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The New Zealand

# BeeKeeper

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# Authority urges safe use of control strips

A recent New Zealand Food Safety Authority review of the varroa mite control programme found some beekeepers may not be disposing of used miticide (Apistan and Bayvarol) strips in an appropriate manner but just leaving them lying around hives.

The authority's agricultural compounds and veterinary medicines group approves products for use in agriculture after any risks to primary produce, animal welfare, the environment and health, as well as breaches of domestic food standards, have been assessed and are managed. The authority is prepared to take action in cases where misuse of products is likely to interfere with the management of these risks.

One risk management mechanism is the provision of directions and warnings on product labels.

The authority urges beekeepers to follow the key directions and warnings relating to the safe use and disposal of Apistan and Bayvarol strips. These are:

APISTAN	BAYVAROL
Product may cause irritation from skin contact.	Keep out of reach of children
Keep out of reach of children.	Avoid the strips coming into contact with honey to be harvested for human consumption
Keep strips in original unopened packaging, away from foodstuffs.	Store below 25 C in a cool dry place away from food.
Avoid inhalation of product vapour when opening the sealed packet of strips	Wash hands after handling the strips, before meals, and after work.
Avoid contact with skin and eyes and wear latex gloves when handling the strips.	Dispose of unused strips safely by wrapping in paper and placing them in domestic refuse.
Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after use.	Do not contaminate ponds, waterways or ditches with strips or used packaging.
Do not eat, drink or smoke whilst using.	When using, do not eat, drink or smoke.
Store below 25°C, out of direct sunlight, and away from other pesticides that may contaminate the strips.	
Burn used strips if circumstances, especially wind direction, permit, otherwise bury with empty packaging in a suitable landfill.	
Avoid contamination of any water supply with strips or empty containers.	

Beekeepers must minimise any risks from the use or disposal of varroa control products by complying with directions on the product labels. Statements on bee products labels are mandatory and failure to comply is in breach of the product's conditions of registration. This in turn is an offence under the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act. Significant financial penalties may be imposed, following successful prosecution.

– **B. Pidford**  
**ACVMGP manager (Verification)**  
**New Zealand Food Safety Authority**

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	BK10

## Library items on the loose

Once upon a time, the National Beekeepers Association library apparently had a number of educational items, including books, posters and a video (No. 6). But none can be located now.

If you know where they might be, please get in touch, as there have been several recent requests for them.

New purchases to add to your current library catalogues are:

- *Rearing Queen Honey Bees* (2nd edition), MORSE, Roger
- *Queen Rearing and Bee Breeding*, LAIDLAW, Harry and Robert E. Page
- *The Natural History of Bumble Bees*, KEARNS, Carol
- *Instrumental Insemination of Honeybee Queens* (Ohio State University), Video 54 (hire fee \$8.00)

A set of slides:

1. Bees: the honeybee
2. Bees: activities of worker honey bees
3. Activities within the colony
4. Composition of the colony

A second copy of *Contemporary Queen Rearing* by Harry Laidlaw has also been purchased.

The library has a range of material to assist beginner beekeepers, so get in touch for a list of useful titles.

– Chris Taiaroa (Hon. Librarian)

(See inside front cover for contact details)

## New PMS operations committee contact

Due to the impending retirement of Murray Bush from the Pest Management Strategy operations committee, the new contact for all PMS operational issues is Ian Spence. His contact details are:

I. K. Spence  
Wendonside  
R.D. 7  
Gore.  
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## British beekeepers voice concerns

# Can high honey qualities survive GM?

Stoneleigh, Warwickshire: Strong views were voiced by British beekeepers last month at a conference on "GM Crops, Beekeeping and the Honey Industry".

Organised by the British Beekeepers Association, the meeting was attended by more than 80 beekeeping delegates from across the country, including members of the Scottish and Welsh Beekeepers Associations together with representatives of the United Kingdom honey industry (Bee Farmers Association and Honey Association).

The meeting provided a forum for beekeepers to discuss their concerns over impending commercial planting of genetically modified crops in the UK and share their concerns and question delegates from the Agricultural Biotechnology Council, the Food Standards Agency and industry bodies which see advantage in GE.

The importance and relevance of a six-mile (9.6km) hive-exclusion zone was debated. The association's policy, that commercial planting should not occur pending the publication of further research, was endorsed. It was accepted that even with such a six-mile limit, it would not be possible to totally exclude any trace of GM pollen getting into honey.

Debate of the acceptable definition of non-GM honey, which is principally composed of nectar, suggested the same criteria should be applied to honey as other food stuffs. The importance of the six-mile limit to help to ensure this was again underlined. More needed to be done if the public was to be reassured and convinced about the benefits and safety of GM crops, beekeepers said. In the meantime, all reasonable steps should be taken to avoid involuntary introduction of GM pollen into honey.

Association chairman Glyn Davies said he was satisfied beekeepers had had an opportunity to discuss the issues with the nation's GM regulators. He said beekeepers and the industry's workers wished to uphold UK-produced honey's reputation for quality and wholesomeness among consumers.

Honey Association member Thomas Heck said its main concerns were that legislators should treat honey as a horticultural product and, in the event that GM-crops were commercialised, the current non-GM status of honey was accepted by retailers and consumers alike.

Alan Johnson who farms 60 colonies of bees, said the wider implications of GM material needed to be considered. If GM crops were licensed for commercial use, it would be impossible to claim that honey was totally GM free.

- **British Beekeepers Association**

New Zealand Beekeepers October 2002

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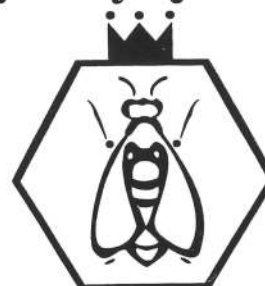
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## Letters to the Editor

### Changes proposed for ACC Levies

It is interesting to note the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) is proposing a rise in levies for the 2003/04 year for beekeepers, like it is for farmers.

