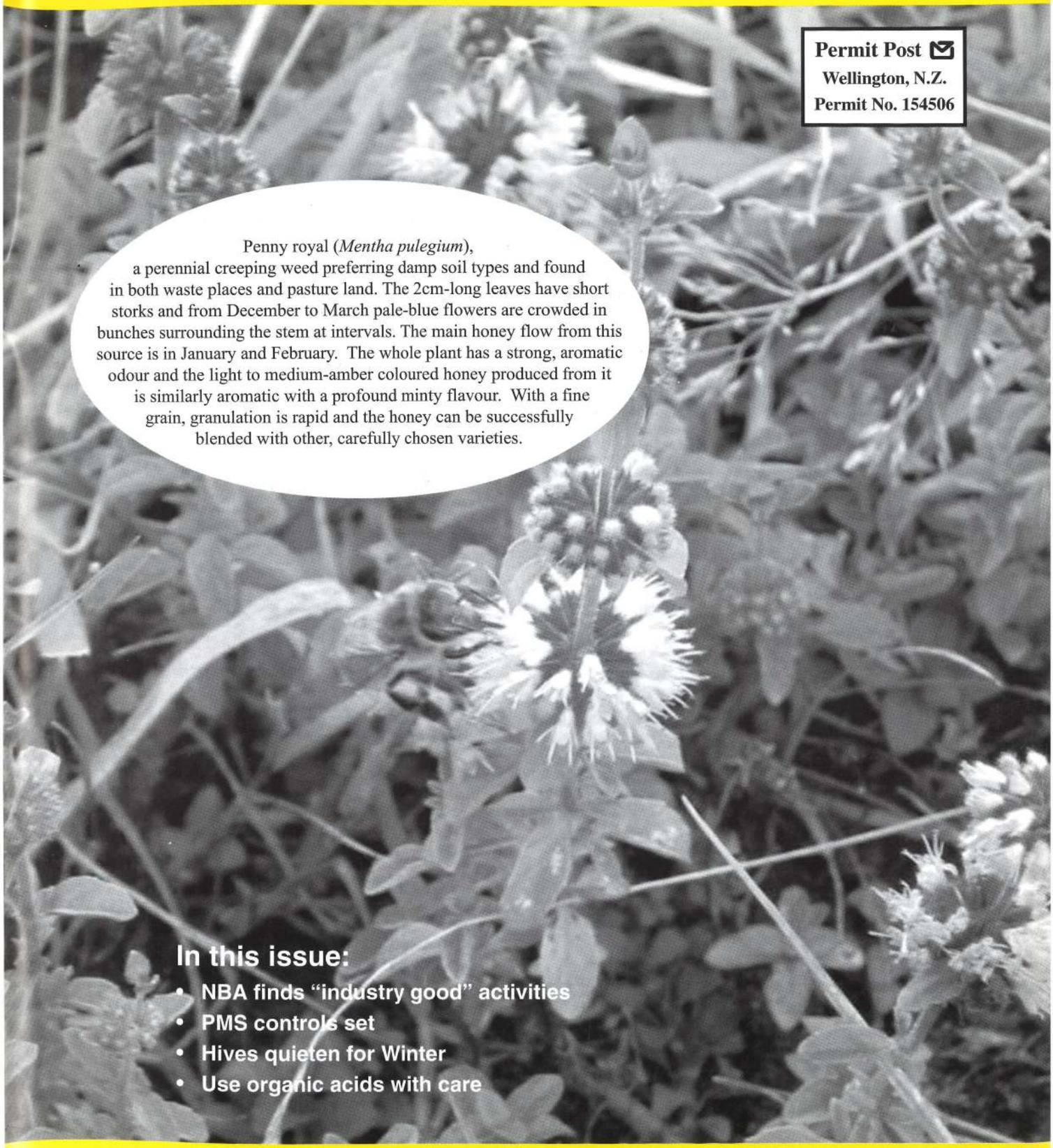
Volume 10 No. 4
May 2002

The New Zealand BeeKeeper

Permit Post
Wellington, N.Z.
Permit No. 154506



Penny royal (*Mentha pulegium*), a perennial creeping weed preferring damp soil types and found in both waste places and pasture land. The 2cm-long leaves have short storks and from December to March pale-blue flowers are crowded in bunches surrounding the stem at intervals. The main honey flow from this source is in January and February. The whole plant has a strong, aromatic odour and the light to medium-amber coloured honey produced from it is similarly aromatic with a profound minty flavour. With a fine grain, granulation is rapid and the honey can be successfully blended with other, carefully chosen varieties.

In this issue:

ISSN 0110-63325
The Official Journal of The National Beekeepers Association of New Zealand Inc.

Published by Crown Kerr Printing
P.O. Box 5002
Dunedin, New Zealand

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF NZ (Inc.)

President: Don Bell
Annat Apiaries
RD, Sheffield 8173
Phone: (03) 318-3869 Fax (03) 318-3862

Vice President: Lin McKenzie
Bennies Apiary
PO Box 34, Ranfurly 9071
Phone/Fax: (03) 444-9257
Mobile: 025 357-970
Email: lin.mckenzie@xtra.co.nz

Executive: Jane Lorimer
Hillcrest Apiaries, RD 3, Hamilton 2021
Phone: (07) 856-9625 Fax: (07) 856-9241
Mobile: 025 969-889
Email: hunnybee@wave.co.nz

Executive: Philip Cropp
Nelson Apiaries, Motupiko, RD 2, Nelson 7021
Phone: (03) 522-4130 Fax (03) 522-4513
Email: nectar@ts.co.nz

Executive: Gerard Martin
Galatea Apiaries, 501 Haumea Rd,
RD 1, Murupara 3272
Phone: (07) 366-4804 Fax: (07) 366-4804
Email: busy.-bee@xtra.co.nz

Executive Secretary: Tim Leslie
PO Box 715, Wellington 6015
Phone: (04) 473-7269 Fax: (04) 473-1081
Mobile: 021 544-070
Email: tleslie@fedfarm.org.nz

Hon. Librarian: Chris Taiaroa
43 Princes Street, Waikari Nth Canty 8276
Phone/Fax: (03) 314-4569
Email: chris.tony.taiaroa@clear.net.nz

www.nba.org.nz

PHONE NUMBER FOR VARROA HEADQUARTERS
0800 424 490

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

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

FAR NORTH
Bob Banks
RD 2, Kaitaia
Tel: (09) 408-5543
Email: bob.banks@xtra.co.nz
Bruce Stevenson
Kiwi Bee Distributors
Kemp Rd
Kerikeri
Tel: (09) 407-7190
Fax: (09) 407-7194
Email: bucestevenson@xtra.co.nz

NORTHLAND
Don Hoole
Sheddock Apiaries RD 1, Paparoa
Tel/Fax: (09) 431-7348
Jim & Pamela Sharp
6 Bickerstaff Rd, Maungaturoto
Tel: (09) 431-8627
Email: jimpamela@hotmail.com

AUCKLAND
Brian Alexander
Woodhaugh Apiaries, RD 3, Kaukapakapa.
Tel/Fax: (09) 420-5028
Chas Reade
PO Box 74 078
Market Rd
Auckland 1130
Tel: Ph (09) 625 5723
Fax: (09) 634 4376

WAIKATO
Lewis Olsen
Ohaupo Apiaries
Great South Road, RD 3, Ohaupo.
Tel: (07) 823-6706
Email: lewis.olsen@clear.net.nz
Jan Klausen
25 Omori Road
RD 1 Turangi
Tel: (07) 386 0111
Email: jan@lakeviewhoney.com

BAY OF PLENTY
Bryce Hooten
832 Old Te Aroha Rd
RD 1, Matamata
Tel: (07) 888 6003
Fax: (07) 888 6004
Email golden.flow@xtra.co.nz
Bruce Stanley
Fosters Rd, RD1
Whakatane
Tel/Fax: (07) 312 9028
Email honeybee@clear.net.nz

HAWKE'S BAY
Milton Jackson
57 Waverly Street
Waipawa
Tel: (06) 857 8509
Fax: (06) 857 8504

