untreated honey from other areas of Australia.

Bee health surveillance and monitoring

There are no significant differences between Western Australia and New Zealand. EFB is notifiable and both countries use active and passive surveillance methods. Both countries also have precise rules for issuing an international veterinary certificate for exports. Both countries maintain permanent official sanitary surveillance under the authority of a veterinary administration, performed either by its representatives or by representatives of an approved organisation, with the assistance of beekeepers trained as 'health inspectors and advisers'.

Comparison of legislative control

The Australian two-tiered approach differs from New Zealand's control programme, covered under the Biosecurity Act 1993. In Australia, the control of EFB is governed by Commonwealth and state/territory legislation. The Quarantine Act 1908 provides the legislative basis for the implementation of quarantine and import policies at the nation's border. Within Western Australia, bee disease control is administered by the state under the Beekeepers Act and the Exotic Diseases of Animals Act. WA beekeepers must immediately report any suspicion of a contagious disease under the *Beekeepers Act 1963*. This applies to EFB, American foul brood and any bee parasite.

Disease preventions

Border control systems in Western Australia are similar to those applied in New Zealand for mail and goods, used hive equipment, live bees and apiary products, except that heat-treated (pasteurised) honey can be imported from areas of Australia where EFB occurs.

Only countries or regions known to be free from EFT may import unprocessed honey and bee products into New Zealand. The importation of live bees is currently prohibited, although there is one import health standard for bee semen.

EFB emergency response provisions

Western Australia has compulsory notification provisions and exotic disease response systems for exotic bee diseases, equivalent to those in New Zealand. There is no compensation mechanism for an exotic disease outbreak in the Western Australia bee industry, although there is provision for compensation relating to disease control measures under section 162A of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Public consultation

The review of the request to export honey from Western Australia will soon be announced for public consultation in the MAF publication *Biosecurity* and on the MAF website http://www.maf.govt.nz/biosecurity/consultation.htm

There will be a period of at least six weeks for submissions to be received by MAF.

International trade obligations

As a member of the World Trade Organization, New Zealand is obliged under the Sanitary-phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement to consider all reasonable requests made by trading partners. The fundamental principles of the SPS agreement are set out as 'basic rights and obligations':

- **WTO members have the right to protect their human, animal or plant health, but only if the way they achieve this protection is consistent with the SPS agreement..**
- **WTO members must not use SPS measures as a disguised restriction on international trade.**
- **WTO members must not use SPS measures to discriminate between imported and locally produced goods. For example by imposing controls on imported products that are imposed by law on domestic production..**
- **SPS measures must be based on scientific principles and not maintained without scientific evidence.**
- **The importing country should select those measures that are technically and economically feasible to reduce the risk to the level wanted and restrict trade as little as possible.**
- **If an exporting country can use alternative measures that suit it better. Provided they deliver the same level of health protection, they should be accepted as equivalent.**

SPS measures for bees and bee products have been developed by the Office International Épizooties (OIE) and the Codex Alimantarius Commission.

Regionalisation

It is not the 'country' of origin, but the health characteristics of the 'area' of origin, that is important. Sanitary or phytosanitary measures must take account of demonstrable regional variations in health status in the 'area' from which the product has come because of differences in climate or disease status.

Evidence may be required by an importing country such as:

- **geography;**
- **ecosystems;**
- **epidemiological surveillance of specific diseases or pests;**
- **the existence and effectiveness of eradication or control programmes;**
- **The extent of zones and their limits established on the basis of natural, artificial or legal boundaries.**

Recognition of regional conditions is determined bilaterally, after all these issues are discussed and any necessary evidence is provided.

Varroa Control

By Brian Alexander

Brian Alexander

The speed in which hives decline after infestation from the varroa mite is described as frightening by Auckland beekeeper Brian Alexander. He spoke at the National Beekeepers Association conference in Queenstown last month.

Early and probably over-treatment will be necessary in the fight against the varroa mite over the next two to three years, Brian Alexander now believes.

"We must remember that our hives are own capital stock and each one we lose is a loss of perhaps $150 to $200. To lose a hive through not spending another $6 or $7 on treatment makes little sense.

When the decision was made last year not to try and eradicate the varroa mite, Brian had a serious look at whether he wanted to continue beekeeping.

'I knew that if I continued, then I had to keep going for at least five years, perhaps longer, so that the capital value of my hives was kept intact. I reasoned that if I sold hives within the first two years of varroa, then I would be one of many beekeepers trying to get out fast. This would not be a seller's market.

At 50 years old, few of the work-based skills he gained in his youth remain relevant in today's job market. Besides, he "loved beekeeping". He decided he would continue.

"The next question I asked myself was: could I learn the necessary skills quickly enough so I could continue beekeeping, as I knew that within the next 12 months, almost all my hives would be infected with varroa."

That grim prediction proved coorrect.

An initial surveillance of the three apiaries Brian keeps in the Franklin area, South Auckland, had shown 12 of his hives in were lightly infected with the mite. Now, not only is his entire 200 hives in Franklin infected, but varroa has become a presence in the 650 hives in his main beekeeping area, north of Auckland.

"I do have another 150 hives further north, on a peninsula, which are still clean."

He attributes the arrival of varroa in his main beekeeper area to natural spread from two fronts, one about 5km away, another about 10km away.

At surveillance time, there were hives testing clean between his and other infected hives. Signs of the mite showed up quickly in two-thirds of the apiaries at the 5km front. But in late summer, this year? Brian believed they were "still not too bad".

"I was badly wrong.

"They would have been dead if I had not got treatment in late April."

Fortunately, although they were looking "pretty sick", with extra feeding and the presence of gorse pollen, the bees recovered. "The lesson of this is not to underestimate the speed of hives becoming heavily infected."

He is cynical about the 18-month, two-year threshold period beekeepers had been told was the time it would take for the mite to destroy a hive. "These hives where natural spread occurred would have been dead in about nine months."

Such knowledge has influenced Brian's approach to varroa control.

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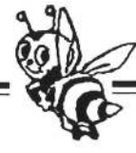

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BK10

Hatfield helped NBA move into corporate strategies

By Angela Crompton

National Beekeepers Association members must contribute collectively if the organisation is to fully represent New Zealand's commercial beekeeping industry, says immediate past-president Richard Hatfield.

During his one-year term in the chief seat of the NBA, he helped re-establish the organisation's financial and administrative viability. A quick run down of the expatriate Welshman's qualifications suggest his appointment was a shift in direction for the NBA. Its executive members have traditionally come from inside the commercial beekeeping ranks, tradesmen not afraid to work when there are things to be done.

Richard, on the other hand, works in the corporate world, where "business management techniques" mean work is typically delegated to others.. An "I'm not here to do the work; I'm here to see that the work is done" is his ethos.

The man from Wales studied in English universities to earn a first-class honours degree in marine engineering, another in computer science and a diploma in business management.. He did a few papers in economics, a few others in social policy, is partly-qualified as an accountant and works professionally as a certified project manager..

