Volume 10 No. 7
August 2002

# The New Zealand BeeKeeper

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


## Varroa Distribution August 2002

### In this issue:

- Varroa spreads South
- Call for change
- NBA Workshops
- Fire Ants in NZ
- GE and the Industry

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
Frasers Rd, RD, Sheffield 8173
Phone: (03) 318-3869 Fax (03) 318-3862
Mobile: 021 142 7314

**Vice President: Jane Lorimer**
Hillcrest Apiaries,
"Kahurangi-o-Papa"
RD 3, Hamilton 2021
Phone: (07) 856-9625 Fax: (07) 856-9241
Mobile: 025 969-889
Email: hunnybee@wave.co.nz

**Executive: Lin McKenzie**
Bennies Honey
PO Box 34, Ranfurly 9071
Phone: (03) 444-9257
Fax: (03) 444-9250
Mobile: 027 435 7970
Email: lin.mckenzie@xtra.co.nz

**Executive: Philip Cropp**
Nelson Apiaries, Motupiko,
RD 2, Nelson
Phone: (03) 522-4130 (Wk) 03 522 4413
Fax (03) 522-4513
Mobile: 025 829 143
Email: nectar@ts.co.nz

**Executive: Gerard Martin**
Galatea Apiaries, 501 Haumea Rd,
RD 1, Murupara 3272
Phone/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 0500
Tel: (09) 408-5543
Email: bob.banks@xtra.co.nz
**Bruce Stevenson**
Kiwi Bee Distributors
Kemp Rd, Kerikeri 0470
Tel: (09) 407-7190
Fax: (09) 407-7194
Email: bucestevenson@xtra.co.nz

**NORTHLAND**
**Simon Peacey**
76 Malone Rd, RD 9
Whangarei 0121
Tel/Fax: (09) 434-6344
Mobile: (025) 270-8922
Email: peacey@paradise.net.nz
**Terry Gavin**
PDC, Titoki 0250
Tel: (09) 433-1891
Fax (09) 433-1895
Mobile: 021 257 6457
Email: terry.gavin@xtra.co.nz

**AUCKLAND**
Graham Cammell
133 Walmsley Rd
Mangere
Auckland 1701
Tel: (09) 275-6457
Fax: (09) 275-9097
**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 2452
Tel: (07) 823-6706
Email: lewis.olsen@clear.net.nz
**Annette Berry**
Arataki Honey, RD 5, Rotorua 3221
Tel: (07) 366-6111
Fax: (07) 366-6999
Email: annette@arataki-honey-rotorua.co.nz

**BAY OF PLENTY**
**Bryce Hooten**
832 Old Te Aroha Rd
RD 1, Matamata 2271
Tel: (07) 888 6003
Fax: (07) 888 6004
Email golden.flow@xtra.co.nz
**Bruce Stanley**
Fosters Rd, RD1
Whakatane 3080
Tel/Fax: (07) 312 9028
Email honeybee@clear.net.nz

**HAWKE'S BAY**
**Milton Jackson**
57 Waverly Street
Waipawa 4170
Tel: (06) 857 8509
Fax: (06) 857 8504
**Ron Morison**
6 Totara Street, Taradale, 4030
Tel/Fax: (06) 844-9493
Email: rmorison@clear.net.nz

**POVERTY BAY**
**Peter Burt**
27 Murphy Road, Wainui, Gisborne 3801
Tel: (06) 868-4771
Email: pwburt@clear.net.nz
**Barry Foster**
695 Aberdeen Road, Gisborne 3801
Tel: (06) 867-4591 Fax: (06) 867 4508
Email: bjfoster@xtra.co.nz

**SOUTHERN NORTH ISLAND**
**Allan Richards**
P.O. Box 287, Marton 5460
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**
**Paul Davey**
Orinoco, RD1
Motueka 7161
Tel/Fax: (03) 526-8820
Email: orinco@tasman.net
**Michael Wraight**
15 Titoki Place, Motueka 7161
Tel/Fax: (03) 528-6010
Email: wraight@xtra.co.nz

**MARLBOROUGH**
**Will Trollope**
RD 3, Blenheim 7321
Tel: (03) 570-5633
**Tony Mulligan**
Grazengrove
Hammericks Rd
RD 2, Blenheim 7321
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 7850
Tel/Fax: (03) 732-4856

**CANTERBURY**
**Tony Scott**
1 Santa Maria Ave
Christchurch 8008
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 8751
Tel: (03) 693-9889

**OTAGO**
**Blair Dale**
PO Box 23, Middlemarch 9056, Otago
Work Tel/Fax: (03) 464-3796
Home Tel/Fax: (03) 464-3122
Email: blair.dale@clear.net.nz
**Peter Sales**
"Te Ora", RD1, Port Chalmers
Dunedin 9030
Tel: (03) 472-7220
Fax: (03) 472-7221
Email: foxglove@paradise.net.nz

**NORTH OTAGO**
**Graeme McCallum**
McCallum Apiaries,
Frews Road, 7 ORD, Oamaru 8921
Phone: (03) 439-5676
**Mrs Patsy Rawson**
2 Glayva Crescent
Oamaru
Tel/Fax: (03) 437 1995

**SOUTHLAND**
**Shaun Lawlor**
Lawlor Apiaries
198 Broughton Street, Gore 9700
Tel/Fax: (03) 208 8210
**Don Stedman,** Catlins Apiaries
Pine Bush RD1, Wyndham 9758
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 (EVENINGS)**
Email: angela.crompton@actrix.co.nz
**Advertising:** Allan Middlemiss: Telephone: 03-477 8109
Fax: 03-479 0753
Email: ckp@xtra.co.nz

# Varroa bee mite spreads into southern North Island

**By Paul Bolger**

MAF's varroa surveillance programme detected an infestation of the varroa bee mite at an apiary near Hayward's Hill, north of Wellington this month.

Two other infestations of varroa have been found further north - one at an apiary in the foothills of the Ruahine Ranges near Mangaweka and one at an apiary near Marton.

A Varroa Movement Control Line is in place from Taranaki to East Cape to restrict the southward movement of beehives and associated equipment. The latest survey of the southern North Island began in May and has targeted about 450 apiaries, with more results expected this month.

Most new finds, including detections in North Taranaki, the Wanganui River valley, along the Napier-Taupo Road and near Ruatoria, have been within 10km of the control line and are probably the result of natural spread.

Tests and apiary treatments in the Marton area have begun. Following these finds MAF and the National Beekeepers Association will re-evaluate the movement control policy and conditions.

In place now for two years, the line has slowed the spread of varroa but international experience has shown that movement controls can never permanently stop varroa's spread.

**South Island surveillance**

After a promising start, surveillance in the South Island has been hindered by bad weather conditions in recent months. The number of sticky boards returned is lower than it was at this time last year, even though most boards were mailed out earlier. All Authorised Persons are requested to complete their allocated apiaries as soon as possible, and contact David McMillan (ph 03 489-0066) with any problems or questions.

**North Island surveillance**

Sampling kits have been mailed to owners of around 500 apiaries south of the Movement Control Line. At the time of writing (August 1), less than 40% had been returned. Beekeepers with sample kits are requested to carry out the sampling according to the enclosed instructions, and return the sticky boards for examination. Any queries should be directed to Byron Taylor, ph (07) 838-5845.

The Varroa Management Group is reluctant to make a decision on the future of the line until a clearer picture is available of varroa spread. It is hoped a recommendation will have been made before this magazine reaches beekeepers. Varroa has now been detected south of the line at a number of points (see Front Cover).

**Final varroa workshop**

The 'Living with Varroa' workshops which began in spring 2001 are almost over. Only one further workshop is planned, to be held later this year in a central North Island location. It is aimed at beekeepers throughout the North Island who couldn't attend earlier workshops in their own areas.

AgriQuality NZ wants to finalise the date and location so call for commercial beekeepers interested in attending to contact Bryan Mitchell, ph. (07) 834-1786.

**Varroa freephone**

Beekeepers with specific queries about varroa and varroa management can seek advice via a freephone operated by AgriQuality New Zealand. The number to call is (0800) 424-490. Messages can be left on an answer phone outside working hours.

- **Reports of suspected varroa in the South Island should be reported directly to the MAF Exotic Disease and Pest Hotline on (0800) 809-966.**

# Varroa discussion document delayed

At the recent National Beekeepers Association (NBA) conference in Auckland, I informed beekeepers that the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) would release a discussion document on the development of a sustainable, long-term varroa management programme (Phase III) at the end of July 2002.

Unfortunately, the release of this document has been delayed. After internal consultation within MAF, it has been decided that more work is needed before the discussion paper is ready for release. MAF has created a project team to ensure the discussion document is completed as soon as possible.

The document will outline options available for future varroa management, and seek submissions from affected parties on which ones they prefer. It is important to get the views of beekeepers and other sector groups, which depend on bees for pollination.

Even before the document is released, however, beekeepers must think about what could follow the current, two-year Varroa Management Programme. Since November 2000, this government-funded programme has been responsible for most varroa-related activities, including the maintenance of movement controls, varroa surveillance in both islands, research funding, the production of a book and video, varroa workshops, and the regular MAF and HortResearch updates which appear in this magazine.

**Key questions to consider**

1. *Is there any need for an ongoing varroa management programme*? Upper North Island beekeepers already dealing with varroa may have a different perspective on this from those in varroa-free areas.
2. *If a programme is required, what activities should it include*? Activities could include parts of the existing programme such as movement controls and surveillance. New activities could also be considered, such as resistance monitoring/management.
3. *Who should be responsible for managing such a programme*? Options include an industry association

(such as the NBA), a group specially formed for the purpose, a government department (if the government is willing to remain involved in varroa management), or a commercial organisation.

