
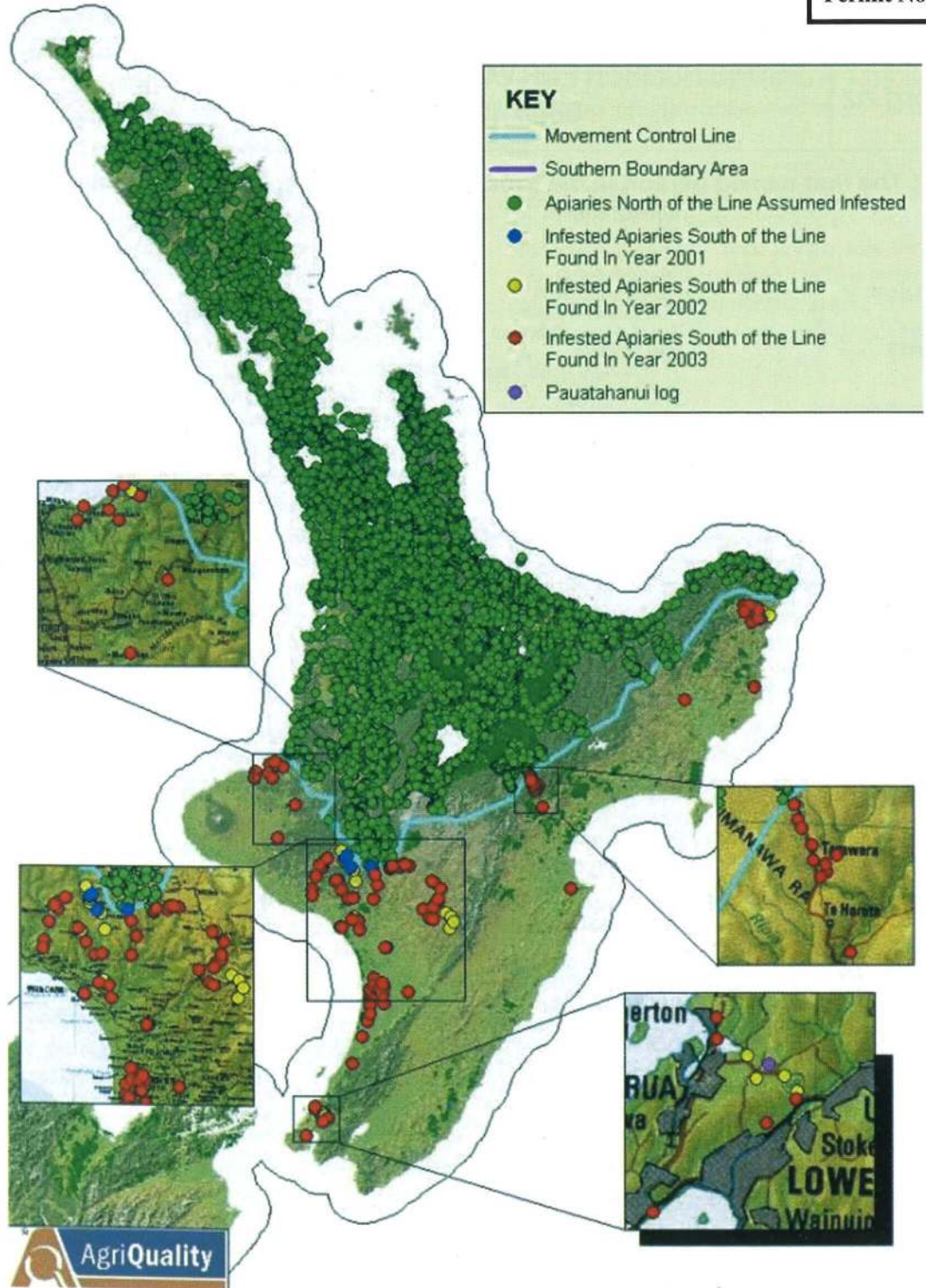




Permit Post 
Wellington, N.Z.
Permit No. 154506



NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF NZ (Inc.) EXECUTIVE

Acting President: Jane Lorimer

Hillcrest Apiaries,
"Kahurangi-o-Papa"
RD 3, Hamilton 2021
Phone: (07) 856-9625 Fax: (07) 856-9241
Mobile (1st) : 0274 969 889
Mobile (2nd): 025 294-6559
Email: hunnybee@wave.co.nz

Executive: Philip Cropp

Nelson Apiaries, Motupiko,
RD 2, Nelson
Phone: (03) 522-4130 (Wk) 03 522 4413
Fax (03) 522-4513
Mobile: 0274 829 143
Email: nectar@ts.co.nz

Executive: Gerard Martin

21 Edgewater Grove
Whakatane
Ph/Fax: (07) 307-8111
Email: busy-bee@xtra.co.nz

Executive: Bob Blair

157 Carlisle Rd, Browns Bay
Auckland 1310
Ph/Fax: (09) 479-4354

Executive: Roger Bray

Braesby Farm, RD1
Ashburton
Ph/Fax: (03) 308-4964

Executive: Don Stedman

Catlins Apiaries, Pine Bush,
RD1,
Wyndham
Ph/Fax: (03) 246-9777
Email: dstedman@xtra.co.nz

Executive Secretary: Pauline Bassett

National Beekeepers
Box 234, Te Kuiti
Ph/Fax: (07) 878-7193
Email: waihon@actrix.co.nz

Hon. Librarian: Chris Taiaroa

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



| | | |
|--|--|--|
| www.nba.org.nz | PHONE NUMBER FOR VARROA HEADQUARTERS 0800 424 490 | Subscriptions — 11 Issues — NZ \$55.00 GST inc Overseas Airmail US \$55.00 |
|--|--|--|

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

FAR NORTH

Bob Banks
RD 2, Kaitaia 0500
Tel: (09) 408-5543
Email: bob.banks@xtra.co.nz

Bruce Stevenson

Kiwi Bee Distributors
Kemp Rd, Kerikeri 0470
Tel: (09) 407-7190
Fax: (09) 407-7194
Email: bucestevenson@xtra.co.nz

NORTHLAND

Simon Peacey
76 Malone Rd, RD 9
Whangarei 0121
Tel/Fax: (09) 434-6344
Mobile: (025) 270-8922
Email: peacey@paradise.net.nz

Terry Gavin

PDC, Titoki 0250
Tel: (09) 433-1891
Fax (09) 433-1895
Mobile: 021 257 6457
Email: terry.gavin@xtra.co.nz

AUCKLAND

Graham Cammell
133 Walmsley Rd
Mangere
Auckland 1701
Tel: (09) 275-6457
Fax: (09) 275-9097

Chas Reade

PO Box 74 078
Market Rd
Auckland 1130
Tel: Ph (09) 625 5723
Fax: (09) 634 4376

WAIKATO

Lewis Olsen
Ohaupo Apiaries
Great South Road, RD 3, Ohaupo 2452
Tel: (07) 823-6706
Email: lewis.olsen@clear.net.nz

Annette Berry

Arataki Honey, RD 5, Rotorua 3221
Tel: (07) 366-6111
Fax: (07) 366-6999
Email: annette@arataki-honey-rotorua.co.nz

BAY OF PLENTY

Bryce Hooten
832 Old Te Aroha Rd
RD 1, Matamata 2271
Tel: (07) 888 6003
Fax: (07) 888 6004
Email golden.flow@xtra.co.nz

Bruce Stanley

196 Fosters Rd, RD1
Whakatane 3080
Tel/Fax: (07) 312 9028
Email honeybee@clear.net.nz

HAWKE'S BAY

John Berry
46 Arataki Rd,
Havelock North
Ph. (06) 877-6205
Fax: (06) 877-4200
E-mail: kberry@ihug.co.nz

Ron Morison
31 Puketapu Road, Taradale, 4001,
Hawkes Bay
Tel/Fax: (06) 844-9493
Email: rmorison@clear.net.nz

POVERTY BAY

Peter Burt
27 Murphy Road, Wainui, Gisborne 3801
Tel: (06) 868-4771
Email: pwburt@clear.net.nz

Barry Foster
695 Aberdeen Road, Gisborne 3801
Tel: (06) 867-4591 Fax: (06) 867 4508
Email: bjfoster@xtra.co.nz

SOUTHERN NORTH ISLAND

Allan Richards
P.O. Box 287, Marton 5460
Tel: (06) 327-5039
Fax: (06) 327-5078
Email: allan.serena@xtra.co.nz

Frank Lindsay
26 Cunliffe Street, Johnsonville,
Wellington 6004.
Tel/Fax: (04) 478-3367
Email: lindsays.apiaries@xtra.co.nz

SOUTH ISLAND

NELSON

Paul Davey
Orinoco, RD1
Motueka 7161
Tel/Fax: (03) 526-8820
Email: orinoco@tasman.net

Michael Wraight
15 Titoki Place, Motueka 7161
Tel/Fax: (03) 528-6010
Email: wraight@xtra.co.nz

MARLBOROUGH

Will Trollope
RD 3, Blenheim 7321
Tel: (03) 570-5633

Tony Mulligan
Grazengrove
Hammericks Rd
RD 2, Blenheim 7321
Tel: (03) 578-2317

WEST COAST

Lindsay Feary
3 Mawhera Street
Dobson 7852,
Tel/Fax: (03) 762-5691
Email: sceniclandapiaries@maxnet.co.nz

Gary Glasson

Glasson's Lane
Blackball, Westland 7850
Tel/Fax: (03) 732-4856

CANTERBURY

Roger Bray
Braesby Farm
RD1
Ashburton
Tel/Fax: (03) 308 4964

Paul West (Pav)
Box 57, Ahaura
Mobile: 025 748 466
Email: pav@badassbees.com

SOUTH CANTERBURY

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

Peter Smyth
Templer Street, RD 22, Geraldine 8751
Tel: (03) 693-9889

OTAGO

Blair Dale
PO Box 23, Middlemarch 9056, Otago
Work Tel/Fax: (03) 464-3796
Home Tel/Fax: (03) 464-3122
Email: blair.dale@clear.net.nz

Peter Sales
"Te Ora", RD1, Port Chalmers
Dunedin 9030
Tel: (03) 472-7220
Fax: (03) 472-7221
Email: foxglove@paradise.net.nz

NORTH OTAGO

Graeme McCallum
McCallum Apiaries,
Frews Road, 7 ORD, Oamaru 8921
Phone: (03) 439-5676

Mrs Patsy Rawson

2 Glayva Crescent
Oamaru
Tel/Fax: (03) 437 1995

SOUTHLAND

Finlay Abernethy
5 Calder Street, Owaka
Tel/Fax: (03) 415-8235
Email: finlay@ihug.co.nz

Don Stedman, Catlins Apiaries
Pine Bush RD1, Wyndham 9758
Tel/Fax: (03) 246-9777

NZ Beekeeper Printed & Published by:

Crown Kerr Printing Ltd

48 Stafford Street, P.O. Box 5002, Dunedin.

Advertising: Allan Middlemiss: Telephone: 03-477 8109
Fax: 03-479 0753
Email: ckp@xtra.co.nz

Presidents Report

At the time of writing this (26th May), I am disappointed that only a few members of the Association have given executive feedback on issues that have been raised through the magazine and other media.

In fact at times I wonder if you as members really care what is achieved on your behalf – as long as the Executive few do their bit without making mistakes then “she’ll be right”.

