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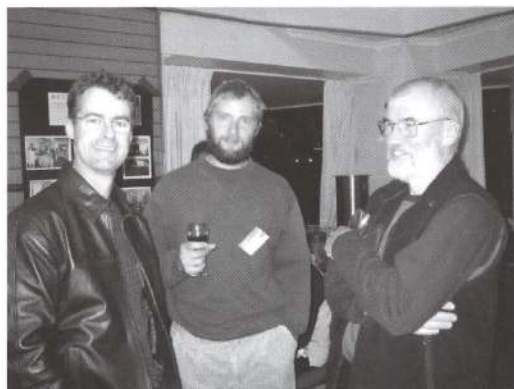
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President's Report

Before you read the address to the 2004 National Beekeepers Association Napier Conference, I would like to make some comments on the running of Conference.

In one word, it was awesome – the organising committee have done an exceptional job, one that will be difficult (and worth the challenge) for the Canterbury branch to follow for next year - 2005. Thank you Hawkes Bay branch, or it could almost be called thank you to 'Berry Enterprises', as I think that almost all of the organising committee were involved with the Berry Family or Arataki Honey.

The Seminar days provided interesting topics for everyone, and the Annual General Meeting on the Thursday was extremely well attended.

The presentation from the Structure Review Committee was well received, and with their timeline, by next year we will have a new structure in place.

For the NBA to continue to run high quality conferences at a low price, you as members of the NBA need to exert some peer pressure on others to join the NBA. If this occurs, and sponsorship continues at its present level, we may be able to then look at subsidising attendance costs for conference for members, or look at other things that could be included.

Conference supported the Waikato branch's remit to run the 2006 NBA Conference as it is their "100th" year Branch celebration. Further to this remit, and to also coincide with another "100th" year celebration, the Southern North Island Branch will be hosting conference in 2008.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS – 2004 NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION AGM – NAPIER 01.07.2004

It is my pleasure to bring you this report after my first year as President of the National Beekeepers' Association.

The year has been a very busy one for the Executive, and while we may not have achieved as much as we would have liked, there have been many positive outcomes for the year. Some of these have included:

- Establishment of the Biosecurity Levy for the American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy.
- Employment of a Manager for the AFB PMS
- Obtaining the three year funding for Varroa Research from Sustainable Farming
- Development of a promotional brochure

Work currently in progress

- Seeking approval for own use of Food Grade Mineral oil for Varroa treatment
- Working with New Zealand Food Safety Authority on the Code of Practice for Risk Management Programmes.

- Working with an Insurance company that is looking at public liability insurance for the NBA, plus a policy covering beekeeping including covering hives and bees – to be completed in the next few weeks.

If you wish to see more detail of what the Executive have been involved in please pick up and read the Annual Report.

This year has in many ways been a year of establishing our foundations for the voluntary organisation, and seeing how much it would cost us to run for the year. You will see from the financial information presented to the AGM, that we have worked within our income, and still have some healthy reserves.

We now need to look to our future, expand our membership base (use of promotional brochure), and expand our horizons to incorporate a new structure, should the recommendations of the Structure Review Committee be taken up by the membership. I look forward to the future where there will be more input from all branches to help to run the organisation.

Future Needs

One of the most pressing needs of our organisation is that we need to have access to or engage a media person to broadcast our achievements and our views to the world. This is the one area that BIG perform well in, other than the fact that they seem to be using our members' pictures in media releases!!

Point of Difference

We also need to explore what we want as our core activities, and what else we want to do that will create a point of difference, and so encourage more to join the organisation.

- Should this be in promoting research as the way forward to improve the Industry and our members returns?
- Should we promote what we have in the past – bee research, product research and development?
- Are we prepared as an organisation to fund this type of activity on a voluntary basis?
- Should we have a Research part to our subscription that gets tagged for use in this area only?
- Should there be an agreement from beekeepers who join the organisation that they will contribute towards this fund?

In this manner, any money contributed, will find its way towards its intended use, it will not be squandered on administration, and referendums, as has happened in the past.

Running of the Organisation

The committees that we have established this year are functioning well, and are delivering what is required of them. The main committees are: the AFB PMS Operations Committee, the Communication Committee, Structure Review Committee, the Varroa Planning Group, and the Code of Practice Working Group. I would like to extend the Executive's thanks to you all for your contribution.

There are however, a number of other committees that we could have established. Some of these need to be standing

committees, and others need to be committees that are pulled together for a specific task.

I have drawn up a sheet here, that has got the various areas that we need to be active in including research, exotics, export etc and I would ask you to put your name on this sheet in the areas that you are happy to be involved in. This was one thing that I neglected to do last year.

Persons retiring from positions

I would now like to go on to thank a few people who are standing down from positions that they have held for a number of years.

Mr Ivan Dickinson has chosen to no longer be involved as Telford Polytechnic Advisor to the Beekeeping Course. I thank him for his work that he has done in this area. Don Stedman has agreed to take over where Ivan has left off.

Mr David Kay has indicated to me that he is standing down as a Trustee to the Honey Industry Trust after some 21 years of Service. I would like to extend our thanks to him for tending our Industry funds and watching them grow to what they are today. Those funds have provided seed funding for innumerable projects in the past and I am sure that they will do so in the future.

Mrs Christine Taiaroa has indicated in her report to Conference that she will retire from the NBA Librarian position in July next year. Christine has done an exceptional job in this regard. We must now turn to begin looking for a replacement, so if you know of anyone who may be interested, please let the Executive know.

And to the Executive members who have decided to retire from their positions. To Ian Berry, who was co-opted in to help us through this first year. I thank you for your support, and will always have a huge amount of respect for you and what you have achieved in the Industry.

And to Philip Cropp, who has been with me on the Executive for the greatest amount of time. Phil has always given me unstinting support especially as we traversed the rocky road prior to the split of the membership in 2002. It was not a very happy time for us, seeing decisions made that were not whole Executive decisions, or having other recommendations overturned. Phil has decided that it is time for him to devote more to his business, and I can readily relate to that. Just make sure Phil that you don't have another serious fire at your place!

To the rest of the Executive team, I thank you for being willing to put in some long hours on NBA business. I have enjoyed working with you for this year. I know my life has been enriched by getting to know you all better. Pauline has continued as Secretary for us for the year, despite indicating last year that she would not continue due to her going overseas for a period. Thanks for your continued work, and boy am I glad that you got back to New Zealand a couple of weeks before conference!! I told Pauline's daughter Kate that Pauline had better be ready to hit the ground running on her return.

And lastly to Tony who has continued to support me in this role. He must get sick of answering the phone only to be asked 'Is Jane there?' or "Is the old Cheese there?"