ACC proposes that the average levy paid by employers be reduced (by 7%) from an average of \$1.20 to \$1.12 per \$100 of payroll for the 2003/04 premium year. However, like sheep and beef cattle farmers, beekeepers' face increases in their levies.

In respect to the Self-employed Account, beekeepers will face significant increases in levies. The "income premium" (medical expenses) component of the work-related, levy will increase by around 38%, while the non-income premium component of the work-related levy will increase by approximately 25%.

Many self-employed people will be very angry with the proposed ACC premium rises, particularly given that they cannot shop around for premiums, as provided in a competitive accident insurance market. Nor has ACC provided any analysis of the key drivers of these significant increases. Effectively, self-employed, just like employers and employees will be required to pay their ACC levies irrespective of their accident record.

– Tim Leslie

Industry executive officer (NBA and NZ Young Farmers)  
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## GE – who wants this stuff, anyway?

An article in the September issue of the *New Zealand Beekeeper*, headed "What will GE Mean to NZ's Apiary Industry?" explored this question under the following headings: "Geographical separation; Wild bees and other pollinators; How far is far enough? Implication of large separation disclaimers: Liability issues; Geographic separation practicalities; Post-harvest treatment; Market; Who pays? Precautionary approach; and Research.

The meeting, which discussed these matters, was initiated by Irene Parminter from the policy department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

What the meeting found – and reported – makes it clear that in no instance could a satisfactory or confident answer be given to the questions raised under these comprehensive headings.

The assurance of security by setting up containment zones for genetically engineered crops has been one that proponents of GE release into the countryside have made a great deal of.

It is clear, however, that the chances of containment are no better than King Canute stemming the tide. And the assertions and assurances that have been given do no more than display ignorance, naivety or plain dishonesty (note the recent contamination of maize crops).

When we lived in the Waikato district, about the 1950s, some very large bush fires occurred in Australia, accompanied by strong, steady westerly winds. Firstly, we noticed smoke haze in the atmosphere coming from that direction. Then, when the wind dropped a little, a coating of ash, dust and fine leaf particles fell over everything. These clearly were blown over from Australia, as no bush fires were raging in New Zealand at that time.

If ash can be blown this far, what is to stop pollen, which is in similar fine particles, from being lifted by storm-force winds – of which we get plenty – and blown a similar distance?

Surely the only logical answer to GE release is "NO GE".

Who wants this stuff, anyway? GE produce is notoriously hard to sell to a sceptical public.

But organic honey and other products are sought after worldwide. Where lies our wisdom?

– Dan Hansen  
Whitianga

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1 October 2002

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL BEEKEEPERS**

Dear Beekeeper

Proposal for a Biosecurity Levy to fund the National Pest Management Strategy for American Foulbrood Disease

After the consultation round with beekeepers earlier in 2002, the NBA has listened to beekeeper concerns raised about the initial proposal. The main two issues were:

1. The \$310,000 budget for the PMS &
2. The level of the beekeeper registration levy.

With this in mind, the NBA has amended the proposal to reduce the budget to \$220,000.00 by removing the proposal for research and development and reducing proposed expenditure on education. The net of GST beekeeper registration levy has also been raised to \$20.00 per beekeeper per annum and the net of GST annual hive levy reduced. The proposal now means that the two levies will be:

Annual Beekeeper Registration Levy:	\$20.00/beekeeper/year
Annual hive Levy per hive:	\$ 0.47/hive/year

E.g: Based on these figures, a beekeeper with 450 hives will pay

Annual Beekeeper Registration Levy:	\$20.00/beekeeper/year =	\$20.00
Annual hive Levy per hive:	450 @ \$0.47/hive/year =	\$211.50
Sub Total		\$231.50
GST @ 12.5%		\$28.94
<b>Total</b>		<b>260.44</b>

It is proposed to lodge the application with the Minister of Biosecurity on 30 October 2002. If you have any issues you wish to raise with the Minister on the revised proposal, please write directly to the Minister by 29 October 2002. The Ministers contact details are:

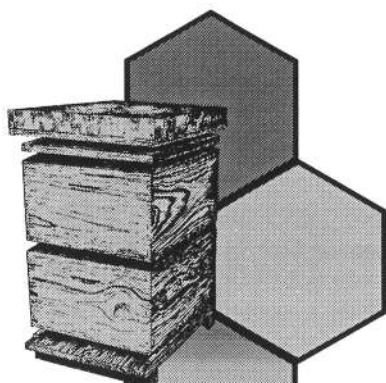
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## The demise of beekeeping

It all started in 1967 when the Government changed the currency from pounds to dollars, and my overdraft doubled.

Then they brought in kilograms, and my crop fell by half.

They changed the rainfall to millimeters, and we haven't had an inch of rain since.

They also brought in celsius, and the bees don't know what the temperature is any more so have stopped flying.

Then the Government changed acres to hectares, and I ended up with only half the land I had bought.

Next it was daylight saving, and the extra hour of sunshine has faded the paint on my bee hives.

So I decided to sell up but with the change to kilometres, the agent says I'm too far out of town for anybody to want to buy the place.

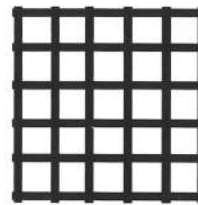
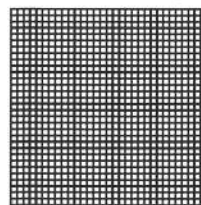
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BK101



# Consumers reject GM honey, study says

People who buy honey want it to be completely GM-free, claim Friends of the Earth, after a national survey in Britain last month.

