

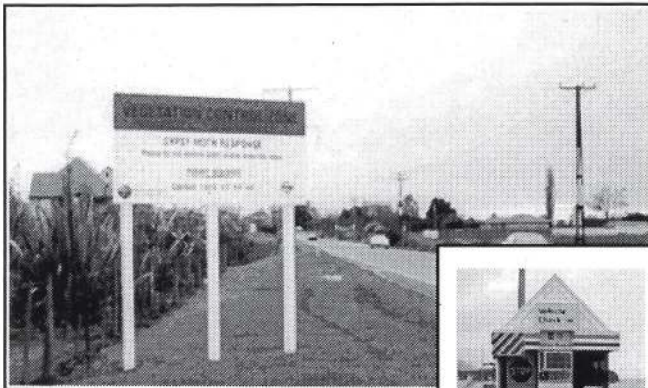


The New Zealand BeeKeeper

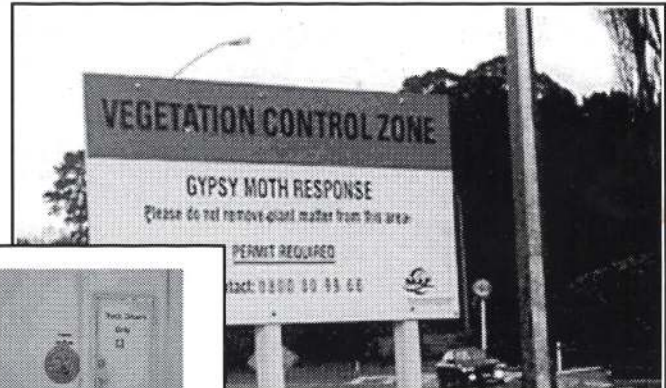
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**Gypsy Moth incursion in Hamilton -
Public signage marks all main roads out of Hamilton**

**Varroa mite incursion -
Public signage at Wellington Ferry Terminal**



**Gypsy Moth signs from
around Hamilton**



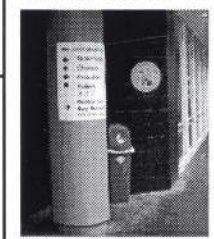
**Gypsy Moth signs from
around Hamilton**



**Varroa Sign
Wellington Ferry
terminal Check In Office**



**Varroa sign alerting
truck drivers**



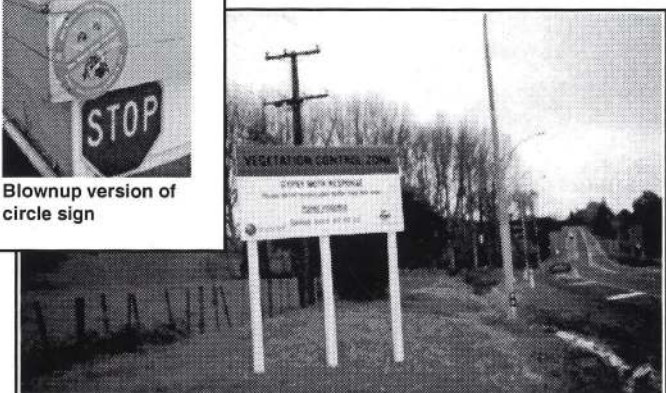
**Varroa sign
Passenger Terminal**



**Blownup version of
circle sign**



**Gypsy Moth signs from
around Hamilton**



**Gypsy Moth signs from
around Hamilton**

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Presidents Report

VARROA

At the time of writing this article (15th June), much of the North Island Surveillance has been completed, and the Varroa Planning Group has sought some input from beekeepers as to the retention of movement controls in the North Island. I sent out a note to all branches to see what their thoughts were. Some responded extremely quickly, and I appreciate that. From those that had responded, those from the South Island believed it should still be up to the North Island beekeepers to decide what was to be done. Those who replied from the North Island branches, have now conceded that the spread is too great to maintain the line where it currently is. The consideration will now be on whether there will be a line elsewhere in the North Island.

Irrespective of whether there is another line put in place, for example down the Ruahine ranges, I believe that there now needs to be a concerted effort put into the best possible public awareness programme. Likewise a targeted campaign involving freight companies to ensure a minimal likelihood of Varroa being moved to the South Island, either by freight or with vehicles being moved across Cook Strait.

All ports that ship freight to the South Island need to be targeted, as well as overseas freight that comes direct to the South Island. I was appalled to hear on the Varroa call that includes MAF and Agriquality, that the swarm traps were to be bought back in, due to the lack of funding, after the end of June. Swarm traps have played a large role overseas as a mechanism of detection, and I think that they should still be utilised around the ports, along with a surveillance programme. I hope the swarm traps are re-instated once the phase III programme is in place. As part of feedback to the executive, an idea suggested is that we should get beekeepers in the entry port regions, to either carry out or assist in surveillance and monitoring of sentinel hives surrounding these areas – not only for the detection of Varroa, but also the other exotic diseases we do not yet have.

CONSULTATION AFB PMS – FUNDING VIA A BIOSECURITY LEVY

Two days ago, I received from MAF a summary of the submissions received on our consultation carried out this year. We are delighted to see that many of you have taken the time to make submissions, and air your views. We also received some comments that will be more appropriate for the PMS review. Over 50 submissions were received, that compares to eight (I think) from the round that was done in 2002 along with the Commodity levy consultation. The Executive, and the Operations committee are currently looking at the submissions to make response to them, and are then likely to send these back out to submitters to see that we have considered their points, and have where possible responded to them with changes. It is hoped that if we are able to respond quickly to these submissions, we may be able to get the levy in place and invoices out around labour weekend – this is of course the best case scenario.

AFB PMS REVIEW

On Saturday the 7th June, the Operations committee and some members of the Executive met to update the Operational plan

for the 2003-2004 year. It was a very successful day where the group was able to come to an agreement as to how we can overcome some of the deficiencies outlined in the Review. All that now remains is to get the funding in place, so that we can manage the AFB PMS effectively.

I look forward to seeing you at conference.

Jane Lorimer
Acting President

Secretarial Snippets

It is good to see the NBA Conference programme developing well and to know that everything is slowly coming together. Slow was certainly the word for nominations for the Executive committee vacancies. I sent nomination papers to all NBA members and then nothing happened! Ultimately I received 3 nominations for 4 positions which means that Roger Bray, Don Stedman and Bob Blair have been elected. They will join Jane Lorimer and Phillip Cropp on the Executive committee at the conclusion of the AGM in July. Hopefully someone will agree to be appointed to fill the remaining North Island vacancy.

Seven Remits have been submitted and I have now sent the Remits voting paper out to the branches and to individual members in areas where their branch may not have a quorum. Membership numbers continue to increase, albeit slowly.

I now realise that I have been very remiss in not sending the minutes of Executive meetings to the branches. This has meant that many of you have been unaware that the Executive have met once a fortnight (via conference calls) since the beginning of the year. There has been a huge amount of work done in that time in the way of submissions, decision-making and actions taken, all in the interests of the beekeeping industry. So my apologies for not distributing the minutes, something I am now putting right. The minutes will also be available on the NBA web site.

My final comment relates to enquiries I have been receiving from magazine subscribers who believe that they are also members of the NBA. If you are a subscriber only to The New Zealand Beekeeper magazine (\$55 for 11 issues) you are not a member of the NBA and therefore do not have voting rights.

Pauline Bassett
NBA Executive Secretary

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Phone 07 871 1500 Fax 07 871 1800

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Acknowledgement of Beekeepers Input

In August 2002 the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) released an "Import Risk Analysis on Honey Bee Hive Products and Used Beekeeping Equipment"

This was an important event, which has the potential to directly affect beekeeping. Both the potential to introduce unwanted pests and diseases and the potential to affect the integrity of our NZ Products.