I met with our Secretary on Sunday and among a number of things that were discussed, I asked her if she had received any nomination forms for the rotating Executive positions – NONE!!! Little can be achieved for the Industry if you as members do not motivate yourselves.

If you want representation in your Industry it must come from you the members – so get out there and be prepared to make a commitment to help make things happen. We need a lot of people willing to contribute time to the committees and to the running of Branches. As the saying goes – many hands make light work.

Web Page:

One of our achievements has been to get a contract signed for the re-vamping of the web site: nba.org.nz. This web site now has a member’s only section on it that the Executive Secretary and other delegated persons can post material to, so that only our members see it. This means that our Secretary is involved in approving access for members. What has been done so far I think is really great, and I hope that there is still more to come. If all members, who have access to computers, join this, it will make communication much easier, and probably a great deal cheaper. To those who have contributed to this re-vamp – I sincerely thank you for your efforts.

Varroa:

The latest surveillance round for Varroa is nearing completion and it will not be much of a surprise to see how much Varroa has spread through the Manawatu region, and across the Gisborne area. The Varroa Planning group met for discussion on the line, and about the setting up of a Varroa PMS for the South Island. From some of the feedback I have received from this meeting it sounds as though the regional councils have agreed in principal that they could raise 15% of the money required for the PMS via a general rating – so that everyone will contribute. But the big questions are whether they will agree to carry this out – only time will tell.

Reply from the Minister – re Request for interim funding for the AFB PMS:

We received a letter from the Minister on the 13th May approving some funding to cover the mail out of the Annual disease returns, and also the updating of the register. Unfortunately they did not state the amount to be given. I have been in email contact with various people to try to clarify the situation.

Risk Management Programme:

In discussion with Glen Neal, who now is part of the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA), I asked whether there had been any developments or approval of our code of Practice. (The NBA had developed a draft based on the

guidelines given last year). He informed me that NZFSA has now got together and looked at how best to apply risk management across all the sectors it now regulates. He advised me that we now come under a Food Control Plan type regime – so our code could now be 10 pages long and incorporate both beekeepers and packers alike. I have asked him to do an article for the journal to update members with more detail than I have outlined here.

Export Certification:

I have recently had contact with the NZFSA over export certificates. In theory, all beekeepers and packers who export product will have also received a letter from Steve Ainsworth who is the Programme Manager (market access) in the New Zealand Food Safety Authority. “From 1 July government officers must sign export certificates. Agriquality are not strictly government officers so they will forward applications onto MAF offices in either Auckland, Hastings, Christchurch or Dunedin for signing. Exporters will be inconvenienced slightly for the first lot of certificates but after that things should travel smoothly. Time delays will be minimised and costs will remain static”. So to those who are exporting, be warned that you will need greater lead in time to get your export certificates completed. I will be interested to hear from you if you are having trouble getting certificates, or if the costs to you are greater than previously. I sincerely hope that this will not be the case.

Toxic Honey:

Earlier this year an audit was conducted on the compliance use of the Harvest Declaration form. For those who are exporting product it is very important that you get your suppliers to fill in and sign one of these. Part of the form relates to extraction of honey in Tutu honey areas. In the past beekeepers have had to ask for permits to keep bees in these areas, and the honey has had to be removed from the hives by certain dates. Now it is up to the beekeeper to identify if there is a high level of Passion Vine hopper feeding on the Tutu plant and whether or not the bees are foraging on the honeydew produced. The result of the audit (which is still in draft form currently) indicates there are problems that need to be rectified.

Conference:

I look forward to seeing a good number of beekeepers at Nelson conference and I encourage you to participate in the activities, seminars, workshops and the social events, which are an integral part of our beekeeping community.

- Jane Lorimer, Acting President

Deadline for publication:

July Edition 16 June 2003

August Edition 16 July 2003

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

Fiona O’Brien

364 Wharepungua Road, RD 3, Te Awamutu

Phone 07 871 1500 Fax 07 871 1800

beeline-apiaries@xtra.co.nz

Cover Photo: Latest varroa infestation information from AgriQuality.

Congratulations

Congratulations Sir Edmond Hillary on all your life's achievement. The 50th anniversary of conquering Mount Everest 29 May 1953, South Pole adventures a few years later and all your work for the Sherpa People of Nepal.



You are the most famous beekeeper in the world and even though you haven't looked in a hive since 1959, the New Zealand Beekeeping Industry still calls you one of its own.

We well remember your address at the "Beekeeper of the Year" dinner Tauranga 1994 where you gave us a humorous account on your life as a beekeeper.

Based in Tuakau 40 miles south of Auckland, Sir Ed's father, PA Hillary expanded into beekeeping after resigning as editor of the local newspaper eventually running 1600 hives with Ed and his brother Rex working the bees during school holidays.

During those days the boys were never paid for their work (not even pocket money) but would be given a shilling to go to the pictures in Auckland as a special treat. He well remembers the time when he and Rex were working during the school holidays (aged about 14 or 15) they struck a deal with their father. (It must have been a good honey crop that year). They would bring in 100 supers of honey, work all night extracting it so they could take the whole of the next day off to go to the pictures in Auckland. They completed the task and were driven into town by their father in his Model T Ford and went to three films one after the other. One of the best experiences in his whole life! Next day being Christmas Day they were back on the job again. He remembers that the life was rigorous but he never felt badly done by – although under paid.

His father was very energetic and would work all day returning home after dark most nights. Sir Ed had a special job commissioned by his mother. Often on the way home, his father being tired would fall asleep at the wheel and whenever the truck veered towards the ditch, it was his job to jab his father in the ribs to wake him up.

Rex and Ed were always very competitive. They would race each other carrying 80lb honey supers from the hive to the truck. It was Ed's job to uncap and Rex's job to run the 54 frame radial extractor. They could extract 22 boxes an hour in those days.

The Hillary's have served the Beekeeping Industry well. His father was editor of the New Zealand HoneyBee, Vol. 1 No: 1 August 20 1937 (the forerunner to the New Zealand Beekeeper). Subscription was 3/6 per annum and 3000 copies of the first issue were posted out free to all beekeepers. According to Sir Ed, he also served as Secretary, and was Vice President (1929), Chairman of the advisory research (1937) and went on to become president of the NBA.

Sir Ed mentioned that when things were tough, his mother (who didn't like bees) produced queen bees for a number of years. 30 plus years ago, old timers would be still talking about those "yellow Hillary queens" with admiration.

- Frank Lindsay (snippets from the after-dinner speech, and various magazines.

ERMA – Decision on Californian Thistle

The Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) have "Approved with Controls", enabling Landcare Research, to use the Organism: *Apion onopordi*. This root and stem boring weevil may be considered for eventual release as a bio-control agent for the problem pastoral and environmental weed Californian thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) found throughout New Zealand. This decision was made on 22 April 2003.

BULK HONEY WANTED

- Clover
- Clover Blend
- Bush Blend
- Manuka

And all other honey types

Contact: Des Hansen
Orini Honey Packers Ltd
PO Box 12296
HAMILTON

Phone (07) 824 4700 **AH** (07) 858 3303
Fax (07) 824 4754 **Mobile** 025 932 615
Email des.wendy@xtra.co.nz

BK 69

National Beekeepers Assn Inc Project Expanding options for New Zealand Beekeepers

CITY DATES VENUES

Hastings Thursday 12 June Havelock North Community Centre

Gisborne Friday 13 June Gisborne Hotel

Timaru Thursday 26 June Benvenue Hotel

Whangarei Thursday 10 July Cheviot Park Motor Lodge

Hamilton Friday 11 July Scenic Circle Hotel - Alcamo

Wanganui Monday 28 July Avenue Hotel & Conference Centre

Tauranga Friday 8 August (TBC) Harbour City Motor Inn
Nelson Date to be confirmed

Marlborough during the week of 16-22 Aug to be confirmed

ENROLMENT

There is no cost to attend. For further information contact Jon Manhire ph 03 365 6806 or Polly Foster, NZIM ph (03) 374 8530.

The National Beekeepers Association would like to thank MAF for sponsoring the 4 colour cover on the June issue of the NZ Beekeeper.

ATTENTION ORGANIC BEEKEEPERS

Organic Sugar available at competitive rates

Contact Peter Alexander

Chantal Organic Wholesalers Ltd

Northe Street, Napier, New Zealand

Ph + 64 6 835 7898 Fax + 64 6 835 8784

Email chantals@xtra.co.nz

BK139

UK is having an early honey season.

A phone call this week, with a beekeeper close to the Scottish Border, has highlighted that they are three weeks ahead of normal. They started extracting the first of this seasons honey on the 8 May. Honey stocks are short and it was being sold as soon as it was packed and out the door.

DRIWRAP®

A water-based product which forms a semi-porous protective membrane on the surface of wood and acts like a breathable raincoat. Suitable for boxes, weatherboard walls, decks, beams and posts.

Distributors:-

PROCESSING AND JOINERY AGENCIES LTD

Ph: 06 8355 353

Fax: 06 8355 323

Mob: 025 246 3950

Email: rktaylor@xtra.co.nz

BK144

Buzzing News! Buzzing News!



RAY DUNCAN

Mob: (025) 422 056

Phone: (09) 295-0510

Fax: (09) 298-1048

**Full Depth and 3/4
One piece Plastic Frame and Foundation**

"I have been listening to your suggestions and made changes to improve the strength and sizing."

EZI-FIT Plastic Foundation Insert

"EZI-FIT has been designed to suit your wooden frames. Now available NZ MADE."

Beetek Ltd

[an associate of Interworld Plastics [NZ] Ltd]

BK18

PROFILE – Philip Cropp

My great grandmother had no idea when she acquired a few bee swarms that she was beginning a family vocation that has so far spanned 3 generations. That was back in the 1800's when Nelson was a young "colony". Today her Great grandson has followed his father and grandfather into the industry. Certainly beekeeping is in the blood.

I am married to Evelyn and we have four children. Family and reading are two interests that I have, as well as being Managing Director of Nelson Apiaries Limited.

Nearly 30 years ago, Evelyn and I formed Nelson Apiaries Ltd, situated in the Motupiko Valley near Nelson. Today it is a multi faceted business centered around 2000 beehives. Nearly 5 years ago I stumbled on a new product, which has stimulated interest in health and medical experts both here and overseas. Nectar Ease, contains Manuka Honey and Bee Venom, and we have expanded the range to include other bee venom products. This has meant a huge change in my working life, meaning more time managing and marketing and less time in the field with the bees.

I have been on the National Beekeepers - Executive for 5 years, where I have assisted with the marketing portfolio. A lot of my time this year is being put into the annual NBA conference, which is being held locally in Nelson. I am looking forward to the diverse range of overseas speakers, personally attending workshops, and socialising with others in the Beekeeping field.

Secretarial Snippets

As I write this, time is running out for the receipt of nominations for Executive positions. Nomination forms went out 2 weeks ago. I have received 3 nominations in the past few hours.

There has been quite a bit of activity with the writing of submissions on the AFB Pest Management funding. I have received 23 submissions, some have gone direct to the Minister and I understand Agri-Qual have been receiving some also. They will all ultimately go to the Minister. Meantime I hope that the ADR's have poured in to AgriQual – certainly I have received a lot of queries in the past week, which indicate that action is being taken.