An NOP poll for the environmental campaign group found that 63% of British householders who regularly bought honey wanted it to be free of GM materials.

The British Beekeepers Association currently advises members to ensure their hives are at least six miles (9.6km) from the nearest GM test sites to avoid contamination. The association also publishes details of trial sites on its web.

The value of honeybees being moved around the countryside to provide pollination services for fruit growers is estimated at £200 million (NZ\$460 million). Last month the Scottish Beekeepers Association called for a moratorium on open air planting of GM crops.

In 2000, retail samples of honey purchased in England and Austria were found to contain GM pollen. The latest survey results are similar to previous GM polls carried out for Friends of the Earth.

In 1998, 58% of consumers said "no" to GM material in supermarket food. In 2000, 63% of consumers supported GM-free animal feed for the production of dairy products, eggs and meat.

Gloucestershire beekeeper Roger Holby said the survey results confirmed what many beekeepers already knew – that consumers wanted GM-free honey. Beehives were already kept six miles from any GM test sites to reduce contamination risks and it was the beekeepers who had to foot the bill for such precautions, he said. If biotech companies wanted genetically modified crops, they should meet the costs to other industries affected.

"If GM seeds are commercialised, customers will either have to accept GM contamination, or bee keepers in this country will be out of a job."

– Friends of the Earth

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\* For orders of one or more cartons, enquire from us to find out how to join in with a bulk purchaser and receive your strips at the best possible price.

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.

**For any enquiries or orders, contact Stuart or Melanie Ecroyd  
Free Fax: 0800 233 929 or email: [Bayvarol@beehealthy.co.nz](mailto:Bayvarol@beehealthy.co.nz)**

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# Chain makes hives easy to secure

**Beekeeper JOHN DOBSON devised a labour-saving, hive tensioner. He describes here how it works.**

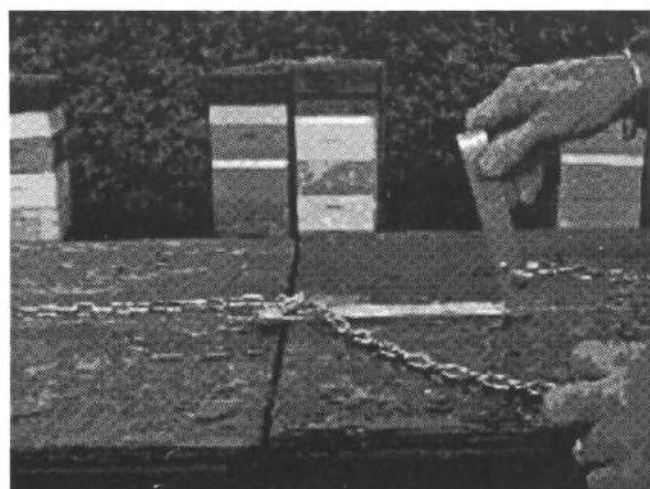
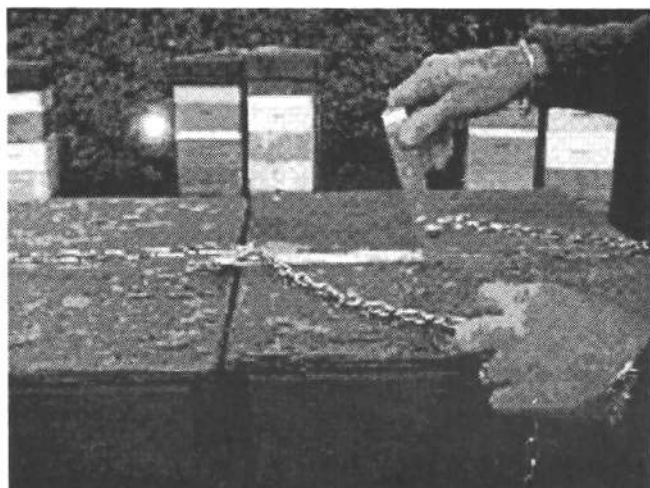
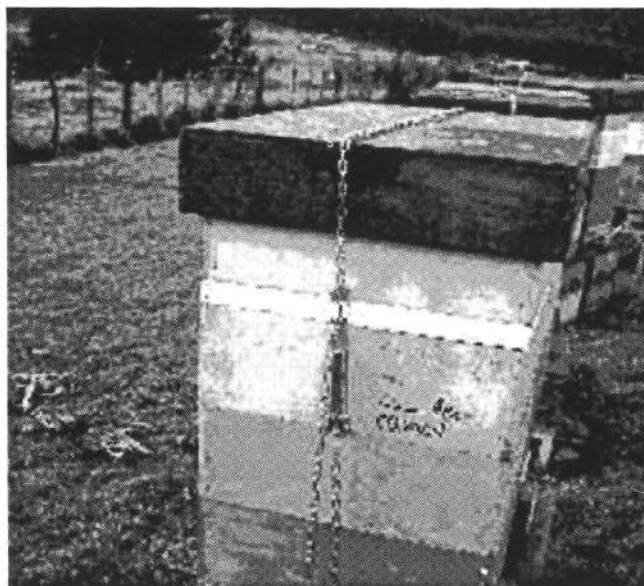
I am basically a lazy person and I make heaps of work for myself dreaming of ways to make life and work easier. Consequently, this chain 'tensioner' for holding hives together evolved.

Many times our hives are attended to, not by us, but animals – sometimes much larger than ourselves. Do you get frustrated trying to securely strap your hives so they can't be bumped and divided?

Plastic or steel strapping is sometimes difficult and time consuming to undo. When left on the ground, strapping or cords can be tripped over, perhaps causing you to fall over and drop a box of honey in the process. Sometimes, cords or strapping can be eaten by stock, or accidentally pulled out from under hives.

