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September 2003

# The New Zealand BeeKeeper

Is this the last Field Day incorporating HortResearch?

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Dr Mark Goodwin and North Island Beekeepers

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# President's Report

## Conference

For those of you who were unable to attend conference, you missed a really good one! The atmosphere although tense at the beginning of the week evolved into the most enjoyable and friendly conference that I think I have ever been to. The tenseness I believe was mostly due to the fact that everyone was wondering how the week would proceed now that we are a voluntary organisation. To everyone who helped to make it happen – I thank you.

Two days after conference, Tony and I headed away on holiday to Tahiti where we visited two other islands of the group – Huahine and Bora Bora. We lazed in the sun, snorkelled, sailed boats, went swimming with the sharks, and fed and swam with Stingrays – an awesome experience. The people were very friendly and the islands were very nice – the only downside was that the meals and excursions were very expensive. The reason for this is that the people of Tahiti do not get taxed on their earnings, so their consumable items are taxed instead. So I have now returned with my batteries re-charged, ready to face the challenges of the future.

## Research funding

Of immense concern upon my return to New Zealand, was to find that our Bee Scientists at HortResearch have missed out on funding for their programme from Foundation for Research Science and Technology.

My thanks must go to Graham Cammell, who started the ball rolling to lobby MP's, Government and anyone else who would listen to our plight prior to my return. I know that many others have taken up this task as well, and at the time of writing this (26<sup>th</sup> August), I know that we have bent many a sympathetic ear. I only hope that with continued lobbying, that we may gain funding for this vital research.

For the future, we may need to explore whether our members wish to contribute to a dedicated Research and Development fund. While I realise that we are unlikely as an organisation to raise sufficient funds to fund particular research, we may be able to use it as a contribution to lever further funding from other funding bodies. From the discussions many of us have had with politicians, we are more likely to get a sympathetic hearing if we are prepared to try to help ourselves. As a spin off from Conference, and through Dr Peter Molan's presentation, we have got a group together who will be looking at ways to commercialise his findings. We hope that this will be done in such a way as to bring funds back to the organisation, and generate more funds to continue research on new bee products.

## NBA future

The Executive team are already back into the swing of things, with conducting our twice monthly conference calls. We have many things ahead of us to achieve. Of pressing importance is to get policies and terms of reference in place before we employ a PMS manager, and also to get a PMS review committee set up and running.

The other burning priority is to see people committed to helping, placed on committees, and so spread the workload. I have run one idea past my branch to see what their response was – and it was positive.

While we have been talking about the NBA's future, one of

the comments that had been expressed on numerous occasions is that we need to drive the organisation from the bottom up, not the top down. That way we will have more ownership of what is happening to our organisation. To begin this process, I wondered if we could get the members of our branches to indicate the area(s) they are interested in being involved in. If we created a list from this, we could have a number of people to call on to do a task, or know who has interests in a particular area so that we can canvass them for ideas, feedback etc. We could then select a group of 4-5 people to complete what is required. In this manner, each member may only be called on once or twice a year to contribute. It may also enable us to ensure jobs are completed by getting those who have the time available, and not having to call on specific individuals when they are committed to something critical in their own business. This system would have its down side, in that not all committees could operate in this manner – the AFB PMS Operations committee and the Review committee may be examples of this. This approach would work well with the Environment, Publications, Exotic, and maybe even the Export committee. I think we would still need a core group in each committee that is responsible for finding the people to carry out a task and ensure its completion by the due date. There would also be some involvement in keeping those who are interested informed of what is happening in their area of interest.

A new committee, to look at our future structure, also needs to be formed. They will need to look at ways to achieve our goals set out in the 'NBA future session' run by Eric Livingston on the Thursday of conference. I have already had several people indicate that they would wish to participate in this committee, but I would also like indications from anyone else who is interested in being involved in this area.

## MEETINGS THAT I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN

### Waikato Branch field day:

The field day was run at the Ruakura Research centre where Dr Mark Goodwin and his team are stationed, and for this reason it was a memorable occasion – more poignant for the fact that it registered to many of us that we may not have this team in the future due to the lack of funding for the team.

Also of note, was an address from Jeanette Fitzsimons who covered a couple of issues – the lack of research funding and Genetic Modification. Some of you may not know that she is herself a hobby beekeeper, so understands our concerns. Over the funding for our bee research team, she indicated that she would be asking several questions in the house of parliament on our behalf. On the genetic modification issue - See article elsewhere in the journal.

### 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

364 Wharepunga Road, RD 3, Te Awamutu

Phone 07 871 1500 Fax 07 871 1800

beeline-apiaries@xtra.co.nz

### Masterton meeting - The movement control line

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of August, I attended the meeting held in Masterton over the proposed new movement control line. This meeting had been called by MAF, due to the amount of concern shown by beekeepers in the area.

The beekeepers at the meeting were much in favour of a line cutting off the Wairarapa –prohibiting any movement of risk goods.

During an Executive conference call, the movement control line issue was discussed, as we are aware that different branches have different views. While the executive supported the wish to have a movement control line put in place to lessen the impact and slow the spread, we felt that it is up to the branches affected to talk to each other and work out the line with the least impact on beekeepers ability to carry out normal duties, and also to determine what movement criteria should be used. At the time of writing Paul Bolger was working with affected beekeepers to see if a line and conditions could be agreed upon.

- Jane Lorimer

### Overheard at Conference

Eric Livingstone, during the planning session said, "Beekeepers needs and Doctors needs are the same". Peter Berry quick as a flash said, "Yes, we both need rubber gloves".

\* \* \* \* \*

During the charity auction, the bid was at \$105 for an Australian pottery honey house when Mike Stuckey put a strong bid in for \$100.

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# *Ground Breaking, World Leading, Research, here in NZ for over 80 years!*

Have you ever wondered how our Bee Research Units have been funded in New Zealand?

For many of us, it hasn't been something that we have contemplated. We have turned up for Field Days, Branch Meetings, and National Beekeeper Conferences, to learn about the latest diseases from Nosema, to American Foulbrood, Half moon disorder, Virus's, and how to get the best out of our bees for pollination. Of more recent times, the implications of Varroa, and the wide ranging effects and affects, treatments – applications, highs and lows.

From the Research Institutions themselves, Wallaceville, Ruakura, Mt Albert and the leading scientists themselves who have passed through these on their way inevitably to move on overseas in search of more dollars and greater recognition. Some names for the record, Dr Denis Anderson, Dr Trevor Palmer Jones, Dr Pat Clinch. Will Dr Louise Malone and Dr Mark Goodwin be next? Ruakura, the last bee research unit left, was established back in the 1980's, through a co-operative effort by the NBA, the Kiwifruit Industry and MAF Research.

Over the more recent years there have been changes from Government Institutions to Crown Research Institutions, and consequently the way the funding has been allocated to/for research has changed also. To receive funding, scientists must lodge an application with a variety of funding organizations. FRST is one such organization.

Bad news for Beekeepers in New Zealand, and in turn the role we play in the world wide arena. The Foundation for Research and Technology (FRST) turned down an application from New Zealand's last remaining Honey Bee Research Unit. – Hort Research, and the team of two Waikato Scientists headed by Dr Mark Goodwin, along with their support staff. The application was for \$700,000 annually for the next six years.

