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PROUD TO BEE A BEEKEEPER



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President's Report

Conference

This journal is likely to reach you just prior to Conference, so I hope that reading some of the snippets in here will encourage you to come along. I look forward to seeing you there to be able to meet you and discuss any issues you feel need to be addressed.

Conference once again looks like it will be an exciting event with three overseas speakers confirmed. Other speakers will be updating on issues that were addressed last year and others will be making new presentations.

Of note will be Dr Roger Poland, from MAF, who I met with on the 21st May. He and his team have been looking at our requirements for Exotic Bee Disease Surveillance. Like us he sees that we cannot afford to have another serious incursion like Varroa.

Often, we have had several remits to conference on this topic of Exotic Bee diseases and surveillance. Now is your chance to hear what the latest is on this, and become part of a decision making process that may change how surveillance is carried out in the future. What level of risk are we prepared to take, and how much are we prepared to put in to minimise the likelihood of another incursion? And of course, how will this be funded – the question on everyone's mind. Come to hear the possible solution.

Structure Review Committee

This committee has been meeting on a regular basis since it has been formed – almost fortnightly. I appreciate their commitment to this project, seeing as we were slow to get this committee formed. My understanding is that they will have a report for Conference, and may have some recommendations for the Executive.

Risk Management Programmes

On the 18th May, a group of interested people from throughout the Industry met with New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA), to progress the development of a Code of Practice that will provide guidance on the development of Risk Management Programmes (RMP)

An RMP covers from extraction through to dispatch of the packed product. Those who only supply the domestic market will only require a Food Safety Programme, but as soon as you supply product for export, an RMP will be required. This potentially will cover a large percentage of beekeepers with Extraction facilities.

There is however a possibility that multiple sites may be covered under one RMP. This may be the most cost effective means to ensure compliance with regulations. There was general agreement from the meeting that we encourage everyone to move towards an RMP.

The timeline is now for the working group to have another meeting in mid August, and then another one in early 2005.

The Code of Practice, will focus on Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP). There will be several sections within this GMP that each person who requires an RMP, will have to work through and identify how they will meet the

requirements eg what pest control measures do you undertake, what do you do to ensure that your water is of a standard for food processing.

Most or all of the controls necessary within the RMP are likely to be covered by GMP.

Once the GMP and RMP templates have been produced, they will be available on the NZFSA web site. For those who do not have access, or reliable internet connections, hard copies will be available, but you may have to pay for the copying.

It was a general feeling in the meeting that to get the Industry to comply, it may be in the interest of those who are exporting to assist others to meet the RMP requirements – maybe through a mentoring system.

To help in the formation of the code of practice, there may be in the future, a questionnaire sent out to the Industry to identify if the working group has missed any details that need to be covered. Please fill it in and return it – it will be treated as confidential.

There is the intent to get the whole Code of Practice template out by March 2005, and that this will focus on honey production. For those who are exporting other bee products, templates will be developed later. However, once the honey template has been completed, it should be relatively easy for it to be adapted to cover the other products.

The one concern that came out of the meeting, was that to meet the RMP requirements there would still require considerable time to complete, not to mention a large generation of paperwork – something I know beekeepers do not like having to do. There does not appear to be a way around this, and the working group I am sure will be looking at trying to keep the paperwork to a minimum.

I look forward to progress on this front.

Board of Inquiry on the Proposed Varroa Pest Management Strategy for the South Island

On the 21st May, I went to Wellington to put forward the National Beekeepers' Association viewpoint on the proposed strategy.

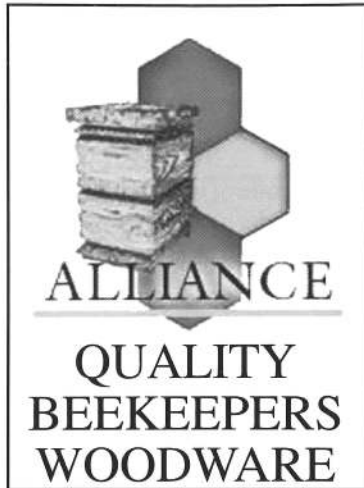
I was the first up for this inquiry, which I believe will have had both advantages and disadvantages. An advantage, in that if I made a good impression with the argument and possible solutions put forward, it may stay in their mind. The disadvantage was of course that those who were in the public gallery could make notes of our presentation, and then amend theirs to cover points raised in our presentation.

It will be interesting to see what recommendations come from this Inquiry.

At the same time, I was asked to get input from the American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy Operations committee, as to how the strategy works, what its pitfalls are, and how we were overcoming them. This presentation was done at the 11th hour. However, the board appeared to be very happy at the insight given to them. More may be presented at the final meeting in Wellington in June.

