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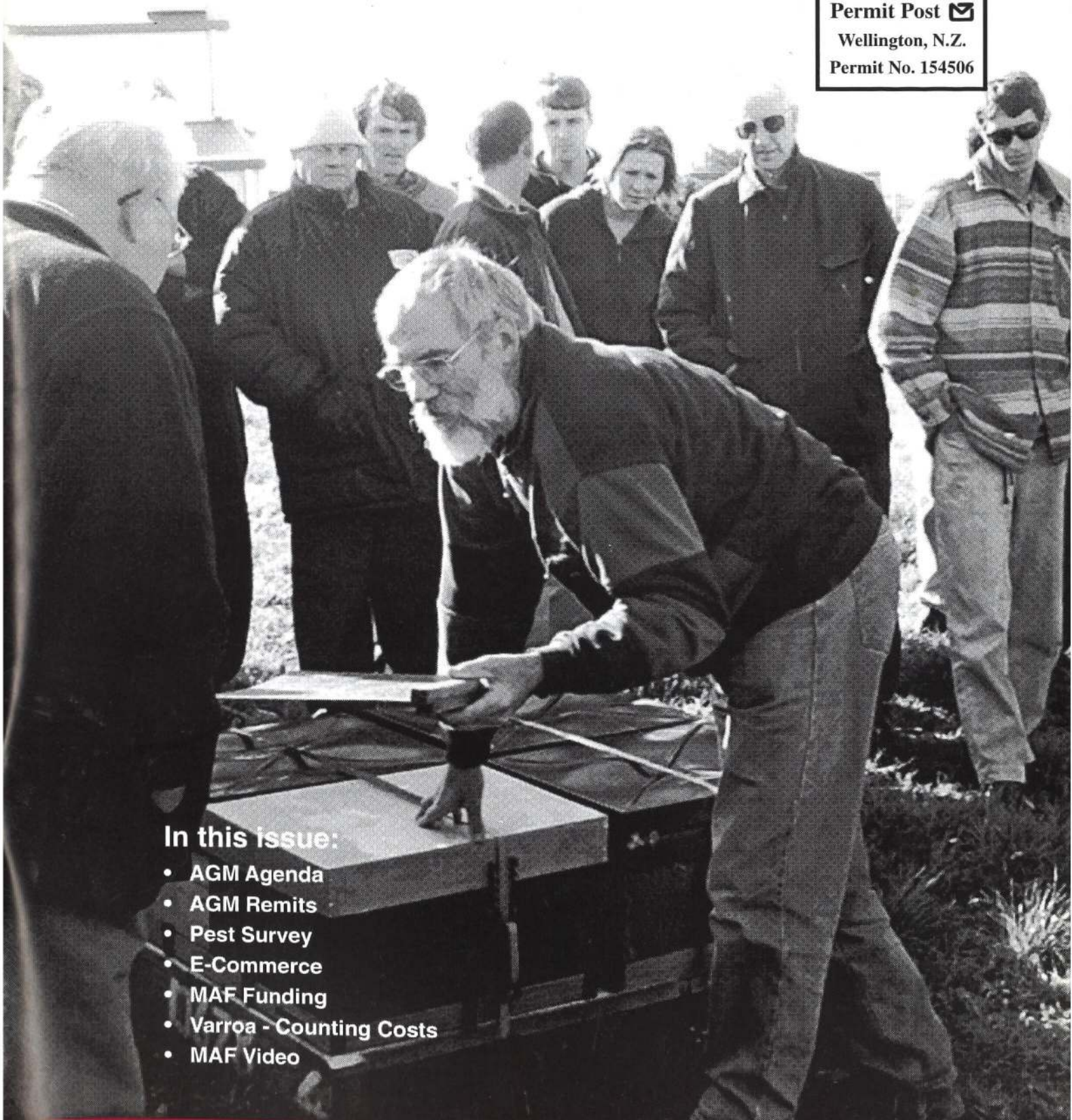
The New Zealand

BeeKeeper

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Wellington, N.Z.

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In this issue:

- AGM Agenda
- AGM Remits
- Pest Survey
- E-Commerce
- MAF Funding
- Varroa - Counting Costs
- MAF Video

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Annual General Meeting Agenda

The 2002 Annual General Meeting of the National Beekeepers Association of New Zealand and Conference of branch delegates will be held at the Quality Hotel, Logan Park, Auckland, on Wednesday, July 17, and Thursday, July 18, 2002, starting at 9am on Wednesday.

(draft) AGENDA

In Chair NBA President, Mr Don Bell

Wednesday 17 July 2002, First day of Conference

Annual General Meeting

- 1) *Welcome*
- 2) President Welcome to Delegates
Conference Prayer
- 3) (9.15am) Welcome to Auckland by Auckland Mayor, Hon. John Banks
Vote of thanks to the Mayor
- 4) **Presidents Address**
- 5) Membership Matters
Record Apologies
Record Obituaries
Recognise Life Members, Honorary Members, Past Presidents
Results of election of Executive Members

Recognition of those members of the Executive who will not be continuing in office.

Delegates to advise of newly elected branch life members.
- 5.1) Irene Parminter, MAF regarding initial discussions to keep bee products GM free.
- 6) (10.30am – 11.00am)
Conference Photo and Morning Tea
- 7) Confirmation of minutes of 2001 Annual General Meeting (previously circulated and will be taken "as read").
- 8) Notice of reports to receive during Conference of Branch Delegates if appropriate and time allows, presentation of Roy Paterson Trophy

Marketing	Philip Cropp
Export	Philip Cropp
Communications	Lin McKenzie
Support	Lin McKenzie
Review	Philip Cropp
Finance	Gerard Martin
Environment	Jane Lorimer
PMS Operations	Philip Cropp
Exotics	Gerard Martin
Varroa	Varroa
Honey Industry Trust Report	Trustee present

- 9) Receive the Annual Report of the Association.
- 10) Consider any matter arising from the President's address, the Annual Report or any other report presented to the Annual Meeting.
Receive the audited Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Performance
Receive the budget for the current financial year (2002).
Appoint an Auditor
Appointment of Association Solicitors:
Criminal Work Morrison Kent
Civil Actions Michael Smith

Conduct any general business – other reports (if time allows)
- 11) Lunch and break away for afternoon tours.

Thursday 18 July 2002, Second day of Conference

- 12) 9.00am Start day's Proceedings
- 13) Special meeting to consider proposed rule changes
- 14.1 **PROPOSED RULE CHANGES FROM THE SOUTHERN NORTH ISLAND BRANCH (appended).**
- 15) (10.00am) Morning Tea
- 16) (10.15am) Conference of Branch Delegates (Moved forward if AGM finished previous day)
- 17) **Procedural Motions**
Appoint timekeeper
Appoint two scrutineers
Determine speaking times. Recommendation:
5 minutes mover
3 minutes seconder
3 minutes subsequent speakers
Meeting to be advised of remits received for which notice has been given 45 days prior (rule 19c)

Agenda:
1. Remit policy
2. Remit report from 2001/02 Executive
3. Consider remits as per remit paper
- 18) 12.00pm – 1.00pm: Lunch
- 19) **Reconvene Conference of Branch Delegates**

Cover caption

Beekeepers at the Bay of Plenty field day watch Gerrit and Wouter Hyink demonstrate their organic methods against the varroa mite. Floorboard inserts are used to monitor mite numbers, which are controlled with formic acid treatments.