At what cost is this rejection for money? Vital research on breeding bees tolerant to the Varroa mite, developing registered organic products, for our organic industry and as an alternative to the fluvalantate products, and continued education for New Zealand Beekeepers, has halted. Yes, that means being put on the shelf to gather dust. Does this mean that two years of Government funded research has been literally wasted?

Two years ago, New Zealand discovered that Varroa Mite had a firm grip on bee hives in the Auckland area, and a decision was made to not eradicate, after a delimiting survey established that the mite had spread further than originally thought. Our Scientists at this time, halted work on all other Bee Research to concentrate solely on Varroa.

The unit is half way through extremely important Varroa Research and it has come as a huge disappointment to Dr Mark Goodwin, and the team. They are now left to tie up a few loose ends, and head to other projects with other industries, some may contemplate the opportunity to work offshore just to remain in the Apicultural World. Without this vital research money, we as New Zealand beekeepers are left with

“overseas” research, which in many instances does not work in our New Zealand climate. In our country we just have too many variables!

For the North Island Beekeepers, the cost of not Eradicating Varroa is definitely hitting the pocket. Without the Feral Eradication research already completed by Dr Mark Goodwin's team, the South Island will not have the golden opportunity to attempt eradication with bait stations which will kill both Feral and Managed colonies, therefore attempting to slow the Varroa spread. **It is that clear, the importance of having a Bee Research Unit!**

The call from Beekeepers has gone out. Can we attempt to partially fund this ourselves? Donations are being accepted by the Executive Secretary, Mrs Pauline Bassett. The National Beekeepers Assn Executive have approached the Ministers Sutton and Hodgson, and there simply are not enough funds in the Honey Trust Accounts. (The majority of which are committed to the excellent Expanding Options Programme.)

Other beekeepers remind us that we had an opportunity to raise funds for projects under the Apiary Levy Order within the terms of the Commodity Levies Act. Commenting that the Act was written for this very purpose, to enable organisations representing the majority interests of groups in the agricultural sector to levy themselves to provide funds for specific purposes.

By far the most proactive at this time is Beekeepers lobbying their local politicians. The Auckland Beekeepers Club met with opposition spokesman Dr Paul Hutchison – Waikato MP and National's Science and Crown Research Institute spokesman, who subsequently placed a series of questions in the House to the Minister of Bio-Security Hon Jim Sutton. In response to one of the questions, Hon Jim Sutton has replied that they have just completed the risk assessment that will allow us to bring in the necessary tolerant bees in from overseas – this seemly appears to be the only answer – but has he forgotten something? What about the need for Scientists to test the stock prior to release to ensure that they perform in the same manner as they do overseas? Or will we just end up with another organism that shows undesirable traits here in New Zealand?

When speaking with Shane Arden, National MP for King Country, the advice is to write as many letters to the Hon Jim Sutton. Poverty Bay, a small but active branch sought their local MP Janet Mackey. Bay of Plenty have also had representatives approach two MP's in their region., Paul Brown and Larry Baldock – both showing support for our call to help us maintain our research capability and again the West Coast was empowered to approach the West Coast Messenger with comments from Bruce Simpson-Varroa Project Manager, Director Biosecurity Ltd, advising that Strong Support from a wide range of farming sectors is being shown for a NPMS for the South Island. Support is always stronger where it can be backed up with sound research knowledge, in this case towards an effective eradication attempt in the South Island.

Your contribution is very important in this. It is not two beekeeping groups going head to head, this is about our beekeeping industry not laying down to die.

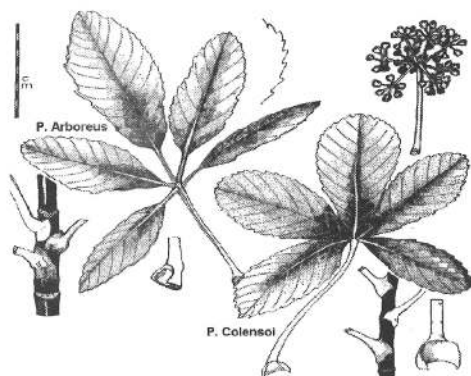
In all of this, the following quote by Dr Mark Goodwin taken from the Waikato Times article "Funding to fight bee mite cut" written by Lisa Potter -Tuesday 26.08.2003 sums up the situation re research ceasing;

"If we do nothing, it will (Varroa) actually eradicate itself in New Zealand but at a high cost – by killing all the bees"

*It may sound drastic, however resistance is approaching faster than we would like to think, and without the alternatives, the organics, and the Bee Breeding programme by our recognised bee research team – Where will we be? We will individually be experimenting, can we bear that cost!*

- Fiona O'Brien

## TREES AND SHRUBS OF NEW ZEALAND



Pseudopanax arboreus  
Formally Neopanax areorum

Common name: Five Finger  
Maori name: Whauwhau

All New Zealand species are endemic (i.e. occurring only in New Zealand). All species show much diversity in leaf form even on the same tree. Five Finger is found on the fringes of bush areas throughout New Zealand and is an emergent shrub/tree in regenerating bush that will grow to 8 metres in height.

The leaflets are tough, roughly toothed in clusters of 5 to 7 foliate leaves, 10 to 15cm long.

The flowers are fragrant, green and occur in terminal umbels, and bloom from July until the end of September – depending on where in the country they occur. The plant is a reliable source of nectar and pollen, some seasons producing a surplus of light amber honey which has a bitter oily after-taste.

A close relative is *Pseudopanax colensoi* with similar leaves but 3-5 foliate instead. The *Pseudopanax simplex* has only 3 leaflets and grows at higher altitudes – flowering November to February.

Five Finger should not be confused with *Schefflera digitata* or Pate which has 7-10 foliate leaves, finely serrated and soft to the touch.

AL Poole & Nancy M Adams

## Overheard at Conference

During Charlie Harper's presentation on Russian Queens when he was talking about marking and clipping of queens, Frank Lindsay inadvertently asked, "Which end of the queen's wing do you clip?"

\* \* \* \* \*

Peter Lyttle, (Mr. NZ Beeswax) during the sponsors meeting holding up a new waxed wooden frame said, "One of the best ways of producing manuka honey is to use one of our plastic frames".

## Available in the NBA Library

Bee Propolis – Natural healing from the hive. By James Fearnley

An excellent book, detailing the health benefits and uses of propolis. It details the history of the use of propolis, including treatments of relevant diseases. The author has sourced information from the international bee research unit in Cardiff.

