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The New Zealand

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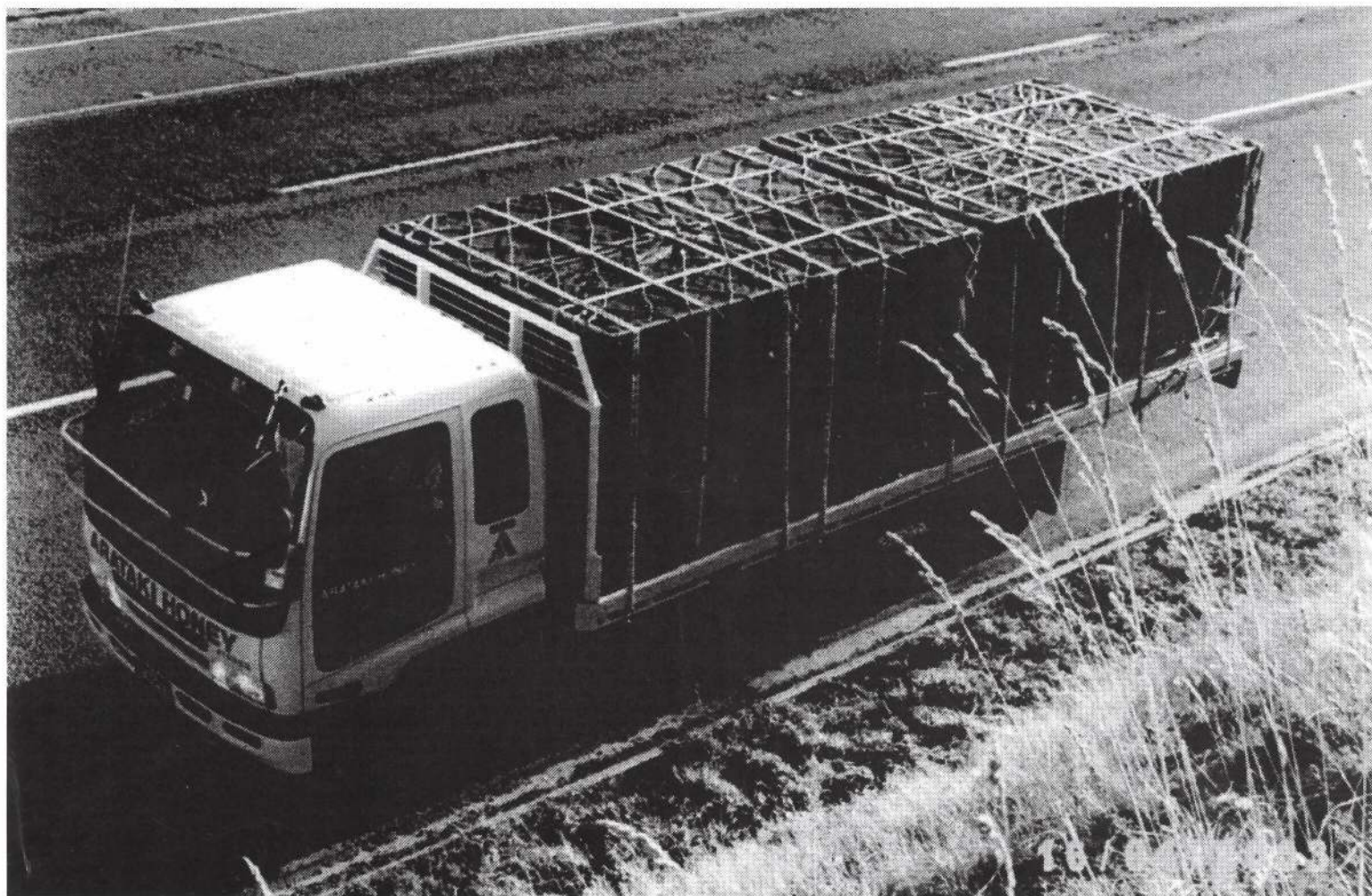
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President's Report

The article from the President will be a short one for this month, as Tony and I have spent all of April supplying bees for Canada, taking honey off and treating hives. So, like many of you we are extremely tired. The presence of Varroa in hives certainly puts far greater pressure on beekeepers to get work completed before the mites and viruses take over and kill the colonies. It would appear from the reports from other beekeepers that I have received, that where mite levels were low last year, is where beekeepers are finding hive losses this year, if they have not managed to put in early treatments. I would certainly like to hear from beekeepers if they are finding that this is the case.

At the time of writing (5th May), surveillance for Varroa of hives in the South Island, and of hives below the line in the North Island is now underway. I would urge all of you who have received testing kits to carry out the testing as soon as is possible and get them back to the lab for diagnosis as soon as possible. This will aid in decision making – in particular whether the line in the North Island will be maintained, or shifted, or totally removed.

During April, the Executive, and the Pest Management Strategy (PMS) committee has been busy in getting all the necessary paper work reviewed, and amended where necessary, to be sent out with the Annual Disease Returns. The cost of getting these out to all beekeepers will be borne by the National Beekeepers Association, unless we are granted the interim funding we have requested from the Minister to assist us to run the PMS for the 2003 year. As yet, we have not had any feedback from the Minister, other than to say that our letter had been received.

The PMS Review team has been extremely busy in that it has completed the PMS review, and the report has now been filed with the Executive. I would like to extend my thanks to those members who took the time to assist in this. The Executive will now need to decide how far and wide this report is distributed, and at what cost.

We will use email as much as is possible, but for those who do not have that facility; we will have to determine who will bear the cost of copying of the 80 page document.

The conference organising team has also been busy, and I hope there will be more information in this journal, as to what is being organised.

Jane Lorimer
Acting President

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BK120

Secretarial Snippets

I have just completed my 4th and probably most torrid month as NBA Secretary. I suspect that things will hot up more yet. The job is only a part-time one, yet there are times when it threatens to overtake my life. It is a sobering thought that there are 6 Executive members who give their time voluntarily.

In mid April I travelled to the South Island to help my son and daughter-in-law with the arrival of their third child. Some of you will have realised that during this time I was operating without a computer and handwritten letters and membership lists were the order of the day. Subs kept coming in during that time and I have done my best to keep track of them all and ensure everyone gets their April issue of the magazine. I still have some to post out. Please bear with me if you have paid but not yet received your copy. As they say, "it's in the mail".