People from Gisborne and Hawkes Bay, Northland and the Waikato attended the field day, held at Papamoa School on June 8. A selection of guest speakers covered issues ranging from co-existing with the varroa mite; safeguards set up in Australia for the importation of bees; to Animal Biosecurity Risk Analysis and international obligations. For more commentary visit <http://www.beekeeping.co.nz/fieldday/bop02.htm>.

Photo: Nick Wallingford

- 20) 3.00pm – 3.30pm Afternoon Tea of Treasurer and Island Representatives to the Executive/Board
- 21) **Reconvene Annual General Meeting**
 Elections Any outstanding business carried over from AGM
 23.1 Elect the President and Vice President Conduct any general business
 23.2 If the proposed rule changes are passed, the meeting will be asked to elect pending registration of the new rules, the positions Vote of thanks to the Auckland Branch NBA.
- 22) Closure

Annual General Meeting Remits

Remits to be considered at the National Beekeepers Association 2002 Annual General Meeting in Auckland have been submitted by several branches.

Auckland

1. That the executive instructs the export committee to facilitate and complete the necessary protocols to export live bees to the United States.
Note: This branch believes MAF and the USDA have had inconclusive discussions about this matter for more than 15 years. It is in the New Zealand beekeeping industry's financial interest to have this valuable export market confirmed or denied. The Australian beekeeping industry is reportedly further advanced in this matter than we are.
2. That at the completion of the 2002 conference, the National Beekeepers Association of New Zealand is disbanded and a voluntary Commercial Beekeepers Association of New Zealand be established in its place.
3. That the NBA approach all other industries at risk to exotic disease incursions with a view to forming a group to lobby government to create a levy on all incoming containers, packages, and travellers to establish a ready fund for fighting exotic disease incursions. The levy would be targeted at the risk creators, i.e. shipping companies, airlines and inbound travellers.
Note: The levy would have to be administered by the "at risk" industries, not government. The industries envisaged are agriculture, horticulture, forestry and fisheries.

Remits from the Hawkes Bay Branch National Beekeepers Association

4. That the National Beekeepers Association takes immediate steps to become a full industry sector group of Federated Farmers of New Zealand (Incorporated).
Note: With the advent of free trade and an increase in world travel we now need the power of a larger organisation with similar ideals to protect our industry with marketing and biosecurity endeavours. This does not mean giving up our autonomy and we would always steer our own ship. Our assets would remain and would be "ring fenced". The added weight of 15,000 Federated Farmers members would give us the extra clout we need for submissions to central and local government.

5. That the National Beekeepers' Association advocates the retention of the Movement Control Line in its present location, with minor changes, when breaches occur. Also, that the association maintains pressure on Government to make further funding available for eradication/control of outbreaks south of the "Line".

Note: While it is appreciated that a few beekeepers close to the "Line" are experiencing difficulties, we feel the overall benefit to the industry in keeping the "Line" in place far outweigh the disadvantages.

Remit from the Canterbury Branch National Beekeepers Association

6. That the funding for Industry Good projects be sourced from a voluntary membership base fee.
Note: This organisation has been funded by a differentiation in fees payable by members. The funding base has led to considerable debate over the years and depending on the system chosen, has created inequality within our membership with regard to financial impact vs. benefits obtained. The net result of the funding system at present is that 80% of the NBA funding is obtained from 20% of the members. In an effort to create a more equitable balance the Executive has separated the PMS component of the NBA to be based on a user pays system. The industry good component needs to be seen as an equal benefit to all beekeepers regardless of their operation size with an equal financial contribution by all members.

Remits from Waikato Branch National Beekeepers Association

7. That the National Beekeepers Association investigate the re-structuring of the National Beekeepers Association and report findings to a special meeting.
Note: The workload of executive and committee members is excessive and are we receiving value for our dollar?
8. To enforce provisions of the Pest Management Strategy for AFB relating to Certificates of Inspections, Annual Disease Declarations and the destruction of infected Hives.
Note: The pest management strategy is expensive to carry out. It is, however, not being carried out as it was designed. Because of this, beekeepers are not seeing reduced disease levels in return for their investment in the PMS.
 One of the major objectives of the strategy was that every hive in New Zealand was checked for AFB by

someone with demonstrated ability to do so each year. Beekeepers could become approved and inspect their own colonies, otherwise they had to get an approved beekeeper to inspect their hives and fill out a certificate of inspection. Not having to pay someone to complete a certificate of inspection was one of the main incentives for beekeepers to become approved and have a Disease Eradication Conformity Agreement (DECA).

The principle behind the DECA scheme was that if DECA holders failed to meet their commitments, their DECA could be removed, forcing them to pay for a certificate of inspection.

However, since the start of the PMS, little or no action has been taken against non-approved beekeepers failing to provide a Certificate of Inspection. So the threat of having a DECA removed has no teeth. Several large AFB problems occurring recently could have been avoided had the DECA and Certificate of Inspection requirements been enforced.

Inspections should be carried out on hives belonging to those in default and accounts sent for the work. Most people would pay the account and a percentage could be added for those who don't. The PMS allows lines to be placed on the property. This threat should be made to encourage payment. The first of these actions should be publicised as much as possible to encourage compliance from the remainder.

Beekeepers in default of their DECA should have their DECAs removed for one year, resulting in them having to produce a COI.

Remits from the Otago Branch National Beekeepers Association

9. That the NBA investigates becoming a full Industry Sector Group member of Federated Farmers of NZ (Inc.)

10. The executive reviews the effectiveness of using NBA branches to co-ordinate and conduct hive inspections in meeting the PMS audit requirements.

Notes: The Otago Branch membership has been divided over the use of the branch structure to co-ordinate and carry out the PMS AFB annual audit of beehives. In particular the work invariably falls upon a few reluctant and already busy commercial beekeepers. As a result we have failed to complete the audit for the past two years. We are concerned this may be a problem with other branches also, compromising the national audit which is an important, integral part of the PMS.

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BK61

Branch delegates will give consensus to NBA exec., SNI members say

Putting branch delegates on the National Beekeepers Association executive will help break the current "them Vs us" syndrome, leaving members feeling alienated from decision making, says the Southern North Island branch. At next month's conference, it will propose the NBA adopt a consensus, decision-making format with direct communication between branches.

Proposals are:

- 1 That the NBA executive consists of one representative from each branch. Representatives must be either members of the association, or the representatives of corporations that are members.
- 2 That Rule 15 be changed to allow the president and vice president be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the association from the body of members present. Should there be an equal number of votes, lots will be drawn. Those elected take office immediately.
- 3 Delete rule 16b, the Term of Office, because executive members will be appointed annually by branches, meaning their term of office does not need to be limited.
- 4 Delete rule 16 h) and replace with: Eight members of executive shall constitute a quorum.