- Jane Lorimer

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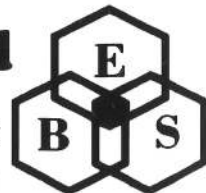
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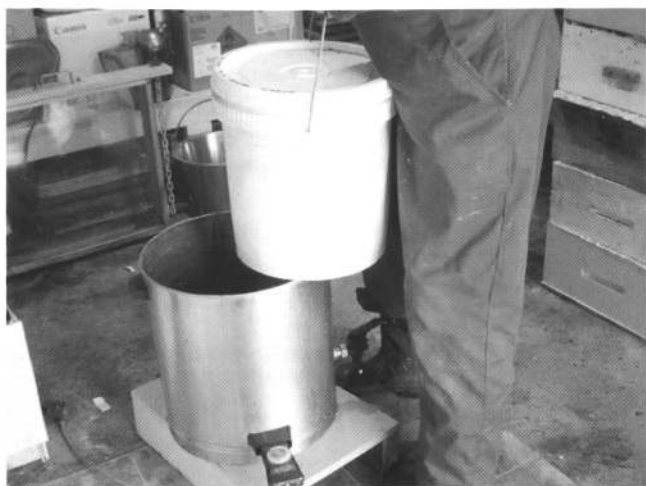


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BK202

Liquefying small amounts of Honey

As a small time beekeeper, selling 80% of product from my own door; I needed a reliable, easy to use method of liquefying small quantities of honey at reasonably short notice. While some of the crop is stored in drums and can be handled in the hot room at the factory a lot of the honey is stored in 20 litre plastic pails at home that allow me to extract niche honeys for my discerning customers. Most of the product is sold "from the tap" rather than pre-packaged.



Twenty to twenty five kilos of honey are about as much as I can lift with ease and while plastic is not a good conductor of heat a little patience gets you there; an added bonus is that the honey warms slowly.

I purchased an "AGEE Preserver" many years ago when I did a lot of preserving and this proved to be the ideal vessel as it easily takes a 20 litre pail. It comes with a platform at the bottom that keeps the bucket off the element but most importantly it has a thermostat that allows one to pre set the maximum heat you require. I heat the pail at approximately 70 degrees and it takes about two hours to completely liquefy the entire contents.

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When my "old faithful" crashed out (I turned it on without checking it had water in it !!) I was able to purchase another second hand preserver for \$80.00 and have since seen several for sale at about the \$100.00 mark. You can also purchase new elements.



Once liquefied the honey is transferred into stainless steel 40 litre containers that sit on hot pads. This method suits my small time business where nectar source is very important to most customers an instant liquid honey is a necessity.

- George Jonson

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From the colonies



Southern North Island Branch

Beekeepers have been reviewing the past year's honey crop. Honey production was very patchy right through the region. Some did reasonably well producing an average crop with other areas such as Taranaki producing hardly any honey.

Varroa has spread into the Wairarapa and is now wide spread in Taranaki. Elsewhere hives that were not treated early in February in the areas that were infested last year are now dead. Mite numbers exploded through reinvasion, from dying feral and hobbyist's hives. For some this has been quite a shock.

We are looking forward to the Napier conference for the information that the seminar days will give us. On the NBA side, we want to see a structured membership where the beekeepers pay a subscription based on the number of hives they own, rather than the present situation where a commercial beekeeper can opt to pay a hobbyist fee if he/she chooses. We hope the review committee comes up with these and other changes that will see the organisation move forward and encourage beekeepers to join the association.

Immediately following conference Dr Pedro Rodriguez will be travelling south to give talks to beekeepers on treating hives with food grade mineral oil to control varroa. Southern beekeepers will be able to hear him speak at the Johnsonville Community Centre (Wellington) on Saturday the 2nd July, at 1.00 pm and Northern beekeepers will have an opportunity to hear him speak in Wanganui, at the Vintage Car Clubrooms on Sunday the 3rd July at 1.30 pm. Please pass this information on to all beekeepers in your area. All welcome.

Don't forget to register for Camp Rangī, A.S.A.P

- Frank Lindsay

Auckland

Dr. Pedro P. Rodriguez will be visiting NZ June 21- July 10 to attend the National Beekeepers conference at Napier.

Over the past 10 years Dr. Rodriguez has been researching and developing protocols for the use of Food Grade mineral oil as an alternative varroa control (not approved for use in NZ beehives).

An itinerary has been organised for Dr. Rodriguez who is being billeted and escorted by beekeepers en route and post conference. Social venues are being arranged.

June 21	Arrive Auckland NZ, meet with beekeepers 7 pm Venue Beesonline 791 Waimauku, State Highway 16
June 23	Waikato
June 24	Bay of Plenty
June 26	Opotiki – Gisborne

June 28- July 1	NBA Conference Napier
July 2-5	Wellington – Wanganui
July 6	Engagement Hamilton
July 10	Depart NZ

Itinerary coordinator Bob Russell (contact details inside cover)

A short notice Apivar Seminar was held at Ceracell Beekeeping Supplies Ltd on May 20 with 30 beekeepers in attendance.

The deputy-managing director of Veto- Pharma Dr. Siefert of France the veterinarian responsible for regulatory and technical matters addressed the seminar.

A power point presentation covering the manufacture, quality control, packaging and field efficacy for Apivar was followed by questions.

Concerns by users present were put to the supplier for follow up.

- Bob Russell

Waikato Branch

We are very pleased to report that the Waikato Branch of the NBA is stronger than it has been for years. On Saturday, May 22nd, we held a very successful Field Day, with approx. 150 people attending. Great displays of beekeeping equipment, new trucks, centrifuges, beehive loaders and equipment, ranging from \$1000 to \$40,000. We hear that sales were made of between \$100,000 and \$200,000 worth. Our thanks go to all exhibitors, well done!