Using 1/8<sup>th</sup> chain eliminates all these problems and even secures your hives during a flood, violent earthquake or volcanic eruption. Toppled hives can be seriously damaged, resulting in less hives for pollination, lost honey production, and lots more work!

Chain tensioners can be seen as an expensive alternative to other methods of strapping hives. However, as I'm not planning on retiring for at least another 20 years, I am



**Clamp chain on top of two hives.**

## **Clamp sides of hives**

expecting them to outlast me in my bee-farming lifestyle, so I believe the gadget is cost-effective. Spread the cost over many years and the outlay is small on a yearly basis.

I've been using the same philosophy in other areas of my business, and have ended up with better gear and vehicles – and a better quality of life, even though there is not much spare cash sometimes.

## **How it works**

The chain clamp simply works by hooking the tightest chain link into a slot, and moving the handle over to apply tension to the rest of the chain, which is placed under and over the hive. Depending on the length of the chain, one or two hives, or even a whole stack of boxes can be clamped tight for protection.

## Varroa strips' instructions a legal requirement

By Mark Goodwin  
HortResearch, Ruakaura

Beekeepers often ask us how many Apistan® or Bayvarol® strips they should be using to control varroa. Many beekeepers also tell us they have been using fewer strips or using them for different time periods than specified on the label.



Figure 1. Apistan® strip being inserted into a hive.

The label for Bayvarol® reads:

*"Normally developed colonies receive four strips per brood chamber. Nuclei and young colonies and newly collected swarms use two strips per chamber (half dose). Large colonies occupying several brood chambers use four strips per chamber, which are distributed over the central bee spaces in each brood chamber".*

Under the heading 'Resistance Management' it goes on to say: *"Intensive use of Bayvarol could result in the development of resistant strains of mites. To minimise this risk use Bayvarol strictly in accordance with the label directions,"*

The Apistan® label reads:

*"Use 2 Apistan® strips per brood chamber within two comb frames of the edge of the bee cluster." Like the Bayvarol® label, the Apistan® label states that to minimise the risk of resistance the Apistan® should be used strictly in accordance with the label. The best advice will always be to use*

chemicals according to instructions. Labels can take a broad-brush approach on recommended rates. For instance, the above recommendations are probably for colonies housed in full-depth supers, although this is not stated. Some beekeepers use three-quarter depth supers but whether they can safely reduce the dose by 25% is not indicated.

The Apistan® label doesn't allow for fewer strips in small colonies only occupying, perhaps, half a brood super. But the best recommendation is to follow the label instructions. They also give directions on the correct disposal of strips used in hives. Follow them. Strips must not be left lying around in the apiaries as some beekeepers are reported having done. Many beekeepers are not using Apistan® and Bayvarol® according to instructions either.

Reports are coming through that beekeepers are:

- 1) using fewer strips than allowed
- 2) using strips longer than permitted
- 3) using strips for a second treatment period
- 4) using strips for shorter periods of time than permitted
- 5) using Apistan® during a honey flow
- 6) using Apistan® for a 24 hour test period which is not permitted on the label
- 7) modifying strips to try and prolong their active life
- 8) putting strips at the entrance of hives

Beekeepers doing any of these things must answer "Yes" on their harvest declaration when it asks if any licensed compounds have been used in your hive, other than in accordance with labelled conditions. That makes it illegal to process your honey and other bee products for human consumption or trade, unless written approval has been obtained from the Director-General.

Legal requirements aside, other issues arise when label directions are not followed.

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Rob Coers Ph 03 540 2772  
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### Using fewer strips

Treatment costs are reduced when fewer strips are used and less labour is required to put them in. The residue levels in bee products are also reduced. But product labels indicate the number of strips needed to effectively kill varroa. Beekeepers using only half the specified number have reported they seem to still work. But using fewer strips reduces the dose rate and will hurry varroa mites' resistance to it.

Beekeepers (and their staff) must also take care when removing strips from hives and ensure none are left behind.

### Extended strip use

Bayvarol® strips can stay in a hive for six weeks, Apistan® strips for eight. Beekeepers find several reasons for leaving strips in hives beyond those periods. Some think they will save money by using the same strips more than once. Others hope to protect their hives from invasion for longer without buying new strips – and some beekeepers just don't get around to removing them.

The main problem with this is the development of resistance. At some point after six or eight weeks there will not be enough miticide left in the strips to kill all mites, resulting in the selection of resistant mites. Furthermore, the longer the strips are left in a hive, the greater the residue levels become.

### Shorter strip time use

In another effort to cut costs, beekeepers use strips for half the specified time in one hive, then put them in another hive for the remaining time. Costs are reduced and so are the residues left in bee products. Three weeks even gives quite good control. You can see from Figure 2 that few mites were killed after that period. But of strips are only in hives for short periods, there is less protection against incoming mites.

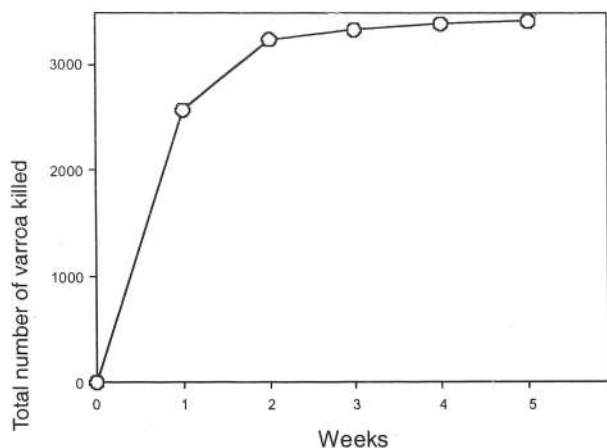


Figure 2. Total number of varroa killed after each week's use of Bayvarol® used at the recommended rate.