And so this year a couple of weeks after conference we will once again be going away on holiday – but this time it is at my expense!!

Thank You.

- Jane Lorimer

Deadline for Publications

September Edition: 24 August 2004

October Edition: 22 September 2004

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

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Secretarial Snippets

This is my first column for a while. I have been overseas and returned in mid June to frantic pre-Conference preparations. The NBA Conference was a great success - the Hawkes Bay branch were excellent hosts. The only down-side for me was being cited in the report from the Honey Industry Trustee as the instigator of on-line commentary regarding a recent grant made by the Trust. I know that many of those attending felt as uncomfortable as I did at the negative comments expressed in the report. For the record, I was not party to the release of any information about the grant, nor did I participate in any discussion. In fact I was overseas (on holiday for 6 weeks and not accessing my email) at the time the information was made public and came home to the on-line debate. Enough said.

Prior to my going overseas I sent all NBA members the nomination papers for potential Executive members. I

received nominations for Jane Lorimer (North Island) and Don Stedman (South Island). Therefore the current Executive consists of Jane Lorimer and Bob Blair representing the North Island and Don Stedman and Roger Bray for the South Island. Further to this, Bruce Stanley representing the North Island and Philip Cropp the South Island, have been co-opted for one year. At Conference Jane Lorimer and Don Stedman were unanimously re-elected President and Vice President respectively.

The NZ Beekeeper magazine is being sent all over the world with new requests for subs coming in each week. The latest is from a byeboerdery, i.e. beekeeper in Namibia. I must send him a complimentary copy. Imagine beekeeping in Namibia?

- Pauline Bassett

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From the colonies



Waikato Branch

After a very mild autumn we now have rain and frosts on the horizon. With the mild weather hives have built up in strength following bee packages in April and May.

Around the Northern Waikato hives have 3 - 4 frames of brood with bees still working Dandelion, Heather and Tree Lucerne.

Propolis mats are being harvested with good quantities of Propolis.

Varroa strips are coming out of the last hives around the region.

The branch will be holding a DECA course on the 14th August (for further information please phone 07 366.6111). The post conference meeting will be on the 20th August. Please come along.

- Stephen Batters

Canterbury Branch

Winter is well under way in Canterbury or is it? According to the calendar it is but not to look out the window. To date we have been having warm days and few frosts which has enabled the bees to keep working especially on the honeydew.

The varroa scare in Oxford has brought to a halt last minute honeydew harvest and the shifting of hives to their designated spring build up sites.

Here's hoping the restrictive movement controls are lifted soon, as once winter does bite, snow and ice will make tracks impassable until well into spring. It is not a lot of fun to watch hives dwindle into nothing due to excessive cold and little pollen sources. If this does not happen soon, one starts to wonder which is the greater evil?

- Brian Lancaster

Nelson Branch

We currently have a MAF incursion response to the finding of a dead Varroa Mite in their Lincoln Lab on the outside of a plastic bag containing a sticky board from Tutaki near Murchison.

The disruption and associated anguish to the beekeepers on whose hive the sticky board with the mite on the outside of its plastic bag is enormous. They are under a great deal of strain and stress. Forty of their hives are having their bees killed and the hives removed for intensive examination and all of the rest of their hives are to be apistaned and sticky boarded.

MAF have declared a "controlled area" for much of the catchment of the Buller River in Tasman and Buller Districts

and are requiring permits for the movement of beehives, pollen, beeswax, and bulk honey through this controlled area. This is affecting several beekeepers with hives just south of the controlled area who are in the midst of shifting their hives from their summer inland higher altitude sites back to the Tasman Bay orchard region in order to get the hives ready for stone fruit and pip fruit pollination. Hive products going through to Canterbury also have to have permits for each shipment.

Nelson Branch NBA members are also awaiting with a great deal of interest and even trepidation to learn the recommendations of the Board of Enquiry into the imposing of a PMS to keep varroa out of the South Island, and what the Minister of Agriculture's response will be.

- Michael Wraight.
Secretary Nelson Branch NBA

Southern North Island Branch

Some areas of Taranaki are still free of mites but beekeepers expect to see them this coming season.

Mites have been found around Featherston and Eketahuna, plus 1000 hives were moved into the Wairarapa just before the honey flow last year so all beekeepers should now be monitoring their hives. The equation holds true, five months of no treatment = dead hives (ref "From the Colonies" Waikato Branch - June 2004 New Zealand Beekeeper)

Following the Napier conference, Dr Pedro Rodriguez visited Wellington and Wanganui where he addressed a large crowd of hobby and commercial beekeepers in both meetings, on how he discovered and refined the use of food grade mineral oil as a treatment for varroa. These were interesting meetings which finished with a demonstration on the finer points of using the Burgess fogger.

It's expected that this treatment will be authorised by the Minister for use in NZ hives shortly. There are overseas Thymol treatments that use mineral oil as a carrier and I understand that one or two are already prepared for the New

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Zealand market with approval/registration being processed. Hobbyist and small scale beekeepers are looking forward to having an economical and affective method of treating hives after the honey supers have been removed that will reduce the chance of mite resistance to chemical strips.

The branch held its post-conference meeting on the 19th July in Palmerston North to debrief members on conference activities and discuss the structural changes proposed by the Restructure Review Committee.

- Neil Farrer

West Coast Branch

The branch hasn't enough financial members to carry on following the industry split, so has gone into recess after 60 years of active service. A recruitment drive is needed to boost membership.

The season started well and ended in January when it started raining. It's hard for some to imagine but the Coast hasn't had seven fine days in a row for over a year now. Despite the weather, beekeepers produced a good average crop but experienced a very difficult autumn with hives requiring heavy feeding.

Beekeepers are awaiting the outcome of the varroa find with interest and concern. They hope the movement restrictions will not continue for too long as their queens come from the Canterbury region and hives in the restricted zone usually start being moved in a few weeks in preparation for early pollination.

- Lindsay Feary

Hawkes Bay Branch

Well, the Conference of the National Beekeepers Association of New Zealand is over. I certainly enjoyed it and from comments I heard from other beekeepers everyone else seemed to as well. A big thank you to all those that helped run a smooth conference, especially to Ron, Barbara and Glenda but also for all those others that helped in both large and small ways.

On the Monday we had speciality meeting groups. Unfortunately the UMF Group's meeting was a closed meeting so I have no idea what went on. I did attend quite a bit of the Honey Packers, the Pollination Group and the Queen Breeders meetings. Many problems were discussed at these meetings but the main ones were honey standards and the increasing need to be able to trace honey from the hive to the honey pot while meeting all the regulatory requirements along the way.