Even the intermittent rain did not dampen spirits. Early in the day we had three guest speakers, Dr Mark Goodwin on AFB and Varroa, Dr Siefert from Veto Pharma, France, on the production and use of Apivar and Dr Jonathan Dixon on pollination of Avocados.

Most of us are still getting over the huge workload of exporting bees to Canada. At our recent well attended AGM and General

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meeting there was only one member who had not supplied bees to Canada this year. It has not been the greatest of honey producing seasons so we are thankful for a big year of live bee exports.

For most areas in the North Island, if you have not placed miticide strips into your hives this Autumn, you will have some dead hives! The equation still holds true, five months of no treatment = dead hives. Some of us are slow learners and we cannot blame it on the weather. Overall, except for February, the weather has been great.

There is probably the odd person in the North Island who is likely to send blocks of beeswax on pallets to the South Island. Stretch wrapping is not enough to keep bees out. Bees are attracted to wax especially if there is honey present. Bees may fly in under the stretch wrapping at your shed while being loaded or even more likely, at your carriers shed and thus varroa could be transported to the South Island. Anywhere beeswax is received in the South Island from the North Island, should be extensively surveyed for Varroa. Stretch wrapping that is not bee proof does not meet varroa movement control conditions, extreme care please. Keep the South Island varroa free.

Have a great winter holiday.

- Russell Berry

Canterbury Branch

This month the branch has been heavily involved with the Board of Inquiry for proposed Varroa Pest Management Strategy for the South Island.

The Canterbury Branch of the NBA now meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

- Roger Bray.

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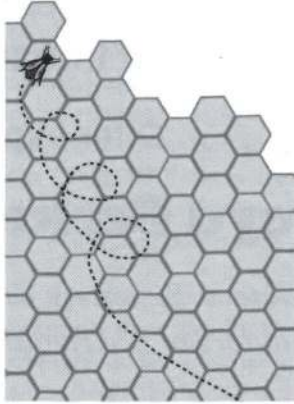
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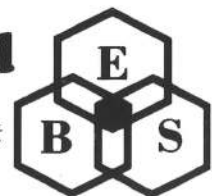
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Out of the Apiary

Over the years we had heard about the legendary Waikato field days so Mary-Ann decided we would take the opportunity to take the long way around the North Island visiting family and attending the Waikato branch field day at HortResearch's Ruakura Research campus.

Arriving early I took the opportunity to have a quick look through the Bee Research Unit run by Dr Mark Goodwin and his team. At the front entrance proudly displayed is the Apimondia silver medal for the varroa book Mark and Cliff van Eaton wrote. As a visitor, I wouldn't mind being kept waiting in the lobby because there was a rack of the latest bee magazines on display, several I hadn't seen.



Foyer magazine rack



The Apimondia silver medal with the American Foulbrood book Mark and Cliff van Eaton wrote.

about AFB. It's still a serious problem for beekeepers as it's so costly but also it can now easily be confused with Parasitic Mite Syndrome. It was a reminder to do full inspections of your hives and identify the cause of any odd looking larva early.

Dr Siefert from Vêto-pharma in France addressed the field day re Apivar Strips containing the active ingredient Amitraz. Dr Siefert went through the research data, which showed that the active product gradually built up over a period of time through direct contact with bees. The research data included the results of the trials of the Apivar Strip in France that showed the best results were reached at 10 weeks (much longer than the 6 weeks the label states).

The facility was not originally designed for Mark's team, however they have made the facility their own adding personal contributions to their offices. I was especially pleased with Heather McBridie's office with all the bees around the walls.

Unfortunately the lab was empty of bee stuff as they are still waiting for funding to continue their bee research. It seems incredible that such an important industry with all our problems is totally dependent upon a lottery type grant from the Sustainable Farming Fund to carry on.

Dr Mark Goodwin was first up at the field day and gave everybody a quick refresher



Mark Goodwin in his office.

Some beekeepers have not had the desired results using this product and questioned its registration ie it was registered here without it being tested under New Zealand conditions. Some suggested high moisture could be having an effect on the strips degrading the surface Amitraz but the strips become affective again when this condition clears. Hence hives in wet conditions could take longer to kill mites.

It was suggested that similar problems have been heard of before when other treatments were introduced and that we



The Lab at HortResearch

will have to learn how to use this product under New Zealand conditions.

After lunch Dr Jonathon Dixon, research scientist for the Avocado Industry told us the interesting sexual habits of the Avocado flower, first opening as a male flower for half a day then next day opening again as a female flower, all this being temperature dependant. He indicated that a tree can contain up to 1,000,000 flowers and that 20 visits were required to pollinate the flower. Hence a high number of hives are needed to give adequate pollination - up to 8 per hectare.

After this it was time to step outside. A chance for exhibitors to explain their products; extractors, spin floats, heat exchanges, honey loosener's. Next up were the various truck set-ups with the many methods for moving hives. All extremely interesting and had been adapted by beekeepers to suit their various operations.

