

Volume 15 No. 1



February 2007

The New Zealand

BeeKeeper

New Zealand
Permit No. 154506



Trained eyes prevent AFB



DECA course, New Plymouth

Photo: Mary-Ann Lindsay

ISSN 0110-63325

The Official Journal of The National Beekeepers'
Association of New Zealand Inc.

Published by South City Print
P.O. Box 2494
South Dunedin, New Zealand

NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSN OF NZ (Inc.) EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Jane Lorimer (President)

Hillcrest Apiaries
'Kahurangi-o-Papa'
RD 3, Hamilton 3283
Ph 07 856 9625
Fax 07 856 9241
Mobile 027 294 6559
Email: hunnybee@wave.co.nz

R Neil Farrer (Vice President)

7 Nixon Street
Wanganui 4500
Ph 06 343 6248
Mobile 027 457 9634
Email: farrer@infogen.net.nz

Brian Alexander

Woodhaugh Apiaries
RD 3,
Kaukapakapa 0873
Ph/Fax 09 420 5028
Email: bee@xtra.co.nz (Attn:Brian)

Barry Foster

Tawari Apiaries Ltd
695 Aberdeen Road
Gisborne 4041
Ph 06 867 4591
Fax 06 867 4508
Mobile 027 449 7131
Email: bjfoster@xtra.co.nz

Neil Mossop

Mossop's Honey
1064 State Highway 29
RD 1, Tauranga 3171
Ph 07 543 0971
Email: info@mossopshoney.co.nz

Arthur Day

Marlborough Apiaries Ltd
PO Box 307
Blenheim 7240
Ph/Fax 03 577 8143
Mobile 021 223 4790
Email: arthur@beekeepernz.com

Frans Laas

Wildlife Solutions Ltd
102 Gladstone Road
Mosgiel 9007
Ph 03 489 4597
Email: f-laas@xtra.co.nz

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

Jim Edwards
World Veterinary Consultants
10 Nikau Lane
Manakau Heights
RD 1, Otaki 5581
Ph 06 362 6301
Fax 06 362 6302
Mobile 021 631 447
Email: ceo@nba.org.nz

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Pam Edwards
World Veterinary Consultants
10 Nikau Lane
Manakau Heights
RD 1, Otaki 5581
Ph 06 362 6301
Fax 06 362 6302
Email: secretary@nba.org.nz

<p>Roger and Linda Bray (Librarians) Braesby Farm, RD 1, Ashburton 7771 Ph/Fax 03 308 4964 Email: birdsnbees@xtra.co.nz</p>	<p>AgriQuality phone: 0508 00 11 22</p>	<p>Rex Baynes AFB NPMS Manager PO Box 44282, Lower Hutt rbaynes@ihug.co.nz</p>	<p>Magazine subscriptions: — 11 Issues — NZ \$112.50 GST inc Australia NZ\$125.00 US, UK & Asia NZ\$135.00 inc p&p</p>
--	---	--	--

BRANCHES: The first named person is the President/Chairperson. The second is the Secretary.

NORTHLAND

Garry Goodwin
57 Whangarei Heads School Rd
RD 4 Whangarei
Ph: 09 434 0118
Jo Scott
148 One Tree Point Rd
Ruakaka 0171
Ph: 09 432 7149
Fax 09 432 7144

AUCKLAND

Ian Browning
1824 Great South Rd
RD 3
Drury 2579
Ph: 09 236 0764
Bob Russell
101 Kern Rd
RD 3
Drury 2579
Home Ph/Fax: 09 294 8656
Work Mobile: 027 284 8951
email: bob.russell@paradise.net.nz

WAIKATO

Russell Berry
Arataki Honey
2488 SH5 Waitotapu
RD 3
Rotorua 3073
Ph: 07 366 6111
Fax: 07 366 6999
email: russell@arataki-honey-rotorua.co.nz
Cameron Martin
Haumea Road
RD 1
Galatea 3079
Ph: 07 366 4804
Fax: 07 366 4804
email: busy-bee@xtra.co.nz