Elsewhere in this issue eagle-eyed readers will note an advertisement for the secretary's position. I have (with mixed feelings) decided to call it a day after the Conference and AGM in July. My plans for the next year include travel away from NZ, most likely at this time of the year when things are the busiest in terms of mail-outs, submissions and the build-up to conference. I feel it would be most unfair to the Executive and the Industry if I was not available at that crucial time. Even now I am pushed to find the hours needed. My estimation is that the position should involve about 15 hours a week. It is a challenging role, but also very interesting and with excellent support from the Executive, the various committees, the Government and other agencies, and you the beekeepers. I am sure there is someone out there with a home office and knowledge of the industry that would be well able to manage the secretarial duties required. I would be very happy to talk to anyone who could be interested.

- Pauline Bassett

Situation Vacant

Applications are invited for the part time position of
Executive Secretary

National Beekeepers Association of NZ (Inc).

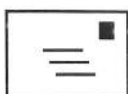
- Approximately 15 hrs/wk
- Start time negotiable from August 2003.
- This position would suit a confident, reliable, organised person with good people/communication skills. The person should have good secretarial and computer skills and ideally would work from a home office.
- A knowledge of the NZ beekeeping industry is desirable.
- Some evening minute taking is required.

For an information pack contact:

Executive Secretary
NBA
P O Box 234
Te Kuiti
Email: waihon@actrix.co.nz

Applications close 18 July 2003.

Letters to The Editor



Dear Beekeepers

I've been a bit tardy over the last few months and haven't been showing any interest in what's being published in our mag. - so I thought I'd do a catch up yesterday.

I started at April and found the "Profile" submitted by our acting President very interesting. There was a section that read like Jane was using her position to tout for votes: I look forward to the challenge of leading our Industry into the future... Sort of pre-empts the process in my opinion so I checked back through the other mag's. to see other "Profiles". I decided that the "Profile" section is intended as a sort of update to keep we members informed as to who's running the show - quite right too. But if that's the case it makes Jane's profile even more opportunistic - nominations had not even opened for Executive, and certainly not for President, and she was signalling her intentions.

I don't know whether the offending paragraph was submitted in ignorance or intention but either way it's clumsy and I think it is using her position as acting President to further her ambition in the organisation. I would like to see an apology.

- Stephen Lee

Publications committee invited the Acting President – Mrs Jane Lorimer to comment

The comment that I made with regard to "looking forward to leading the industry into the future" was made in respect to the fact that I have been thrust into the position of Acting President. This was due to the previous President, Mr Don Bell's, resignation from the NBA. This has been a challenging period of which I have and will continue to do my best for NBA members. My role has been as a caretaker one, with a responsibility to all NBA members to ensure the continuation of the NBA until such time as the AGM. The profiles of all Executive members are simply to inform members of the current Executive.

- Jane Lorimer

Dear Beekeepers

Re: John Rawcliffe's article in the latest "Beekeeper" magazine. I am interested to know how many producers of active manuka honey already have in place batch control to allow tracing of batches to when and where they were harvested and extracted.

Any information given to me on this subject will be treated as confidential, but I will give the name of your company given to buyers seeking such honey if you let me know specifically that you want that.

Regards,

Peter Molan (Dr. P.C. Molan)
Professor of Biological Sciences
Director, Honey Research Unit
Department of Biological Sciences, University of Waikato
Private Bag 3105
Hamilton, New Zealand
Telephone +64 7 838 4325
Fax +64 7 838 4324

New Zealand Beekeepers June 2003



On display at conference

**BOUTELJE
SEMI - AUTOMATIC
HONEY LOOSENER**

**Also on display at conference
New Rotary honey strainer**

For your complete honey house requirements
call Peter Boutelje
Tel 09 817 3195
email peterb@ak.planet.gen.nz

for:

- Honey extractors
- Heat exchangers
- Wax/honey centrifuges
- Honey packing machines etc.

BK155


*QUEEN CELLS *CELL INCUBATORS
*QUEEN BEES *QUANTITY DISCOUNTS
*FREE BROCHURE

***John & Judy Dobson
RD1. Hastings. N.Z.**


Ph: (06) 870 7070 Fax: (06) 870 7077
Mobile: 025 494 396 Email: beeline@xtra.co.nz
web address: www.carricell.com

**Queens available for delivery throughout
the North Island**

BK2



TANALISED®




ECOWOOD™
GOOD FOR GENERATIONS TO COME


Why use anything else...

Non toxic wood treatment for Hives

- Backed with performance guarantees
- Approved under industry codes and standards
- Used in over 20 countries throughout Europe, North America, Australasia and Africa



Bay Treatment offering the largest range of timber treatments in New Zealand...



BAY TREATMENT LTD

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION regarding your nearest stockist of Tanalised® Ecowood™
Call 0800 326 873

From the colonies



Gisborne Branch

Varroa is the thing on everyone's minds here, with several beekeepers having their first taste of treating hives for the mites, and also the essential monitoring to see which yards need treating. The news is not all bad, a good season and good prices saw one Gisborne beekeeper off to Fiji for a well-earned holiday last month. For most of us it is "noses to the grindstone" as we prepare for the changes in equipment and facilities that will be necessary for successful beekeeping in the coming season and beyond.

We are looking forward to the Nelson Conference. Being isolated, we are sometimes late to learn of new developments in the industry, but we try to keep ourselves as well informed as possible. One thing that Gisborne beekeepers have no experience with, is the use of screens to cover loads of hives while moving. The technology, the advantages and disadvantages etc. If it is not too late to include something on this topic at one of the Conference workshops or the Seminar we would request that this subject be included if at all possible. Best of all, we look forward to meeting again with the special friends we have made over the years as we have attended the annual conferences.

- Peter Burt

Southern North Island Branch

Beekeepers have been out checking hives for Varroa as part of the lower North Island surveillance exercise. This programme was targeted at risk areas and designed to identify significant clusters of Varroa, not dispersed low level infestations.

Finds are now showing up in apiaries adjacent to beekeepers who have moved hives up to the line for Manuka production and then back south to home apiaries for spring management. Mites have also spread at least 6 km from known hotspots unassisted which means that they will be in hives another 5 km away but as yet undetectable.

This means that we can now consider most of the western lower North Island has Varroa somewhere in the area. Mites are generally still at low levels and at this stage won't need treatment until infestation levels reach 1000 mites per hive.

All beekeepers should now start checking their own hives for Varroa as the surveillance exercise was not designed to provide "in fill" testing.

The movement control line was successful in slowing the spread to the south and during this time we have learnt valuable lessons that could assist beekeepers in the South Island to detect and perhaps eradicate if it is detected early enough. These are my recommendation from some of these lessons we have learnt:

1. No hive movements around ports of entry. Beekeepers are the main spreaders of mites and because mites can't be detected in a hives until numbers increase, moving hives away from possible contamination points only helps spread the mite. We had hives from the north being placed in apiaries just across the valley from southern beekeepers' apiaries.

2. Beekeepers should think about their neighbouring beekeepers. Make honey supers as bee free as possible and cover all loads so passenger bees are not dropped off on the way home. Don't throw the odd bee that gets in the cab out the window. Get rid of hitch hiking bees off vehicle.
3. Treat all swarms collected from now on as "probably infested" and treat then for the first week with strips.
4. Include drone congregation areas and queen rearing yards in surveys. The main vectors for natural spread are drones. They can fly for miles to a queenless hives and this I believe is why we see one hive with a high infestation while the rest of the apiary has a low infestation rate.
5. If you really want to slow down the spread of mites, total co-operation amongst all beekeepers is essential. This could mean that some beekeepers change their management practices so hives are left permanently in high production areas when they are near to infested areas. Therefore costs would be increased in the form of extra travelling and the provision of extra sugar and pollen substitute and the extra time it take to make your vehicle safe. This probably won't happen as all beekeepers generally look to their bottom line first.
6. Put up more publicity posters around the South Island departure points.
7. Put a few hives in potential point of entry on to mesh floorboards and monitor the floor debris on a regular basis.

Frank Lindsay (Most of my hives either have mites or are now close to infested sites).

Taranaki Beekeeping Club.

At the recent AGM of the club, George Jonson was awarded Life Membership in recognition of his 14 years of service to the club. George took over the secretary's position when the club was threatened with going into recess because no one was willing to take positions of responsibility. George has now resigned as Secretary to pursue a semi-commercial interest, leaving 7 newly elected members to pick up the role he previously occupied.

The club deviated from its usual AGM procedure of having a guest speaker and members gave very interesting presentations on current issues.

Keith Watson (Taranaki Varroa Surveillance Committee Chairman) gave an update on the work of the committee including presentations to M.P.s; N.P.D.C. and the Taranaki Regional Council. The committee has been very active in working with the club in presenting practical field day demonstrations on monitoring and treating varroa.

George Jonson Gave an outline of the politics of beekeeping explaining the division that has occurred and the differences between the present N.B.A. and NZBIC. He outlined what each group were offering to amateur beekeepers and what they planned to do in the future.

Ray Scott: Gave a most interesting insight into commercial changes over the years. Ray is the Ecroyds agent and members were fascinated to learn of the fads and the services that have dominated the industry. With fewer beekeepers in Taranaki and the threat of varroa, beekeepers need to be aware of what was available locally and support the services they enjoyed.

Brian Garrett: Gave an illustrated address on his experience with extra mural study through the Telford Rural Polytechnic. He was enthusiastic about the content of what he was offered and the tremendous amount that he had learnt over the two years.

Stephen Black: Expressed his trials and tribulations of going from zero to over 200 hives in eighteen months. The experience has been challenging but his emphasis is on having fun rather than making a commercial success of the venture. He agreed he had much to learn but felt that he had a lot of accumulated knowledge simply by the number of hives he managed.

Graham Cook: Shared with members his experiences with using both plastic and wooden frames and explained that the jury was still out on whether plastic gave an absolute advantage over wooden. Good waxing of the foundation was essential on plastic.

George Jonson: The legalities of local by-laws was explained as were the changes to requirements to label and extract honey in authorised places were outlined.

- George Jonson

Hawkes Bay Branch

Our latest report advises that Varroa infestation has reached the Mohaka River on the Napier-Taupo road. This indicates that the rest of us in the Bay will have to be diligently checking our hives so we must be thankful for all the work others have done to help us prepare for the invasion.

With mainly fine warm weather recently, most hives have been given their winter syrup so that people like President John can go fishing. We look forward to the story of the big one that got away.

Following our June meeting, is the Sustainable Farming Fund workshop to teach us how to get better returns from beekeeping. Thursday 12 June at the Havelock North Community Centre with an early start to learning how to make smarter business decisions.

Remember that if you haven't posted your ADR by 1 June you may be causing trouble to others as well as yourself.

May the winter be kind and the spring treat you all well.

- Ron Morison.

Bay of Plenty Branch

The B.O.P. Branch of the NBA has had falling meeting support. At its AGM last month (April) President Bryce saw this situation as requiring urgent consideration, where it was resolved to not hold the usual May Branch meeting in favour of an open forum discussion. All BOP beekeepers were given clear invitation to attend a pivotal "BOP Beekeepers Administrative Structure" meeting.

Notes from that special non-branch meeting held on 20.05.2003.

NBA Branch President Bryce Hooten welcomed 21 attendees to this special meeting, (4 apologies)

The purpose of the meeting was to identify the administrative needs and recommend a structure required by the Bay of Plenty Beekeepers.