## Reducing business tax compliance costs

Shortly the government will release a discussion document containing proposed changes to tax rules. These are intended to reduce business tax compliance costs. The Governments proposals include:

- a subsidy for small businesses that use a tax agent for payroll management and associated tax obligations
- aligning the payments dates of provisional tax and GST
- a new way to calculate provisional tax

If you would like details of the proposals call Inland Revenue's automated phone service INFO express on 0800 257 477 to request a summary. As soon as the discussion document is released, they will send a copy. Please have your IRD number handy. You can also check this on [www.ird.govt.nz](http://www.ird.govt.nz)

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## From the colonies



### Waikato

Well spring is now here and I have just about completed my first round. I have been impressed with how the hives have come through the winter. Most hives have very good stores and in the last few weeks they have pulled in a good reserve of pollen in most areas. Bee strength appears to be well ahead of normal and many hives have close to a box of brood already with drones flying most warm days. There is little sign of Varroa at the moment but I have noticed a few more drone laying queens than we would normally find at this time of the year, which I put down to the extra stresses the queen is under with Varroa and its associated treatments. The Waikato branch held its Field Day on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August with about 70 people in attendance. We had our usual weather pattern with all four seasons rolled into one but at least it was fine for our sausage sizzle lunch. A range of topic's were discussed; GE - Jeanette Fitzsimmons, Toxic Honey & PMS - Mark Goodwin, Two queening - Ian Berry, Computer Application for Beekeeping - Fiona Kerry & Staff and we were given the opportunity to have a look through Hort Research's labs. Thanks to all those that made the day a great success. Our next branch meeting is on Friday the 31<sup>st</sup> of October.

- Lewis Olsen

### Southland Branch

Despite the very mild winter several of our members took the opportunity to travel to warmer climates. Our European correspondent reports that 35 degrees at breakfast time does not make for a comfortable day, and you certainly appreciate air conditioning when it breaks down. While businesses change hands for many reasons beekeepers have one unique factor which can compel a move. While no sensible person with an allergy to bee stings would commence beekeeping, we often forget that an allergy can develop after many years of exposure. It is no fun waking up in the back of an ambulance on the way to hospital, though possibly better than not waking up at all. When the next sting may well be lethal, a change of occupation is imperative. We are losing a valued member, fortunately only from the industry, it could have been much worse. While the cynics among us are still waiting for winter (after all lambing is about to start!), it has been noticed that young queens are laying well and hives have come through in good heart. At this stage access is not a problem and spring feeding has begun.

Southlanders were awakened by an unusually violent earthquake recently. I have no reports of early warning from or damage to the bees.

- Don Stedman

### Hawkes Bay

We are a selfish lot here in the Hawkes Bay and the Wairarapa wanting to keep the Varroa mites at a distance as long as possible. We are hoping that the goodwill of fellow beekeepers will help us.

With great support from BIG we have strongly endorsed their option 5 that has been submitted to Paul Bolger for consideration of any variation of the North Island Movement Control Line.

This asks for the authorities to;

***"Place a new line around Hawkes Bay - Wairarapa and retain similar conditions to the present with the exception that hives (including bees, Queen bees, other associated bee products, packages and equipment) with a history of movement into that area will be given a permit to move across the line provided those hives have undergone miticide treatment."***

With extensive movement of hives within the area for pollination we are aware that once the mites arrive they will be everywhere in a matter of weeks so all we ask is your co-operation and support.

Next Conference is not far away and preparations have started. If there is anything you want included in the programme or if you want to help just contact John Berry 06 8776205 [kberry@ihug.co.nz](mailto:kberry@ihug.co.nz) or Ron Morison, phone/fax 06 8449493 [rmorison@clear.net.nz](mailto:rmorison@clear.net.nz).

Next our thoughts are turning to our annual diseaseathon when we expect to see a large turnout of beekeepers working alongside experienced apiarists to check hives for AFB. This is a great chance for hobbyists to get "hands on" involvement with looking into beehives. 8 November is the date with a 9am start from Arataki Honey Ltd Havelock North. We feel we are progressing the aim of eliminating AFB, as last year, with many teams in the field, and many hives inspected we had no confirmed diseased hives.

Appreciating Mark Goodwin must be given funds to continue his team's research into aspects of Varroa research, our branch has lobbied our local MPs and is looking into ways to give a cash input.

Finally let's not forget the effort that our executive are making to keep the NBA a vibrant voice for all us beekeepers and give them our support in any way we can.

- Ron Morison



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## Otago.

In Otago winter started late, was warmer and drier than usual, and with the exception of a couple of cold blasts could be over soon. As a result colonies in warmer sites have gathered pollen most weeks and will be raising plenty of brood already. An early check for stores will be a priority for most of us to feed those few hives and tops that will be getting light by now. The current spell of SE weather has brought some colder temperatures but welcome moisture to some areas of North and East Otago. The ground is dry enough. For example Dunedin's rainfall for the year to mid August is only 280mm. I think the Ruahines got that much in the last 48 hours!

The Otago NBA seems to have weathered the political winter well, with over twenty members and quite a few going to the excellent NBA Seminar and Conference. The Nelson meetings further stimulated interest down here in a Queen Breeding Program. A dream of many is to have Varroa tolerant

bees prior to its arrival. The need for the very expensive high level surveillance and a possible eradication attempt, and the disruption these would cause, could then be avoided. High Country Otago has a concentration of Organic Certified beekeeping operations and for these beekeepers it is economically critical to avoid the use of Fluvalinate if at all possible.

The increased prices for clover honey are holding well for the time being and sales are reportedly brisk with no large stocks remaining. The general feeling is one of optimism. May the first person to start a price war, be stung at dawn. If you have so much surplus honey you have to give it away at last centuries prices, for the sake of everyone including yourself, keep some in the shed for a rainy day.

- Peter Sales

## Letter to the Editor

I've just received my July NZ Beekeeper - we get it via the Bee Farmers Association here in the UK. All the furore you're having with Varroa arriving has a big deja vue feeling. Like NZ, we are an island with a similar climate, protected from the Varroa that was ravaging Europe by the English Channel. But it was only a matter of time. When the mite arrived here 10 or so years ago there was a lot of interest from the government as the media conjectured a future Britain without bees. This spun our MAFF into action, as Varroa became flavour-of-the-month.

For a government department that allocates bees into its Horticulture & Potatoes section, beekeeping and bees have always been the poor relative of other forms of farming in the UK. There were extra resources provided for looking for the mite, even a government paid trip abroad for a coach load of prominent beekeepers to gain first hand experience of seeing the mite in the flesh.

There was a 'Varroa Line' in place which moved up the country from the first outbreak in Devon and the next several years saw the mite engulf us all completely. Hive movements over the line were forbidden and bees and beekeepers had the biggest shakeup ever as we all had to adjust our management techniques to cope with the parasite. So, all these years on, we have come out of the other side of the outbreak. The downside is that many elderly beekeepers chose not to adopt the new (& expensive) treatment regime and decided it was a good time to give up their bees, either by choice or by not treating. Those who remained are the ones who are the better beekeepers, the ones who look after their stocks better.

Beekeeper numbers have dropped by about half, but beekeepers here were predominantly elderly anyway, a legacy from the war years when beekeeping was encouraged by the state with the help of extra sugar rations. The numbers of colonies are less, but the remaining beekeepers manage more than before and manage them better, producing less swarms. Fewer beekeepers has meant less honey is produced. This, coupled with the extra costs of Varroa treatments has made the price of honey which is available double in its bulk price compared to five years ago.

Worry about the cheaper price of foreign imported honey competing with ours has become a thing of the past. Our consuming public appreciate our home produced product more now that there is less of it and its price compared to foreign produced product is immaterial. So take heart, New Zealand beekeepers, the future is not as bleak as it seems. You too can survive Varroa Destructor.