### Modifying strips

Several New Zealand have sanded the surface of the strips, trying to increase their active life. Unfortunately, it probably does the opposite. It will decrease the amount of active ingredient, kill less varroa and increase the chance of resistance occurring.

### Hive entrance strips

Beekeepers have tried putting strips at the entrance of the hive rather than inside the hive as required in the label (Figure 3).

In HortResearch trials, this seemed to work in single super colonies when Apistan® was used – but not Bayvarol®. Entrance placement makes it easy to position the strips and will probably also result in lower residue levels. But the level of miticides the varroa is exposed to is likely to be less, thus increase the chance of them developing a resistance.

In conclusion, beekeepers are and will continue to be tempted to use Bayvarol® and Apistan® in ways not specified on the products' labels. Anyone who does must indicate it on his or her harvest declaration. And it is important that whatever you do will not lead to an increase in varroa resistance.

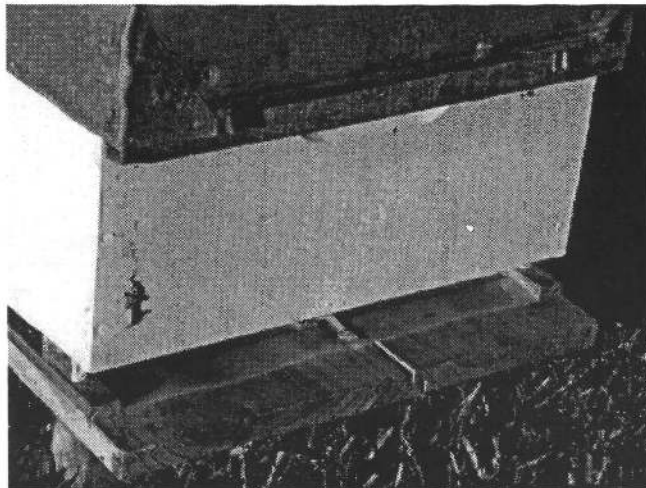


Figure 3. A single super hive with Bayvarol® strips placed across the entrance. The box is lifted up at the front for the purpose of the photo only.

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## Letter to the Editor

### My View Point –

Recently while visiting my local fertiliser bulk store to obtain supplies, I made the most of the opportunity to read some of their educational brochures on fertiliser use.

One very interesting brochure was relating to “Nitrogen Fertiliser Management for Vegetable Crops”. Glossing over the general detrimental effects on the environment, the section which did take my attention was the result of excessive use of nitrogen which contributes to:

1. Contamination of water sources
2. Reduced crop yields
3. Poor vegetable quality
4. Increased disease and management problems

It is now obvious why growers are continually looking for new clean soil for cropping land. Land which was looked upon as the best in New Zealand and able to be cropped continuously for over 80 years or so, is now having to be retired as it is unable to sustain cropping due to disease or, simply, target crops won't grow.

Whilst in America recently, I read an article relating to the interaction of fertiliser with the soil. It stated that chemical nitrogen destroys the rhizomes of legumes and gave a list of crops it should never be used on – the first was field peas and the second was clover.

Notwithstanding this, I have spoken to farmers who time their application and quantity of chemical nitrogen without harming their clover, whilst others have shown me paddocks where the clover has been totally eliminated after one mistimed dressing. Should farmers apply nitrogen at such levels that the stock and station suppliers have had to put out management brochures to try and prevent stock losses due to nitrate poisoning?

Many farmers now have very little clover surviving on their farms and are becoming more and more reliant on chemical nitrogen, coupled with the extra cost, management and animal health problems. How long can ever-increasing quantities of nitrogen be applied to these farms before they, too, have to be rested, such as is happening with our cropping soils? Do pastoral farmers have the luxury of being able to lease another property while their land recovers? There is even pastoral farmland where the ground is so degenerated that nothing has been able to grow there for the last three years, not even weeds.

Recent research in Australia showed that once the non-rhizome bacteria are lost from the soil, plants are immediately susceptible to disease. Could this be why we are now having such a disease problem with our onions? Are growers moving from nitrate-sick cropping land to nitrate-sick farmland?

It is a sad day when some of our top market gardening land has to be retired from cropping. Just a quick trip over the

Bombay Hills, via the motorway, will give the evidence of soil problems – you do not even need to get out of the car.

With the use of Chemical Nitrogen featuring more and more in our food chain, I wonder at the ramifications. It was thought-provoking to listen to the radio and have the announcer warning the public not to eat certain vegetables or parts of vegetables as the high nitrate levels are a health risk.

Are some of our farming practices the elixir for increased production ... or in the words of one farmer ....

‘Short term gain – Long term pain’

- John Wright

### NEW ADDRESS

Ecroyd Beekeeping Supplies Ltd has now re-located its' office, factory and warehouse to permanent premises again. Still within Sheffield Crescent, we are now located at “6A”. Coming from the Airport or Johns Road down Wairakei Road, take the second Sheffield Crescent on the right and we are 200 metres up on the right. Just remember “6A” and you won't get lost.

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# US beekeeper's 'Expanding Options' workshops received positive feedback from Kiwis

*IVAN DICKINSON, chairman of the "expanding options for New Zealand beekeepers reports on workshops held around the country recently.*

In general I was very pleased with the numbers attending the "Expanding Options for New Zealand Beekeepers" workshops and in the manner in which the workshops were received.

The first one at Warkworth, however, caused some concern when participants told me during supper that they had learned nothing new. That was understandable, as I had had no time to brief Sharon to the present situation of varroa in New Zealand. After each workshop Sharon and I discussed how it had gone and adapted or added to the next one. As we progressed, it was clear that many attendees were pleased to hear they were right up with the play in varroa management. It also gave them confidence in their hive management techniques for the coming season.