Rationale for above

We believe the structure of the NBA needs to be modified. The present structure was set up 70 years ago and functioned well in those days but many things have changed since then. The flow of information and the demands on executive member's times has increased to an extent that they are overworked. How can six persons look after our industry as well as their own business?

The model proposed is used by a number of organisations. If we increase the executive members as proposed, then effective action will be taken on issues as they arise.

The increase in members will not necessarily be more expensive with the use of modern communications such as conference calls; the president can get a consensus of opinion without leaving home. We envisage only three face-to-face meetings are needed per year. That will place more demands on our executive secretary, preparing reports and recommendations for each meeting.

Having a delegate from each branch on the executive will give a direct and accountable link between executive decision making and members, removing communication problems.

Branch input will be encouraged if each executive member is made responsible for sections of policy centered in their area; i.e. research and development could be overseen by the Waikato branch; political lobbying the SNI branch, pollination/varroa, the Bay of Plenty branch; Otago Branch, communications including the magazine.

Branches will know the strengths and enthusiasm of the members they select for the executive.

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Announcement...

Susanne Ruzicka from MiteGone™ Canada will be in NZ for the NBA Conference in Auckland. Please visit the MiteGone stand to find out more about this economic new product. She will also be available after Conference, to address groups in both Islands, on the use of MiteGone™.

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BK85

Few beekeepers agree to carry out exotic pest survey for AgriQuality

By Bryan Mitchell

AAO AgriQuality (NZ) Ltd

An Exotic Pest Surveillance programme currently covers Kerikeri, Whangarei, Auckland (especially port and airport areas), Hamilton, Rotorua, Taupo and Tauranga. Responses to a survey letter and follow-up phone calls to North Island beekeepers in the risk areas, though, have been low.

The survey is not just for varroa. It is primarily to see if other beasties (eg tracheal mite, European foulbrood, etc) have invaded our hives. Apiaries to be tested and sampled can already be undergoing varroa treatment.

Due to the poor initial response, additional test apiaries are now being selected. Among the responses that were returned, many beekeepers declined to do self-testing for the programme claiming they:

- a) no longer have any bees,
- b) their bees are looked after by someone else (we have followed up this other person to ask their co-operation, generally with a positive response),
- c) No they don't want to,
- d) they're organic and don't want Apistan in their hives,
- e) their bees are too weak (the extreme was, 2 bees and a Queen left).
- f) No, not now - they'd be happy to, but later in the spring.

AgriQuality's AAO's have undertaken some testing and managed to coerce some beekeepers to do so as well. Free kits consisting of a sticky board and two strips for each hive in selected apiaries are provided, along with a bee sample jar for every 10 or fewer hives, self-test instructions, return courier bags, etc.

Tests have shown central Whangarei is heavily infested with varroa and many hives are expected to collapse before spring if they are not currently under treatment or treated immediately. There are areas around Whangarei with low infestation but this will not last long. In general, hives in the upper North Island need immediate surveillance for varroa and probably treatment as well.

To date, laboratory results show no occurrence of any additional, unwanted organisms. Varroa, however, is out there in force.

If beekeepers have received and refused or delayed returning test requests and would now like to participate, they should mail their consent back as soon as possible, or contact Bryan Mitchell AAO AgriQuality NZ Ltd., Private Bag 3080, Hamilton. Ph (07) 834-1786 or (021)735-937.

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BK30

E-commerce opportunities for all sectors

By Jane Lorimer

Raising output and placing New Zealand in the top half of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), was the aim of an E-commerce 2002 Sector Leaders Forum held in Wellington last month.

It was attended by a wide representation of groups - from accountants, bankers and lawyers to local government, city councils, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Federated Farmers, Rural Women NZ (and last but not least, the National Beekeepers Association). I felt somewhat lost among the black-clad businesspersons, but at the end of the day I felt a part of the group that formed a strategy to make a difference and was ready to instigate it.

It was identified at the meeting that 70% of New Zealanders have access to the Internet and 54% use it regularly. Seventy four percent of New Zealand businesses have a web domain name.

Participants were challenged to:

- form a E-commerce strategy for our organisation
- join the Ecat network
- put information on to a web site
- keep in touch

Keynote speaker Rod Oram identified business skills, e-tools, a sound infrastructure, networking and new models as essential elements in e-commerce.

Business skills, he said, encompassed management, finance, networking, regulations and internationalism. E-tools were needed to improve technology and small companies could become more competitive if they clustered and sold a range of products by pooling together.

E-commerce research specialist Shirley Leitch from the University of Waikato completed an E-business survey last month. Larger businesses used it for after-sales service, backup and recruiting new employees, she said. Small and micro businesses found e-commerce an essential tool, especially when exporting.

Barriers to using E-commerce were identified as costs, unproven benefits and the loss of personal contacts. The measure of security was a concern, as was the lack of external assistance and unskilled staff.

A web site, www.nzecommerce.co.nz, has been set up as a help line for e-commerce shy business people and to provide a forum for questions. The number is (0800) 693 266. This has been set up as a one-year pilot scheme. (NBA members should join the group, even if only to help lobby for better phone lines, allowing Internet access to all.)

In another presentation, Federated Farmers vice president Tom Lambie said e-commerce could fundamentally change rural New Zealand from its traditional commodity products to opening trade access to niche marketing.

He noted the need for cost-effective access to the Internet for all New Zealanders and called on everyone to work towards a "whole of community" solution and be ready to take up the opportunities e-commerce offered.

Tourism New Zealand chief executive John Moriarty identified tourism as a \$14 billion industry which could reap the benefits of e-commerce.

Many opportunities were offered using the Internet, he said, citing a company in Napier selling space on cargo ships, rather than booking cruise ship space.

John said customers were becoming adept at shopping "on line", making electronic search engines the contemporary "sales reps" for direct transactions. Direct transactions could only improve the profit margins, although "trust" was hard to generate through the Internet, for example when making group bookings or organising specialised tours.

Graham Sinclair, a partner for KPMG representing the Institute of Chartered Accountants, said the institute's move to electronic media had helped internal efficiency, increased member support and brought more business opportunities.

Belonging to Ecat, he said, had "stimulated debate, induced research, clarified issues" and generated "driving actions".

According to Philip Lewin, chief executive of the Wellington Regional Chamber of Commerce, e-commerce had cut office overheads by 70%, using on-line banking.

A representative from Fencepost.com predicted use of the Internet would allow farmers greater industry participation, give them greater opportunities as "customers", help turn weakness into strength and promote dairy "best practices" to other industries.

Fonterra was using a web site to develop standards that farmers can log on to and enter data to rate their performance against industry averages. A similar site could be considered by the NBA, I thought, perhaps using Kim van Vuuren's work as a starting point for some financial benchmarking.

- After the meeting, a flyer promoting "Ultra rural - full speed Internet for rural users", arrived in the mail. Available from Town and Country Agricentre, RD1.com, and Anchormart (Contact 0800 731-266), it costs \$397.

- Jane Lorimer attended the E-commerce 2002 Sector Leaders Forum in Wellington on May 16 when that date clashed with the Levy Referendum road show meetings NBA president Don Bell was attending.