The NBA now has over 300 members and 80 subscribers to the magazine. I noted Frank Lindsay's comments about magazines from overseas. There are a number who reciprocate the NZ Beekeeper with their magazine, some coming to me before I send them on to Christine Taiaroa, the NBA Librarian. One that caught my eye was the Brazilian publication, Mensagem Doce – all in Spanish, but still able to be understood from the pictures. I found information in it that I was seeking about a Eucalyptus species favoured in tropical countries. Yes Frank gives good advice when he says that it is worth borrowing the magazines, if only to expand our horizons and knowledge.

Tomorrow I will update the lists of NBA Branch members. There are some that do need to consider what their future will be given that they do not have sufficient members (minimum of 5 required) for a quorum. Perhaps they could consider joining forces with a neighbouring branch. There are some that are in excellent heart which is encouraging.

Pauline Bassett

PS: We are grandparents again – Jessica Rose Bassett finally arrived on 19 April.

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All articles/letters/photos to be with the Secretary Publications Committee via fax, email or post:

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Honey bee genetic material

The honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) genetic material import risk analysis and a draft import health standard for Carniolan honey bee semen (*Apis mellifera carnica*) from Germany are now available for public comment.

The risk analysis considers four forms of honeybee genetic material – Queens, Queen cells, eggs laid by Queen bees and semen – and discusses 38 potential hazards. For the importation of semen, the major risks are Africanised honeybees (*Apis mellifera scutellato*) which would affect peoples' enjoyment of the environment, and Cape honeybee (*Apis mellifera capensis*), a production issue. Semen is not considered a risk good for the importation of European Foulbrood (*Melissococcus pluton*).

Safe importation of honeybee semen will enable the genetic base of New Zealand's bee population to be broadened. This may assist in developing New Zealand honeybee populations with a range of characteristics not presently found, such as bees with increased Varroa tolerance. This would benefit beekeepers struggling to live with Varroa.

The risk analysis was done by an external consultant and has been subjected to MAF's internal scientific review process and to international expert review. The director Animal Biosecurity is satisfied that it is technically sound and sufficiently robust to base an import health standard on.

Closing date for comments is 30.05.2003. Paul Berentson, Technical Advisor International Animal Trade, phone 04 498 9897, fax 04 474 4227 berentsonp@maf.govt.nz www.maf.govt.nz/biosecurity/consultation.htm

Reprinted from Biosecurity Mag: issue 43.

PENROSE UNCAPPERS

From reports I am receiving from owners of machines around the country, production has generally been good this past season. Prices have hit all time highs. May I suggest that this should be the year to upgrade your old Penrose Uncapper to a virtual new one by having it overhauled and brought up to 2003 specifications. The cost of a new machine (if we were still making them!) would be around 3 tonne of honey (15% less than it was in 1970) but to have a complete upgrade would be around half that. All costs totally deductible under your R and M programme. Following this upgrade you would be able to add one of our 'Top Stop' deboxers, and maybe a "super" lifter and really set yourself up for the next 25 years! Also spares for all of our products are always available.

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Changes to the Health and Safety in Employment Act ~ What does it mean for me?

An extract from FMGPOST May 2003

Employers must ensure that employees have the correct safety equipment or clothing. Employees can choose to provide their own, but employers must make sure it is good enough for the job. Simply providing an allowance for employees' safety equipment is no longer acceptable.

Fatigue and stress are now recognised hazards in the workplace. Employers must manage workloads and also take into consideration non-work related stress that could impact on employees' ability to do their job.

Hiring or loaning of equipment for use in a place of work, even where there is no hire charge, is now within the scope of this Act. As such, the owner-lender of the equipment must ensure it is safe to use.

Fines will increase. For most offences the maximum fine will be increased from \$50,000 to \$250,000, and for those offences where a persons' action or failure to act occurs, and they know it is likely to cause serious harm, the maximum fine will be increased from \$100,000 to \$500,000.

All employers are required to provide opportunities for the involvement of employees in ensuring a safe workplace. The Act is not prescriptive in how this is to be done, rather it encourages employers and employees to establish an employee participation system that meets the needs of their workplace.

Volunteers in the workplace and those in training are now explicitly covered by the Act.

This is only a summary of some of the changes that come into effect 5th May 2003. For full details please contact your local OSH office or visit www.workinfo.co.nz

FMG encourages all employers to exercise safe practices in the workplace. Being aware of the hazards that exist and working to reduce or eliminate them will create a win-win situation for all those involved.

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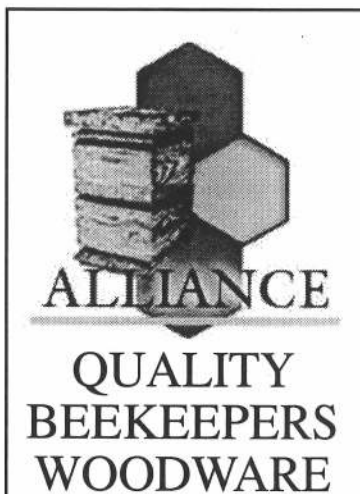
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Varroa Management Programme

The \$7.6 million varroa management programme, which began in November 2000 is now in its final stages. Funding for this programme is scheduled to cease on 30 June. Key activities still underway are varroa surveillance, movement control and the completion of research projects.

South Island Varroa Surveillance

A third round of varroa surveillance is underway in the South Island. Around 700 apiaries in grid cells classified as 'high risk' have been selected for testing. This is a much lower number of apiaries than in the previous two years, due to budget constraints. Unlike last year, all beekeepers whose apiaries have been selected for testing have been offered the opportunity to carry out the testing themselves. Where people are unwilling to do this, or have not completed the sampling by the specified date, AgriQuality will assign an Authorised Person to carry out the testing. Questions about South Island varroa surveillance should be directed to David McMillan on 03 489 0066.

If South Island varroa surveillance continues in future under a pest management strategy, the beekeeping industry will need to decide where it stands on the issue of beekeepers' who do not want to have their hives sampled for varroa. Certified organic beekeepers are already excluded from the sampling programme, as testing would cause them to lose their certification. A small number of other beekeepers are also opposed to having their hives tested, for a variety of reasons. Obviously, a surveillance programme is weakened if a large number of hives are withdrawn from sampling. The industry collectively needs to decide what are appropriate criteria for withdrawing from a varroa surveillance programme.