4. *How could a varroa management programme be paid?* When considering funding control of a pest or disease, the government will consider who the beneficiaries of a control programme are, and likely sources of funding.

Beekeepers, and the beekeeping industry, need to consider these points, and any others they think are relevant to designing a long-term management programme for varroa.

I apologise for the delay in releasing the varroa discussion document. The National Beekeepers Association executive has been advised of the hold-up and MAF will provide it with the new release date once that has been confirmed.

**– Paul Bolger**
**Varroa programme co-ordinator**
**MAF Biosecurity**

**For subscriptions and change of address**
**contact Terri Kellett, Fed Farmers,**
**PO Box 447, Hamilton.**
**Ph: 07 838 2589 Fax: 07 838 2960**
**Email: tkellett@hn.fedfarm.org.nz**

# Executive accepts members' call for change

**A "dynamic organisation" was the definition Auckland Mayor John Banks gave for the National Beekeepers Association, when he opened its 2002 annual general meeting in the city's Green Lane Quality Hotel last month.**

Change in any organisation was imperative, though, John Banks told the 80 or so people who turned up for the day-and-a-half-long AGM, which followed specialty groups' annual meetings and a day of bee-related talks and slide shows.

When he stood for Mayor of Auckland in the last local body elections, he promised to ensure ratepayers received value for money by dealing with some "strategic issues." That invariably led to disruptions. John Banks noted the NBA was facing a period of disruption itself, following the negative results of the recent commodity levy referendum.

In NBA president Don Bell's annual address, the NBA was identified as largely dependent on members prepared to volunteer their own time, skills and often-personal resources to the industry.

"To those who have accepted office in the branches and have made themselves available for committees, and to my fellow executive members, I thank you on behalf of the beekeeping community as a whole."

As time constraints made people reluctant to add other commitments to already-busy workloads, it was getting harder to attract membership participation at all levels of the association, Don said.

"The recent executive election is a good example of the dilemma that this creates. Of the four vacancies offered, only three nominations were received and each of these came from current executive members."

Some members were questioning the relevance of the association to beekeepers and the honey bee industry in its present form, he said.

The concern for all beekeepers now had to be "where to from here", Don said. He believed there was enough vision, collective wisdom and experience within the association to lead the industry into the future.

Don was later re-elected president, Jane Lorimer given Lin McKenzie's former vice-president role, and Philip Cropp and Gerard Martin returning to their positions to complete the five-member executive. Three of them were travelling out of the country after the conference, so their first meeting was not to be until August 12.

Three issues to be addressed were:

- Investigate a new structure for the NBA, with options presented to members at a future, special meeting.
- Locate and develop alternative funding sources.
- Ensure the pest management strategy continues to be funded and remains in place.

# Set year's varroa controls now

**By Mark Goodwin**

Beekeepers in varroa areas need to plan a control strategy for the coming year. One question you might like to set is: At what level will you manage varroa this spring?

Many beekeepers will have some apiaries heavily infested with varroa in the spring, while others will not be infected or only lightly infected. In some apiaries, some hives will have varroa, others won't.

Because of this there are several approaches that can be taken to treat colonies.

**1) Treat all hives at the same time, irrespective of their varroa levels.**

This is the simplest method, has the lowest labour component and carries the lowest risk of making mistakes. Its disadvantages are that it has the highest use of chemicals, the largest risk of residues and resistance, and the greatest cost in buying control products.

**2) Treat only apiaries needing treatment and ignore those that don't.**

The advantage here is using less control products. The disadvantage is the higher risk of getting things wrong and more effort needed in sampling.

**3) Only treat colonies that need treating.**

This has the lowest chemical usage, with all the benefits that accrue. It also has the highest risk of getting things wrong and the highest labour component because of the additional sampling required.

The above options suit different styles of beekeeping. Beekeepers who visit their hives as little as possible will probably choose the first one. Those who visit hives regularly can use any of the approaches.

The second and third options may mean treating some hives during the honey flow, in which case Bayvarol® will have to be used. It is the only product that can be used at that time without breaching the label.

**Managing resistance**

As well as planning how to manage varroa this year, you also need to decide how you will delay the resistance mites will develop to Apistan® and Bayvarol®. I use the word delay rather than prevent because experience from overseas suggests that it will happen, and that it will cost some beekeepers a lot of money. How quickly it happens is up to all of us.

Overseas experience suggests resistance will only occur slowly if varroa control products are used correctly. So here

is a checklist of things you should be doing this season to delay resistance.

1. **Only use approved control products**

   Don't be tempted to cut costs by using or experimenting with products not approved for use in New Zealand. A number of agricultural products can potentially control varroa at a reduced cost. But they have not been approved in this country because overseas experience has shown they will cause resistance. I have already heard of a number of beekeepers, both hobby and commercial, experimenting with these products.

2. **Remove strips at the recommended time**

   If strips are left in hives longer than the recommended time, the chemical concentration starts to decline, to a point where the strips are no longer fully effective at killing mites. Such conditions help varroa develop a resistance to the chemical. Last year I talked to two beekeepers who had left the same Apistan® strips in their hives all winter!

3. **Don't reuse strips**

   Reusing strips has the same problems associated with leaving them in the hives for too long. I know one commercial beekeeper who did this last year.

4. **Don't tamper with strips.**

   In an attempt to make strips last longer, beekeepers overseas, (and at least one in New Zealand) have tried to revitalise strips (e.g. sanding them) so they can be used a second time. Not only does it not work, it also creates a climate for resistance to develop.

5. **Alternate varroa control products.**

   This advice can be found on the product labels of both Apistan® and Bayvarol®. The principle is that if varroa develop resistance to a chemical in the spring, using a chemical from a different class in the autumn will kill all the resistant mites. However, because their active ingredients, fluvalinate and flumethrin, are so close to each other there is little value in alternating Apistan® and Bayvarol® with each other.

   Hopefully, other synthetic products to alternate with Bayvarol® or Apistan® will be approved and sold in New Zealand this coming season. Failing that, synthetic chemicals can be alternated with organic chemicals.

6. **Monitor for resistance**

   Unfortunately, the way we are first likely to recognise the presence of resistant varroa is by a beekeeper, probably commercial, reporting they have lost a large number of treated colonies. If you think you have some resistant varroa, have them tested. Ignoring the problem will cost hives.

   A method for testing varroa for resistance can be found in Appendix 5, pg101 of the varroa handbook.

7. **Monitor neighbouring beekeepers**

   It is important to be your neighbouring beekeepers' conscience. If a neighbour does something to cause resistance you will almost certainly suffer as badly as he or she does.

   When varroa resistance occurs, it is unlikely to occur spontaneously although it may appear as though it has happened that way. Varroa is likely to become increasingly resistant in a single hive or a group of hives over a year or more, where chemicals are being misused. Once they are resistant to a chemical, they will be able to survive in any other hive where the chemical control measures are being used. They will then spread at least as quickly as varroa has already spread.

   If you suspect resistance in your hives, contact supplier of the chemicals you are using, and/or the National Beekeepers Association.

# NBA conference remits

**Eight branch remits were moved and carried at the National Beekeepers Association (NBA) national conference in Auckland last month. They called for the executive to:**

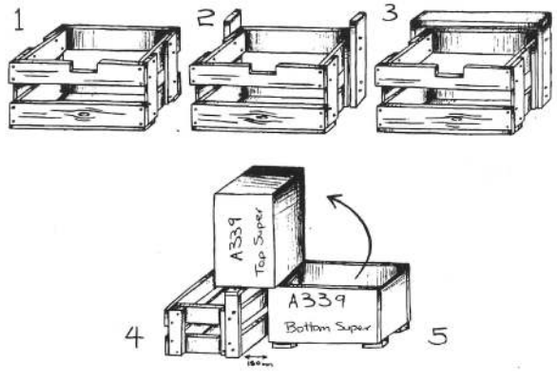
- Investigate the NBA becoming a full Industry Sector Group member of Federated Farmers of NZ (Inc.).
- Instruct its export committee to support the necessary protocols for live bees to be exported to the United States and the United Kingdom.
- Look at approaching other industries, such as agriculture, horticulture, forestry and fisheries, to jointly lobby government for a levy on all incoming containers, packages, and travellers. Money taken would provide a ready fund to fight exotic disease incursions.
- Advocates retaining the Movement Control Line and pressure the Government to provide further funding for eradication/control of outbreaks south of the line.
- Enforce provisions of the Pest Management Strategy for AFB, relating to Certificates of Inspections, Annual Disease Declarations and the destruction of infected hives. Although expensive to administer, if the PMS strategy was not enforced, beekeepers would not see the expected reduction in disease levels they were paying for.
- Investigate the possibility of introducing varroa-resistant bee stock into New Zealand. (see web address http://msa.ars.usda.gov/la/btn/hbb/projects.htm for background information, ed)
- Investigate the re–structuring of the National Beekeepers Association and report findings to a special meeting.

# *Crate converts into mite control tool*

Want an easier way of inserting and removing Apistan strips? The following 10-minute job provided Hokianga beekeeper BILL GUEST with a great tool to use when helping his hives fight varroa.

The following is a 10-minute job I did that greatly assists me putting in and taking out Apistan strips for the control of Varroa mite.

I found a wooden, (empty) one-dozen beer crate and cut a piece through the centre of the top board on one side, big enough to put my fingers through. On the same side of the box, I then nailed two pieces of 40mm x 12mm boards on each end. The boards were about as long as the top of the bottom super of the hive.