Ron Morison
6 Totara Street, Taradale.
Tel/Fax: (06) 844-9493
Email: rmorison@clear.net.nz

POVERTY BAY
Peter Burt
27 Murphy Road, Wainui, Gisborne
Tel: (06) 868-4771
Email: pwburt@clear.net.nz
Barry Foster
695 Aberdeen Road, Gisborne.
Tel/Fax: (06) 867-4591
Email: bjfoster@xtra.co.nz

SOUTHERN NORTH ISLAND
Allan Richards
P.O. Box 287, Marton,
Tel: (06) 327-5039
Fax: (06) 327-5078
Frank Lindsay
26 Cunliffe Street, Johnsonville,
Wellington 6004.
Tel/Fax: (04) 478-3367
Email: lindsays.apiaries@xtra.co.nz

SOUTH ISLAND
NELSON
Reuben Ellis
646a Main Road
Stoke, Nelson
Tel/Fax: (03) 547 6916
Email: reubenleona@actrix.co.nz
Michael Wraight
15 Titoki Place, Motueka.
Tel/Fax: (03) 528-6010
Email: wraight@xtra.co.nz

MARLBOROUGH
Will Trollope
RD 3, Blenheim
Tel: (03) 570-5633
Tony Mulligan
Grazengrove
Hammericks Rd
RD 2, Blenheim.
Tel: (03) 578-2317

WEST COAST
Lindsay Feary
3 Mawhera Street
Dobson 7852,
Tel/Fax: (03) 762-5691
Gary Glasson
Glasson's Lane
Blackball, Westland
Tel/Fax: (03) 732-4856

CANTERBURY
Tony Scott
1 Santa Maria Ave
Christchurch 8
Tel/Fax: (03) 386-1162

Rae Blair
Runny Honey Co
17 Parnassus Street
Waiau 8275
Tel/Fax: (03) 315-6615
Email: runny.honey@xtra.co.nz

SOUTH CANTERBURY
Peter Lyttle
NZ Beeswax Ltd RD 22, Geraldine 8751.
Tel: (03) 693-9189 Fax: (03) 693-9780
Email: beeswax@xtra.co.nz
Peter Smyth
Templer Street, RD 22, Geraldine.
Tel: (03) 693-9889

OTAGO
Blair Dale
PO Box 23, Middlemarch, Otago.
Work Tel/Fax: (03) 464-3796
Home Tel/Fax: (03) 464-3122
Email: blair.dale@clear.net.nz
Mike Vercoe
P.O. Box 241
Alexandra
Tel/Fax: (03) 448-7811
Email: dmvercoe@xtra.co.nz

NORTH OTAGO
Graeme McCallum
McCallum Apiaries,
Frews Road, 7 ORD,Oamaru
Phone: (03) 439-5676
Bruce Willis
Doctors Creek Road
8 KRD, Oamaru
Phone: (03) 431-1784

SOUTHLAND
Shaun Lawlor
Lawlor Apiaries
198 Broughton Street, Gore
Tel/Fax: (03) 208 8210
Don Stedman, Catlins Apiaries
Pine Bush RD1, Wyndham.
Tel/Fax: (03) 246-9777

NZ Beekeeper Printed & Published by:
Crown Kerr Printing Ltd
48 Stafford Street, P.O. Box 5002, Dunedin.

Editor: Angela Crompton 03-478 0357
Email: angela.crompton@actrix.co.nz
Advertising: Allan Middlemiss: Telephone: 03-477 8109
Fax: 03-479 0753
Email: ckp@xtra.co.nz

New NBA levies will help strengthen industry

Want to know what services you will receive under National Beekeepers Association proposed new levies structure? Former NBA president RICHARD HATFIELD presents the programmes planned over the next six years for Industry Good activities and the American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy for multi pest/ disease management.

Defining Industry Good

Beekeepers, like other investors, only tend to invest their own money if they can capture and hold the benefits of that investment for themselves. However, some activities cannot be captured and held only by those who pay for it. Assuming the benefit of the investment is greater than the cost, activities that potentially benefit all beekeepers should be funded by all beekeepers.

An industry good activity has been defined as an activity which: is financially beneficial to New Zealand commercial beekeepers; and would not be undertaken by individual commercial beekeepers because; either

it is too expensive for them to do on their own; or the benefits could not be captured by those making the investment.

How should priorities be set?

We have examined all the activities previously funded by the National Beekeepers Association (NBA). We have also consulted with beekeepers and agencies such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, resulting in requests for additional activities to be funded. The following sections detail what the NBA sees as the industry good priorities.

Area	Budget 2002/03 (Thousands)
Industry Leadership	**$ 35**
Industry Promotion	
(including NZ Beekeeper Magazine)	
Education and Training	
Industry Profile	
Industry Representation	**$ 85**
Food Safety/Quality Assurance	
Biosecurity	
Environment Protection	
Industry Research and Development	**$ 65**
Collection Administration Management	**$ 18**
TOTAL	$203

Industry Leadership

Background

Technology transfer and access to industry knowledge is vital to the success of the industry as a whole. Ensuring best practice in beekeeping systems would continually deliver benefits into the long-term. In the past, MAF undertook many of these activities. The NBA, as the industry body, has adopted many of its initiatives to recognise the benefits of quality information and knowledge resources to the industry.

As a small agricultural industry, additional effort is required so the significant contribution beekeepers make to the wider New Zealand economy is recognised.

Raising the industry's profile is important if it is to attract people, investment and funding and thus maintain a long-term viability.

Objectives

- To ensure the government and general public have a positive attitude towards the beekeeping industry and recognise its important role in the wider New Zealand agricultural economy.
- To ensure information resources are available to beekeepers, researchers and other interested organisations.
- To provide access to high quality information and education programmes for established beekeepers as well as new entrants.
- Using various mediums to provide up-to-date information on the beekeeping industry, for the use of both government and the wider community..
- To encourage other agencies to undertake research, using the NBA's extensive resources, for the mutual benefit of the industry and those agencies.

Why this is an Industry Good activity

The collective knowledge of the beekeeping industry in New Zealand, as with any similar industry worldwide, adds value to the industry. This industry knowledge, however, needs to be continually developed and taken up by the wider beekeeping community. The time and effort required by beekeepers acting individually limits the benefit received but through co-ordination and collective action the information base can be greatly expanded.

Strategy

- Provide up-to-date information on the commercial beekeeping industry through a range of mediums accessible to government and the wider community.
- Provide up-to-date, substantiated industry knowledge and information to support education programmes and development initiatives important for the success of the commercial industry.
- Encourage other agencies to undertake research, using the extensive resources of the NBA for the mutual benefit of both the industry and the agency.

5.5 Programmes

Industry Promotion

- Continuing to promote bee products maintaining a high profile for the industry by ensuring that relevant information resources are easily accessible to media, government and other agencies, as well as the general public.
- Producing the NBA's *NZ Beekeeper* magazine to provide regular relevant and pertinent information to beekeepers as well as to the media, allied industries, government and associated agencies.

Education and training

Through training providers and academic institutes, the NBA is developing a number of education and extension programmes – including the Varroa Education and Extension Programme (currently provided by AgriQuality under contract to the NBA)

Through its contractors and agents, the NBA also provides a wide range of education services particularly in the area of pest and disease management. The nationwide regional branch organisational structure of the NBA has proven to be an effective delivery mechanism.

Information resources

The NBA maintains an extensive research library, requiring a sophisticated and professional collection management policy and funding by the NBA to ensure that both historical and current information is easily available to beekeepers and researchers.

Industry Representation

Background

Beekeepers must operate their business in an open environment within New Zealand's regulatory framework. The long-term viability of the industry depends on meeting the needs of customers on a cost competitive basis. It also depends on maintaining a safe physical environment for bees and those employed in the bee industry.

The NBA is in the unique position to represent the collective voice of all commercial beekeepers in New Zealand.