MAF received 19 submissions on the Risk Analysis including one from Australia. Personally I am disappointed at the lack of response from beekeepers who will be directly affected by these proposals.

As a result of recent information and the submission received MAF will redraft the Risk Analysis and a revised form will be released for public consultation – the beekeeping industry will need to consider any issues seriously, the health and well being of our industry should not be placed in jeopardy for the sake of free trade.

The Canterbury Branch of the NBA prepared a submission involving scientific research, which incurred costs. We would like to acknowledge the financial contribution of the following beekeepers and honey processors, Lorraine Muldoon, Honey Valley Limited, Kiwi Bee Distributors, Sheehan Apiaries,

Scott Apiaries, Heathstock Apiaries, Apiflora NZ Ltd, McKnight Honey, James Corson, Kintail Honey Ltd, Glass Brothers Ltd, Woodlands Apiary, Asburton Apiaries Ltd, Milburn Apiaries, Arataki Honey Ltd, (Hawkes Bay Division), Arataki Honey Ltd, (Rotorua Division), Gavin White, Woodstock Apiaries, Braesby Farm, Symes Apiaries. A large contribution is promised from the Honey Packers Assn for which we are also grateful. Thanks also to those who contributed in other non-financial ways.

Roger Bray
President
Canterbury Branch NBA

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What do you want out of your Organisation?

Over the last few days (in early June) the Executive has been looking at the NBA rules. In this is a set of objects and powers of the Association. This has in the past, and I guess will also in the future determine to a certain extent what your organisation does for you. We as members of the organisation, need to be thinking about our future, what we can achieve under a smaller funding base, and what is the best structure for us as a voluntary organisation.

Copied below are the current objects of the Association.

4. OBJECTS AND POWERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The objects for which the Association is established and the powers it may exercise are:

- a) To improve the beekeeping industry in New Zealand and the conditions obtaining in that industry.
- b) To promote the economic and other interest of beekeepers in New Zealand.
- c) To promote the production and marketing of honey and the related and by-products of beekeeping.
- d) To collect and disseminate statistical information likely to be of value to the beekeeping industry.
- e) To initiate, adopt and pursue policies designed to further in any way the interests and well being of those engaged in the beekeeping industry in New Zealand.
- f) To carry on negotiations with the Government or other authorities on any topic or development likely to affect the interests and welfare of those engaged in the beekeeping industry including the prices paid or received by beekeepers for honey or any related or by-product of beekeeping.
- g) To undertake and execute any trusts consistent with the objects of the Association.
- h) To invest moneys of the Association in any trustee security.
- i) To acquire by purchase, lease or otherwise any property, easement, rights or privileges, and to improve and turn to account the same as may be desirable and to sell, lease, exchange, bail grant licences in respect of or otherwise deal with or dispose of the same.
- j) To borrow or raise or secure the payment of money for the purposes of the Association in such amounts and on such terms as the Association may think fit and in particular by the issue of mortgages, charges or any other securities charged upon all or any of the real or personal property of the Association and to purchase, redeem or pay off any such securities.
- k) To enter into, do and perform all contracts, acts, matters and things in any way connected with the objects of the Association or appurtenant thereto.
- l) To make grants-in-aid to any person or organisation for purposes likely to further the interests of the beekeeping industry.
- m) To do all such other things as may be incidental or conducive to the attainment of any of the foregoing objects or the exercise of any of the foregoing powers.

If you read through them carefully, you will see than it enables us to do a wide variety of things on your behalf.

At last year's conference, when Dr Mark Goodwin facilitated the workshop that looked at what you considered desirable for the Association to carry out on your behalf, most of these areas were covered.

The questions that need to be asked are:

- What do you want the Association to achieve?
- Are we funded sufficiently to undertake all that you want?
- Are there other alternatives that we need to consider?
- Are you willing to become an active member of the Association, and be part of a committee to look after an area of responsibility, so that we may be able to still undertake a wide range of issues that may affect our members?
- Would you like the organisation to be proactive, rather than re-active?

If you would rather see us being proactive on certain issues, we need to get all committees operational with plans as to what they want to achieve, and how they are going to go about that work. Being proactive may mean that we have to meet with Government officials to learn how the 'systems work' and then find out how we can contribute to the processes before they affect the Industry. If we do not have the funding to do this sort of thing, then we may need to investigate how to find funds to enable us to. We may need to have a group of people whose job it is to find organisations etc who have funds available for projects.

All of us currently on Executive know that we are unable to do all this work on a voluntary basis, otherwise our own business' suffer. We need to get members active to make our Industry more vibrant, and to have some sense of 'ownership' of what is happening to our Industry.

I would like to invite you all to consider what you would like your Association to do, and bring your ideas forward to the Conference where we will have one or two workshop sessions on this, and will also look at what are our possible structures to run the organisation.

With the couple of people I have spoken with, our next step will be to go back out to branches with ideas, have discussions, and then identify what is the best option open to us. This could take us between a year and 18 months to consider. We need to get all concerned involved, and take the time to ensure that what we are doing is in fact the right choice to be making.

Jane Lorimer
Acting President

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Ben Rawnsley – Beekeeper

We are sad to report the untimely death of Ben Rawnsley, founder and developer of Happy Valley Honey.

Ben suffered two massive strokes and died in Middlemore Hospital on Saturday night 7th June. He had previously been apparently in the best of health and had great plans for the future.

Ben started beekeeping in the early 1970s by accident when looking after two decrepit hives for his brother-in-law. When the hives were knocked over, Ben had to do a crash course and became intrigued with the life of the bees. At the time he was working in the city, involved in a finance company founded by him and his brother. He was becoming disenchanted with driving to the office every day dressed in a suit and tie and this change of lifestyle looked very tempting. So Happy Valley Honey was born and he developed the business (with a little help from his wife!) through supplying supermarkets to a very popular boutique shop attached to the homestead in Manurewa, which served all the Auckland area. At the same



time a mail-order list was built up which involved very happy associations with customers all over New Zealand.

In 2001 the business was sold to its new owners and is now being run from Drury, South Auckland. Ben did a lot of the 'bee work' himself, and became very skilled in the understanding of bee behaviour. He could quickly assess the condition of the bees, the queen and the hive simply by lifting the lid – other beekeepers will understand this ability. Some have it and some don't.

He was also a very good teacher and many students from Telford Polytech spent time at Happy Valley gaining practical experience. Over the years Ben has visited and become friends with beekeepers all over New Zealand. His experience and sensible outlook will be sadly missed.

- Dot Rawnsley

Ben's passing came as a shock on reading the e-mail posting last night. The Franklin Beekeepers Club had just spent a daylong visit with Mark Goodwin and team at Ruakura. Visiting a commercial enterprise in the off season is part of the clubs annual calendar. It was during such a visit in July 1994 that I met Ben for the first time.

For the next 4 years I had daily contact with Ben, Dot, family, or staff at either end of the working day when transporting my son Darren (special needs) to Happy Valley Honey for work experience. I would like to thank Ben and Dot for the opportunity and kindness that they provided to Darren during that time.

Ben's company was one of 13 that visited Japan as part of a Manukau Sister City Trade Mission in 1994. Ben's picture was on the front cover of the New Zealand Beekeeper of the November 1994 Issue Vol. 1 No.10.