On the inside of the top boards, I nailed a 30mm x 20mm board to use as a carrying handle.

When it is time to apply the strips, I carry them to the hives in a container (a 10-litre plastic bucket is handy) in the box. I place the box about 150mm behind the hive with the additions next to the hive.

Loosen up the top super, slide it about 40mm forwards on the bottom super, and then tip it up on its end. The bottom of the back end can now rest on the bottom super and the top on the beer crate.

That leaves two free hands to insert or remove the strips.

I push a 40mm panel pin nail about half way through the Apistan strips, just below where they are cut for twisting before I go out to the apiary. Then I put them in the hives with the ends of the nails resting on the frame bars.

When wearing gloves, this is an easier and quicker method than twisting the strips. It is also easier to pick the strips up with gloves on, as they cannot lie flat on top of each other.

**– Bill Guest (bee keeper)**
**Kohukohu, Hokianga**

# Unsterilised equipment increases risk of AFB

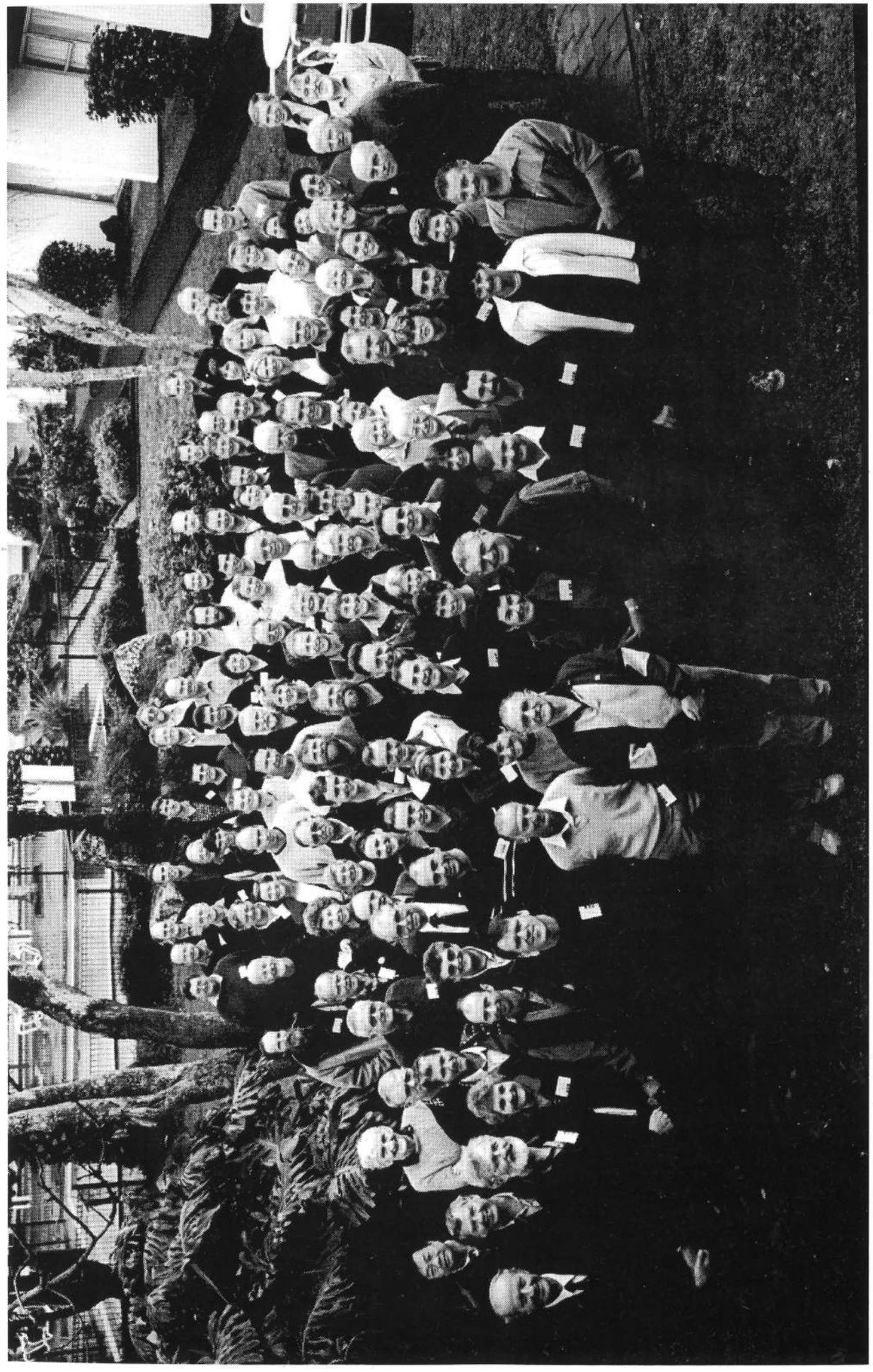
Two outbreaks of American foulbrood in bee colonies in the Eastern Panhandle and northeastern West Virginia are under control after action from the United States Department of Agriculture.

Department apiarist George Clutter said 63 cases of the disease were found in 272 colonies. The bees were destroyed and the beekeepers' equipment sterilised.

Clutter attributed the outbreaks to beekeepers bringing old equipment back into service to keep up with an increasing demand for honey.

The disease is caused by a bacterium, *Paenibacillus larvae* var *larvae,* producing spores which can remain viable for 40 years if equipment is not sterilised. In West Virginia, 1301 registered beekeepers have 14,197 colonies in 1634 apiaries. Beekeepers in the state were expected to produce 1.2 million pounds of honey this northern summer. Extra funds were needed by the Department of Agriculture, Clutter told lawmakers, if it was to keep up with the industry's growth and maintain apiary inspections.

– *Dominion Post*, Morgnatown, Australia



NBA members at the 2002 Conference in Auckland last month pose for the annual album shot.

# NBA programme aims to help beekeepers expand their options

High praise is coming from beekeepers who attended the recent leadership training courses held around the country, despite an initial, disappointing level of interest and support from some branches of the National Beekeepers Association (NBA).

In his report at the annual NBA conference in Auckland last month, project management committee chairman Ivan Dickinson said the workshops were part of a three-year programme initiated by the executive and managed by Agribusiness Development Group's Jon Manhire from Christchurch.

Industry leadership, financial monitoring and benchmarking, business development, strategic repositioning and skill development were the five areas proposed for the programme when applying for funding. A $531,000 budget was finally approved, made up of $291,500 from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's Sustainable Farming Fund, grants from the NZ Honey Trusts ($100,000), Allied Industries ($42,000) and an "in kind" NBA contribution of $98,000.

One planned outcome of the workshops was to develop a programme, using industry models and benchmarking processes, so financial and other performance information collected annually from beekeepers can be used to measure the beekeeping industry's regional and individual performance.

Information gathered from a survey of South Island beekeepers, "Varroa Control Costs and the Impact", is an example of the statistics the programme will seek.

The survey looked at:

- Beekeeper expenditure/income fields; current financial performance;
- Data collection methodology and analysis process;
- Business size range/frequency and operational issues;
- Critical issues to profitability and the potential impact of varroa.

Those terms of reference will allow models to be drawn up, representing national, regional, sector and individual performances.

By December next year, new business options – and ways beekeepers can best utilise them – should have been drawn up. Business cases for up to five of the options will include market; industry trends; any barriers to entry; processes for entry; and a template to determine economic and financial viability.

Raising an understanding of the strategic and economic value of the beekeeping industry within the agricultural and horticultural sectors would lead to more co-operation between the three groups, Mr Dickinson said.

- An international guest speaker (still to be confirmed when this magazine went to press) will address beekeepers at seminars around the country this month to outline how business operations can be improved by good management principles. Dates and venues will be pasted on the NBA web site; details sent to branch secretaries and invitations mailed directly to many commercial beekeepers.

# Ferry passengers asked to enforce Cook Strait varroa controls

By Steve Olsen

Passengers and vehicles boarding the 2pm Interislander ferry in Wellington for Picton last month [July 11] were put on full "bee alert", as the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) stepped up efforts to combat the risk of infested bees being transported accidentally to the South Island.

MAF's varroa programme co-ordinator Paul Bolger said Protect New Zealand Week was a perfect time to raise the profile of ongoing work to reduce the risk of varroa being spread to the South Island.

A new set of signs were installed at ferry terminals for the Interislander and the Lynx, and a "bee team" handed out sets of stickers and leaflets carrying the simple message, "No bees to the South Island".

New signage was also put in place at CentrePort facilities, MAF Quarantine Service, Pacifica Shipping and Strait Shipping. Signage was also installed in Picton, advising people to report any bees that may have been transported from the North Island.

"MAF has been working with the National Beekeepers Association to slow the spread of varroa since the mite was first discovered in Auckland in 2000. The Cook Strait presents a helpful natural barrier to its spread, and so we want to take as much advantage of that as possible," Paul said.

MAF is carrying out surveillance for varroa in the South Island. A comprehensive, varroa survey MAF carried out in the South Island last year showed it was still free of the mite. MAF wants to keep it that way as long as possible.

People travelling from the North Island to the South Island, for business or pleasure, were asked to check their cars, trucks or boats did not contain bees, Paul said. If a MAF permit is obtained, a limited range of beekeeping equipment can be taken to the South Island from the North Island.

# Telford tuition provides base for Orkney Islands' beekeeper

Erland Omand

A former Telford Rural Polytechnic student hopes to taste the sweet smell of success by starting the first honey company on the Orkney Islands, Scotland.