North Island Varroa Surveillance

Approximately 330 apiaries have been selected for sampling south of the movement control line. Most of this sampling is being done by hive owners, with AgriQuality staff testing some apiaries as an audit of surveillance effectiveness. An encouraging sign this year is the number of lower North Island beekeepers who are carrying out varroa surveillance on their hives independently of the MAF programme. Any positive varroa finds should be reported to AgriQuality on 0800 424 490.

As of 5 May, further spread has been confirmed in north Taranaki (Ureti-Urenui), the Waitotara Valley in south Taranaki, the Wanganui River area, at Whareponga south of Ruatoria on East Cape, and at several points in the Manawatu. MAF will attempt to keep updated maps of surveillance results on the MAF website (www.maf.govt.nz/varroa)

Anyone who has not completed their allocated testing should contact AgriQuality on the number given above. This surveillance must be completed as soon as possible.

Long Term Varroa Management

The Varroa Planning Group (made up of affected industries, local government, and MAF, as described in the March issue

of NZ Beekeeper) released a discussion document in December 2002 (www.maf.govt.nz/varroa). Following 18 consultation meetings in Feb/March, 67 submissions were received on the document. A summary of these submissions can be obtained from MAF by e-mailing bolgerp@maf.govt.nz or calling 04 474 4144. The submissions overwhelmingly supported a strategy with the objective of keeping the South Island varroa-free. A significant number of submissions also suggested the strategy should include movement controls to slow spread in the North Island. Most of the submissions commented on funding mechanisms, with the majority of submitters suggesting that any measures should be paid for by someone other than themselves.

The VPG is finalising a National Pest Management Strategy proposal to present to the Minister for notification. This proposal follows the general outline of the discussion document. It will be possible to provide further submissions on the NPMS proposal once it has been notified by the Minister. Funding for the strategy is a significant issue that the VPG is still working through.

Given the detailed processes laid down in the Biosecurity Act 1993 governing the development of strategies, the VPG recognise that it will not be possible to have an NPMS in place by 30 June. It is likely that the VPG will approach the Minister of Biosecurity and request that he maintains relevant existing controls (for example, on inter-island bee movements) until such time as a strategy can take force.

North Island Movement Controls

In spring 2002, MAF agreed to review North Island movement controls at the end of April 03. This review is not yet complete, as varroa surveillance sampling is still underway. Given that MAF's varroa programme is due to end on 30 June, it is expected that the North Island movement controls put in place by MAF will be removed by that point.

During consultation in early 2003, the VPG received numerous submissions advocating the continuation of movement controls in the North Island under a pest management strategy. If the VPG wishes to include North Island movement controls in a NPMS proposal, it is possible that they could approach the Minister of Biosecurity to maintain existing movement control measures until an NPMS for varroa is in place. At this point, it is unknown whether the VPG will make such a request, or how the Minister would respond to it.

The VPG will look primarily at three areas in assessing the feasibility of incorporating North Island movement controls in a PMS.

1. The degree of industry support for controls, and the ability of beneficiaries to pay for any measures;
2. The extent of varroa spread revealed by surveillance this autumn; and
3. The results of a cost-benefit analysis examining the impact of the movement control line.

American Foulbrood NPMS

While outside the topic of varroa, MAF has received some enquiries regarding the status of the American Foulbrood National Pest Management Strategy (AFB NPMS). The strategy is still in force, although the commodity levy that funded the strategy (and the National Beekeepers' Association - NBA) expired in December 2002. The NBA submitted an application for a Biosecurity Levy to fund the strategy in November 2002. In March 2003, MAF advised the NBA that the levy consultation process had not met the requirements laid down in the Biosecurity Act 1993. MAF and the NBA subsequently agreed that a further letter describing the proposal sent to all beekeepers with the Annual Disease Return (ADR) mailout, and a period for beekeepers to make submissions on the proposal, would be adequate to meet the consultation requirements of the Act. Due to delays in the mail-out of ADRs, the deadline for submissions has been extended to 29 May. Once this consultation process is complete, and any issues arising from the consultation have been resolved, MAF will be able to begin the legal process of enacting a new levy to fund the AFB NPMS. It is unlikely that a new levy will be able to be struck until October 2003.

Profile: Robert Blair

My first interest in bees saw me receive a stern warning from my uncle. He was taking honey off his hives and he turned to find me beside him in shorts and a singlet. I volunteered to turn the Extractor, which was more acceptable. A few years later I started at Otahuhu High School, taking Agriculture. They had a 30 hive apiary in the garden and orchard where a beekeeper came once a month to instruct those in the Ag course who were interested. I was interested! I purchased my first hive at 15 and another 100 at 25, finishing up with 700 - 800 on the books.

In the Early years I produced Manuka comb honey, predominately for export. A small quantity was sold locally. During this time I also pollinated pip and stone fruit orchards and by the time I was into Kiwifruit orchards, I had phased out the comb honey. In some years most of my income came from Kiwifruit pollination and a good income it was. When I started Beekeeping honey and some beeswax was the only income, today we can add pollination, package bees, propolis, and pollen, that is an improvement from the 50's when I started.

I have been a member of the NBA since the mid 50's and we must have an organisation representing us to government, and government departments, have a library and magazine etc. For a small industry spread over the whole country, the NBA has performed much better than some are prepared to admit.

Over the years I have off and on had AFB and have usually been able to trace the source. Now we have Varroa they both are major concerns for our industry and hive inspections by beekeepers is crucial to control both. No amount of paper shuffling will reduce either, only lifting lids. This industry has a tremendous lot going for it but we will only get out what we put in.

From the Secretary-Publications desk: Robert has been married to Joan for 50+ years, with three children, and eight grandchildren. Not a budding beekeeper in sight, just willing helpers!

New Zealand Beekeepers May 2003

News from ERMA

- Frank Lindsay

The Tasman Institute of Agricultural Research has made an application to import into containment (within NZ) ten species of native Australian plants, in order to confirm the host specificity of gorse thrips (*Sericotrips staphylinus*, Haliday) before being considered for importation and release.