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BK18

Fine autumn weather gives bees the illusion of an early spring

Frank Lindsay



The wonderful weather has continued in our district while those in the south have had snow and those in the north weeks of rain. Bees along the coastal strip are now working Banksias, tree lucerne, and black wattle, while those along the bush fringe a working kohekohe and the last of the rata.

Bee activity in the inland valleys has almost ceased. Ice from morning frosts take an hour to clear and inside the hive the bees have settled into a winter cluster. Bees along the coastal strip are in a different climate. Three weeks of fine, still weather induced them into thinking spring was here and the dribble of nectar even stimulated brood production. Hives that a month earlier were patches of brood about the size of your fist on three frames expanded to almost three full frames. Several hives I thought had plenty of stores now only have three quarters of a super left and will need feeding in the spring.

Putting out the last of my queens, I have been surprised at the number of hives marked for replacement queens that have done the job themselves. Downy young queens with a good brood pattern and bee numbers in some hives have doubles. It all looks very positive.

Tidying up last year's nucs, I came across a feral hive I introduced into a super. The hive was originally in an overgrown kiwifruit vine. The owner didn't want the bees destroyed and they were nice, gentle, yellow bees so I decided to cut around them and remove them.

I placed the bundle of wax and bees in an empty super and added a honey super on top and left them to it. Feral hives put into framed hives usually abscond the next day or lose their queen and therefore die out after a month. Those that do succeed take over the second super and when the queen is laying up there, the access to the feral comb in the bottom super is blocked by a queen excluder so the bees gradually leave the wild comb and take over the top super. Later the wild comb is removed and you have a hive in a movable frame unit.



Wax at the hive entrance . . . the telltale evidence of visiting mice.

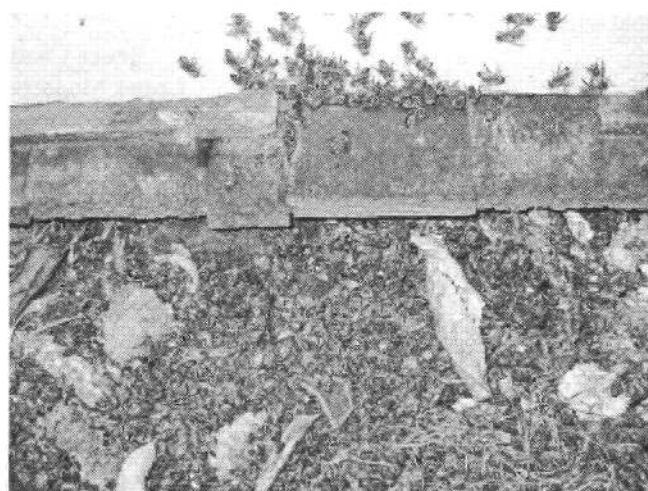
Unfortunately, I missed out the queen excluder step so the hive developed in both supers, storing honey in the top while still occupying some of the wild comb. All I could do was cut away some of the old comb and leave the rest in the bottom super. Hopefully they will remove any remaining honey from the wild comb and cluster in the top super. In spring, I should be able to remove this and replace it with another fully drawn super.

A few of my hives have telltale wax at the entrance, an indication of a night visitor. Because most of the hives will be part of the Southern North Island surveillance programme to determine the varroa mite's spread, I have been leaving a plastic container with four Talon brodifacoum bait tablets in the yards for vermin, rather than close all the hives up. With luck, the mice will choose the bait and leave the hives alone. Each time I drive past these apiaries I replace the tablets until they stop taking them.

I use a small opening on the container to prevent birds and hedgehogs getting the bait and so the rats (if they are around) have to eat the tablets rather than transport them home and store them.

Rats can be a nuisance down south and in bush areas. Any little hole in a super or a wide entrance is enlarged overnight. By spring they will have eaten out the honey reserves – and the bees – and will be well on the way to producing another generation. Some beekeepers fold a 75mm wide strip of tin plate, 90 degrees lengthwise so it sits across the baseboard runners and up the front of the bottom super. This forms a slight tunnel and prevents the rats enlarging the entrance.

This autumn I found six hives suffering from advance Nosema. Dead and dying bees were outside the entrance as though they had been poisoned. I treated the hives with Fumidil B and marked them for later action. If they do not recover in the spring, I'll shake the bees on to new frames and treat the old combs to remove the spores..



Indication of Nosema

Bee work now turns indoors, sorting dark and frames with drone brood out for melting. Any frames you can't see light through when held up to the sun or those that just feel heavy should be put aside. If you don't want to melt them down, they burn well or can be composted in the garden.

While sorting frames, it's a good idea to scrape off the propolis and any burr comb. Apart from propolis bringing in money, cleaning any future brood frames is essential so that

Letters to the Editor



Only one option?

American (AFB) foulbrood is a disease of bees and not of beekeepers. AFB has been transmitted in the past, largely by beekeepers. Our pest management strategy aims to reverse this and is a laudable undertaking.

The benefits of AFB control/eradication are in direct proportion to the number of hives operated by each beekeeper, that is, a beekeeper with 100 hives would be spared the time and expense of inspecting and dealing with the results in those 100 beehives, compared say, to the beekeeper with a single hive to manage.

Therefore, to say that all beekeepers share the benefits of AFB control/eradication and therefore all should pay is less than half of the truth. Their share is in direct proportion to their hive numbers and to suggest otherwise would be dishonest. The present proposal being promoted for changes to our levy system does not take this simple logic into account.

The beekeeper with one beehive under this proposal could be levied a cost equivalent to the average yearly expected honey production for this area for AFB management, a savage impost indeed.

A levy structure that does not take the above facts into consideration is unfair and deserves a "no" note. The present system, modified for smaller/larger apiaries or a fully hive-based system, seems to me to be the fairest option.

I trust that the present executive will not back itself up against the wall by supporting or promoting only the present proposal being put to the membership. I would appreciate the choice when it comes to voting for the change between these three options.

The future should be in the hands of the membership and a free and fair vote between the three basic options is the honest and transparent way to ensure this. We are presently being sold a lemon.

**Bruce Coad
Upper Moutere**

(NBA vice-president Lin McKenzie replies: Savings resulting from a successful Pest Management Strategy will be in hives not destroyed and less loss in both production and assets. There will also be significant advantages in the international marketplace, reflected in the value of hive products. These advantages will be in proportion to the number of hives operated by the beekeeper, as the proposed levy will be.

The \$16 Base Levy covers the costs of recording data. The 90 cents hive levy will obviously impose a greater cost on beekeepers running a greater number of hives. It is not intended to equate the Biosecurity (PMS) Levy to the value of honey; the purpose is to recover the costs involved in operat-

the bee space between frames is maintained. If propolis is allowed to remain on the end bars, the bee space gradually increases to an extent that it could take double the number of bees to maintain the brood nest temperature.

The bee space between frames (centre to centre) is 33mm but that could be reduced to 31mm if beekeepers want to experiment with a single brood nest configuration with an 11-frame hive.

ing the PMS. These costs go on whether honey is produced or not.