Erland Omand, from Stromness, Orkney Islands, came to New Zealand to study apiculture at Telford in August 2000. He graduated in July last year and now plans to run a business selling traditional clover honey for premium prices through some of the United Kingdom's most prestigious food outlets.

That market is a little way down the track, though, until Erland has sufficient hives to produce honey on a commercial scale. Eventually, though, he wants the Orkney honey company to offer customers two quality products – honey and pedigree queens.

Erland, who has been fascinated by the skills of beekeeping since he was 9 years old, paid for his own studies at Telford Polytechnic in New Zealand, where he gained qualifications in apiculture and the rearing of queen bees.

Orkney is one of the few places in Britain still free of the deadly varroa mite that has devastated honey production in many parts of the world. By using the knowledge and specialised skills he gained in New Zealand, Erland hopes to produce disease-free queen bees for sale to amateur and commercial honey producers throughout Europe.

In three years time, he aims to have 120 hives producing honey he will market as a premium Orkney product and a further 60 hives rearing pedigree queens.

"It won't be anything like the honey you find in jars on the supermarket shelves," Erland said. "By minimising the amount of handling and heat it receives – and using a cold filtering process – it will have a lot more flavour and a wonderful bouquet."

– Adapted from an article in the Orkney Group, South Island, NZ, Newsletter, Vol.11, No.4 June 2002.

# Northland loses veteran beekeeper

A founding member of New Zealand's comb honey production, Lionel Quaife, died earlier this year. Born Lionel Walter Charles Quaife on March 23, 1917, in Paparoa, he died at his home in Hakaru in June and was buried at Paparoa, within 200m of his birthplace.

One of Northland's oldest beekeepers, Lionel obtained his first hive when he was 15 years old and had more than 100 when duty called him to war.

Leaving his bees in the care of his mother and brother, he joined forces in the Pacific region, serving in Fiji, Norfolk Island and New Caledonia. From there he went to Egypt and later Europe with the Second NZEF.

In England, Lionel met and married Rose and after the war they settled in Northland, where he worked for the NZ Railways and acquired some land to set up a beekeeping and fruit growing business.

In 1960, just as he was getting settled, a fire destroyed his honey house and all of his tools in it. Lionel managed to rake a hammer head from the ashes, fitted a handle made from manuka to it and used it for the rest of his life. The hammer exists today.

After the fire, Lionel decided to concentrate on comb honey production and he helped developed the New Zealand market for it during the early years. He was a foundation member of the Northern Comb Honey Producers Association, which later became the NZ Comb Honey Producers Association, and maintained a keen interest in the National Beekeepers Association affairs. He was a friend to all knew him and is missed by his beekeeping colleagues in Northland.

**– Terry Gavin**
**NBA Northland branch secretary**

# What's the "STOREY" ?

**BOXES** (and FRAMES) at **SUPER** PRICES

DEAL OF THE YEAR

SUPER COMBO DEALS:
F.D. Boxes from $699* / 100
F.D. Frames from $699* / 1000

**OUR PRICES WON'T BE BEATEN**

(* Price shown is for 1000 F.D. Budget grade storeys purchased with 10,000 F.D. Standard Frames, ex store Christchurch, payment with order, excluding GST).

Please fax or e-mail your proposed requirements to us, as this will allow us time to calculate our best possible price, including freight if applicable, and fax or email back to you for your consideration.

## EBS CLOSED FOR 4 DAYS AS FOLLOWS:

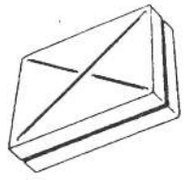
Wednesday 28th August to Monday 2nd Sept.
(re-open 9am Tuesday 3rd September)

Please record dates in your diary so we don't inconvenience you.

SPECIAL

## PLASTIC ROOFS

Treating with acids?
If so, these Plastic Roofs are a seriously good idea.



Won't rust or rot.

Rotationally moulded by EBS.

Usually $13.33 each + GST (10+).
Now $10.00 each + GST per 100.

## PLASTIC FRAME FEEDERS

With ten's of thousands of these feeders in use, we believe that these are still the most durable, robust and longest lasting plastic frame type feeder available.

Available in 6 sizes:

F.D. 7 litre – replaces 3 frames
F.D. 5 litre – replaces 2 frames
F.D. 3 litre – replaces 1 frame
3/4D 3.7 litre – replaces 2 frames
3/4D 2 litre – replaces 1 frame
H.D. 1.5 litre – replaces 1 frame

## QUEEN EXCLUDERS

New shipment of heavy duty 2mm x 2mm welded wire excluder grids just arriving.

Whether you're after 100 or 1000+, contact us now for a ***very*** competitive quotation.

## BEESWAX WANTED

We are currently buying all grades of beeswax.

Please advise by fax or e-mail what you have to offer and we will reply by fax or e-mail with our prices and terms.

## BEETEK PLASTIC FRAMES

We now have stock of Full Depth and Three Quarter Depth Plastic Beetek Frames.

Whether you need 100, 1000 or 10,000, we can offer you New Zealand's most popular plastic frame at the best price.

## 30% OFF 1KG HONEY POTS

We have secured a quantity of 1kg (750ml) White Tecpak honey containers with white lids.

Usually $497.00 + GST per 1000,
Now $348.00 + GST per 1000.

# Ecroyd Beekeeping Supplies Ltd

*Distributors, Exporters & Importers of Beekeeping Equipment*
*Distributors of Bee Healthy & Beeway Honey & Bee Products*


P.O. Box 5056 Papanui
Christchurch, New Zealand

Phone: 64-3-358-7498
Fax: 64-3-358-8789

9B Sheffield Crescent
Burnside, Christchurch

Email: ecroyd@beehealthy.co.nz

Free Fax: 0800-233-929

Bayer

# Bayvarol®

**Bayvarol** from Bayer – for ***Safe & Serious*** control of Varroa

If you're ***serious*** about the ***safety*** of your employees, ***serious*** about keeping your honey as free as possible from contaminants, and ***serious*** about killing varroa without side effects to your bees, you should ***seriously*** consider Bayvarol.

*Bayvarol*:

- is "extremely low risk" in regards to residues in honey
- is "extremely low risk" in regards to operator safety
- is 95% to 100% effective in killing mites - can be used during the honey flow
- contains 3.6mg Flumethrin per strip - knocks mites down fast, excellent for surveillance
- causes no increase in bee mortality & has no effect on workers, drones or queens
- requires the use of 4 strips per full box of brood, giving a large treatment surface area
- is easy to insert and remove due to the strips' rigidity
- provides continuing efficacy throughout entire 42 day treatment period

**Current prices at the time of printing:**

***20 to 96 strips $1.87 + GST each***

***100 to 796 strips $1.75 + GST each***

***800 to 8800 strips $1.62 + GST each***

***9600 plus POA***

Packets contain 20 strips, cartons contain 800 strips Orders of 100 strips or more are despatched freight free to anywhere in New Zealand.
Payment is required prior to despatch by Visa, M/Card, Cheque, or Electronic Banking.

*Bayvarol ®* – Registered trademark of Bayer AG Germany -Approved under the Animal Products (Ancillary and Transitional Provisions) Act 1999

## SAVE UP TO $1000 PACKING MACHINES

2 only Lega Honey Packing Machines, 400kg per hour, New Zealand's most popular packing machine

1 Complete: Tank, Stand, Table, Head $7500 + GST (was $8500 + GST)

1 Head only $4950 + GST (was $5600 + GST)

## CANDLE MOULDS

We are clearing our stock of our high quality European candle moulds.

Approx 166 moulds in stock must go.

Buy $100 worth, receive 10% discount
Buy $200 worth, receive 20% discount
Buy $300 worth, receive 30% discount
Buy $400 worth, receive 40% discount
Buy $500 worth, receive 50% discount

Contact us and we will post you the 10-page catalogue with prices and available stock.

## TOP FEEDERS

**Type 1:**
Rotationally moulded, two piece, 20 litres per pair, 135mm deep, from $795 + GST per 100 pairs plus freight

**Type 2:**
Thermoformed, one piece, 10 litre, 70mm deep, from $440 + GST per 100 plus freight

## MORE SPECIALS

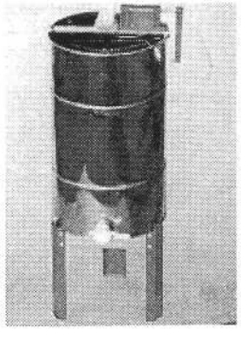
Note: All specials on these pages valid until 30th September 2002

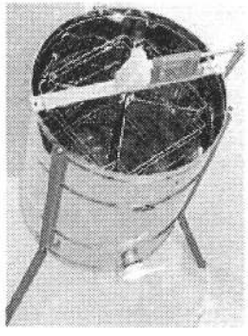
- Hive Strappers: Emlock Type, bare $490 + GST per 100 *(usually $560 + GST)*
- Liquid Bee Smoke: $40 + GST per 10 (+ $4 p&p) *(usually $6 + GST each)*
- Practical Beekeeping in New Zealand $20 (+ $4 p&p) *(usually $34.95)*
- C.D. Rom – Honeybees $25 (+ $4 p&p) *(usually $67.50)*
- Honey Bee Diseases & Pests $15 (+ $4 p&p) *(usually $24.95)*
- Jenter Queen Rearing System $99 (+ $5 p&p) *(usually $168.00)*
- Suits, full one piece, size 5-12 $119 (+$5 p&p) *(usually $142.00)*
- Drum Heaters, horizontal or vertical $1190 + GST *(save up to $100)*