The Pollination Group discussed the huge increase in hive numbers predicted to be needed to cope with the pollination of avocado trees, most of these have already been planted but they have not yet reached maturity. There were also the perennial but important discussions on subjects such as spray poisoning, siting of hives and orchards, necessary research, GM etc.

I did not attend all the Queen Breeders' meeting, but did hear David Yanke explain how and why he has brought carniolan semen into New Zealand. While personally I do not agree with a lot of what he has done, especially the total lack of quarantine requirements once the semen is in New Zealand, he did answer all questions given him and is obviously hugely enthusiastic about the whole project. I just hope he is right.

Monday night's mix and mingle went off very well and I still managed to get to Tuesday's seminar day just on time. Peter Berry was chairman for the day with Mark Goodwin chairing on Wednesday, both did an excellent job with the only problem being in getting beekeepers back on time from the morning teas and lunches.

There is just too much for me to cover from the seminar days, if you're really interested I suggest you get the videos out from the NBA library when they become available. But just some snippets. Mark Goodwin - there are now 20,000 less hives in the upper half of the North Island than before varroa. Murray Read - 400 fewer beekeepers than last year. Doug Somerville - on the survival of caged Queens (you really need to read his research, this is some of the most important research done in many years) <http://www.rirdc.gov.au> - Jeff Pettis - on small hive beetle. Pedro Rodriguez - on food grade mineral oil (remember it is illegal to use this product in New Zealand at the moment).

Wednesday night's art deco dinner and dance (with Bertie as MC) was a real success, with most people dressing up and getting into the spirit of the event. John and Judy Dobson

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won the prize for 'Best dressed couple', while Peter Berry and Maryanne Thomason won the prize for dancing and then standing on the smallest piece of paper when the music stopped - (don't ask, you had to be there).

Thursday morning saw the somewhat bleary-eyed opening of the National Beekeepers Association AGM, and conference of branch delegates.

David Harry read the conference prayer, which was followed by the opening address given by the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister Dr Michael Cullen. I have to admit that even I was impressed with his speech, especially the bit where he announced that the beekeeping industry was to receive at least some of the funding they required for varroa research. This was followed by a welcome to Napier by her worship the mayor Barbara Arnott. At the end of her speech she was presented with a Kowhai Tree to plant somewhere in the city.

I should also mention our sponsors trade displays with everything from sugar to education, with bee boxes, extractors, frames, computer programs and varroa treatments of many kinds in between. They were also very generous at the Charity Auction held as part of the dinner and dance, with a large sum being raised for Cranford Hospice.

- John Berry

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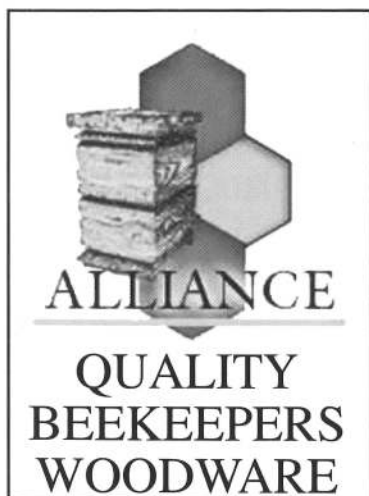
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Out of the Apiary

Napier Conference

Beekeepers who attended conference were treated to some very informative information during the seminar days. It will take a while to disseminate the information into practical results but several things stuck out for me.

We only have a year to get everything in order, food safety so that we can all come under an industry wide Code of Practice. Something that has changed was the inspection fee which is now suggested to be \$200.

Doug Somerville, NSW Agriculture told of some interesting research into pollen. They have tested a number of common pollen sources to determine their protein levels and whether they provide sufficient amino acids for brood viability. Unfortunately New Zealand research has concentrated on Varroa. Perhaps we can cross-pollinate our research with theirs so that we can keep up with developments.

Another talk he gave was very interesting and covered queen bee acceptance, which will be reported further in the magazine in the next few months.

The awareness of residues in honey and bees wax are coming to the fore. We must make every effort to see that our products are clean and green. Nearly everything we use can produce a residue which today is possible to detect. Even continual washing of hands with antibacterial soap without proper rinsing can be transmitted and detected in honey. We will have to look at everything that is used in the production of honey; general hygiene, the use of chemicals such as sprays around the hives, the use of PDB for stored supers, fumigant to remove honey and even water quality.

Fumidil-B registration has lapsed and therefore from the 2 July 2004 it will be illegal to use this product in a beehive unless it is re-registered. Not a great problem to beekeepers but could affect Queen Bee exports where some countries specify the exports must be free of Nosema.

Maureen Maxwell won the innovation award for her promotion of honey products. Incidentally her Cafe "The Beesonline Honey Centre and Cafe" has just been awarded "Huhtamaki Best Cafe Award 2004".

During my travels with Dr Pedro Rodriguez, he indicated that the next thing to hit New Zealand beekeeping would be the Small Hive Beetle and this will have just as much an effect on NZ beekeeping as Varroa. We will have to change our

harvesting, processing and super storage systems once the beetle gets here. Hopefully with approval we can use FGMO as a tool to control the beetle, and with the research being undertaken in Australia towards developing a trap, we will be better prepared for its eventual arrival".

The sponsor's product displays were extremely interesting. New Varroa treatment products were displayed and harvesting equipment was demonstrated. I was impressed with the compact design and quiet running of this modern equipment. Generally, beekeepers start off by purchasing secondhand equipment. I would now recommend they purchase new equipment. It's more efficient, compact, and the price is within easy reach now that we are receiving a reasonable return for honey.

Beekeepers have returned from conference revived up and are getting stuck into their winter chores. Scraping propolis off frames and boxes, cleaning up old gear, making and painting new supers, stripping processing gear and replacing bearings, etc and feeding hives. More and more beekeepers are switching to plastic frames so they can concentrate on the important things like getting hives into good order for spring.

Hives are still on the move, coming out of the Ling Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) areas of the central North Island back down to the coast for rebuilding. It's amazing the difference in temperature from the coastal regions where Gorse, Tree Lucerne, Spanish Heath and Wattle are flowering to the central North Island where inland areas have a thin covering of snow.

A lot of beekeepers are changing to "Eco" wood treatments instead of treating supers themselves. This is now a cost-effective method of preserving wood however the supers still need to be painted and some are wax dipping to further protect their equipment.

- Frank Lindsay

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A New Structure for the National Beekeepers Association

(Introduction by Allen McCaw)

The 2004 AGM and Conference of the National Beekeepers Association (NBA) held in Napier has adopted a proposal from the NBA Structure Review Committee for a "New Look" organisation. An outline of the proposal as presented to the AGM by a committee members Mike Stuckey and Jim Edwards follows. This represents several weeks of intensive work by the committee in response to the outcomes of the workshop held at 2003 Conference in Nelson.