Good on them for trying a natural approach. It will take a long time, if released, to make an impact on gorse so beekeepers there needn't worry about loosing this valuable pollen source. A valuable plant to one group is a weed to another.

Here in the SNI drought area, it is quite noticeable how the gorse spider mite has taken off this year. Some areas are showing a lot of webs on the gorse. Not enough to kill the bushes but enough to cut back their grown considerably.

Biosecurity - Interesting that since the closing of submission on what sort of Biosecurity system we want, there have been two exotic scares both in the Hamilton area. One being Plumb Pox (now confirmed as False Plumb Pox) and the other, a single male Asian Gypsy Moth.

The Gypsy Moth is a major forestry pest and all stops will be pulled out to eradicate this pest.

Plumb Pox is top of the Pip and Stone Fruit industries unwanted list and if discovered here could affect a few beekeepers pollination services for 4-5 years. It can be eradicated by removing all trees, and spraying for three years to prevent sucker re-growth. The Plumb Pox virus is transmitted by aphids and bud wood and causes distorted fruit and premature fruit drop. It was discovered in the USA in 1999 and they spent US\$55 million in the first year eradicating it. Nine months later it was discovered in Canada in the middle of their fruit growing area. They decided not to eradicate it. Information supplied by Marie Adkins - NZ Fruit Fed. The more you look, the more you find. Keep an eye out for anything unusual in your hives.

AgResearch Lincoln has made an application to import into containment a Nucleopolyhedrovirus of the Painted Apple Moth from Australia to test the environmental safety of the strain as a possible biocontrol agent for use in NZ.

ERMA has granted AgResearch Wallaceville permission to genetically transform Eucalyptus species and hybrids with constructs that affect wood properties and also reproductive fertility. (Genes of plant origin affecting wood quality, three floral regulatory genes and the barnase and barstar genes).

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Hawkes Bay

We had our branch AGM on 14 April and welcome John Berry as our confirmed president. This is a position that both his father Ian and his grandfather Percy have held. When it came to selecting committee members it was pointed out that only members of the NBA could be elected. Now we have a select group of supporters who are either committee members or advisors to them. We are also fortunate to have the continuing support of our auditor - Phil Bennett.

Already we are seeing John's influence in getting the branch more interesting and active. In response to his panel of questions in our last issue of our Buzz Sheet, it was decided to stick with monthly meetings. A fieldday is going to be held in August. Honey judging competitions are planned. We can be sure of more questions and hands on with John at the helm.

Manawatu Beekeepers' Club have followed on from the Wanganui Club and held a honey competition at their April AGM. Wanganui had the following categories: - Liquid Honey, Granulated or Creamed Honey, Cut Comb or Section Honey and Frame of Honey. This gives us something to work on for next autumn.

At the AGM someone asked how long the branch had been in existence. The Hawkes Bay Beekeepers' Association as it was first called was set up as a branch of the National Beekeepers' Association when 14 beekeepers met in the Old Library Hall Hastings on 23 July 1919. Arch Lowe was chairman until 1927. Initial subscriptions were 5/- for 1 to 15 colonies, 10/- for 16 to 50 colonies, 15/- for 51 to 100 colonies and 5/- for each additional 100 or part. At the Annual Meeting in 1920 the Balance Sheet showed 11 pounds of subscriptions with 25% going to the NBA. There is a gap in the records from 1923 to 1926 and in July 1927 the first of a long association of Ashcrofts, W H, was elected president.

In 1936 three Hawkes Bay remits were taken to Conference;

1. That the Dept. be asked to make further investigation into the cause of the mortality among bees through lead poisoning.
2. That the Dept. be asked to take drastic measures to eliminate the practice of keeping box-hives.
3. That the Government be asked to make an efficient increase in the permanent staff with the view of eradicating the menace of foulbrood throughout the Dominion.

The call for elimination of box-hives has me guessing but the other two could have been from a recent remit meeting. The next book of minutes is missing but in 1946 Percy Berry was president. From then until now minutes of meetings are complete so that anyone with interest can view the recorded history of the Branch.

- Ron Morison

Southern North Island

The Branch recently held it's AGM and returned the existing committee in full. Our branch is now 50/50 hobbyist commercial beekeepers so to cater for our hobby members we will be holding meetings on Saturday mornings in the hope that more members will be able to attend. We also

looked at what our role is and resolved that we were there to provide information, dialogue, and education. This must come from the bottom up as well as the top down. We considered that the bottom was our hobbyist beekeepers and that if we do not have contact with them, how do we really know what is going on. The cost for most of these individuals is now quite high and could put a lot off from coming along and joining in. So we as a branch have developed an "Affiliate" membership where hobby beekeepers can pay a subscription of \$15.00 and receive the branch newsletter, attend meetings and have their say but they will not have a vote on NBA issues.

We discussed the sustainable farming workshop and advised that this will be of benefit to all beekeepers, their workers and for anybody thinking of becoming a commercial beekeeper. Members were asked what their cost of production was and did they know the average production from each apiary? Are you putting something away for your retirement? Members should be thinking along these lines to get benefit from the workshop.

SARS could be a good thing for the propolis trade. Comvita shipped the equivalent of one year's sales to Hong Kong recently after publicity on its health properties. There was a suggestion that a price rise might eventuate if this demand continues so it might pay to leave your propolis in the freezer a month or two longer just in case.

Our next meeting will be in the Palmerston North Area 7th June.

- Frank Lindsay

West Coast

It's been a better than usual autumn. Long periods of dry weather have allowed good mating of autumn queens. Winter-feeding has finished and hives have been wintered down.

With voluntary subscription, the branch now only consists of 7 members so meetings are arranged when there is something worth while to talk about.

One concern all beekeepers have on the Coast as we get older and beekeeper numbers dwindle, there aren't any new beekeepers coming into the industry. There is quite a good living to be made out of Beekeeping but we are not promoting it, so school leavers aren't considering this as a career.

- Lindsay Feary

Canterbury

The Canterbury AGM has been held and new office Bearers have been elected. (See Page two), with the addition of T Corbett - as Treasurer. There are three disease co-ordinators for the branch this year covering the North, Central and Southern areas of our region: T Corbett, R Bensemam, and R Bray. As beekeepers we need to accept the responsibilities of the AFB PMS for our region and have some positive input towards making the PMS work for the benefit of all. Maintaining the PMS is an important step in maintaining the integrity of the Beekeeping industry.