It was a job with Telecom which brought him to New Zealand 10 years ago. After two years, he bought some hives and set them up in Whitemans Valley, Upper Hutt, continuing a hobby he developed in England with his brother in law. As an easy way of learning Kiwi beekeeping protocols, he also joined the Wellington Beekeepers Association..

Richard soon learned New Zealand's beekeeping industry was vastly different to that in the United Kingdom, where nearly everyone who is producing honey does it for a hobby. Britain also has little legislation governing how it must be done.

If European or American foulbrood is detected in a hive, it must be reported, but apiaries do not need to be registered. When asked if he now sees the sense in a regulated system, like that operating in New Zealand, Richard just turned the question around..

"You have to ask the purpose behind compliance activities. You have to question: 'Why do something that means someone else has to fill in a piece of paper?' 'Is it necessary to manage disease?'"

He even questions the long-term worth of the Pest Management Strategy in the fight against varroa. The parasitic mite will be endemic throughout New Zealand in the next 10 years, Richard predicted. How will monitoring its spread help beekeepers deal with it?

"[Varroa] is going to invade all the hives anyway, like fleas on dogs, worms in cattle . . . You can reduce them, but you can't get rid of them.

"The money should go into research and the biological control of varroa."

Having quit the presidential chair, Richard's words are probably as influential now as any other hobbyist beekeepers. He can feel proud, though, of what he helped the executive achieve during his time with it.

Richard Hatfield

"When I started, the organisation was technically broke and in a political muddle." There were some members feeling disenfranchised by the organisation and the discovery of varroa showed the former NBA structure had little power to operate efficiently.

Within three weeks after the 2000 executive body was elected, a strategic plan had been published, portfolios for specific areas of operation drawn up and guiding principles laid down for the association's finances.

The NBA used to have cost-saving controls, Richard said, but poor revenue-collecting systems.. In 1999, unpaid levy fees accounted for a $145,000 loss in income, from an expected $485,000, down to just $340,000. In the past year, debt-collecting strategies were enacted and members at last month's AGM were shown a healthy balance sheet from the finance portfolio.

Richard points out the stricter levy-collecting regime has the potential of being good for everyone. "If you can collect more levies, you can [eventually] reduce them -because you don't need so much money."

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BK49

Annual Report of Telford Rural Polytechnic Apiculture Unit, to the National Beekeepers' Association Conference Rydges Hotel, Queenstown 23-26 July 2001

CURRENT SITUATION

Full-time course

Four students were enrolled in the Advanced Certificate in Apiculture for the second half of the 2000 year and five students have been enrolled for the first half of 2001 (two mid years from 2000 and three 2001 students). In 2000 we had students from the Orkney Islands in Scotland, New Caledonia, Eketahuna, Kurow and Hawea. In 2001 as well as Scotland and Hawea students arrived from Waikouaiti, Christchurch and Auckland. This compares with three students in 1999 and only one student at the beginning of 1998. Three students graduated with Advanced Certificates in 2000 with two students, Mike Engel and Ben Dandy, graduating with merit passes.

Correspondence course

For the year ended 2000, 17 students were enrolled in the two-year correspondence course (11 in the first year and 6 in the second year). By comparison, 27 students were enrolled in 1999, 30 correspondence students were enrolled by the end of 1998 and 40 by the end of 1997. Two students, Bruce Bell and Kerry McCurdy, graduated with the Certificate in Apiculture in 2000. There are currently 8 students enrolled in the two-year correspondence course (July 2000), the numbers have declined from 11 at the same time last year and 15 the previous year and 18 the year before that.

Queen bee rearing course

The block course was run from October 16 to November 24 2000 and from February 12 to March 23 2001. For the block course run in October/November 2000, there were three students enrolled and for the block course run in February/March 2001 there were four students enrolled. Of these, seven students only one student was not enrolled in the full-time course as well. Five students graduated with Telford Certificates in Queen Bee Rearing during the 2000 year and one student has graduated so far in 2001

Diploma in Rural Business

One student is specialising in apiculture in the diploma course during 2001.

Graduates (2000/01)

Of the three students that graduated from last year's full-time apiculture course, one has full time employment with a commercial beekeeper in Taihape, the second is studying in Masterton and the third is studying the Diploma in Rural Business at Telford. The only student graduating to date in 2001 has returned to Scotland to set up a beekeeping business on the Orkney Islands.

Bursaries and Awards

1) **NZ Honey Industry Trust** bursary of $3200 is for students showing effort and promise in beekeeping.
2) **Airborne Honey** bursary of $300 for the best overall student
3) **Beeline Supplies** bursary of $300 for making a contribution to queen bee rearing
4) **Ecroyd Beekeeping Supplies** award of a bee smoker for the most improved student.
5) **Ecroyd Beekeeping Supplies Achievement Award** a new bursary of $300 worth of beekeeping equipment awarded to the student with the highest overall marks in the second year of the correspondence course.
6) **Graeme Clark Cup** for the most successful queen bee breeder.

The following awards were made in 2000:
NZ Honey Trust: Mike Engel $1100 and Ben Dandy $2100.

Airborne Honey: Ben Dandy $300.

Beeline Supplies: Ben Dandy $300.

Ecroyd Beekeeping Supplies: Ben Dandy, beekeeping smoker.

Ecroyd Beekeeping Supplies Achievement Award: Nicholas Cumming $300.

Graeme Clark Cup: Ben Dandy.

SA and RH Findlay Cup for Ideal Trainee: Ben Dandy (This is the top overall Telford award for the best trainee student. This is the first time an apiculture student has won this award).

Telford Board of Management: Herve Mi bursary of $1000.

CITEC Training Education Consultancy Ltd provided funding through NZ Foreign Affairs for one overseas student, (Herve Mi) from New Caledonia, to study full-time at Telford in 2000. This involved a three-month course in English prior to starting at Telford on January 24. Study at Telford was initially for three months, however this was extended to a full year training programme and later, after good progress, was made enrolment in the queen bee rearing course. Herve Mi also received an Aotearoa Scholarship to return to Telford in 2001 to study for a Diploma in Rural Business.

Apiculture Unit activities and training in 2000/2001

Three students attended the NBA conference in Gisborne in 2000. This was a considerable achievement considering the distance students had to travel and provide their own accommodation, food and transport.

Students continued to participate in four weeks' work experience which involved a range of commercial experience from Auckland to Invercargill for full-time students. Herve Mi from New Caledonia spent three weeks working with MAF, checking hives for Varroa mite around Auckland during the initial outbreak in April 2000. Other students have worked in Wellington, Masterton, Dannevirke, Ashburton, Hanmer Springs, Middlemarch, Alexandra, Wanaka and Woodlands.

A one day DECA (Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement) training course was conducted for internal students and external beekeepers on October 20 2000. Three of the four internal students passed their DECA exam with all the beekeepers also passing. Another training course will be conducted this year as part of the Telford full time course. A DECA training course was run at Alexandra on October 1 for local beekeepers.

