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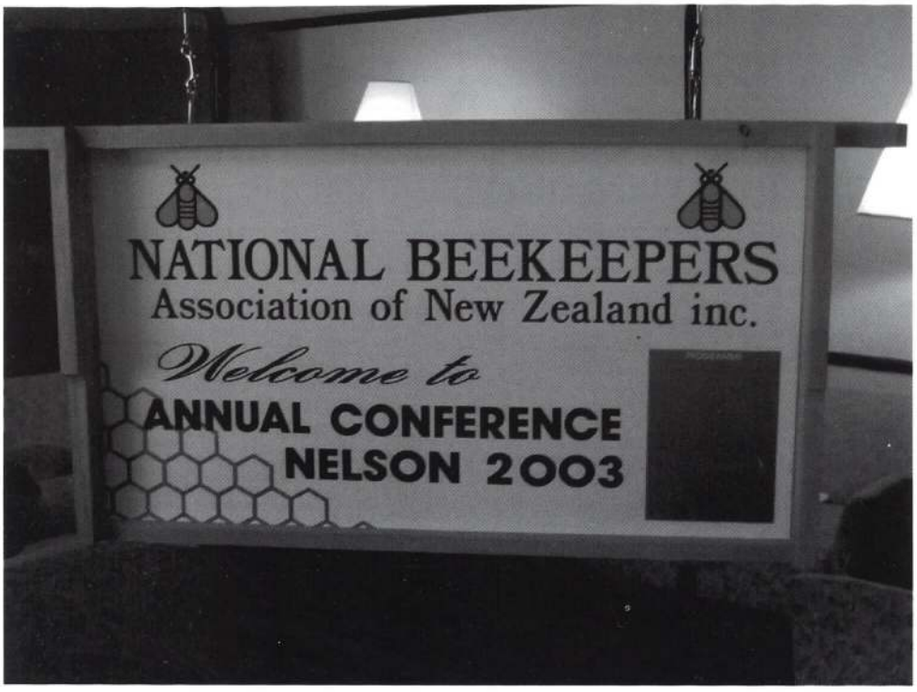

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Acting Presidents Report to AGM Nelson – 24 July 2003

I would like to welcome you all to the new Voluntary Organisation. You are some of the 348 who have chosen to pay a subscription to the NBA. The subscription set must have seemed reasonably realistic for those who have chosen to join. The Executive is pleased that so many of you have shown your support, and to those who have given us sizeable donations we wish to express our sincerest gratitude.

As you know the organisation has been tipped on its side since the no vote from the referendum and the outcome of the special meeting in December 2002. The question has been asked – Can we survive in today's political climate as a voluntary organisation?

I believe that the answer is an emphatic YES!!! We may have to use beekeepers innovative thinking, utilise every communication tool available to us, and above all to think outside the square.

The greatest obstacle to success is whether we can get the buy in from every beekeeper in the country to actively participate in the running and development of our voluntary organisation.

Our success or failure hinges on our ability to meet the needs and wants of our members. If we, the membership, do not perform, the organisation will fail. Each and every one of us should be accountable for our actions as well as our inactions. What ever we do should be for the benefit of the majority.

We must learn from the mistakes made by previous Executives and ensure that they are not repeated. We must focus on the future, and this is what the Executive has endeavoured to do.

Once we had formed the new Executive through co-opting two very able and willing South Islanders and Pauline Bassett as our Secretary, we got to work to identify our best possible way forward given our uncertain funding for the year.

We decided that our best plan of attack was to focus on a few key areas – these being Communications, the AFB PMS – due to our obligations as the Management Agency and this conference.

We have however had to continue with other activities that had begun in 2002. This has included obtaining the funding from Technology New Zealand for Dr Peter Molan's research, continuing work on the GM issue with MAF personnel and lastly preparing submissions on issues that affect us.

The results from Dr Molan's research will provide the industry with new options for income. I believe that we should be making every endeavour to ensure that research is continued even under our voluntary regime. We may need a dedicated team to work solely on submitting applications to organisations who provide funds for research and other activities. We should also be endeavouring to harness new findings so that a portion of the revenue from new products developed from NBA funded research comes back into the organisation to be utilised in further new areas of research.

Communications:
Communications was something that had been identified as being something that had been left wanting in the past and needed to be improved. This has meant not only focusing on communications to the membership, but also within the Executive. This is in itself a huge task but it must be done to ensure that we work as a cohesive and effective team. I thank them all for their willingness to put forward opinions, ideas and solutions to problems as they arose. We may have slipped up on occasions, but I believe the team had done a huge amount of work to the best of their ability in the time they have had available. As volunteers our businesses must come first.

To the publications committee who have done a tremendous job in maintaining the publications of our Association magazine – a great big thank you. To keep this magazine going out to our members on a monthly basis has been a gigantic task. Not only has the team had to get the articles together for the magazine, but they have also laid the magazine out for the publishers, and also had to find sponsors to pay for the magazine postage. So every one please assist this group by offering articles without them having to chase you up for the deadline.

We have also contracted Mr Nick Wallingford to revamp our NBA website, so that it caters for both members and non-members of the Association. There is a section on the site that is only available to NBA members. To get access to this area you have to log on to it with a password you want to use. When you have done that your request to get access to this area goes back to our Executive secretary, who then approves access provided you are a member of the Association. If you have not yet visited the site, it is well worth the time.

Deadline for publication:

October Edition: 15 September 2003
November Edition: 13 October 2003

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

Fiona O'Brien
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Phone 07 871 1500 Fax 07 871 1800
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The maintenance of the running of the library for our members is also another reason to belong to our organisation. The library is an incredible asset for our members – Please ensure that it is well used.

AFB PMS

The Review and operations committees have been busy carrying out our obligations under the AFB Pest Management Strategy.

The review team, advised by Dr Mark Goodwin, and Murray Bush managed to do what I thought was the impossible – they carried out the five year review in just over a month. As prescribed in the order in council it had to be done in the month of April. Thank you gentlemen, we appreciated your devotion to the task. The review document will be released shortly to all beekeepers and you will be able to make a submission on this.

The operations team has set about and completed the operational plan for 2003-2004, whereby they have addressed the issues raised in the review. One of the major changes is the agreement that there needs to be a PMS Manager employed to oversee the running of the PMS – in particular to ensure that the tasks within the operational plan are undertaken and completed on time.

The operations team has also been busy assisting the Management Agency to carry out the additional consultation that was necessary following MAF informing us in our March meeting that, up until then, the consultation had been deemed to be inadequate.

We have just finished responding to the submission received, and MAF are looking closely at the suggestions that we have made. We have been told by MAF that the earliest time that we would be likely to get a levy in place would be Labour Weekend. This work has been an additional burden on us brought about by the actions of those no longer in the organisation. It has taken up considerable time that should have been devoted to getting input from the members as to the future direction of our organisation.

Conference

The last area that we focused on was of putting on this seminar and conference week. The Executive decided early on in the year that we should try to steer away from the very political side of our industry and focus on the provision of seminars and field days that would allow beekeepers greater opportunity to gain up to date information on various topics. It has been quite embarrassing how many have approached us to speak at the seminars this year, but it has also given us encouragement. We would like to think that this will be another drawcard to bring more members into our organisation. We hope you have enjoyed the past few days, although we know that we will not have pleased everybody. Nevertheless, we would like to get your feedback not only on what you thought of conference, but also of the Executive's performance to date, what you want of us in the future, and where we many need to improve. Please fill in the questionaire we have given you.

As you will now have realised, your Executive has been extremely busy, and has managed to do this work on a shoestring budget. Have we been able to do as good a job as if we had been aligned with Federated Farmers still, or have we done an even better job, because of our knowledge about our industry and a willingness to work for little financial reward of the betterment of our membership?

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the running of the Association while I have been at the helm. Without your assistance I would probably have ended up in an asylum. I would however like to especially mention two people. To Pauline Bassett who has done a tremendous job for us as our interim secretary – she has juggled her available time between us, their business and family. No easy feat. Thanks Pauline, we wish you well in the future and bid you an enjoyable time overseas next year. And finally, to my husband Tony, who has had to cook innumerable dinners – or starve, while I have attended to NBA business using that marvel of modern technology – e-mail. The support he has given me has been unstinting. And as a reward, we will be having some time off after conference on a faraway sun soaked island – at his expense.

Thank you

Jane Lorimer
NBA President

It was with every confidence that the Nelson Conference endorsed Mrs Jane Lorimer as President of the National Beekeeper Association for the 2003-2004 year.

Conference

Conference went off very well. Phil Cropp and the Nelson team who put it together must be congratulated. I know one or two had sleepless nights because initial bookings were low and it looked like they were heading for financial disaster, however all came right on the day when 170+ beekeepers turned up. Well done team!

It was very surprising to see so many North Islanders attended and how few South Islanders. Perhaps this was due to the good crops in the north and the divide in the beekeeper organisations. Pity, as both organisations have their merits.

A lot usually miss the Monday Speciality Group meetings, as concentration is put on attendance at the Tues/Wed seminars. However some of the Speciality groups run very informative meetings. At the Queen breeders meeting Charlie Harper told us of the East Russian bees and we had a long time to quiz him on aspects that could affect us. They also resolve to merge into the other producer group.

The pollination meeting drew attention to a new product (Beeforce) orchardists were putting on beekeepers hives to improve their pollination. This device squirts pollen on the bees as they leave the hive. Some felt that the device disrupted the bees to such an extent that they produced a lower honey crop. Others didn't experience any difficulties except when it came to taking the hives out - some found the devices still on their hives. Debate was also sparked when some beekeepers report that the Beeforce Units had been to Australia and back, during the season. We'll hear more about this in the future.