The Minister of Biosecurity will decide on Biosecurity Levies after consultation. You are encouraged to write to him with your support or concerns. Send to: Hon. Jim Sutton, Minister of Biosecurity, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

The ballot on the Commodities Levy (70 cents per hive) is available to beekeepers with 10 or more hives. Voting papers have been sent to these beekeepers).

Pennyroyal no weed

It is out of order to call the pennyroyal herb a "weed", as noted on the cover of the May issue of the *NZ Beekeeper*.

In a country that is mainly monopolised by animal culture, don't we have a hard enough battle with insecticides, herbicides, chemicals, etc. in the environment? It's a bit on the nose to call a plant a weed on the cover of the magazine.

Could the author please "weed" that word out of his dictionary. Plant is a much more acceptable, friendly word.

**-C. Clark
Leeston, Canterbury**

(You're right, "weed" – defined in the Oxford dictionary as a "wild herb growing where it is not wanted" is an odd word for a plant described in the same panel as used by bees to create an aromatic, medium-amber coloured honey with a profound minty flavour. And I personally have pennyroyal growing in my own garden. Ed)

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BK 40

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MAF receives further funding for varroa research from Budget



By Paul Bolger

Budget 2002 brought some positive news for beekeepers, in the form of an additional \$589,000 in research funding for the 2002/03 financial year.

The sum granted was the result of a Budget New Initiatives Bid developed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) during November 2001. All projects included in the bid were assessed by the Varroa Research Advisory Group (VRAG), a committee made up of representatives from MAF, the National Beekeepers Association (NBA) and the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (FORST). Not all proposals received for consideration could be funded.

This is likely to be the last time MAF will be used to allocate varroa research funding by the government. Future grants for proposed varroa research will probably have to be sought through existing research funding mechanisms such as FORST. It would be prudent for the beekeeping industry to begin exploring these options now and building up knowledge of how research-funding mechanisms in New Zealand currently operate.

The following projects have been funded for the 2002/03 financial year.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| HortResearch | Treatment thresholds
Continuation of existing research. Establishment of economic thresholds (i.e. the most cost-effective time to treat to minimise economic losses) for treatment of varroa in two different climatic zones in New Zealand. |
| HortResearch | Population dynamics
Continuation of existing research. Studying growth of varroa populations in two different climatic zones within New Zealand. This work was initiated in January 2001. |
| HortResearch | Alternative treatments
Continuation of existing research. This work is aimed at refining the use of organic treatments under New Zealand conditions, with regard to timing, application method and dosage. |
| HortResearch | Testing model IPM programmes
Continuation of existing research: The objective of this programme is to develop three different IPM programmes, using only synthetic products, only organic products, and a mix of synthetic and organic products. Reports will be published to assist beekeepers in developing their own control programmes. |
| HortResearch | Resistance to chemical controls
New project, to carry out a survey of the NZ varroa population to measure the degree of resistance to a range of |

treatment chemicals. This should establish a "baseline" level of resistance, providing a basis for comparison with any surveys conducted in the future

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| HortResearch | Breeding for varroa tolerance
New project, funding the first year of a programme to breed bees with increased varroa tolerance from existing New Zealand stocks, using methodology established by United States scientist Dr John Harbo. This work follows on from a project carried out over summer demonstrating an apparently high degree of variability in varroa reproduction rates on New Zealand bees. To yield any significant result, this project will need to be carried out for three seasons, requiring ongoing funding from other sources. |
| Crop and Food Research | Application methods for treatment products
New project, looking at innovative techniques for applying a range of treatment products to beehives, which may increase the range of options for beekeepers using organic products. |
| Landcare Research | Variations in varroa-bee interactions
New project, looking at variability in the way varroa interacts with bees, particularly in relation to the reproductive behaviour of varroa. |
| Not yet allocated | South Island response options
Projects to assist in decision-making when varroa is detected in the South Island. Likely to include work on feasibility of feral eradication. |

MAF would like to thank the members of VRAG for their assistance in assessing proposals, and all researchers who submitted proposals for consideration.

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BR2

Counting varroa costs into hive profits might turn business around

Dr R. M. Goodwin
HortResearch

As the old saying goes “it is difficult to think about draining the swamp when you are up to your waist in crocodiles”.

By now all beekeepers should have completed any required varroa control measures, and have time to consider some more basic questions about the future and how they will live with varroa.

Unfortunately for some beekeepers, this may require making some unpleasant choices. Even reading about the choices that need to be made may be uncomfortable for some. I certainly found writing about them difficult.

I can see many beekeepers struggling with both varroa and the poor seasons at the moment, and understand why they are looking at the future with despair. I also know how much stress some beekeepers are under at the thought of getting varroa. While recognising these feelings, the necessity to make choices is not going to go away. The longer it takes to make the decisions, the fewer options there will be available.

Interestingly, some beekeepers overseas have told us that they were better off with varroa than without it. There are

also a few beekeepers in New Zealand who have varroa that are thinking the same way. To most of us with varroa, such comments probably seem very bizarre and almost impossible to comprehend.

So how could anyone be better off with varroa? It is because they have been forced into reassessing everything they do, which in most cases has resulted in them doing things differently? Certainly, any business that does this regularly is likely to be better off than those unprepared to change.

For some beekeepers the improvements in the business brought about by the reassessments have outweighed the negative impacts of varroa.

When assessing the problem of managing varroa it is probably something like 25% control and 75% economics. For all the discussion there has been about how devastating varroa can be, if all honey was selling at \$10 per kg there would be much less concern. The problem would not have changed, but the resources available to deal with it would have.

It is interesting, therefore, that we spend most of our time talking about technical aspects of control methods and little

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BK 69

time talking about economics. So, for the remainder of this article I want to talk about economics rather than how to manage varroa.

There are varying assessments of how much varroa control costs beekeepers. Differences in cost reflect the different ways beekeepers choose to control the mite – and there are many things we have yet to learn.

Any costing of varroa control needs to include:

- 1) Cost of control products
- 2) Time taken to apply and remove products
- 1) Time taken to monitor varroa levels
- 2) Additional travel costs
- 3) Production losses
- 4) Hive losses
- 5) Possible reduction in value of hive products due to residue issues

Varroa probably costs beekeepers between \$20 and \$50 per hive. That sum is subsequently the income profit loss on each hive. Beekeepers paid for kiwifruit pollination are in the fortunate position of being able to pass some or all of these costs on to growers. Most beekeepers, however, can't pass costs on.

Ideally, honey prices would increase to cover varroa costs. But honey prices, for better or worse, are governed by influences beyond what happens at the hive. The first media report of varroa control residues affecting honey is likely to dampen honey prices.

So, if the increased costs are not being met by an increase in pollination fees or out of an automatic rise in the price of honey, it must come from somewhere else. I hear beekeepers saying the taxpayer or farming community should help pay the bill. The reality of politics in New Zealand means this is unlikely to happen, though, so the costs associated with varroa control must come out of beekeeping profits you are (or aren't) currently making.

All beekeepers with varroa will have to make some hard choices. Those without varroa have a little more time to think about them. There are several options.