Greg Stinchbury was introduced as the facilitator. Greg has a Bank Management background; he has just bought in to a commercial beekeeping operation. Greg gave the following

discussion topics for the 5 Buzz Groups and their leaders to work on

1. What is a relevant administrative structure for the BOP Beekeepers
2. How would we deliver such an administrative process

After finishing the near one-hour working session, the five team leaders presented their group results. Greg suggested in the final summing up that it was appropriate that we take this information back to the June NBA meeting for implementation. A big thankyou to Greg for his very successful facilitating.

Subsequent to the above meeting, some very positive ideas have come forward for running our NBA branch meetings.

The following are the questions and collective responses, the results with (*) are where a significant number of responses were similar.

Do we want NBA alignment?

We should align ourselves with and support the new NBA structure in principal (*). (This was a unanimous conclusion as I determined by either each the groups acceptance or their direct positive response – Sec - Bruce) The NBA structure gives the base for further structural change (*), We are pleased with the way the new NBA is talking about change, We should look at Eastern/Western BOP grouping, If we wanted to be an Independent BOP Group, how would we be represented nationally? Don't need to align with Federated Farmers.

National Executive:

The remit process should be the focus for structural change. We should groom a BOP representative for Executive (*). Having time for an Executive role appears to be the problem, Not necessary to have a full time beekeeper. We should see our Branch(s) as an important communicator to National Executive. (National Executive is indeed encouraging us to assist in the planning and development of their new structure).

How should the BOP Branch meeting be run?

Have effective time use of the evening by good agenda and limits on speaking time (*). Have practical input to attract attendance (*), Have a definitive mix of practical and administration at each meeting. Allow for constructive input from all attending. Make better use of our committee. Is Tuesday the best evening. Heavy politics leads to non-attendance. Must have good numbers attending for continued success. Stay current April to December meetings. A suggestion for monthly meeting structure, 7pm definite start of Business, 7.30pm practical beekeeping 8.15pm business continues 9pm committee meeting, (Later suggested more practical to have committee meeting earlier over a meal).

Practical content at meetings:

There should be deliberate planning for a notification of a good guest speaker or discussion on a topical beekeeping matter at each meeting (*). Identify topics as draw cards for meeting and field-days.

Hobbyist Interests:

It was noted that there has always been a definite commercial/semi-commercial versus hobbyists interest attendance, it was determined that these are two distinctive interest roles. It was suggested that our meeting try to embrace both commercial and hobbyist interest. It was further suggested that we re-initiate the beekeeping clubs, where they say might in turn

have a representative to attend the commercials meeting. There may still be some money in a club bank account.

General:

Continue to have our excellent topical Field-days (*). Must cater for the new younger beekeepers in all the things we do. We need to remind ourselves that BOP has a large pool of successful beekeepers (*BOP Interpretation, Sec*). We should try to cross the bridge of personality and competition differences to allow free flow of practical beekeeping information. Any administrative structure must be above personality differences. We must keep our Deca courses and AFB Diseasesathons going. Promote discussion groups (With report back)

- Bruce Stanley

Canterbury Branch

As we look forward to the winter months perhaps hive maintenance is in the plans. For those forward-thinking beekeepers a stack of dry timber will be ready for the saw bench to manufacture replacement equipment. The writer has for the last few years altered the timber purchasing. Previously I arranged for 250mm (10") timber to be cut which I strip stacked for a year before working into equipment. This created many hassles least of which was to find a sawmill willing to supply competitively priced timber. Nowadays I purchase kiln dry 200mm (8") timber which I use for most equipment. Purchasing this more common size timber kiln dry means that I can work the timber immediately. This has meant a change from full depth boxes to 3/4 boxes. Horrors - non-standard equipment!! The 3/4 honey boxes will overtime become my standard equipment and there are many advantages, which I have considered outweigh the disadvantages of having different sizes.

The Main advantage is that as numerous beekeepers suffer from a crook back. I envisage a change will be forced on the industry by OSH with regard to the permitted weight to be lifted by an employee. A full 3/4 box still weighs up to 30kg not far from the recommended max lifting weight of 27.2kg.

Another advantage is that honey boxes stay honey boxes because either are incompatible with the brood nest, this keeps honey cleaner without contamination or discoloration from old brood frames which sometimes find their way to honey boxes in full depth equipment.

In the interim whilst changing over the 3/4 size rather than have a whole lot of redundant FD frames I slice the good frames down by running through a saw to reduce to 3/4 size and replace the bottom bar with a new bar stapled on. Bees happily join the comb to the new bottom bar. - Roger Bray

Franklin

Honey Competition: Many thanks to Jim Thompson and Des Carter for the evening they put on to explain the different categories of the honey show. This must have been of some benefit as there were a lot more entries in the honey show than last year. The Big Sting went to Peter Biland for the second year. With first place came a new smoker and hive tool. Mile Laker took second place and the ten plastic frames. Emma Reichelt took third place and the ten sheets of foundation. The heaviest frame weighed in at 6.3kg and the best honeys were spread among quite a few people. We watched a video on Brother Adam and the breeding of the Buckfast queens. Emma's home brewed fruit wines made a very pleasant finish to a good day. Prizes donated by Ceracell Beekeeping Supplies.

- Peter Biland

WANTED TO BUY HONEY

ALL TYPES CONSIDERED

Please contact:



HONEY NEW ZEALAND

Richard Hopkins

Honey New Zealand (International) Ltd

8 Short Street, Kihikihi

Phone 07 871 4709

Fax 07 871 8885

Email sales@honeynz.co.nz

Flooded hives

As the drought breaks and flooding occurs, thoughts turn to those beekeepers caught in such a catastrophe.

Sometimes all the hives just disappear never to be seen again or much later the empty boxes turn up on a beach miles away.

Quite a few times hives are caught in quickly rising water and as soon as it occurred, the water level goes down again leaving mud sludge through the hives and around the apiary.

I experienced such a flood a few years back. The water level came up to the second super enabling the bees to move up and survive. However all the open brood was dead but the sealed brood looked OK. While everything was still wet, I cleaned bottom boards, put the sealed brood into the honey super and took the rest home to be cleaned. I hosed out the brood frames and dried them in the sun and returned them to the hives a few days later. In the meantime the bees had dried most of the sealed brood frames but there was a film of dust in the bottom of each cell.

The hives looked Ok, full of bees and emerging brood so were left to fend for themselves. It wasn't until a month later that these hives began collapsing to the size of nucs as the adult bees died off. Why hadn't I anticipated this - well when you are in the swamp and up to your armpits in alligators, it's hard to think ahead.

Should you suffer a similar event, prevent the hives from collapsing by giving them a minimum of three frames of mixed brood and a pollen frame as soon as possible. This will carry the hives through until the bees get going again.

The muddy brood frames that have dried out should be melted down, as the bees do not like reusing them again for brood rearing although they will put honey in them if they are forced to.

- Frank Lindsay



Ceracell Beekeeping Supplies Ltd

HONEYCOMB FOUNDATION MANUFACTURERS
SUPPLIERS OF QUALITY BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT

24 ANDROMEDA CRESCENT, EAST TAMAKI, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND
BOX 58 114, GREENMOUNT, AUCKLAND. PHONE (09) 274 7236, FAX (09) 274 0368

APISTAN

The Varroa Treatment of choice for most New Zealand Beekeepers and The World

Available in large quantities ex stock from Ceracell Beekeeping Supplies

| <u>PRICE</u> | | |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| | 10- 100 | \$3.75 each + GST |
| | 110 - 1000 | \$3.50 each + GST |
| | 1010 - 5000 | \$3.25 each + GST |
| | 5010 + | P.O.A. |

For discounted rates on large quantities, join a buying group.

*TWO TREATMENTS PER YEAR WILL GIVE YOU FOUR MONTHS
OF MITE FREE HIVES*

BK125

National Beekeepers Association Nelson 2003 Conference

Monday 21st July 2003

SPECIALTY GROUP MEETINGS

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 10.00 – 11.00 | NZ Comb Honey Producers - AGM |
| 11.00 – 12.30 | NZ Honey Packers and Exporters Association Inc – AGM |
| 12.30-1.30pm | Lunch |
| 1.30-3.00pm | Active Manuka Honey Producers – AGM |
| 3.00-4.00pm | NZ Honey Bee Pollination Association – AGM |
| 4.00-5.00pm | NZ Queen Bee Producers Association – AGM |
| 6.30pm | Mix and Mingle |

Tuesday 22 July 2003

EXOTICS

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 08:15am | Welcome | |
| 08:30-9:00am | Peter Berry | Exotic Disease response |
| 09:00-9:30am | Pam Gregory England | European Foulbrood |
| 09:30-10:00am | Mr Bill Winner Australia, | Hive Beetle |
| 10:00-10:30am | Mr Byron Taylor AgriQuality | Exotic pests and reporting suspects |
| 10:30-11:00am | Morning Tea | |

AFB PMS

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 11:00-11:30am | Peter Sales | PMS Review |
| 11:30-12:00am | Dr Mark Goodwin | Controlling AFB |
| 12:00-12:30pm | PMS Committee | PMS Future |
| 12:30-1:30pm | Lunch | |

VARROA

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1:30-2:00pm | Michelle Taylor Hort-Research | Varroa Resistance |
| 2:00-2:30 pm | Canadian Beekeeper | Canadian Varroa Resistance |
| 2:30-3:00pm | Paul Bolger | Resistance in Varroa in stage 3 |
| 3:00-3:30pm | Afternoon Tea | |
| 3:30-3:50pm | Judith Brown | Training young beekeepers |
| 3:50-4:20pm | Jonathan Walmisley -Telford | Training beekeepers |
| 4:20-4:50pm | Mike Stucky | Treating Varroa |
| 4:50-5:15pm | Panel Discussion | |

Wednesday 23 July 2003

HONEY ENVIRONMENT

| | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 08:15 | Welcome | |
| 08:30-09:00 | Peter Bray Airborne | World Honey Situation |
| 09:00-09:45 | Dr Peter Molan | New Zealand anti oxidant honeys |
| 09:45-10:15 | John Rawcliffe | NZ Honey Standards |
| 10:15-10:45 | Morning tea | |
| 10:45-11:15 | Bill Winner | Australian Quality Control |
| 11:15-11:45 | Dr Mark Goodwin | Toxic Honeys |
| 11:45-12:15 | Glen Neil NZFA | Toxic Honeys |
| 12:15-12:30 | Barbara - Label and Litho | Label requirements |
| 12:30-01:30 | Lunch | |

IMPORTS AND GE

| | | |
|-------------|----------------------|---|
| 01:30-02:00 | Helen Bevan | Risk Assessments for bee products and live bees |
| 02:00-2:30 | David Yanke | The case for introducing bees |
| 2:30-3:00 | Pam Gregory | |
| 3:00-3:30 | Afternoon Tea | |
| 3:30-3:50 | Irene Parminter | G.E. |
| 3:50-4:20 | Graeme King MAF | G.E. |
| 4:20-4:40 | Murray Reid Agriqual | Agriqual Report |
| 4:40-5-10 | Panel Discussion | |
| 5:10-5:30 | Panel Discussion | |

CASH-FREE DEALS

Why not **exchange** your
BEESWAX, HONEY OR POLLEN
for beekeeping supplies

Earn up to \$5 + GST per kg for your beeswax, and
around \$30 + GST per kg for your pollen.

Contact us with details of your requirements and
details of products to trade.