The evening's planning session on the future of the NBA determined very early on that the National Beekeepers Association will continue but needed to restructure to improve communications and reduce the workload of the executive. Eric Livingstone further developed this on Thursday through the planning session conducted.

Trade displays were interesting with quite a number of new products shown. These included an automatic honey loosener, a new computer programme that allows you to track everything, very important now that we have to proved tracking from the apiary to point of sale. Thymol gel for mite control which is still going through the registration process. A new AFB field identification kit could be of interest to a lot of hobby beekeeper but needs to be tested under NZ condition before it will be released for sale. For the big beekeepers', a commercial heat exchange was on display that can control the temperature down to 0.2 of a degree C. Outside a remotely controlled crane was set up on a trailer, which can lift and placing a hive 4 meters away. The Ecowood tanalising process, bee safe, with a reputed life of 25 years, also impressed me. One manufacturer is using this product and was there with his supers.

The sugar industries have been good sponsors and continue to support our industry. Easy to use propolis mats were demonstrated, and the plastic industries were there along with packaging and plastic frames. One is looking at producing a foam plastic super with dove tail joints for easy assemble and strength.

Our main supporters were there in the force; NZ Beeswax with his extra strength comb that fits into a new full depth frame (foundation right to the bottom) and our two main equipment supply companies and their agents. I'm sure we'll all appreciate the sun hat when the weather warms and the coconut ice was nice also - thanks Stuart.

Others supported the conference but could not attend in person. Thanks to you all, for really good trade displays.

The seminars were spread over two days this year and were a great success although numbers indicated more were interested in day one's topics than day two. You missed a few highlights if you didn't attend both days.

Peter Bray warned us that we were at the top of a wave with honey prices as the world reset after the problems with residues in honey. There isn't a world shortage in honey, just a realigning of supply and demand, and as the last 40 years show there are ups and down in honey pricing. His advice - don't spend it all at once.

One of the highlights for me was Dr Peter Molan's address. His research has helped to make beekeeping profitable and with the results from the antioxidant research some varieties honey (those that are slow to granulate) will be even more profitable. He's pointing the way to where we beekeepers can gain more money but was a little disturbed that NZ was not taking up his research quickly enough to hold the market edge.

One of his major problems is getting samples. It seems absurd that he's working for us yet we fail to support him by providing the basic products. All beekeepers should put a few jars aside while extracting. Fill one with each of your different mono honeys and send them off to the Waikato University. It's an investment in your future. It's only when he has a large number of samples he can apply research to that honey. Unfortunately like all research organisations, he has a large number of projects but funding for only for one.

Bill Winner, Capilano Australia, told us of the food safety programme Australia has introduced, named BeeQual. Many of the larger Australian beekeepers have upgraded their extraction plants to meet these new requirements. Up-to-date machinery, easy to clean, free of rubbish around the building - he gave us a lot to think about. During the presentation there were little captions on the side indicting the do's and don't. I was surprised to see overalls were discouraged from being used in favour of normal clothing. Overalls are normally taken off during lunch, restroom stops etc and therefore are dropped on the floor, contaminating them. Most of us will need to upgrade a little, inside and out to comply with their stringent requirements.

Dr Mark Goodwin scared us twice. Once showing us the results through the century of tutu poisoning (much food for thought) and again when he forecast changes in the PMS's

administration. No longer will the Management Agency be lean on non-compliant beekeepers. Some are in for a big shock.

One of Glens Neil's counterparts from NZFA stressed the need for Harvest Declaration. These are required for all products sold or bartered (hobbyists included). These should be written up as each batch product is processed. They now form part of the paper trail required by all food products.

The afternoon session on Varroa had it highs and lows. Michelle Taylor told us resistance was just around the corner, Pam Gregory followed on by explaining what's happened in the UK and Charles Harper gave us a run down on Russian Queens compared to the current bees.

Peter Lyttle updated us on MiteGone, Bruce Bycroft (Crop & Food) outlined a new way of delivering chemicals into the hive that proved very effective, quick to administer but needs continuing research to determine residue levels.

Mike Stuckey outline the development of a bottom feeder, which goes with his 2-queen system and hoped others would try it and refine it further.

Day two started with exotics, Tracheal mites, European Foulbrood and Small Hive Beetle. Seems these are making slow progress in some areas because ants clean them up before they can get into the soil to pupate. The message came in loud and clear. These things are only a boat or plane trip away and we as beekeepers must take the first steps and start looking for them in our hives while we are inspecting them. If you're not sure, take a sample and send it in for analysis. AgriQuality has put out a simple field diagnostic sheet to assist beekeepers.

AFB was reviewed by Dr Mark Goodwin, don't drop the ball just because all our attention is on mites. Murray Bush told us of his UK trip and a new AFB field test kit, which will be available shortly. No longer will we have to ponder whether it is or isn't.

Just for fun Dr Mark gave us a lesson on identifying disease and how confusing parasitic mite syndrome (PMS) can be.

After lunch we were into imports, the risk analysis process for bringing in bee material and all the processes that have to be considered to prevent other nasties coming in with the material.

Tony Roper, AgriQuality gave us his impressions on the Russian bees he has seen during his recent visit to the USA. He dispelled quite a few myths but still left me with a few questions; what about our bee export market, how will they go in pollination and how do we keep a number of lines separate to prevent inbreeding.

TRAINING - One major concern came for the Telford Agricultural College. They have only one student this year and will not continue with the beekeeping course unless numbers increase next year. A sobering thought - USE IT OR LOSE IT.

As part of the on-going process they are also restructuring the courses in units, some of which can be undertaken by college students. If any of you are approached to help, please give your time generously, as some day, one of these students could be the one to take over your business. While things are not too busy, it might pay a few to get the Telford pack and talk to High Schools and Colleges about beekeeping. Ask yourself why you are in beekeeping, then go out and sell the dream of ownership to students.

MAF experts were there to up date us on the GE debate. It was pleasing to see that Irene Parminter had taken on board all the things that worried beekeepers voiced at the Auckland conference. We are concerned the moratorium will be lifted shortly and as yet there isn't a lot of protection for beekeepers.

On the Thursday 70 beekeepers (many more than anticipated) sat down in a small stuffy room to work through the second part of the planning session undertaken by Eric Livingstone. This went very well. Remits were all over in 30 minutes, the balance sheet was presented and looks quite healthy. It was disappointing to hear that all this was only finalised a week before conference, due to delays in the audit process from last financial year.

Jane Lorimer was elected as our President and Don Stedman as Vice President. The meeting closed on a very positive note.

- Frank Lindsay

Library news

It was good to be able to speak with many NBA library users at the conference. The magazine posting list is now considerably longer and ways to increase the number of magazines available are being investigated. However, it has been decided to double the loan fee for each magazine - to 20 cents.

Three new additions to the library are detailed below. If you have a catalogue, please add these to it.

GOODMAN, Lesley - "Form & function in the honey bee"

IBRA, 2003 (Donated to the NBA by IBRA)

This large (240 X 340 mm) book is a comprehensive and detailed look at the honey bee.

CAPILANO - "Honey extracting facilities and food safety programme"

SOMERVILLE Doug; "Study of the small hive beetle in the USA" NSW Agriculture, 2003

This was donated by Bill Winner, one of the speakers at the seminars.

There was considerable interest in it and it's now processed and ready for mailing - but the name of the beekeeper who requested it has been lost. Would he please contact the librarian.

- Chris Taiaroa

NBA happenings –Vice-President.

Anti-oxidant project
Dr Peter Molan reported to Conference the results of his research on assessing the anti-oxidant properties of honey. Since this was a project supported by the NBA, there was a strong feeling that the value of the work should benefit New Zealand beekeepers through the NBA. While we were together a group was set up, donations and pledges collected, a steering committee established and a start has now been made on the legal steps needed to ensure that Dr Molan's findings are protected. If you would like to support this work, which is expected to add value to some New Zealand honey, please send your donation cheque to the Executive Secretary, Pauline Bassett, who will add your name to the supporters list.

Executive Vacancy
As no nominations were received for one of the North Island Executive vacancies the Executive is required by our Constitution to appoint a person holding the appropriate residential qualification. The appointee will hold the position until next year's AGM.

At present the Executive meet twice a month in the evening utilising 3 way calling. We are not anticipating full executive meetings which involve travelling except at the time of Conference. Much executive communication utilises Email. Expressions of interest are sought from individuals or Branches. This is not a formal nomination/ election process , that cycle will restart next autumn.

Please forward the name of any suitable willing member to the President, Jane Lorimer or myself as soon as possible.

The Way Forward
Confidence in the NBA's future was the overwhelming feeling of those who attended the conference in Nelson last month. I was reassured by the strong resolve shown by most of those present to deal with the challenges facing our industry.

Four days of solid work, attending full-on presentations, participating in frank discussions, considering options and possibilities, discussing and questioning the points raised, covering the full range of technical and political issues was exhausting yet exciting.

It is too soon to have analysed the discussions and decisions made but progress was made in areas such as: the AFB PMS, dealing with Varroa, retaining value from Dr Peter Molan's anti-oxidant research, and looking towards the future structure of the NBA.

The session led by Eric Livingstone on future directions for the NBA produced lots of ideas with considerable consensus. There will be material there for several magazine articles and, I hope, some considered debate so that necessary structural alterations can be prepared before next Conference.

A consistent theme was that the executive should operate in more of a governance role, with responsibility to see that tasks are done, not necessarily doing them. Our members have a great deal of talent and knowledge, we need to make use of your skills. Please contribute ideas and information when we have to respond to an issue.