Yours

Theresa Waterworth

## Attention all hobbyist beekeepers in the Rotorua Area

We are very keen to start up a 'Hobbyist Beekeeper's' club in Rotorua. If You Are Interested in getting involved with a great bunch of people, where we will meet every month, swap information and ideas, keep you informed with all the latest news and just have a really good time..

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# AgriQuality Ltd Report To The Annual Conference Of The National Beekeepers' Association Of New Zealand: Nelson 24 July 2003



## PERSONNEL

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David McMillan	Mosgiel	Phone (03) 489 0066	Fax (03) 489 0071	Mob (021) 951 625	Email mcmillan@agriquality.com

Bryan Mitchell, Apicultural Advisory Officer Hamilton, resigned during the year. Bryan joined AgriQuality during the varroa response and has made a valuable contribution to the apiary business during his time with us. His position will not be replaced for the foreseeable future.

### Registrar's of Apiaries AgriQuality Ltd

Registrar	Apiary District	Contacts	E-mail
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Margaret Morris	Hamilton & Tauranga	Phone (07) 838 5851 Fax (07) 838 5846	morris@agriquality.com
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Trudi McDonald	Otago & Southland	Phone (03) 489 0065 Fax (03) 489 0071	mcdonaldt@agriquality.com

### HONEY CROP to 30 June 2003

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	6-year av
Northland, Auckland, Hauraki Plains	1014	615	982	869	593	1066	857
Waikato, King Country, Taupo	1404	1617	1434	672	708	2210	1341
Bay of Plenty, Coromandel, Poverty Bay	1314	1800	1300	794	319	2064	1265
Hawkes Bay, Taranaki, Manawatu, Wairarapa	1230	1416	1323	1735	750	1607	1344
Marlborough, Nelson, Westland	598	770	705	606	300	1350	722
Canterbury, North Otago	1238	1782	2310	2743	921	2400	1899
South and Central Otago, Southland	1283	1069	1555	1725	1091	1555	1380
New Zealand	8081	9069	9609	9144	4682	12252	8806
Yield/Hive (kg)	27.0	29.9	30.0	29.4	15.0	40.8	28.6

Source: AgriQuality Ltd

## APICULTURE

This section comments on a range of beekeeping activities and products throughout New Zealand.

### Key Points

- The number of registered beekeepers decreased by 324 (9%) compared to 290 in 2002 and 470 in 2001.
- 130 new beekeepers registered compared with 257 for the same period last year.
- There are currently 3649 beekeepers (3973 in 2002) owning 300729 (305152) hives on 20228 (20258) apiaries.
- The honey crop of 12,252 tonnes (6-year average 8,806 tonnes) was the best on record and a much-needed turn around from the record low crop of 4682 tonnes in 2002.
- Export markets were very buoyant and prices for most lines of honey increased.
- The National Beekeepers' Association of NZ (NBA) became a voluntary organization while an alternative body called the NZ Beekeeping Industry Group (NZBIG) was established as a sector group within Federated Farmers.

- The government funded interim varroa management program ended on 30 June 2003 and will hopefully be replaced by a Varroa Pest Management Strategy in the South Island.

### POLLINATION

The season was late for both bee colony development and flowering. Most fruit crops experienced reasonably good pollination despite the indifferent weather in October and November. Colonies struggled to build up through October and a huge amount of sugar feeding was required in all regions. Pollination fees increased slightly in the Bay of Plenty area from an average of around \$115/hive to over \$120 with a top price of \$138 being reported for single queen hives. The increased fee helped offset cost increases for diesel, sugar and varroa treatments.

Heavy winter hive losses were experienced by some beekeepers who delayed treating for varroa, or couldn't get access to hives because of wet conditions, and this affected the number of colonies available for pollination.

There was a strong demand to buy or rent hives from new suppliers to meet both an increase in demand from growers as well as to replace losses. An estimated 2000 hives were imported from the South Island for pollination services. Some kiwifruit growers increased their per hectare hive stocking rate and maturing areas of the ZESPRI™ GOLD variety also saw an increased demand for pollinating hives.

### **LIVE BEE MOVEMENTS AND EXPORTS**

Bee exporters had a good season in sales of package bees to Canada and Germany. Demand for package bees to stock hives in Canada was particularly strong reflecting the world shortage of honey. For the year ended December 2002, 10,780 queen bees and 18,028 x 1 kg packages of bees were exported. Good sales of packages and queens continued into 2003 and these figures will be reported in the year ending December 2003.

### **PMS SUMMARY**

#### **Annual Disease Return (ADR's) - Figures For 2002 Are In Brackets**

ADR's were sent to 3840 (4275) beekeepers, which were due back to AgriQuality on 1 June 2003. There were 2444 (1823) defaulters by the due date, and 1152 (1060) defaulters after a reminder letter was sent on 30 June 2003, with a final reporting date of 7 July 2003. Typically, 50% of the returns are received by the due date, and another 25% after the first reminder. By the final cut off of 1 July there are usually still 25% ADR's Outstanding. This year's returns are a little poorer than usual. Of the 3840 ADR's mailed out, 64% were outstanding as at 1 June 2003, and 30% as at 7 July 2003.

Disease Conformity Agreements (DECA'S) & Certificate Of Inspections (COI's) the end of June 2003 there were 2645 beekeepers with DECA's and a Certificate of Inspection Exemption (72%). These beekeepers are able to inspect their own hives for AFB and make report to AgriQuality on the authorised forms. No DECA's were revoked in the reporting period.

There were 1004 beekeepers with a COI and 926 defaulters still outstanding at the end of June 2003. COI's for the 2003-2004 year are due to be mailed out before 1 August 2003. A list of defaulters as at 15 December 2002, was supplied to the NBA. The requirement of beekeepers without a DECA to find a beekeeper with a DECA to inspect their hives is an ongoing problem. Many beekeepers sign and return their own COI's i.e. they are not getting their COI's signed by a beekeeper with a DECA. These are usually returned to the beekeepers concerned.

### **PMS Inspections**

**A summary of hive inspections, audits and sampling performance is in the attached report.**

#### **Number and percentage of AFB found**

AgriQuality and the NBA found 62 apiaries (25%), and 204 hives (13%), infected with AFB in the period 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003. The total number of AFB found, or reported in this period, was 475 apiaries (2.3%) and 1035 hives (0.34) belonging to 171 beekeepers (4.6%). The corresponding figures for the year ending 30 June 2002 were 648 apiaries (3.2%) and 1457 hives (0.48%) from 240 beekeepers (6.0%).

Several outbreaks of AFB have been found this year, which the NBA and AgriQuality have together to try and resolve.

AgriQuality would like to thank all beekeepers that were involved in dealing with these outbreaks. Two of the major outbreaks were in Canterbury and traced to two beekeepers. The resulting inspections carried out by the NBA and AgriQuality resulted in the destruction of about 50% of one commercial beekeepers hives and 20% of the other beekeeper.

#### **Number of unregistered apiaries found**

Eight unregistered apiaries were found and 6 notices sent to Registrars to update the database. In two cases the sites were registered after talking with the beekeepers concerned.