Why the changes?

The situation of the NBA has changed dramatically in the last couple of years. A decision by beekeepers to dispense with the Apiary Levy under the Commodity Levies Act has led us to a voluntary membership situation, where beekeepers join because of their interest to "be associated" rather than because they are compelled to pay a levy.

Therefore to attract new members and be even more relevant and effective, the NBA needs to make changes to reflect its position in the industry. In addition, the existing Rules, which are currently based upon levy payment, are in need of a major overhaul. The opportunity now exists to make useful changes to the operation of the Association at the same time.

What are the changes aiming to achieve?

In the first place, a relevant set of Rules to reflect the voluntary organisation the NBA has become. Secondly, more direct

representation for members at the decision-making level. Thirdly, a professional administration, which will relieve the long-term problem of overloaded Executive members trying to cope with everything by themselves. Finally, and perhaps most important, a clear separation of governance functions (deciding what has to be done) from administration functions (getting it done). The proposed new structure is designed to achieve these results.

What happens next?

The Report includes a time-line of what is required to bring about the desired changes. New association Rules are to be drafted and following consultation with members, to be finalised and approved by the end of 2004. They will then be applied to elect regional representatives to an Executive Council and complete the new structure prior to the 2005 AGM.

As with most new systems, the devil lies in the detail, and much more work by the Committee and others will be required over the next few months to decide on the finer points. We will need feedback from NBA members throughout the process and will especially welcome any comments or suggestions on the proposal presented here. Please contact any one of the Committee members listed to do this – your contribution will be greatly appreciated.

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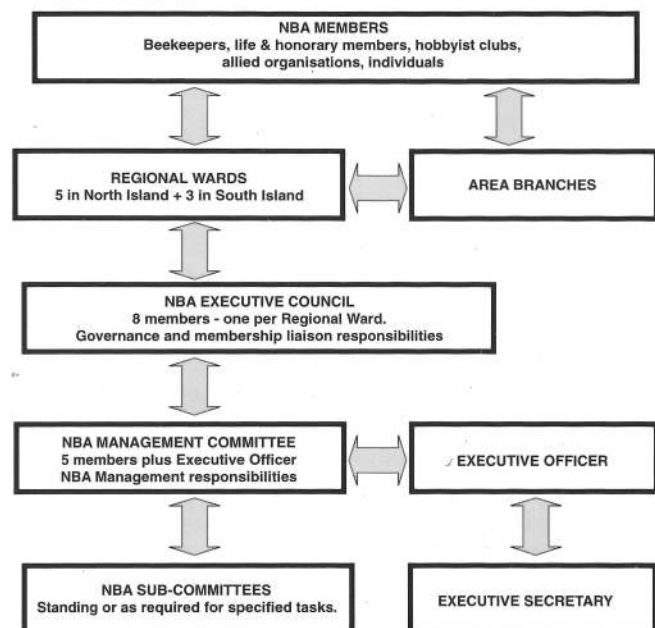
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The National Beekeepers Association of New Zealand Inc.

Re-structure proposal 2004

NBA Structure Review Committee members:

- Ian Berry
- Allen McCaw
- Bruce Stanley
- Mike Stuckey
- Mary-Anne Thomason
- Michael Wraight
- Jim Edwards



WARDS AND BRANCHES

The Proposal looks at restructuring the current Branch Areas into the following;

- **5 (five) Wards established in the North Island**
 - Northern Northland and Auckland
 - Waikato Waikato
 - Bay of Plenty Bay of Plenty
 - East Coast Poverty Bay and Hawkes Bay
 - Southern North Island Southern North Island
- **3 (three) Wards in the South Island**
 - Upper South Island Nelson and Marlborough
 - Central South Island West Coast and Canterbury
 - Lower South Island Otago and Southland

Wards are primarily defined according to the membership numbers. Geographical locations are considered to be secondary – some locations may have no Branch or Region Status due to a current lack of members. Based on this proposal Wards are responsible for representation and electoral purposes.

Branches are flexible organisations linked to beekeeping related activities. New branches can be established as membership grows, and the National Beekeepers Association Rules will retain that capacity.

Wards are the conduit for minuted recommendations to the Executive Council.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Executive Council will consist of one representative appointed from each Ward. (How this is achieved is up to each Ward.). The appointment will be way of an election from representatives nominated and elected from within that region. (Saving on election costs.)

The position of President and Vice President will be by election at the AGM – Annual General Meeting from amongst Ward appointees by the members, at the end of the AGM.

Where there are no nominations forthcoming in a Ward, the Executive Council can appoint a representative from that ward until next election.

Ward nominations and elections will be held bi-annually to maintain continuity except in the first year of transition when 4 (four) ward members will only stand for 1 (one) year.

Casual Vacancies in a ward are put back to the ward to fill, therefore giving more ownership back to the branches and wards.

At the end of an elected period members are eligible for re-election.

What is The Executive Council responsible for

- Governance
- Selecting Management Committee members
- Appointing Executive Officer and Secretary.
- Establishing policies, advisory and planning, resource allocation etc.

They will meet at least twice per year:

- At Conference/AGM time
- In Nov / Dec. for Review and planning meeting
- In exceptional circumstances where another physical meeting may be necessary.

And keep more frequent communication by

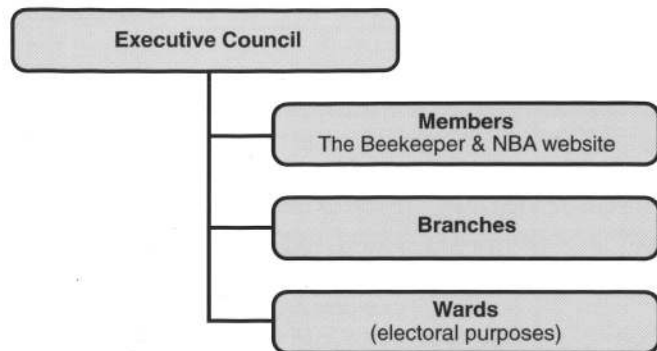
- E-mail or telephone

Governance

- Recognising, protecting and facilitating the rights of members established by the rules or through mutual agreements.
- Promoting transparency and consistency with the rules and clearly articulating the division of responsibilities among the different structures within the NBA.

- Encouraging active co-operation between other organisations and the NBA and its members.
- Ensuring that timely and accurate disclosure is made on all material matters regarding the NBA, including the financial situation, performance, and governance of the Association.
- Ensuring the strategic guidance of the Association, the effective monitoring of the Management Committee, and the Council's accountability to the Association and its members.