Jane Lorimer was elected President so she can carry on the excellent work she has done in the first half of this year.

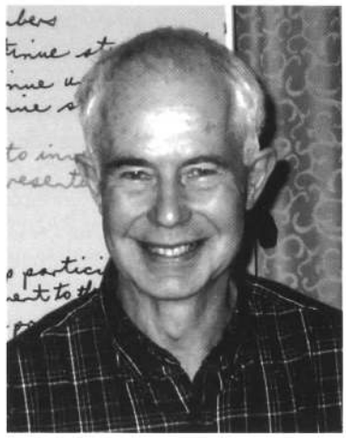
Thanks to the committee who organised such a good Conference in such a short time. I'm already looking forward to Hawkes Bay, next year.

And of course the South Island won the after dinner quiz !

Don Stedman
Vice President - NBA

Expanding The NBA'S Future

Conference 2003 in Nelson allowed time for NBA members to debate the future direction of the organisation. An informal, at times heated meeting was held on the Monday evening, where we were able to air our views. Jane Lorimer opened the meeting with an outline of where the NBA is now in terms of membership and finances. Ideas for the future management and structure from Russell Berry, the Bay of Plenty branch and the Waikato branch were put to the meeting. There was debate on a possible future voting and subscriptions structure. Notes from the evening were faxed to Eric Livingston.



Mr Eric Livingstone Facilitator of "Expanding The NBA's Future"

The quote of the evening: "The costs have run away with the spoon".

On the Thursday of conference week we adjourned our AGM to hold a special meeting facilitated by Eric Livingston. While not everyone was happy with either the process or the outcomes, Eric made it clear that the results from this meeting should give us some guidelines – guidelines that could be altered over time.

The following are my notes from that meeting:

Objective:
To achieve agreement on what the Association is going to do, and its structure.

Purpose:
An organisation that brings the beekeeping community together and represents it in their common goals and collective interests.

Mission:
To excel in representing the beekeeping needs and interests.

Values:

- Honesty and transparency
- Integrity
- Respect
- Fairness
- Democratic
- Loyalty
- Fellowship
- Service

Benefits: (Originally considered as Points of Difference)

- Experience and history
- Focus on all beekeepers and their interests
- Responsibility for good of the country and conservators of the honey bee and the environment
- Wide range of types of business
- Best source of support to the individual
- Beekeeping magazine, library and conference
- National organisation
- Responsibility for AFB PMS

Vision:
A voluntary organisation that all beekeepers want to belong to with strong membership involvement.

Key Areas (for setting goals for the next 12 months):

- Structure
- Administration
- Communication
- Membership – Branches – Committees
- Finance
- Research
- Submissions to Government
- International links
- Education
- Pest Management Strategy (PMS)
- Marketing

Structure

- Action outcomes from this meeting.
- Adopt a structure that reduces Executive workload.
- Employ a "CEO" / "Executive Manager".
- Adopt a structure that is responsive to the membership.
- Adopt a structure that provides for a separation of management and policy.

Committees

- Adopt a structure that allows the committees to manage within delegated authority.

Branches

- Strong membership participation and commitment to the branch.
- Strong local promotion of AFB PMS.
- Excellent communication to and from members, branch and national organisation.
- Achieve strong support to NBA organisation and have a clear policy development link.
- Successfully address local issues and needs.

Finance

- Research outside funding opportunities.
- Subscriptions set at a level to support administration.

Communication

- Achieve effective communication, membership to national, to members and non-members.
- Continue standard of magazine.
- Continue upgrade of Web site.
- Continue standard of annual conference.
- Effective communication to Government.

Research

- Technology.
- Development.

Submissions to Government

- Have Govt recognise and take notice of NBA as the technical experts for beekeeping.
- Revise and improve the handling of submissions with Executive to be given authority to contract the handling of submissions.

International Links

- Access to world links/protocols.

Education

- The public.
- Succession planning

PMS

Marketing

- Develop a profile.

Constitution

- Mandate Executive to investigate more regional representation on expanded Executive.

We concluded our meeting within the 4 hours allotted in the belief that we had achieved some goals to work towards. There was definite agreement that the BASIC structure of the NBA should essentially stay as it is, its strengths being its membership and its assets. Recognised weaknesses were the COSTS, COMMUNICATION, OVER WORKED EXECUTIVE, TOP DOWN DECISION MAKING AND THE ISOLATION OF SOME MEMBERS. All of which needs to be addressed in the next 12 months.

The quote of the day: "I remain committed to disagreeing when I am disagreeable".

Pauline Bassett

From the colonies

Southern North Island

At the time of writing this, the weather continues to be calm and mild with just the one dump of snow that covered the ranges last month. This has all but gone and even the ski fields are looking for more bad weather. Some areas are experiencing heavy frosts but this is followed by a warm afternoon.

The bees have been gathering early nectar and pollen sources that otherwise would not have been available to them had it been colder. Quite a lot of beekeepers have been maintaining hives as it's dry enough in most areas to drive a car across paddocks. Winter feeding has continued and this and the weather has allowed nuc hives to expand into good colonies, ie autumn splits are now in doubles. Beekeepers are now stimulating hives for queen production which starts next month.

On the 28th July, fourteen beekeepers attended the Wanganui Sustainable Farming funded Seminar. I believe attendees got a lot out of it and that these courses are really making a difference to beekeeping businesses.

The session consisted of basic business planning and budgeting that went further into critical time path diagrams and the breaking down of each goal, etc. One very interesting bit that now affects a lot of bigger beekeepers was on employing labour and written employment contracts and - what not to put in them. My notes are full of phrases like; points of difference - double the value of your business, pricing - security of money, don't sell on price - sell on quality, achieving goals, swot, charge true costs, motivation - job satisfaction, sell the dream, quality in all you do, review from a distance and monitoring. It's been good to review and complete the exercises.

Members were also given a research report written by Stuart Ford titled "Beekeeper Business Opportunities Analysis of New Business Opportunities". A very good research paper, well worth getting hold of. One thing that threw me for a while was "bee health" in the budgets. Took a while to work out that this was for Varroa costs.

My reading of it showed two areas where we are providing products and service below the cost of production. (In reality there are probably more). One is pollination. I worked through the Australian example and could see I was actually losing money. I'll make a breakdown on the jobs and explain my costs to the orchardists. Hopefully they will accept that this is what it is costing me to provide a quality service. If they object, I at least won't be loosing money by not providing the service. It might even give me time to investigate other opportunities in my area.

The other is pollen. Generally there has been an oversupply in the market place, which has held down prices to the benefit of everybody else in the chain. Prices for this product have not increased as there are beekeepers going into pollen production and then getting out again when they find it is costing them money. Perhaps beekeepers should sit down and work out their costs. If the price for pollen doesn't provide a profit, feed it back to your bees in the spring. You'll get twice the benefit especially if it comes from disease free hives.

What all this work has shown is that beekeepers are price takers and haven't spent the time to work out their exact cost of production. We were advised to spend more time on planning and work out individual costs for each service and product. There's a lot more work in getting hives up to production earlier and it takes far longer to separate speciality honeys so why not ask 30% more for speciality honeys.

We for instance have dropped a bee and wasp extermination service. Looked like a good money earner with very little capital outlay. We priced it out initially and everything looked good on paper, however it interrupts your day, no job is the same and we could not recover the extra travelling costs. Each business needs to concentrate on what makes a profit and put more effort into that rather than producing a wide variety of goods and services.

If you haven't attended the planning session and want a copy of the research report, email Jon and he might send you one - jon@agribusinessgroup.com). A very good day and one recommendation, take your better half along so that you are both working through your goals together. I'm looking forward to the next year's session.

Our next planned meeting is our field day on 20th September just south of Wanganui. There is also a DECA course being held in Wanganui on the 27th September.

Members are being kept up-to-date with email postings.

- Frank Lindsay

Canterbury

The winters in Canterbury seem to be passing quicker and quicker, or is it just that I have more and more to do? After a very long autumn, winter finally arrived with a vengeance dumping a couple of feet of snow. After its disposal it's once again unseasonably warm in the foothills and we are looking at an early start to spring.

Variations within a district are incredible. While the foothills have constantly received unseasonal warm norwest winds, Christchurch has suffered quite a few severe frosts. Just shows the importance of being aware of your "local" conditions, as this affects when action should be taken and dictates timing. Congratulations to the Nelson branch on a very successful, informative and enjoyable conference.

In this age of voluntary subscriptions it is good to see and experience first hand that the NBA is going to be a successful organisation. It is going to be an organisation capable of representing the views and concerns of the beekeeping industry.

- Bert Lancaster

Waikato

It is amazing how quick spring arrives upon us; some of us are still trying to finish our winter time projects but it looks like these will have to run into early spring.

Most beekeepers in the Waikato have commenced their spring work ie, feeding, brood checks, replacing damaged frames and so on. The hives are looking on the whole quite strong with most hives already containing several combs of brood but pollen supplies are on a day to day basis only. The feed situation in the hives is generally good with only the odd hive requiring a feed of sugar. Loss rates are quite variable within the Waikato this year with wasps probably causing us the most damage, Varroa and wasps are a bad combination and have caught a few out this winter.

We in the Waikato were fortunate to have had two Business Skills Workshops meetings in July with a total of 29 people attending. A Big Thank You to Eric Livingstone and all those that helped to put these courses together, a great day was had by those that attended and we look forward to any follow up courses.