I attended an exotic disease and pest response exercise in Christchurch from September 19-20 and was consequently appointed an authorised person for the purpose of apiary exotic pest and diesease survelliance and for the National American foulbrood pest management strategy. Telford students have been involved in inspection work for American foul brood and for Varroa mites during 2001.

I completed the practical and theory requirements for the heavy truck licence on November 16 2000. Many of the students at Telford are too young to complete their HT licence, which is a limitation on their employment opportunities when they graduate.

The Apiculture Unit purchased a second-hand, 1994 dual cab Mitsubishi Canter, 4.6 litre diesel truck in June 2001 replacing a Diahatsu truck.

Three hives were detected and destroyed with American foul brood infection throughout the season. These hives came from two apiaries. A barrier management system continues to operate with frames and supers being returned to the hive of origin.

During the 2000/2001 season, 5050 kg of honey was produced from 282 producing hives with an average of 18 kg per hive. This consisted of one tonne of kamahi/clover mix, 3 tonne of clover, 750 kg of borage /clover mix and 300 kg of a manuka/clover mix. This compares with the 1999/2000 season where 5185 kg of honey was produced from 360 hives with an average of 14 kg per hive and in the 98/99 season an average of 31 kg per hive was produced. Telford currently has 329 hives, however nearly 50 are being used for rearing and breeding purposes. This compares with 335 hives at the same time last season.

The bulk honey was sold to the NZ Honey Producers Co-operative with 400 kg of kamahi/clover mix retained for creaming and local retail sales.

Stock selection in 2000/2001

During the queen bee rearing course (October/November 2000), students evaluated hives based on data from honey production records of the 1999/2000 season. For each of 17 apiaries students selected the top four honey producing hives. These hives were then evaluated on a range of characteristics, including drone colour, worker colour, brood pattern, disease resistance, temperament, swarming tendency, food stores and the queens' appearance.

Approximately 41 hives were assessed from a total of 254 hives from which data were collected. Of the 41 hives assessed 19 hives were selected and returned to Telford for further evaluation. These hives were further evaluated and the top 3 hives selected for breeding. Queen bees were reared from the

three breeder hives and drones produced from these daughters were crossed back to virgin queens produced from the breeder hives using artificial insemination (ai). Six crosses representing all the combinations of the three breeder hives were produced using ai. These hives will be evaluated in the spring of 2001.

Queen cells were also produced from the 19 originally selected hives and the queens were mated in nucleus hives in isolation in the Wenita Forest at Akatore above the Taieri Plains. The 19 hives were transported to the isolated site to provide selected drone stock for mating.

Courses offered

Four courses in Apiculture are offered at Telford:

- The **Telford Advanced Certificate in Apiculture**, is a one year, 38 week full-time course. Students can enroll at the beginning of any of the four terms.
- The **Telford Certificate in Apiculture**, is a two year correspondence course. Students can enroll at any time.
- The **Telford Certificate in Queen Bee Rearing**, is up to one year by correspondence and has a one month practical component in either autumn or spring. Students can enroll at any time.
- The **Telford Diploma in Rural Business (specialising in Apiculture)** this is a 34 week course commencing on 11 March 2002. Students need to enroll by the end of October 2001.
- The **Advanced Certificate in Apiculture** is aimed at producing graduates who can undertake full-time employment in the commercial beekeeping industry in New Zealand. The emphasis is on practical learning by giving students the opportunity to be involved in the management of the 350 Telford beehives. Students also undertake four weeks work experience with commercial beekeepers. They also must complete 15 theory modules, a major product development project, a 40-plant collection, 25 practical competencies and perform up to an industry standard in the practical work record.
- The **Certificate in Apiculture** by correspondence is aimed at the hobbyist beekeeper or someone who wishes to learn more about the theory of beekeeping. Students must complete 15 theory modules over two years, a major product development project, a 40-plant collection, and demonstrate competency in 13 practical competencies to an assessor in their local area. This assessor would normally be a commercial beekeeper.
- The **Certificate in Queen Bee Rearing** was offered for the first time in 1999 with external and internal students enrolling. Students have up to one year to complete the 4 theory modules whereas the 23 practical competencies are undertaken over a one month block course . The block course culminates in a two hour practical and theory exam on the final day.

Students can enroll in this course at any time of the year. Students should attempt to complete the first three theory modules and the first 11 practical competencies before the block course at Telford as some previous experience is preferred before this intensive one month course is undertaken.

Students learn how to manipulate hives for cell raising using the Cloake board system and how to undertake grafting and non-grafting techniques. They also learn how to select breeder queens, assess production data, establish mating yards and learn the techniques of instrumental insemination. Depending on demand the next block course will begin in February 2002.

- The **Diploma in Rural Business (specializing in Apiculture)** is offered to graduates with the Advanced Certificate in Apiculture or in special circumstances graduates of the Certificate in Apiculture. The course concentrates on business administration and running a rural business, in the case of apiculture students, running their own commercial beekeeping enterprise. Students complete the Diploma in Rural Business requirements with all projects and case study reports being undertaken with a local commercial beekeeper.

The cost of the courses in 2001:

- **Advanced Certificate in Apiculture**: $2756.
- **Certificate in Apiculture (correspondence)**: $425 per annum for two years.
- **Certificate in Queen Bee Rearing**: $880.
- **Diploma in Rural Business (specializing in Apiculture)**: $2283.

THE FUTURE

The number of students on the full-time course continues to increase slowly while the number of students on the correspondence course continues to decline. The number of students on the queen bee rearing course has remained constant with few external students enrolling. It is important that the National Beekeepers Association and Telford work together to try and attract students particularly to the full-time course but also to increase numbers on the correspondence course. Job opportunities continue to abound within the industry for our students but demand from industry far outweighs the supply of trained graduates.

Dr David Woodward, Head of Department, Apiculture

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BK31

Book proves useful beekeeper resource

Honey Bee Pests, Predators and Diseases

Third Edition

Edited by, Roger A. Morse and Kim Flottum

This is a monumental tome of book that has recently been acquired for the National Beekeepers Association library and is put together from the work of many beekeeping scientists from all over the world. Each chapter has a different author or authors, almost all with a string of BSc, MSc, and PhD.s after their names.

I hope my review will perhaps prompt more of you to take advantage of our library service now being managed by Chris Taiaroa (address at front of this magazine). This particular book covers everything from Grizzly Bears to protozoa and I'm sure you will find something interesting in it. I certainly did.

To test it out, I looked up a couple of subjects I was interested in and already knew something about.

First looking up poisonous honey plants, I found excellent references to both karaka and tutu, although I would have liked to have read about the diagnostic features of karaka poisoning when you come into a yard - bees crawling around in the grass, gathering in little clumps and showing signs of dysentery all over the hive lids. Also, something about keeping the bees well fed to alleviate less severe karaka poisoning would have been good, but perhaps I'm being picky..