Away from the Beekeeping side the writer had a bad experience with the recent Easter rain. A small creek flooded over the road and whilst negotiating the flooding, water was drawn into the truck motor and as yet diesel motors will not run on water. The result is being a rather costly motor job!

This leads me to offering some advice on truck care, from my experience (the moral of the story!) Many beekeepers operate Jap imports in the small to medium range. Vehicles with cab over the motor quite often have aircleaners very low

and just behind the bumper. In my case the sucker for the aircleaner was cleverly designed to be just below the height of the bow wave (or was there a problem with the sucker behind the steering wheel?) For owners of Toyota vehicles, ever wonder what the button labelled EAI with a lot of Japanese writing around it is for? It controls a flap, which closes off the external air intake to draw air from inside the cab. This is a clever idea to be used while negotiating water, ensuring it does not enter the motor (unless water flows into the cab)

Another motor issue for these Jap trucks is that the radiator is an efficient harvester of grass seed, Thistle fluff and seed, and barley ears etc, with the result that over the Beekeeping season radiator fins get blocked and it becomes easy to cook a motor. The only way I have found to effectively clean the radiator is to remove it from the truck and give it a decent blast with a compressor and a thin flat piece of plastic to poke seeds out. If beekeepers spend a small amount of time during the winter on truck maintenance it could save a truck being off the road in the middle of summer.

- Roger Bray

Auckland

Our April meeting was held with Mark Goodwin being our guest speaker. The first signs of resistance to Apistan will probably appear in about 3 years time. At the moment there is an almost complete reliance on one family of chemicals for Varroa control. Formic acid and others have been of limited use in the first 2 years of living with Varroa.

Because Apistan is proving to be an excellent product for controlling Varroa, in some ways Beekeeping has changed very little since the arrival of Varroa, as long as your number and timing of treatments is accurate and done. Many beekeepers have lost no hives to Varroa and their hive strength and production are as good as ever. The real test will come, and perhaps real changes in NZ Beekeeping also, when resistance to the various chemical controls appears. Formic acid and Thymol are perhaps the only controls, which will not show resistance, and we should be placing more emphasis on how we would be getting these methods more reliable. There is now an extreme importance to getting more control products registered and then used so we can rotate our chemicals. A lot of success in NZ Beekeeping has been that one person has been able to run a lot of hives well. Once we have to rely on slower and less reliable methods for Varroa control, the number of hives one person can manage will decrease. In our discussion with Mark Goodwin, resistance to various chemical was raised and the idea of completely withdrawing chemicals which Varroa was showing resistance to, was generally supported. Apparently within 2 years this resistance could disappear, and we could start using them again. This withdrawal would have to be done on a regional basis, how big these regions were, would be a matter of conjecture with the amount of movement of bees around the North Island, perhaps the whole of the North Island itself.

Suppliers to the exporters of bulk bees have been very busy over the last month. Most hives have been yielding close to more than 2 kg of bees, which is about 1/4 to 1/3 more than usual. Very warm temperatures have kept lots of broad and pollen in the hives.

For the interest of South Island beekeepers, we have already had our first frost for the year.

- Brian Alexander

South Canterbury

A good season for a change!! Early prospects looked exceptional with a record amount of clover flower on all pastureland. This coupled with good weather meant that most hives had gathered good amounts of honey by Christmas.

Unfortunately some devastating Nor Westers between Christmas and New Year burnt off all of the light land but in the process good crops were gathered with the main flow being over by mid January. Many high country areas suffered frost damage to clover. Crops of around 40 to 60 kgs a hive coupled with prices up towards \$5 per kg have produced a much welcomed reward for the seasons work.

Local beekeepers have been slow to join the NBA with our local branch not having a quorum yet. I suppose that this is understandable when almost all of the branch members voted to go with Federated Farmers as they saw this as a better vehicle to provide the services that they wanted. We may have to look at amalgamation with the remnants of the Canterbury Branch.

Pleased to hear that there will be a conference in Nelson and we look forward to catching up with everyone.

- Peter Lyttle

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BK139

Exotic Honey Bee Disease and Pest Response Simulation

On the 8th to 10th of April AgriQuality Ltd in conjunction with the Blenheim Beekeepers conducted an Exotic Honey Bee Disease and Pest Response simulation in Blenheim. The aims of the simulation were:

- Train AgriQuality Staff who would be based at the Field Operation Response Team head quarters.
- Train Beekeepers as field team members (the role they would fill during a response).
- Test and further develop response procedures.

The two-day field simulation utilised 9 field teams consisting of 9 AgriQuality staff and 20 Beekeepers. These teams sampled 45 apiaries containing 558 hives for varroa mite, using sticky boards and Apistan[®]. 20 of these apiaries were inspected and sampled for the full range of exotic diseases. A new method of sampling hives for Small Hive Beetle was trialed with beekeepers giving good suggestions for improvement.

Results:

- All samples proved negative for varroa.
- No exotic diseases were found.

- One apiary was sampled for Africanized Honey Bees. I am pleased to say that it turned out to be a vicious strain of local bee.
- Two hives on one site were found to have AFB and have since been destroyed.
- A further two sites were sampled for AFB and after lab testing were found to be negative.

The field operation was very successful and ran very smoothly. I would like to thank all the beekeepers involved for their time and input into this valuable simulation.

David McMillan
Agriquality

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BK146

Recall on Pan Pharmaceutical Products

"On Monday, the Therapeutic Goods Association (TGA), Australia's national medicines watchdog, suspended Pan's licence and ordered the immediate withdrawal of 219 of Pan's products following a series of grave safety and quality breaches, including substitution of ingredients, manipulation of test results and substandard manufacturing processes. "The association said it was considering laying criminal charges against Pan, which is Australia's largest contract manufacturer of herbal, vitamin and nutritional supplements

NZ Herald 30th April 2003

Standards of Production and the Nutricultural Market

The Australian and New Zealand Nutricultural market is facing one of its biggest challenges in years with one of its largest manufacturers, Pan Pharmaceutical Ltd Pty, being forced to suspend production for six months and recall over 600 different product lines.