One area that is of great concern to Waikato members is the loss of Hort Research's Varroa funding, the work that Mark and his team have done to date is extremely important to the Industry and we must pull out all stops to be able to find a solution to the funding issue. It would be a great pity if the work done to date was not taken through to completion. (Donations can be made via NBA see Secretarial Snippets – Ed)

- Lewis Olsen

Hawkes Bay

A good contingent of members went down to Nelson for a very positive Conference. The executive was given generous congratulations for all they have done since December and the conference committee received acclaim for the wonderful programme they had organised. Read elsewhere to find what you missed by not being there. Hawkes Bay will have to make a great effort to equal this but we are determined to offer you a worthwhile conference matched by extreme hospitality next year. If you have something you would like included in the programme tell us now.

We were pleased to have the support of the Bee Industry Group who arranged for a united submission on the future of the movement control line. We are waiting now to learn what the future holds. Currently there are Varroa infestations on the Napier Taupo road near the Mohaka River and one mite has been found at Havelock North. Repeated testing has failed to reveal any further sightings at this last location so we are holding our breath. Meantime we are preparing our plans for dealing with the problem when numbers inevitably build up and are most grateful for all the knowledge and experiences that our northern members have shared with us.

One of our members had the unenviable task of shifting some hives from Balclutha to Great Barrier Island and we are hoping to get him to write about this experience. Keep reading your magazine for this plus all the other useful articles. Thank you Fiona and the others on your committee for a continuing job well done.

- Ron Morison

Auckland

It is interesting to see what people have experienced overseas with the spread and affects of Varroa, is repeating itself here. Beekeepers in this area are saying how they are now finding they are having to wrap up many more hives than usual, in some cases as high as 30 to 40%. Most of this seems to be because of queenlessness. This is generally being put down to the chemicals being used, which is somehow having an affect on the queen and the lack of maturity in drones. Varroa, the transmitted viruses and the Fluvalinate chemicals being used, in turn, therefore drone immaturity result in inferior queen matings.

I have also noticed that when you have a bad swarming year you also get more queenless hives. There is now a huge demand for spring queens and not enough queen breeders within the industry to supply the local spring demand. As a result of extra Kiwifruit orchards coming on board, some beekeepers are opting out of pollination and completely back into honey, a higher turnover of hives and a lack of confidence to supply a high number of hives, Kiwifruit pollination charges are increasing. Some orchards last year had BeeForce Units placed on hives during the pollination season. Some of these were removed went to Australia and are now back in New Zealand. All local beekeepers will not allow them on their hives again.

Charlie Harper's visit to New Zealand and his address to the conference has stimulated people into looking at the breeding of bees for Varroa tolerance. I was fortunate in transporting Charlie and his wife Pat to David Yanke's place and the four hour trip was most informative. If the bees are as good as Charlie says they could be as close to a "Silver Bullet" as we are likely to get. Their 100 year natural breeding with Varroa, their slight increase in honey production (although very little propolis), their quick build up from pollen flows (rather than nectar or syrup), their closeness genetically to Carniolian certainly makes them worth having a very close look at. Charlie also believes he sees a lot less AFB in his hives and any problems with Tracheal Mites has disappeared, He also believes that trying to breed Varroa tolerant bees from Italian stock is futile.

- BE Alexander

MEDIA RELEASE
TUESDAY 5 AUGUST 2003
NATIONAL CLIMATE CENTRE

NIWA
Taihoro Nukurangi

SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK, AUGUST - OCTOBER 2003

WARM INDIAN OCEAN EXPECTED TO PRODUCE MORE NORTHWESTERLIES, MILD START TO SPRING EXPECTED

Temperature:
Overall, above average temperatures are expected in all North Island districts and the north of the South Island, with above average or average temperatures in the east of the South Island. Average temperatures are likely in the west and south of the South Island. Some frosty spells are also expected, especially during the first half of the period.

Rainfall, Soil Moisture and Riverflows:
Below normal or normal rainfall, soil moisture and riverflows are expected in the north and east of the North Island and east of the South Island. Normal or above normal rainfall is likely in western areas of both islands and Nelson. Normal or above normal soil moisture and riverflows are expected for the west of the South Island.

Tropical Oceans:
A warmer than normal Indian Ocean is likely to favour stronger westerly or northwesterly flow across the country with mild conditions. The tropical Pacific has moved into a neutral state and is likely to remain neutral (no El Niño or La Niña) until the end of the year.

Regional predictions for the next three months:

Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty:
Normal or below normal rainfall, soil moisture and stream flows are expected. Above average air temperatures are likely.

Central North Island, Taranaki, Whanganui, Manawatu and Wellington:
Rainfall is expected to be above normal or normal, with normal soil moisture and riverflows predicted. Above average temperatures are likely.

Gisborne, Hawkes Bay, Wairarapa:
Normal or below normal seasonal rainfall, soil moisture and river flows are predicted for the east of the North Island. Temperatures are likely to be above average.

Nelson, Marlborough, Buller:
Seasonal rainfall is projected to be above normal in the west, tending towards below normal in the east, with higher than average temperatures. Normal soil moisture and riverflows are expected, with a trend towards drier conditions in the east.

West Coast, Alps and Foothills, Inland Otago, Southland:
Normal or above normal rainfall, soil moisture and riverflows are predicted. Temperatures are expected to be average.

Coastal Canterbury, East Otago:
Rainfall is expected to be below normal or normal, with below normal soil moisture and river flows. Above average or average temperatures are likely.

For further information on climate, please contact:

Dr Jim Salinger, NIWA's National Climate Centre
Tel (09) 375 2053 (Business) or (025) 540 707 (Mobile)
For further information on river flows, please contact:
Mr Charles Pearson, NIWA's National Climate Centre
Tel (03) 343 7871 (Business) or (021) 159 8922 (Mobile)
More information can be found on NIWA's Website at: **http://www.niwa.co.nz/ncc**

NBA Conference 2003 N

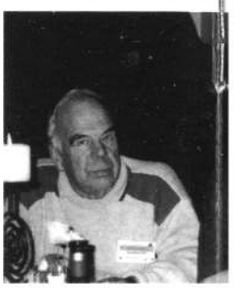
Barbara Hill and Linda Stuckey

Byron and Michelle Taylor

Stuart and Bab

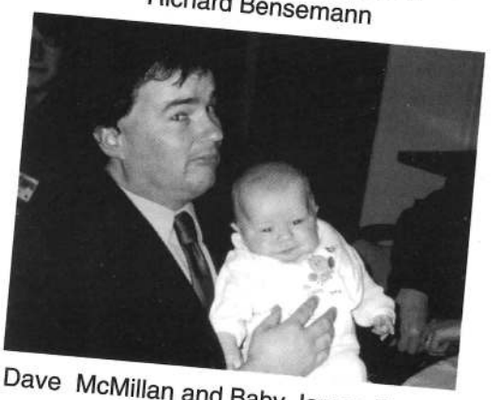
Bob and Darren Russell

Claudine, Russell Poole and Richard Bensemann



Ian Berry and

Barbara and Brian Clements



Dave McMillan and Baby James Ecroyd

John and Allan

Bryce Hooten and Gerrit Hyink

Hort Research Team – Michelle Taylor, Harlan Cox and Heather McBrydie

Mike and L

Russell and Annette Berry

Richard and Moira Haddrell

Stuart a

Nelson

y James Ecroyd

John Dobson

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.inda Stuckey

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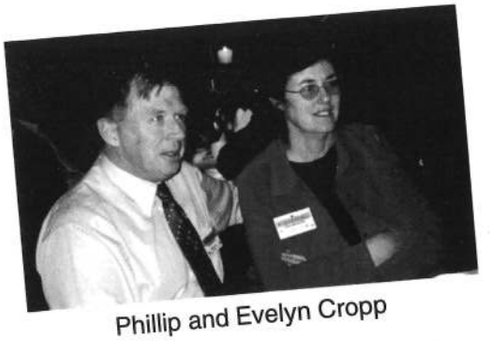
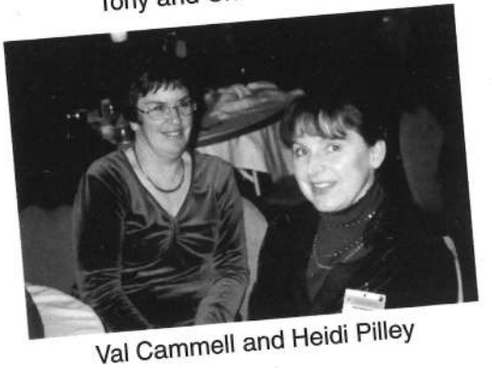


Phillip and Evelyn Cropp

Ian and Alison Spence with
Pam Gregory

Pauline and John Bassett

Tony and Chris Taiaroa



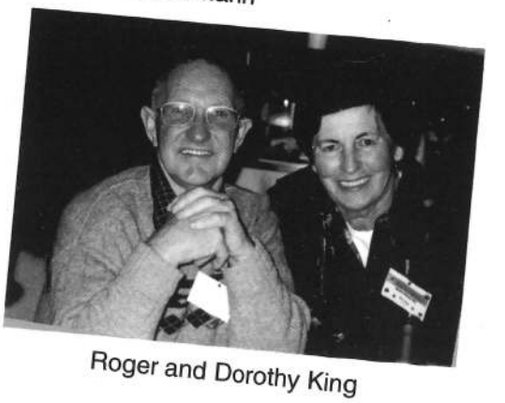
Val Cammell and Heidi Pilley

Richard and Barbara Hill

Win and Bruce Stanley

Robert Dixon and Maureen Maxwell

Monique and Richard
Bensemann



Roger and Dorothy King

Letter to The Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to submit the following letter from myself and one from Gro-Chem for publication in the next magazine.

Dear Beekeepers

I was concerned about a statement made at the Specialty Group meeting for Pollination during the Annual Conference.