#### **Abandoned apiaries found or destroyed**

Six abandoned apiaries were found with 24 hives. Of these, 22 hives were destroyed after due notice had been served.

#### **Number of apiaries & hives inspected by AgriQuality staff or contracted AP's**

AgriQuality inspected 44 apiaries, and 217 hives. Apart from the inspections related to the disease outbreaks in Canterbury, AgriQuality was not funded to complete any AFB audit inspections. In most cases AgriQuality inspected hives for AFB while going through outbreak areas on other business.

#### **Number of apiaries and hives inspected by the NBA**

The NBA has inspected 201 apiaries and 1363 hives. This was a small percentage of the numbers that had been allocated by AgriQuality to NBA branches for inspection.

#### **Number of apiaries with AFB destroyed on default of a notice**

NBA and AgriQuality did not destroy any apiaries or hives, in default of notice this season.

#### **Number of restricted place notices sent to beekeepers**

Two notices were sent to one beekeeper.

#### **Number of clinical AFB notified and destroyed by beekeepers with COI's**

Fifteen beekeepers' with COI's declared 33 AFB hives in 15 apiaries.

#### **Number of apiaries and hives held by beekeepers with a COI's**

There were 1004 beekeepers with a COI's who owned 1966 apiaries and 15799 hives

#### **Number of apiaries and hives inspected on default of a notice**

AgriQuality and the NBA did not inspect any apiaries or hives on default of a notice.

#### **Lab tests**

No funds were provided for lab testing but HortResearch Ltd at Ruakura tested 73 samples on a good will basis and in the expectation that further contact work would be forthcoming. Of the samples tested 5 were positive.

### **EXOTIC BEE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE**

The new MAF standard for exotic disease surveillance has just completed its second year. The riskbased programme had a few changes from the previous year after feedback and input from beekeepers.

#### **1 Field Inspection and Sampling**

500 apiaries were selected and inspected and sampled for exotic diseases, with 400 of these coming from high-risk areas and 100 from beekeepers' home apiaries. High-risk areas are

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those locations considered to have the greatest potential for entry of exotic bee diseases eg ports, cities and tourist destinations. The high-risk sites were inspected in the South Island, by Authorised Person-level 2 inspectors and beekeepers, as part of the varroa surveillance programme. In the North Island beekeepers were asked to inspect and sample their own hives and were sent a kit to assist with this.

In general the surveillance contract required that the hives on each site:

- Be inspected for exotic bee disease symptoms with any symptoms being sampled (namely European foulbrood, small hive beetle and other subspecies of bees).
- Have a sample of about 50 adult bees taken from each hive to be examined for internal mites
- Have a 24-hour sticky board and miticide sample taken for external mites.

Over and above this programme, a further 300 apiaries were sampled by beekeepers who export live bees. These samples were tested for external and internal mites.

All samples were negative for exotic bee diseases and pests.

**Table: The number of apiaries inspected and sampled as at the end of June 2003:**

Inspection Category	Target	Number Inspected
High risk apiaries	400 apiaries	310 apiaries 1224 hives
Home apiaries	100	55 apiaries, 661 hives
Export samples	300	300

As in past years many beekeepers, who voluntarily inspect their own sites, find it difficult to meet the target number of inspections. A few inspection kits have come in since the end of June so the numbers above will increase slightly.

## 2 Reports

Each year, reports on surveillance activity are written for MAF and the New Zealand Beekeeper magazine. These are used to meet our international reporting requirements for New Zealand's bee health status and also to keep New Zealand's beekeeper's informed of surveillance activities.

## 3 Apiary Database

MAF Contributes to the Cost of the management and maintenance of the apiary database through the exotic disease surveillance contract.

## 4 Beekeeper Extension / Education

A series of articles were written for beekeepers and published in the New Zealand Beekeeper magazine. These articles covered issues relating to surveillance and exotic pests and diseases and their relevance to the New Zealand beekeeping industry.

An information leaflet on the Cape Bee was developed and sent to all registered beekeepers. This leaflet is a supplement to the exotic disease pamphlet, which was published two years ago and distributed to all beekeepers. New beekeepers are sent a copy of these pamphlets when they register.

An exotic disease web site is under development and will appear on the world wide web in the near future.

## 5 Screening of Exotic Disease Inquires

Each year MAF and AgriQuality Ltd receive a number of calls regarding suspect exotic diseases or strange symptoms that beekeepers find in their hives. AgriQuality works with MAF's National Centre for Disease Investigation (NCDI) to screen these calls and determine whether a sample needs to be taken. Often a phone diagnosis can be made which rules out an exotic bee disease or pest.

Of the calls received by AgriQuality or MAF, 31 resulted in samples being taken and sent to a lab for further diagnosis. The suspects investigated included 11 for mites, 12 for European foulbrood (EFB), 1 for Cape Bee, 2 for Africanized Honey Bees and 5 for Small Hive Beetle.

In addition, 6 swarms were caught in the South Island swarm trapping programme. No exotic diseases or pests were found.

## 6 Technical Development

To ensure the technical robustness of the surveillance programme, a review of national and international literature on exotic bee diseases and pests was undertaken. New surveillance techniques and potential new bee pests were also reviewed and risks of introduction to New Zealand assessed. Suggestions for programme improvements were reported to MAF.

## HONEY BEE EXOTIC DISEASE AND PEST RESPONSE (EDPR)

### 1 Testing the new EDPR Model.

A large focus on this years programme was to train role holders in the new procedures. Since the varroa outbreak in Auckland in 2000 the EDPR procedures and structures have been significantly modified. This year two workshops were held, one desk exercise at the National Centre for Disease Investigation in Wellington, and a field exercise involving beekeepers in Blenheim. Both exercises went well with the Blenheim exercise being the smoothest and most successful field exercise we have ever run.

### 2 Technical Advisors Training

Byron Taylor and Tony Roper completed a 3-week study tour to the United States as part of their technical advisor training for exotic diseases. Byron and Tony presented a very informative debrief on their findings to MAF, the beekeeping industry and AgriQuality at a workshop held in Wellington.

- **G Murray Reid**  
National Manager Apiculture

### AFB RECOGNITION & DESTRUCTION COURSE & COMPETENCY TEST

The Canterbury Branch of the NBA will be running a training course followed by a competency test on **8<sup>th</sup> November 2003**, in the Aoraki Polytechnic, **Ashburton**.

Beekeepers wishing to take part in this please contact Roger Bray by 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2003

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# About the Apiary

Spring is really under way. The calm, mild days of August have allowed the bees to fly and gather much needed nectar and pollen supplies. Most hives have brood in four frames. In fact quite a few hives have been packing in so much honey that they have been building burr comb above the frames. These hives been given an extra super.

A lot of beekeepers have been out doing early spring inspections. Inspections can be carried out during any warm day when the bees are flying well. I usually start at the bottom by placing all the supers on the upturned roof, exposing the floorboard. Remove this and inspect the pallet or whatever sort of stand the floorboard is sitting on. Will it support a heavy hive for another season without decaying? Replace with another pallet or concrete blocks if you are not totally sure. Then clean the floorboard by scraping off all the residue. Once every few years it's a good idea to totally clean it with a Janola - water mix, allow to dry and then repaint it. Some beekeepers use the universal two sided floorboards and simply turn them over and let nature clean them. Mesh bottom boards hardly ever require attention unless the trapping tray is inserted.