Objective

- To advocate to all policy and regulatory bodies on those issues of concern to commercial beekeepers on behalf of the whole industry.
- To support the development of efficient and effective nation-wide standards to meet food safety, quality assurance, biosecurity and product safety requirements.
- To ensure environmental and occupational safety and health standards are adequate to protect the sustainability of the bee keeping industry.
- To ensure adequate official and general public awareness of the impact of agricultural, horticultural, industrial and urban activities on the bee keeping industry.

Strategy

The key purpose of NBA advocacy is to ensure the regulatory environment supports the sustainability of bee keeping. This includes representing the views of commercial beekeepers on

the impact of district, regional, national and international regulation.

Through the establishment of formal and informal policy networks within its membership, the NBA is able to develop strong and co-ordinated responses and arguments when policy implementation is likely to have severe negative impact on the sector.

The NBA must also make strong representation to the wider community to ensure that those operating in the environment where bees are working are meeting high environmental standards.

The NBA also seeks to achieve greater community understanding of the impact on bees of various agricultural, horticultural and urban gardening activities.

Why this is an Industry Good activity

International, national and local government activities impact substantially on the viability and sustainability of the bee products industry with policy and regulatory regimes designed by officials with insufficient knowledge and understanding of the industry..

The implementation of national and international legislative requirements means that significant responsibility for quality assurance and biosecurity falls on the industry as a whole. The NBA acts on behalf of and represents industry views in a wide range of regulatory activity

Environmental issues are significant for the bee keeping industry

The safety of the physical environment is dictated by the environmental standards set by the community at district, regional and national level. Beekeepers are a minority in all communities and strong representation is required if adequate regard is to be given to the impact of various activities on the sector.

Programmes

Food and Health Policy

Animal Products Act

The NBA will monitor the activities of the new, single Food Authority so as to minimise the compliance costs to the sector resulting from the transition from the separate Ministries of Health and Agriculture to a single entity.

The compliance costs to commercial producers of bee products as a result of the Animal Products Act could be substantial. By acting collectively, the industry has been able to negotiate a reasonable time frame for the introduction of risk management programmes..

In addition, the NBA is working with MAF and will work with the new agency to develop templates for the beekeeping industry to reduce compliance costs and administrative overheads whilst meeting the requirements of the APA.

The NBA is also working closely with MAF and other government agencies to ensure that bee products meet the requirements set out in the new legislation in respect to residues and other contaminating organisms.

Quality assurance

Consumers are increasingly seeking assurance that products on the shelf are what they purport to be and that they are safe to consume. Significant legislative requirements on labelling and restrictions on claims made for food products already exist.

Many of these requirements need to be met for overseas market access.

The NBA is developing a set of bee product and processing standards that meet APA food safety requirements and will provide the organisational structures needed to assist the industry in meeting consumer expectations.

Australia and New Zealand Food Authority (ANZFA)

The NBA will continue to monitor the activities of the ANZFA and submit on those issues that impact on all bee products. An example of this includes the submission that has been made on the warning label requirements on products containing royal jelly, pollen, and propolis. The recent ANZFA proposals also called for nutritional information panels to be on all honey containers by December this year. In its submission, the NBA requested that warning label conditions be less severe than proposed and that the bee industry be exempt from the nutritional information panel requirement, as honey is a single ingredient food.

Product research to identify unique values contained in hive products requires the industry to lobby organisations such as ANZFA to change legislation surrounding the marketing of hive products. Of particular importance, changes will be needed to allow claims to be made on bee products once repeated research has identified flow-on benefits for consumers in nutrition and health.

The situation as it stands prevents the industry from claiming the benefits of honey compared with sugar. In October 2000, the NBA submitted to ANZFA that the NZ Food Regulations Act 1984 section 148 needed to be amended to allow the industry to promote the alternative benefits of honey. Research indicates that honey can be used as a sports performance enhancer, and also identifies that the presence of naturally occurring chromium in honey could prevent adult-onset of diabetes and heart disease. This work remains in progress.

Biosecurity

Border Protection

The NBA will continue monitoring the government's border control and surveillance policy through representation on the government's Biosecurity Consultative Committees.

The NBA has made a submission on the Developing a Biosecurity Strategy for New Zealand. Its draft is due out this month and then we will make further submissions.

The importance of strong industry representation on biosecurity matters was clearly seen at the time of the varroa mite incursion. As a result of NBA representation, beekeepers had significant input into the design of the response. The NBA was well organised with its advocacy and succeeded in galvanising the support of the wider primary sector and obtaining substantial financial support from the government.

Other recent disease incursions that have affected smaller industries such as the pig and poultry sector (Aujeskey's disease, Chicken Bursal disease) have achieved minimal government support.

Through the leadership of the NBA, the present AFB National Pest Management Strategy (NPMS) was developed. The NBA will continue to administer the NPMS and will continue to examine long-term options for the management of varroa.

Importation of honey and bee products into New Zealand can represent a serious disease threat.. Through its levy funds, the NBA will continue to contract expertise to provide contestable advice to government officials and decision-makers. High quality work on important health standards can prevent serious deleterious impacts on the sector.. The NBA has previously prevented imports that would have represented a disease risk to New Zealand production. This vital activity will be continued. An example of this was the recent submission against the importation of Western Australian honey.

International Policy – Market Access

The ability to export bee products to international markets requires a regular statement on the health status of New Zealand bees and bee products. Without such a statement, European and other markets would be closed to New Zealand products.

Collective action through the NBA is required to ensure New Zealand officials continue to undertake this activity at minimal cost to industry participants.

Environment Protection

Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO)

If genetically modified plants are released in New Zealand, pollen and nectar from them could impact on the market acceptance of New Zealand bee products. The NBA succeeded in obtaining interested person status for the Royal Commission on Genetic Modification. It is important that the NBA continues to monitor GMO policy as it develops.

As a consequence of the NBA presentation before the Royal Commission, one of the major recommendations made by the commission was that "MAF develop a strategy to keep bee products free of GMO materials".

The NBA will need to work closely with the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) to have surfactants reclassified to ensure people using these are aware of the possible damage they can cause to foraging bees. This will happen as the pesticides get transferred from the Pesticides Act to the new HSNO regulations administered by ERMA.

Ongoing representations will continue to be made to ERMA, ACVM and AGCARM to ensure adequate assessment and control is placed on chemicals that would otherwise represent a threat to beekeeping. The NBA will participate in the review of 1080 proposed for 2003.

The NBA will continue to present the beekeeping industry requirements to the Agrichemical Education Trust to assist with the pro-active education of chemical users as well as continue a programme of educating the general public on the proper use of insecticides and surfactants to prevent spray poisoning of bees.

4 Industry Research and Development

Background

Historically, much of the bee industry research and development was carried out or supported either by MAF (for disease and beekeeping management) and the NBA (in product research). As government funding has lessened, the NBA has had to take up all of these programmes. A need has also emerged for the NBA to conduct a wider range of research to support other industry good areas such as sustainability, viability and industry wide product research and development.

Objectives

- To ensure the industry is sustainable through continual improvement of systems and processes and increasing the viability of beekeeping as a primary producing industry.
- To ensure that the NBA representation on legislation and policy is based on robust research.
- To provide a research backdrop for industry-wide product development in hive products that will lead to increased returns to New Zealand beekeepers.
- To obtain funding to support industry wide sustainability, education and product research for the greater good of the whole beekeeping industry.

Strategy

- Improve the overall sustainability of the whole industry through education and research programmes; assisting beekeepers gain higher returns for the primary products they produce.
- Product research and development that improves the direct returns to a wide range of beekeepers.
- Research and development into sustainable and viable beekeeping and business practices for the whole industry.

Why this is an Industry Good activity

The promotion of best management practices and beekeeper education initiatives will ensure beekeeping is sustainable and commercially viable as an industry in New Zealand. The development of higher quality and new products has the potential to generate higher returns and open up new markets to the industry as a whole.

Programmes

Industry Sustainability

This is a research, development and education programme for the improvement of beekeeper businesses through better management of business relationships, promotion, employment, compliance, finance and administration. This programme is currently being undertaken in conjunction with the Sustainable Farming Fund and will run for the next two years.