BAY OF PLENTY

Dennis Crowley
PO Box 9170
Greerton
Tauranga 3142
Ph: 07 541 3323
email: crowleys@slingshot.co.nz
Barbara Pimm
448 Woodlands Road
RD 2, Opotiki 3198
Ph 07 315 7650
email: hikuhoney@xtra.co.nz

POVERTY BAY

Don Simm
2 Walsh St
Gisborne 4041
Ph: 06 868 3866
Mobile: 021 150 3041
email: donsimm1@xtra.co.nz
Barry Foster
695 Aberdeen Road
Gisborne 4041
Ph: 06 867 4591
Fax: 06 867 4508
email: bjfoster@xtra.co.nz

HAWKE'S BAY

John Berry
46 Arataki Rd
Havelock North 4130
Ph. 06 877 6205
Fax: 06 877 4200
email: jrberry@ihug.co.nz
Ron Morison
31 Puketapu Road
Taradale 4112
Hawkes Bay
Ph/Fax: 06 844 9493
email: rmorison@clear.net.nz

SOUTHERN NORTH ISLAND

RN (Neil) Farrer
7 Nixon Street
Wanganui 4500
Ph: 06 343 6248
Fax: 06343 3275
email: farrer@infogen.net.nz
Frank Lindsay
26 Cunliffe Street
Johnsonville
Wellington 6037
Ph/Fax: 04 478 3367
email: lindsays.apiaries@xtra.co.nz

NELSON

Glenn Kelly
PO Box 421
Motueka
Ph/Fax 03 528 8174
email: glennkelly@yahoo.co.nz
Michael Wraight
15 Titoki Place
Motueka 7120
Ph/Fax: 03 528 6010
email: wraight@xtra.co.nz

CANTERBURY

Roger Bray
Braesby Farm
RD1
Ashburton 7771
Ph/Fax: 03 308 4964
email: birdsnbees@xtra.co.nz
Trevor Corbett
PO Box 20
Waipara, North Canterbury
Ph: 027 450 4567
email: beeworks@xtra.co.nz

OTAGO

Blair Dale
Strathdale Honey
Olive Ave, Box 23
Middlemarch, Otago
Ph: 03 464 3122
Fax: 03 464 3796
Mobile: 027 464 3125
email: blair@strathdalehoney.com
Peter Sales
"Te Ora", RD1, Port Chalmers
Dunedin 9081
Ph: 03 472 7220
email: foxglove@paradise.net.nz

SOUTHLAND

Doug Lomax
61 William Stephen Rd
Te Anau
Ph: 03 249 9099
Fax: 03 249 9068
email: dougandbarbara@xtra.co.nz

NZ Beekeeper Printed & Published by:

South City Print
P.O. Box 2494, South Dunedin.
Advertising: Allan Middlemiss
Telephone: 03 455 4486 Fax: 03 455 7286
email: ckp@xtra.co.nz

NBA membership & Magazine Subscriptions:

Pam Edwards
World Veterinary Consultants
10 Nikau Lane
Manakau Heights, RD 1, Otaki
Ph 06 362 6301 Fax 06 362 6302
Email: secretary@nba.org.nz
Editorial/Publication:
Nancy Fithian
8A Awa Road, Miramar, Wellington 6022
Ph: 04 380 8801 Fax: 04 380 7197
Mobile 027 238 2915
email: editor@nba.org.nz