The gadgets were interesting. Bob Russell's three-pot marker, using large Lego® blocks attached to a wooden base that was used to mark supers and frames for easy identification and trace back when AFB is found in a hive. Shaun Cranfield showed a box with cross pieces of inch timber used when shaking bees. This allowed bees to hold on better and help stop them falling when jolted, on to the bottom mesh in the holding boxes and therefore suffocating. By using this extra piece of equipment, he had reduced bee losses during transportation to nil. For his effort he won the Gadget shield. Russell Berry showed a few commercial products that assisted him in his business; Laser thermometer, moisture metres, etc.

A very interesting day and judging from the interest, beekeepers are upgrading equipment to make their businesses more efficient.

- Frank Lindsay

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Fiona O'Brien
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Phone 07 871 1500 Fax 07 871 1800
Beeline-apiaries@xtra.co.nz



AFB incubator with CO2 bottles

*The Waikato Branch NBA is
proud to declare*

Peter Boutelje

*the winner of the highest value of
goods sold at our Field Day*

Well done Peter.

*Peter sold two Extractors and one
Honey Loosener.*

*We would like to thank all exhibitors
who sold goods and contributed to
our Branch funds,
especially Peter Boutelje*

For honey processing equipment

Please phone

Peter 09 8173195

BK213

How Bees Spread American Foulbrood Disease

Dr Mark Goodwin
HortResearch
Ruakura Research Centre
Mgoodwin@hortresearch.co.nz

It is quite difficult to infect a colony with American Foulbrood disease (AFB) although some beekeepers seem to be very good at it. Under trial conditions to you need to feed about 5 million AFB spores per litre of sugar or honey to infect a colony. Other bee diseases like chalkbrood (fungus) and nosema (protozoa) are very contagious by comparison. Nosema can be found in all colonies in New Zealand. When Chalkbrood was first introduced to New Zealand in the early 1980's, it very quickly spread through the country in a couple of years.

American foulbrood disease can spread between colonies by a large number of mechanisms. These can be divided into two basic types, honey bee assisted and beekeeper assisted. This article describes the mechanisms by which bees spread AFB. Bee spread is much less common than beekeeper spread. Many examples of this can be seen where two beekeepers utilise the same area. One beekeeper's hives may have a very high AFB disease incidence while the other has a very low incidence.

Robbing

Probably the most common way bees spread AFB is by robbing other colonies that are weak or have died. In many cases the beekeepers have contributed to this problem by allowing colonies to become weak enough to be robbed.

Several years ago I was lucky enough to see what can happen when bees rob out a diseased colony. Eighty colonies were returned to the same site after they had been used for kiwifruit pollination. Twenty of these colonies were immediately moved to a second site. Two weeks later a further 20 were moved to a third site again. Of the 40 colonies remaining at the original site 35 contracted AFB and had to be burnt. None of the first group of twenty hives moved contracted AFB however 18 of second twenty hives moved developed AFB. Sometime in the two weeks between removing the first and second group of hives from the site the bees from the remaining 60 hives must have robbed out one or more diseased colonies.

As none of these 60 hives were robbed out the bees must have robbed a hive situated on a different site, or a feral colony. The most intriguing thing about the case was that at least 53 colonies had robbed out the same source. Unfortunately we were unable to find what they had robbed.

Drift

Bees drifting between colonies is another way AFB spreads, however, it would appear to be reasonably uncommon. It would have been even less common before man took up beekeeping because of the relatively large distance there is usually between feral colonies. The practice of keeping large numbers of colonies in close proximity increases the amount of drift and the chances of drift spreading AFB.

We carried out a trial with 24 pairs of hives. Each pair was as close together as possible to encourage drift. One hive had a low level AFB infection (less than 50 disease cells) while the other was uninfected. When we measured the level of drift, the equivalent of 50% of the bees swapped hives over a 20 day period. The pairs were together for an average of 103 days. Only 2 of the uninfected colonies developed AFB. Drift is however likely to be a larger problem when colonies have more extensive AFB infections.

Anything that can be done to decrease drift will help reduce this source of spread. Having hives in straight lines and all painted the same colour increases drift. Circles and U shaped apiary patterns reduce drift.

Swarms

Swarms can carry AFB with them. The second colony I ever had was a swarm which developed AFB very soon after it was hived. For this reason it is better to hive swarms in old equipment so the loss is less painful. Swarms are best hived on foundation rather than drawn comb. By the time the bees have drawn comb and the queen has laid eggs many of the AFB spores they were carrying should have disappeared which will decrease the chance of the disease reappearing. This is similar to the methods used for shook swarming (shook swarming is illegal in New Zealand).

Swarms occupying infected cavities

Swarms sometimes utilise cavities that have previously been occupied by another colony. This is probably how much AFB spread before humans started keeping bees. The AFB spores themselves suggest this mechanism was important. The spores are very resistant and are able to survive long periods of time, probably more than 50 or 100 years. They can therefore survive the relatively long periods of time that may elapse before a cavity is re-inhabited.

DAD IS RETIRING

from our well established Apiary in the Waikato and I need another experienced beekeeper.

The applicant should have an H.T. licence and be conversant with Bulk Honey Production and Pollination.

This would be a permanent position for the right person.

For any further information please ring Paul in the evening.

07 888 2911 or 021 872 322

BK214

EZYLoader

A new name and a new global image for an innovative beekeeping product that has been beneficial in the reduction of back injury risks in the industry for many years.

Originally developed by a beekeeper with chronic back problems the EZYloader has developed over many years to be the unique piece of hive handling equipment it is today.