Industry Product Research

This involves research and development of products from beekeeping operations and hive products that the whole industry can benefit from. This is currently being done in collaboration with the Honey Research Unit at the University of Waikato. The unit was set up following initiatives undertaken by members of the NBA marketing committee. Work currently undertaken includes finding new uses for hive products in local and export markets. This product research also assists the industry in differentiating New Zealand hive products and beekeeping operations from other countries by identifying unique elements that assist in a broad range of marketing efforts by beekeepers.

Product research has the potential to identify unique values in hive products, which could move New Zealand hive products from being, in many cases, simple commodities to value-added products.

Accessing Public Good Research Funding

Government and other agencies fund public good research but access to such grants rely on business cases showing benefit to a significant part of the industry, if not the industry as a whole. Successful applications generally rely on an industry representative body leading the application. At present, the NBA has an application for:

- Foundation for Research Science and Technology – Currently in development, proposals include finalising research into the anti-bacterial, anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory properties of honey. It would also look at developing handling practices to maintain the functionality of the honey, helping beekeepers handle the product to ensure higher value returns.

American foulbrood pest management strategy

1 Introduction

Areas

- Research and Development
- AFB Management Agency
- Training and Education
- Collection and Accounting – This is to collect and account for the levy and is an administrative operational component related to the whole PMS. Therefore there is no further explanation in this plan.

Budget

Area	Budget
Research and Development	$58,000
AFB PMS Management Agency	$190,000
Training and Education	$42,000
Collection and accounting	$20,000
Total	$310,000.00

AFB Management Research and Development

Background

Historically, much of the research and development was either carried out or supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry for disease and beekeeping management. Government inputs have now lessened, leaving research more reliant on overseas material, complemented by some privately-funded, local research. The National Beekeepers Association intends to continue with a number of programmes that improve practical management techniques for beekeepers and the management agency so that they are better able to manage AFB whilst maintaining the relatively clean image of the industry.

Also, with the advent of varroa, the complexities of managing multiple pests, practically and effectively are increased and the NBA believes some significant research and development will aid the industry.

Objectives

1. To continue to research and develop practical management techniques for beekeepers for the elimination of AFB in New Zealand.
2. To communicate that research and development to the widest possible community of beekeepers
3. To research the combined impacts of other pests/ diseases and AFB and to improve pests/diseases management for the beekeeper.

Strategy

Priority is given to programmes that:

1. Reduce the cost and impact of AFB to all beekeepers.
2. Research and development that develops industry strategies for multiple pests/diseases with AFB.

Programmes

Elimination of AFB

This is a research, development and education programme to improve the overall industry management of AFB with:

- Research into managing the vectors for AFB both in and outside a beekeeping operation..
- Research into disease prevention techniques and possible ways of eliminating AFB in beekeeping operations and the industry as a whole.

Combined Impacts of Pests/Diseases with AFB (varroa)

Undertake research jointly with the varroa programme to identify threats and impacts related to varroa and AFB. From this, improve beekeeper and industry management techniques for AFB and varroa so that the combined impact to beekeepers can be reduced.

AFB Management Systems and Processes (Management Agency)

Identify and develop improved methods of AFB management for the management agency so that it can undertake its responsibilities more effectively. This includes the improvement of systems and processes under the AFB PMS that beekeepers and inspectors are required to comply with. The aim is to simplify the processes and documentation so that any burden is minimised whilst protecting the interests of the industry, AFB PMS and the beekeeper.

Research and Development Communication

This is a concerted programme to ensure that all beekeepers are aware of and have access to the latest research and development related to AFB. Techniques need to be further developed so that all beekeepers can access information about AFB and the management of AFB through a number of channels in any location in NZ. This needs to cover commercial, semi-commercial and hobbyist beekeepers and the organisations that they belong to.

AFB PMS – Management Agency

Background

The NBA is the management agency identified under the AFB PMS. This places responsibilities on the NBA to undertake AFB pest management in accordance with the legislation so that the ultimate goal of AFB elimination from NZ can be achieved.

In summary, the NBA is required to:

- Oversee beekeeper compliance activities such as identifying, recording, reporting and destruction of AFB.
- Management of AFB disease outbreaks.
- Keep accurate records on apiaries, beekeepers, disease incidence and equipment movements..
- Report to the Minister and the industry on meeting its obligations and progress towards the goals under the AFB PMS

Objectives

1. To manage the AFB PMS in the achievement of the long term goals by ensuring that the management

agency is responsive in AFB outbreaks, and proactive in auditing at risk beekeepers, ensuring that all beekeepers comply with the requirements of the AFB PMS.
2. Undertake targeted programmes that could impact the success of the AFB PMS.
3. To ensure that beekeepers comply with the AFB PMS requirements and they understand their obligations

Strategy

1. Manage the day-to-day PMS strategy through a combination of contractors and NBA representatives.
2. Regularly remind and inform beekeepers and if necessary, take further action on their obligations under the AFB PMS.
3. Monitor potential threats to the strategy by undertaking analysis of disease occurrence so that proactive measures can be undertaken.
4. Ensure that outbreaks and incidents are managed to minimise the risk to the AFB PMS and affected parties.
5. Employ targeted auditing techniques that identify at-risk beekeepers and geographic areas.

Programmes

Day-to-Day management

The core activities of the day-to-day management are:

- Keeping the AFB PMS apiary, beekeeper and disease incidence register up to date and accurate with information supplied by beekeepers, inspectors and other sources.
- Providing information to beekeepers on registration.
- Managing the Annual disease returns: issuing, following up and recording results.

Monitoring

- Targeted spore testing programme monitoring the levels of AFB in brood and honey.
- Sample testing for inspectors and beekeepers monitoring AFB spore levels throughout the country.
- The apiary register for reports of disease occurrence
- Analysis of results of the above and determine the measures required to address any areas potentially or currently at risk.
- Diseaseathons covering wide areas and a range of beekeepers to identify hidden sources of disease.

Compliance and Auditing

The Compliance and Auditing Programme works with beekeepers to ensure that they are complying with the AFB PMS requirements and meeting their obligations.

These include:

- Physical audits of potential or current at risk beekeepers. This may be due to levels of disease detection (reported, inspected or through testing programme), non-compliance or disease occurrence in the area.
- Targeted education programme for beekeepers failing to comply with the requirements.
- Analysis of the level of compliance and improvements to the compliance mechanisms.
- Enforcement of legislative requirements if necessary where the management agency sees it in the best interests of the AFB PMS.
- Counselling to beekeepers that are falling below the minimum acceptable standards.
- Auditing compliance to the DECA scheme by beekeepers.

Outbreak and Incident Management

The Outbreak and incident management programme is a response programme to major disease occurrences that an individual beekeeper is unable to manage. The activities include:

- Development and maintenance of a response plan for outbreaks and incidents. This includes a risk management plan for AFB incidents.
- Response to outbreaks and incidents
- Analysis of incidents and outbreaks to determine cause, how they can be managed better and changes required to the monitoring programme.

Communication, Reporting and Management Agency Obligations

There are a number of requirements on the management agency to report. The NBA sees that this is an important area for overall good of the AFB PMS. The activities include:

- Regular reports in the *NZ Beekeeper* on the progress of the AFB PMS and recent news and events.
- Formal reports to the Minister as required by the Biosecurity Act.
- Internet web site with news, information and education material.

Training and Education

Background

The NBA sees training and education as a core area for achieving the goals of the AFB PMS. Therefore much of its focus is in programmes that facilitate an industry-wide knowledge base in the management of AFB to its eventual elimination from New Zealand.

Objectives

1. Provide educational material including publications, articles and supporting documentation to beekeepers and other organisations..
2. Provide an information resource for beekeepers on disease management in general
3. Up-skilling beekeepers in the prevention, recognition and destruction of AFB.
4. Knowledge-based competency assessment available to all beekeepers so that they can effectively discharge their responsibilities under the AFB PMS.

Strategy

1. Further development of the information resources and making it available via electronic means to beekeepers.
2. Maintain support workshops, day and evening programmes through the branch structure and other organisations
3. Keep a pool of DECA trainers under the DECA scheme for beekeepers.
4. Provide an easy-to-use, competency assessment programme for beekeepers.