www.nba.org.nz

Table of Contents

President's Report.....	3
Varroa Agency Inc news.....	4
Chief Executive Officer's report.....	6
NBA successful in bid to suspend honey imports.....	7
From the Executive Secretary's desk.....	7
Letter to the editor.....	7
Beekeepers unified against varroa.....	8
A private comment from the USA.....	8
Bee Products Standards Council meeting.....	8
Ready to sell your honey?.....	9
Corrected harvest declaration form notice.....	10
Harvest declaration form.....	11
Transfer statement form.....	13
From the colonies.....	14
Dan Haig Hansen (1918–2006).....	16
Bee smuggling claims over varroa mite.....	17
Meeting with Chilean beekeepers.....	19
Sacbrood infects all stages About the Apiary.....	20
Apimondia info sheet no. 6.....	23
Thailand odyssey.....	24
FGMO and using foggers.....	25
NIWA's climate outlook January to March.....	25
Recent industry awards.....	26
DECA course in New Plymouth.....	26
Swarming.....	27
Don't panic, they are useful!.....	27
Trees and shrubs of NZ: Mahoe.....	28

Deadline for articles and advertising

10th of each month for insertion in the following month

NB: No magazine in January

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

Nancy Fithian
email: editor@nba.org.nz

(See page 2 for full details)

**Please direct advertising inquiries to:
Allan Middlemiss, South City Print
Ltd, PO Box 2494, Dunedin. Phone
03 455 4486, fax 03 455 7286, email
ckp@xtra.co.nz**

President's Report



Happy New Year to everyone—it seems that the year is already flying by with Christmas over and another conference

looming in less than six months' time.

Summary of Executive Council activities

We have just had another Management Committee meeting, where we continue to work on issues on your behalf.

The current success story is the interim court order that has stopped the imports of Australian honey until the substantive hearing to be held on 19-20 February makes a ruling on our case. The barrister is doing an excellent job on our behalf. We just hope that we get a fair hearing and a positive outcome. *[Editor's note: see page 7 for background.]*

ERMA has recently contacted us about the CheckMite+™ application submitted by Bayer. ERMA informed us that the application has been stalled until they gather further information. We will be notified with any further progress on this application to allow this product to be registered for use in New Zealand.

We are currently working with researchers to put together applications for funding of their projects, particularly the Sustainable Farming Fund applications that close in February. Jim has spent some time talking with SFF personnel to better understand their specific funding criteria, to increase the chances of a project receiving funding.

The Executive has also made a submission on the NZFSA discussion paper on cost recovery. It appears that all RMP holders are likely to get an additional annual charge that covers some of the costs incurred by NZFSA staff working on industry-related issues such as market access and RMP developments. MAF/Biosecurity New Zealand is also putting out a similar discussion document, with submissions due in February.

The Management Committee has also put together a policy covering Beekeeping Club membership to the Association. We are hoping that the package we have put together will encourage more hobby clubs to join our Association, become active members and be able to receive the membership benefits.

We are continuing to upgrade the website. We are looking at including information on Tutin toxin and Karaka poisoning, giving beekeepers some guidelines as to what they should be looking for to determine if a particular production season is likely to be of concern with these two issues.

The Executive will be having another face-to-face meeting in February. Our focus will be on progressing the antioxidant and Brand NZ projects, developing a communications strategy to the members, branch presidents and secretaries, and looking at the specifics of our involvement in Conference 2007.

Varroa in the Nelson region

We have been endeavouring to get regular updates on the Nelson varroa incursion and the results of the extermination attempts. NBA would like to help beekeepers in Nelson and neighbouring areas by running a seminar/field day on how beekeepers in the North Island have coped with varroa and the impacts on your beekeeping business. There is life after varroa and there are some benefits that can accrue to your business or hobby as you cope with varroa. South Island beekeepers are recommended to visit North Island beekeepers to gain knowledge in advance on how to plan for an incursion into their hives.

- Jane Lorimer



Doug Isles, Treasurer of the Bee Farmers' Association of the United Kingdom, advises us that Les Thorne, a lifetime beekeeper and one of the largest suppliers of equipment in the UK, passed away in January 2007. We extend our condolences to Les' family and to the UK beekeeping fraternity on his loss.



Varroa Agency Incorporated News

Update from Varroa Agency Chairman Duncan Butcher

Where to now?