BAYVAROL®

NZ's No 1 VARROA TREATMENT

- Why?
- it's the most effective
 - it's the easiest to use
 - it's the safest to use
 - it has twice the contact area
 - very kind to beeswax, propolis and comb honey
 - it can be used during the honey flow

So why would you use anything else?

* 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.

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



Ecroyd Beekeeping Supplies Ltd

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

P.O. Box 5056 Papanui
Christchurch, New Zealand

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

6A Sheffield Crescent
Burnside, Christchurch

Email: ecroyd@beehealthy.co.nz

Free Fax: 0800-233-929



BK121

NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND (INC)
NELSON CONFERENCE 21 TO 25 JULY 2003
Rutherford Hotel. Nelson

Registration Form

First registration

Name: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss.....
(Surname) (First name – for name tag)

Postal Address :

Phone: (.....)..... Fax: (.....)..... Email:

Second registration

Name: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss.....
(Surname) (First name – for name tag)

Postal Address :

Phone: (.....)..... Fax: (.....)..... Email:

Third registration

Name: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss.....
(Surname) (First name – for name tag)

Postal Address :

Phone: (.....)..... Fax: (.....)..... Email:

| Conference costs | 1 st Person | 2 nd Person | 3 rd Person | Total |
|---------------------------------|---|------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| Conference registration | \$30 | \$..... | \$..... | \$..... |
| Monday night mix and mingle | \$12 | \$..... | \$..... | \$..... |
| Seminar Day –Tuesday | \$50 | \$..... | \$..... | \$..... |
| Seminar Day – Wednesday | \$50 | \$..... | \$..... | \$..... |
| Conference Dinner and Show | \$60 | \$..... | \$..... | \$..... |
| Late payment after 10 July | \$20 | \$..... | \$..... | \$..... |
| Sub-total | \$ | + | \$ | + |
| NBA Member Discount 15 % | | | | = |
| Total : | Cheques payable to - Nelson Branch NBA Conference | | | = |

Day trips available at conference (tick interest)

- Tour of wearable arts complex and classic cars
- Tour of propolis processing factories
- Boat trip to Haul-a-shore Island
- Wine tasting and tour at a Nelson winery
- Able Tasman day trip on 25 July
- Car rental at \$35/day unlimited kilometres

Completed registration forms to be sent to:
The Secretary, Mrs Jean McConachie, 111 Queen Street, Richmond.
Tel: 03 544 6921 Fax: 03 5224513

Attention Beekeepers!!!!

This Edition of the New Zealand Beekeeper is complimentary from the National Beekeepers Association.

I would like to *join* the National Beekeepers Assn of New Zealand (You will automatically receive a copy of the NZ Beekeeper)

Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Postal Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Location Address _____
(if different)

Telephone No: _____

E-mail Address _____

Registration ID _____

Voluntary Subscription Rates

0-3 Apiaries \$75 + GST = \$84.37

4-10 Apiaries \$100 + GST = \$112.50

11- 30 Apiaries \$200 + GST = \$225.00

31 + Apiaries \$400 + GST = \$450.00

I would like to *Subscribe* to the NZ Beekeeper

Name: _____

Business/Organisational Name: _____

Postal Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Location Address _____
(if different)

Telephone No: _____

Fax No: _____

E-mail Address _____

Magazine Subscription Rates

\$55.00 for 11 Issues - New Zealand

Overseas Posting

\$55.00 USD for 11 Issues

I would like to make a *Gift Subscription* of the NZ Beekeeper

To: _____ From: _____

Name: _____ Name: _____

Postal Address: _____ Postal Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Postal Code: _____

Location Address _____ Location Address _____
(If different) (If different)

Telephone No: _____ Telephone No: _____

Fax No: _____ Fax No: _____

E-mail Address _____ E-Mail Address _____

Message: _____

Magazine Subscription Rates

\$55.00 for 11 Issues
- New Zealand

Overseas Posting

\$55.00 USD for 11 Issues

Please complete the above and return with your payment making all cheques payable to the National Beekeepers Association of NZ, PO Box 234, Te Kuiti, New Zealand 2500.

**TEAR OUT AND
RETURN**



Ceracell Beekeeping Supplies Ltd

HONEYCOMB FOUNDATION MANUFACTURERS

SUPPLIERS OF QUALITY BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT

24 ANDROMEDA CRESCENT, EAST TAMAKI, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND
BOX 58 114, GREENMOUNT, AUCKLAND. PHONE (09) 274 7236, FAX (09) 274 0368

SPECIAL

SS 5 Frame Non Reverse Electric Honey Extractor with Speed Control

Usually \$1,600.00 + GST

Now for June & July \$1,440.00 + GST Cash with Order

SS Smokers 100mm \$42.00 each + GST

2 or more \$38.40 each + GST CWO

Parafin Wax 50kg bag \$130.00 + GST

2 or more \$110.00 each + GST

“PERMADENT” PLASTIC FOUNDATION

New Shipment arriving soon Standard Length & Extra Length

Discounted Prices for large quantities

We can coat this product with Beeswax if required

**Available ex stock “Mahurangi” quality Honeycomb frames +
“Beeline” Hive Supers**

Available ex stock Plastic Top Feeders Heavy Duty + Budget Grade

Division Feeders Single Frame + 2 Frame

BK151

Speakers at NBA Conference 2003

Bill Winner

Bill Winner has been part of the Australian beekeeping scene since November 1969 when he became Assistant Editor of "The Australasian Beekeeper", Australia's national beekeeping journal. He became Editor in July 1975 and held that position until January 1991.

In February 1991 Bill was appointed Queensland Manager for Capilano Honey Ltd, Australia's largest honey packer. Capilano Honey Ltd is a Co-operative, which is owned by contracted honey producer/shareholders.

In 1995 Bill was promoted to his current position of Beekeeper Services Manager, a role that requires close interaction with shareholders, the company and other industry sectors. The increasing emphasis on Food Quality Programmes resulted in his co-authoring a widely acclaimed manual "Reference Manual for Extracting Facilities & Food Safety Programme". Bill became a Director of B-Qual in early 2003.

Bill Winner is a member of the Queensland Beekeepers Association and personally runs 15 beehives. He is married with 3 grown-up sons.

In March 2003 Bill joined a 3 week Study Tour of the US East Coast to study the effects of the Small Hive Beetle on beekeeping. He will be speaking to the NBA Conference 2003 at Tuesday's seminar on the Small Hive Beetle, and on the Wednesday will speak on the Quality Assurance Programme.

Pamela Gregory

Pamela Gregory is currently a Regional Bee Inspector for Wales, working in the National Bee Unit – Central Science Laboratory.

She is involved with practical teaching to beekeepers, involving beekeeping examinations for both the British Beekeepers (BBKA) and Welsh Beekeepers (WBKA) associations.

From 1995 to present, Pamela has published books on Varroa including Varroa monitoring and Varroa floor designs, Beekeeping in a Nutshell series including Beekeepers guide to Foul Broods and her latest commission is a book on Swarming.

Pamela's interest in Bees has lead her to study organic agriculture in Israel, Projects for Cameroon and the Philippines, and of more recent times her role as Secretary of the Bees Abroad charitable foundation.

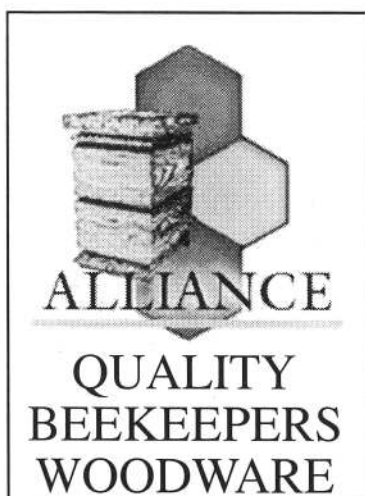
Pamela is mostly at home, practically teaching throughout Wales on a regular face to face basis. This teaching is mainly carried out in community settings working with local beekeeping groups developing and implementing training strategies all to meet the National Assembly for Wales's goal for a more technically capable and efficient industry.

BeeLine Supplies

Suppliers to the Beekeeping Industry

583 South Road, Lookout Point, Dunedin

APPROVED STOCKISTS



MANUFACTURERS OF:-

Honey Supers All Sizes

*Full Depth - 3/4 Depth - 1/2 Depth - Cut Comb
(Seconds when available)*

*Bottom Boards - Hive Matts - Excluder Frames
Pollen Traps assembled and Kitset*

Sugar For Sale

(Ex Stock Dunedin - Christchurch - Nelson)

Foundation Conversions

Foundation Sales

Hours For Warehouse:-

**Monday to Friday - 8.00am until 5.30pm
(Other times by arrangement)**

For orders and quotations phone Brian and Heidi:

Phone: (03) 488-0151 Fax: (03) 487-9878, After Hours: (03) 487-9898

Email: beeline@free.net.nz

Stockists of Tecpak Containers, Southern Cross Plastic Frames

BKG

Specialty Groups

New Zealand Honey Packers Assn Inc.

Membership: (Snippet from the rules)

The members of the Honey Packers Assn consist of:

- (i) Members each being a person or body corporate of any kind engaged in the packing of honey sale through retail channels.
- (ii) Associate Members being partners or shareholders of member firms, which have been duly elected.

Election of new members

New members shall be admitted, upon election, by a simple majority of the members present at a general meeting. No person shall be presented as a candidate for election without application in writing signed by themselves and two members, and being lodged in the hands of the Secretary at least seven days before such general meeting.

At the AGM in July 2001: - Discussion on the incorporation of the NZ Honey Exporter Action Group back into the NZ Honey Packers Assn to form the NZ honey Processors and Exporters Assn (NZHPEA) took place

It is believed there is a need for the Honey Packers Assn in some form but it was felt that some changes were required. The organisation is undertaking a review of its constitution and membership in order to reflect changing circumstances such as regulation and the environment. This is necessary to be able to have a voice and representation regarding such issues as the future EU programme, Animal Products Act, HACCPs and NZSFA.

Past meeting have included speakers from the Commerce Commission, and more especially from NZFSA speaking on labelling regulations and HACCPs which have been extremely helpful to many members in this era of regulation and compliance

The Assn aims to hold conference phone calls 2 or 3 times a year reporting on such issues as crop levels, hive conditions, and export achievements.

The current president is Allen McCaw and the current Secretary is Mary-Anne Thomason who can be contacted at kintail_honey@xtra.co.nz

New Zealand Queen Producers Assn

The New Zealand Queen Producers Assn is a group of about 30 people who raise Queen bees either to a large or small extent. Anyone interested in Queen Producing is invited to join. The Membership fee is \$30.00. At present the President is Bruce Stevenson and the Secretary is Mary-Anne Thomason.

The past year has seen very little activity, as both the officers have been very busy pursuing their own work. They had planned on setting up newsletters or a discussion group on the Internet as most members have e-mail addresses however they did not quite manage to get that up and running this year.

Each year at the NBA Conference members are invited to attend the AGM, which is usually short and sweet. The rest of the allocated time is used to inform and educate members (and non-members who can enter the meeting for a nominal fee at the door)

There have been some very interesting, experienced and stimulating guests in the last few years such as:

Terry Gavin spoke on Quality Queens

Cliff Van Eaton spoke about Artificial Insemination

Mervyn Cloake spoke on Breeder Selection

Peter Berry spoke on Introduction of 2-day cells

Then the tone changed in the year to 2000 and the guest speakers were:

Paul Bolger spoke on Queen Raising in Texas with Varroa.