- Bob Russell

AFB Recognition and Destruction Course & Competency Test

The Franklin Beekeepers Club (FBC) in conjunction with the Auckland Branch of the NBA, invite interested beekeepers to attend a training course followed by a competency test to be held at Pukekohe on Sunday 21 September 2003. It will be held at the Franklin Arts and Cultural Centre, Wesley Street, Pukekohe, from 10:00am until 3:30pm.

The fee is expected to be \$35.00 for the training and test. BYO lunch, pens, note paper and the yellow Manual- "ELIMINATION OF AMERICAN FOULBROOD WITHOUT THE USE OF DRUGS". Tea and coffee will be provided.

Those wishing to sit the test must first obtain an application form from Peter Biland, Secretary, Franklin Beekeepers Club.

For any additional information-

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	Stuart Ward	Chairman FBC	Ph 09 238 1441
	Peter Biland	Secretary FBC	Ph 09 294 8365
			peter_biland@hotmail.com

BK156

Control Of Varroa Using Formic Acid, Oxalic Acid And Thymol

Mark Goodwin, Michelle Taylor, Heather McBrydie, Harlan Cox
Apicultural Research Unit, Ruakura Research Centre

Traditionally, New Zealand beekeepers have not used chemicals for the control of bee diseases. With the arrival of varroa in New Zealand, most beekeepers will have to rely on chemical treatments to ensure their colonies survive. There are two synthetic chemical products (Apistan® and Bayvarol®) available for varroa control in New Zealand. Both are very effective, safe and easy to use. However, they are relatively expensive and are not compatible with organic production.

Two organic chemicals have been approved for varroa control in New Zealand. These are formic acid and oxalic acid. A third (thymol) is waiting approval pending more detailed residue data.

Formic acid is reported to kill between 60% to 92% of mites, depending on the method used. This variability is determined by the length of application, time of year and temperature at time of application. Formic acid is reported to not work well in temperatures under 10°C. A range of application methods, including gels, evaporators and plastic bags have been developed in order to extend the period that formic acid vapours remain in the hive, and thus increase efficacy. The efficacy of thymol is also reported to vary with the temperature and time of year, whereas, oxalic acid is less dependent on temperature, but is dependent on the amount used, concentration and colony makeup. Recently an evaporator has also been developed.

The aim of this investigation was to determine the effectiveness of these organic control products. Because of the need to limit the number of application methods tested only those methods not using commercial delivery systems were tested.

One hundred and forty single-super colonies were established in the autumn in 3 large apiaries in a cold climatic zone (Turangi). A further 140 two-super colonies were established in 8 apiaries in a warm climatic zone (North Waikato). The temperature at the cold site was below 0°C 25% of the time

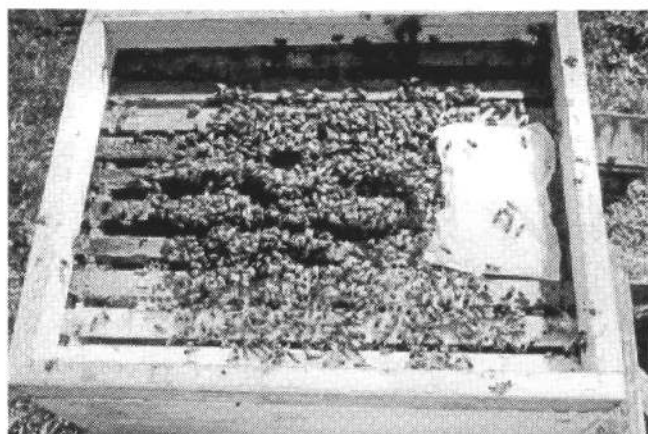


Plate 1. A mite wipe on the top bars of a hive. The colony is also fitted with a 45mm wooden rim.

and only 1% of the time at the warm site. The temperature at the cold site was only above 10°C 24% of the time.

Six different organic treatments were applied to 20 colonies in each zone in April 2002. Four treatments used formic acid, one used thymol and one used oxalic acid.

The treatments were:

Formic Acid

- 1) Mite wipes. These were meat-tray liners (Dri-loc, Pad 50) soaked in 40 ml of 65% formic acid per pad. They were placed on the top bars of the top super (Plate 1) and a wooden rim (45 mm high) was inserted below the hive mat and lid to allow the vapours to circulate. The treatments were repeated 4 times at 8-day intervals.
- 2) Absorbent pads. These consisted of enough paper towels to completely absorb 30 ml of 65% formic acid (Plate 2). The pads were placed on the top bars of the top super and 30 ml of 65% formic acid was added using a syringe. A wooden rim was added and the lid replaced. This was repeated 6 times at 5-day intervals.
- 3) Plastic pouches. These were 27 cm x 28 cm ziploc bags with enough newspaper inside to fully absorb 250 ml of 65% formic acid. A 1 cm x 24 cm window was cut out of the underside of pouches placed on single super hives and 2 windows were cut out of pouches

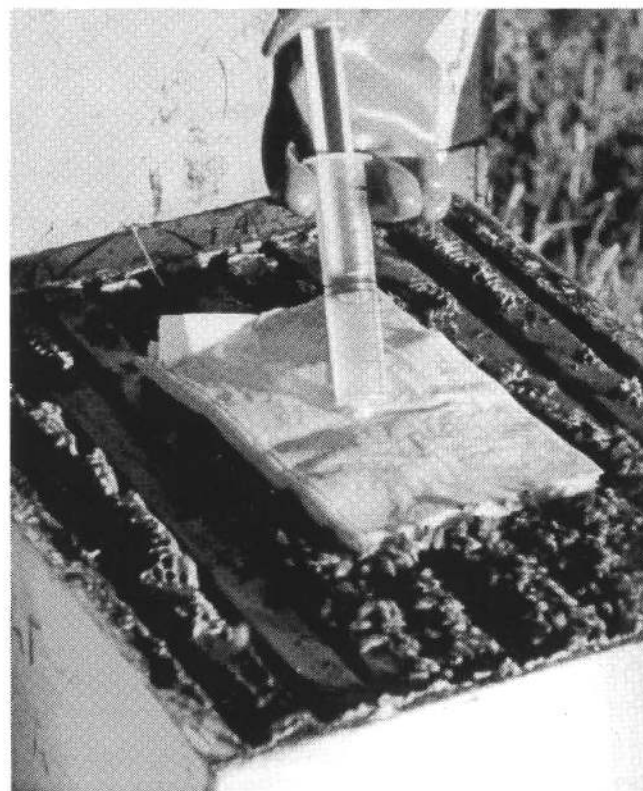


Plate 2. Adding formic acid to an absorbent pad.

used on two-super hives. A further window was removed after 10 days.

- 4) Formic acid applied to floorboards. The entrance of each hive was smoked and 15 ml of formic acid was squirted along each side runner of each floorboard using a 50 ml plastic syringe (Plate 3). This was repeated 5 times at 5-day intervals.

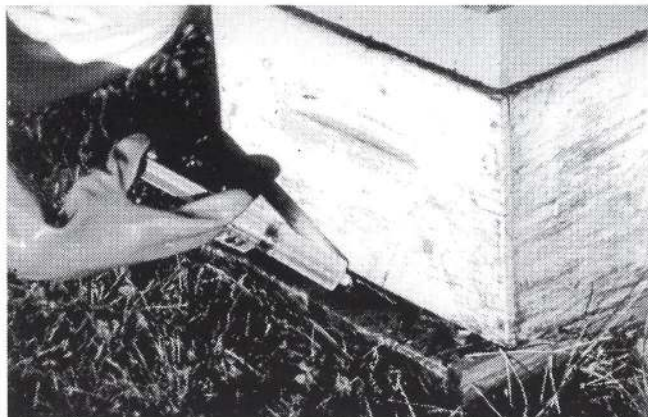


Plate 3. Applying formic acid to the floorboard of a hive.