A further disappointing spread of varroa in the Nelson area just prior to Christmas has been a setback in our fight to keep varroa from spreading to other beehives in the South Island.

The new discovery of varroa around Nelson was a setback in the programme for surveillance and the work by Biosecurity New Zealand, the South Island Varroa Control Group (SIVCG) and the Agency to keep varroa out of the rest of the South Island. All involved are working hard to stop any further spread.

The Varroa Agency Board met in mid-January, and is looking at the options around its involvement with varroa. Discussions were also planned with Biosecurity New Zealand, the National Beekeepers' Association, Federated Farmers and with SIVCG. It's hopeful a decision will be conveyed to the beekeeping industry sometime in February.

The board appreciates how difficult it is for beekeepers to continue their operation and manage their business in and around control barriers. This issue shows how hard it is to keep varroa to a particular place.

Options for the Agency include:

- Wind up, and leave it up to the industry to live with varroa in the future.
- Carry out one more surveillance round to help the bee industry understand where varroa is, checking it hasn't spread to other parts of the South Island.
- Carry on the fight to keep varroa in the Nelson area, continue the education programmes, and continue with South Island border controls. This would necessitate a levy for beekeepers in 2007–2008, as well as the councils' financial support.

The Agency has sufficient money to implement this year's (2006–2007) varroa surveillance programme, with its increased emphasis on entry points into the South Island, and greater surveillance close to the Nelson area. The Board intends going ahead with that surveillance programme at this stage.

However, any future surveillance and education programmes will need to be thought through and have sufficient industry support when striking the South Island beekeepers levy for 2007–2008. The beekeeper levy would need to be struck on hives owned on 31 March 2007, with levy demands sent out in May 2007.

Strong industry support would be essential to ensure any future funding from the South Island unitary and regional councils in 2007–2008.

The education programme



The Agency carried out its education programme as planned for travellers over the Christmas break, handing out "keep the South varroa free" pamphlets to people in cars at the Interislander and Bluebridge ferry terminals in Wellington.

The response to the education programme this year was mixed, with some members of the public commenting that they thought the fight to stop the spread of varroa was over following the 2006 Nelson varroa incursion.

Our thanks to Frank and Mary-Ann Lindsay for the fantastic job they did in managing this for us, particularly during a very wet Wellington Christmas.

Don't forget the Varroa Agency website address: www.varroa.org.nz



***QUEEN CELLS *CARRICELL INCUBATORS
*QUEEN BEES *QUANTITY DISCOUNTS**

***John & Judy Dobson**

***RD1 Hastings New Zealand**

***Ph: (06) 870 7070**

***Fax: (06) 870 7077**

***Mobile: 0274 494 396**

***Email: beeline@xtra.co.nz**

***web address: www.carricell.com www.beezone.co.nz**

BK12

**Queens available for delivery throughout
the North Island**

NEW SHIPMENT JUST ARRIVED.

**Our Spring shipment sold very quickly so please reserve your requirements now to ensure supply .
Payment is only required just prior to delivery.**

Preserve the luxury of choice while we still have it!
Alternate your Varroa treatment to...

**Apivar®**

The active ingredient in Apivar® is from a different chemical family to that used in the other two strip treatments. Apivar® has now been widely used by commercial beekeepers throughout the North Island for Autumn and Spring treatments and has proved to be highly effective in NZ conditions.

Apivar® will not cause any residue problems, will not harm your queens or bees and is safe and easy to use.

10 – 90 strips	\$3.75 each plus G.S.T.
100 – 990 strips	\$3.40 each plus G.S.T.
1000 – 4990 strips	\$3.10 each plus G.S.T.
5,000 – 9,990 strips	\$2.85 each plus G.S.T.
10,000 plus strips	\$2.75 each plus G.S.T.

Dosage Rate: 2 Apivar strips per brood chamber.