Place the floorboard back on the stand and make sure there is a slight slope forward so water runs out of the hive. Then replace the bottom super and remove the frame second in from the outside but first push the hive tool down between the frame's end bars to create a gap so the frame can be easily removed. This one comes out easier than the outside frame, which is usually propolised in and often, breaks when pressure is applied.

Leave this frame out and proceed to inspect all the frames for AFB. You are looking for the odd capped cell or a dried up larva in the bottom of a cell. Quite often you will find an odd cell with chalk brood in it or sometime Sacbrood. If in doubt consult the pamphlet that came with your ADR or another beekeeper. It's very important to check the bottom super. I once found a hive with perfectly clean brood in the top super but there were a few cells of AFB in the bottom unused super. Once the supers were reversed as a swarm prevention measure in October, these cells would have caused an outbreak of AFB. Once a cell has been found with AFB (confirmed through the ropy test), contact your local AgriQuality AAO and destroy the hive within 7 days as per the requirements of the AFB PMS. Most of you will be lucky not to ever see AFB, but with mites, it is now more likely as weaken hives are robbed.

Replace the second super on top of the first and inspect all the frames as before but this time; gently shake most of the bees off each frame into the super below as you inspect it. You will miss the odd sunken cell if the frame is still covered with bees. Replace frames with broken lugs, dark heavy frames and those with large patches of drone brood, with last years newly drawn out frames. If they are in use, (i.e. have brood in them) move them towards the outside of the brood nest. Check hives have at least three full frames of honey as the minimum of stores. If not install a feeder.

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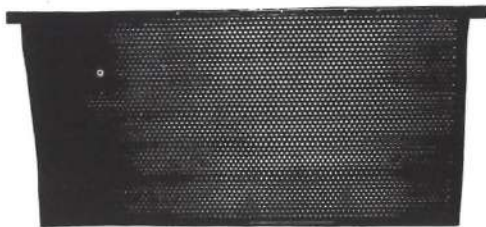
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I also look at the pollen frames. They are as important as honey frames for the bee's development. Apparently there is a right way of installing wax foundation into frames and placing them into the hive. It has something to do with the formation of the base of the cell. The inverted part of the foundation that forms a "Y" should go to the outside as it holds honey apparently. (Sorry I have lost my notes on this). Anyway you sometimes notice that the bees will put pollen in the middle of the brood nest and there will be more pollen on one side of the frame and much less on the other side. I'm not talking about the pollen ring around the brood but the odd frame where the bees tend to put pollen in all cells. (Not to be confused with pollen in the bottom supers frames caused through there being an old queen). Pollen in the middle of the brood nest tends to form a barrier cramping the brood nest's expansion. (Bees generally only rear brood between pollen frames, when not restricted by a queen excluder). So while doing my inspection I move these frames to the edge of the brood nest and turn them end to end so most of the pollen is on the outside. You only want pollen frames in the middle of the brood nest when you are raising queen cells.

What ever you do - do not split the brood nest. Leave it, as it is, compact in the middle or towards the warm side of the hive. The idea now is to get continuous brood rearing right through to the beginning of the honey flow.

In the stronger hives, the bees are making queen cell buds and producing a lot of drone brood. Before you do anything at all to these queen cell buds, think back – what did the brood pattern look like? Spotted brood can be an indication of an old queen and the bees might be making preparations to replace her. (A few of my hives have already superseded this spring and the queens have just started laying). A strong hive with a good pattern (hardly any missed cells) may indicate they are making preparations to swarm. In the strong hives I remove the buds on the surface of the frames but leave those on the base of the frame for easy checking later on. (One needs only to upend the super and look along the bottom of the frames for q-cell development), I mark the roof of the hive with a pen with "check" or "split". This also indicates to me when I next visit the apiary to check on the progress of these hives. Strong hives can either be split mid-October or outside frames of emerging brood can be taken and given to weaker hives to boost their bee numbers.

Assemble the hive and as you do, did you notice if the inside of the super walls were wet? If they were, increase the top ventilation by placing a twig on each corner of the super to raise the crown board slightly. The diameter of the twig must be smaller than a bee otherwise this might encourage robbing.

So everything's in good heart and the bees look good. For those with a spotty brood pattern order a new queen or consider ordering one anyway just for insurance or to use in a nuc.

Have all your spare equipment ready for the honey flow. New frames wired but not waxed as those embedded in cold weather, usually sag when put into a warm hive. Foundation should be imbedded in the frames shortly before they are required.

Make up a few catcher hives. These consists of an old full depth super, a few old dark frames and the rest foundation frames. Reduce the entrance to about 25 mm or slightly less and place the super at least 2 metres up, on a shed roof or

something similar. Bees require certain conditions for their nest site, small entrance, a good size chamber and a fairly shelter situation. You'll be surprised just how many of these attract swarms in a good swarming year.

For those in mite areas, if you haven't already done so monitor the mite fall in your hives and calculate the number of mites in your hives. Multiply the fall by three if you use strips and then double the number each month until February. If the number of mites reaches 1000 before February, treat your hives for 21 days and then do another test. Twenty-one days represent three brood emergences and you want strips out of your hives well before the early spring honey flow. As a minimum you should test 25% of your hives. Keep on top of mites otherwise you will get a reduced honey crop and worst still you could lose your hive.

Things to do this month: check for AFB, cull old frames, feed if necessary, control weeds, check the stored supers for wax moth, and survey varroa numbers. For those raising their own queen(s), you should be well underway once the hives are producing drones.

- Frank Lindsay

## Beekeeper Discussion Groups.

A group of over twenty commercial beekeepers formed an Otago- Southland Beekeepers Discussion Group in July last year. The driving force was Murray Ballantyne, who saw a need for beekeepers to tackle looming problems collectively. We employ a facilitator, John Scandrett, who has a background in the Farm Advisory Industry. His involvement has been hugely beneficial, helping to keep us on track and relate our beekeeping issues to similar ones faced elsewhere in primary production. We are not alone!

Meeting every 2 to 3 months each participant gives a review of the past period and their plans for the next. Open sharing of this information is helping us all develop our beekeeping skills.

So far topics covered in depth include Communication with Farmers (we have produced a 'generic' newsletter for distribution), Business Skills (a brilliant skill development workshop held by Eric Livingstone), Treatment for Anaphylactic shock (St John paramedic), and a Honey Production Survey (investigating scope for a 'Regional' Honey marketing strategy). Future Projects include Benchmarking and a Breeder Queen Program.

For further information on how to set up such a group – Murray can be contacted on 03 231 3090 or Email [wapiary@southnet.co.nz](mailto:wapiary@southnet.co.nz)

- Peter Sales

# Waikato Field Day - Genetic Modification

Jeanette Fitzsimons from the Green Party, came to our Waikato Branch field day held at the Ruakura Research Centre in Hamilton during August. During part of this address, she raised several points over the Genetic Modification issue that is now being vigorously debated in the public arena. Should we lift the Moratorium? Is there any turning back once the genie is out of the bottle?