I wish to clarify the facts:

No devices were used on Kintail Honey hives.

I understand the devices were used on Arataki Honey - Havelock hives. The devices were brand new

Thank you

Yours faithfully
James Ward
Kintail Honey Limited

FAX FROM GRO-CHEM

James

This fax is to advise you that the beeForce Hive inserts which I used on a trial on Kinross Orchard last September were not attached to your hives. The 3 applicators used in the trial were in fact put on Arataki hives.

I arranged for the hives to be delivered to and to be collected from the orchard. Payment for the hives was made by Gro-Chem NZ Ltd. I put these applicators on myself and removed them myself.

Please note that all three units were brand new and had only been made in the week previously. We had a couple of teething problems with the units and owner advised me that he had received them from the manufacturing company checked them and dispatched them to me.

We were asked not to consider your hives at your request through Mark Anderson the orchard manager.

I trust that your find this information helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further help. I am only to happy to help any of your peers in clearing any misunderstanding over this matter.

Regards

Brett Feehan
Technical Rep
Gro-Chem, Box 50 080, Porirua - Ph 04 237 0905

From the PMS Committee

The committee currently consists of;

Ian Spence,(chairman)	Southland	03 202 7804
Graham Cammell	Auckland	09 475 6457
Lewis Olsen	Waikato	07 823 6706
Frank Lindsay	Southern N I	04 478 3367

Dr Mark Goodwin as an advisor.

We have been working with MAF to get the revised Biosecurity Levy application for funding the PMS approved.

All the submissions received were summarized by MAF and we provided them with explanations and justification for our decisions.

After a long debate and statistical research, the committee has made the decision to go with "Apiaries" as the base of the levy for the following reasons:

- Hive numbers are very difficult to verify and audit.
- The average apiary sizes throughout NZ district by district are very similar, being 16 to 17 hives per apiary.

One concession recommended is to those beekeepers with 10 hives or less on 3 or less apiaries. It was resolved that these beekeepers would be only charged the beekeeper registration fee and one apiary levy.

The levy application is now being advanced by MAF and is expected to be passed by the Minister in November in time for Levy accounts to be sent out in January.

The Management Agency has received the internal mid term review from Dr. Mark Goodwin and the review committee. This has shown up a number of points where the Management Agency has not been meeting the requirements of the Order in Council. Currently the available funds will not allow all the necessary modifications to be done immediately but we are making a start.

DECA holders should be aware that as part of their agreement they undertook to sit the competency examination. If you have not yet done so now is the time to start arranging to organize to take the test as those DECA holders without an examination pass will be given a limited time to achieve the qualification or have their DECA withdrawn. This will mean the qualified trainers are likely to have requests for more DECA courses so please plan for this.

The basis of an effective PMS is good information on the Apiary Register. To this end it is necessary that all beekeepers supply information on disease occurrence and update their site registration information promptly. Beekeepers who have not returned their ADR's and COI's by due date can expect some consequences as they are in breach of the Biosecurity Act, and the penalties set out in that Act can be applied by the Management Agency and/or the MAF enforcement unit. MAF are keen to see the PMS work and will be taking an active interest in assisting the Management Agency to improve compliance.

If these returns are not provided, any follow up audit/ inspection work undertaken by the Management Agency will be at the beekeepers expense.

A 5 year review is about to be undertaken on the PMS. This will cover all aspects of the PMS excluding the levy base. Submissions will be called for when this is undertaken.

We would like to acknowledge the generosity of the Minister and MAF for providing a grant to cover the costs of producing and distributing the ADR's and COI's, while the Management Agency has no funding base to operate the PMS.

Please contact your nearest committee member if you have any questions or suggestions.

- Ian Spence

Secretarial Snippets

The highlight in the past month would have to be the NBA annual conference. At last I was able to put faces to names, to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. And at last I was able to meet the Executive committee in person – some of us had not met before as all of our meetings this year have been by phone link. We held our first face-to-face meeting on the Sunday of conference week – my minutes record a less structured meeting than usual! In fact it will take some ingenuity to decipher my notes, so perhaps it is best if we stick to conference calls.

I now have a heap of notes from conference to transcribe and have started by writing up the results of the special meeting facilitated by Eric Livingstone, hopefully printed elsewhere in this issue. The AGM and the Rules changes and the Remits meeting will be my next challenge.

The auction at the conference dinner was ably conducted by two notable Auckland beekeepers. One of them got so carried away he even bought the hat he was wearing. The auction made $2040 for the Sir Edmund Hillary Trust.

Another outcome of conference was the setting up of the Antioxidant Honeys Research Plan with a steering committee of seven and pledges totalling some $4000. To date I have actually received $3950 for this project which is very exciting.

I was expecting this to be my last column. However I think you will be hearing more from me in the future.

Pauline Bassett

Small Hive Beetle – Australia

The beetle has spread to areas where it had not previously been reported.

In some of those areas it has not been possible to link a contact to a reported outbreak.

Export due to area of freedom required by importing countries means notification is really important.

As one or more beetles in a consignment certified as free will have very serious implications for the integrating of out export certification at least one country free of small hive beetles is still taking imports from NSW and QLD.

There has been limited breakdown in managed colonies with small hive beetle larval stages the largest number reported was in an apiary on the mid-north coast where ten hives broke down. The apiary had changed hands so it is not clear to the new owner if the colonies had been queen right when the larval stages appeared.

Pupal larval and adults were observed in the soil when I visited the apiary. They were in a state forests in very hard soil with no ant activity.

- Beelines by Bruce White
From The Australasian Beekeeper April 2003

Book Review:

The New Complete Guide to Beekeeping - Roger A Morse The Countryman Press 2nd Printing 1997 NBA Technical Library.

The late Roger Morse established the Master Beekeeper programme in the USA. He made his mark as a practical beekeeper and academic who could relate well to beekeepers and was unrivalled in his ability to share his knowledge and skills.

Learning about bees, their habits and economic management can be a lifetime study and we are fortunate that Professor Morse spent his lifetime studying and recording his findings in an easily understandable form.

Yes this book is written for a northern hemisphere audience, does not use metrics, and was last updated in the early years of varroa infestation. However that does not lessen its value. While some practices and situations are not generally applicable in New Zealand the biology of the honeybee remains the same.

As beekeepers we need to understand the basic principles that affect bee behaviour. Morse doesn't just repeat old ideas, he has tested, experimented and compared a variety of situations so that he can confidently state that for instance: " It is a curious fact that, if given a choice, bees will select a home site that is shaded. On the other hand, beekeepers try to locate their colonies in full sunlight so as to force the bees into the field earlier in the morning and later in the afternoon. If you hive a swarm in the morning or early afternoon it should be pushed back under a small tree or bush so it stays out of the sunlight during the rest of the day."

If you need a single volume modern reference book which clearly, accurately and simply explains what happens in and around a beehive, why and what that implies, then this book would be an excellent choice.

I thoroughly recommend buying or borrowing this book.
- Don Stedman

Have you read a Book from the NBA Library recently, then the Publications committee would like to hear from you.

About the Apiary

Spring is just around the corner. Lambs and calves are now appearing in paddocks and inside the hives brood production is underway. In the colder areas, the queens would have began laying and the bees will be using stored pollen and honey to feed them.

In fact the winter around the southern North Island has been very warm so far, except for a week of cold southerly weather (snow on the East Coast). The bees have been taking advantage of winter sources and now have quite a lot of brood - patches of brood in three frames. (Most of my hives have continued raising brood all the way through autumn and winter this year). In the cities it's much warmer and the bees have a greater choice of early flowering ornamentals hence they are far stronger than rural hives.

I was in Nelson for the NBA conference and noticed that even with frosts every morning, by eleven o'clock the bees were working eucalyptus, pink, white and silver dollar gums in the parks around Tahunanui. If hives are placed in full sun and off the ground, they will fly earlier than those in shady areas. The bees are able to void outside the hive and Nosema should not be a problem.

Apart from the occasional inspection of the hive entrance, and the odd hefting of the hive to check its weight, there is very little that needs to be done to the hives until later in the month.

Large particles of cappings on the landing board indicate there could be a mouse either getting into the hive or living permanently inside the hive. You'll need to investigate further by removing the roof and looking down between the frames for a grass nest. Try not to disturb the cluster if you have to lift out an outside frame. It might be that there is an enlargement in the entrance reducer or perhaps an opening caused through a bit of rot that has allowed a mouse entry. If you can't see a mass of grass between the frames, check that the hive has no larger opening than 10 mm. You also might like to put a little rat poison in a tin can under the floorboard. This usually gets rid of such problems.

When opening the hive, did you notice whether the top frames were damp? If they were, increase the ventilation slightly by placing a twig under each corner so that the hive mat is raise a few millimetres. It's a fine balance between having just enough ventilation and too much. If there is too much your hive will be nice dry hive all right but the bees will be chewing through the stores to keep warm. There should be just a hint of condensation around the outside top bars. Not enough that they are wet as this causes them to rot.

Beekeeping is mostly an inside job at the moment making up new gear in preparation for next season's flow. Bees can be slowly poisoned if treated timber is used; most beekeepers use untreated pine for hives because it freely available although there are alternatives like Lawson cypress (Lawsoniana) and Macrocarpa, if you hunt around. The main problem with pine is that's it's a soft wood and liable to fungus attack (rot). So it has to be treated with an alternative treatment to prolong the equipment's serviceable life.