I certainly learnt things about both plants that I didn't know before, and excellent lists of references are supplied which, if I had followed them up, would have provided more detailed information.

The second subject I looked up was European Foulbrood. I was left disappointed as it did not add to my somewhat scanty knowledge of the subject, mainly I suspect, because it is a disease which excites little interest and hence research worldwide. It did, however, have just about everything I have read about EFB, so I suppose I can't complain.

Grazing through the book, I found heaps of interesting snippets of information on subjects that will hopefully never concern us and seems a wonderful source book on anything you are unsure about. For instance, I looked up purple brood and there was all the information on it, even if it is completely different from what we have here.. And who knows, maybe we will have an infestation of southern titi here and with early intervention, can stop it spreading. (I say that tongue in cheek, but it is just the sort of situation where a little knowledge or access to it can save a lot of hassles and money.)

One major criticism of the book I have is its lack of a glossary, for the scientific terms used. This makes it hard for someone of my, shall we say rather limited educational background, to follow in places. And, being by nature somewhat lazy, I tend to assume the meanings of many of the words I don't know and probably a lot of them wouldn't be in my dictionaries anyway. Maybe someone can write in next month with the name of a suitable dictionary.

• Peter Berry Ph.B, Dip FHG adv. (Physical Beekeeper, Diploma of Facial Hair Growth advanced).

Library makes best use of resources for NBA borrowers

Work by the late John Heineman eased the work involved for Christine Taiaroa when taking over the National Beekeepers Association library.

In a report to the national conference in Queenstown last month, Christine said while much of the archival material was still in boxes, unpacking and sorting everything out was made easier by John's comprehensive catalogue and the way he labelled packs of items.

Lending services had resumed by late spring, after a few delays in the transfer of library accounts. Several researchers have used the library, too, Christine said.

She has set up a magazine posting system, sending packs of magazines to a list of borrowers, so issues are circulated as widely as possible while they were still new.

Under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's Varroa Education Budget, several books and a video have been purchased to help beekeepers plan strategies for dealing with the varroa mite. Obtaining general funds for the library has proven difficult, however, and until the end of June no grant monies had been transferred to the library account for at least 18 months. When the only credits were borrowers' loan fees and interest, the purchase of new books was limited.

The library term deposit account was earning only nominal interest so it has been converted to a bonus saver account. Each month, a small sum is paid in, gaining a higher rate of interest. The account now holds about $1020.00, a sum being put aside for bookbinding. It is hoped to continue John's practice of having copies of the *New Zealand Beekeeper* bound in hard-backed volumes.

Discussions are being held about the feasibility of putting the library stock on to a database and providing access to it via a Website. A direct e-mail link to the library would make requesting books and other items easier.

A number of books and videos are missing from the library and an amnesty on long-overdue items will hopefully see some of them returned to the fold.

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BK 43

Preparations begin for new honey season

The National Beekeepers annual conference is over for another year, with commercial beekeepers having their yearly fix of politics, mixed with a few of the adventure activities of Queenstown.

Now it's time to get back into full time beekeeping. At this time of the year, that usually involves making up frames and supers for the coming season. Some beekeepers will have ordered replacement equipment to update and streamline their extracting facilities. Others will be assessing their whole business operation and planning to fit in varroa testing and treatment activities. It is now recognised that honey has to be removed quickly once flow has finished, so hives can be treated before mite and virus levels become too high.

This month, most commercial beekeepers will complete their first round of hive checking and start feeding sugar and pollen substitutes to boost brood production.

My early checks consist of clearing away grass in front of the hive and hefting the hives to check their weight. Those with multiple hives can quickly get an indication of weight by lifting the backs slightly off the stand, using the upper super's handhold. If you can't lift it, all is well but when a light one is found, it will usually require attention.

I also observe the bees at the entrance of the hive. Are they flying well on a warm day and bringing in pollen? That indicates all is well, but if the bees are not flying, lift the roof and check inside. Sometimes the bees are still in the cluster and just late getting started (shaded hives). Other problems can include the hive being queen-less, starving or dead.

Unfortunately, not all hives make it through the winter. Only about 10% of feral hives established during the past summer will survive and the success of managed hives is largely dependent on the beekeeper. If the hive was re-queened last autumn and had sufficient honey stores, it should be a thriving colony with two to three frames of brood. Depending upon the weather and access to the apiaries, I anticipate losing 1% to 2 % of hives in any winter.

Some hives do die through lack of honey. Signs of that are bees clumped together, their heads in cells in the centre of the brood nest. I usually melt down these frames if they are dark, or if it's a new frame, scrape back the comb to remove most of the bees.

Hives with a failing queen generally go queen-less during the winter and will have only a handful of bees that roar when a puff of smoke is applied. Heartless as it sounds, it is best to dump these bees on the ground a good distance from the apiary and leave them to perish, or fly back to an adjoining hive.

Inspect the frames for disease. If clean, put the honey and pollen frames on another hive.. Usually when a hive has been queen-less for a while, a number of workers will become drone-layers. You cannot tell these from a normal worker and if a new queen is introduced, they will kill her. Hence it is best to dispose of the bees and plan to make up a nuc or catch a swarm later in the spring.

Signs of starvation are easily recognised. When an outside brood frame is lifted up, bees drop off the frame instead of flying and moving about. The rest just sit there, shaking. Amazingly, bees can be revived by spraying sugar syrup over them and leaving the frames exposed to the sun for half an hour or so. Once they come around, give them another spray and put the hive back together. With care and continued feeding, the hive should recover.

Light hives can also be attributed to mice and rat attack. Vermin will happily nest in the top of your hive and consume all of its winter stores. You can normally see if a rat has entered your hive by the large chew holes in the supers. Also, faeces and large flakes of cappings wax will be spotted on the landing board. Some beekeepers nail a piece of tin over the top of the entrance so the rats cannot enlarge it.

Another protection is to place two to three Talon baits in a wide mouthed plastic bottle under your hives, replacing the baits every few weeks. The container shields the baits from the weather and stops birds getting it.

Under normal conditions, hobbyists shouldn't have to give their hives emergency feeding. Bees consume only enough honey during the winter to keep warm. However, once brood production begins, honey reserves are used at a steadily increasing rate.

Note: Honey reserves can be quickly used up during a long period of inclement weather and a hive may starve if it runs out of honey. Always have at least three frames of honey in each hive to maintain brood rearing.

Some queens lay all winter and use all their winter stores early. I prefer bees that are fairly thrifty with winter stores. If a colony is still alive and completely out of stores, put in a division board feeder and fill it with 50/50 sugar syrup and dribble a little over the frames to give the bees a trail to the feeder. A quick way to make up this concentration of syrup is by filling a container with white sugar, then pouring warm water to the top of the container. Stir until dissolved.

There are many other types of feeder.