At the Hamilton workshop, HortResearch scientist Dr Mark Goodwin from Ruakura gave Sharon a copy of the *Control of Varroa* guide for New Zealand beekeepers he and Cliff Van Eaton produced with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Sharon offered high praise for it and adapted subsequent talks considerably to better suit the New Zealand situation.

Our travelling schedule was tight, but we managed to accept a few of the invitations we received to visit sites. They were Arataki Honey Ltd at Havelock North, Philip Cropp's NZ Honey Producers Co-op in Nelson and Merv Cloake's beekeeping operation in Timaru.

Accommodation and venues were excellent and those located in same the building gave us better preparation time. The 7pm meetings sometimes proved too early to enjoy a meal first, but the early start allowed time for participants to offer feedback and interact with Sharon after her talk.

Promotion of the Expanding Options programme was good and verbal feedback received was positive and supportive. Forms we distributed for written responses have been slow in being returned, though. Please take the time to complete and post back. Your opinions are important for the programme

The tour was Sharon's first time out of the United States and her first road show-type event. She seemed to handle it well and, as mentioned earlier, adapted her presentation to the situation and in response to comments from workshop participants.

Media interest was high, with about four newspaper interviews, at least two radio and one television interview, the last done for a documentary being made about varroa.

In Wellington, we met with Paul Bolger, MAF Biosecurity; Glen Neal, MAF Food; Stephen Olsen, MAF Biosecurity

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communication officer and Dr Helen Beban, Animal Biosecurity. SSF manager Kevin Steel was also present. A Federated Farmers public relations officer, Joe McKenzie, also interviewed Sharon in the capital.

Commitments in the United States meant Sharon was unable to stay a couple of more days when the workshops had finished, but she and her husband are sure to return some time.

<b>Attendances</b>	Warkworth	48
	Hamilton	38
	Tauranga	26
	Hastings	22
	Wanganui	40
	Nelson	34
	Christchurch	48
	Timaru	23
	Telford	23
	<b>Total</b>	<b>302</b>

<b>Travel by car</b>	North Island	1253km
	South Island	1320km
<b>Total</b>	<b>2573 kms</b> (and dozens of U turns)	

If anyone needs more information about the workshops held, please contact me.

I would like to thank all branch presidents and secretaries for their assistance with the workshops – and all the members who came and participated.

Sharon left New Zealand and seven planes and 36 hours later, arrived home to extracting work and Honey Board problems with Chinese honey imports. She says she met many new and innovative beekeepers in New Zealand, though, and sharing knowledge had been a two-way thing.

## Certified NZ honey considered safe

New Zealand honey exporters will be exempt from Australia's recently-introduced Chloramphenicol (CAP) testing requirements.

Australia introduced the testing regime, which costs A\$200 (NZ\$225), following recent detections by European authorities of the CAP antibiotic in Chinese honey and transshipments of Chinese honey in southern Asia, disguising its origin before reaching the United States.

Testing certified New Zealand honey for CAP was a waste of time, however, Australian Customs has decided. New Zealand does not import honey and has not used the Chloramphenicol antibiotic in agriculture for many years.

Honey producers are advised to seek certification from their usual certifying officers at AgriQuality, before exporting consignments to Australia.

## Recipes

### Butternut Squash Soup

- 2 Tbsp butter
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 3 carrots, chopped
- 2 celery stalks, chopped
- 1 potato, peeled and chopped
- 1 butternut squash, peeled, seeded and chopped
- 1.2 litres chicken stock
- 1/2 cup honey
- Fresh or dried thyme to taste

Melt butter, add onion and garlic and saute until golden. Add carrots and celery and cook, stirring, until tender. Mix in potatoes, butternut squash, honey, thyme and stock. Bring to boil then lower heat to simmer. Cook 30 to 45 minutes.

Cool a little then puree in food mixer or blender (or manually mash). Reheat and serve.

Serves six.



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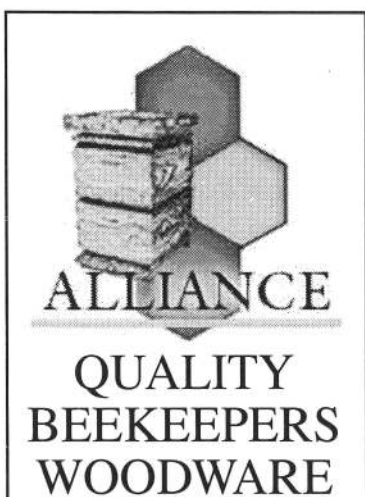


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## Land Information New Zealand

### Noxious Weed Spray Programme 2002 -2003

Property owners, recreational and other users of the riverbeds in the Canterbury Region listed below, are advised that herbicide spraying (gazon™, tordon™, roundup™ and trounce™) is to be carried out to control gorse, broom and old man's beard. The work to be carried out will commence no earlier than the 7th October and will continue intermittently as weather permits until 31st March 2003, excluding the period from Dec. 20th - Jan 10th

The river channels involved are:

(g) = ground spraying, (a) = aerial spraying, (ga) = both

1. Ashley/Whistler Rivers (g)
2. Okuku, Grey, Kowai, Karetu Rivers (g)
3. Leader River (g)
4. Makerikeri River (g)
5. Waipara River (g)
6. Upper Waiau River near Edwards Stream (ga)
7. Boyle River (g)
8. Hurunui River N. and S. branch (g)
9. Clarence River upstream of Hossack (ga)
10. Hurunui River below SH1 bridge (g)
11. Hope River (g)
12. Mason River (g)
13. Waiau River near Twin Bridges (a)
14. Wandle Stream (g)
15. Glencoe River (a)
16. Whitewater River (a)
17. Porter River (g)
18. Poulter River (a)
19. Little Kowai River
20. Rakaia River and tribs. upstream of Glenariffe (a)
21. Selwyn River near Coalgate (g)
22. Rakaia River near Barrhill (g)
23. Rubicon River upstream of "Torby" (g)
24. Esk River (a)
25. Swift River (g)
26. Upper Selwyn Gorge (g)
27. Upper Waimakariri River (a)
28. N. Branch Ashburton River (g)
29. Wilberforce River (a)
30. Harper River near Harper Village (g)
31. Tenagwai River near Waiwera (a)
32. Maerewhenua River N. + S. Branch (ga)
33. Otaio River upstream of gorge (a)
34. Rangitata River and tribs. upstream of gorge (ga)
35. Twizel River (ga)
36. Boundary Stream (trib. of Lake Tekapo) (a)
37. Upper Hakatarama River (g)
38. Jollie River (a)
39. Forks Stream (g)
40. Irishman's Stream (g)
41. Godley River (a)
42. Tekapo River (ga)
43. Pukaki River (g)
44. Lake Pukaki Shoreline (g)
45. Lake Benmore shoreline (g)
46. Ohau River (g)

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**Copies of the full annual spraying programme, and further information, is available from Landward Management Ltd during office hours on Ph/Fax 0508 244-746, or write to P.O. Box 5627, Dunedin, em [landward@chisholm.co.nz](mailto:landward@chisholm.co.nz)**

# *South Island apiary surveillance nearly done*

## *Hives still clear of varroa mite*

By Paul Bolger

### **South Is. surveillance almost complete**

Surveillance for varroa in the South Island started in April and more than 1400 out of a target 1500 apiaries have now been surveyed, with no varroa detected to date.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry would like to thank all the Authorised Persons and hive owners who have participated in this surveillance. APs are urged to complete any outstanding inspections as soon as possible, and submit their invoices for work completed. Queries should be directed to David McMillan, (03) 489-0066.

### **Southern North Is. surveillance completed**

Out of a target of 450 apiaries, sampling has now been carried out on 440 apiaries throughout the lower North Island. The number of infested apiaries remains at 25, unchanged from last month.

### **Reporting suspect varroa**

South Island beekeepers who suspect the presence of varroa in their hives should contact the MAF Exotic Disease Hotline on (0800) 809-906. North Island beekeepers below the movement control line should report suspected cases of varroa to AgriQuality New Zealand on (0800) 424-490, or (0508) 00 11 22.

### **Surveillance strip trial**

MAF has contracted HortResearch to carry out a trial assessing the effectiveness of re-using Apistan strips for surveillance purposes. While the strips have already been tested to show they remain viable after 10 24-hour uses, and 10 irradiation treatments, this does not measure possible loss of effectiveness due to field conditions. The trial will assess the effectiveness of 100 randomly selected strips, already twice-used in South Island surveillance.

### **Monitor hives closely**

At this time of the year, beekeepers should have decided on their varroa control programme for the season. MAF strongly recommends beekeepers closely monitor their hives throughout the summer and autumn. A number of beekeepers in the upper North Island suffered heavy hive losses during the past autumn/winter. In some cases, those could have been prevented if mite numbers had been better monitored.

This especially applies to beekeepers using organic treatments. Several beekeepers who used organic compounds on their hives last season have reported either poor control or adverse effects from the treatment products. This is not unexpected, as the organic products are known to give less reliable results, and be more demanding to use than synthetic, pyrethroid strips. While beekeepers are encouraged to consider natural products, it is advisable to trial them on a small number of hives first.

### **North Island movement control**

The Varroa Management Group made recommendations on the future of the movement control line in September. Essentially, it was decided to retain the existing line with minor changes, remove the 10km Boundary Area to the north of the line and define a withdrawal date for the line: April 30, 2003. The National Beekeepers Association consulted with representatives of affected beekeepers by conference call, and made a submission to MAF on their conclusions. MAF has also received submissions from other parties.

MAF has subsequently decided that:

- The existing Line will be retained with minor modifications
- The Line is likely to be removed in April 2003, unless there is a Pest Management
- Strategy in place to maintain it.
- The 10 km Northern Boundary Area will be removed
- Treatment of varroa-infested apiaries detected in the lower North Island will be the responsibility of the hive owner.

MAF is drafting a new Controlled Area Notice to define the changes in the Movement Control Line, and this will be publicly notified (via a mail-out to beekeepers and public notices in newspapers) later this month.

The decision will not please everyone, but MAF has seriously considered all points of view. It likes to thank all the beekeepers who contributed to the debate.

### **Phase II varroa management programme**

Most beekeepers will be aware the government set up a three-phase varroa management programme. Phase I was the initial treatment of infested apiaries in spring 2000. Phase II began on November 1, 2000, and is due to expire at the end of October 2002. All varroa-related activities undertaken over the past two years, such as surveillance, movement controls, education, research, and approval of organic treatments has been carried out under this programme.

Because some funding still remains in the Phase II budget, and no long-term management programme is in place, MAF will attempt to keep key elements of the existing programme in place until the end of the current financial year in June.

### **Planning for Phase III**

A Varroa Planning Group, made up of representatives from affected industries, is considering the long-term management of varroa. This group met in late August and early October. Recent discussion focussed on the feasibility of starting a programme to slow the spread of varroa to the South Island. MAF is working on a discussion document, highlighting the key implementation and funding issues to address.

# Organic Waitaki bee products earn praise

By Angela Crompton

**Maintaining a reliable, high-quality product, has been a focus for Peter Irving and Kate White at their 3000-hive Waitaki Apiaries, named runner-up this month in the Organic Exporter of the Year.**

Certified organic for about seven years, the Kurow, Otago-based business exports all of its products – and some from other producers – to Germany and Denmark.