Pan have been forced to stop production because their manufacturing quality standards fell well below an acceptable level. The product lines that are being recalled are mainly dietary supplements including royal jelly.

So what does this mean for the New Zealand Beekeepers? I believe it is a reminder of two simple facts:

1. One key way to add value to our honey or related bee products (Royal Jelly, Propolis, and Bee Pollen) is to supply the Nutricultural market with these products.
2. To supply these products to this market we must be producing to high standards.

In the wake of Pan's suspension we can also expect far more rigorous audits of manufacturing standards. These standards have been around for a while.

Some questions you may wish to ask are:

1. Do you have batch control (i.e. trace-ability)?
2. Can you supply a certificate of analysis for your product stating?
 - i. When and where harvested
 - ii A range of specification as to the product condition
 - iii. If it is used for a particular purpose, the actives and their level (e.g. UMF rating or the range of bio-chemical properties etc.)
 - iv. The validated test method used to test those actives.
 - v. The standardisation of the actives (are they of equal measure throughout the product)

As an industry we need to recognise who our customers are, their needs and as an industry we must develop agreed production standards that are monitored. Without monitored standards, every supplier providing questionable product will further damage the Australian and New Zealand Nutraceutical market just as Pan is currently doing.

The cost of the current product recall will be high and may severely damage or even destroy brand equity in some products. To what level customer confidence will ultimately be affected is conjecture and how much this will in turn impact on demand is yet to be seen. The total cost to the industry is likely to be huge.

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National Beekeepers Inc Project Expanding Options For New Zealand Beekeepers



The one day workshop will run at the following locations

Alexandra	May 27
Balclutha	May 28
Timaru	June 26
Wanganui	July 28

BEEKEEPING BUSINESS SKILLS WORKSHOPS

Eric Livingstone - NZIM Business Consultant who led the successful leadership courses last year will lead this training workshop. The workshop will be relevant to any one seeking new business skills and ideas. Eric's intent is that all who attend will have their expectations met if not exceeded.

WORKSHOP CONTENT

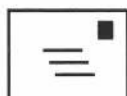
1. Business & Strategic Planning - an interactive workshop that will spend minimal time on the reasons for elements of the plan and focus on developing a business plan for

the participants own business that will include action plans for the next 12 months.

2. Financial Analysis - the workshop will upskill you in how to monitor the performance of your business, including what to monitor. This will tie in with and supplement the business plan to ensure relevance to your current needs.
3. Project Management - a practical workshop on how to develop and implement a new or enhanced business option eg Pollination services
4. Staff Employment and Motivation - the workshop will give you techniques on how to get your staff to achieve more with enthusiasm.

Please contact your branch for dates and times, or alternatively Polly Foster on 03 374 8530 Or Jon Manhire Tel 03 365 6806, Fax 03 365 6308.

Letters to The Editor



Dear Editor,

Thanks Ron for the story you gave us in the April "The NZ Beekeeper".

This reminded me of my faithful beekeeping companion Cass, a lovely dog of uncertain breed but wonderful temperament and alas now deceased.

Whenever I put on my whites, Cass was lined up ready to jump into the Ute for another beekeeping trip.

Her enthusiasm was severely blunted the day a hive I was working on turned vicious & made for the dog (and me).

I was fully occupied completing the task on hand & at the first opportunity went searching for Cass, who had, naturally enough disappeared.

There was some sheer banks by the nearby stream & I was greatly concerned she had literally taken flight off a bank & dropped a great distance to the rocks below.

With rising panic as to her fate she finally emerged very wet & walking upstream.

I remembered later of reading where animals will make for water to shake off tormentors, as in this case.

A friend in Canada recently had a 15,000 mile trans Canada holiday over 27 days & did a double take over apparent drift wood floating on a lake.

The driftwood turned out to be Caribou, who had taken to the water to escape the ferocious sand flies.

John Mason
Mosgiel

Dear Editor,

My name is Diego Romero from Argentina. I am a beekeeper and agricultural engineer and I wish to live and work in New Zealand. Can anybody help me? My Email address is dromero@unimoron.edu.ar. Thank you.

Good Heavens, I Am An Archive

Well, I never expected to find my 1963 article "Plastic Combs: Second Season" would be repeated. I got fired from Nicholbee Honey about two years ago and I am now chief engineer and toilet scrubber. Son Brendan now runs the firm. When I left, my six plastic frames were still in the hives somewhere, rather elderly as the lugs had mostly broken off and been replaced with wood screws and epoxy resin. The working surfaces were as good as ever. It seems only last week that I put them in but now it is their forty first season if they have not been put into the rubbish.

George Nichols

Biosecurity Act levies to fund the AFB NPMS?

DEADLINE EXTENSION - 29 May 2003

Following a discussion with Fiona Hutchinson of MAF, the deadline for submissions on the consultation of the "American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy" has been extended to the 29th May 2003. This replaces the previous date of the 15th of May. This should allow all parties sufficient time to make a submission should they wish to do so.

Submissions can be either sent to the National Beekeepers Association, Box 234, Te Kuiti or to the Minister for Biosecurity, Parliament Buildings, Wellington, as previously outlined in the consultation document sent out with your ADR.

Seizures of bee products at the border

Sarah Wedde, Technical Advisor Border Risk Management

Items are seized by the MAF Quarantine service when they do not comply with the conditions set in the Import Health Standard for that commodity. The MAF Quarantine service records all seizures by classes. The class "Bee products" encompasses all bee by-products, including, but not limited to, wax, honey, royal jelly, bee pollen, and all products containing these as an ingredient.

Overall, seizures of bee products make up between 4% and 6% of the total seizures made from air passengers and between 2% and 6% of international mail seizures. This equates to, on average, 26kg of bee products seized from mail each month, and around 160kg of bee products seized monthly at the airports.