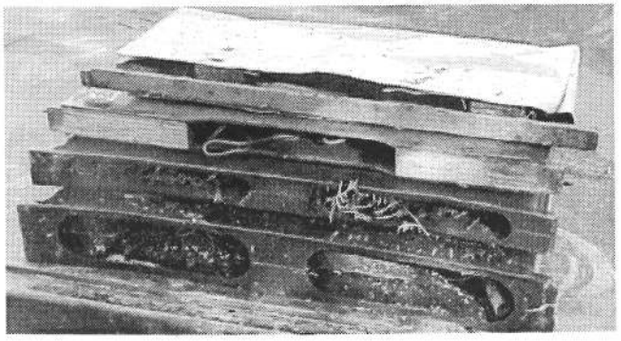
- Find a plastic container or sealed glass jar, then punch five to seven small nail holes in the lid. Fill with syrup and invert over the brood nest. The vacuum holds the syrup in and the small holes allow the bees to take the syrup as required. Adding another empty super and then fitting the roof on, will seal the hive sealed against robbing. Generally, a strong hive will store up to two litres in a day if the syrup is warm.
- Some hobbyists use Boardman entrance feeders but they cool quickly and on a cold day the bees won't work them.
- Frame feeders are the most common type of feeder used in NZ. They can either be purchased ready to use in single or double width, or made using aluminium printing plate, available from your local printer.

I mastered the feeder design by practicing on a book, about four times smaller than a piece of newspaper, and then trimming off the excess paper until it fitted neatly over the book. To make the real thing, I obtained a block of wood, just a little smaller than the internal dimensions of a frame. Taking

another piece of paper, I made a template the same way I did when using the book. Using this template, I cut the sheets of aluminium to size, and then folded them around the block of wood, hammering the edges to make a neat trough.

I then got a piece of wood, the same size as a top-bar, and nailed on two blocks the same width as the template block. I then removed the now-shaped sheet and nailed (stapling would work, too) it in place (see photograph right). To finish off, I placed a handful of pig fern (which doesn't rot, but alternatively try sticks) into the feeder to prevent the bees drowning.

Use a book and sheet of newspaper to practise a feeder design.



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BK19

From the colonies

Canterbury

There will be a branch committee meeting beginning of August to discuss matters arising from previous meeting.

A date is due to be set for anyone interested in obtaining their Authorised Persons Warrant. It will be run for half a day in Kaikoura. Contact Tony Scott, (03) 386-1162.

Our next meeting is 7.30pm on Tuesday August 28, at the Federated Farmers NZ Building. A video showing varroa control with Bayvarol will be screened.

Rae Blair

Hawkes Bay

Just a short note from Hawke's Bay this month.

We have had two sad losses in the club with the recent death of Bob Wotherspoon (Life member of our branch) and Rae Morrison, the wife of branch secretary Ron Morrison..

Mite surveillance is currently under way and we hope to hear the results from this soon.

Spring is upon us early with some very early stone fruit pollination already occurring in orchards.

- Tom Taylor

Marlborough

The drought continues to be the main topic of conversation here, with only the south-east coastal areas receiving any significant rain. River levels are still very low, with some minor rivers and streams still showing no surface flows.

Prolonged periods of hard frosts, followed by mild days appear to have depleted winter stores more rapidly than usual for this district, and a higher than normal level of spring feeding may be necessary.

- Will Trollope

Fight Varroa together calls Taranaki club

"If you only attend one meeting this year, this should be it!!!!" shouts the Taranaki Amateur Beekeepers Club August newsletter, urging beekeepers throughout the province to attend a varroa alert meeting on September 15.

With the spread of varroa more vigorous than expected, it is now feared the mite will reach Taranaki next year. A province-wide, pest management strategy needs to be formed for amateur and commercial beekeepers alike.

Guest speaker Paul Bolger, the MAF Biosecurity Authority's varroa programme co-ordinator, will provide an update on the national pest management strategy and bring examples of the mite so members can identify it. A practical demonstration on the use of sticky boards as mite controls will be given and alternative control methods discussed.

- The meeting will be held at the Taranaki Work Trust, 42 Frankley Rd, New Plymouth, between 10.30am and 5pm. Contact club secretary/treasurer George Jonson (06) 753-3320 for more details.

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BK 37

Three Quarter Boxes 11 Frames Per Box

BILL BOSANQUET has been keeping bees for 15 years, accumulating knowledge through reading, listening to others and experimenting. He likes constructing and devising new systems, trying to think "outside the square - laterally and backwards". He describes a system he believes could benefit many.

Our old ideas on beekeeping have to change with the arrival of varroa mite.

We need to utilise the best ideas that have been tried around the world. For instance, Russian beekeepers suggested 50 years ago that hives with closely-spaced brood frames were more productive than the traditional spacing.

Yet, 50 years later some of us are still working with nine 35mm frames to the brood box.. Are we slow or what? One reason may have been beekeeping-equipment suppliers are reluctant to produce one-off equipment. Even with the presence of varroa, there seems a reluctance. However, in Tauranga alone there has been enough stainless steel wire bought to make 9000 screen floors. So maybe beekeepers will now look at alternative methods.

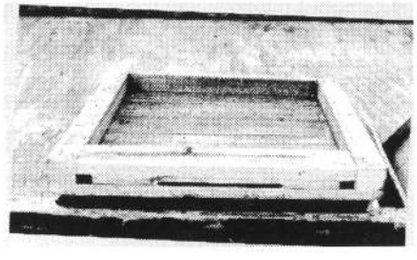
For an efficient hive, I suggest:

- Deep floor boards from the United Kingdom
- A 31mm-32mm frame spacing from the Soviet Union
- Migratory lid, from Tauranga, New Zealand.

With small modifications and no extra work, I have some hives with no drones or drone comb..

Floors

Let's start with a deep floor, using a 35mm to 50mm (whatever you have available) solid bottom. Some apiarists even use false floors, with slats to stop the bee drawing drone comb.



A deep bottom board fitted with entrance block. The side holes were closed off, except when an external pollen trap was fitted.

An entrance block, permanently kept on the hive, is made from 90mm timber with a 100mm x 8mm entrance tunnel, which acts as a wasp and mouse guard.

Compared with the largest wild hive entrance I have seen (about 25mm x 25mm), commercial hives' typical 365mm x 20mm entrance is huge. Some of my best hives have an entrance the size of a match box - 60mm x 8mm with no outside clustering.

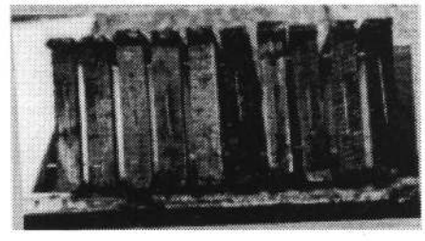
I can hear the cry already: what about ventilation? I'll answer later.

Landing boards

I see no need for a landing board as wild hives never have them. Landing boards are a water trap, filling with water and running through that nice, wide entrance most of us have into the hives. Take the board away and bees coming home land on the side of the box and walk down into the hive. Much more natural.