## SAVE UP TO A HUGE $150 EACH EXTRACTORS

3 Frame NOW $365 incl. GST (usually $495)

4 Frame NOW $545 incl. GST (usually $695)





## Ecroyd Beekeeping Supplies Ltd

*Distributors, Exporters & Importers of Beekeeping Equipment*
*Distributors of Bee Healthy & Beeway Honey & Bee Products*


P.O. Box 5056 Papanui
Christchurch, New Zealand

Phone: 64-3-358-7498
Fax: 64-3-358-8789

9B Sheffield Crescent
Burnside, Christchurch

Email: ecroyd@beehealthy.co.nz

Free Fax: 0800-233-929

# *From the colonies*

## Southern North Island

A spring field day will be held in Raetihi on October 5, starting at 10pm in St Mary's Church hall, Seddon St (driving through town, follow Pipikiki Rd to the end and it is just before the sale yards on the left).

| | |
|---|---|
| 10.40am: | (Maybe) Paul Bolger, "Varroa Spread and Boundaries". |
| 11am: | Byron Taylor introduces his work with American foulbrood. |
| 11.20am: | Update on varroa management by (possibly) Dr Mark Goodwin. |
| Midday: | Russell Berry, "Bee farming with varroa". |
| 1.30pm: | At sawmill on Ameku Rd, Vernon Kerns discusses timber use in hive ware. |
| 2pm: | Follow walking track on the same road to hives where Neil Farrer will show different types of screened bottom boards. Corfult and sticky boards will be examined. Mite numbers and times to treat will be discussed. |
| 2.30pm | A talk by Peter Lyttle from NZ Beeswax and Mitegone Products will be illustrated by two people applying Mitegone into hives. Apistan and Bayvol strips will also be discussed and put into hives. |
| 2.45pm: | Ken Clements from Cornvita will discuss propolis. |
| 3pm: | Chance to take a recreational walk to the top of a hill where (weather permitting) views of Mount Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe and possibly Taranaki will reward your efforts. |

Field day costs: $5per person or $12 per family.

Accommodation (with a light meal) is available for those who require it and bookings can be made by telephoning Mary Allen (06) 385-4138.

## Hawkes Bay

I don't know what has been happening in the bay, as I have been enjoying the sunshine in Brisbane since the national conference. . . But I do know that spring is approaching fast, with many early flowering trees ablaze with blossoms, especially in the lower coastal areas.

Further inland, hives will need to be checked for stores with frosts following on from some heavy rain. Beekeepers who have been asked to test their hives should do so as soon as possible, so that an informed decision can be made as our remit about retaining the varroa movement line was passed at the conference.

From the conference, it was congratulations all round. The organising committee did a great job, the executive responded well to the voting, those present endorsed the NBA as the body to lead New Zealand beekeepers, it was agreed that voluntary contributions should keep the ship afloat after December, Mark Goodwin ably steered the forum/discussion on the future of the NBA, "Mrs. Bumby" was classic in her treatment of old wives' tales and the evening's entertainment was brilliant.

The list of congratulations is probably incomplete but should not leave off the three new Life Members or the team who held together the remit session. **– Ron Morison**

**Taradale**

## Canterbury

On Monday July 22nd the branch was pleased to host a seminar with Dr Harbo from USDA regarding breeding for suppressed mite reproduction. The meeting was well supported with 60 attendees from Canterbury, Marlborough, Otago, Southland and the West Coast.

An informal discussion followed on support for co-operation between South Island branches regarding varroa surveillance, monitoring and control.

The members present agreed to meet again in November in Christchurch to progress these matters.

We are preparing to start the feral colony eradication trial in North Canterbury with Hort Research in late August.

**- Tony Scott**

**Christchurch**

## North Otago

While coastal North Otago stayed free of snow this winter, it was a different story further up the Waitaki Valley. Most hives were covered with between 20cm to 40cm of snow, but after a week, most bees were out flying again.

My hives remain on a permanent site at an altitude of approximately 490m and I provide a top opening for the bees, giving them free access during their otherwise weeks of incarceration. Leaving an extra box of honey is also good insurance for bees in the high country.

The "Living with Varroa Workshops" conducted by Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry representatives, David McMillan and Tony Roper, were well attended with some favourable comments from both commercial and hobbyist beekeepers. It gave us hope that we can live varroa with the mite arrives in the South Island.

Management Seminars, sponsored by the Sustainable Farming Fund and designed to assist beekeepers in business management and marketing skills, were offered in Christchurch and two of our members, Norm Harris and Shane Rawson, attended.

The Annual General Meeting held in June attracted an average attendance. Retiring secretary Bruce Willis was thanked for his term of service to the branch. Graeme McCallum was elected president, and Norm Harris vice president. Patsy Rawson accepted the nomination for secretary and was unanimously elected.

Conference remits were worked through, some of the proposals agreed to and others left to the discretion of the attending delegates. The June meeting concluded with an address from National Beekeepers Association executive member Lin McKenzie, who spoke on a number of issues confronting the NBA in the immediate future.

With plenty of moisture now in the subsoil, North Otago is looking forward to good spring growth and the hope of a better season for beekeeping. **- Richard Lord**

**Oamaru**

## Waikato

Hives are starting to be opened and stores looked at for the new season. A few losses have occurred, some falling victim to the varroa mite and others no queen. The queen loss is not

unexpected, as they literally wear themselves out trying to contain hive bee numbers after the mites attack.

On the whole, hives are looking reasonable with good bee numbers, but a few varroa mites are showing up and many beekeepers have started treatments.

Apistan® and Bayvorol® are most commonly-used forms in the Waikato, although during the winter one or two beekeepers successfully used oxalic acid on hives.

In a recent survey, the branch urged members to check on mite levels regularly, treat hives for mites at the same time and remember to alternate the control products they used to deter mite resistance. **– Lewis Olsen**
**Ohaupo**

## Bay of Plenty

An American foulbrood (AFB) competency course will be held in Tauranga on August 31.

All beekeepers are encouraged to sit an AFB competency course. It is an essential part of the DECA (Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement) allowing beekeepers to personally sign their Annual Disease Returns (ADRs).

Facilitated by Ross Carroll, the competency course looks at all aspects of AFB disease, especially recognition and control, and is open to any beekeeper or beekeeper's employee. The session includes an examination, and participants are advised to read the yellow book, *Elimination of AFB* ($11.25 from the National Beekeepers Association, PO Box 715, Wellington 6015) before August 31.

Running from 9am to 3pm, the course will be held at Bureta Park Motor Inn, Otumoetai, Tauranga. A $50 registration fee must be sent to Bay of Plenty branch secretary Bruce Stanley, Fosters Rd, RD1.

## Franklin

Club hives will be trialling new ideas to help control varroa this year.

One method will be a broodless split and re-queen, to be explained at the club meeting on September 8. The second is drone trapping, requiring hives to be visited at two-week intervals so capped drone cells from the sectioned frame can be removed from each hive.

That task should only take between 30 to 45 minutes and the call is out for one or two volunteers to take it on. Please call hivemaster Peter for more details.

Gwen Whitmore, who served three years as club secretary, is moving to Te Anauand passing on her hives to another beekeeper and donating equipment to the club.

From September, the club will sell small numbers of Apistan strips (on strictly cash or cheque-only terms). This will save people having to buy more strips than they need - or delaying treating their hives.

Comvita is calling for supplies of propolis and any amount can be sent to The Bee Shop, 8/17 Hannigan Dr, Glen Innes. Include all scrapings and popolis mats and leave the washing and cleaning to Comvita. It pays $150 per kg of pure propolis.

* September 8 club meeting, from 10am at the Anselmis's Stock Yards, Pukekohe East Rd. (Take the Pukekohe to Bombay Rd, 300m meast of the Belgium/Goldings Rd intersection. On the northern side is the Anselmi and Bee Club site.) Club hives will be checked for stores, disease and varroa, hives will be fed for the spring build-up and drone trap frames inserted.

# *Beekeeping industry faced crisis in 1973*

**Questions were raised, but few answers found at the recent National Beekeepers Association conference in Auckland, on how New Zealand beekeepers think their industry should be governed. It is not the first time a crisis has been faced, as illustrated with the following letter, written by NBA chairman I. DICKINSON to the Honey Marketing Authority chairman MR POOLE in February 1973, [a date when people's first names seemed to be deemed unimportant, ed].**

Dear Mr Poole

As you are aware, the National Beekeepers Association has recently been going through a period of financial crisis and the calling up of branch funds and donations from members has, in the immediate future averted the winding up of the association.

My executive are determined that this association should stay a fully-effective organisation, representing all sections of the industry and to do this are seeking the support of you and your members to the authority in approving changes to the regulations in relation to the funds to the National Beekeepers Association through the proposed industry fund account as accepted by and passed at the last conference.

For the association to be fully effective and to be free of any possibility of control or direction implied or otherwise, it is imperative that the funds from the industry fund be divorced completely from the control of the Honey Marketing Authority as at present and be at the discretion of the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. On the 19th December, I, as president of the association along with Mr Neal the secretary, called on the minister and stated our position as it is and also what we desired in regard to an effective way to finance the industry. The Minister indicated that, as the authority would not have the control of the funds for the association, their opinion would be asked for before a decision to amend the regulations was made. I am sure that you agree that is a matter of great urgency that these regulations be amended at the earliest date, especially those changes that extend the levy to cover all honey.