South Island Varroa Workshops

A series of evening varroa education workshops for South Island hobby beekeepers started this month and everyone is welcome to attend. Participants are asked to bring along their copy of the green *Control of Varroa* book, published last year, plus a pen and some paper so notes can be taken. All workshops run from 7-10pm and those still to be held will be at:

Hotel Ashley	Greymouth	May 21
Abbey Lodge	Dunedin	June 10
Invercargill Working Club	Invercargill	June 11
Golden Gate Lodge	Cromwell	June 13
Criterion Hotel	Oamaru	June 14

Contact Tony Roper (021 283 1829) or David McMillan (021 951 625) with any queries.

Tony and David should also be contacted by commercial beekeepers interested in attending one-day 'Living with Varroa' workshops. All commercial beekeepers are invited to attend but because the number of participants is limited, registrations must be made in advance. Please bring your *Control of Varroa* book, a pen and some paper.

Workshops will be held at:

Hotel Ashley,	Greymouth	May 21
Abbey Lodge,	Dunedin	June 10
Croydon Lodge	Gore	June 12
Golden Gate Lodge	Cromwell	June 13
Criterion Hotel	Oamaru	June 15

- Paul Bolger
MAF Biosecurity Authority

Varroa mites in New Jersey show resistance to controls

By Medhat Nasr

American beekeepers in New Jersey are facing a new challenge. This northern spring, honeybee colonies looked great. Being strong with lots of brood and food, we were thinking beekeepers would have a break from our expected annual colony loss. The thought did not last very long.

I have received reports that bee colonies showed high varroa mite counts in ether-roll. Some of the colonies had dead bees with damaged wings and dead pupae in front of beehives. I responded to these reports, screening varroa mites for Check Mite+ and Apistan resistance.

I found that efficacy of Check Mite+ (Coumaphos) was on the average 19%. Meanwhile, the efficacy of Apistan was on the average 75%. More colonies were tested and presented the same results. Tested varroa mites in New Jersey honeybee colonies had developed a resistance to Check Mite+.

Beekeepers with Check Mite+ resistant-varroa mites were advised to use Apistan. Based on our testing for Apistan resistance, beekeepers could achieve about 75% varroa kill, action representing the best option with only a short window for treating colonies before they are moved to pollinate blueberries. We expect the colonies will recover enough to pollinate these crops. Meanwhile, we will continue monitoring colonies to find the efficacy of Apistan in controlling varroa and the recovery of the bee population throughout the season.

• Dr Medhat Nasr, is an extension specialist in Apiculture Blueberry and Cranberry Research Centre, Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA. *Bee Culture Magazine*

Letters to the Editor

Movement control line serves all beekeepers - not just a few

Comments made by the Bay of Plenty former branch president in the From the Colonies column of the April *Beekeeper* must be of concern to most beekeepers.

When varroa was found in April 2000, it was confined to a relatively small, geographical area around Auckland. There were also a small number of apiaries outside this area which were infected from hives moved out of the infected zone.

The opportunity was available to consider eradication or control measures. While the options were being considered there was no serious intent to try to contain varroa within the infected zone or to monitor, treat and eradicate it from the isolated infected apiaries, so the eradication opportunity was lost.

Indeed, by November 2000, the infected zone was extended to include the whole of the upper North Island. Why was this so?

While everyone has their own opinions, I think it probably came down to money (of a cost benefit analysis). One of the main influences was the kiwifruit industry and its demand for hives for pollination. The cost of control measures and compensating for movement controls, as well as the unwillingness of some beekeepers to co-operate, meant that trying to contain varroa in the original infected zone was not going to work.

The result was that after another year, varroa has spread virtually right over the upper North Island. I wonder if the response and outcome would have been different if the kiwifruit industry did not exist.

Some Bay of Plenty beekeepers seem to have been crying that they are the ones who have lost the most from varroa. They've 'paid the price' for having a movement control line across the North Island. But this is not so.

Many beekeepers south of the line have lost a lot of income from movement controls. Some beekeepers who supplied hives for kiwifruit pollination chose to let that go as they could not bring their hives back over the line - surely this was a windfall for those Bay of Plenty beekeepers who picked up these orders. Other beekeepers lost also. In my own case, 80% of my queen bee sales were to the South Island. When that was stopped, and I lost the opportunity to sell queens through November into the South Island, that part of my business became non viable.

Bay of Plenty beekeepers have been insulated from the effects of varroa by being supplied with free Apistan strips for over a year and I think the reality of varroa is just starting to makes its presence felt.

The comments by the branch president: "*Of utmost importance will be the abandonment of the discriminatory mite control line, restricting beekeepers access to their sites or utilising new ones. This causes division, and considerable friction between beekeepers north and south of the line*" seem to sum up the attitude that some Bay of Plenty beekeepers have towards others in New Zealand.

The game plan seems to be this: Put as many hives you can into kiwifruit pollination and then look for some manuka sites to dump your hives on. It doesn't matter if another beekeeper is in that area. Too bad. Doesn't matter if you don't get much honey, as the price of manuka will justify it.

There are all sorts of justification used to make this sound OK, but in reality, it isn't. It would seem the ethics and 'rights' of beekeepers, which have been respected by other beekeepers in the past, are now meaningless.

The apparent disregard for other beekeepers in New Zealand by some Bay of Plenty branch members may well rebound on them in the future. It is early days for varroa and if in the future they come to depend on other beekeepers to supply them bees, nucs or queen bees, they may well find there is little sympathy left for them.

Maintaining the movement control line has been instrumental in slowing the spread of varroa. The financial viability of many beekeepers is under threat as many rely mostly on honey production for their income. They do not have kiwifruit pollination as some beekeepers do.

Comments made that "*our organisation has been instrumental in helping to implement the line so should carry most of the blame for this friction*" is clearly out of order and to suggest that "*Hopefully, common sense will finally prevail after two years*" only leaves me to hope that common sense will realise that the Bay of Plenty branch seems only intent on its own interests and not those of other beekeepers in New Zealand.

Many beekeepers are concerned that removal of the line will result in high infection rates of varroa in areas where varroa doesn't currently exist.

As most beekeepers know, it is very hard not to spread varroa once you have it, so removing the line would result in its rapid spread throughout the rest of the North Island. Does this increase the risk of it getting to the South Island? I'm sure it does.

And lastly, comments about the National Beekeepers Association that "For too long, this branch has received virtually no benefits for the levies paid" is simply not true and it would be easy for anyone to make that comment.

I think the NBA has done a poor job in conveying financial information to its members, but a change in structure is not likely to alter the costs it concurs in running the association.

- Colin McLean

National Beekeepers Association Otago Branch

Notice of Annual General Meeting 2002 (followed by a Branch General Meeting), Friday 31May 2002, at 7 pm, Federated Farmers, Havest Court, George Street, Dunedin.

From the colonies

Canterbury

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry biosecurity officer Paul Bolger was the mortar for a tesellation of views creating a mosaic of conversation at our recent dinner and annual general meeting.

Paul's speech covered aspects of varroa spreading to the implications of a regional, provisional or National Pest Management Strategy.

Waikari beekeeper Tony Taiaroa was presented with a Life Membership Certificate and Engraved Hive Tool. NBA president Don Bell said a few words outlining Tony's contribution to the NBA and the attributes of life membership

Branch office election results were: President T. Scott, vice-president S. Brown, secretary R. Blair, treasurer T. Corbett and committee members R. McCusker, S. Ecroyd, R. Bennseman, T. Taiaroa, G. Bongard, J. Symes and J. Robinson.

The next meeting on May 28 will be at our new venue, the Federated Farmers Building, 8/35 Sir William Pickering Drive, Christchurch. It is a Remits Meeting and only Remits in writing will be accepted.

April was dry but cool and the month of May is proving to follow much the same pattern but with even cooler temperatures. These are restricting hive activity and foraging, while brood production is ceasing.

- DECA - Anybody wishing to sit their DECA exam June 2002 please contact Lindsey Moir, ph (03) 388-3313 or (025) 228-5697 or Rae Blair (03) 315-6615 or e-mailrunny.honey@xtra.co.nz

– Rae Blair, Waiau

Bay of Plenty

The beekeeping season is coming to a close, as requeening and feeding are the main activities now. No need to mention also that the Bay had a poor season.