Although the company name may have changed the overall philosophy remains the same and that is to provide the industry with a quality product designed and built in Australia by an Australian owned company. Our design and technical management team remain the same with a wealth of beekeeping application knowledge and experience which is readily available to all our existing and prospective clients.

Our new global image is in keeping with the growing acceptance of the EZYloader worldwide.

The company continues to keep pace with the needs of the industry and is currently developing several new additions to the already extensive EZYloader range. Such additions will include an EZYloader attachment to suit orchard forklifts that can take out the back breaking manual tasks still required even when loading/unloading efficiently via pallets.

The removal of all but the simplest hive handling tasks is the design philosophy behind the EZYloader and couple this with the split boom design for complete movement flexibility, the unique auto leveling feature and you have an essential piece of industry specific equipment designed to make the job easier and safer for beekeepers.



*Varsitor Corporation
Spring Hill, Queensland Australia
Email: Varsitor@opusint.com.au
Web Site: www.varsitor.com*

*Beekeeping Application assistance
Contact: Darrell Copeman
Ph: 612 6686 9736
Email: mail@ezyloader.com*

Think outside the square... or the four way pallet

The development and introduction of the EZYLoader into the Apiculture Industry has revolutionized the general handling of hives.

The new generation EZYLoader eliminates all manual hive management tasks. The versatility of the EZYLoader not only allows loading/unloading/relocating of hives but also takes all the backbreaking work out of taking off honey, under supering and general hive maintenance.

The EZYLoader is small, light, self contained and has models to suit from small tray vehicles/pick-ups to large trucks.

Rugged terrain is no barrier to the EZYLoader since the self leveling feature ensures the boom is level at all times for easy load management.

- Unique leveling feature for ease of load handling
- Split boom for load positioning anywhere within reach
- Small footprint (no wasted valuable load space)
- Reach to 4.8 metres on larger models
- Capacities 125-500kg (special 1000kg unit available)
- Electro/hydraulic, electric and electric/manual
- Front middle or rear mounting (trailer loading)
- One man operation with controls at the load
- Remote control option
- Low profile hideaway version (box stowaway)
- Fully self contained and low maintenance
- No stabilizer legs required under 200kg capacity
- Numerous satisfied users in the US/Canada/Aust/NZ
- Special range of attachments for varying hive/box types



Varsitor Corporation Pty Ltd

Level 1, Turbot Street, Spring Hill Qld Australia 4004
Phone: 61 7 3832 3220 Fax: 61 7 3831 1511
Email: varsitor@opusint.com.au www.varsitor.com

Contact us today for a free Video CD to see how the EZYLoader can benefit you!

EZYLoader
Fundamental in Design... Productive by Nature

An Australian Innovation ... Going From Strength-to-Strength

Varsitor Corporation the owner, designer and manufacturer of the EZYLoader is well on its way to securing major market share in the Overseas Bee Keeping market. Australian apiarists have had the good fortune over the last 5 years to be exposed to and purchase the revolutionary EZYLoader ... the EZYLoader has provided it's customers with significant increases in productivity (as much as 300% over traditional manual methods) and minimized one of the curses of the industry – **back injuries!**

The company has worked very closely with bee-keepers firstly here in Australia and more recently in the USA, Canada, New Zealand, France and even South Africa. Feedback from clients has enabled the EZYLoader to continue its evolution and increase its innovative features.

A recent trip to the USA saw significant interest and sales. It is anticipated that this exposure will generate increased interest in this uniquely Australian product.

The EZYLoader was designed for bee-keepers by bee-keepers and may well be a solution for your needs ... contact Varsitor Corporation today and find out more!

Fundamental by Design ... Productive by Nature

EZYLoader

Head Office
Lvl 1-365 Turbot St.
Spring Hill Qld. 4004
Ph: (07) 3832 3220

Factory
63 Southern Cross Dr.
Ballina NSW 2478
Ph: (02) 6686 9736

www.varsitor.com

Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand

Vitex lucens

Common Name: Puriri

Puriri is sometimes also referred to as New Zealand Oak.

A tree growing to 20m, with shining green leaves in 3 to 5 oval leaflets. It is found in the North of the North Island from the North Cape to Mahia Peninsular and Cape Egmont.

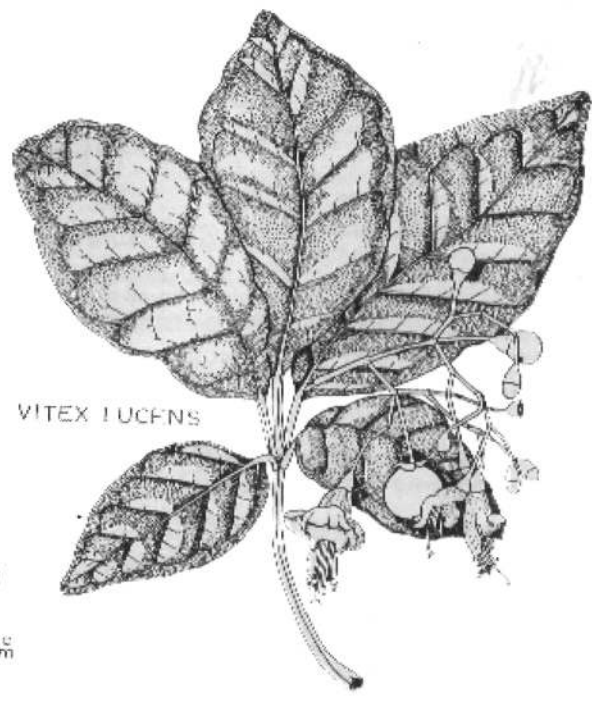
The Puriri has pink to dull red flowers or berries on it for most of the year. The tree is one of the toughest in New Zealand in that the Rata vine is unable to strangle it. Yet the Puriri Moth grubs are able to eat holes in the tree to pupate.