The association has proposed to the Minister that funds for the NBA be at his discretion and that they would be approved after the perusal of past balance sheets and budget accounts. Also, that subscriptions to the NBA be an authorised deduction from the proposed production levy. The executive feel that a rate of so much per hundred hives could be struck to cover the needs of the association and a member would pay his subscription to the NBA secretary direct and he would then be issued with two receipts, one for his own records and proof of membership and the other would accompany his declaration and return to the authority in payment of the production levy. The amount paid to the NBA would be an approved deduction from the amount he had to pay to the authority.

By keeping our subscriptions based on hives, our present voting procedures still standard, the beekeeper operating under 30 hives will still pay his subscription to the NBA in the normal way as at present. It is understood that the Minister has indicated that the beekeeper operating under 30 hives should not have to pay the levy but it is our opinion that 20 hives would be a better level in view of the fact that a considerable return can be made on 30 hives and that there are quite a number of beekeepers in this bracket who are in total placing a considerable amount of honey on the local market.

The simplicity of this scheme is its main strength and would mean that every subscriber to the industry fund would probably become a member of the NBA because it would in fact cost him nothing additional in the way of a subscription. This situation would surely be one worth striving for, as it would give unity to our industry.

Should you or your members require any clarification on any points, we would be only too pleased to do so to enable this matter to proceed as quickly as possible.

# Deadly Fire Ant discovered in New Zealand

**By Tony Roper**

**AgriQuality NZ apicultural advisory officer**

Just when you thought varroa was bad enough, the world's number one insect pest has arrived in New Zealand – the deadly, Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) was found in Auckland in March 2001.

A nest was discovered at the international airport, when a lawn-mowing contractor noticed an unusual mound of soil near the curbing. Investigating further, the contractor was attacked by thousands of biting, stinging brownish-red ants.

The authorities were alerted and the nest destroyed immediately. Intensive surveys were carried out around the airport and fortunately these found no further infestations of the deadly RIFA.

The species of fire ant found is known in North America as the Red Imported Fire Ant (*Solenopsis invicta*) to distinguish it from the less-aggressive, native American fire ant, (*Solenopsis xyloni*).

The Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) name has also been adopted in New Zealand, because there are also several different species of fire ants in the Pacific. The use of the word "fire" in the name is derived from the intense "fire" sensation felt by someone they are stung by.

Because of its aggressive sting, the RIFA is regarded as one of the most fearsome insect pests in the world. A number of human deaths have been reported due to reactions to RIFA stings.

The RIFA originally evolved in Central Brazil, where it needed extreme aggression to survive its natural enemies, mainly other aggressive ant species and the predatory, decapitating fly species, known as phorid flies.

Unfortunately, the RIFA didn't stay in Central Brazil and has now spread to some of the southern states of North America and throughout the Caribbean. Recently, it has also been reported getting established much closer to home, in Brisbane, Australia.

So, what is the connection between RIFA and beekeeping in New Zealand?

After the discovery of RIFA in Auckland, a nationwide ant survey was carried out in all major cities and some regional towns. The work was managed through the varroa head quarters in Hamilton using some apiculture staff and varroa support staff.

The author was responsible for managing the Canterbury surveillance programme for the RIFA, involving 3000 traps being laid by 10 people in February and March this year.

### Threat to New Zealand beekeeping

If the RIFA became established in this country, it could pose a major, economic threat to New Zealand beekeepers. Initially, the movement of hives would probably be restricted, as it has in North America, to limit the spread of the deadly RIFA. Hives with soil or RIFAs on them are not permitted to be moved across state boundaries. In California, where truck-loads of beehives have been found infested with RIFA, the authorities have ordered the entire truckload to be burnt. A similar movement restriction would need to be put in place in New Zealand.

RIFAs can also destroy honeybee colonies, and cases have been recorded where the ants have completely wiped out a strong colony in a few hours. Worker RIFAs can invade beehives and feed on pollen, bee pupae and developing bee larvae. Nucs would be even more vulnerable to RIFA predation.

Hive stands or floorboards would need to be placed in oil baths – at a considerable cost to beekeepers – to prevent RIFA accessing the hives. RIFA nests cannot be easily killed with insecticides because the worker ants protect their queens from being poisoned by feeding her only food they have eaten first and regurgitated.

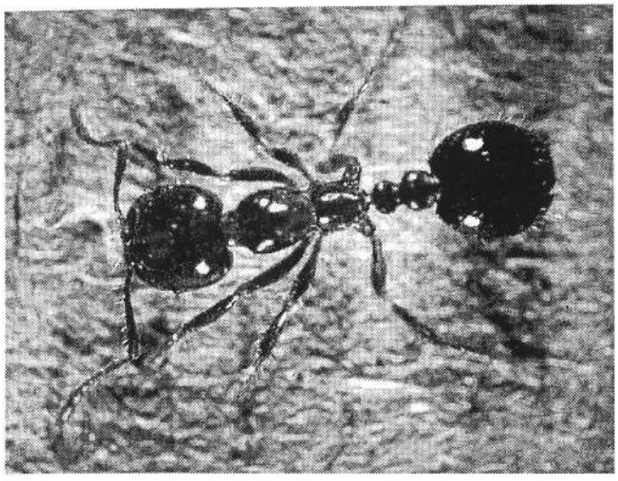
A third, even more lethal problem, is the danger the beekeeper and any workers will be attacked by the ferocious ant, which sometimes attack en mass. In countries where it has settled, beekeepers can be attacked during routine, hive maintenance operations.

With a wasp-like sting, RIFAs have killed a number of deaths to humans and animals. Stock molested by RIFAs could also attack the beekeeper.

### Characteristics of the RIFA

At just 3mm-6mm in length, RIFAs are relatively tiny insects. They are reddish-brown in colour and have a fierce sting. Some individuals have a shiny, black abdomen.

The RIFA queen is somewhat larger than the workers, about 13mm in length and is a dark reddish-brown in colour. The mating habits of RIFA queens are similar to the mating of honey bees. The RIFA queen leaves the nest for her mating flights with winged male ants. Queens can reproduce for five to seven years and can lay up to 5000 eggs per day. Colonies produce an estimated 4500 new queens per year. Queens then disperse to new areas.



The nest usually only contains one queen (monogyne), however nests with multiple queens (polygyne) have been discovered. One super colony was discovered in Mississippi contained more than 3000 queens. In the polygyne state, the colonies reach a massive size and can easily cover several hectares in area with populations of millions of workers.

The nests of the RIFA are mounds of fine granular soil and are highly variable in size (from several centimetres across in young colonies, to nearly a metre wide and high in mature colonies). The mound often has a series of extensive, underground foraging tunnels radiating out from the centre of the nest. The nests are often built in sunny, open areas, sometimes against a wall or a post or shrub.

This mound-building characteristic, which can also damage highways, roadways and airport runways, is very characteristic of the RIFA and MAF needs to hear of any ants found building mounds.

Don't confuse RIFA nest mounds, though, with the small piles of sand you get from other species of ants excavating nest sites under cobble stone or brick pathways.

RIFAs will also build colonies in electrical boxes and the walls of homes and other dwellings, which can lead to shorting of the wires or possibly electrical fires. RIFAs commonly nest next to and inside electric appliances, such as air conditioners, heat pumps, and traffic control boxes, often disrupting services and damaging equipment.

The ants are attracted to both DC and AC currents equally at the same voltage and will actually short-circuit or damage electrical equipment by swarming over relay switches.

A bizarre case was reported in Texas, where fire ants caused the death of a woman by short-circuiting the electrical wiring in a mobile home, causing it to catch on fire.

If a RIFA nest is disturbed, the ants will rapidly swarm out and over the mound to defend it and sting anything nearby. This is quite unlike our native ant species, which will not swarm out of the nest and will run away from disturbance.

RIFA will even evade bird nests and kill young chicks.

The RIFA poses a serious threat to the biodiversity of native insect communities. RIFA are voracious foragers and will exploit almost any food source. They also frequent human garbage and sometime invade kitchens for protein, as well as starchy, fatty, and sugary foods.

The RIFA sting is painful and is similar to a wasp sting. Symptoms include intense burning and itching, which usually subsides over the first hour, but may return over the next few days. A blister forms at the site of the sting within five hours, followed by the formation of a white pustule within a few days. The victim must resist the strong urge to scratch the itchy area as secondary infection is common, resulting in permanent scaring.

Diabetics and others with circulatory disorders are at special risk for complications. Some people will react to the stings with a serious allergic reaction and may even go into anaphylactic shock. Such reactions need immediate medical help.

Occurring in high densities, the RIFA can severely alter human activities in infested areas. In Texas, hunting, ranching and recreational activities have been greatly affected by the presence of RIFA. It is reported that it is impossible to sit on the grass or stand on a shoreline to fish without being stung. Just imagine how this situation would seriously affect our tourist industry in New Zealand!

**Control measures in New Zealand**

Since the initial outbreak in Auckland, the government launched a massive, nationwide surveillance campaign, targeting the main international seaports and airports. Carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, together with AgriQuality NZ and local pest destruction firms, the surveillance campaign consisted of looking for nests and setting out baiting stations.

Because of the RIFA's preference for nesting in soil, garden centres near the ports were also targeted. Sites where international containers were unpacked were also inspected and baited.

It is pleasing to report that no RIFAs were found. However, this could very easily change in the immediate future.

**Conclusion**

Because of the high volumes of imports coming into New Zealand each day, it is inevitable a number of unwanted organisms will enter the country. The first line of defence is surveillance at the points of entry.

Good surveillance programmes will hopefully discover harmful pests before they become widely established. An eradiation programme is then likely to be more successful.

**References**

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Biosecurity information brochure, *"Red Imported Fire ant Alert!" and web site* www.maf.govt.nz

Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University, http://fireant.tamu.edu.