Seizures of bee products have increased since January 2000 (Figure 1). However, passenger numbers have also increased substantially; between January 2000 and March 2003 there were 1.2 to 1.7 bee product seizures per thousand air passengers. The proportion of bee product seizures that were undeclared ranged between 18% and 36%

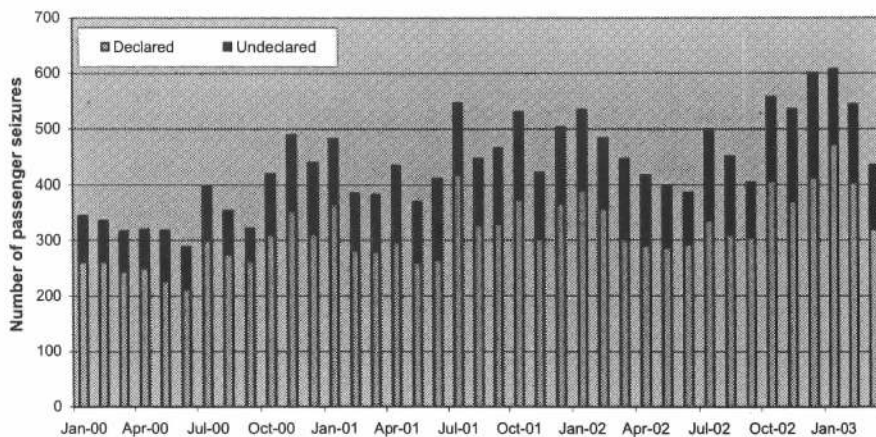


Figure 1. Monthly seizures of bee products from air passengers

Mail seizures follow a strongly seasonal pattern, with peaks during the Christmas period each year. While seizures have increased slightly since January 2000, so has the volume of mail; bee product seizures per million mail items arriving have remained relatively steady, at around 9 seizures of bee products per million mail items arriving during most of the year. At Christmas time this peaks to around 13 seizures of bee products per million mail items arriving.

Due to the nature of the declaration (written, and not in person), a higher proportion of seizures from mail are undeclared, compared to seizures from

air passengers. Since January 2000, between 28% and 88% of seizures of bee products from mail were undeclared. There does not appear to be any seasonal fluctuation in the percentage of bee product seizures that are undeclared.

Tables 1 - 4 show the number and quantity of seizures from air passengers and international mail. There were 17,007 seizures of bee products, weighing a total of 6,336 kg, from air passengers since 1 January 2000. During the same period, there were also 1,595 bee products, weighing a total of 1,035 kg, seized from international mail. This is an average of 436 seizures a month from air passengers, and 40 a month in mail.

Undeclared bee product seizures tend to be smaller than average seizures, while large seizures tend to be declared. In 2002, 28% of all bee product seizures from passengers were undeclared (Table 1), while only 25% of the total quantity seized was undeclared (Table 2). The same effect can be seen in mail seizures, to a much stronger degree; in 2001, 56% of bee product seizures in the mail were undeclared (Table 3), but only 36% of the total quantity seized was undeclared (Table 4).

Since 1 January 2000, honey has been the most frequently-seized bee product, from both air passengers (83%) and mail (63%), and has also made up the bulk, by weight, of bee products seized (Table 5). Propolis made up 6.2% seizures of bee products from air passengers. Other items made up less than 2% of bee product seizures each.

A much wider variety of bee products were seized through the mail (Figure 3). While honey was the most common item seized, comprising 63% of bee product seizures from mail, honeyed food (6.7%), medicines containing bee products (5.6%) and honey drinks (5.4%) were also frequently seized.

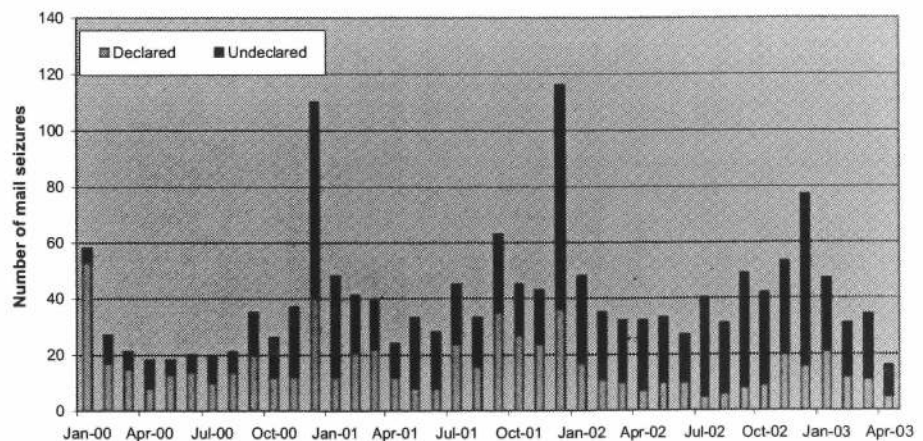


Figure 2. Monthly seizures of bee products from international mail

Table 1. Number of seizures of bee products from air passengers

Year	Declared	Undeclared	Total
2000	3280 (75%)	1081 (25%)	4361
2001	3867 (72%)	1508 (28%)	5375
2002	4050 (71%)	1634 (29%)	5684
YTD 2003	1195 (75%)	392 (25%)	1587

Table 2. Quantity, in kilograms, of seizures from passengers

Year	Declared	Undeclared	Total
2000	1324.038 (77%)	401.72 (23%)	1725.758
2001	1478.488 (75%)	491.71 (25%)	1970.198
2002	1528.714 (75%)	508.116 (25%)	2036.83
YTD 2003	475.644 (79%)	128.216 (21%)	603.86

Table 3. Number of seizures of bee products from mail

Year	Declared	Undeclared	Total
2000	228 (56%)	182 (44%)	410
2001	245 (44%)	313 (56%)	558
2002	129 (26%)	370 (74%)	499
YTD 2003	49 (38%)	79 (62%)	128

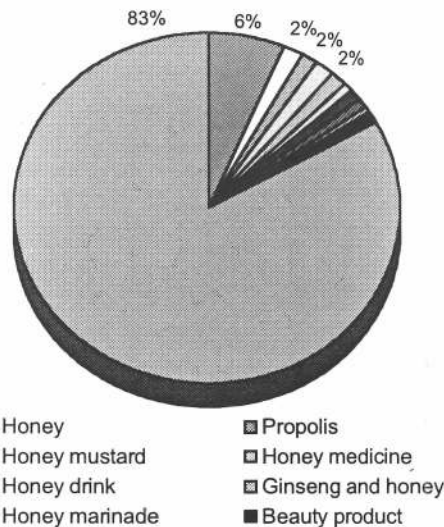
Table 4. Quantity, in kilograms, of bee product seizures from mail

Year	Declared	Undeclared	Total
2000	163.571 (67%)	78.894 (33%)	242.465
2001	228.219 (64%)	129.095 (36%)	357.314
2002	103.080 (32%)	221.389 (68%)	324.469
YTD 2003	72.283 (65%)	39.010 (35%)	111.293

Table 5. Bee product items seized, 1 January 2000 – present.