Communication



Membership

Need to look at :

- the rights and privileges of membership of the NBA.
- the benefits of belonging to a Branch.

The Management Committee

Purpose

The Management Committee is established to take on a more functional role on behalf of the Executive Council which is responsible for Governance.

The use of resources beyond Executive members allows the NBA to utilise other resources and thereby increase the productivity and the timeliness of the NBA.

The Management Committee manages the National Beekeepers Association while the Executive Council concentrates on its governance functions. It will have effective liaison and communication with the Executive Council. The committee will consist of the following;

- President from Executive Council
- Vice President from Executive Council
- Three Executive Council appointees who *could* come from outside the Executive..
- Executive Officer (part-time initially, paid position).
- Executive secretary (part time, paid, support for Executive Officer).

The Management Committee will be involved in;

- Implementation of agreed policies and planned activities from the Executive Council

- Overseeing and reporting on the effectiveness, efficiency and management of the NBA.
- Employment of staff
- Effective liaison and communication, supervision and performance appraisals of the Executive Officer and Secretary
- Working with the EO and Secretary where required and assist in the 'day to day' decisions that fall outside their responsibility or authority
- Supervision of secretarial and financial services
- Provision of financial reports
- Establishment, only when needed, of ad hoc committees with definite terms of reference and finite timelines including a "sunset" time by which the allocated tasks must be completed and the committee disbanded.
- Co-opting members subject to the approval of the Executive Council.
- Liaison with external organisations and public relations.
- Other tasks allocated from time to time by the Executive Council and the Annual General Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The Executive Officer and the Management Committee will appoint the Executive Secretary.

The secretary will be responsible for:

- Secretarial services to Executive Officer and Management Committee
- Financial recording services.
- Etc.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Executive officer will have effective liaison and communication with

- The Executive Council.
- The Management Committee.
- The Executive Secretary.
- All of the committees established by the Executive Council and the Management Committee.

The Executive officer will be responsible for

- Public Relations with other organisations
- Publicity
- Press releases
- Project management on behalf of the Executive and Management Committees including participation in appointed committee activities
- Assisting the host Branch and/or Ward to plan the Annual Conference

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TIMELINE for National Beekeepers Association Restructure

April – June 2004	Meetings to formulate recommendations. Outcomes to NBA Exec	NBA Structure Review Committee SRC Secretary
June 15 2004	Recommendations from SRC circulated to NBA membership	NBA Executive Secretary
July 1 2004	Presentation to AGM of NBA Discussion and feedback from membership	SRC Representative(s) NBA members (AGM Resolution)
July – September 2004	Formulation of new NBA Rules according to agreed structure. Liaison with NBA Executive and legal advisors	NBA Structure Review Committee SRC Secretary
October 4 2004	Circulation of Draft Rules to NBA members – invitation for submissions	NBA Executive Secretary NBA members
October 25 2004	Submission considered. Rule changes included as required.	SRC SRC Rules Sub-committee
November 8 2004	Amended Rules circulated to NBA members for final comment	NBA Executive
November 22 2004	Final rules prepared and submitted to NBA Exec	SRC SRC Secretary
December 3 2004	Final Rules and Postal voting forms circulated to NBA members	NBA Executive Secretary NBA members
December 17 2004	Postal Voting closing Date	National Beekeepers Association Executive
December 20 2004	Advise to members of outcome, Submitted to Incorporated Societies registrar	National Beekeepers Association Executive
January 8 2005	Preparation of Executive Officer and Executive Secretary job description	SRC SRC sunset NBA Executive
January 8 2005	Defining of electoral ward boundaries and voting system	NBA Executive
January 30 2005	Advertisement for Exec Officer and Exec Secretary positions	NBA Executive
February 15 2005	Applications close for Exec Office and Exec Secretary positions	NBA Executive
February 22 2005	Considerations of applications and appointments made	NBA Executive Appointments Sub Committee
March 20 2005	Exec Officer starts	NBA Executive Exec Officer
March 27 2005	Exec Secretary Starts	NBA Executive Exec Officer
April 15 2005	Nominations deadline for Ward representatives	Exec Officer
May 15 2005	Ward Representatives announced	Exec Officer
May 22 2005	Call for remits to conference from wards and members	Exec Officer
June 15 2005	Remits closing date	Exec Officer
June 28 2005	Remits circulated	Exec Officer
July 25 2005 (Date To Be Advised)	National Beekeepers Association AGM under new rules and voting AGM election of President and Vice President	Exec Officer NBA Executive council
July 26 2005 (TBA)	NBA Exec Council meeting. Appointment of Management Committee. Formulation of plans and activities for 2005-2006 year.	Exec Officer & Exec Council
July – December 2005	Full Steam ahead	Exec Officer & Exec Council
January 20 2006	Planning and review meeting for 2006-2007 year	Exec Officer & Exec Council
July 26 2006 (TBA)	National Beekeepers Association AGM Planning and review meeting	Exec Officer & Exec Council

Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand

Syzygium maire

Maori Names: Maire Tawake or Whawhakou

Common name: Swamp Maire

This tree formally *Eugenia maire* is found in lowland semi-swamp forests throughout the North Island and in the Northern South Island.

The tree grows to 15 metres and is conspicuous because of its smooth white bark. It has clumps of small white flowers and large red fruits, often used by early settlers for jam or puddings.

The tree flowers from June to August, with bees visiting the flowers in suitable weather conditions for the clear, light coloured nectar, and dirty white coloured pollen.

The Maori used the inner bark warmed in water as a lotion for ringworm and head diseases or taken internally as a treatment for asthma, sore throats, whooping cough and bronchial infections.



Syzygium maire



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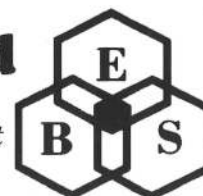
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Letter to Editor

Dear Sir

I sometimes wonder where our Industry is going. We have a Foulbrood PMS of very doubtful value. Of course we are told that there is less Foulbrood than before the PMS was established, but is that really so? We used to hear of small numbers of diseased hives, but then they were reported. Now there is little point in reporting them as there is very little money to check on these small outbreaks. Instead we reserve our efforts to deal with the big outbreaks that seem to be reoccurring in increasing frequency throughout both Islands.

Until the PMS money is put into staffing active Apiary Instructors to systematically inspect hives, we will never get Foulbrood eliminated, which was the original aim of establishing the PMS in the first place.

Next we have had pressure being put on South Island beekeepers to help finance a Varroa PMS. The aim was to prevent Varroa reaching the South Island, but it basically would do little except tell us when the mites had reached us. We could do that ourselves at far less cost.

Next we are being approached to support a levy to help finance research into controlling Varroa and other pests and also Pollination.