Medical University of South Carolina, http://www.musc.edu/oem/fireants.html.

Report from the Hawaiin Ecosystems at Risk (HEAR) Project, http://www.hear.org/hnis/HNIS-Sollvl01.pdf

# OPEN INVITATION

**All NBA Members are invited to attend**
**The Canterbury Branch August Meeting**
**Where Suzanne Ruzicka Mitegone Canada will**
**be doing a presentation**

## CANTERBURY BRANCH AUGUST MEETING

**Note change of venue**

**D**ATE: Tuesday 27th August 2002

**T**IME: 7pm

**V**ENUE: Hornby Workingmens Club
Alpine Room
CHRISTCHURCH

**G**UEST **S**PEAKER: Suzanne Ruzicka – Mitegone Canada

*Any enquiries contact:*

**Tony Scott 03 315 7549/03 384 1164**

**Rae Blair 03 315 6615**

# *Waikato measures its varroa levels*

A one-week survey of 510 commercial hives at 108 sites was conducted by the branch in the Wakato during July.

It sought to encourage beekeepers to:

* know the current varroa levels in their hives
* look at the spring results of hives now showing low mite levels in low brood levels
* evaluate which autumn finishing treatments worked best
* establish likely invasion rates in different areas
* lessen dead hive numbers in spring
* encourage beekeepers to co-operate on treatment times
* ascertain whether two or three treatments are required per year and when those are best done.

The survey aimed to cover 25% of every 10th apiary in the Waikato and including as many branch members as possible. Apistan strips and sticky boards were left in hives for 24 hours.

High invasion rates in March, April and May could account for 20% to 20% of beehives dying from varroa during autumn, winter and spring, the survey results found.

Recommended action for beekeepers is to test hives for varoa and treat as required immediately; treat hives again, immediately prior to honey flow; take honey off early and treat again; increase the price of your honey (or visit your bank manager).

**- Russell Berry**
**Rotorua**

## MAF Policy asks beekeepers for comment:

# What will GE mean to NZ's apiary industry?

A white board discussion at the National Beekeepers Association recent conference in Auckland was initiated by Irene Parminter from the policy department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF). She spoke to beekeepers –and listened to concerns – about how genetic engineering could effect the bee industry.

Below are some of the points raised. Irene invites comment and feedback from beekeepers, who can e-mail or write to her directly and/or share their ideas more widely through the *NZ Beekeeper.* Copy for the September issue must arrive by September 1 (see below for contact details).

Last year, the Royal Commission on Genetic Modification recommended MAF develop a strategy to allow the continued production of non-genetically modified (GM) honey and other bee products; and to avoid cross pollination by bees between GM and GM-free crops. Both geographical factors (in terms of crop separation strategies) and differences in crop flowering times (recommendation 7.3) were to be taken into account.

As a first stage in developing a sensible and practical strategy, MAF consulted with beekeepers at the NBA conference. A short presentation was made and some possible strategies suggested as discussion starters. They were:

- Screening GM crops - suitable only for small scale, high value crops
- Geographic separation
- Hive management - removing hives (a variant of a geographic separation strategy) or honey supers when GM crops in flower
- Post-harvest treatment - filtering honey with fine filters and/or diatomaceous earth
- Crop genetics - turning the gene "off" in pollen, turning it "on" only in leaves, blocking flower or pollen formation.
- Crop management - bee attractants or repellents, prevention of flowering.

People listening to Irene's talk raised the following points:

1. **Geographical separation**
   – Wind-blown pollen negates any "geographic separation" between GM and non-GM crops. Bees pick up the wind blown pollen and take it to the hive.

   – Corn, although thought of as a wind-pollinated plant, is collected by bees and taken to their hives. Pine pollen has also been found in hives.

2. **Wild bees and other pollinators**
   – Wild pollinators could spread GM pollen. Bees may rob wild hives and take the honey/pollen back to their own hives (so separating GM crops from domestic hives by long distances does not necessarily prevent bees from collecting GM pollen)

3. **How far is far enough?**
   – A suggested 3km separation between GM and non-GM areas is too low. A 13.7km radius (not diameter) around a GM crop would be required – Bees cannot be fenced.

4 **. Implications of large separation distances**
   – Shifting bees at least 10km from a GM crop would result in a huge area around not being pollinated. The New Zealand economy is dependent on pollination for agriculture/horticulture products, so the impacts of excluding bees from areas would be high. If the beekeeping sector fails because of GM, the cost to the wider economy would be much greater. MAF should consult with the kiwifruit and apple industries, which would be profoundly affected by "exclusion zones" around GM crops.

   – New Zealand sites are already fully stocked with bees. If beekeepers have to move bees from some to avoid GM crops, the remaining sites will be overstocked, reducing honey production. Who will compensate beekeepers for the loss in production? Who will pay for the increase in beekeepers' costs due to having to move hives?

5. **Liability issues**
   –Will beekeepers be held liable for transferring pollen from GM plants to non-GM plants?

   – What would be the legal ramifications of spreading GM genetic material? Again, could beekeepers be held liable?

   – Reverse sensitivity: growers of GM crops would not want bees to cross-pollinate their crops.

   – Legal issues for beekeepers - when hives are moved, the pollen is moved with it, often for long distances - the bees will transfer the pollen to plants in the area they have been relocated to.

   – Some NZ supermarkets, manufacturers and exporters already require beekeepers to sign documents declaring their products GM-free. If GM material is found in such honey products despite beekeepers' best efforts, they will be liable.

6 **Geographic separation practicalities**
   – Geographical separation is not a workable strategy for the organic beekeeping sector.

   – The location of GM crops would need to be documented precisely on a publicly available database so beekeepers could respond accordingly. All beekeepers would need to have free access to the database.

   – Some plants are more of a problem than others e.g., Umbelliferae which crossbreeds readily. However, even onions are a problem as they flower if accidentally not harvested and bees do work onion flowers.

7 **Post-harvest treatments**

– Ultrafiltration of honey is not an option - it removes the honey's character. Pollen is an integral part of honey - the remainder is just sugar and water. Codex requires that honey contain pollen.

8 **Other Issues**

Organic honey production:

– GM crops would destroy the organic sector. The first question international markets ask is about GM

– Organic honey producers can't sue the growers of GM crops, but will no longer be able to guarantee GM free honey.

**Market:**

– There is a public perception that science is not to be trusted. This affects buyer behaviour. NZ beekeepers cannot change public perceptions. Is there a role for Government to change public perceptions both in NZ and on export markets?

– Canadian honey exports to Germany have dropped in the last few years, but this is partly due to the increase in honey exports to the US (related to the Chinese export situation), rather than necessarily the GM issue.

**Who Pays?**

– The strategy developed should not increase the amount of paperwork that beekeepers have to do.

– Who pays for the research that needs to be done to make any strategy effective and workable?

– NZ sites are already fully stocked with bees. If beekeepers have to move bees from some sites due to GM crops it will mean that the remaining sites are overstocked, reducing honey production. Who will compensate beekeepers for the loss in production? Who will pay for the increase in beekeepers' costs due to having to move hives?

**Precautionary approach**

– Keep it in the laboratory until we are surer of some issues e.g., could propolis or honeydew honey contain modified genetic material or novel proteins?

**Research**

One suggestion made at the conference was that research requirements be summarised. The following covers some of the research issues then discussed:

– Is novel protein bad for you?

– The expression of GM material in hive products (levels in pollen, honey, propolis and honeydew) when bees work GM plants.

– Levels of GM content that could be expected in hive products at various separation distances.

– Effectiveness of genetic solutions (e.g., inserting the transgene into the chloropast genome; GM male sterility (no pollen produced), GM non-flowering plants) and levels of GM content in hive products when they are used.

– Effectiveness of bee repellents applied to GM crops, and levels of GM content in hive products when they are used.

– Market reaction and tolerance levels.

**– Tim Leslie**
**Industry executive officer**

- Contact Irene Parminter, MAF Policy at: Private Bag 3123, Hamilton; Ph 07 8561822 or E-mail parminteri@maf.govt.nz and/or write to *NZ Beekeeper*, PO Box 5002, Dunedin or e-mail: angela.crompton@actrix.co.nz

## NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND (INC) – TECHNICAL LIBRARY

# *Report to Conference – 2002*

It is with pleasure that I present the library report for 2002 to the conference.

Library usage has continued to increase. One hundred and thirty-two parcels have been mailed to borrowers within the last twelve months. At an average of approximately four items per package it is quite good use of the library stock.

The most frequently requested topic is that of queen-raising. Two more books and a video recently received from the United States will go some way to filling the gap left because material on this topic has been lost. The cost of technical books remains high.

The library has been used for research during the year also. Most of the communication to and from the library is by email.

The magazine posting system has been working well; particularly so when the packs are returned on time. A subscription to another journal, Hivelights (published by the Canadian Honey Council) was taken out in May and brings the total of overseas magazines available to seven.

The Executive has received favourably a proposal for better storage of the library stock and for the purchase of interlocking metal shelving to go in a room specially set up as the library. A separate library email address is also planned.

One area of concern has been difficulty in ascertaining if would-be borrowers are NBA members, and it is hoped that this process can be streamlined.