Varroa is also taking its toll, in particular on feral and unmanaged hives. Or in other words, reinvasion is occurring in a big way now and we need to be alert in order to stay ahead of the problem.

At the April branch meeting, a discussion on the Sustainable Farming Fund (SFF) project was held and members chose not to attend the Part 1 workshop, mainly to protest against the lack of consultation and the freezing of industry fund money. That is being allocated for the foreseeable future to the SFF project and paying for the New Levy order.

Also, there was confusion about the contents of the workshop.

Branch members were able to meet with our new AAO, Bryan Mitchell.

At our annual general meeting, new branch officers were elected and it was refreshing to see a Waikato beekeeper made the Bay of Plenty branch president.

The annual BOP field day will be held at Papamoa School Hall (same venue as last year) on June 8. The morning programme will feature HortResearch scientist Dr Mark Goodwin with the latest results on organic varroa treatments. The practical application of acids and the monitoring of results will also be shown.

In the afternoon, guest speakers Trevor Weatherhead, Queensland, and David Yanke will discuss "Importation of Beestock". Trevor will talk about the experience in Australia, which has been importing bee stock for the past 20 years, creating opportunities for beekeepers there that we in New Zealand do not have.

It is hoped someone from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will also come and talk on this issue.

So, the field day should be a worthwhile one and we would like to see you all in the Bay.

– Gerrit Hyink, Katikati

North Otago

"Some late summer sunshine and warmth could see another box of honey per hive before the flow is over'," were the last words of my February report - it didn't happen!

The honey production for coastal North Otago was well below normal with only an average of one ton per hundred hives. With warmer conditions and sunny days in the Danseys and Upper Waitaki regions, things were definitely better, but still only average. The shortest day is now just a few weeks away and we can only look forward to better results next season.

A message to all beekeepers in our region.

The North Otago Branch urges hobby beekeepers to make every effort to attend the workshop:

"Living with Varroa"
Friday, June 14,
7pm to 10pm
Criterion Hotel,
3 Tyne Street, Oamaru.

A " Disease-a- thon" is also planned early in the new season and all beekeepers will be called on to participate.

Some good news for North Otago was the recent announcement by Nikken Foods Ltd, (a Japanese company), concerning the establishment of a "Health and Ecological Business Park" on its 18ha property, just north of Oamaru.

Nikken aims to have on site a cluster of companies focusing entirely on health and ecological processes. Raw products would be drawn from the Waitaki and surrounding districts and could have far-reaching effects for the future of the local beekeeping industry: pollination services; niche markets for honey and the processing of various health products available only from the beehive! A bright future awaits the North Otago Beekeeper .

– Richard Lord, Oamaru

Southern North Island

A warm April with most beekeepers starting to wind down their operations for winter, with inspections and feeding. Some in the north of the region are treating for varroa.

Surveillance is also being done south of the line, to check for the spread of varroa.

It is that time of the year again for the AGM and remit meetings, plus varroa workshops and leadership training days.

The leadership training day at Palmerston North was well worth attending and although there were only a small number of participants this meant that everyone got virtually one-on-one training properly, worth $200 per hour for free. There was something for everyone to learn. The course had worthwhile applications not only for running the branch and association but also for running one's business or any other club or organisation to which you may belong. Don't miss out next time – be in as they are well worth attending if the opportunity arises again.

- Allan Richards

Bay of Plenty Autumn Field Day

The topics for the day will be:

Morning Session:

-Latest research of organic varroa controls by Mark Goodwin.
-Practical application of organic acids and monitoring of the results.

Afternoon Session:

'Importation of Bee Stock'
Keynote speaker: Trevor Weatherhead from Queensland. Trevor, well known, queen breeder and very knowledgeable, will speak on the opportunities the availability of importing stock presents to their industry.

David Yanke will speak on where we are at with respect to possible importation.

We also endeavour to have a representative from MAF on this topic.

Venue: Papamoa Primary School Hall
Turn from SH2 at Black Stump Orchard into Bell Road, then turn left into Parton Road.

Date: Saturday June 8

Start: Morning tea at 9.30am for 10.00am start.

Lunch: Approx 12.15pm.
Sausages etc. available
Sponsor/trade display talks.

Entry fee of $5.00 will apply.

For any inquiries contact Gerrit at 07 549 1223 or email: hyink@xtra.co.nz

Hives (and beekeepers) settle down for winter

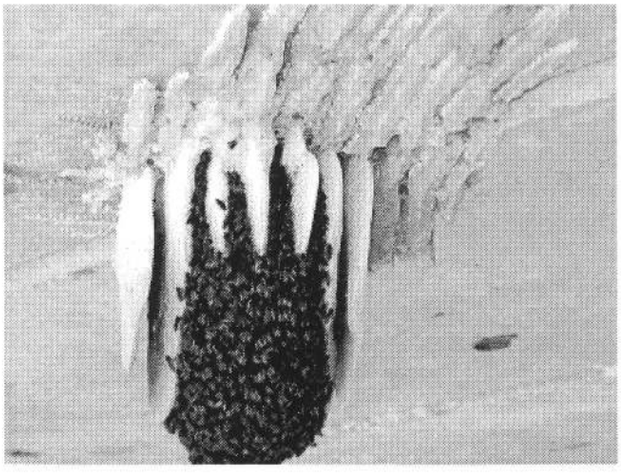
Frank Lindsay

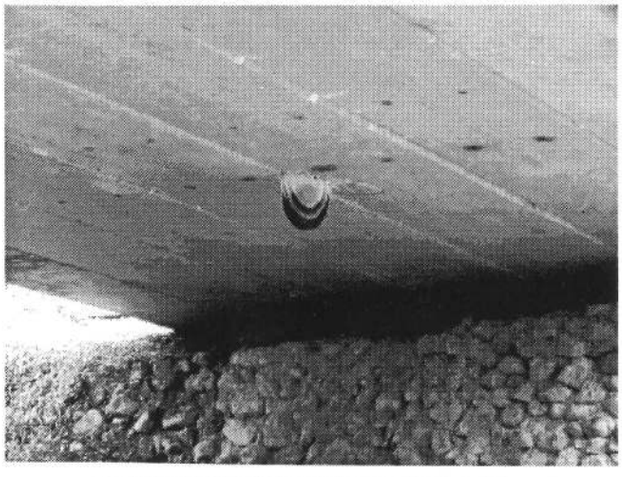
April was a mild month with many warm, still days. The odd hint that winter is coming was evident with heavy dews on the lawn in the mornings and the ever-decreasing hours of daylight.

The mild autumn has allowed the bees to fly freely most days. In urban areas, the bees have gathered much-needed pollen reserves and a little late nectar from waste areas where plants like gorse (*Ulex europarus*), wild turnip (*Brassica campestris*), and inkweed (*Phytolacca octandra*) grow.

In urban gardens and parks, there are numerous ornamentals which bees visit. I was watching bees visit the pink flowering *Eucalyptus laucoxylon rosea,* which has just started flowering around the city and will continue for the next couple of months. In the bush, lacebark (*Hoheria populnea*) is just finishing; the climbing rata vine (*Metrosideros fulgens*) is also in flower. It provides a spectacular contrast with its orange/red flowers against the green of the bush. Along roadsides, Spanish heath (*Erica lusitanica*), a valuable winter pollen and nectar source, is just starting to flower.

Bee activity is now reduced to the hours between 10am and 3.30pm. Hives along the coastal margins continue brood rearing in about half a frame while those inland totally shut down as it's getting too cold to fly and there is little there for them to forage on.





Feral bees create their hive under a bridge.

Actually, it's interesting to see the difference between old and new queens. New queens have about three times as much brood as old queens. Although drone production has ceased, they are still present in hives working late flows but are being forced down into the bottom super, meaning their time is short.

At this time of the year frames can be sorted for melting down. Frames which are dark (those you cannot see light through when held up to the sun), broken or with patches of drone comb should be selected for culling.