Some of the points she raised, I was unaware of, and if they are correct it certainly raises more questions over the proposed release of Genetically Modified organisms.

Below are several points that Jeanette raised:

- 1 With regards to transgenic research – this is very unpredictable, as the genes cannot be inserted at a specific location – the technology is not advanced enough to do this yet, so you do not know what the end result will be. Therefore carrying out risk analysis on this research is flawed from the start.
- 2 It has been suggested that for every application lodged with ERMA – the Environmental Risk Management Agency, people will be able to make submissions on the applications. This is likely to be unworkable because of the potential large number of submissions they would have to deal with.
- 3 A report was commissioned by the government on the Economic benefit of embracing this GM technology. Jeanette informed us that the Treasury report that resulted is flawed as they removed some of the figures from one end of the spectrum to ensure that a small positive GDP increase was the result.
- 4 Of huge concern to us is the fact that the idea of a site register for where GM crops are to be grown will be of little use, even if it is implemented, as ERMA will not be able to disclose where the crop is to anyone – even under the official information act. All they would be able to tell the beekeeper is – if you want to maintain a distance of x kilometres away from the GM crop, you will have to move your apiary in y direction – or in Jeanette's terminology – colder - colder - warmer - warmer!!!!  
This will make for a very long arduous task for the beekeeper to determine where it is safe to have hives should the beekeeper wish to ensure that the bee products that are produced from the hive are GM free.
- 5 Of concern also is that the Government had commissioned a report on Horizontal gene transfer, but the report is not due until 2005 – long after the moratorium is due to end.
- 6 Jeanette also made comment with regard to liability issues (that are supposedly being addressed in the NOOM bill (New organisms and other matters bill)), the Green Party is arguing that there should be strict liability for the Patent Holder of the GM organism. We are not going to be able to take others to court. The



Jane Lorimer & Jeanette Fitzsimmons

NOOM bill only covers liability if there have been breaches of the conditions imposed.

As a result of this address, I have now gone back to Irene Parminter, and asked her some questions (at the time of writing 30<sup>th</sup> August I have not had a response). To all intense and purposes little has been done so far that gives me hope that our bees will be protected from exposure to GM material – as was the recommendation from the Royal Commission – to find a strategy that keeps bee products GM free.

If this is all that has been done for our Industry on this issue, then I believe that we should all be lobbying for a continuation of the moratorium.

- Jane Lorimer

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# Conference 2003 Nelson – Propolis extraction plant at Mapua Nelson.

A big thankyou to Lew and Jan Bone, Arataki Bee Products, in association with Arataki Honey Limited - Rotorua Division, in showing many conference attendees through their splendid Propolis Factory.

For many beekeepers, propolis is another income earning stream adding value to the hive. It is scraped, and collected, usually bagged and sent on for processing. How much and how pure seems to attract the odd bet between many.

“During our factory tour, it became clear that the propolis purity is not the guess work some of us thought but rather a scientific process. It also gave us an opportunity to see how we can achieve a higher purity product, as beekeepers, eliminating some of the wood and plastic particles that are bagged with the propolis enhancing our end value.”

New Zealand’s propolis is definitely different from overseas product. Beware those trying to pass of overseas propolis as New Zealand’s, there are now some wiser beekeepers around!

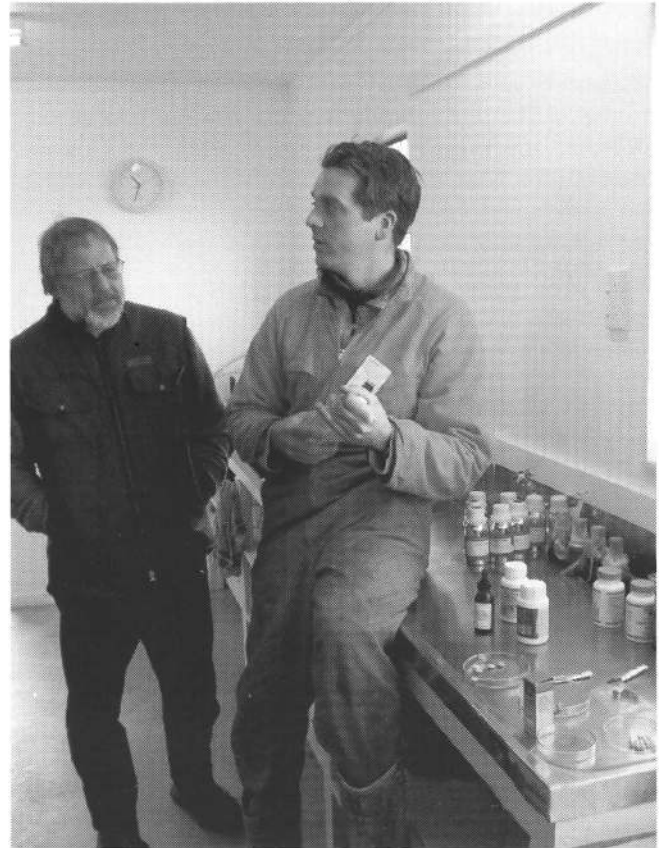
- Bob Russell



On left is Haydn Bone plant production manager giving run down on the propolis extraction process to the group. Group include Ohura Prison Farm beekeeping supervisor Phil Logue. David Woodward Telford Polytechnic with hands in pockets. To his right is Peter Bouteleje. Lew Bone at centre rear.



Haydn Bone Production Manager recording quality control data.



Haydn Bone in lab discussing the propolis end products.



The team at Mapua Plant. Lew and Jan Bone centre of photo with Haydn Bone during question and answer session with the visiting group.

<p><b>FOR SALE</b>          3/4 depth Honey Boxes          Approx 1500          Going cheap <i>No AFB</i>          PH 09 235 8585</p>	<p>BK163</p>
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## “The Telford Challenge”

At Conference this year Telford Rural Polytechnic CEO Jonathan Walmisley laid down the challenge to improve the perception of the New Zealand Beekeeping Industry and to ensure our succession is secure through encouraging new blood into the industry.

To many young people, the Beekeeping Industry is perceived as one for the 60's alternative lifestyle occupation, requiring no relevant qualification, that in most years just about breaks even. The flip side of the same coin is that NZ beekeepers are seen as world leaders in the industry and this is a reputation worth millions of dollars not only to beekeepers but to the agriculture and horticulture industries that rely on bees for pollination. This is a reputation worthy of preserving but it can only be done through being recognised as a professional industry, which values innovation and training.

A start has been made with the introduction this year of two unit standard based National Certificates in Apiculture. The National Certificate in Apiculture – Beekeepers' Assistant (Level 2) and the National Certificate in Apiculture – Leading Hand (Level 3). Many will know about Telford Rural Polytechnic. For those who are not privy to this jewel, Telford is the only Rural Polytechnic in New Zealand and only offers programmes in support of the rural sector; agriculture, dairy, forestry, equestrian and beekeeping. In the beekeeping area Telford at present offers:

- A two year correspondence course (Certificate in Apiculture Knowledge)

- A one year full-time course (Advanced Certificate in Apiculture) and
- A four week block course (Certificate in Queen Bee Rearing)

These programmes are currently being upgraded to meet the changing needs of the industry, how this happens is up to you!