Chris Taiaroa
(Honorary Librarian)

# 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 June 2002 Quantity | Net Month of June 2002 FOB ($NZ) | 6 Months Ending June 2002 Quantity | 6 Months Ending June 2002 FOB ($NZ) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0106.90.00.11 | Animals; live, queen bees in packages | Canada | NMB | | | 9,542 | 447,825 |
| 0106.90.00.11 | Animals; live, queen bees in packages | Germany | NMB | | | 3,022 | 188,460 |
| 0106.90.00.11 | Animals; live, queen bees in packages | Japan | NMB | | | 2,808 | 52,100 |
| 0106.90.00.11 | Animals; live, queen bees in packages | Korea, Republic of | NMB | | | 2,368 | 228,000 |
| 0106.90.00.11 | Animals; live, queen bees in packages | TOTAL HS ITEM | NMB | | | 17,740 | 916,385 |
| 0106.90.00.17 | Animals; live, queen bees other than in packages | Japan | NMB | | | 2,100 | 32,400 |
| 0106.90.00.17 | Animals; live, queen bees other than in packages | TOTAL HS ITEM | NMB | | | 2,100 | 32,400 |
| 0409.00.00.01 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk | Australia | KGM | 1,345 | 23,181 | 23,610 | 338,101 |
| 0409.00.00.01 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk | French Polynesia | KGM | | | 600 | 2,180 |
| 0409.00.00.01 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk | Germany | KGM | 100,889 | 319,673 | 373,950 | 1,474,882 |
| 0409.00.00.01 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk | Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region) | KGM | | | 9,736 | 92,273 |
| 0409.00.00.01 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk | Indonesia | KGM | 270 | 4,240 | 270 | 4,240 |
| 0409.00.00.01 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk | Japan | KGM | 132,087 | 662,619 | 229,184 | 1,180,329 |
| 0409.00.00.01 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk | Korea, Republic of | KGM | | | 5,340 | 14,384 |
| 0409.00.00.01 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk | Macau | KGM | | | 40,475 | 181,200 |
| 0409.00.00.01 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk | Netherlands | KGM | 1,800 | 24,750 | 1,800 | 24,750 |
| 0409.00.00.01 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk | Singapore | KGM | 550 | 5,142 | 21,965 | 104,458 |
| 0409.00.00.01 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk | South Africa | KGM | | | 20,130 | 70,454 |
| 0409.00.00.01 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk | United Kingdom | KGM | 8,500 | 72,279 | 96,086 | 870,833 |
| 0409.00.00.01 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk | United States of America | KGM | 1,385 | 12,141 | 6,067 | 45,043 |
| 0409.00.00.01 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk | TOTAL HS ITEM | KGM | 246,826 | 1,124,025 | 829,213 | 4,403,127 |
| 0409.00.00.09 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs | Australia | KGM | 5,599 | 125,849 | 63,902 | 836,143 |
| 0409.00.00.09 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs | Bahrain | KGM | | | 775 | 10,029 |
| 0409.00.00.09 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs | Canada | KGM | 1,860 | 12,032 | 5,394 | 45,756 |
| 0409.00.00.09 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs | Cook Islands | KGM | | | 26 | 92 |
| 0409.00.00.09 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs | French Polynesia | KGM | | | 1,176 | 6,447 |
| 0409.00.00.09 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs | Germany | KGM | 17,370 | 156,144 | 18,534 | 168,255 |
| 0409.00.00.09 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs | Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region) | KGM | 10,958 | 78,541 | 39,772 | 369,470 |
| 0409.00.00.09 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs | India | KGM | | | 828 | 7,561 |
| 0409.00.00.09 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs | Japan | KGM | 19,968 | 431,429 | 69,592 | 1,263,311 |
| 0409.00.00.09 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs | Korea, Republic of | KGM | 1,344 | 29,097 | 69,610 | 462,570 |
| 0409.00.00.09 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs | Libyan Arab Republic | KGM | | | 828 | 5,097 |
| 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 | | | 35,223 | 227,302 |
| 0409.00.00.09 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs | Norfolk Island | KGM | | | 315 | 2,105 |
| 0409.00.00.09 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs | Samoa, Western | KGM | | | 42 | 385 |
| 0409.00.00.09 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs | Singapore | KGM | 34,619 | 230,417 | 146,572 | 1,026,781 |
| 0409.00.00.09 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs | Taiwan, Province of China | KGM | | | 2,910 | 14,595 |
| 0409.00.00.09 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs | United Arab Emirates | KGM | | | 6,648 | 50,765 |
| 0409.00.00.09 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs | United Kingdom | KGM | 55,477 | 529,285 | 123,915 | 1,168,904 |
| 0409.00.00.09 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs | United States of America | KGM | 3,348 | 19,912 | 17,440 | 128,325 |
| 0409.00.00.09 | Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs | TOTAL HS ITEM | KGM | 150,543 | 1,612,706 | 604,053 | 5,802,893 |
| 0409.00.00.11 | Honey; natural honey, in the comb | Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region) | KGM | 629 | 10,538 | 1,634 | 25,946 |
| 0409.00.00.11 | Honey; natural honey, in the comb | India | KGM | | | 60 | 1,048 |
| 0409.00.00.11 | Honey; natural honey, in the comb | Japan | KGM | 6,030 | 93,567 | 22,522 | 348,547 |
| 0409.00.00.11 | Honey; natural honey, in the comb | Libyan Arab Republic | KGM | | | 180 | 2,820 |
| 0409.00.00.11 | Honey; natural honey, in the comb | Netherlands | KGM | | | 816 | 10,000 |
| 0409.00.00.11 | Honey; natural honey, in the comb | Singapore | KGM | 90 | 1,404 | 493 | 8,258 |
| 0409.00.00.11 | Honey; natural honey, in the comb | United Arab Emirates | KGM | | | 150 | 2,918 |
| 0409.00.00.11 | Honey; natural honey, in the comb | United Kingdom | KGM | 5,259 | 55,017 | 5,259 | 55,017 |
| 0409.00.00.11 | Honey; natural honey, in the comb | United States of America | KGM | | | 1,860 | 20,598 |
| 0409.00.00.11 | Honey; natural honey, in the comb | TOTAL HS ITEM | KGM | 12,008 | 160,526 | 32,974 | 475,152 |
| 0409.00.00.15 | Honey; natural honey, honeydew | Germany | KGM | 21,108 | 66,490 | 83,412 | 285,798 |
| 0409.00.00.15 | Honey; natural honey, honeydew | Japan | KGM | | | 399 | 2,009 |
| 0409.00.00.15 | Honey; natural honey, honeydew | Netherlands | KGM | 5,360 | 20,636 | 5,360 | 20,636 |
| 0409.00.00.15 | Honey; natural honey, honeydew | Norfolk Island | KGM | 80 | 316 | 80 | 316 |
| 0409.00.00.15 | Honey; natural honey, honeydew | Switzerland | KGM | | | 20,100 | 73,566 |
| 0409.00.00.15 | Honey; natural honey, honeydew | TOTAL HS ITEM | KGM | 26,548 | 87,442 | 109,351 | 382,325 |
| 0409.00.00.18 | Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew) | Australia | KGM | 76 | 572 | 169 | 1,246 |
| 0409.00.00.18 | Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew) | Cook Islands | KGM | | | 93 | 482 |
| 0409.00.00.18 | Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew) | Germany | KGM | 210 | 2,530 | 210 | 2,530 |
| 0409.00.00.18 | Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew) | Japan | KGM | | | 6,640 | 53,457 |
| 0409.00.00.18 | Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew) | Korea, Republic of | KGM | | | 2,142 | 30,585 |
| 0409.00.00.18 | Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew) | Malaysia | KGM | 4,430 | 31,158 | 9,918 | 69,662 |
| 0409.00.00.18 | Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew) | Norfolk Island | KGM | | | 84 | 450 |
| 0409.00.00.18 | Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew) | Singapore | KGM | 17,700 | 108,352 | 17,820 | 109,894 |
| 0409.00.00.18 | Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew) | Tonga | KGM | | | 120 | 614 |
| 0409.00.00.18 | Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew) | United Kingdom | KGM | 1,774 | 16,130 | 4,674 | 57,095 |
| 0409.00.00.18 | Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew) | TOTAL HS ITEM | KGM | 24,190 | 158,742 | 41,870 | 326,015 |
| 1521.90.01.00 | Beeswax; whether or not refined or coloured | Australia | KGM | 2,400 | 22,598 | 4,440 | 42,558 |
| 1521.90.01.00 | Beeswax; whether or not refined or coloured | Fiji | KGM | | | 300 | 2,418 |
| 1521.90.01.00 | Beeswax; whether or not refined or coloured | French Polynesia | KGM | | | 60 | 651 |
| 1521.90.01.00 | Beeswax; whether or not refined or coloured | Germany | KGM | 1,000 | 15,000 | 1,000 | 15,000 |
| 1521.90.01.00 | Beeswax; whether or not refined or coloured | Israel | KGM | | | 600 | 10,000 |
| 1521.90.01.00 | Beeswax; whether or not refined or coloured | Japan | KGM | | | 28,287 | 214,520 |
| 1521.90.01.00 | Beeswax; whether or not refined or coloured | Singapore | KGM | 11,700 | 137,100 | 12,300 | 142,700 |
| 1521.90.01.00 | Beeswax; whether or not refined or coloured | United Arab Emirates | KGM | | | 500 | 6,212 |
| 1521.90.01.00 | Beeswax; whether or not refined or coloured | TOTAL HS ITEM | KGM | 15,100 | 174,698 | 47,487 | 434,059 |
| TOTAL ALL CARGO | | | | | 3,318,139 | * | 12,772,356 |

**Source : Statistics New Zealand, Overseas Trade**

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: Linda Gardner
205 Trents Road
RD 6 Christchurch
Ph: (03) 344-1977

**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 Monday 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**
Peter Sales
Phone: (03) 472-7220
Fax: (03) 472-7221

**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