Recently published findings of research from the United Kingdom* using computer model simulation, indicated that with 5% drone brood, as many varroa mites are emerging from 50 to 60 done cells as 1000 worker cells. The research also indicated drone sampling was effective in the spring and that infestation of 15% of drone pupa pointed to a conservative threshold of 2000 mites had been reached and immediate treatment was required. Drone production, then, should be restricted to one or two frames, which can be removed or used to capture mites when they arrive in your district.

I have found it more economical to just cut the wires and use dark combs as a source of heat rather than go to the expense of melting them down. Ten dark frames burned in our enclosed fire heats our hot water cylinder 10degC during the evening. Three paraffin-dipped old supers will give the same results. A word of warning: The heat given off when burning old frames can cause chimney fires so make sure you have it recently

swept. Our aluminium cowling melted one year when we had a chimney fire and the flames sure upset the neighbours.

Before putting aside the frames for rewiring, I test their strength by giving the end bars a whack with the hive tool. If they crack, they are kindling. Solid frames are cleaned up and put aside for rewiring and waxing in the spring. It's often easier to clean frames when they are warm. Try putting them in the solar wax melter during the day, or stack and seal them in supers over a 60-watt bulb overnight.

Winter is time for reading and planning. I like the older books that tell of beekeepers' experiences - "they tried this and that resulted". C.C. Miller's *50 Years Among the Bees* and Ormond and Harry Aebi's books, *The Art and Adventure of Beekeeping* and *Mastering the Art of Beekeeping* are good examples. They are available from the NBA library, along with many others.

This winter, try and set a plan for the coming year. Find out about queen rearing. A good starting point is *Queen Rearing Simplified* by Vince Cook (at one time an AAO in the South Island) and, for the more adventurous, Steve Taber's book, *Breeding Super Bees*. For a how-to reference book, T.S.K. and M.P. Johansson's book, *Some Important Operations in Bee Management* gives all the alternatives.

This winter, plan also for what if: What if it's a bumper honey crop next year? Or, for some, What if varroa is found in our area? Try out different techniques. Demaree if you have a short, sharp flow. This system is a little more intensive but allows you to replace wood ware quickly and produce more honey. For other with long flows, how about double queening a hive? There are various methods. Some use side by side, some put a divider in the middle of the bottom super where each queen is given five frames to lay in and other systems allow each queen to use one super, kept apart with queen excluders.

Visit your hives a few times during the winter. Keep the grass down and reduce entrances to protect hives from mice and wasps. Lift the roof on a winter's morning and check for condensation. If the hives are wet, put small sticks or matches under the mat or roof to give extra ventilation. Too much airflow will result in the bees using more store to keep warm. Too little has the same result.

I cut a 25mm slot in my hive mats and this seems to be about right. Clear away vegetation around the hives so they get some sun during the day. Add a piece of wood to the front of the hives so those bees landing short on cold winter days can climb back into the hive.

Join a Club

Overseas experience shows us that it's most valuable to join a group. Hobbyists can join a club while commercial beekeepers can become part of branch activities. We now have to work and co-ordinate treatment times to prevent reinvasion of varroa mites. It's easier if two people work together. You get twice as much work done and you can bounce ideas off one another.

Beekeeping in city areas has been in decline during the last 20 years, mainly because of people's intolerance to stinging insects. Now it's time to tell the general public that bees are essential for our environment.

Social insects are part of the school programme, so why not make yourself available to talk to a class on bees for a few hours. Make a one-frame observation hive and put an old queen in it. Children are fascinated with bees. Take note of the child that just hangs around looking into the hive for hours. He or she could well be a future beekeeper - encourage them.

Samples of different honeys can be taken to a school, too, and given out to the classes. Cooking is an enjoyable activity children enjoy, its part of chemistry and honey adds to the taste and the enjoyment.

* Modelling the Efficiency of Sampling and trapping Varroa Destructor in Drone Brood of Honey Bees (*Apis mellifera*) by David Wilkinson and Graham C. Smith (*American Bee Journal* March 2002).

Attention DECA Trainers.

The address for the DECA Competency Test Administrator and application forms has changed.

The address is Mary-Ann Lindsay, 26 Cunliffe Street, Johnsonville. Wellington 6004.

The cheques are still to be made out to "Richard Hatfield" and crossed.

If you are running a course all information MUST be in the hands of the administrator not less than 10 days before the event.

All other addresses and phone numbers are obsolete.

Varroa mite invasions ease over winter

Dr Mark Goodwin
HortResearch Ruakura

By now, everybody in varroa areas will have finished their autumn varroa treatments and a few will have treated twice where there has been a lot of reinvasion.

Most of the varroa invasion should have stopped for the season by the time you read this, although it may be continuing at a lesser level in warmer locations.

In most areas, especially warmer ones, colonies will have brood all the way through the winter. This means that varroa populations will still be able to increase. The lack of drone brood will slow down the growth rate but not stop it. So, if you have hives with moderate varroa levels in the autumn, it is possible they will die during winter.

For this reason, it would be worth monitoring varroa levels when visiting hives during winter.

A number of beekeepers left their treatments for varroa very late this autumn and used the presence of Parasitic Mite Syndrome (PMS) symptoms as a reason to treat. After treatment, the PMS symptoms disappeared in most hives and the colonies returned to normal.

However, the question remains: How well will the colonies winter-over? Workers reared in cells with varroa will have reduced life span, meaning colonies are likely to come out of winter weaker than expected - or not survive at all.

1. Reuse of strips for the surveillance programme

Surveillance activities in the South Island are being conducted with strips already used once for 24 hours last year.. The reuse of strips is to save money so that more hives can be tested. To ensure they don't spread American foulbrood (AFB) disease, they have been irradiated.

From a trial conducted at Ruakura, it appears that irradiation will kill most (99%) AFB spores. Interestingly, it doesn't kill all spores. However, relatively few spores find their way on to a strip from an AFB hive to start with, and most of those that do will be killed by irradiation, so the numbers left are too low to spread AFB.

1.1 Safety and formic acid

At a recent National Beekeepers Association branch meeting, several beekeepers outlined accidents that they had experienced using formic acid.

The first person was removing formic acid plastic pouches from a freezer. A piece of material flicked off a bag into his eye, causing him considerable pain for the next three days. This should serve as a reminder to other beekeepers to always wear protective equipment when handling formic acid. The Ziploc bags containing formic acid cannot be guaranteed to be tight, so always treat them as if they are not.

A second beekeeper put his formic acid in a drum with fittings that should have been acid proof. When he returned the following morning, the tap had mostly dissolved and half the formic acid was on the floor. Luckily, he had a suitable mask and other safety equipment handy so he could clean up the spill safely.

Be very careful how formic acid is stored. Always make sure drums and taps are suitable for use with formic acid, and have sufficient safety precautions in place to ensure nobody is hurt if something does go wrong.

As mentioned in the *NZ Beekeeper,* March 2002, an accident occurred at Ruakura while plastic bags emptied of formic acid were being taken off the hives, after they had been in position for three weeks.

The formic acid had evaporated from all the bags except one, causing the beekeeper to be nearly overcome with the fumes during its removal. He didn't think removing empty bags was going to be dangerous, so hadn't worried about a mask.

We also had a container of formic acid with a lid incorrectly screwed on. It tipped over in a vehicle, spilling formic acid. The vehicle had to be exited very quickly and left to dry out.

If you are carrying formic acid in a vehicle, use a plastic drip tray to catch any spills.

Unfortunately, we are sure to be adding to the list of accidents over the next year.

Oxalic acid

Beekeepers who have tried feeding oxalic acid in sugar syrup may have noticed that bees do not like it.

Oxalic acid is the same compound that we added to 1080 possum baits to make them unattractive to bees (at 2% concentration). Applied between the frames, however, the bees seem to consume it and it kills mites - but only mites on bees. For those who have used it, do not use it again this autumn. A second application may affect the bee population's ability to build up again satisfactorily next spring.

We have been asked whether oxalic acid/sugar syrup can be applied to the top bars at the same time a colony is fed sugar syrup in a feeder for winter stores.. This has not been tested.