Bees gather pollen from the Puriri during June or July – the pollen being pale green in colour. The sugar concentration of the nectar is low and is only attractive to bees during a prolonged period of low humidity.

The Maori used the water from boiled leaves to bathe sprains and backache or was drunk to treat sore throats.

The Puriri family – there are 70 species world wide, are used in many countries for many purposes, but the main being to dress ulcers.

- Tony Lorimer



Xen-APIARY

Beekeepers... make your job easier with
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- Save hives, time & money
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BK203

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BK144

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BK178

Shifting Hives In A Small Way

I manage about 30 hives mostly on behalf of a kiwifruit grower and as long as they are available at the right time for his pollination that's all he wants to know about bees. The rest of the year they are kept in small yards as close to home as practical but "not in my back yard".

Some of the major players have a forklift on a trailer towed behind a big truck so that they can position a pallet complete with four hives. Others have a flat-bed truck with a rotating boom, electric hoist and light cradle operated from an extra large capacity battery often with an umbilical control cable. As mine is a small one man operation everything has to be cheap and simple.

Hives are standard and mostly three 3/4 boxes. These are strapped before moving, using 18mm tape from timber packets held by an overcenter clip. The barrow for positioning hives is a furniture removal model with an extended platform and a pair of pneumatic wheels from a gas bottle trolley. The extended platform means that the hives only need to be pivoted rather than being lifted off the ground. Without a Ute, transport is by trailer so this requires lifting, after positioning close with the barrow. A 38mm galvanised braced pipe davit rotates about the centre front of the trailer. My mate is in the recycling business so for a couple of 1 kg pottles of honey he gave me a boat winch, that with pulley blocks lifts the hives. The adjustable cradle is made from steel bed rails welded and pinned.

Once on the trailer the hives are held down with a couple of ties, one a conventional ratchet truck tie, the other a home made overcentre model similar to the smaller hive ties. Location on the trailer uses the "Armstrong" method of sliding on the timber deck. All this equipment now works a treat for shifting six hives at a time but there were a few teething troubles with the odd hive tipped on its side on the ground. That was when the hive strapping proved its worth.

Early in the morning before it is light the mouse guards are reversed and checked to make sure they allow ventilation without letting bees out. If there are gaps, the split tube of a fat bike tube makes a great band aid. Generally by the time the destination is reached the sun is up and I can then see clearly to position hives, not forgetting to alter the mouse guards.

This system has now developed to the stage that I can shift a trailer load of hives and be back home in time for breakfast. It works for me and as there are no patents I would be happy to supply further details to anyone interested.

- Ron Morison



Loaders and Lifters

Just a small selection of the various types available. A feature of the recently held "Toys for Boys" field day.



Wals Apiaries – Large PML Loader



Vano Machine



Shaun Cranfield and his "hitchhiker" & Graham Cammell and his "Hive Barrow" Both work well for the jobs intended.



Roger and Dot King – Smaller PML Loader



Graham Cammell Hive Barrow



John Wright operating EZYLoader cradle



Helen and John Wright EZY Loader



Graham Cammell Hive Barrow ramp to truck

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Similar to those previously made by John Dobson
 Easy to use • Cost effective • Proven results
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BK91

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

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Current prices

20 to 96 strips	\$1.87 + GST each
100 to 796 strips	\$1.75 + GST each
800 to 8800 strips	\$1.57 + GST each*
9600 plus strips	\$1.35 + GST each

* For orders of one or more cartons, enquire from us to find out how to join in with a bulk purchaser and receive your strips at the best possible price.

Packets contain 20 strips, cartons contain 800 strips, Orders of 100 strips or more are despatched freight free to anywhere in New Zealand. Payment is required prior to despatch by Visa, M/Card, Cheque or Electronic Banking.

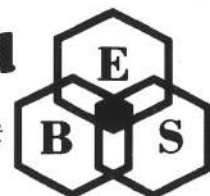
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Choosing a Pollen site

Look for good quality pollen plants or assist the bees by planting sources close to the apiary.

The most nutritious pollens are from fruit trees, Crocus, Erica, Salix, Papaver, Trifolium, Castanea, Raphanus and Sanapis species.

Significant floral sources of bee collected pollen between September and March at several locations across NZ.