Thymol

- 5) Thymol dishes. Thymol crystals were placed in two dishes (3.8 cm diameter x 1 cm high) (4 g per dish) on the top bars of each hive. A wooden rim was then added. This was repeated 3 times at 8-day intervals (Plate 4).



Plate 4. Placing thymol crystals in dishes on the top bars of a hive.

Oxalic Acid

- 6) 3.2% Oxalic acid. Oxalic acid was added to a 50% sugar:water solution and 5 ml per frame of bees was trickled between the top bars over the bees (Plate 5). Only one application was made.

Once each organic treatment was complete, a treatment of Bayvarol® strips was inserted into the colonies to kill any mites that were not killed by the organic treatments.

None of the treatments affected the number of bees or amount of brood in the hives.

Formic acid caused the galvanised iron lids on some of the hives to corrode. The worst cases were where the wooden hive mats had a hole drilled in the top for ventilation (Plate 6).



Plate 5. Treating a hive with oxalic acid.



Plate 6. Corrosion on the lid of a hive after using formic acid on the top bars.

From the areas of corrosion, it appeared that the formic acid fumes had risen through the hole in the hive mat then flowed down the sides of the hive to escape under the lid. The concentration of fumes escaping under the lid was high enough to cause sufficient corrosion of the Emlock straps causing them to break. The corrosion was so intense in places that only a few seasons' applications of formic acid would be likely to render the galvanised iron unusable. The level of corrosion reinforces the importance of checking to ensure all hive parts are compatible with formic acid before using it.

At the cold site the mite wipes, absorbent pads, plastic pouches and thymol gave the highest control rates (Fig. 1), killing significantly more varroa than the floorboard and oxalic acid treatments.

The formic acid treatments at the warm sites were less effective than they were at the cold sites where there was little difference between the effectiveness of the different treatments (Fig. 1). The thymol and oxalic acid treatments gave similar levels of control at both the warm and cold sites.

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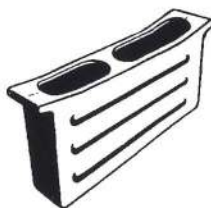
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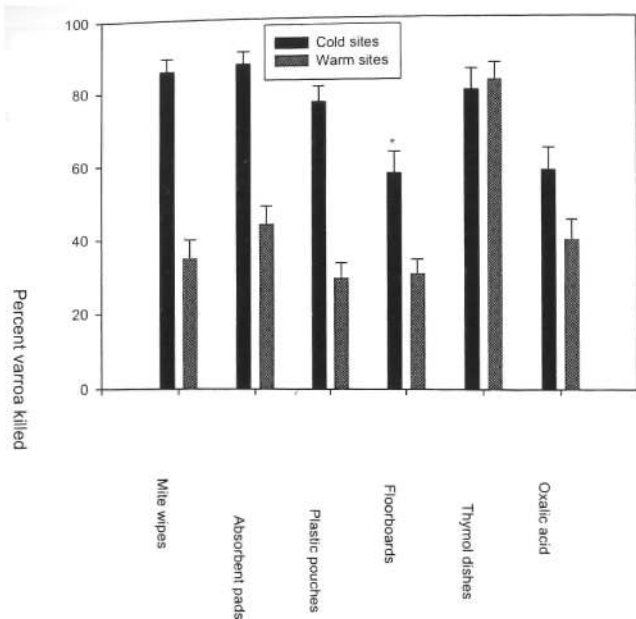


Figure 1. Percentage of varroa killed at cold and warm sites after different varroa treatments. The vertical lines are standard error bars.

The lower effectiveness of the formic acid at the warm sites was opposite to what was expected as it is reported to be less effective in cold (less than 10°C) conditions. The results from this trial indicate that formic acid treatments can be used in cold conditions that are at least as cold as those encountered in this trial. The other most obvious difference between warm and cold sites was that the hives at the cold sites were in single supers and those at the warm sites were in two supers. If the differences in effectiveness were due to the number of supers, which has yet to be established, it may be because the greater volume of air resulted in lowering the concentration of formic acid.

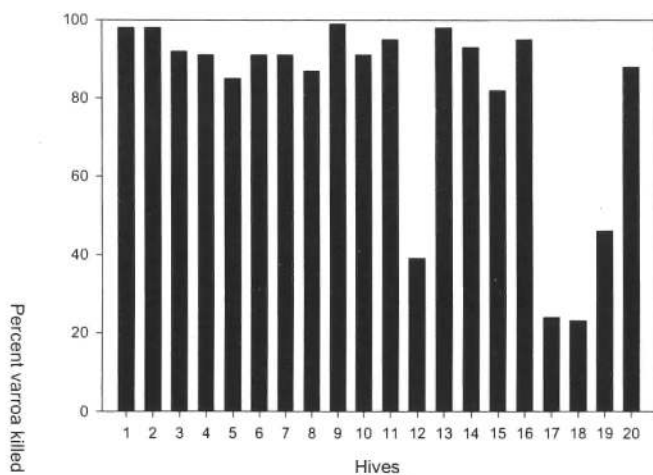


Figure 2. Effectiveness of a treatment with thymol at killing varroa in individual hives.

The average varroa kill rates do not provide the complete answer. Although mite wipes, absorbent pads, plastic pouches, and thymol gave on average better than 80% control at the cold sites, the level of control between hives was variable for all 4 treatments (e.g. Thymol figure 2). Most of the treated hives had very high levels of control (more than 95% and some close to 99%). However, for all 4 treatments about 20% of the hives had very low levels of control (between 10-40% control). The reason for the variation is

unclear. However, it does mean that if organic treatments are going to be used following the methods outlined in this trial it is important to sample varroa numbers to check the effectiveness of the treatment. Failure to do this, or treat a second time where necessary may result in hive losses.

Wooden rims were used on the hives treated with thymol and the formic acid treatments that were placed on the top bars. Their purpose was to increase the circulation of the thymol and formic acid vapours. Whether this was necessary is unknown.

The lack of effectiveness of floorboard treatments suggests that they are not worth using except under special conditions. The low effectiveness of oxalic acid was because it does not kill varroa in brood cells. Repeat applications are also reported to have negative impacts on hives and should therefore be avoided. As with floorboard applications of formic acid, oxalic acid cannot be used as a routine treatment for varroa, but may be useful in specific conditions.

Thymol was the best of the treatments tested giving high levels of control at both cold and warm sites. Thymol does require three applications, but it should be possible to design a system that controls the release of thymol vapours.

In conclusion the usefulness of the formic acid treatments is limited as the variability both between hives at the same site and between climatic zones is too high. Establishing the reason for this variation is vital if formic acid is to be used effectively. If it is going to be used we strongly recommend that the colonies are sampled for varroa after the treatments have been carried out. For comparison a summary of the treatments, costs and effectiveness of the 6 treatments is provided in Table 1.

Treatment	% Control		Number of Trips	Hazard
	cold site	warm site		
Formic acid plastic pouches	77.1	29.5	2	Moderate Bags filled in controlled conditions
Formic acid mite wipes	85.7	34.9	4	High 65% formic acid exposed in apiary
Formic acid floorboards	57.8	30.7	5	High 65% formic acid used in apiary
Formic acid absorbent pads	87.6	44.0	6	High 65% formic acid used in apiary
Oxalic acid	58.7	39.9	1	Low
Thymol dishes	80.3	83.0	3	Mild

Table 1. Summary of the results of the organic treatments.