There are a number of alternative preservatives out there in the market place like Metalex (mixed 1 to 5 with mineral turpentine) woodlife and other water based products. What ever you use just make sure it is "bee" friendly. Commercial beekeepers use a hot paraffin wax dipping process or purchase equipment already treated with a safe preservative. Some of the stockiest are now stocking preserved timber ready to put together and paint.

If you are dipping your own gear, it's important to submerge the wood in the preservative until the air bubbles stop coming out of the timber. Allow it to drain then stack the wood (filleted to prevent warping) in heavy plastic bags for two to three weeks. This allows the preservative to penetrate further into the wood. Quite often beekeepers only surface preserve their gear and are unhappy to find it starting to rot after 5 years of service. Properly dipped and prepared equipment should last at least 10 -15 years.

Once the dipping and penetration process is completed, the gear can be assembled and stored in an airy situation until completely dry. Assemble using large nails or screws and plenty of them. Some undercoat the edges of the timber to seal them before assembly. Apply two coats of paint over a primer coat. Colours don't seem to matter too much in NZ. Any light pastel or missed tinted paint will do. A mixture of colours will help to prevent drift if you have a number of hives. If you're in an urban area paint hives in a natural colour so they don't stand out. We even had one fellow who paints his hive in camouflage colours.

There has always been a debate as to whether one should paint the inside of the supers. These are not normally painted as this allows the timber to breath, however I have also seen supers that were painted inside and out and these lasted OK without any adverse affect to the bees. It's up to you.

For those with a saw bench and planer, it's possible to make just about all your own gear but it's very important to double-check the measurements before cutting. Beekeeping equipment is very precise and needs to be made accurately. A millimetre here and there DOES matter when it comes to the "bee space". Too short a frame and you get burr comb between supers. Too long and where bees cannot move around, they will fill with propolis. Most beekeepers purchasing frames, staple and wire them up in the winter ready for waxing just before they go into the hives. Others prefer to save time and purchase plastic frames. Each has their place however I still prefer wax frames in the brood nest. I also wax dip the tips of the wooden top bars. In our climate they don't last more than 5 years unless dipped, as I'm fairly rough on them. All this

extra attention does pay off if you are going to be in beekeeping for the long term. A word of warning, don't work power saws unguarded and don't work when you're tired. Work with sharp tools and work slowly using push sticks. There are already plenty of beekeepers running around with bits off fingers and thumbs.

Varroa is slowly spreading into the lower North Island. Check your hives for mites and have any spring treatments finished well before the spring flow starts. You can check using natural drop method or place strips into the centre of the cluster for 24 hours. To calculate natural mite fall over 24 hours, multiple the figure by 400 if there is just a hand full of brood and by 100 if you have brood in 3-4 frames (UK Figures). Assisted drop can be calculated by multiplying by a factor of 3. Mites double their population each month so if you have more than 50 mites - treat. I would also suggest you treat your hives using an alternative treatment to that used in the autumn to prevent mite resistance. Refer to your "Control of Varroa" book.

Things to do this month: Make up new gear. Queen rearing equipment should be made ready. Outside when the weathers fine - Queen rearing hives should be stimulated to start brood production. Pollen should be fed to the drone hives. Feed hives that are short of stores. Test mite levels in hives or alternatively just treat all hives. Spray around the hives to keep the grass down and note what and how much needs to be replaced during the spring inspection, check hives after storms.

- Frank Lindsay

Poison Spray on Course Towards Drinking Water

By Af Anders Legarth Schmidt

Denmark's most popular herbicide Roundup is polluting the underground water far more than previously thought. Agriculture uses yearly 800 tons of the active glyphosate in herbicide. The Environment Minister is looking at taking steps to address this.

The Danish Drinking water resources are under attack from an unexpected quarter. The chemical glyphosate that is in the popular herbicides Roundup and Touchdown is against all expectations sieving down through the soil and polluting the ground water at a rate of five times more than the allowed level for drinking water. This has been shown from tests done by the Denmark and Greenland Geological Research Institute (DGGR) in a yet unpublished article.

Believed Bacteria broke down glyphosate

"When we spray glyphosate on the fields by the rules it has been shown that it is washed down into the upper ground water with a concentration of 0.54 micrograms per litre. This is very surprising, because we had previously believed that bacteria in the soil broke down the glyphosate before it reached the ground water".

It is the Environment Ministry that has given permission to use glyphosate - based on the producers (Monsanto's) own research.

Farmers spray glyphosate on their fields after the harvest to keep the soil free of twitch and thistles. It had been earlier found in wells in Roskilde and Storstroms regions as well as the Copenhagen district council area. Critics say glyphosate causes cancer, while its defenders call it a wonder herbicide.

Professor Morgens Henze the head of the institute for Environment and Resources at Denmark's Technical University, says that the consequences of the new knowledge is that waterworks in five to ten years will need to clean the water before Danes can drink it.

"The results show that glyphosate is polluting our drinking water. And unfortunately we have only seen the tip of the iceberg, because glyphosate and many other spray chemicals are on their way through the soil at this point of time. Politician need to look at agriculture in relation to clean drinking water and decide what is it they are going to do." Says Morgens Henze, who isn't blaming the farmers who use something that the authorities have allowed.

From The Scottish Beekeeper July 2003.

Sponsorship of July Magazine

The NBA would like to thank Mr Russell Poole, Elms Apiaries, Alexandra for sponsoring the July Magazine distribution costs.

Cape Bee the Social Parasite

- David McMillan, Apicultural Advisory Officer, AgriQuality.

Cape Bee (*Apis mellifera capensis*) has become a major beekeeping pest in South Africa in the past 10 years, and is known as the 'Cape Bee problem'. It has been responsible for the death of thousands of colonies of African Honey Bees (*Apis mellifera scutellata).*

Background

South Africa has two races of honeybee, the African Honeybee *Apis mellifera scutellata* and the Cape Bee *Apis mellifera capensis.*

- *A.m. scutellata* is widespread and found though-out most of South and Central Africa in the areas known as the summer rainfall regions but it is not found in the Cape region.

- *A.m. capensis* is found in the Cape region of South Africa, which is known as the winter rainfall region.

Both races of bee are known to be good beekeeping stock in their respective regions. Until recently these two races of honeybee were naturally isolated from each other geographically.

The Cape Bee Problem

When the Cape Bees were moved, via beekeeping activity, from their natural range into the range of the African Honeybee, the 'Cape Bee problem' developed.

Cape Bee workers are capable of laying unfertilised diploid eggs, which result in female offspring, a process known as thelytokous parthenogenesis. Although this has been recorded in other races of honeybees it is extremely rare. Laying workers of other races produce haploid eggs that develop into male offspring or drones.

Workers from *A.m. capensis* colonies drift into, or invade, colonies of *A.m. scutellata*. Some of these workers then develop into laying workers or pseudoqueens, laying eggs and producing queen like pheromones. Unlike laying workers of other races of honeybees, where the eggs are normally detected and removed, the eggs of *A.m. capensis* are accepted. This may be due to *A.m. capensis* laying workers which mimic the queen's Dufour's gland secretion, making the eggs acceptable.

A.m. capensis pseudoqueens lay one egg in the bottom centre of the cell. These eggs develop into females with the offspring being more or less identical to the original laying worker. These bees develop ovaries as they grow into laying workers. Each laying worker can produce up to 200 eggs per day for a period of 3-5 months. The brood nest looks normal in colonies inhabited by these pseudoqueens.

Larvae of the *A.m. capensis* pseudo-queens are fed preferentially with more and better quality brood food by the host nurse bees than are larvae from the *A.m. scutellata* queens. As a result they emerge 5% larger than the original *A.m. capensis* workers that entered the colony.

The effects on the host colony are:

- A decline in the normal worker activities
- Disorganisation of the social order of the colony
- Reduction in field activity
- Colony workers attend the pseudoqueens as if they were a queen
- Loss of the queen by either neglect by the host colony or the pseudoqueens may kill her
- Colony dwindles and dies

Once Cape Bees are established within the host colony there is little likelihood of it surviving. *A.m. capensis* are a good example of a social parasite.

The Cape Bee problem was first reported in 1977–78 when experimental colonies from the Cape were placed in an apiary of *A.m. scutellata*. Within a year all the *A.m. scutellata* colonies were dead or collapsing. As a result all colonies within 3.5km were destroyed and beekeepers were warned about the risks of Cape Bees. This program was successful in stopping the spread of Cape Bees at the time.

In 1992 a beekeeper reported a strange 'brood disease' in his hives, which after further investigation was diagnosed as the Cape Bee problem. A survey showed that Cape Bee pseudoqueens were wide spread through many commercial outfits. Cape Bees have now spread through large areas of *A.m. scutellata* regions via migratory beekeepers and have been responsible for the loss of thousands of colonies.

In an attempt to stop the destruction of hived colonies of the African Honey Bees by the Cape Bee, the South African government issued a proclamation that all infested colonies be killed. Compensation was paid to commercial beekeepers who could prove that they had complied with the law and replaced at least half their colonies. Cape Bees are one of the most serious problems that beekeepers face in the African Honey Bee beekeeping region of South Africa and are a serious threat to the agricultural industries as well as the biodiversity.

Transmission

The transmission of Cape Bee workers into host colonies is not well understood. With all races of honey bees there is always drift between colonies and Cape Bees are no exception. However, Cape Bee workers also show dispersal behaviour that cannot be explained by simple drifting. They have been reported to invade colonies up to 1km away. Cape Bees may leave the colony and join swarms of absconding bees, which contribute to long-range spread of several kilometres.

When entering a host hive the Cape Bee workers must bypass the host guard bees to enter the hive. Once the pseudoqueens are established it appears that other laying works leave the hive and invade other host hives.