John Gates (B C Canada) spoke on Hygienic Behaviour and Varroa.

Denis Anderson on a different approach for future Varroa Control.

Mr Harbo (USA) spoke on breeding Varroa Resistant Bees.

The guest speaker for this year has yet to be finalised but will no doubt be interesting.

Anyone wishing to join the Queen Producers Assn can contact the secretary at kintail_honey@xtra.co.nz

New Zealand Comb Honey Producers Association

President John Wright

South Auckland Apiaries

Email: helenhoney@hotmail.com

Secretary Gavin White Ashburton

03 3088666

Email: pacgold@xtra.co.nz

Subscription \$30 per annum

Being a member of the NZ Comb Honey Producers Association, entitles you to discounts on cut comb containers and cartons.

Over the time of the assn, agenda items have included, the right to export in your own right, grading standards, cleanliness of containers, MAF and export regulations, and one for this year - the phasing out of methyl bromide, implications.etc.

Active Manuka Honey Association Inc - AMHA

AMHA originated as an independent group to promote the advancement of Active Manuka Honey. In 2002 the Association became an Incorporated Society. The main objectives of the group are to protect and develop the UMF Trademark and its standards, support ongoing research and development and promotion of Active Manuka Honey.

The Association acknowledges the efforts of Dr Peter Molan whose research work led to the recognition of the potential of

Active Manuka Honey. The Association also recognises that the maintaining of quality product is vital for the future of the industry.

The membership fee to join AMHA is \$500 and is open to anyone interested in the industry including both producers and marketers. Members who pack and market honey under the UMF Trademark require a licence to do so (current fee is a further \$400). AMHA has a membership of 30, of whom 14 are licensed to use the UMF Trademark.

Manuka Producers Amazed!

Beekeepers using Manuka Special beeswax comb foundation in conjunction with wooden frames with a slotted bottom bars, have been amazed with their performance.

Results from using several thousand of these frames over the past season have been exceptional! Producers have been amazed at how fast the bees have filled the Manuka Special, compared to the new plastic frames also trailed. Brood nests were not clogged up with fresh honey, leaving the queen plenty of room to keep laying. The frames were much more rigid in the top bar than plastic, which made blowing the honey much easier. The use of a slotted bottom and top bar meant that the Manuka Special Foundation was securely fastened all around the frame by the bees. This produced perfectly flat combs with no drone comb along the bottom. The Manuka Special combs were drawn out much fatter than the plastic which meant that there was no need for scratching of missed cappings, and they went through the uncapper perfectly. The

Current committee members are: John Bassett (Chairman), Joanne Bedford, Margaret Bennett, John Gavin and Kerry Paul, assisted by John Rawcliffe.

The Annual General Meeting of The Active Manuka Honey Association Inc. will be held at The Rutherford Hotel, Nelson on Monday 21 July 2003 at 1.30pm. All interested are welcome to attend.

extra strength of the Manuka Special combs handled the pricking and extraction with no chuck outs.

Ross McCusker of Heathstock Apiaries says, "these are the Rolls Royce of frames, we've tried everything and I don't think that you can get anything better"

Manuka Special pure beeswax comb foundation can be supplied in *Total Frames*, which are totally complete wooden frames ready to put in your hives, or can be supplied on its own, or with kitset frames. For more details contact New Zealand Beeswax Ltd. Ph 03 693 9189, Fax 03 693 9780, Email Beeswax@xtra.co.nz

**This article was supplied by
NZ Beeswax and was held over from
the May issue.**



Shorland HOLDEN

ISUZU MASTER TRUCK DEALERS

*Proud to be a major
truck supplier to the
Beekeeping Industry*



**ISUZU NPS
4Tonne 4 x 4**

79 OLD TAUPO ROAD, ROTORUA
Phone 07 348 3179 Mark Kemp 0274 966 666
Email admin@ShorlandHolden.co.nz
www.ShorlandHolden.co.nz

BK146

Quality Beeswax Comb Foundations

We offer 6 different weights of pure beeswax comb foundations, most of which are available Ex Stock, which means no waiting - even for conversion.

We have standard dimensions but can also manufacture to your specifications.

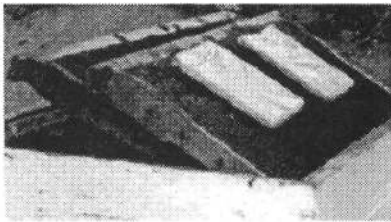
Phone us to discuss the best comb foundation to suit your needs.

| | Manuka Special | Extra Heavy Brood | Heavy Brood | Medium Brood | Light Brood | Thin Super |
|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| Sheets per kg Full Depth | 10 | 13 | 15 | 17 | 21 | 24 |

MiteGone™ Evaporator...

21 or 40 Day Prolonged Formic Acid Evaporator Treatment for Varroa Mites

Fact: Formic Acid kills Mites



Using Formic Acid will delay the development of pesticide resistance by the Varroa. This is an effective treatment system when correctly used relative to the evaporation conditions in your particular situation.

Be prepared for resistance - now is the time to be experimenting with MiteGone so that you know how to get effective treatment when chemical resistance occurs.

BEESWAX WANTED

We currently have enquiries for container loads of cappings beeswax for export.



Woodware

As a distributor of Alliance Quality Beekeepers Woodware we can supply anywhere in NZ at competitive prices. Ask us for a quote.

INFO-B

Subscribe to our newsletter. Available by email or post at no cost. Contact us with your details.

NEW!!!

"MANUKA SPECIAL" BEESWAX COMB FOUNDATION

Designed with extra strength for the production of Manuka Honey

Some benefits of *Manuka Special*:

- A natural product, which is welcomed by the bees - unlike artificial alternatives. Beekeepers that have used *Manuka Special* this season have had amazing results with the frames being plugged out while plastics next to them have hardly been touched.
- Extra Strength - *Manuka Special* foundation is made using the "Weed Process" which increases the strength of the wax in a similar way in which the forging process strengthens steel.
- Produce more honey - because of the extra beeswax in the mid-rib, the bees do not need to use valuable honey to produce the combs - as is the case with artificial alternatives.
- Cost effective
- Beeswax combs will always retain a residual beeswax value.
- *Manuka Special* Beeswax Comb Foundation is made from a sustainable renewable resource.

Paraffin Wax

Special Ultra Good Deal !!!

High quality paraffin wax packed in 50 kg bags. Ideal for preserving all types of beekeeping woodware. Available ex Wellington and Christchurch.

\$2.25 per kg + G.S.T.

N.Z. Beeswax Ltd

Factory Address

44 Gladstone St South
Orari
South Canterbury

Postal Address

Private Bag
Geraldine 8751
South Canterbury

Phone 03 693 9189

Fax 03 693 9780

Email: beeswax@xtra.co.nz

Web: www.beeswax.co.nz

BK153

Proceedings of the North American Apicultural Research Symposium

The American Association of "Professional Apiculturists (AAPA) held its annual research conference in Niagara Falls, Ontario on December 5-6, 2002. The meeting was held in conjunction with the annual meetings of the Apiary Inspectors of America and the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists. The next Research Conference will be held with the American Honey Producers Association at the Omni San Antonio Hotel on January 9-10, 2004. The following are abstracts from the 2002 meeting.

We have included a few extracts that should be of interest to NZ Beekeepers from the **American Bee Journal** April 2003 - Ed. (Reprinted with permission)

1. APPLICATION OF POWDERED SUGAR TO ADULT HONEY BEES (*APIS MELLIFERA* L.) FOR VARROA MITE CONTROL - Aliano, N.P & M.D. Ellis (Dept of Entomology, Univ. of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68583).

In laboratory tests, 90% mite fall is attained when several hundred bees are placed in a screened jar and dusted with powdered sugar (Macedo & Ellis 2002). Therefore, reducing Varroa mite populations in honeybee colonies is theoretically possible if adult bees are isolated from their hives and dusted. We conducted a preliminary experiment in Lincoln, NE on November 13, 2002 to test this hypothesis. All 14 experimental colonies were broodless, heavily parasitized with Varroa, and not fit for wintering. The outside temperature was 13-15°C, and few bees were foraging.

These conditions enabled us to shake the majority of bees from each colony into a screened box equivalent in size to a deep hive body. After containment, the bees were incrementally dusted with 225 grams of powdered sugar for approximately five minutes and then released. Honeybee colonies treated in this manner had an average loss of 32 % in their mite population (Min. 4%; Max. 65%).

A similar preliminary study was conducted in September 2002 in Mead, NE on 10 honeybee colonies. Instead of shaking bees into screened boxes as described above, Bee-Go[®] was applied to fume pads and placed on top of the hives to drive the bees from their nest. The bees were driven into a removable screened box attached to the front of the colony. This method effectively forced all bees present in the hive into the detachable box where they were subsequently dusted with powdered sugar. Each experimental colony (6 total) was dusted in this manner once a week for three weeks. Mite levels in treated hives increased 2.4 fold, while mite levels in untreated hives increased 9.6 fold. Although mite populations increased in both treated and untreated colonies, there was a four-fold reduction in the rate of increase in the treated colonies.

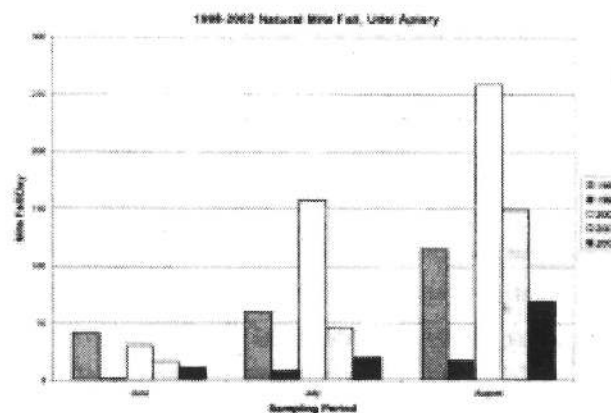
Reducing mite populations by only 32 % in the November experiment is puzzling considering that we attained 90 % mite

fall in the lab. Additionally, the large variability in percent reduction is perplexing given that all experimental units (colonies) were treated identically on the same day. Similarly, the September experiment was confounding in terms of lack of Varroa population reduction, despite the recovery of large numbers of mites after dusting; (numbers of mites recovered ranged from several hundred to a thousand).

These experiments provide a starting point for further investigation of how to use inert dusts to reduce Varroa populations on adult bees. Refinement of the dusting procedure is essential in achieving greater mite fall, as dust alone is not adequate. Utilisation of factors such as heat, agitation, and increased confinement in combination with our current dusting procedure may increase mite fall.

2. MONITORING VARROA MITE POPULATIONS - Caron, D.M. C & J. Hubner (Dept of Entomology & Applied Ecology, Univ. of Delaware, Newark, DE 19717) -

We compared natural mite fall from mid-June to mid-September over several seasons. There is considerable variation in colony and season in mite numbers demonstrating monitoring is essential in an IPM approach to control (see figure). We examined several recommended sticky board materials and three commercially available sticky boards (from IPM Technologies, Portland, OR, Great Lakes IPM, Vesterburg, MI and Olsen Industry, Medina OH) for reliability in retaining dropped mites in order to obtain threshold estimates of total mite populations. Vaseline proved satisfactory but vegetable oil, cooking oil spray or contact paper were significantly less reliable; all three commercial products performed well. We also compared with sticky board sampling with adult bee (ether roll and powdered sugar methods) and drone brood sampling. We found little predictability among the three sampling techniques. We feel comfortable with a threshold of 50 mites/day natural fall on sticky boards as a threshold for a Mid August miticide decision threshold, but meaningful numbers for ether roll/powdered sugar sampling from adult bee bodies or drone brood sampling are not available.