Please remember that these compounds are either toxic or corrosive. Further details on how to handle or use them can be found in the Varroa Manual (Goodwin, R.M. and Van Eaton, C. 2001. Control of Varroa, A guide for New Zealand Beekeepers).

Acknowledgements

The authors wish to thank Steve Weenink and Chris Smuts for lending us their hives for the trial. We would also like to thank Margaret Davidson, David Holmes and Donald Sowerby for technical support. Also thanks to Harold Henderson of AgResearch for some of the statistical analysis. The study was funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Presentation of Khwarizmi International Award to Dr Barry J. Donovan

On 3 February this year I had the good fortune to be presented with the Khwarizmi International Award by the President of Iran, Sayad Mohammad Khatami, at a grand ceremony in Teheran, the capital of Iran (Figs 1 and 2).

The Khwarizmi Awards were instigated 16 years ago, and were named after the 9th century Iranian mathematician and astronomer Abu Jafar Muhammad Ibn Khwarizmi. The purpose of the Awards is to “acknowledge the efforts made by researchers, innovators and inventors, both in Iran and abroad, and to appreciate their invaluable achievements and contributions in various fields of science and technology”. The Awards are sponsored by 10 international organisations, two of which are of the United Nations, and also the Iranian Research Organisation for Science and Technology (IROST).

The Awards are held annually, and there are three categories of winners: Iranians resident in Iran, non-resident Iranians, and foreigners. Applications in a number of major categories are called for by IROST, and are judged by committees which include researchers from the international scientific and technological community. Final decisions are made by a committee of 22 members.

I was one of 10 foreign winners. I was recognised primarily for my body of work in the area of bees and pollination, and more particularly for my comprehensive honey bee dance and odour language hypothesis, published in *Bee World* in 2000, which presents a solution to the honey bee language controversy which has dogged the bee world for over 30 years.

The Award ceremony was attended by representatives of the Iranian scientific community, members of the Iranian Government, and diplomatic representatives of the countries of the foreign winners.

In his address (translated) to the assembly, President Khatami said that centuries ago, Iran, or Persia as it was then, was at the forefront of scientific research. However, over the last few centuries it had fallen back, and the Khwarizmi Awards were established in order to increase the ties with researchers elsewhere so that science in Iran could advance more quickly.

President Khatami pointed out that the world is always changing, and that Iranians and their institutions must also change or they will be left behind. He said that scientific and technical knowledge is behind all advances, so if Iran is to progress, these fields must be fostered, and under his administration this would continue to happen. He said that Iranians living abroad could be regarded as ‘foreign capital’ (now where have we heard that term before?) that would greatly benefit Iran, and that the Khwarizmi Awards are now rapidly growing in prestige throughout the world, so even more expatriate Iranians and foreigners should be visiting Iran in future.

In just a few days there I had little opportunity to learn about apiculture in Iran. What I knew before going there was that



Iran lies across the border between the Western honey bee *Apis mellifera* (the species we have in New Zealand) and the Eastern honey bee *A. cerana*. So with the Western honey bee in the west, and the Eastern honey bee in the east, Iranian bee researchers have a great opportunity for comparative research between the two species.

There is certainly a thirst for information on pollination in Iran, and I was asked to present a short course on the subject. Unfortunately, the brewing war against Iraq didn't allow this, and the continuing uncertainty of the international situation doesn't allow firm plans to be made.

My short visit was a fascinating experience. Contrary to my expectations, women were involved in all areas of public life, and were frequently in charge of meetings, and TV interviews and cameras etc. I saw no overt displays of religious fervour, and there were fewer buildings, which were obviously devoted to religion than one, would see in many areas of New Zealand. With the very open-minded President Khatami in office, Iran would seem to be headed for a favourable future.

B J Donovan

Donovan Scientific Insect Research
Canterbury Agriculture and Science Centre, Lincoln.

STOP PRESS

MAF Update July 2003

Paul Bolger

Varroa Management Programme Winds Down

The government-funded transitional varroa management programme, which began in November 2000, ended on 30 June this year. A range of varroa-related activities have been carried out as part of this programme, including:

- Publication of a book and video on varroa management
- A series of over 50 varroa workshops for beekeepers
- Varroa surveillance in the South Island and lower North Islands
- Movement controls
- Research on varroa management
- Registration of formic and oxalic acids (the thymol application has not yet been approved)

A more detailed summary of the programme is planned for the next issue of this magazine.

If the beekeeping industry wants activities such as varroa research or education to be carried out in the future, much more industry input will be required, including the obtaining of funding from industry or other sources.

Movement Controls

Although the MAF varroa programme has ended, the existing movement controls (including the North Island movement control line) will remain in place until the Controlled Area Notice is revoked. MAF believes the extent of spread discovered by surveillance this autumn means that the existing line cannot be retained, and it is questionable whether there would be any benefits from imposing a new line further south. MAF is currently discussing NI movement controls with the beekeeping industry.

Inter-island movement controls will be maintained while the Varroa Planning Group (VPG) is still working on a National

Pest Management Strategy proposal. Should the VPG decide it is not feasible to put a strategy in place, MAF will have to go to the Minister for Biosecurity and seek direction on movement controls beyond that point.

National Pest Management Strategy proposal

The Varroa Planning Group now believes that it will not be possible to fund a strategy primarily on the basis of voluntary contributions from affected sector organisations. The VPG is working with South Island regional councils/unitary authorities to look at options for funding via a rural land levy or targeted rate. A point that the VPG is continually having to stress is that the costs of a Pest Management Strategy can not and should not be met entirely by the beekeeping industry, given the presence of other stakeholders with larger interests. According to the economic impact assessment, the biggest impacts will fall on the pastoral sector. Unfortunately, this is the sector with the lowest awareness of varroa-related issues.

Where to from here?

The VPG will continue working until all options for funding a pest management strategy are exhausted. If no concrete proposal can be finalised by November 2003, the group may have to report to the Minister that it is not feasible to put a strategy in place. This will place any decisions on future varroa controls in the hands of the government rather than the affected industries.

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From the colonies



Hawkes Bay

Yes we have Varroa in the bay but only light infestations. These have been kept isolated as much as practical and we are still convinced that the Movement Control Line should be maintained even if we as beekeepers have to provide funds. At our June meeting president John, made it clear to the 51 present that in Hawkes Bay, we welcome anyone interested in beekeeping to attend any of our meetings. We also like people to pay \$10 per year to receive 11 issues of our Buzz Sheet and thus learn of meetings and what is happening locally. Then the crowded room listened to Brian Alexander from Tahekeroa giving us an insight into what Varroa has meant to his 800 hive beekeeping business. They hung on his every word of how he had learnt to work smarter and to increase his income in spite of having to spend more time at each yard. He did admit to being helped by a free supply of strips plus increased prices for both pollination and honey. The disappearance of ferals also helped.

John Berry was elected to be our conference delegate with Peter Berry as deputy. We are now waiting with baited breath to learn what Nelson has in store and how many votes we have in this modern world.

- Ron Morison

Franklin Club

Once a year, the Franklin Beekeepers club has a field trip to further the knowledge of the club. This year we were hosted by Dr Mark Goodwin and his team at HortResearch, Ruakura – Hamilton.

Dr Goodwin gave an entertaining presentation of the bee's time sense and orientation using some very elegant experiments. This was truly eye opening and even more so when related to the described brain size. I quite liked the use of a feeding tray to train the bees to forage over the lake. When the feeder got to the centre the bees would not go to it, as they knew there was no forage to be had there.

Heather McBrydie gave us a look at AFB under the microscope and other work in the lab including the intricacies of artificial insemination. AI is being used to help with breeding a Varroa resistant strain.