“Each year, we try to have the same high quality. When [buyers] open the container, they can expect what they will get,” Kate said.

Before meeting Peter, she used to be a Dunedin-based, Natural History New Zealand television producer. These days, she chairs the executive of the organic Joint Action Group (Jag) set up by Trade NZ for Waitaki Apiaries and a few other companies, exporting a range of products from fertiliser to breakfast cereals.

Initially just a small committee run by Trade NZ, the Jag now employs two full-time executives who do the administrative work and find markets a business working alone might have difficulty reaching, Kate said.

The Jag has certainly helped Waitaki Apiaries market its product and each year a display stand is put up at the annual “Biofach” in Nuremberg, Germany. One of the biggest organic trade fairs in the world, it attracts international buyers who are then exposed to fare from New Zealand.

In recent years, deals for Waitaki Apiaries have included an annual order for 2\_ tonne of bees wax from elitist cosmetic manufacturer, Dr Er Hauschka, (but Kate can still barely afford to buy its products).

She said a third European Union country has included Waitaki Apiaries on its list of exporters buyers can deal with, but she and Peter aren’t aiming for recognition in all seven EU countries.

“We consciously don’t expand,” she said. That’s the whole holistic thing about organics. We don’t want to be a giant consortium.”

In fact, she and Peter value the freedoms offered in an operation the size of Waitaki Apiaries. Each year they ensure they get a three-month winter break – and Kate told the *NZ*

*Beekeeper* she had just returned from a horse-riding expedition around a southern mountain lake. Such pleasures might be denied multi-national business magnates.

Asked if the international market was waiting for more organic honey products from New Zealand, Kate identified Argentina as a major competitor for Kiwi beekeepers. Argentina shares the same honey-producing season as New Zealand and its government actively assists the organic industry. “As does Germany.”

Organic products could fetch 20% higher prices than non-organic, Kate said, but the market was a limited one. As well as bees wax, Waitaki Apiaries sells white clover, borage and thistle honey, collected from colonies at three sites: Hakataramea Valley, Omarama and Otematata. They were away from intensively farmed areas, reducing the exposure to chemicals.

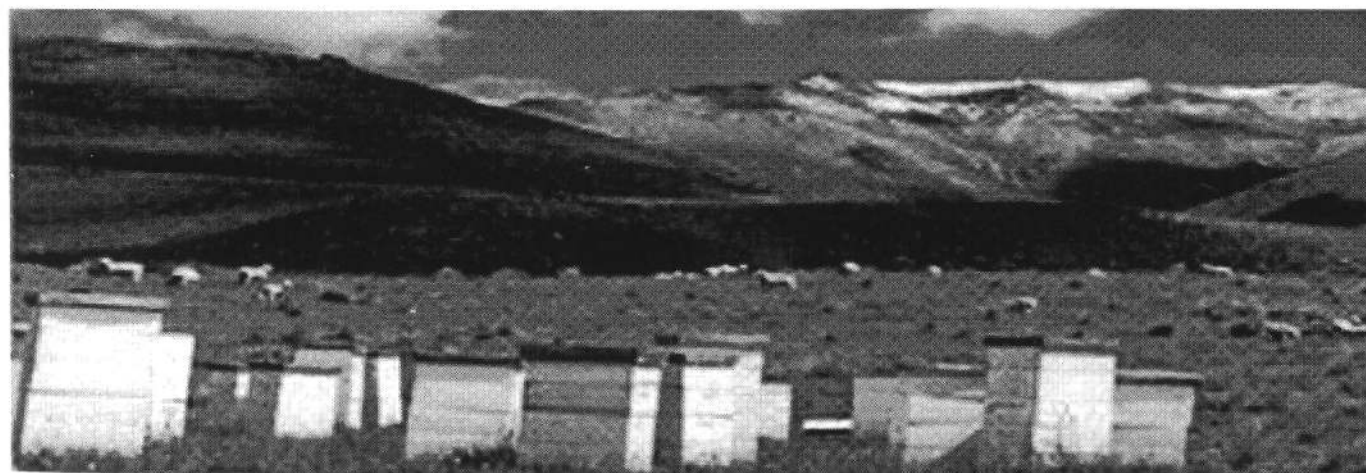
Asked how business will fare if genetic engineering practices get the final nod in New Zealand, Kate said a Canadian organic farming was currently taking a GE seed company to court because GE destroyed its right to operate.

“You’re getting people here [New Zealand] going around saying, ‘GE and organics can co-exist’. Rubbish. GE is taking away the choice.”

“I just wish the New Zealand government would wait.”

While “waiting” with other South Island beekeepers for the varroa mite to cross Cook Strait, she and Peter have not been idle. Methods of treating the pest have been studied and the couple feels ready to deal with it – organically. In the meantime, the business is looking at expanding its operations, with Kate learning how to breed queen bees and eyeing up the propolis market.

In a final remark, she paid tribute to beekeepers, Percy Berry from Arataki Honey and Dudley Ward from Kintail Honey, who helped her obtain early honey marketing techniques. Both men “took me under their wings” she said.



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## **BRANCH CONTACTS AND MEETINGS**

### **NZ QUEEN PRODUCERS ASSN**

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### **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 first Saturday each month, August to May, except January which it is the second Saturday, at 681 Cashmere Road, Commencing at 1.30pm.  
Contact: Linda Gardner  
205 Trents Road  
RD 6 Christchurch  
Ph: (03) 344-1977  
Fax: (03) 344-1974  
Email: qtc@clear.net.nz

### **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  
Annette: (07) 366-6111

### **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