One development will be to convert these programmes to the new unit standards and over the next 18 months that will be completed. A second is that Telford will work with industry clusters to provide apiarists with training towards the National Certificate in Apiculture via correspondence and local Telford accredited practical assessors.

### The Telford Challenge is:

- Raise the professional standing of the industry.
- Take ownership of your succession plan: who will buy your business?
- Have a recruitment policy to attract people to the industry.
- Give them the best training possible.
- Ensure the National Certificate is successful and register as a Telford Practical Assessor.
- Taking ownership of the programmes offered at Telford.

Are we individually and as an Association up to the Challenge? Say YES as any other answer spells mediocrity.

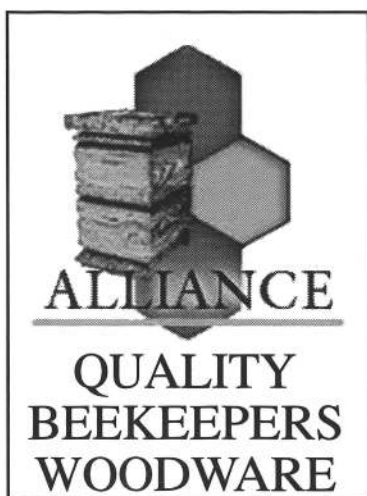
**For Further information Jonathan Walmisley on 0800 TELFORD**

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## Movement control line change.

On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September, the movement control line spanning the central North Island, ceased, allowing the movement of hives between the Upper North Island and East Cape, Taranaki, Manawatu, Horowhenua and Wellington. After three years, beekeepers will begin to legally move hives once again, between the upper and lower North Island.

For southern beekeepers this means the opening back up to the Kiwifruit Pollination circuit, and for northern beekeepers, the chance to re-populate honey sites closed off to them when the line was implemented.

In its place will be a "lesser conditional movement control line" for the Hawkes Bay and Wairarapa area mainly to slow the spread of Varroa in those regions. Beekeepers will still be able to move hives over the new line and permits will only be given for hives, which have been treated to kill Varroa.

The new movement control line, was made after extensive discussion with the beekeeping industry.

## Re: Levy to fund AFB Pest Management Strategy

From the Office of Hon. Jim Sutton:

"I am writing regarding your application for levy order on beekeepers and apiaries under the Biosecurity Act 1993 to fund the American Foulbrood National Pest Management Strategy.

On the information and evidence that you and your organisation have presented, I have decided to recommend to my Cabinet colleagues that a two part levy on a) each beekeeper and b) each apiary, with a maximum of one apiary levy charged for beekeepers who own less than eleven hives on less than four apiaries proceed.

I have requested Parliamentary Counsel to prepare a draft Order in Council and I have also asked my officials to keep in touch with you during the drafting of the Order in Council." Please ensure that this information is distributed as widely as possible to all beekeepers.

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# From the archives –

## APIARY SECTIONS' WORK REVIEWED

*Following is a summary of Field Investigation and Experimental work undertaken by the Apiary Section of the Department of Agriculture during the past 12 months as reported by the Superintendent, Beekeeping, to Conference, 1970.*

### Industrial Sugar

Trials with industrial sugar as a replacement for honey as winter stores or for feeding in the spring were carried out at Auckland and Oamaru.

### Queens for Canada

Visits were made to the Auckland airport to examine queens and the conditions under which they were transported. A number of changes were recommended.

### Bee Strains

Individual characteristics of various strains such as brood patterns, swarming propensities, working habits temper and ability to bring in nectar under changeable weather conditions have been recorded.

### Overseas Shipment of Hives

Pacific Island peoples continue to purchase hives of bees from the Auckland district. Special knowledge of packing hives, loading and stowage aboard ship is necessary for the successful shipment of these hives. The most recent shipment was 50 hives for the Government of Tonga.

### Bee Mortality on Rangitoto and Motutapu Islands

Bee mortality on these Islands at crucial periods of the year has been traced to a combination of circumstances i.e. Karaka nectar poisoning, the narcotic effects of Kowhai nectar, lack of pollen, inadequacy of Pohutukawa honey as winter stores, and lack of brood and young bees.

Measures recommended are:

**Requeening with a fresh strain of bees**

**Adding combs of honey, pollen and brood from the mainland**

**Sugar syrup feeding to stimulate breeding and activity**

**Provision of pollen supplement**

**One supply of ample clean water**

**The elimination of wasps**

### Cappings Melter

Trials were undertaken at Auckland with a melter cabinet fitted with a basket to determine from which direction heat can be most effectively applied to the cappings. The heating unit used was a Tangray forced air electric heater.

### Planting for Honey Production

Soya beans and Argentine rape are under observation for this purpose and sunflowers for pollination and honey production.

### Surveys

Surveys have been carried out at Great Barrier and Kawau Islands to assess the beekeeping potential of the islands.

### Evaluation of Different Colony Management Methods

A comprehensive evaluation and comparison was made of three

colony management systems. These were (a) the basic single queen system using overwintering colonies; (b) single queen system using spring nucleus colonies and (c) the two queen system. 90 colonies were used in three apiaries of 30 colonies each in three districts – Hawkes Bay, Manawatu and Taranaki.

### Pollen Supplements

An extensive test of pollen supplement feeding was undertaken last season in conjunction with the above management experiments.

### Pollen Trapping and Pollen Supplements

The Ontario Agricultural College (O.A.C.) pollen trap was tested under Manawatu and Hawkes Bay conditions.

### The Economics of Trapping and Selling Pollen

This included the testing of various types of pollen traps, methods of cleaning pollen, removal of moisture and the storing of pollen.

### Pollen Combs

Trials are under way with supers of combs held in a cooler, under polythene, coated with paraffin wax and glazed. The purpose of the trials is to preserve the pollen against mite and deterioration.

### Pollination

Orchardists and apiarists were brought together for the purpose of setting up a pollination service, mainly for pollinating apples and plums. As a result of last year's experience a bulletin on the subject has been prepared and a standard service charge agreed upon. Some orchardists reported record crops after using bees for the first time. It is expected that 150 hives will be rented this coming season in the Henderson and Oratia areas alone.

### Sunflower Pollination

During the past two years, observations have been conducted into the pollination of sunflowers.

### The Sugar Concentration of Nectar

In order to obtain some idea of the amount of sugar in various nectars some 30 flower species were examined. The reasons for this were to determine:

1. Competition from other sources during fruit blossom pollination
2. The siting of bees
3. The best time to move bees to a crop.

### Permanent Apiaries versus Temporary Apiaries

It is proposed to undertake an economic evaluation of – shifting colonies of bees for spring build-up and honey flow purposes. This will be conducted in Hawkes Bay-Manawatu regions.

### Wasp Attractants

Some materials found to be successful in attracting species of *Vespula* in Canada and U.S.A. when tested in NZ have proved entirely unsuccessful under N.Z. conditions. This year a number of other chemicals, as well as horsemeat extract and pet food mixes, have been tested without any success being achieved.

### NZ BEEKEEPER NOVEMBER, 1970

## Branch and Club Contacts

### **NORTH CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS 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**