Michelle Taylor of AgriQuality showed us the work being done on the efficacies of organic Varroa treatments. Formic and oxalic acid proving to have a large variation in their reliability and are very dangerous to handle, whereas Thymol (which has not yet been approved for use) is easy to apply, has reliable results and is easy to use. Michelle said that resistance is not a problem with Thymol.

Byron Taylor covered the exotic diseases that have not yet made it into the country. This was quite timely with the debate on the import of new genetic material.

Dr Mark finished with a talk on toxic honey. He outlined his concerns about the recent changes to the rules on keeping hives in areas where Tutu grows.

Many thanks to Mark and his team, for giving up their Sunday.

Stuart Ward
Club President

Southern North Island Branch

As a branch it's pleasing to note that we now have over 50 members. The make up is half hobbyists but we also have on board the movers and shakers from the commercial and semi-commercial sectors.

Last month we held our meeting on a Saturday to give hobby members a chance of attending and we were pleased that over thirty beekeepers attended mostly from the Palmerston North and Wanganui Areas.

Varroa was the hot topic and most of the morning was devoted to it. The extensive spread has been an eye opener for most but this could be just the tip of the iceberg. As more beekeepers test their hives, more are finding low concentrations of mites a few km away from known finds.

Quite a few hobbyists were confused as to what they should be doing. The advice recommended at the meetings was to go home and treat their hives. As a minimum all beekeepers should be testing their hives. Re-read the Varroa Hand Book to familiarize themselves with testing methods and plan to test at least three times a year. For those who attended the AgriQuality varroa seminars, get out that piece of mite encapsulated sticky board so they have a guide as to what mites look like.

Paid surveillance has finished in the Southern North Island so beekeepers must now take the responsibility for doing this themselves. What's really important is that honey is removed off the hives in February and that beekeepers join a phone group or a club so that all treatments are coordinated.

A DECA course is planned for Wanganui on the 27th September. Beekeepers holding a DECA who haven't sat their test should take this opportunity to make themselves fully compliant. As the beekeeping season gets more intensive, there is less opportunity to run these courses. Contact the Palmerston North or the Wanganui beekeepers clubs if you are interested in attending.

We are also running another Camp Rangī for new beekeepers in August 2004. This is a major undertaking for the branch. It's a live-in weekend for new and not so new beekeepers to get a grip on the fundamentals of beekeeping.

Our next branch meeting will be an after conference meeting in August where members pass on the knowledge picked up at conference.

- Frank Lindsay

Canterbury Branch

Winter has arrived yet again and hives are well wintered down by now.

With the shortest day fast arriving and the fire cranked to maximum output, it is a great time to reflect on the past season and decide how to improve systems and/or performance for the coming season.

The season for me is best summed up as the good, the bad, and the ugly.

The good- Obviously the crop along with the price (both up at once makes a huge difference!)

The bad- Hindsight showing up obvious mistakes.

The ugly- The split of association members????

Luckily I only have room to reflect on one of these.

When going through my records (as one does?) and eliminating all the "normal" excuses which normally suffice,

it strikes me that the major impediment to our business growth looks back at me in the mirror each morning.

It's not that I make the same mistakes each year, but each of these obvious mistakes one vows never to repeat again though they seem to have several close variations. This I think happens involuntary from the "head down bum up" attitude of getting a task done as quickly as possible. To break this perpetual cycle, I would encourage fellow Beekeepers to take the time to recognise their weaknesses (yes-we all have them) and resolve to read a couple of books or research papers for some greater insight into other methods or ideas.

We have a great resource in the technical library, which I think is under utilised by industry members. When was the last time you ordered a book?

For beekeeping to remain profitable into the 21st century, we MUST keep up with international thinking and research and adapt this into our everyday operations. Perhaps the magazine could undertake to publish a research paper each month on a different topic or run interesting articles from past publications. As for me I'm off to check the mail...

- Brian Lancaster.

Waikato

We just had our 97th AGM, which was well supported by the branch members. Topics discussed at our general meeting were: increased incidence of Foulbrood, Varroa, PMS and funding, how to retain the current honey prices, NBA and its future. Mark Goodwin, our guest speaker discussed the topic of Bee's and Clocks. All topics created a fair amount of discussion with some leading to more questions than answers. The Waikato branch is to hold a field day on Saturday the 16th of August at Ruakura, Hamilton and an agenda for the field day will be sent as soon as possible.

Most members in our branch are winding down now from what has been a hectic season but there is still the odd shed full of honey to extract and some strips to be pulled from some hives. Winter maintenance and melting out old combs are the order of the day and some of us are planning some long over due holidays.

There has been some debate as to whether there will be enough hives available for Kiwifruit pollination this coming season. Last season hives available for pollination went down to the wire and if there had been a normal spring with no frost damage to the vines there would have been a definite shortage leaving some beekeepers in an embarrassing position.

The winter to date has so far been very mild but as I write this in mid June the temperatures are dropping and at least in the last few weeks we have had some good falls of rain.

- Lewis Olsen

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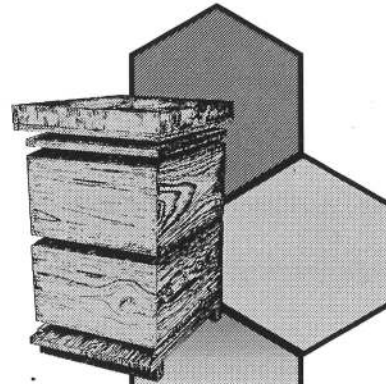
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Library Report

The library has been quietly running on a 'business as usual' basis in recent months. Books, magazines and videos go out and are returned. Not much money has been spent recently but some new books have been ordered from overseas and should arrive soon. Any member interested can place a reserve on these now.

Two about Apitherapy are:

Bee propolis: natural healing from the hive. FEARNLEY, James 172 p. (A wide-ranging introduction to propolis)
Medical aspects of beekeeping RICHES, Harry 86p. (Topics covered: stings, hypersensitivity to bee venom, allergy problems, honey and apitherapy)

The other is:

Insect pollination in glasshouses SOMMEIJER, Marinus 220p. (Rearing of bumblebees and the role of insect pollination for the production of greenhouse crops)

The big news is that the library is now "in a library" (albeit a small one) but moving the main stock into one area has made life much easier for the librarian. Second-hand interlocking shelving has been purchased and all books and videos are on display. A stocktake will be carried out soon as a number of items have gone missing over the years.

Please consider visiting the library if you are travelling along SH 7.

There will be a library display at conference from Tuesday morning until Thursday afternoon. Look forward to talking with as many members as possible at Nelson.

Chris Taiaroa
Hon. Librarian

National Beekeepers Assn Inc Project Expanding Options For New Zealand Beekeepers

CITY DATES VENUES

Wanganui: Monday 28 July
Avenue Hotel & Conference Centre

Tauranga: Friday 8 August (TBC)
Harbour City Motor Inn

Nelson: Friday 15 August
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Applications for Grants from Honey Industry Trusts

The annual meeting of the three trustees of the Honey Industry Trusts was held in Wellington on Friday 13 June 2003.

At this meeting it was decided that the present procedures for applications for grants from Honey Industry Trusts would remain in place until further notice. These procedures were agreed at a meeting between the NBA Executive and the Trustees held on the 28th November 2001.

In view of the changes that are going on within the beekeeping industry we thought it would be appropriate to publish these procedures in the NZ Beekeeper so everyone knows what they are.

- Ian Berry

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4. The application (+ARAC report) is considered by the Executive and forwarded to the Trustees together with the recommendations – positive, negative or neutral of the Executive.
5. The Trustees make their decisions and advise the applicant direct – copy to Secretary NBA.