3. TOWARD DELAYING ECONOMIC THRESHOLD FOR VARROA, Delaplane, K.S.- Dept of Entomology, Univ. of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602.

An economic threshold for *Varroa destructor* for the Southeastern USA has been defined as an overnight sticky sheet mite count of 59-187, unassisted by acaricide (Delaplane & Hood, 1999) *Apidologie* 30: 383-395). Many workers are identifying IPM practices that delay onset of economic thresholds. In this study I focus on three: apiary isolation (Sakofski *et al.*, 1990 *Apidologie* 21: 547-550), heritable honeybee hygiene behaviour (Spivak, 1996 *Apidologie* 27: 245-260), and bottom screens (Ellis *et al.*, 2001 *Am. Bee. J.* 141: 813-816).

In June 2001 forty Langstroth colonies were set up and each randomly assigned an experimental treatment so that every combination of the following main effects was replicated five times:

(1) isolated apiary or non-isolated, (2) hygienic-selected queen or non-selected, and (3) screen bottom board or conventional solid bottom board.

There was an increase in average mite drop as number of months increased ($F=25.1$; $df=12,74$; $P<0.0001$). The type of hive bottom significantly affected mite drop ($F=13.3$; $df=1,74$; $P=0.0005$); average mite drop was lower in colonies with screens (12.4 ± 1.4) than in colonies with conventional bottoms (20.3 ± 3.3), but this effect was significant for only two months. Average mite drop was unaffected by apiary isolation or queen type ($F\geq 0.02$; $df=1,74$; $P\geq 0.5$). However when expressed hygienic behaviour was included as a covariate for the June 2002 data, hygienic behaviour was shown to significantly reduce mite drop ($F=4.7$; $df=1,13$; $P=0.0502$; figure). The discrete variable queen type-hygienic-selected or non-selected - did not affect actual expression of hygienic behaviour ($F=0.6$; $df=1, 16$; $P=0.5$).

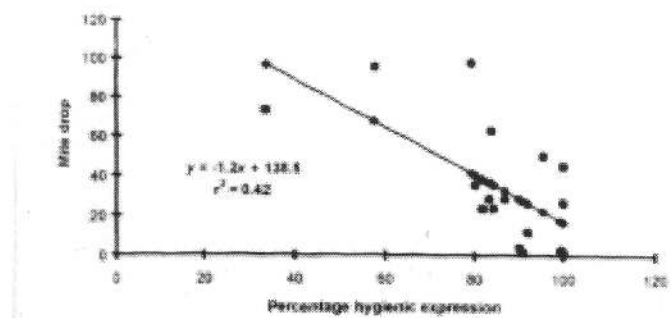
The comparative earliness or lateness of achievement of threshold has been unaffected by the independent variables. Colony survival is 80% in isolated apiaries and 65% in non-isolated apiaries, 70% with non-selected queens and 75% with hygienic, and 65% with conventional hive bottoms and 80% with screen bottoms.

I conclude that apiary isolation, hygienic-selected queens, and screen bottom boards have presently failed to delay economic threshold for *V. destructor*. However, the pooled data for 14 months strengthen earlier evidence that bottom screens reduce colony mite levels. Moreover, hygienic behaviour significantly reduced average mite drop, but its expression varied independently of the reported selection status of the queens.

(Ed - You may be interested in his 24-hour mite drop threshold of 60-190. Check out all his abstracts at <http://www.ent.uga.edu/bees/Research/archives.htm>, especially #s 10, 17, and 22).

10. WINTER TREATMENT AGAINST VARROA DESTRUCTOR USING A FLUVALINATE-TAU AEROSOL - Giovenazzo, P. J. Marecau & E. Houle, Dept de biology, Faculte des sciences et de genie, Universite Laval, Quebec G1P 7P4 Canada.

The experiment was conducted in five environmentally controlled modules (1.3 m x 0.6 m x 2.4 m) at the Centre de



Effect of hygienic behaviour on Varroa mite drop

recherche en sciences animales de Deschambault (CRSAD). Each module accommodates 5 standard Langstroth hives stacked vertically.

A venturi nebuliser (capacity of 1 ml/hour) is used to produce the aerosol mist. The source of Fluvalinate-tau is the commercial product Yardex (23.6% of Fluvalinate-tau) available in USA (EPA Reg. No. 2724478).

Infested hives were obtained from a local apiary. These colonies had never before been treated for Varroa infestation. Initial infestation rates of hives were estimated in early September after a 24-hour treatment with one Apistan strip in each hive. Thirty hives with infestation rates greater than 500 mites per colony but less than 2000 were chosen. During treatments, dead mites were collected on a sticky board placed under each hive. A final control treatment was done in early spring with two Apistan strips per hive. Efficiency was calculated by dividing the number of dead mites during experimental treatments by the total number of dead mites (experimental + final control). Fluvalinate residues in honey and wax samples where measured with a Hewlett Packard gas chromatograph 11 5870.

A factorial 2x2 experimental design was chosen for statistical analysis. Two different concentrations of Fluvalinate (0.5 g/L and 5.0 g/L) were combined to two different application strategies (15 consecutive days in December and one day every month from December to March) were tested. During each daily treatment, 24 ml of the appropriate solution was nebulised in each module.

There was a significant effect of the concentration ($\alpha < 0,001$). Best results were obtained with the solution of Fluvalinate-tau of 5.0 g/L. There was no significant effect of the application strategy and no interaction between treatments ($\alpha = 0.05$).

The treatment with the highest dosage (5.0 g/L during 15 days in December) gave the most residue in honey (0.01 mg/Kg). This winter treatment could be added to an integrated pest management program. It has a low cost and is relatively simple to apply.

Fifty seven years

In November 1946 I bought three beehives and put them at the end of a grassy lane by some gorse bushes where the local drunks liked to drink and annoy my wife and children, while I was on night shift. I knew nothing about beehives so I bought a book on beekeeping written by a Mr Tom Winter and a bee veil. I have no extractor but got some burr comb honey and strained it through some muslin. I got some nice liquid honey. It was then I had one of my brain waves and said to my wife Noeline if I got some hives I could make a good living from beekeeping. Noeline was shocked at such an idea and said that I must be mad to think I could make a living from insects. Fifty- seven years later my family does make a very good living from these insects.

It has been a long hard road I could write a book about the things I did wrong along the way, for instance, I mentioned Jim Hishim - the hive inspector, that I would like to buy some more beehives. He said there was a young man at Morrinsville who had about twenty hives mostly new and free from foul brood and I should ring him at the Campbell farm. I made arrangements to meet the owners of the hives. The hives were four story and full of honey. There was a two-frame hand extractor, and other bits and pieces. So after paying cash for

the lot, I said that I would move the hives as soon as I got the honey off. I did not have a truck, only Chevy car and boat trailer. I took the 40 boxes of honey off the hive and drove home pleased with myself. That evening I put the honey and extractor on a box, cut the cappings off as it said in the book and got the extractor spinning. I turned the extractor so fast that I thought the extractor would go into orbit, but not a drop of honey came out the tap on the extractor. Then I read the book about Manuka honey and how it was hard to extract. My vision of getting rich as a beekeeper dissolved into thin air. I had 40 boxes of the stuff and did not know what to do with it. The bees had flown over fields white with clover to get Manuka in swamp at the back of the farm. There were bad years and good years, during the bad years we economised until a good year came along. Being a beekeeper was a challenge that never ended so the 57 years have gone by. I have no regrets and would do it all again if I had my time over again

- Ron Mossop



Ceracell Beekeeping Supplies Ltd

HONEYCOMB FOUNDATION MANUFACTURERS

SUPPLIERS OF QUALITY BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT

24 ANDROMEDA CRESCENT, EAST TAMAKI, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND
BOX 58 114, GREENMOUNT, AUCKLAND. PHONE (09) 274 7236, FAX (09) 274 0368

SOUTHERN CROSS PLASTIC ONE PIECE BEEHIVE FRAMES

Now available for the next season, a proven design to correct sizing for New Zealand

Available in full depth. 33mm end bar ³/₄ depth 33mm end bar Hoffman design, or ³/₄ depth 42mm end bar modified manly design.

Reinforced American Pattern Lugs. 2mm Deep foundation pattern – standard colour is black – available in other colours on order.

Competitively priced and discounts on large quantities.

**Available only from Ceracell Beekeeping Supplies, East Tamaki
or Beeline Supplies, Dunedin**

BK 135

About the Apiary

The results of the latest surveillance exercise in the lower North Island has scared a number of hobby beekeepers. "Varroa is here so now I might as well give up beekeeping".

Clearly, this indicates there is a need for a greater understanding of mite control and interpreting the surveillance results. Sit down and reread the green Control of Varroa book that MAF sent you last year or get out the notes you took at the courses AgriQuality ran.

The surveillance exercise was only designed to pick up concentrations of mites that are in high numbers – "hot spots".

If your hives are within 20 km of one of these, then you are likely to have one or two mites in your hives. Accept you have mites and that this is nothing to worry about. You only need to worry about mites when they reach a number where they are likely to cause damage to your bees. Here in New Zealand, we have set an interim threshold of 1000 mites until local research provides us with an indication of mite reproduction with only a one-month brood break. IE the UK has set their threshold at 2500 but they have a four-month brood break that restricts mite reproduction.

How are mites spread? Drones and beekeepers are the main vectors of spread. Drones fly for miles and will congregate in a hive that is about to requeen itself and will then depart after the queen has mated. This phenomenon has been observed in permanently mounted observation hives. Suddenly the hive fills with bees (mostly drones of all colours) then a week later the population of the hive is back to normal. The new queen has mated but a few of the guests have left a deadly package.

Beekeepers spread mites unwittingly through ignorance. Traditionally commercial beekeepers after clearing honey supers of bees load their trucks and leave the supers uncovered to clear the last few bees out on the way home. Most beekeepers do not realize they have mites and unintentionally spread mites this way. A bee escaping from a truck can smell a hive a mile away, and will fly to it and will usually be accepted.

In areas where there are hive movements for pollination, mites tend to spread quickly but they can also be spread by accepting a gift swarm or hive.

Early detection is difficult. If you are on the "Beekeepers list" you would have noted how David Yanke found his first Varroa while checking queen pupa. A very improbable find as Varroa are mainly attracted to drone brood and he only

The National Beekeepers Association would like to thank Russell Berry for sponsoring the distribution costs of the June issue of the NZ Beekeeper.

detected a mite in the suspect hive after 72 hours of monitoring with strips.

Hence early detection is difficult but you must take the first steps to monitor your hives. You have a number of options:

- a. Remove approximately 100, 12 day old drone pupa with an uncapping fork every few months (minimum spring, summer and autumn).
- b. Sugar shake or use a strip in a jar of 300 bees shaken off brood frames.
- c. Use strips and sticky boards twice a year while this is expensive, and is also the most reliable.
- d. Make a mesh floorboard or a mesh screen to fit in just above the floorboard. Place in a piece of tin or plastic coreboard to collect debris and check and clean every month. Mites are fairly easy to see amongst the refuse as they reflect sunlight. Hold the tray at an angle to the sun and the dots that reflect light are mites.