1. Reducing lifestyle

The first option is to take the money out of your profits to pay for varroa control and reduce your lifestyle by that amount. This will be unpalatable for most beekeepers. Although done in bad seasons, it is not something most beekeepers would want to continue doing long term. Some beekeepers I see with varroa, though, already appear to be choosing this option.

2. Reducing re-investment in the business

The second option is to take the money out of the business by reducing inputs, for example maintenance, re-queening or in other ways. This is a negative course of action, resulting in the running down of a beekeeping business. Long-term, it is not sustainable and therefore should not be embarked upon without careful consideration.

3. Increasing profits

The third option is to find some way of increasing the return from your hives.

The economics of varroa control will force many beekeepers to change their approach to beekeeping. Some beekeeping

businesses work on minimum hive numbers per labour unit, maximum inputs, and maximum return per hive, usually carrying out paid pollination and harvesting a numbers of hive products. These products are often processed to add value.

Others have used the opposite philosophy with maximum hive number per labour unit and a lower return per hive, often only harvesting bulk honey and wax. Most beekeepers fall somewhere between these two approaches.

In the past, both philosophies could be equally successful giving the same net return to the business. Add the varroa factor, and favour falls on beekeepers who intensively manage a small number of hives because varroa is a fixed cost per beehive. Someone with 500 hives making the same profit as someone managing 1000 colonies, only has half the varroa control costs to pay. Also, because they are probably visiting their hives more often, they will not have to make special trips to their apiaries for varroa control reasons.

For many people, this change in philosophy is not easy. I was recently talking to a group of beekeepers, without varroa, about other things they could do with their hives to generate income. I was fascinated to hear them giving reasons why they couldn't change what they did, rather than looking for ways they could change.

Unfortunately, they will need to make changes when varroa gets there if they want to continue beekeeping.

So can more money be made out of beekeeping?

I think for many beekeepers the answer is yes. I know some who make an average of \$70 per hive and others who make more than \$300 per hive. Profits are partly due to where their hives are situated, but much is due to what is done with the hives and hive products. There are huge variations in income between beekeepers in the same region.

Here are a few ideas that beekeepers are already carrying out somewhere in New Zealand. You will find you have most of the skills required to do them but to consider them seriously you may have to manage fewer hives than you currently run.

- 1) Requeening hives every year if you are not already doing it.
- 2) Two queening hives. As long as there is honey to collect, two queen colonies usually always out-perform single queen colonies.
- 3) Treating for *nosema*. Now that we have to put pesticides in our hives, there is likely to be fewer issues concerning antibiotics for most beekeepers. Increases in honey production can be achieved by treating hives for *nosema*.
- 4) Only using one brood box. If you can do this successfully it will reduce your investment in supers by 25% and possibly the number of miticide strips required per treatment.
- 5) Pollen production.
- 6) Comb honey production.
- 7) Propolis production.
- 8) Royal jelly production.
- 9) Queens production.
- 10) Package bee production.
- 11) Paid pollination.
- 12) Destroying wasp nests for a fee.
- 13) Charging for swarm collection and collecting swarms for people.

- 14) Signing Certificates of Inspection.
- 15) Producing packed or specialty lines of honey
- 16) Bumble bee production.
- 17) Using you truck for general cartage during the winter.
- 18) Production of cosmetics etc.
- 19) Rationalising apiary sites to reduce transport costs.
- 20) Shift hives to chase additional honey flows.
- 21) Organic honey production.
- 22) Package bees.
- 23) Relocate to a more profitable area.

4. A career change

I was at a meeting in Wellington a year or so ago and a beekeeper announced how bad beekeeping was and, with the arrival of varroa, would cease to be viable. A senior Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry official asked whether the beekeeper's business was viable even without varroa.

Overcoming the shock of someone asking that question in public, I decided it was a question every business must ask itself regularly. Unfortunately, the simple – and unpalatable – truth is that if beekeepers do not change what they do to reduce costs or increase revenue, many businesses will not be viable with varroa. Recognise that as early as possible so a change in career can be made before it becomes a forced change.

There is still a good demand for live hives in reasonable condition, but hives that have died out are likely to be much harder to sell.

Decide what you are going to do before events overtake you and somebody else takes the decision out of your hands.

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BK69

Voting clarification

The only votes to be counted in the Commodity Levy Referendum will be those received by the receiving officer by 5pm, Tuesday June 25.

Any ballot paper returned to the returning officer that is incomplete or completed incorrectly will be deemed invalid and counted as a "NO" vote.

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From the colonies



Southland

Honey crops in the past season varied from 5kg to 30kg per hive. It was a dry summer but cool at times. Autumn was mild, hence hives are strong as they settle in for the winter with just some hives needing extra feed.

Varroa surveillance started in May but was held up by the weather with 173mm of rain – and snow in some places as well. Beekeepers are moving into winter mode with branch meetings, varroa workshops and making preparations for next season.

– Andy Booth
Drummond

Bay of Plenty

Beehives in the bay during the autumn held bee numbers well, with hives using some of their winter stores already. Three to four litres of extra sugar syrup will be needed.

Queens have mated well with the nice warm fine weather.

Beekeepers in the branch are excited about manuka prices and the demand for more pollination with price increases.

Most beekeepers had to treat hives for varroa mites and those who didn't will have high mite levels in their hives now.

Some beekeepers trying organic treatments have found it is not as easy as everyone thought. Some have experienced some hive losses.

As the new branch president, I am looking forward to a new season and getting to know branch members.

– Bryce Hooton

Far North

Most Northland beekeepers have finished off their autumn work and are ready to put the smoker and hive tool back in the shed for a month or two, but it has been an exceptionally busy time for many.

The amount of time devoted to varroa control in the autumn is considerable and will change the management practices of beekeepers from this time forward. One positive spin off of all this extra autumn work is that it will considerably reduce the spring workload of box/ frame replacements because this can be done during the autumn visits.

Varroa still has about 200km to go before reaching North Cape, but at current rate of spread it will not take too long.

The voting for the commodities levy–National Beekeepers Association hive levy will be of real interest, with some of us feeling the crucial, unilateral decision made by the NBA executive to dump the “apiary levy” too hasty and not reflective of the will of a large percentage of beekeepers.

When the votes are counted and the numbers known, the executive needs to be mindful of the reality that NO votes may in actual fact be votes of no confidence in the present structure of the NBA, and in effect votes for restructuring of the NBA.

– Bruce Stevenson
Kerikeri

Taranaki

The varroa mite is racing down the Paraparas, passing the new boundaries to reach Kakatahi and now suspected in Wanganui. It will probably enter our province from the south east – and once it does, it will spread faster than rumours about the New Zealand Rugby Football Union and the World Cup!

We are lucky to have had time to prepare for its arrival, but it seems obvious that for the first two to five years, beekeeping with varroa is going to be very challenging and expensive. One beekeeper who has lived with varroa for 12 months informed us that it is costing him \$40 a hive.

Commercial beekeepers will have to decide whether it will be viable to continue. For some, it might be a rearrangement of apiaries to reduce travel costs, or cutting hive numbers so they can continue as a “one man band”. Paying wages on 200 to 1000 hives may no longer be economical.