Mechanism of Social Parasitism

Queen-less honey bee colonies, with brood, can rear laying workers, but these only produce unfertilised eggs that develop into haploid drones (male bees). Queenless Cape Bee colonies

can also produce laying workers but these show several important adaptations:-

- They can produce diploid females from unfertilised eggs.
- They have more ovaries that develop more rapidly
- The can produce queen like mandibular pheromones
- Workers develop into pseudoqueens.
- These pseudoqueens can develop in host colonies of other honey bee races.

Worker bee ovary development and egg-laying is suppressed in all races of honey bees by queen mandibular pheromone. This pheromone has a number of other important functions in the hive such as colony cohesiveness and balance, tending of the queen, and suppressing queen cell development. Queen mandibular pheromone contains a number of long chain fatty acids, especially 9-keto-(E)-2-decenoic acid, also know as 9-oxdecenoic or 9ODA for short.

It was thought that pheromone production was cast specific, that is, queens could not produce worker pheromone components and vice versa. But the *A.m. capensis* workers can switch to producing queen like mandibular pheromones relatively easy.

The concentrations of 9ODA in the queen mandibular pheromone, appears to play an important part in the pseudoqueen development within the host colony. The following table lists the concentrations of 9ODA in mandibular pheromone.

Group	% 9ODA in queen mandibular pheromone
Mated *scutellata* queens	65.4
Virgin *scutellata* queens	38.9
Mated *capensis* queens	84.8
Virgin *capensis* queens	80.1
Queenless *capensis* workers	33.9
Capensis pseudoqueens	88.4
Queenless *mellifera* workers	-

We can see from the table that the concentration of 9ODA in mated *A.m. scutellata* queen pheromone is much lower than in mated *A.m. capensis* queen pheromone. Therefore, it appears that the levels of 9ODA in other races of bees are not sufficient to suppress *A.m. capensis* workers ovary development and egg laying, (pseudoqueen development).

Once *A.m. capensis* worker bees have developed into pseudoqueens they produce a very high concentration of 9ODA in the queen like mandibular pheromone. With the increasing number of pseudoqueens the levels of 9ODA are compounded and lead to pheromone in-balance within the host colony. The 9ODA suppresses the *A.m. scutellata* workers from laying but does not suppress the emerging *A.m. capensis* bees from turning into pseudoqueens. These high unbalanced levels of queen like mandibular pheromone have several effects on the colony:

- They cause a break down in social structure
- They cause the host workers to change duties
- They cause the host workers to tend the pseudoqueens
- They may cause the host workers to neglect their queen
- They cause the original queen to be lost

The pseudoqueens have the reproductive dominance in the colony and cause a complete social breakdown within the hive and eventually colony death. *A.m. capensis* are true social parasites.

Treatment

As this is a genetic incompatibility problem, and not a disease, chemical control is not an option. Management technics and natural resistance are the best hope. Resistant strains of bees could be an option for long-term control of the Cape Bee problem. However, there is no strong evidence of resistance except that a natural hybrid of the two races has recently been discovered. Little is known about this hybrid but there is some evidence that it may offer resistance to invasion of other Cape Bees.

This hybrid bee would not be an option for New Zealand as the African Honey Bee is the same race as the notorious Africanized Honey Bee of South and Central America dubbed the killer bee.

Identification

Field Identification of the Cape Bee is difficult. Its' colouring and appearance would be within the normal range of bees found within New Zealand.

Two morphometric methods have been used for identifying *A.m. capensis*:

1. Scutellum and abdomen colour, spermatheca size, and number of ovaries could be used together to differentiate between workers of *A.m. scutellata* and *A.m. capensis*. If a black bee is found within an *A.m. scutellata* colony there is a 98% probability that it is an *A.m. capensis* worker.
2. Wing dimensions are a useful parameter to discriminate between *A.m. scutellata* and *A.m. capensis* workers.

For New Zealand, wing length would be our best morphometric diagnostic tool as we have some data for European bee race wing dimensions.

PCR (DNA probe) would be the best diagnostic tool we could use. We can distinguish between European and African races of bees using this technique but not between different races of African bees. Further work in this area needs to be undertaken.

Discussions

As the Cape Bee problem is currently within South Africa we do not have examples of the effect Cape Bees would have on the European race of bees we have in New Zealand. However, there is no reason to expect that the effects on our bees would be any different.

This pest is a very significant threat to the New Zealand beekeeping, agricultural and horticultural industries. As there is no effective treatment this problem could have a greater impact than varroa.

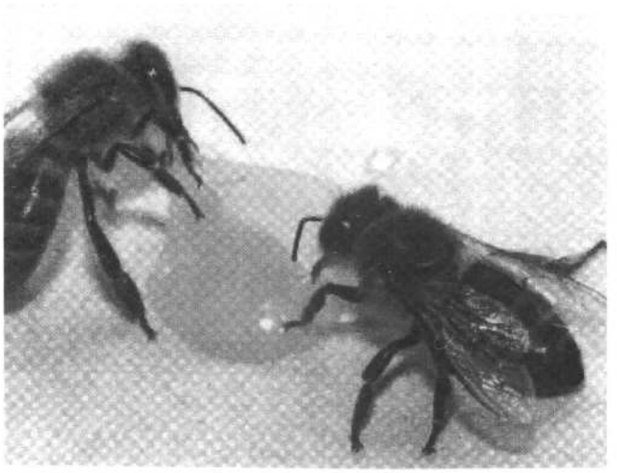


Fig 1:Cape Bees (***Apis mellifera capensis)***

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Proceedings of the 37th international Apicultural Congress 28 October –1 November 2001

The Publishing of this Edition of the New Zealand Beekeeper, has been delayed due to conference material, and the Publications Secretary taking an extra week to get home from conference.

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Overseas Trade Statistics
Prepared for National Beekeepers Association
Ref No: 4482901A
HS10 Items by Country of Destination for Exports, Cargo

HS Items Code	Description	Country of Destination	Unit	Net Month of June 2003 Quantity	Net Month of June 2003 FOB ($NZ)	6 Months Ending June 2003 Quantity	6 Months Ending June 2003 FOB ($NZ)
0106.90.00.11	Animals; live, queen bees in packages	Canada	NMB			16,771	1,091,865
0106.90.00.11	Animals; live, queen bees in packages	Germany	NMB			1,198	135,037
0106.90.00.11	Animals; live, queen bees in packages	TOTAL HS ITEM	NMB			17,969	1,226,902
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	Australia	KGM			6,939	125,386
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	Belgium	KGM	20,100	114,030	40,200	214,009
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	French Polynesia	KGM			900	6,448
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	Germany	KGM	142,374	784,783	618,636	3,018,293
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region)	KGM	2,260	20,751	4,830	61,440
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	Japan	KGM	180	4,391	102,502	795,634
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	Korea, Republic of	KGM			125	4,349
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	Netherlands	KGM	15,180	100,180	15,180	100,180
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	Singapore	KGM			23,517	150,354
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	United Kingdom	KGM	27,558	106,221	179,523	1,148,619
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	United States of America	KGM			62,952	331,615
0409.00.00.01	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in bulk	TOTAL HS ITEM	KGM	207,652	1,130,356	1,055,304	5,956,327
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Australia	KGM	2,480	48,797	89,838	1,219,838
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Bahrain	KGM			600	4,292
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Canada	KGM	3,426	41,525	6,906	73,309
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Cook Islands	KGM	156	1,435	646	5,012
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	French Polynesia	KGM			1,176	6,447
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Germany	KGM	2,480	32,802	53,025	381,653
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region)	KGM	12,490	128,535	94,403	726,805
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	India	KGM			654	3,933
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Indonesia	KGM			200	1,513
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Ireland, Republic of	KGM			1,128	32,108
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Japan	KGM	11,369	181,083	74,557	1,070,438
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Korea, Republic of	KGM			395	6,816
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Kuwait	KGM			414	3,543
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Malaysia	KGM			7,408	67,809
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Netherlands	KGM			5,222	41,511
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Norfolk Island	KGM	184	1,330	858	6,218
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Singapore	KGM	15,738	159,576	91,481	815,818
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	Taiwan, Province of China	KGM			2,340	11,678
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	United Arab Emirates	KGM			8,585	65,456
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	United Kingdom	KGM	60,683	390,919	342,527	3,093,252
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	United States of America	KGM	9,047	83,111	35,314	286,941
0409.00.00.09	Honey; natural honey, extracted, in retail packs	TOTAL HS ITEM	KGM	118,053	1,069,113	817,677	7,924,390
0409.00.00.11	Honey; natural honey, in the comb	Belgium	KGM			20	313
0409.00.00.11	Honey; natural honey, in the comb	Canada	KGM	36	591	118	2,141
0409.00.00.11	Honey; natural honey, in the comb	Germany	KGM			9,180	124,400
0409.00.00.11	Honey; natural honey, in the comb	Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region)	KGM	907	17,058	2,942	55,511
0409.00.00.11	Honey; natural honey, in the comb	Japan	KGM	4,260	51,530	28,932	437,871
0409.00.00.11	Honey; natural honey, in the comb	Malaysia	KGM			9	155
0409.00.00.11	Honey; natural honey, in the comb	Singapore	KGM			580	10,492
0409.00.00.11	Honey; natural honey, in the comb	United Arab Emirates	KGM			462	8,932
0409.00.00.11	Honey; natural honey, in the comb	United Kingdom	KGM	28,791	262,225	29,607	271,225
0409.00.00.11	Honey; natural honey, in the comb	United States of America	KGM			1,344	17,936
0409.00.00.11	Honey; natural honey, in the comb	TOTAL HS ITEM	KGM	33,994	331,404	73,195	928,976
0409.00.00.15	Honey; natural honey, honeydew	Germany	KGM	88,354	434,806	216,410	976,716
0409.00.00.15	Honey; natural honey, honeydew	United Kingdom	KGM	3,350	16,750	3,350	16,750
0409.00.00.15	Honey; natural honey, honeydew	TOTAL HS ITEM	KGM	91,704	451,556	219,760	993,466
0409.00.00.18	Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew)	Australia	KGM			1,463	12,671
0409.00.00.18	Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew)	Canada	KGM			130	3,192
0409.00.00.18	Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew)	Cook Islands	KGM	72	472	72	472
0409.00.00.18	Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew)	French Polynesia	KGM	655	2,712	1,471	7,185
0409.00.00.18	Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew)	Germany	KGM			420	9,189
0409.00.00.18	Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew)	Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region)	KGM	24	1,600	128	4,743
0409.00.00.18	Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew)	Japan	KGM	672	17,040	11,336	147,430
0409.00.00.18	Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew)	Korea, Republic of	KGM			5,989	112,332
0409.00.00.18	Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew)	Lebanon	KGM			44	2,736
0409.00.00.18	Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew)	Malaysia	KGM	3,668	30,079	4,352	47,312
0409.00.00.18	Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew)	Samoa, American	KGM			20	104
0409.00.00.18	Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew)	Samoa, Western	KGM			298	2,180
0409.00.00.18	Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew)	Singapore	KGM	7,170	199,894	85,400	753,524
0409.00.00.18	Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew)	United Kingdom	KGM	19,403	364,955	21,771	414,785
0409.00.00.18	Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew)	United States of America	KGM	170	2,305	530	4,460
0409.00.00.18	Honey; natural honey, (other than extracted, comb or honeydew)	TOTAL HS ITEM	KGM	31,834	619,057	133,423	1,522,315
1521.90.01.00	Beeswax; whether or not refined or coloured	Australia	KGM	6	146	3,360	39,179
1521.90.01.00	Beeswax; whether or not refined or coloured	Belgium	KGM			1,020	10,290
1521.90.01.00	Beeswax; whether or not refined or coloured	Fiji	KGM			1,125	9,505
1521.90.01.00	Beeswax; whether or not refined or coloured	France	KGM			20,054	107,300
1521.90.01.00	Beeswax; whether or not refined or coloured	Japan	KGM			6,304	44,613
1521.90.01.00	Beeswax; whether or not refined or coloured	Singapore	KGM	644	5,600	1,244	11,090
1521.90.01.00	Beeswax; whether or not refined or coloured	United Kingdom	KGM			600	9,800
1521.90.01.00	Beeswax; whether or not refined or coloured	United States of America	KGM	21,420	112,523	21,420	112,523
1521.90.01.00	Beeswax; whether or not refined or coloured	TOTAL HS ITEM	KGM	22,070	118,269	55,127	344,300
TOTAL ALL CARGO				*	3,719,755 *		18,896,676