Brood boxes

My hives are single, three-quarter brood boxes with a queen excluder on top. I keep it on all year. Inside the boxes are 11 simplicity frames with 32mm spacings, fitting nicely into the box. Simplicity frames are 25mm wide and I use 90 series staples (four to each frame) to give the required 32mm spacing, ensuring a bee space the whole length of the frame. The 32mm is critical, as 11 33mm frames will not fit in a standard box. With no propolis build-up, the 32mm spacing can be retained.



Three-quarter depth simplicity frames. Note spacer staples.

Even using wax foundation with a slight gag at the bottom, the deep floor allows the bees to draw perfect worker comb all the way to the bottom bar. Any drone comb will be built under the bottom bars, almost down to the floor.

Worried a single three-quarter box is not big enough?

Consider a queen laying 1500 eggs a day. That is 31500 per brood/cycle, filling seven full-depth frames with 60% of brood. This is equal to seven three-quarter frames 85% full of brood. My 11-frame brood box has the equivalent of five frames to spare. To fill it, the queen has to lay more than 2500 eggs a day.

Because of the tight 32mm spacing, fewer bees are required to maintain the brood nest. The bees move out to the next available frame, followed by the queen. The brood nest starts expanding quickly. In spring there is a quick build-up to at least eight frames - three frames more than the old 35mm spacing. A MAF agent I once spoke to believed the great brood area was a result of extra insulation.

That is one reason. But the main one is what the 1951 research in the Soviet Union revealed (see "Let's Put the Squeeze On Our Bees", *NZ Beekeeper,* April 2001).

Honey supers

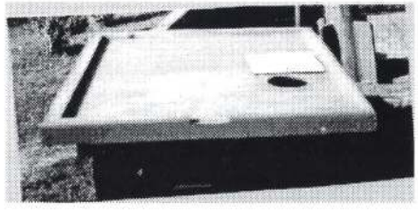
All honey supers have 10 frames per box, added above the excluder during the honey flow. Use your own method to super up. You can put foundation above the excluder and the bees will easily draw it out.

I usually keep the first super on the hive all year as a feed super, one full box over winter means you will not have to feed sugar in the spring. Because the brood takes over most of the bottom box, pollen is stored above the excluder.

Top board

My top board is very handy and every hive should have one. It is not simply a top board but has three other possible functions:

- Hatch closed - split board
- Hatch open - dry sugar feeder
- Placed above a syrup feeder the hatch can be opened for refills.



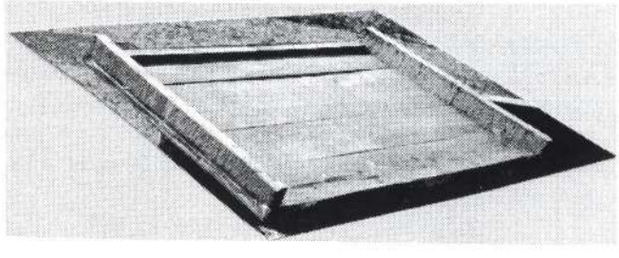
Multi-purpose top board. Note swivelling hatch cover.

The top board is made from untreated ply set into 35mm x 20mm runners to give a 10mm bee space over the top of the frames. This gives the hive good air movement and a dry roof, due to lack of condensation.

The top space is deep enough to be used as a dry sugar feeder when the hatch is open.

Migratory lid

This is very simple and light, made from 10mm timber with 7mm side runners. With simplicity frames and no top board, this gives a 10mm bee space above the frames.. End runners are 20mm x 50mm deep. Even with the top board in place, there is an overlap to the top box.



Underside of migratory lid.

If the lid is made 548mm long, a 2mm space is formed across the width of the hive which ensures excellent air circulation and ventilation. The bees will not propolis up the gap but will stick the lid to the top box and if the top board is in place, will eventually propolise the lid to the top board. In this instance, remove the lid and top board as one unit when working the hive.

This is the lazy and poor man's hive. Lazy because there is little propolis-maintenance to do. Poor, because there is little propolis to sell.

Examining, inspecting hive

Working the brood nest is better to do in early spring when there are fewer bees in the box. Because my bees are quiet and gentle, I prefer to work without smoke.

Remove the lid and, leaving the top board on, place the lid upside down on the ground. Then close the hatch in the top board and place the feed super on the inverted lid.. Any bees in the super are now closed in a bee-tight box. While shifting the super, I have assessed the weight of stores available.

If you must use smoke, split the hive above the excluder, then follow the above procedure..

Now remove the excluder, check for the queen and shake the bees in front of the hive. Smoke gently through the entrance so the queen moves out of the drone comb under the bottom bars into the frames and out of harm's way.

Stand the brood box, on its end, on the floor. Don't worry about the frames moving. The tight spacing will hold them firm. Now, scrape the drone comb from the bottom of the frames. You will have to do this every time you do a brood inspection.

Remove the drone comb from the floor, ensuring you do not take the queen, then put the brood box back on the floor.

Remove the first frame and place it in front of the hive. Remove the second frame and check for disease. This will now become frame 1. Frame 3 becomes frame 2 and so on, until frame 1 becomes frame 11.

To carry out an inspection once the bees have expanded to nine or 10 frames, remove two frames so that the brood nest moves over two spaces. You have to be careful, because if the bees are rolled while removing a frame, you could kill the queen. Some common sense is required.

Cleaning the queen excluder

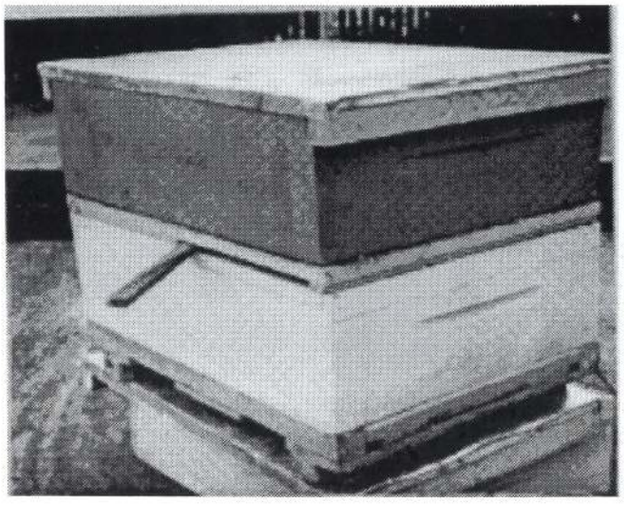
I usually leave mine on all year and clean it only once, in the spring, by scraping off excess wax. I burn the rest off (with one of those hand-held gas bottles), then replace the excluder and the feed super.

Requeening

With only 31-32mm spacing, it is impossible to requeen without removing a frame from the brood chamber and putting it in the feed super. Now put in your caged queen or queen cell and close up. Don't wait too long before going back.