However, the sugar syrup feed may dilute the oxalic acid in the bees' stomach reducing its effectiveness. So, until it has been tested, we advise against using oxalic acid at the same time sugar syrup is fed for winter stores.

Rules Rules Rules

No, this is not a mistake

Now that I have your attention, I would like to advise you of the rules regarding the submission of copy for the magazine.

The cut off date for articles and advertising is the first Monday of each month. There will be no exceptions. If they arrive late they will go in the magazine the following month (if still relevant).

I would also like to take this opportunity to ask for articles for the magazine – your highs and lows of beekeeping; how you are personally dealing with varroa; the things that work and the things that don't, and anything else that may be of interest to other beekeepers.

The Publications Committee will pay a $30 fee to anyone who submits an article, which is subsequently published in our magazine.

Remember, it is your magazine, so if there is something you would like to see covered, please contact the editor, Angela Crompton, Phone 03 478-0357 or angela.crompton@actrix.co.nz with your ideas and suggestions.

Allan Richards
Communications committee chairperson.

Overseas Trade Statistics Prepared for National Beekeepers Association
Ref No: 4482901A HS10 Items by Country of Destination for Exports, Cargo

HS Items Code	Description	Country of Destination	Unit	Net Month of March 2002 Quantity	FOB ($NZ)	3 Months Ending March 2002 Quantity	FOB ($NZ)
0106.90.00.11	Animals; live, queen bees in packages	Canada	NMB	669	41,737	669	41,737
0106.90.00.11	Animals; live, queen bees in packages	China, People's Republic of	NMB			200	2,312
0106.90.00.11	Animals; live, queen bees in packages	Germany	NMB	1,706	98,200	2,066	126,500
0106.90.00.11	Animals; live, queen bees in packages	Japan	NMB	1,600	32,000	2,808	52,100
0106.90.00.11	Animals; live, queen bees in packages	Korea, Republic of	NMB	1,940	190,000	2,368	228,000
0106.90.00.11	Animals; live, queen bees in packages	TOTAL HS ITEM	NMB	5,915	361,937	8,111	450,649
0106.90.00.17	Animals; live, queen bees other than in packages	Japan	NMB	500	7,200	1,700	24,400
0106.90.00.17	Animals; live, queen bees other than in packages	TOTAL HS ITEM	NMB	500	7,200	1,700	24,400
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	Australia	KGM	7,250	136,215	9,615	171,466
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	Bahrain	KGM			175	5,630
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	French Polynesia	KGM	600	2,180	600	2,180
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	Germany	KGM	84,337	355,279	125,407	493,408
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region)	KGM	2,025	10,982	3,685	24,773
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	Japan	KGM			75	2,527
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	Singapore	KGM			622	9,345
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	South Africa	KGM	20,130	70,454	20,130	70,454
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	United Kingdom	KGM	13,164	115,626	28,364	345,556
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	United States of America	KGM			3,337	30,237
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	TOTAL HS ITEM	KGM	127,506	690,736	192,009	1,155,576
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Australia	KGM	6,379	66,394	40,627	479,007
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Bahrain	KGM			600	4,399
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Canada	KGM	3,150	31,117	3,534	33,724
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Cook Islands	KGM			84	770
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	French Polynesia	KGM	1,176	6,447	1,176	6,447
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region)	KGM	19,455	149,073	25,022	240,125
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Japan	KGM	15,015	232,833	25,932	379,865
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Korea, Republic of	KGM	30,170	134,286	54,998	303,309
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Macau	KGM			550	9,000
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Malaysia	KGM	1,714	16,116	7,474	37,044
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Norfolk Island	KGM			218	1,115
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Samoa, Western	KGM			63	578
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Singapore	KGM	43,315	292,753	61,482	422,328
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Taiwan, Province of China	KGM			2,160	9,795
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	United Arab Emirates	KGM	720	4,212	3,665	32,078
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	United Kingdom	KGM	13,131	225,587	20,926	299,256
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	United States of America	KGM	3,654	19,050	8,367	50,817
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	TOTAL HS ITEM	KGM	137,879	1,177,868	256,878	2,309 657
0409.00.00.11	Honey; natural honey, in the comb	Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region)	KGM	399	6,116	1,005	15,408
0409.00.00.11	Honey; natural honey, in the comb	Japan	KGM	5,610	80,501	7,523	97,315
0409.00.00.11	Honey; natural honey, in the comb	Singapore	KGM	103	1,646	103	1,646
0409.00.00.11	Honey; natural honey, in the comb	TOTAL HS ITEM	KGM	6,112	88,263	8,631	114,369
0409.00.00.15	Honey; natural honey, honeydew	Germany	KGM	20,619	70,349	20,619	70,349
0409.00.00.15	Honey; natural honey, honeydew	Japan	KGM			399	2,009
0409.00.00.15	Honey; natural honey, honeydew	TOTAL HS ITEM	KGM	20,619	70,349	21,018	72,358
0409.00.00.18	Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew)	Australia	KGM	42	280	93	674
0409.00.00.18	Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew)	Japan	KGM	1,000	8,332	1,000	8,332
0409.00.00.18	Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew)	Korea, Republic of	KGM	942	13,260	2,142	30,585
0409.00.00.18	Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew)	United Kingdom	KGM	700	12,382	1,700	25,686
0409.00.00.18	Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew)	TOTAL HS ITEM	KGM	2,684	34,254	4,935	65,277
1521.90.01.00	Beeswax; whether or not refined or coloured	Australia	KGM	690	7,248	2,040	19,960
1521.90.01.00	Beeswax; whether or not refined or coloured	Israel	KGM	600	10,000	600	10,000
1521.90.01.00	Beeswax; whether or not refined or coloured	Japan	KGM			20,209	150,733
1521.90.01.00	Beeswax; whether or not refined or coloured	Singapore	KGM			600	5,600
1521.90.01.00	Beeswax; whether or not refined or coloured	TOTAL HS ITEM	KGM	1,290	17,248	23,449	186,293
TOTAL ALL CARGO					2,447,855		4,378,579

Source : Statistics New Zealand, Overseas Trade

June 3 deadline for editorial content in next month's NZ Beekeeper.

Email: angela-crompton@xtra.co.nz

or post material to Crown Kerr Printing, P.O. Box 5002, Dunedin

NZ Beekeeping Web Page:
www.beekeeping.co.nz

Subscribe to mailing list:
www.beekeeping.co.nz/contacts/nzbkpr.htm

More information:
nickw@beekeeping.co.nz

BRANCH CONTACTS AND MEETINGS

NZ QUEEN PRODUCERS ASSN
Call: Mary-Anne (06) 855-8038

AUCKLAND BRANCH
24 Andromeda Crescent, East Tamaki
President: Brian Alexander
Phone/Fax: (09) 420-5028
Secretary
Chas Reade
Mobile: 025 772-502
Fax: (09) 634-4376

AUCKLAND BEEKEEPERS CLUB INC.
PO Box 214, Waimauku, Auckland
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: Fiona Bellet "Oakwood"
Bradley Road, RD 5
Christchurch. Phone: (03) 347 9919

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, Makahika Rd,
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

NORTH OTAGO BRANCH
Bryan O'Neil
Phone: (03) 431-1831

SOUTHERN NORTH ISLAND BRANCH
Contact: Frank
Phone: (04) 478-3367

SOUTHLAND BRANCH
Contact: Don Stedman
Ph/Fax: (03) 246-9777

TARANAKI AMATEUR BEEKEEPING CLUB
George Jonson
195 Carrington Street
New Plymouth
Email: honeyhouse@clear.net.nz
Phone: (06) 753-3320

WAIKATO BRANCH
Contact Tony: (07) 856-9625
Jan Klausen: (07) 386-0111
Next meeting will be in 2001
(date yet to be confirmed).

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

WELLINGTON BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
Meets every second Monday of the month (except January) in Johnsonville. All welcome.
Contact: John Burnet,
21 Kiwi Cres, Tawa,
Wellington 6006. Phone: (04) 232-7863
Email: johnburnet@xtra.co.nz