Source : Statistics New Zealand, Overseas Trade

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Arataki – Rotorua	Propolas, Sugar, Pollination, Bee Exports & Honey	Russell Berry	RD 3	Rotorua	07 366 6111	07 366 6999		russell@arataki-honey-rotorua.co.nz	
Bay Treatment Limited	Boxes	Robert Dixon	Box 10 000	Rotorua	07 346 2277	07 346 2277	021 462 277		0800 326 873
Beeline Supplies	Southern Cross Plastic frames Beekeeping Equip	Brian & Heidi Pilley	583 South Road	Lookout point Dunedin	03 488 0151	03 487 9878		beeline @free.net.nz	
Beetek (NZ) LTD	Beetek frames	Ray Duncan	Box 72 468	Papakura Auckland	09 295 0510	09 298 1048	025 422 056		
Ceracell Beekeeping Supplies Ltd	Distributors Beekeeping Equip/Supplies	Trevor Cullen	Box 58114	East Tamaki Auckland	09 274 7236	09 274 0368		ceracell.bee.suppliers @xtra.co.nz	
Comvita	Bee Products Buyers	Ken Clements	Private Bag 1	Te Puke	0800 504959			Info@comvita.com	0800 504959
Ecroyd Beekeeping Supplies Ltd	Distributors Beekeeping Equip/Supplies	Stuart Ecyrod	Box 5056	Papanui Christchurch	03 358 7498	03 358 8789	021 323 710	ecroyd@beehealthy.co.nz	
GV International Freight	Freight Brokers International Shippers		Box 2181	Christchurch	03 358 4087				
Kerry New Zealand	Simply Sugar	David Higgins	Box 5990	Wellesley Street Auckland	09 525 4585	09 525 8827	021 706 905	david.higgins @kerrynz.co.nz	0800 784 277
Mahurangi Hivewear	Wooden Honeycomb Frames	Ken & Lynn Perkinson	370 Pukapuka Road RD 3	Warkworth	09 422 0890				
NZ Beeswax	Mite-gone Total Frame	Peter Lyttle	Private Bag	Geraldine	03 693 9189	03 693 9780	025 733 137	Beeswax@xtra.co.nz	
NZ Sugar	Sugar refiners Sugar Supplies	Kerry Jacobs	Box 30	Auckland	0800 800 617	0800 807 842			
Peter Boutelje	Honey processing Equipment	Peter Boutelje	Box 60598	Titirangi Auckland	09 817 3195	09 817 3105	027 406 1603	peterb@ak.planet.gen.nz	
PML Bettany Gears Limited	PML Lifter	Garth Thelin	Box 65	Fielding	06 323 6072	06 323 6212	025 446 344	garth@precisionman.co.nz	
Sifco Industrial Products	Stanley – Bostitch Staplier-nailers	John Poulopoulos	Box 38 588	Petone Wellington	04 568 7065	04 568 7064	021 658 890	sales@sifco.co.nz	
Tec pak	Safe a Pak Pots & Jars			Dunedin					
Telford Rural Polytechnic	Apicultural Studies	Dr David Woodward	Box 6	Balclutha	03 418 1550 ext 832	03 418 3584		david.woodward @telford.ac.nz	
Transflux	Fluid Heating	Bruce Grant	Box 13 896	Christchurch	03 363 9501	03 363 9485	021 308 422	bruce.grant @transflux.co.nz	
Tunnicliffe's Timber Company Limited	Boxes	Derek Slabber	Box 54	Edgecombe	07 304 9811	07 304 8208	025 662 8345	tunnicliffes@xtra.co.nz	0800 657 934
Vita - Europe	Apistan Varroa Treatment	Dr Max Watkins	21/23 Wota Street	Basingstoke Hants RG21 7RD UK	00441256 473177	00441256 473179	00447767 815370	max.watkins @vita.demon.co.uk	
VL Smith – ITM	Alliance Woodware	Danny Smith	222 Beach Road	Kaikoura	03 319 5447	03 319 6244	0274 408 909	danny@vlsmith.co.nz	
Xenacom Limited	Xen-apiary computer package	Fiona Kerry	Box 327	Cambridge	07 823 2428	07 823 2427		info@zenacom.co.nz	0508 Xenacom

Conference Sponsors 2003

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A big thank you to the Varroa 3 year Transitional Management Programme, enabling guest speakers Charlie Harper - United States and Pam Gregory – England, to share their Knowledge on Russian Queens, Exotic Diseases and all things Varroa.	 	MAF www.maf.govt.nz Paul Bolger – Varroa Programme Coordinator
Bay Treatment Ecowood – Good for generations to come. 0800 326 873		Robert Dixon Bay Treatment Limited Russell Road Box 10 000 Rotorua Ph/fax 07 346 2277 Mobile 021 462 277
Peter Boutelje **Honey Processing Equipment** - Honey Loosening - Extracting - Wax/honey centrifuges - Straining & filtering - Pumping - Heat Exchanges - Complete Packing Lines - Plant Automation		Peter Boutelje Box 60598 Titirangi Auckland Ph 09 817 3195 Fax 09 817 3105 Mobile 027 406 1603 peterb@ak.planet.gen.nz
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Comvita "The nature of New Zealand" range of products - Manuka Honey - Digestive Health - Fortacold - Sustained Energy - Immune Support - Wound Care - Joint Mobility		Ken Clements Private Bag 1 Te Puke Ph 0800 50 49 59 Info@comvita.com
Ecroyd Beekeeping Supplies Limited - Distributors, Exporters & Importers of Beekeeping Equipment. - Distributors of Bee Healthy & Beeway Honey & Bee Products. - Bayvarol - Galvanized Sprung Ended Lids - Queen Excluders - Plastic Feeders, Drip Trays, Wax Moulds etc		Stuart Ecyrod 6a Sheffield Crescent, Burnside Box 5056 Papanui Christchurch Ph 03 358 7498 Fax 03 358 8789 Mobile 021 323 710 Ecroyd@beehealthy.co.nz

Branch and Club Contacts

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

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

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

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

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

CHRISTCHURCH HOBBYIST CLUB
Meets on the first Saturday of each month,
August to May, except in January for which it is
the second Saturday. The site is at 681 Cashmere Road,
Commencing at 1.30pm
Contact: Jeff Robinson, 64 Cobra Street Christchurch 3.
Phone: (03) 322-5392

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

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

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

DUNEDIN BEEKEEPERS CLUB
Meets on the first Saturday in the month
September - April, (Except January) at 1.30pm.
The venue is at our club hive in Roslyn, Dunedin.
Enquiries welcome to club secretary,
Margaret, Phone: (03) 415-7256
Email: flour-mill@xtra.co.nz

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Is your group or Branch missing from here?

Please contact the Secretary