Co-operation between all beekeepers in one area will be essential if treatments are to be effective. Amateur beekeepers should identify others in their area and talk to them before next season.

The Annual General Meeting attracted a poor turnout with just 17 members coming to hear guest speaker Byron Taylor from AgriQuality. President Lester Mattson (also the custodian) secretary/treasurer George Jonson and all but one of the other six executive members were re-elected. The new name is Steven Black, replacing Graham Cook.

- Next meeting: July 10, at the Blind Institute Hall, Vivian St, starting at 7.30pm with wine and cheese.

– George Jonson
New Plymouth

Franklin

A woodwork session for making frames, supers and assembling lids will be the feature of next month's meeting, to be held on July 14, starting at 10am at Stuart and Kaye Ward's property, 132 Attwells Rd, Pukekohe. There will also be the demonstration of a solar wax melter and, if there is time, a hive will be opened.

– Stuart Ward
Pukekohe

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Varroa workshops and surveillance nearly over –but wait, a MAF video

By Paul Bolger

Varroa Video Available

A video on varroa management has been produced with funding from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Running for just over one hour, the video covers key points from the *Control of Varroa* book and is divided into four sections: varroa biology, sampling techniques, control, and discussion.

The video stars Michelle Taylor from HortResearch (previously seen in an impressive bungy-jump video from the Queenstown conference), with guest appearances from Dr Mark Goodwin and Graham Cammell. Free copies have been sent to National Beekeepers Association (NBA) branches, hobby beekeeping clubs and the NBA Library. Further copies are available for \$10 from MAF Information Service by phoning (04) 474-4100 ext. 8436, or fax (04) 474-4110, or via the MAF website (www.maf.govt.nz). Playing the video at a branch or club meeting is a good way to generate discussion about varroa management.

South Island Surveillance

Many South Island beekeepers will be aware that a second round of varroa surveillance is underway. Around 1600 apiaries containing 23,000 hives have been allocated for inspection. A new feature of the programme is the mail-out of varroa sampling kits to hobby beekeepers whose apiaries were

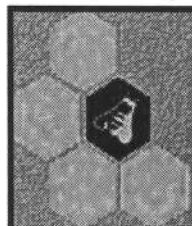
selected for testing. MAF would like to thank the many South Island hobbyists who have co-operated and carried out this sampling.

As the government maintains a June-June financial year, MAF would appreciate Authorised Persons submitting their invoices before the end of June for sampling work carried out to that point. This will ensure speedy payments. If you have not completed your allocated apiaries, a second invoice can be submitted when the work is finished. Questions about South Island surveillance should be directed to David McMillan at (03) 489 0066.

'Living with Varroa' Workshops

The programme of 'Living with Varroa' workshops, completed in the southern part of both islands this month, signals the end of planned workshops in the South Island, while final ones in the North Island will be in Hamilton and another, yet-to-be-decided central location in July. Bookings can be made with Byron Taylor, phone (021) 918-400.

If a large enough group of beekeepers in any region would still like to attend a workshop, it may be possible to schedule additional ones. Direct North Island inquiries to Byron Taylor at the above number, and South Island inquiries to Tony Roper, (021) 283 -829.



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BK 76

Authorised Persons Workshops

Three workshops to train beekeepers as Level II Authorised Persons were held in conjunction with the May-June South Island varroa workshop programme. Beekeepers who attended and wish to be reimbursed for costs should return expenses claim forms by June 24 to:

Murray Bush
168 Old Renwick Rd
Blenheim

AFB Diagnosis Leaflet

Hives heavily infested with varroa can display a range of unusual brood symptoms, sometimes known as Parasitic Mite Syndrome (pages 19-21 of the Green Book). The presence of the syndrome can make the diagnosis of American foulbrood (AFB) difficult, with serious implications for its control.

HortResearch is printing a leaflet to help beekeepers determine whether their hives have AFB or the syndrome. It will include detailed photographs of the different symptoms seen and should be available by mid-spring.

Some beekeepers appear to be using the onset of the syndrome as a signal that they need to treat for varroa. Delaying treatment until these symptoms appear is not much different to delaying feeding until dead bees are piling up on the bottom board. In both cases the hive may well survive, but will take a long time to build back up to an acceptable level of strength.

North Island Movement Control Line

The Line has slowed the southward spread of varroa. It was previously announced (*NZ Beekeeper*, September 2001) that the Line would remain in place for the duration of the current season. MAF and the Varroa Management Group expect to make a decision on the future of the Line in July.

The options are to retain it in its current location, abolish it or move it. MAF believes it will be extremely difficult to move the line southwards in small increments, due to the costs associated with each change, and the lack of natural barriers the line could follow. Any decision will depend on the results of surveillance sampling in the southern North Island, as well as input from the beekeeping industry.

Southern North Island Surveillance

Targeted surveillance is being carried out in the southern North Island to measure the degree of varroa spread across the line. Hives chosen for inspection include those immediately south of the MC Line, along major traffic routes, in urban areas, and hives owned by beekeepers who also have hives north of the Line.

Relevant branches have been consulted on the selection of high-risk areas. Initially, the owners of targeted hives will be asked to inspect them using a mailed sampling kit. Where this is not possible, an Authorised Person or AgriQuality NZ staff member will test the hives.

AgriQuality will also be testing a number of apiaries in each region as an "audit" of the sampling techniques used by beekeepers. A surprising number south of the Line appear to have no experience in testing for varroa, even two years after it was discovered in Auckland.

Varroa near Wanganui

Varroa has been detected in a hobby beekeeper's hive, approximately 10km inland from the centre of Wanganui,

making it the southernmost find to date. The find was confirmed on May 23. Further sampling is being carried out in the area. Varroa was first detected in the Upper Whanganui region in July 2001.

South Island suspect varroa investigation

MAF has investigated a number of suspected cases of varroa in the South Island over the past two years. One of these investigations is detailed on Page 18 in this magazine. Fortunately, all cases have so far proven to be negative. South Island beekeepers should continue to report any suspect varroa finds via the MAF Exotic Disease and Pest Hotline on (0800) 809-966.

What do you think? Should the Movement Control Line remain in its present place, be abolished or moved a little? MAF is due to consider all options and will seek input from the beekeeping industry. Create some debate. Write your choice down, say why you think it's the best one and send to NZ Beekeeper, Crown Kerr Printing, PO Box 5002, Dunedin, or fax to (03) 479-0753 or e-mail to the editor, angela.crompton@actrix.co.nz

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BK41

Available only north of the control line

Varroa mites on export bees to UK raise alarm bells in Westport

By Paul Bolger

Varroa was detected in an imported shipment of queens from the South Island of New Zealand, Central Science Laboratories (CSL) in the United Kingdom advised the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) on Friday, May 3.

Under the United Kingdom system for handling live bee imports, the shipment is sent direct to the importer. The importer then re-cages the queens and sends the escort bees to the Central Science Laboratory (CSL) for testing. The New Zealand consignment involved 50 queens with six to 10 escort bees for each queen. While testing these escort bees, the CSL located two varroa mites. As CSL is aware that varroa has not been detected in the South Island, it notified MAF.