Notes:

- (a) If ARAC report raises a minor query – eg methodology – the President may discuss this with the applicant if the Executive considers this desirable.
- (b) The Trustees only contact with the applicant will be to advise him/her/them of their decision.
- (c) All applications – regardless of the NBA Executive recommendation – must be forwarded to the Trustees.

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About the Apiary

It's a mild winter, along the coastal fringe and while the temperatures hover around 15 deg C, the bees are making the most of it, bringing in loads of pollen and a little nectar. Quite a few of the coastal forest trees and introduced species are flowering; Tree Lucerne, Black Wattle, Spanish Heath, Kohekohe, Dandelion and a few climbers that are flowering out of season. I even saw clover flowering along the road edge. All this activity means brood rearing has continued so hives could be a little short of stored in the spring.

Normally I wouldn't be bothering hives at this time of the year but varroa has now changed that. I found a few light hives and added a few frames of honey to get them through to my next visit in August. For those wintering "two high" you can judge the weight of the hive by "hefting" it, i.e. trying to tip the hive forward by lifting from the top handhold with one hand. One should be able to lift the hive if it is full. This test is not always reliable, as I have come across hives with old queens that were heavy from stored pollen. If you're not sure as to how much honey is in the hive, light the smoker (in case you need to control the bees), then gently remove the roof and inner cover or hive mat. Look down between the frames and you should see capped honey. If you can't, investigate further by removing a few frames. At this time of the year the top super should be almost full. As a minimum there should always be three frames of honey. If the hive is short of stores, add frames of honey or feed warm sugar syrup as thick as you can make it. To produce a 2 to 1 sugar solution, fill a container 7/8 full with white sugar and then top up the

container to the brim with hot water and stir. Place the warm sugar syrup in a container immediately above the bees or if using a frame feeder, place as close to the bees as possible. Don't feed more than 10 litres at one time as this could ferment during the winter. If feeding, lift the hive mat a little by putting a small twig under adjacent corners to let the extra water vapour get away.

On the way home the other night, a bee stung me by the nail on my little finger, as I changed gears. I missed the gear initially as this is a very painful place to be stung. Beekeepers should take note of their first bee sting for the season, especially older beekeepers. I heard the other day of a beekeeper being stung and going in to shock requiring hospital treatment. This can happen to anybody at any time. Depends on your health and how your body reacts to a sting. For some strange reason sometimes the body instead of producing Immunoglobulin G, decides to produce IgE and this causes an allergic reaction. If your reaction to stings is getting more severe, consult your doctor. As a safety measure ask for a syringe and an adrenalin ampoule. This is far cheaper than purchasing an Epipen although the Epipens are far quicker and easier to use in an emergency.

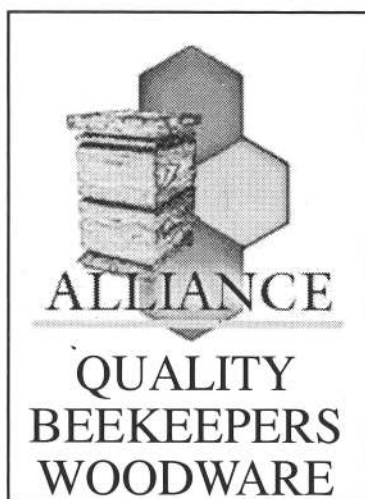
There has been some concern on the beekeepers Email list that beekeepers are not using alternative treatments to prevent resistance to the strips. While reading the latest batch of magazines, an article in the April Scottish Beekeeper jumped out at me. A simple, cheap oxalic acid sublimator (fumigator) developed in Slovenia that beekeepers can use as an alternative

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to treat hives in winter to knock down Varroa mites. It consists of a tealight candle, a mesh surround and a tiny tray to hold the acid crystals plus a stand. Put on your mask, add an empty super, light the candle, move the sublimator into one of the corners, add 1 gm (or 2 gm for a 2 story hive) of oxalic acid and close the hive for 8 minutes. It's meant to give a two-week knockdown. The only draw back is the oxalic acid fumes are deadly so you need a good quality mask and the hive should be well sealed.

I have been experimenting with another fumigator purchased from Canada, the vaporizer (<http://www.members.shaw.ca/orioleln>). This consists of a type of "T" chamber, with a small air pump on one side and a tube going into the hive entrance on the other. Pop in 2 gm of oxalic acid. Heat it slowly with a primus bottle for 2 minutes and pump in the vapor. Seal the hive for another ten minutes and it's done. All the time wearing a mask. Repeat in two weeks to give a longer knockdown, said to be up to 6 weeks or more.

I have had a few problems with this device. Can't be operated during a fire ban so used a large fruit tin. The high humidity in NZ tended to boil the oxalic crystals too quickly so they ended up in the top of the vaporizer therefore it took longer to heat to vaporize all the oxalic acid. I'm still working through this exercise and can't tell what the knock down rate is because I didn't take enough samples to establish the mite count before hand.

There's another model of entrance applicator on the market produced by a Swiss company. This consists of a rod with a dish at the end surrounded by a heating element. which is connected to a 12volt battery. An early model heated too quickly and tended to splatter the oxalic acid crystals rather than vaporize them but this problem has now been over come.

Oxalic acid vapourising has advantages over other methods if it works as proved overseas. It can be done in all weathers. It can be applied to a hive up to 8 times a year before residue levels are reached, however this should be checked against NZ conditions before it can be recommended. You don't disturb the colony; it is very cheap, about a \$1.00 per hive if you count your time (5cents for the oxalic acid). The manufacturers say it should take about two minutes to complete the exercise but I'm taking about 4 minutes per hive for the type I'm using (setting up, loading up, heating blowing in vapour, sealing hive and setting up again. They say you can treat 250 hives per day.

Set up cost is high, \$130 for the gear plus a mask. However a hobbyist (an engineer) copied one and knocked it out in a couple of hours using some old copper piping. If we could get the systems checked locally under controlled conditions, it could save beekeepers a heap of money. I was told the other day that one commercial beekeeper was paying \$10,000 a year for strips. That's the equivalent to a three-week Canadian holiday every year.

However the "Tealight candle" idea looks a lot easier to set up and if it delivers the vapor to the bees, it could be a winner for hobbyists. We should hear more about this after Apimondia in August.

Things to do: Monitor hives for varroa during the brood-less period. Purchase wood-wear and protect it with a wood preserver that is non-toxic to bees, Make up new gear. Check hives after storms.

Frank Lindsay

Apimondia

One of my ambitions as a beekeeper was to somehow, sometime, attend an International Apicultural congress of Apimondia. My chance came in August 1995 when it was held in Lausanne, Switzerland. Firstly because it was held at a time of the year when it was not clashing with our pollination work, and secondly I was able to organise to go with two beekeeping friends.

The scale of the congress was huge. As an example, one day was reserved for a bus trip. It took more than 50 large buses to seat everyone and each bus was sent on a different tour, which included not only tourist sites, but one different beekeeping stop for each bus. Anyone attending Congress with friends or associates had to travel separately, enabling you to meet new people on your bus, which was fantastic. Remember almost every country in the world has beekeepers, and most countries have beekeepers at Apimondia.

The trade displays, including several from New Zealand, were amazing and on their own were well worth the trip. Add it this the various papers presented on so many different aspects of beekeeping and the evening entertainment – well it all added up to a great experience. I would recommend to any New Zealand beekeeper who had the opportunity to visit Apimondia to make the effort and go. You won't regret it!