Firstly pollination. There have been vast amounts (research) on pollination of clover and other crops but perhaps it is not known as this was done before the days of the internet. Perhaps it could be added.

In respect to research. We are frequently told about the value of the beekeeping industry to the country as a whole and the cost to the country if Varroa mites reach the South Island. To ask us to finance research is losing sight of who are the actual users of the bees we supply. I feel the government has overlooked the public good that could arise from successful research. And yet we see them financing a boat race with no real assurance of success without which little advertising of New Zealand would occur.

Are priorities getting out of perspective by those in government? I would be very reluctant to contribute to Varroa control or Research and would strongly suggest that the Foulbrood PMS be discontinued in its present form.

Yours sincerely

Gary Jeffery

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The Apiary Register: Export Certification vs The PMS

Murray Reid, AgriQuality Limited, Hamilton

There is a group of people in and outside our industry whom I admire greatly. I admire them for their entrepreneurial spirit, their ability to cope with bureaucracy, ever changing importer demands, changing shipping schedules, fluctuations in exchange rates and not least dealing with beekeepers!

Exporters of bees and bee products

I am talking about exporters, whether they export bee products or live bees. As producers we may have a different view of this often maligned species we can call *Homoapis exportus*. They never seem too keen to pay cash for our products, they may not want some or all of our product this year, they always want more pieces of paper like harvest declarations, honey house registration certificates, apiary lists, antibiotic declarations, areas of production and so on. All of this is often a major pain for producers who are not too big on keeping records.

We are all exporters

We may feel we can't live with exporters but we can't live without them either. Whether we realise it or not we are all exporters. Where they go we go. What affects them affects us all. There have been a number of issues affecting exporters over the past few years and many of these have been passed onto you as suppliers. Things such as harvest declarations, food safety programmes and risk management plans, area freedoms from bee diseases, the United States Food and Drug Administration's registration requirement, the EU residue programme, tests for antibiotics and fungi and moulds, evidence of heat treatment. The list goes on.

As difficult as all these requirements are there is something on the horizon, which may make these seem like a picnic in comparison. Could we see headlines like this?

"Honey prices crash because of market oversupply"
"Local honey-mountain threatens to bankrupt beekeepers"
"Bureaucrats threaten livelihood of exporters and suppliers"
"Bee importers threaten to sue for lost shipments"

So what is this threat? What could be so bad as to potentially ruin many beekeeping operations? Why should we worry? Before we go there let's look at what is at threat. Just what do the exporters do for us.

Honey and bee exports

NZ produces on average 8900 tonnes of honey per year and consumes about 5000 tonnes. This leaves 3000-3900 tonnes to be exported, or held as stock, to maintain local market

stability. In the year ended December 2003 we exported 3190 tonnes of honey to 40 countries along with just under 1000 tonnes of beeswax. According to Statistics New Zealand these products had a free on board (FOB) value of \$28 million.

What about live bees? For the year ending December 2003 we exported 6283 queen bees and 27281 1kg equivalent packages to 4 countries. It is difficult to get a FOB value for these but even at the price paid to beekeepers for queens and bulk bees delivered to the exporter, the shipments were worth around \$700,000.

Suppliers and exporters at risk

Some of you are saying so what if we didn't ship any more live bees as I don't supply any now. That may be the case but 5 exporters and 33 suppliers, mostly from the central and lower North Island, may not agree. Did you know that over 90 individuals or companies requested certification from government authorities last year? But it is not just the New Zealand producers and exporters who are at risk. The importers and beekeepers relying on our products would be affected as well.

No one knows how many beekeepers supply honey for export but any major disruption to exports could flood the local market and depress prices paid to beekeepers. We saw a little of this with the record crop produced in 2003. As with live bees, loss of EU export markets would affect 20-30 exporters, plus importers, and verification agencies as well as producers. Alternative export markets could be found but probably at lesser prices and not in the short term.

What is the threat to export markets?

The threat is selective but could affect exports of 1300 tonnes of bee products to about 5 countries in Europe and the French Territories. These markets are vitally important to us as they take one third of our exports and nearly all our specialty crops like honeydew, thyme honey and much of our comb honey.

Exports of live bees to Canada should not be affected but exports to markets we hope to re-enter, such as Korea, Japan and Germany, will be.

The threat comes from the desire of the Management Agency for the AFB Pest Management Strategy to find an alternative to using the apiary register to determine areas free from American foulbrood as required on export certificates.

Apiary clearances for export

All these 'at risk' importing countries or importers have one thing in common. They require certification that the bees or bee products have been produced in apiaries free of American foulbrood and noseosis. The surrounding area (3-5 km) must also have had no outbreaks of these diseases within the previous 6 months. The same is generally true for live bees.

Before New Zealand government authorities will issue an official assurance in the form of an export certificate, they require AgriQuality to check that the conditions on the export certificate have been met. Naturally AgriQuality then requires the exporter and the producer to make various declarations as well. Those declarations to do with American foulbrood (AFB) are checked against information in the apiary database. And there is the impending problem.

Possible restrictions on using the apiary register for apiary clearances

The Management Agency (MA) for the AFB Pest Management Strategy is concerned that AFB is being under reported in areas where bee products may be exported to countries requiring area freedoms. The MA is in discussions with government authorities to see if other ways can be found to facilitate exports without having to use the apiary register.

Is the situation as serious as I have been portraying? Well, yes it is but the extent of the problem will depend on how restrictive the MA is in allowing the register to be used for export clearances and how quickly government authorities can find an alternative solution.

Alternatives to using the apiary register

There is little scientific justification for some of the area freedom requirements. However, there are a number of alternatives to using the apiary register, which exporters and regulators under the Animal Products Act need to explore. These could include:

1. Negotiating new import protocols with importing countries or importer, that don't require area freedoms. However, bilateral negotiations tend to take a long time with uncertain outcomes and they cost money. Exporters of live bees already pay a levy for this purpose but a way may need to be found to fund trade negotiations for bee products.
2. If area freedoms are still required, authorities could seek equivalence based on testing for *Paenibacillus larvae* spores. This option may raise many issues such as:
 - If *P. larvae* spores are found what does that mean for the product? Can we negotiate tolerance levels such as up to an agreed number of bacterial colony-forming units (CFU's) on the culture plates? Below this agreed number of CFU's the honey is OK for export but above this it is rejected?
 - If the product is refused for export can it still be retailed in New Zealand or should it be downgraded and only used for manufacturing as some honey buying companies in Australia do?