After seven to 10 days, remove the queen cage/old queen

cell without smoke as you do not want the bees to ball the queen. Replace the frame from the feed super and close up.



A complete hive. Don't worry about the modified excluder. I'll report on that experiment next year.

Splits

Splits made using this system will over-winter well in a single box, either on a floor or over a split board.

Conclusion

You will find an 11-frame, single three-quarter brood nest hive out-performing anything else in your apiary by at least one box, maybe two. Once the honey flow has stopped, the queen slows down and the bees start storing honey in the bottom box, becoming reluctant to go through the excluder. This locks the queen up early.

I wish I could take credit for this, but all I'm doing is taking and using ideas that other beekeepers developed 50 or more years ago. There is nothing new in beekeeping that has not been tried before - maybe for a different reason. These ides should help cope with varroa because having no drone brood in frames reduces the reproductive rate of the mite. By regularly removing the drone comb in deep bottom boards, varroa numbers are further reduced.

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Otago reviews NBA conference 2001.

Well, it's all over for another year! NBA Conference 2001, held at Rydges Hotel, Queenstown, from Monday, July 23 to Thursday, July 26, has been and gone. All the months of planning, organising (and a certain amount of hoping) by the Otago branch conference committee, came to fruition over those four days.

Hosting an NBA conference is certainly a great way to get a branch activated - we probably haven't been in so much contact with each other since we last hosted one - in 1989. Many thanks to branch committee members and supporters who put in the "hard yards" to get us through successfully - and relatively unscathed!

We experimented with the conference programme this year and made the Wednesday afternoon a "time out". The organised "tours" were a success - we even managed to toss a few people off the Shotover bungy bridge in the process - and virtually everyone seemed to disappear from the hotel for the afternoon. I couldn't help wondering if the rapid handling of a heap of conference business matters the following day was assisted by this break - or maybe it was the aftermath of the Mid-Winter Xmas Dinner at Skyline Restaurant on Wednesday night?

Conference highlights included the number of excellent speakers, beginning with the Specialty Group meetings on Monday, almost all of whom had guest speakers and opened their doors to anybody to hear them. They were followed on Tuesday by the seminar speakers, focussing mainly on varroa management and including heaps of information and an exchange of ideas from representatives of MAF Biosecurity, Hort Research, Agriquality NZ, CSIRO Australia, Southland District Council and Crops for Southland. And there was excellent personal input from a group of North Island beekeepers copod luck.

- Allen McCaw
Otago Branch Conference Convenor

John & Helen Wright

NBA project manager

A new face at the National Beekeepers Association annual conference in Queenstown last month was John Rawcliffe.

The NBA's marketing committee has appointed John new project manager, a position qualifies for with an Advanced Diploma in Parks and Recreation from Lincoln University and 14 years work, setting up marketing plans and quality assurance systems for the dietary supplements industry.

He has been involved in the export of products to many countries around the world and is familiar with quality assurance systems and quality standards.

John lives in Nelson with his three children.

- Philip Cropp, Nelson Apiaries

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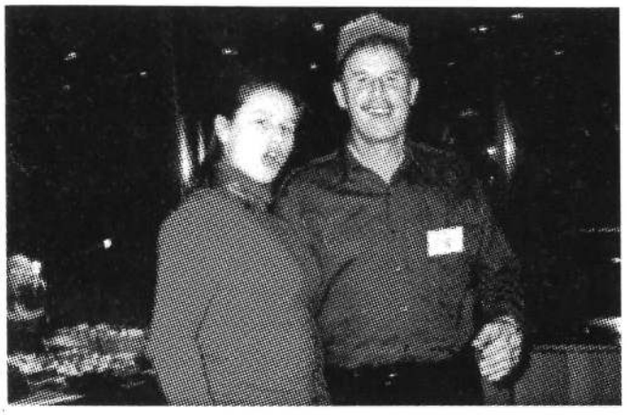
Rae Blair

Having Fun at Conference

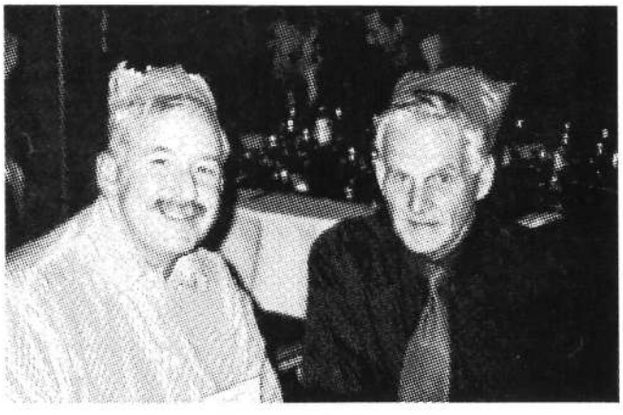


Alan McCaw & daughter

Murray Reid & Helen Wright

Anette & Russell Berry

Jan & Dave Klausen



Ivan Dickinson & Steve Olds

Mike Vercoe and Fergus McKenzie

John & Pauline Bassett

Southern North Island Branch Xmas Present
for Branch Competition

NZ Beekeeping: Various Statistics

Beekeeper, Apiary and Hive Statistics on June 30, 1996

Beekeepers
Location 1996 1995 % Change
Whangarei 1,150 1,213 - 5.2
Hamilton 530 551 - 3.8
Tauranga 511 537 - 4.8
Palmerston Nth 1,330 1,352 - 1.6
Blenheim 463 469 - 1.3
Lincoln 789 735 + 7.3
Invermay 533 552 - 3.4
TOTAL 5,306 5,409 - 1.9

Apiaries
Location 1996 1995 % Change
Whangarei 2,687 2,898 - 7.3
Hamilton 2,947 2,905 + 1.4
Tauranga 3,414 3,531 - 3.3
Palmerston Nth 4,005 4,011 - 0.1
Blenheim 1,935 2,037 - 5.0
Lincoln 5,361 5,270 + 1.7
Invermay 4,030 4,112 - 2.0
TOTAL 24,379 24,764 - 1.6%

Hives
Location 1996 1995 % Change
Whangarei 28,777 29,101 - 1.1
Hamilton 41,270 43,742 - 5.7
Tauranga 47,670 50,631 - 5.8
Palmerston Nth 38,121 37,245 + 2.4
Blenheim 21,775 22,679 - 4.0
Lincoln 58,983 58,861 + 0.2
Invermay 50,210 50,821 - 1.2
TOTAL 286,806 293,080 - 2.1%

New Zealand Annual Honey Production
Year Total Crop (tonnes)
Crop per Hive (Kg)
1973 5,340 25.5
1974 5,140 24.7
1975 7,411 36.3
1976 4,915 23.9
1977 6,078 29.3
1978 8,279 39.2
1979 6,474 28.5
1980 7,489 32.0
1981 6,931 29.1
1982 6,495 25.6
1983 5,059 18.8
1984 5,818 21.0
1985 10,314 33.3
1987 10,091 29.6
1988 7,748 23.1
1989 5,752 17.4
1990 8,752 27.5
1991 7,290 23.3
1992 9,560 31.4
1993 7,086 23.7
1994 11,819 40.8
1995 8,047 27.5
1996 8,610 30.0