Price includes delivery, except for Rural Delivery. Please add \$3.73 plus G.S.T. for each 1000 strips or part thereof for Rural Delivery. Phone or email for an order form.

Payment is required before delivery by cheque or electronic banking.



New Zealand Beeswax Ltd

Postal: Private Bag 6001, GERALDINE 7956, New Zealand


Factory: 44 Gladstone St South, ORARI, South Canterbury

Phone: 64 3 693 9189; Fax: 64 3 693 9780

Email: info@beeswax.co.nz; Web: www.beeswax.co.nz

Apivar® is the product and the registered trademark of:

Veto-pharma S.A.
14, avenue du Quebec F-91945 Courtaboeuf Cedex France

Véto-pharma

BK236

Chief Executive Officer's report

Insurance

The NBA has taken an indemnity insurance policy to protect itself from a number of risks, some of which relate to activities directly involving members.



NBA Branch field day activities are now covered, including misadventure such as the risk of fire from smoking out beehives, or the use of beekeeper vehicles on a property. The insurer does not need to be notified in advance of each field day. The cover provided under the policy includes all who attend the field day(s).

Funding varroa research

The NBA has been supporting a large research project into the development of control technologies for varroa. Mark Goodwin, Michelle Taylor and their colleagues at HortResearch are undertaking this work with major funding by the Sustainable Farming Fund (SFF).

The SFF requires the industry to provide support for research, so we need your support now. A number of beekeepers have been contributing to this research fund but we need more. Research support is becoming more important as varroa

spreads south. Please contact me if you are able to contribute this year.

NBA has joined Apimondia

We have become a financial member of Apimondia this year, which should benefit all members. Apimondia exists to promote scientific, ecological, social and economic apicultural development in all countries and the cooperation of beekeepers' associations, scientific bodies and of individuals involved in apiculture worldwide.

Apimondia is being held in Melbourne this year from 9–14 September. You will find the latest information at: [http://www.apimondia2007melbourne.com/english/apimondia\(8\).pdf](http://www.apimondia2007melbourne.com/english/apimondia(8).pdf). If you are planning to join beekeepers from around the world in Melbourne, you will make some savings with your registration because New Zealand is a member country. [Editor's note: see also pages 7, 23 and 28 for more information.]

- Jim Edwards



Certificates in Apiculture

**full time courses or part time
correspondence options**

*On site study - Accommodation available
scholarship opportunities*

4 week course - 12th February - 9th March 2007
Queen Bee Rearing - NZQA Level 4

5 month course - 29th January - 29 June 2007
Queen Bee Rearing & Nat. Cert 2 in Apiculture

37 week course - 29th January - 23 November 2007
All of the above & Nat. Cert 3 Apiculture

Affordable, part time correspondence

6 month course - Queen Bee Rearing Knowledge

1 year course - Apiculture Knowledge



Call today for information. Enrolling now.

0800 835 367

www.telford.ac.nz

TELFORD
RURAL POLYTECHNIC

To Whare Wanaka O Puerua

National Beekeepers' Association successful in bid to suspend honey imports

The NBA has applied to the Wellington High Court for an interim order stopping the importation of Australian honey and other bee products.

MAF's import health standard, which permitted the resumption of Australian imports, has been suspended pending the Association's challenge to its legality.

The challenge will be heard in Wellington on 19-20 February.

The NBA is concerned with the disease risks with imports of honey and other bee products.

New Zealand's horticulture and agriculture economy is highly dependent on the honey bee for pollination, so it is very important to keep new diseases and organisms out of the beekeeping industry.

Abridged from NBA media release on Tuesday 19 December 2006.

From the Executive Secretary's desk

Firstly I would like to wish you all a happy, safe and prosperous 2007.



Thanks to all of you who have already sent in your 2007 subscriptions. The NBA is working on your behalf on significant issues including honey imports, varroa research, and marketing. The prompt payment of subs will definitely assist this work.

This year we have included a category for beekeeping clubs and welcome all those members. As well as belonging to your local club, we urge you to consider becoming a member in your own right.