There are only a few beekeepers in the Southern North Island who should be treating hives and these are located around known hot spots. The rest should be monitoring hives to determine mite numbers and only when they indicate they are going to reach a threshold should they treat their hives. Three mites falling naturally a day at this time of the year indicates your hives may need treating (UK MAFF information: May – Aug - daily mite fall X 400 = estimated number of mites in colony).

If you want to work out another method of determining numbers (as a rough guide), about this time of the year 75% of the mites are sitting on bees. If you used the sugar shake method, times the number of mites in the jar by 0.25% to account for mites in the cells and times this by 100 to give an approximate number per hive for the average 30,000 (two super) bee colony. (Page 90 in the Manual).

Dr Mark Goodwin's research this year (personal email) indicated that the average brood multiplier for warmer zones is 3 and 4.6 for cold zones. It will take another year to confirm this research. If there is no brood in the hive delete the brood multiplier value.

Mite numbers double every 30 days (email Gerrit Hynik 27 Sept 2002) so you can work out when your hive will reach the 1000 mite threshold.

Of course if you are near to, or in an established mite area where hives are beginning to collapse, you may have to throw this information out the window and treat in spring so that strips are out before the start of the early flow (September where I live), summer (February) and autumn (May) to combat reinvasion.

An example: I moved mite free hives into the restricted area for manuka honey in October and by April, one hive had at least 1000 mites on the sticky board. (Mite numbers varied from 10 – 150 in most hives but another two were high, 380 and 500). It doesn't take very long to reach the threshold.

If you're not at all sure what to do, take the advice given me by a British beekeeper. "If mites are within 20 miles blanket treat your hives and sleep well at night."

What hobby beekeepers should be doing is getting together and working out what's happening in their area. Set up contact phone lists and then get an agreement that in future they will always try to treat hives at the same time. Consider working together to use the alternative methods of treatment in winter to prevent resistance to the strips.

If you haven't already done so, start cleaning up your brood frames. Any that have more than 5% drone brood should be removed from the brood nest. However bees need to produce drones so concentrate drone brood on to just a couple of frames.

Things to do this month:

Go through the stored combs and scrape off the propolis. Select out old, broken, dark combs for rendering down. (If you don't want to do this they really put out the heat in an enclosed fire. An old frame makes an excellent fire starter). Make up new equipment for the coming season. Plan your budget for next year then half the expected honey crop to be on the plus side. Take a holiday somewhere warm.

- Frank Lindsay

4WD TRUCKS FOR SALE



1997 ISUZU ELF, 3.1 diesel, 1.5 tonne payload
\$19990 + GST

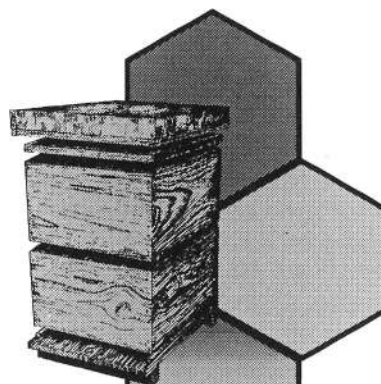


1997 TOYOTA DYNA, 4.1 diesel, 2.8 tonne payload
4.3 x 2.1 deck
\$25990 + GST

BK150

Pacific Auto Traders Ltd L.M.V.D.
Ph 07 543 4340 • Fax: 07 543 4341
Web address: www.pacificautotraders.co.nz

Specialists in Beekeepers Woodware



ALLIANCE
Beekeepers Woodware

- **UltraHive**
- **UltraFrame**
- **A Complete Range of Woodware**

Available at the following distributors:

Palmerston North

Waireka Honey Centre

State Highway 1, Rongotea Intersection
Palmerston North

Tel: 06 324 8224 Fax: 06 324 8098

Toll Free: 0800 5 Beehive

Orari

NZ Beewax Ltd
Gladstone Street South

Orari

Tel: 03 693 9189

Fax: 03 693 9780

Dunedin

Beeline Supplies
583 South Road

Dunedin

Tel: 03 488 0151

Fax: 03 487 9878

www.beehives.co.nz

Book Review

The Secret Life of Bees

By Sue Monk Kidd

No it's not a beekeeping book, it's a novel set in the deep South of the USA, bees and beekeeping are used in the story and little snippets from old beekeeping books start each chapter. She gets her beekeeping practices pretty right but confuses her time lines, somehow I doubt if anyone was using a swinging tin as a commercial smoker in the early sixties and it's also a bit early for mite problems. Mind you I found myself getting confused over time lines as I read this book, it dates from my childhood and yet I kept thinking of it as ancient history, somehow I had consigned the civil rights movement and extreme racial prejudice, to an era of long, long ago. But moving on I enjoyed it very much and it had a reasonably happy ending which I realise is not the current vogue but it is something that I still appreciate. It is a good story; an interesting story and it also reminded me of something that I tend to forget about as an "industrial apiculturalist", the scent of beeswax, the taste of new honey and the hum of a hive on a hot summer's afternoon.

TV Review

Some of you may have noticed two exceptionally handsome (and extremely modest) beekeepers touting honey sandwiches on the telly. The gorgeous red headed one is my niece, Laura Dobson, and the little cute blonde one that flashes across the screen so fast, that to see her I have to record it and play it back on slow, is the Gnat (her spelling) my much loved shorter daughter. The two character actors are of course John and myself, and for some reason they've also got some English bloke in the ad as well. It all started one afternoon when after arriving in at Arataki with a load of honey we were ordered over to see Pam and Jo, who told us how wonderful we were and would we like to do them a tiny favour, they took an unequivocal no as an enthusiastic maybe and introduced us to the two guys who were setting the ad up. Laura then pointed out that if we didn't do the ad then she would "never talk to you again Uncle Pete". So eventually it was all sorted out and on the first day of school, the Gnat missed her first day at intermediate, Laura had the day off work and John and I hoped to be finished by lunch time so that we could still get a load of honey off. The first problem for the day was to find Laura who turned into the wrong gate and then we were all introduced to the crew and Tom the English comedian doing the ads, you have no idea how many hand holders there are on a film set. Anyway we set up at the back of the old Chrysler Valiant that they were trucking around New Zealand to do the ad with and started filming. Second problem, Natalie does not like honey (or anything else much sweet for that matter) so we had to fake her eating honey sandwiches. Actually it could have been the third problem as a few minutes earlier she had threatened to bite the nice makeup lady if she tried to put any on her face, fortunately she thought The Gnat was kidding, I was by no means quite so certain, we are talking about a child here who regards steak, egg and chips as a vegetarian meal. Still if you've seen the ad you'll no doubt

realise that most of that bit of footage wasn't used anyway. So I made honey sammies and we pretended to eat them, after that we did the Beverly hillbillies waving goodbye bit and went down to a nearby yard of bees, set up some empty hives with a box of comb honey on top, (John running his hivetool along a frame in the ad), put veils on the three van loads of hangers on, took some pictures with some real bees and a few panadol and eventually got home in time for tea, having first scored three large rubbish bags of Natures Fresh bread for the chooks. It was certainly an interesting and different day and I certainly don't regret doing it and lets face it, it is damn good free honey advertising, although lets face it not quite as good perhaps as the full frontal of our 500gm pot in the Whale Rider.

Ps John and I knew what to expect in the way of ribbing from this sort of thing, but Laura is no where near as keen on the idea now that she has had to live with a few months of ersatz fame.

Peter Berry

From the Publications committee: Peter Berry mentioned above, his shorter daughter (Gnat). When he arrived home after the conference in Gisborne July 2000 he asked his daughter for a kiss. Her reply was NO you are not my Daddy. My Daddy has a beard. It took several days before she would have anything to do with him. (If you remember, Peter had his beard shaved off for charity and raised quite a lot of money from the members at the Gisborne conference dinner.)

Apimondia

International Congress, Slovenia
August, 2003

Plus Pre Tour - Italy and Croatia
Post Tour - Austria and Germany

Travel with like- minded bee industry
colleagues from Australia and South Africa

For information, please complete and return coupon or contact Ross Macmillan at Farm To Farm Tours.



Farm To Farm Tours

Box 239, Rangiora

phone: 03 313 5855 fax: 03 313 5596

email: ross@farmtofarm.co.nz

web: <http://www.farmtofarm.co.nz>

REPLY COUPON- Apimondia 2003, Congress & Tour

Name _____

Address _____

Ph _____ Fax _____ Email _____

MiteGone Pads and Formic Acid

My name is Mary Allen. Along with my husband Andrew we operate a small beekeeping business just out of Raetihi in the North Island.

When Andrew and I attended a varroa workshop run by Agri-Qual N.Z. he decided that we should treat for the varroa mite with formic acid due to its cheaper cost than other treatments. As I am disabled and have poor balance I was not happy to work with an acid.

When Susanne Ruzicka came to N.Z. and I heard her speak I felt I would be able to use formic acid. I knew I would not be able to handle a drum of formic acid so I asked farming friends for their used drench containers. During the time of our spring treatment Andrew worked away during the days. He broke the acid down to 65% and poured it into drench containers. I was pleasantly surprised how well I could manage the rest of the treatment on my own.

Our MiteGone pads were still wet after six weeks, so the hives did not receive the full treatment. Bill Ruzicka from Canada (the inventor of this system) visited us and explained that in our wet, cold climate we need more cut surfaces. He explained how we can work out what we need to do in this area. With the pads we did leave in for longer than six weeks, we found that in strong hives where there were a lot of bees to circulate the air the pads did dry out but in weak hives they did not. As soon as the pads dried the bees propolised the cut surfaces and glued them in. As the bees have not damaged the pads we will reuse them. We have damaged some pads when removing them.

Rust: At first we thought there was none. The only rust is on a roof is above a hole in an inner cover. We do have some rust on queen excluders but they are not bad. We had a few in to see what would happen.

Burnt grass: The only burnt grass is where I spilled acid.

Our mite levels were low before treatment, however all tests done after the treatment were negative. Conclusion - I am sold on the use of MiteGone pads.

**This article was supplied by
NZ Beeswax and was held over from
the May issue.**

New Product !!!!

TOTAL FRAMES

- Ready to put directly into your hive - absolutely no preparation necessary.
- Welcomed by the bees - unlike plastic.
- Increased honey production over plastic
- No time consuming and expensive wax dipping required like plastic.
- End bar choice of 33 mm or 35 mm
- Available in Full Depth or $\frac{3}{4}$ Depth
- Top bar does not bend like plastic
- Quality Alliance wooden frame, with three wires and slotted top and bottom bar, so the pure beeswax comb foundation is held top and bottom
- Be prepared for Varroa - no gap along the bottom of the foundation for drone comb
- Can be recycled easily by you, unlike plastic
- Made from a renewable and sustainable resource.
- Don't be fooled by the hype about plastic when there is a much better product available which will produce you **more honey**, more efficiently, and thereby make you **more profit!**

Contact us for full pricing and specifications

Remember.....

Bees like Beeswax best!



NZ Beeswax Ltd

44 Gladstone St South, Orari,
South Canterbury
Private Bag, Geraldine 8751
Phone 03 693 9189, Fax 03 693 9780
Email: beeswax@xtra.co.nz
Web: www.beeswax.co.nz

BK154