Asteraceae family,	Kaikorakako,
Beech,	Kiwifruit,
Blackberry,*	Koromiko,
Box,	Lancewood,*
Brassicaceae family,	Lotus,
Broom,	Pine,
Buttercup,*	Pittosporum,
Cabbage tree,	Plantain,*
Clover,*	Rewarewa,*
Dandelion family,	Sycamore
Flax,	Tawari,
Gorse*,	Thistle,*
Hawthorn,	Willow,
Kahikatea,	

* indicates those worked extensively across the country (reference Rosemary Webby - The identification of flavonoid profiles, of floral pollens collected by honeybees (*Apis mellifera L*) from hives sites throughout New Zealand – Industrial Research Ltd Report No 1122, Oct 2002).

So I'd suggest plantings of Tree Lucerne, Gorse or Broom (gorse is better double flowering), Pussy Willow, Spanish Heath (winter early spring), Brassica (wild turnips, wild radish, etc - spring) and perhaps Hawthorn, Five Finger, lancewood, Pseudpanax laetus (seven leafed five finger) as early building sources. Start collecting the seed. Note also what is already grows well in your area and plant for continuous pollen.

Of course most of the above are considered weeds and farmers will not appreciate you planting weeds around your apiaries especially as they have spent many thousands of dollars eradicating them from there farmland. Seek permission before planting anything on somebody else's land. Equally orchardists do not like Hawthorn being grown close to orchards as it can carry the fire blight virus.

Remember- the greater the mix - the better the nutrition.

- Frank Lindsay



Please ring Ken Clements on:- 0800 4 PROPOLIS
(0800 477676)
Fax: (07) 533-1118 Email: ken.clements@comvita.com
or deliver to our factory - Paengaroa Junction, Te Puke

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Payment Terms

Single payment on Propolis purity results. Our aim is to have payment in your hands within three weeks of receipt. If sending Propolis for the first time please include your GST number, or advise to say you're not registered.

Phone to arrange

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SCRAPPING AND MESH PROPOLIS REQUIRED

SOUTH ISLAND FREIGHT ADDRESS

Send your Propolis directly to Christchurch to save on freight costs. Courier or deliver personally to:-

Comvita, C/o Online Distributors, 36 Byron St., Sydenham, Christchurch

BK19

Now registered and available for use

New to NZ

APIGUARD



The Natural Alternative Rotational Treatment for Varroa

Apiguard is a thymol based treatment in the form of a slow release gel. Apiguard has been proven in countries climatically diverse such as Mexico, Finland and Spain.

Thymol used in Apiguard is a food safe product and is found in many products such as toothpaste and beverages.

Apiguard is available in 50g trays for the hobby beekeeper and 3kg tubs for the commercial beekeeper.

Apiguard is a one visit treatment and does not require a return visit to retrieve strips.

The thymol in Apiguard disrupts the biological processes of varroa with a multi-site action on cell membranes and the nervous system unlike other chemical treatments which target one specific site on the Varroa's nervous system. Resistance to thymol/Apiguard is much less likely to develop because of this.

Treatment costs are similar to Apistan.

On Sale from 16 June 2004

For further information and leaflets contact Trevor at



Ceracell Beekeeping Supplies Ltd

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SUPPLIERS OF QUALITY BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT

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BK216

WE SELL APISTAN AND APIGUARD FOR COMPLETE ROTATIONAL TREATMENT FOR VARROA MITE

New Beehive Concept

This new patent pending hive concept was on display at the Kumeu 2004 summer Agricultural and Pastoral Show just North of Auckland with 32,000 people passing through the gates over the two days.

Named the Api-cabinet hive it was designed and developed by Bee'z Thing'z Ltd of Mangere Bridge Auckland. The ergonomic design incorporates low impact service access for minimal bee disturbance together with a unique frame holder.

These hives are hired out for domestic pollination with 20 kilos of honey provided to the hirer.

An innovative wheeling system transports the hive to its location with provision to hang the Api-cabinet hive from a tree or building if so desired.

The hives are constructed from heavy-duty recycled glasshouse timber and surpass the conventional hive in both temperature and ventilation control.

-Bob Russell



Api - cabinet interior



Frame Rack = Unique frame holder



Kerry F McCurdy discussing demonstration model at the Kumeu Show.

BEE FARM BOUNDARY RIDER

We are an expanding Canterbury bee outfit currently running 1700 hives in conjunction with a hill country cow/calf operation. We are looking to employ the services of an experienced beekeeper.

This is a job that will see you chasing both the bees and the cows in this proverbial land of milk and honey. You will need a HT Licence, a mechanical aptitude and a high degree of self motivation. In exchange, we can offer the right person a full time position with variety, responsibility and opportunity. If this sounds like you, please apply in writing to:

**James Corson
Gowanlea Apiaries
Whitecliffs
RD Coalgate, Canterbury**

BK215

FOR SALE

New Beequip chainfeed uncapper and stand

\$7400 + GST

also For Sale

Stainless Steel capping tank and stand and stainless steel comb rack.

Cost to date \$2650.

Any reasonable offer considered

Phone (06) 878 3479

BK211

Press Releases for the “Varroa Find” in South Island of New Zealand

Friday 4 June 2004

Suspect varroa in South Island

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) has imposed movement controls on the North Canterbury region following the detection of the bee pest Varroa destructor.

“A varroa mite was discovered on Friday 4 June in laboratory samples from MAF’s routine exotic disease surveillance activities. The samples are believed to come from a hive in the North Canterbury region.

“In order to determine whether any other hives are also infected, MAF exotic disease investigators will trace the movement of any hives on and off the property and will contact other beekeepers in the region.”