MAF immediately alerted the National Centre for Disease Investigation, which assigned the investigation to an Exotic Disease Response Manager (EDRM). The source of the infested bees was identified as Westport. Further queen bee exports from the producer were suspended, and the EDRM sought more information from the UK to allow accurate identification of the origins of the consignment. Information was requested on the handling of the consignment by the UK importer to determine the risk of cross-infestation.

Two Apiary Officers from AgriQuality New Zealand were immediately sent to the exporter's home property to carry out a field investigation. They arrived on May 4, interviewed the beekeeper, and identified which apiary sites the queens were likely to have originated from. The apiary sites believed to have supplied the implicated export consignment were then sampled using miticide strips and sticky-boards. The sticky-boards were removed on May 5 and sent by courier to the Lynfield laboratory for examination.

Examination of records indicated one site was used for the implicated consignment but record management was insufficient to support certainty. Therefore, all other sites used by the producer to provide bees for consignments to the United Kingdom were sampled. Sampling was conducted over a week as there were multiple nuc hives used for queen-rearing, which were time-consuming to sample. In addition, the queen producer was given the opportunity to cage queens and unite nubs to minimise queen losses.

The CSL's records identified the importer of the affected consignment. Significantly, the importer was hospitalised around the time the shipment was received, and local beekeepers carried out the 're-caging' of the New Zealand queens. According to the importer, cross-infestation was possible at this point. Varroa mites were present in the importer's hives, and in feral colonies in the area.

Sampling was completed on May 11, and the laboratory reported that all 330 sticky-boards were free of varroa on May 13. This finding, coupled with the information from the United Kingdom, supports MAF's contention that there had been cross-infestation and the varroa identified by CSL were not of New Zealand origin. MAF notified the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) of the results of their investigation.

On May 21, DEFRA confirmed that cross-infestation was accepted as the reason for detection of varroa mites on New Zealand bees.

Voting clarification

The only votes to be counted in the Commodity Levy Referendum will be those received by the receiving officer by 5pm, Tuesday June 25.

Any ballot paper returned to the returning officer that is incomplete or completed incorrectly will be deemed invalid and counted as a "NO" vote.

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BK22

Using honey on wounds

Peter Molan, Director of the Honey Research Unit,
University of Waikato, New Zealand

Had you heard of using honey as a wound dressing before reports in the news media, following its recent “rediscovery”?

Although it ceased being a standard dressing when antibiotics displaced it in the 1940s, honey has continued to be used by some nurses in hospitals throughout the intervening period. This has usually been on difficult cases not responding to other treatments, and it is for similar reasons honey is coming into use again now.

Those who remember honey being used have long ago retired from practice, so for most people the suggestion of using honey on wounds sounds weird or “alternative” in this era of evidence-based medicine. But this is because they are not familiar with the wealth of medical literature providing solid evidence for it being a respectable, therapeutic product.

Traditionally used by many cultures around the world and recorded in the oldest written records, honey is not only the most ancient known wound dressing, but outclasses many modern applications as a bio-active substance creating a moist healing environment.

Most nurses know that wounds heal faster if kept moist – although a lot of doctors seem not to have caught up with this knowledge and continue to leave wounds dry. Another major advantage of keeping wounds moist is that less disfigurement occurs on healing. A dry scab on a wound means the epithelial tissue cannot grow across a healing wound at the level of the skin surface but is forced to grow deeper down where there is the moisture needed to multiply to replace the skin cover.

Also, fully moist conditions stop dressings adhering to the wound bed, meaning newly-repaired tissue will not be torn away when dressings are changed. The osmotic effect of honey draws lymph out from the wound bed so the honey dressing sits on a layer of fluid.

Doctors’ reluctance to keep a wound moist is because bacteria thrive in moist conditions. Honey, however, has an advantage over other moist wound dressings with antibacterial properties stopping any bacterial growth.

Laboratory testing with typical honeys has shown common, wound-infecting species of bacteria are inhibited even when the honey is diluted 10-fold or more, and antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria are fully sensitive to honey. This level of potency does not just prevent bacterial growth in the environment of the dressing – it can also work on infection in the depth of the wound tissues, as the antibacterial components of honey can diffuse easily into tissues. There are many reports in medical literature of infected, chronic wounds not responding to other treatments but being cleared of infection in a few days when dressed with honey.

Good results cannot be guaranteed by using just any honey, though. Although most of the reports in the literature don’t specify the type of honey used, remember that people only publish successful outcomes. There are many anecdotal reports from people contacting the Honey Research Unit that confirm the wisdom of the Ancient Greek physicians, long forgotten, that only some honeys are good for use on wounds. Dioscorides (c.50 AD) stated that a pale yellow honey from Attica was the best, being “good for all rotten and hollow

ulcers”; and Aristotle (384-322 BC) referred to pale honey being “good as a salve for sore eyes and wounds”.

Folk medicine around the world continues this wisdom and led to the unusual antibacterial component of New Zealand manuka honey being discovered. Clinical usage of manuka honey is giving some notable successes with infected wounds (– see for example Dunford et al, 2000) but all honey can vary markedly in its antibacterial activity, even within a floral type (by as much as 100-fold).

So it is important that honey for clinical use is assayed first, or be one of those commercially available with its antibacterial potency rated.

But there is a lot more than just the antibacterial activity and the moist environment that makes honey an effective wound dressing.

Honey stimulates cell growth. Clusters of fibroblasts growing around newly formed capillary bundles cause the granular appearance of tissue healing over a wound. The blood supply from these new capillaries is the rate-limiting factor for wound repair, and studies have shown that honey stimulates their development.

Honey also directly stimulates the growth of fibroblasts, which create the connective tissue, and epithelial cells which complete the skin cover over the wound. Yet honey’s anti-inflammatory property also prevents the over-stimulation of fibroblast growth causing fibrosis, seen as scarring, and keloids. This accounts for the frequently reported, good cosmetic results achieved when honey is used as a wound dressing.

The practicalities of using honey as a wound dressing is not without some complications, because at body temperature it is quite fluid.

The ancient Egyptians mixed it with cotton fibres to keep it in place, but were probably not so concerned as in present times with foreign body reaction to any fibres left in the tissues of a healed wound. A more up-to-date variation on this is the use of modern Gamgee-type dressing pads and impregnating honey into alginate dressings, which are commercially available.

- Information on the anti-bacterial properties of honey, a full bibliography on the use of honey in medicine, and some practical considerations using honey as a wound dressing is available on the Honey Research Unit’s web-site: <http://honey.bio.waikato.ac.nz>
- More information on the use of honey in wound care can be found in:
Molan PC. The role of honey in the management of wounds. *Journal of Wound Care* 1999; 8(8): 423-6.
Molan PC. A brief review of honey as a clinical dressing. *Primary Intention* 1998; 6(4): 148-58. (The full text of this paper is available on Honey Research Unit’s web-site.)
Dunford C, Cooper RA, Molan PC. Using honey as a dressing for infected skin lesions. *Nursing Times* 2000; 96 (NTPLUS 14): 7-9.

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BK 46

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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