- Do *P. larvae* spores evenly disperse in a drum of honey or do they sink or float, or clump? This may have implications on how samples are taken.
- What about culture plates that are too contaminated to read?
- What sampling rate is acceptable? Every drum or an 'extraction run'?
- Can composite samples be used?
- Who takes the sample and which lab does the testing?
- What about other bee products such as beeswax, and particularly pollen, where contamination of the culture plates is common?

Threat or opportunity

The PMS Management Agency (MA) is keen to encourage full and timely reporting of AFB and sees the use of the apiary register for determining area freedoms as counter productive to that aim. If the MA instructed its contractors not to use the database for export certification then there is an immediate threat to over 1000 tonnes of bee products into the EU and the recovery of the live bee trade with Japan, Korea and the EU.

However, a move to 'end point inspection,' which involves testing samples of product for *P. larvae* spores, may be an opportunity to test how beekeepers are dealing with AFB infected hives. The use of the apiary register to validate area freedom statements still relies on beekeepers reporting AFB. Testing bees or bee products prior to export may offer an opportunity to increase the level of auditing on AFB declarations. In the past random testing of retail and bulk honeys delivered to packers has revealed high levels of contamination with *P. larvae* spores.

Summary

The New Zealand beekeeping industry has to find a way to encourage full reporting of AFB and at the same time facilitate exports to major EU markets. This may mean a move away from using the apiary register for export certification and a move to testing export product for the presence or absence of *P. larvae* spores. This fundamental change is both an opportunity and a threat to the industry, which will require full cooperation from all interested parties. The dialogue has already started but all beekeepers need to be involved, as it will affect you one way or the other. We are all exporters one way or another.

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BK12

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Is the introduced wasp parasitoid *Sphecophaga vesparum vesparum* killing small wasp nests?

Dr B J Donovan
Donovan Scientific Insect Research

The introduced wasp parasitoid *Sphecophaga vesparum vesparum* is regularly found attacking and killing wasp pupae in large nests, but the most effective way in which it could reduce the numbers of wasps is by destroying the first brood raised by a queen wasp in spring when she starts a nest (Donovan 2000, 2001). Nests attacked in this manner are known from both Europe and North America. Queen wasps have to expend a great deal of energy over about 5 weeks to build a small nest and to raise up to 60 larvae before the first workers emerge to help her, so if the nest is destroyed there seems little chance that the queen has the energy to build another. If a significant number of small nests were killed in spring, then there would be far fewer wasps later in summer and autumn.

So, are small nests being killed in New Zealand? A major problem is finding small nests in spring when just the queen is present, as of course there is no stream of wasps entering and leaving the nest entrance to indicate the location of the nest. So in an effort to induce queen wasps to start nests in sites where we could inspect them, in winter 1991 100 small wooden boxes were placed under honey dew beech forest and nearby shrubs at Craigieburn Forest Park near Castle Hill in the Canterbury foothills. The boxes were 300 mm square and 170 mm high, with a waterproof metal top, a 25 mm drill-hole for an entrance on one side, and no bottom so nests could grow downwards into the ground. To provide attachments from which queen wasps could suspend their nests, a small piece of wood was partly levered out of the ceiling of each box near its middle, and a short stout piece of twine simulating finer plant roots was stapled close to it.

Craigieburn Forest Park was chosen for this work because wasp numbers had been extremely high during previous summers, with literally several hundred wasps feeding on honey dew on each beech tree, and big nests were easily and readily found. Also 200 parasitoids had been released in the area in winter 1989. To boost parasitoid numbers, in September 1991 a further 5000 were spread over the area covered by the nesting boxes.

During the spring and summer of 1991/92 only one nest was started in the boxes, but neither it nor 41 wild nests which we inspected were attacked by parasitoids. Unfortunately, the restructuring of the old DSIR in June 1992 halted the work,

as the boxes passed into the ownership of Landcare Research Ltd. When the Lincoln-based Landcare wasp programme was abandoned in mid 1998, I took the opportunity to revive the nest box project. By then, for various reasons, the number of nest boxes had decreased to 85 and in subsequent years others were lost.

During the last 5 spring/summers, 21 Common wasp nests (*Vespa vulgaris*), 6 German wasp nests (*V. germanica*) and one nest that was too decayed to be identified, were founded, but only 9 grew large enough to produce wasp pupae, which are the target of the parasitoid. Again, none were attacked. During this same period 11 large wild nests were also inspected, and none were attacked.

So, there is no evidence that small – or even large – nests at Craigieburn Forest Park are being attacked. However, there are a couple of interesting factors that confound the results. One is that as the number of nests in the area decreases, the smaller the number of new queens produced, and so the less likely it is that nests will be started in nest boxes – or anywhere. Also, there is evidence from other research that nests that are first attacked when they are about as large as grapefruit may die, or at least grow more slowly, which means that the nests which are not attacked will grow the biggest. The biggest nests are the most likely nests to be discovered for inspection, when they will be found to be not attacked. Further, there has been an overall decrease in the wasp population each year since 1999 with far fewer wasps foraging on beech trees and hunting over the ground, and as shown in Table 1, a drop from 10, 5 and 9 nests founded in the first three years, to just 3 and 1 in the last two years. This decrease in the number of nests founded in the boxes further decreases the chance of finding a nest that is attacked. In other words, if parasitoids are reducing the numbers of wasps, then the less likely it is that we will find nests that are attacked. Also, perhaps

Table 1. Wasp nests founded in nest boxes at Craigieburn Forest Park, and their fate.

	Nest boxes	Common, German ? nests founded		Number of Common, German ? nests with pupae				Attacked nests
1999/2000	85	7	2	1	3	1	0	0
2000/2001	79	5	0	0	4	0	0	0
2001/2002	79	6	3	0	1	0	0	0
2002/2003	66	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
2003/2004	66	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals		21	6	1	8	1	0	0

parasitoids are more likely to search for wasp nests in natural sites such as holes in the ground, rather than nests in wooden boxes!

Nevertheless, because small attacked nests have been found in North America and Europe, then we are sure eventually to make a similar find here, but probably more through good luck than design.

References.

Donovan, B. J. 2000: Possible causes of the recent widespread collapse of wasp populations. *The New Zealand Beekeeper* 7, 8: 24-25.

2001: Is the wasp parasitoid *Sphexophaga vesparum vesparum*, controlling wasps? *Ibid*: 8-9.

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Canterbury Region Varroa Response

Photos by Roger Bray



Field teams in action inserting and removing
Stickyboards and Strips



Receiving instructions



Lab staff inspecting sticky boards for Varroa Mite.

Varroa Press Releases

Suspect Varroa Incursion Update - Friday 17 June 2004

Background

On Friday 4 June 2004, the MAF laboratory at Lincoln detected a single varroa mite on a sticky board submitted from an apiary in Oxford, North Canterbury. MAF initiated an incursion response, re-sampling the suspect apiary the following day.