“Beekeepers need to be aware that bees and hives must not be moved into, out of or within the North Canterbury region, without MAF’s permission. The controlled region is made up of the Christchurch City Council area, and the Selwyn, Waimakariri, and Bank’s Peninsula District Council Regions. This area is bounded to the south by the Rakaia River and in the north by the Kowai River * Ashley Forest region.”

“Since varroa arrived in the North Island, the spread of varroa to the South Island has always been considered a risk, and an active surveillance programme was put in place to ensure the early detection of the pest,” he said.

Once MAF confirms the nature of the incursion, management and eradication options will be considered.

4 June 2004 (Beekeeping List)

Dear Beekeepers

MAF is placing a controlled area notice on bees and beekeeping materials in the North Canterbury region, effective immediately. In essence, hives in the area stay in, and are not to be moved about. Hives outside the area stay out. I hope that this will not be too disruptive at this time of year. Note that the penalties for breaches of these orders are significant. This Controlled Area will be refined or modified once further testing has been carried out.

The text of the Controlled Area Notice follows below. I am unable to post a map to this list. However, I have sent a JPG map to representatives of both industry organisations, who may be able to pass it on to their members. A map will be placed on the MAF website early next week.

Paul Bolger

MAF Biosecurity

CONTROLLED AREA NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER THE BIOSECURITY ACT 1993.

SECTION 131 - CONTROLLED AREA, MOVEMENT CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES IN RESPECT OF VARROA DESTRUCTOR

Commencement

1. This Notice takes effect on and from Friday 4 June 2004.

Controlled Area declaration

2. Pursuant to section 131(2) of the Biosecurity Act 1993, I hereby declare all parts of New Zealand that fall within the boundaries of the Territorial Local Authorities: Christchurch City; Selwyn District, Waimakariri District; and Banks Peninsula District, to be an area that is controlled for the purpose of limiting the spread of Varroa bee mite (Varroa destructor, formerly known as Varroa jacobsoni), being an unwanted organism under the Biosecurity Act 1993. This area is referred to as “the Controlled Area” in the rest of this notice.

Notice of Movement Controls

3. Pursuant to section 131(3)(a) of the Biosecurity Act 1993, I hereby give notice that:

The movement of the things listed in Schedule 1 below into, within, or from any part of the Controlled Area to any part of New Zealand not in the Controlled Area is prohibited, except with the permission of an inspector or authorised person appointed under the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Schedule 1 * Things subject to movement control

- (a) Honey bees (meaning *Apis mellifera*), at any stage of development, including live beehives, nucleus colonies, frames of bee brood, queen bees and escorts, package bees and bulk bees.
- (b) Used beehives (meaning anything that is being or has been used for the keeping of honey bees), including any part of any used beehive
- (c) Unused beehives containing wax foundation
- (d) Unprocessed beeswax, propolis and pollen, and any honey that is not packaged for retail sale
- (e) Used beekeeping equipment (excluding protective clothing, smokers, and hive tools)
- (f) Any thing upon which, or within which, the varroa mite is present.

NOTES FOR INFORMATION

Any person who wishes to obtain the permission of an inspector or authorised person to carry out a movement that would otherwise be prohibited by this notice should phone 07 850 2867.

Signed at Wellington this 4th day of June 2004.

Fiona Anne Stuart

Acting Chief Technical Officer
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Friday 11 June 2004

No further finds of varroa in South Island

There are no signs of varroa infestation in any of the hives checked as part of the South Island varroa investigation initiated on Friday 4 June.

Paul Bolger, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) Varroa Programme Coordinator, said that tracing of possible sites within 10 kilometres of the original detection is well underway.

"To date our surveillance teams have sampled 700 hives with no indication of varroa infestation.

"Field work is progressing rapidly with the addition of local beekeepers to the surveillance teams. MAF has identified approximately 4300 hives in the 10 kilometre zone and expects to complete testing these by end of next week.

"Staff at MAF's National Pest Plant Laboratory (NPPRL) in Lincoln are processing up to 400 sticky boards daily and additional boards will be sent to a North Island laboratory for examination. Sticky boards are placed in hives for 24 hours to collect varroa mites," he said.

Tracing of possible varroa infested sites has led to testing of additional apiaries around Christchurch and Murchison.

"MAF has not ruled out the possibility that the finding of a dead varroa mite may be the result of cross-contamination within routine testing processes," he said.

Movement controls imposed on 4 June remain the same and include the Christchurch City Council area, and the Selwyn, Waimakariri, and Bank's Peninsula District Council Regions. This area is bounded to the south by the Rakaia River and in the north by the Kowai River - Ashley Forest region.

Beekeepers wanting to move hives or beekeeping equipment within the controlled area need to apply for a movement permit by calling 0800 809 966



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

BK125

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

WHANGAREI BEE CLUB

Meetings: 1st Saturday each month (except January)
Time: 10 am - Wet or fine (we are keen)
Contact: Dave Trinder
Phone: 09 433 8566
John Parsons
Phone: 09 438 8766
Kevin Wallace
Phone: 09 423 8642 (Wellsford)

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: Frances Beech
35 Whelans Road, RD 1 Levin
Phone: 06 367 2617

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