Item seized	Passenger	% total	Mail	% total
Honey	14299	83.2%	1010	63.3%
Propolis	1067	6.2%	30	1.9%
Bee pollen	275	1.6%	42	2.6%
Honeyed food	275	1.6%	107	6.7%
Honey mustard	274	1.6%	43	2.7%
Honey medicine	227	1.3%	34	2.1%
Bee product medicines	173	1.0%	89	5.6%
Cough medicine	155	0.9%	19	1.2%
Honey drink	139	0.8%	86	5.4%
Ginseng and honey	96	0.6%	16	1.0%
Royal jelly	69	0.4%	25	1.6%
Indedible bee products	54	0.3%	21	1.3%
Honey marinade	39	0.2%	16	1.0%
Beauty product	37	0.2%	35	2.2%
Honey sauce	12	0.1%	20	1.3%
Unknown	0	0.0%	2	0.1%
Total	17191		1595	

Air Passengers



Mail

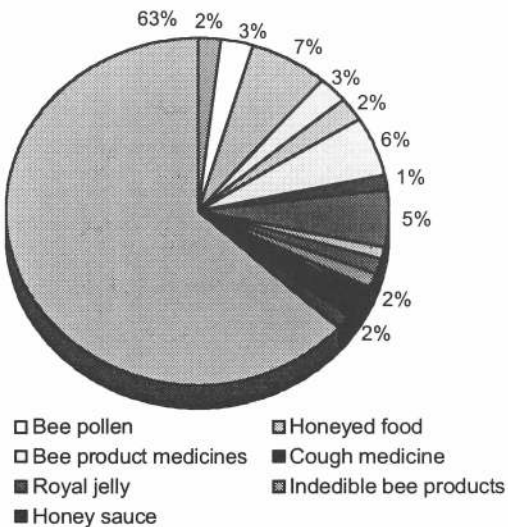


Figure 3. Bee product items seized, 1 January 2000 – present.

NELSON CONFERENCE 2003

At Rutherford Hotel – Nelson Reservations: 0800 437 227

Events of Conference

Monday 21 July

Specialty Group Meetings

- Pollination Group
- Queen Producers Assn.
- Active Manuka Honey
- Honey Packers Assn.

Social Get together – Mix and Mingle

Tuesday 22 July

Industry Seminars and Workshops including

- Varroa
- Small Hive Beetle
- NZ Antioxidant Honey's

Social get together – A word from our sponsors

Wednesday 23 July

Industry Seminars and Workshops

Continued from previous day

Afternoon Social outing

Conference dinner

Thursday 24 July

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BK149

Branch and Club Contacts

NORTH CANTERBURY BEEKEEPING CLUB
Meets the second Monday of April, June, August and October
Contact: Mrs Hobson Phone: (03) 312-7587

AUCKLAND BEEKEEPERS CLUB INC
Meets 1st Saturday monthly at Unitec, Pt Chevalier, Auckland.
President: Ian Anderson
Phone: 09 480 8327
PO Box 214, Waimauku

AUCKLAND BRANCH - NBA
Held: 24 Andromeda Cres, East Tamaki

CANTERBURY BRANCH
Meets the last Tuesday of every month, February to October
Contact: Roger Bray Phone: (03) 308-4964

SOUTH CANTERBURY BRANCH
Peter Lyttle Phone: (03)693-9189

CHRISTCHURCH HOBBYIST CLUB
Meets on the first Saturday of 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: Jeff Robinson, 64 Cobra Street Christchurch 3.
Phone: (03) 322-5392

TARANAKI AMATEUR BEEKEEPING CLUB
Phone: Stephen Black (06) 752-6860
685 Uruti Road RD 48, Urenui

HAWKES BAY BRANCH
meets on the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm,
Arataki cottage, Havelock North
Phone: Ron (06) 844-9493

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

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,
Margaret, Phone: (03) 415-7256
Email: flour-mill@xtra.co.nz

WAIRARAPA HOBBYIST BEEKEEPERS CLUB
Meet 3rd Sunday each month (except January)
at Norfolk Road, Masterton at 1.30 pm.
Phone Convenor: Arnold Esler (06) 379-8648

SOUTHLAND BRANCH - NBA
Phone/Fax: Don Steadman (03) 246-9777

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

MANAWATU BEEKEEPERS CLUB
Meets every 4th Thursday in the month at Newbury Hall,
SH3, Palmerston North
Contact: Joan Leckie, Makahika Road, RD 1, Levin
Phone: (06) 368-1277

POVERTY BAY BRANCH - NBA
Phone: Barry (06) 867-4591

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

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

FRANKLIN BEEKEEPERS CLUB
Meets second Sunday of each month at 10.00 am for
a cuppa and discussion. 10.30am open hives.
Secretary - Peter Biland
Phone: (09) 294-8365
President - Stuart Ward
Phone: (09) 238-1441

Is your group or Branch missing from here?
Please contact the Secretary

Total Frames

The ready to use wooden bee frame with
your choice of six different weights of pure
beeswax comb foundation.

Comb Foundation

Made from pure beeswax in six different
weights, including extra strength "Manuka
Special".

Beeswax Wanted

We are always interested in buying beeswax
for export.

Alliance Woodware

Official distributor of Alliance Quality
Beekeepers Woodware.

Paraffin Wax

Super Good Deal !!!
High quality paraffin wax packed in 50kg
bags. Ideal for preserving all types of
beekeeping woodware.
\$2.25 per kg plus G.S.T.

INFO-B

Do you want to receive information on special
offers, new products and developments, the
World beeswax market and other useful
information? Available by email or post at no
cost. Contact us with your details.

For full details and prices, contact.....

N Z Beeswax Ltd

Postal Address:
Private Bag
GERALDINE 8751

Factory Address:
44 Gladstone St South
Orari
South Canterbury

Phone: 03 693 9189
Fax: 03 693 9780
Email: beeswax@xtra.co.nz
Web: www.beeswax.co.nz

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