A second detection was made on Monday 7 June. Lab staff discovered a Varroa Mite adhering to the outside of a plastic bag which was part of a consignment of sticky boards from Murchison. No mites were found on any of the Murchison sticky boards. The lab believed that the find was likely to be a result of cross-contamination, due to the presence of infested North Island material in the same freezer.

Update

Oxford

Re-sampling the apiary from which the mite originated did not detect any more mites. All of the beekeeper's hives were tested, no further mites were found.

Sampling of all apiaries in a 5km radius of the suspect site was completed on Wednesday 16 June, with no mites detected. Sampling of the 10 km radius was completed on Friday 18 June, with reading of sticky boards being completed over the weekend 19-20 June. The full 10 km radius is now believed to contain just over 3000 hives, down from the original estimate of 4300.

Field work was conducted by teams made up of beekeepers and AgriQuality staff. Tracing and movement permitting is being carried out by AgriQuality staff based at MAF's National Centre for Disease Investigation, Wallaceville. Movement permits can be obtained by calling 0800 809 966. Approval is dependent on whether the movement of hives and/or beekeeping equipment is considered high risk.

Murchison

Without further evidence, MAF could not discount the possibility of an actual infestation. The Murchison apiary was re-tested over Wed-Thurs-Fri of last week. No varroa mites were found.

Analysis

Oxford

Two distinct possibilities exist for the discovery of the single varroa mite at Oxford.

1. An undetected varroa population exists in the region. As part of the Auckland 2000 varroa delimiting survey, 18 percent of 'positive' sticky boards captured only a single mite, making it the most commonly detected level of infestation. 12% of infested apiaries were detected by only a single mite on a single sticky board. Finding a single mite in an apiary is therefore not in itself suggestive of contamination. However, in Auckland further infested

apiaries (the source of spread) were normally found within a 10km radius. Possible explanations why no further infestation has been detected include:

- there is an infested site which is unregistered, and has therefore not been tested
- the source of infestation was a feral colony rather than a hive, such as a colony in a log originating from the North Island
- the source of infestation is no longer in the area, such as an apiary that has been moved to another location.
- The single mite found is a result of contamination within the sampling process. Several possible sources of contamination have been suggested:
 - a sensitivity trial was conducted in Canterbury in 2002 involving the placement of dead mites in hives. As none of the hives used in the trial are associated with the suspect site or beekeeper this is an unlikely source
 - cross-contamination within the lab, as samples from both the North and South Islands were stored in close proximity. Because the mite was detected on a sticky board received in a sealed plastic bag, lab staff are confident that cross-contamination is unlikely
 - miticide (Apistan) strips are re-used from year to year. A mite could have become attached to a miticide strip during North Island surveillance, and been recovered from a sticky board in Oxford. Although this appears to be the most likely source of contamination, such an event must also be classed as having a low probability for a number of reasons:
 - most miticide strips have not been used outside the South Island
 - most (80-90%) of strips used in the North Island were used in hives not found to contain Varroa
 - AgriQuality segregates miticide strips from each island, but accepts that some crossover may have occurred
 - miticide strips hang vertically in hives, and mites do not normally adhere to them
 - strips are scraped clean of gross contamination (wax, propolis, honey) on receipt from the field by AgriQuality
 - strips are bundled, packaged, sent for irradiation, stored, then unpacked and counted into sampling kits for dispatch to beekeepers. This handling would tend to dislodge any adhering mites
 - having withstood this handling, the mite would then have to become dislodged during the 24 hour period the strip was in the hive.
 - In the Oxford investigation, there is no single identifiable scenario that is highly probable.

Murchison

Lab staff who discovered the mite believe it is probably due to cross-contamination within the laboratory. The mite was present on the outside packaging of the sticky boards, while no mites were found adhering to any of the sticky boards. An

external auditor has identified potential for cross-contamination to have occurred either on a workbench where some of the boards were examined, or in a freezer where both North Island and South Island samples were stored. Recommendations on improved handling practices have already been implemented.

MAF accepts that cross-contamination is a likely cause of this find. However, the possibility of the mite originating from Murchison cannot be discounted. Re-testing of the suspect apiary has not yielded any more mites. However, MAF is not prepared to discount the possibility that varroa infestation has occurred. A decision will be made on the degree of further investigation warranted.

Compensation

See Below (Update 02.07.2004)

Further Actions

Technical experts have identified a range of possible further options. These range from standing down the response, through to destructive sampling of hives in the suspect apiaries, and maintenance of movement controls. An announcement will be made next week on MAF's decision.

South Island Varroa Update July 2, 2004

There have been no further varroa mites found during the South Island varroa investigation.

To date, MAF has re-tested the suspect apiaries in Oxford and Murchison. All hives within a 10km radius of the Oxford site have been tested. Work on the 10 km radius around the Murchison site is underway. In addition, hives traced as having contact with the suspect sites have been tested.

To carry out the most sensitive possible test for low levels of varroa, MAF intends to destructively sample the 40 suspect hives from each site. MAF purchased 40 hives from the Oxford site last week, and these hives are currently being examined by HortResearch staff. This sampling will be completed next week. The 40 suspect hives from Murchison will be killed and transported to Christchurch for testing early next week.

MAF is looking at what further testing is required around the two suspect sites. This will include aerial surveillance over the next few days for unregistered hives in the Oxford area.

Movement controls will remain in place while this decision is being made. MAF has received many requests for movement permits from beekeepers in North Canterbury. Work is underway on a policy that will allow movements which will not compromise the investigation. An announcement is expected in the coming week.

Any Beekeeper adversely affected by the exercise of statutory powers as part of this investigation can apply for compensation under section 162a of the Biosecurity Act 1993. Detailed information on submitting compensation claims can be obtained by e-mailing neil.shaw@maf.govt.nz or calling 04 470 2771.

MAF would like to thank all beekeepers for their assistance during this investigation.

New Zealand Beekeepers July 2004

All updates are posted to the MAF website www.maf.govt.nz/varroa

- **Paul Bolger**

Movement Control Permits – 0800 80 99 66

Please be aware that the 0800 80 99 66 goes to a call centre that deals with all other organism enquiries for MAF as well as bees. For this reason it is very important to identify your reason for calling. The first thing you need to tell them is your call is in relation to bees and then identify if you require a movement control permit or would like to report an exotic disease or talk to someone regarding the South Island Varroa outbreak.

The call centre will take the details of your call and direct the details to the appropriate people to follow up.

If you are clear about the fact your call relates to bees then the system will work well.

- **David McMillan**



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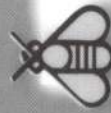
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