Income Produced from The NZ Beekeeping Industry (1993 Figures)

Honey - domestic $27,880,000 58%
Pollination services $8,847,750 18%
Honey - export $7,509,603 16%
Live bees $2,333,585 5%
Beeswax $1,088,445 2%
Health products $680,000 1%
TOTAL $48,339,383

Value of Honey Bee Pollination to NZ Primary Production (1992 Figures)

Value to Fruit, Vegetables and Seed Crops
VEGETABLES
Squash $60,544,000
Onions $39,617,000
Peas $74,365,000
Beans $9,550,000

SEEDS
Clover $12,500,000

FRUITS
Kiwifruit - fresh $492,686,000
Kiwifruit-processed $46,635,000
Pipfruit - export $329,941,000
Pipfruit- domestic, processed $87,000,000
Stonefruit $15,134,000
Berryfruit - fresh $10,898,000
Berryfruit-frozen $8,964,000
Nashi $5,355,000
Avocados $8,157,000

TOTAL $1,201,346,000

Replacement Nitrogen from Pollinated Pasture Legumes
Area of improved pasture in NZ 9,400,000 ha
N fixation by clovers (average) 185 kg/ha
Total N fixation/year 1,739,000 kg
Urea equivalent (46%) 3,782,608 kg
urea $435/tonne
freight $23/tonne
application $37/tonne
Total $495/tonne

TOTAL REPLACEMENT COST OF N/ YEAR $1,872,390,960

Incidence of American Foulbrood in Apiary Districts To 30 June 1996 (1995 figures in parentheses)

Register Location Number %

Whangarei 193 (181) 0.7 (0.6)
Hamilton 183 (259) 0.4 (0.6)
Tauranga 317 (501) 0.7 (1.0)
Palmerston Nth 288 (442) 0.8 (1.2)
Blenheim 214 (331) 0.9 (1.5)
Lincoln 307 (404) 0.5 (0.7)
Invermay 239 (252) 0.5 (0.5)
TOTAL 1741 (2370) 0.6 (0.8)

Diseased Apiaries/% of Total District Apiaries

Register Location Number %

Whangarei 95 (95) 3.5 (3.3)
Hamilton 120 (151) 4.1 (5.2)
Tauranga 148 (175) 4.3 (5.0)
Palmerston Nth 122 (167) 3.0 (4.2)
Blenheim 97 (153) 4.8 (7.5)
Lincoln 170 (193) 3.2 (3.7)
Invermay 133 (118) 3.3 (2.9)
TOTAL 885 (1052) 3.6 (4.2)

Diseased Hives/% of Total District Hives

Apiaries Inspected NBA Programme*/% of Total District Hives

Register Location Number %

Whangarei 123 (154) 4.1 (5.1)
Hamilton 153 (122) 4.9 (4.1)
Tauranga 480 (363) 13.0 (10.1)
Palmerston Nth 394 (267) 10.0 (6.7)
Blenheim 179 (184) 8.6 (9.0)
Lincoln 467 (578) 8.8 (11.2)
Invermay 218 (205) 5.2 (4.7)
TOTAL 2014 (1873) 8.0 (7.5)

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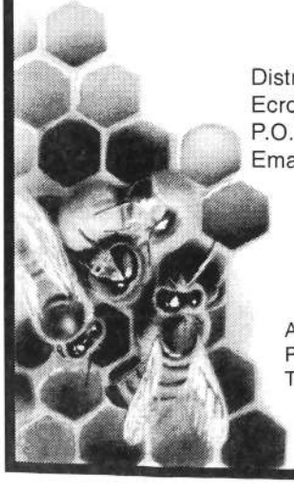

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QUALITY BEEKEEPERS WOODWARE

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.

Franklin

Next meeting: September 9, from 10am, at Elizabeth and Malcolm Hardy's, 491 Waiau Pa Road, Waiau Pa (turn west off Patumahoe/Kingseat Highway into Waiau Pa Rd. Travel 4km then look out for 491 and bee club sign on left.

BRANCH CONTACTS AND MEETINGS

NZ QUEEN PRODUCERS ASSN
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President: Brian Alexander
Phone/Fax: (09) 420-5028
Secretary
Chas Reade
Phone: (09) 634-4375
Fax: (09) 634-4376

AUCKLAND BEEKEEPERS CLUB INC.
President: Ian Anderson
Phone: (09) 480-8327
Email: ianderson@clear.net.nz

NORTH CANTERBURY BEEKEEPING CLUB
Meets the second Monday of April, June, August and October.
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
Meets on the first Saturday each month, August to May, except in January for which it is the second Saturday.
The site is at 681 Cashmere Road, Commencing at 1.30pm.
Contact: Maggie James, 21 Humboldt St, Christchurch 8002. Phone: (03) 337-2421

DUNEDIN BEEKEEPERS CLUB
Meets 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
Meets second Sunday of each month at 10.00am for cuppa and discussion and at 10.30am open hives.
Secretary - Liz Brook
187E Clarks Beach Road,
R.D. 4, Pukekohe
Phone: (09) 232 1111
Mobile: 025 720 761
Fax: (09) 232 1112
Email: liz@pageset.co.nz

HAWKE'S BAY BRANCH
Meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm,
Arataki Cottage , Havelock North.
Phone: Ron (06) 844-9493

MARLBOROUGH BRANCH
contact Will: (03) 570-5633

MANAWATU BEEKEEPERS CLUB
Meets every 4th Thursday in the month at Newbury Hall, SH 3, Palmerston North.
Contact: Joan Leckie RD 1 Levin
Phone: (06) 368-1277

NELSON BRANCH
Phone: Michael
(03) 528-6010

NELSON BEEKEEPERS CLUB
Contact: Kevin
Phone: (03) 545-0122

OTAGO BRANCH
Phone: Mike (03) 448-7811

POVERTY BAY BRANCH
Contact: Barry (06) 867-4591

WANGANUI BEEKEEPERS CLUB
Meets on the second Wednesday of the month.
Contact Secretary: Neil Farrer
Phone: (06) 343-6248

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Phone: (03) 431-1831

SOUTHERN NORTH ISLAND BRANCH
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WAIKATO BRANCH
Contact Tony: (07) 856-9625
Secretary: Jan Klausen
Next meeting Friday 13th July 2001: 10 am
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WAIRARAPA HOBBYIST BEEKEEPERS CLUB
Meet 3rd Sunday each month (except January) at Kites Woolstore, Norfolk Road, Masterton at 1.30pm.
Convenor: Arnold Esler.
Phone: (06) 379-8648

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Meets every second Monday of the month (except January) in Johnsonville. All welcome.
Contact: John Burnett,
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Wellington 6006. Phone: (04) 232-7863
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