- **Ian Berry**

Bon voyage to all beekeepers attending Apimondia – Slovenia, August 2003

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Import Risk Analysis: Honey Bee (*apis mellifera*) Genetic Material. June 2003

The potential for importing genetic material into NZ in the near future to improve our bee stocks and to assist in varroa control has inherent dangers. Beekeepers should be aware of the potential hazards such imports can bring.

MAF has released a discussion document and wants submissions in by 1 August 2003.

This is a comprehensive document, which categorises the different disease organisms, pests and viruses that have been identified, and whether they are likely to be a threat to New Zealand.

Eggs and semen are the most likely to be imported material as they offer the least hazards. Viruses have never been a problem to NZ beekeepers and few are aware of them but to me imported viruses seem to present the greatest danger to the health of our bees now we have varroa.

Nelson Field Day

After an invitation from Philip Cropp to attend the field day to be hosted at his premises, Tony and I decided to venture south to meet and see what our South Island counterparts were up to.

The primary focus of the day was to look at the new set up of Philip's extracting plant, that incorporates several new pieces of equipment supplied by Peter Boutelje, and Trevor Cullen – who were both present at the field day as well.

As we flew south that day, it became apparent that we were heading for worse weather conditions than we had in the Waikato. Wellington was as per usual blowing a gale, and raining. As we left Wellington, we hoped for the nice sunny Nelson weather – alas that was not to be.

The turnout was good, and much interest was shown in the new pieces of equipment. Discussion centred around trying to get the best out of the equipment that you have- flow through designs, and how to get the best out of spin floats that separate the wax and honey.

From our point of view, the only draw back we could see was that with setting up the whole plant in one room, and with all the plant in operation, it would be quite a noisy place to work in. On the other side of the coin, with the amount of space around the equipment, it will be easy to move the boxes of honey, and the drums of honey to their destination.

During the day there were presentations from both the National Beekeepers Association, and the Federated Farmers Bee Industry Group. After this there was considerable discussion on the proposed Varroa Pest Management Strategy for the South Island. It was a pity that some of the information imparted at this field day by the Bee Industry Group was not quite correct, so that some beekeepers will have gone away from that meeting with a false impression of what had been agreed upon by the Stakeholder groups and the regional councils.

I would suggest that all queen producers and those beekeepers interested in breeding queens obtain a copy of this document. Even if you don't make a submission, its a good reference manual and you can obtain one free!

Copies can be downloaded from the MAF website URL. www.maf.govt.nz/biosecurity/consultation.htm or a hard copy can be obtained by writing to: Martin Van Ginkel, Technical Adviser, Biosecurity Authority, Ministry Of Agriculture and Forestry, P O Box 2526 Wellington email vanginkelm@maf.govt.nz.

Frank Lindsay

It was good to put faces to names. We enjoyed the day, and we are now looking forward to a fabulous time in Nelson for conference. The group of speakers that we have lined up for conference, should interest everyone. And if you are not interested in what is on at the Seminar, get a small group together – get on the buses that will be available and go see the fantastic Nelson district.

- Jane Lorimer



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BK 133

Update on Biological Control of Wasps

- Dr Barry J. Donovan

Once again wasp numbers have been low over much of the country this past summer, although there have been a few 'hotspots' where nests have been relatively easy to locate. Starting in 2000, there have now been four years of generally low wasp numbers, so it is beginning to appear as if the days of very large numbers of foragers over widespread areas are gone, but it seems that wasps may still be sufficiently abundant here and there to cause problems to the environment, to people and beekeepers.

A comment from several sources, is that where the numbers of the Common wasp *Vespula vulgaris* are now much lower than a few years ago, the German wasp *V. germanica* is somewhat more numerous than it has been recently. There is evidence that in spring, the queens of the two species compete for sites in which to build their nests. We have collected a number of nests that started out with the brown paper of Common wasps, but soon changed to the grey paper of German wasps. This suggests that Common wasp queens emerged earlier and started their nests sooner, and so occupied the available nest sites. German queens emerging later may have found that the nest sites were occupied, but at least a few were able to take over small nests from their Common wasp owners. Now, with fewer Common wasp queens, German queens may be able to found more nests in unoccupied nest sites.

So where are we now with biological control of wasps? The first parasitoid of wasps, the subspecies *Sphecophaga vesparum vesparum*, from Europe, that I and my team in the old DSIR established in New Zealand in the 1980s, was said to be about tripling its number annually to 1993, which is as far as data went (Barlow et al 1998). A second subspecies, *S. v. burra*, from North America, which we had ready for release in late 1992, was not released until four years later, because of delays caused by the breakup of the old DSIR and the formation of the Crown Research Institutes in mid 1992. Working as an individual, I imported further stocks in 1993, and in conjunction with Landcare Research Ltd., made field releases in late 1996 (Donovan 1999). Unfortunately there is not yet any evidence of establishment (Harris and Read 1999).

From Israel, Havron and Margalith (1995) reported that *S. v. vesparum* parasitized up to 100% of nests of the Oriental hornet *Vespa orientalis*. The nest architecture and life cycle of the Oriental hornet are very similar to that of the German wasp, so in 1994 I began importing the Israeli parasitoid to quarantine at the Canterbury Agriculture and Science Centre at Lincoln, in the hope that it might be more effective than the European *S. v. vesparum*. It soon became evident that the Israeli parasitoid was somewhat different from the European, so I have recently described these new characteristics, and have named the Israeli parasitoid as a new species *Sphecophaga orientalis* (Donovan 2002).

Under controlled conditions in quarantine, the Israeli parasitoid propagated extremely vigorously on pupae of both

the German wasp and Common wasp – but not at all on honey bees, bumble bees or lucerne leafcutting bees. MAF Qual granted permission for field release on 20 February 1997, and later that summer and in summer 1998, a total of 8 German wasp nests and 28 Common wasp nests were inoculated with various combinations of eggs, larvae, pupae and adults of the parasitoid.

After several weeks, examinations of nests showed that half the German wasp nests had been attacked, but there was no evidence of attack in any of 27 Common wasp nests recovered. The reasons for the lack of attack in Common wasp nests are not clear, but one possibility is that because the larvae of the Israeli parasitoid are bigger than those of the other parasitoids from Europe and North America, perhaps wasps can detect them in the cells, and remove them? If this is true, there is still a possibility that the Israeli parasitoid could attack and establish in the small start to nests built by queen wasps in spring. This is because about five weeks elapse before the first worker wasps emerge, and during this period the queen is frequently away foraging, so perhaps the lack of wasps in the nest might provide the Israeli parasitoid with a window of opportunity for attack and survival that is not there in more advanced nests (Donovan et al. 2002).

In 1981-82 I imported some eggs and adults of a beetle parasitoid of wasps, *Metoecus paradoxus*, from Europe, but although the eggs hatched, the larvae failed to thrive. In November 2001, several score eggs arrived into the Insect Quarantine Facility at Lincoln from the laboratory of Professor Francis Ratnieks of the University of Sheffield, England. They had been collected for me by a student, David Hewett. Unfortunately, and despite trying a range of conditions to stimulate development, all eggs failed to hatch.

A new Permit to Import for the beetle has recently been issued to me by MAF Qual. So another attempt to collect beetle eggs will be made for me this coming northern autumn, i.e. around October. My present funding for this works runs out at the end of June next year, and whether new funding is allocated will not be known until early next year. However if all goes well, after several years of propagation of beetles in captivity, and after conducting host range tests to be sure that only wasps are attacked, perhaps we will have another enemy of wasps established in the field. If so, the numbers of wasps may be eventually reduced in those few small areas where their populations still become pestiferous.

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