Some of our South Island members are already very busy planning this year's NBA conference, to be held 2-5 July in Dunedin. It must be a good 30 years since I last visited Dunedin, so I am looking forward to returning. It will be great to see a strong turnout of our members.

Apimondia tours

Apimondia is being held in Melbourne this year from 9-14 September. We have received requests from tour organisers who want to bring international delegates to New Zealand before and after the Apimondia Congress. If you are interested in being visited during these tours, then please let us know soon so that we can give your names to the organisers.

We are also interested to know whether any members want to take part in an Australian tour. If you are interested, please advise me. A tour may be organised if we have sufficient numbers.

Regards to you all.

- Pam Edwards



Letter to the Editor

Population explosion?

Dear Editor,

Readers will have already read in 'From the colonies' that varroa has been confirmed only four kilometres from our doorstep in the village of Wakefield, Nelson.

I was discussing with an elderly friend what was happening in the bee world and she had a lot of questions about varroa. The next day her son called me to say that he had heard from his mum that Viagra had hit Wakefield. He was most concerned!

We knew that we were in for a population explosion of mites, but perhaps we should be stocking up with condoms rather than sticky boards!

Gotta laugh.

Cheers,
Merle Moffitt
R.D.2, Wakefield



If you find an unregistered or abandoned apiary: report it ASAP ... it could be the source of disease that has plagued a beekeeper for a few years.

FOR SALE

One 6 frame, stainless steel, automatic function honey extractor, 4 years old.
Phone 027 272 6764

BK 309

Beekeepers unified against varroa

Nelson beekeepers are unified as they prepare for the battle ahead to fight varroa. At a meeting with Biosecurity New Zealand Officials in Nelson on 25 January, they agreed to treat varroa aggressively to slow its spread towards the controlled area boundary with the rest of the South Island. The beekeepers want to be able to run their businesses as normally as they can and are planning to start using varroa control measures and treatments on a regular basis.

President Jane Lorimer said that the NBA was ready to bring North Island experience and expertise to the South Island starting with Nelson and Marlborough as soon as March 2007. This would complement the Biosecurity New Zealand education strategy. In discussion with the Nelson beekeepers it was agreed to plan a hands-on field day to ensure that the best learning could be achieved for the fight ahead.

- **Jim Edwards**
Chief Executive Officer



Caleb King describes the varroa options with Nelson beekeepers.

A private comment from the USA

16 states have reported massive bee losses, I'm talking about the big boys running thousands of hives. The reason ... nobody knows for sure, every big research lab is working on it.

This will hurt the almond pollination; it will hurt us little guys who buy packages when the price jumps on bees. A big freeze on the West Coast ruined the citrus crops and oranges will hit \$1.00 a piece. It's always something: as our spring approaches gasoline will shoot up in price. Currently it's \$2.20 a gallon.



Bee Products Standards Council

The Bee Products Standards Council (BPSC) meeting in December 2006 was preceded by a successful workshop to address the problems being experienced in the implementation of electronic certification. Those attending included processors, Risk Management Programmes (RMP) managers, honey packers, exporters and a freight handler who took the opportunity to clarify the requirements.

There were excellent presentations from the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) and Verification Agency staff, who explained the process in full and how to manage the electronic documentation required.

The expense of repeating the workshops will be a problem for the BPSC, which plans to repeat the conference alongside the annual NBA conference in the first week in July.



Sheryl Tuck and Brian Astridge of the Verification Agency lead participants through the electronic recording system.

At its meeting the BPSC considered the changes required to the residue monitoring of bee products to enable exports to continue to the European Union. A significant increase is likely in the number of samples required from 2007, which is likely to be matched by increased costs.

The BPSC prepared its submission to the NZFSA on cost recovery, which will see changes implemented from 1 July 2007. The BPSC was concerned about the impact of the costs on those who currently pay for them and wanted the load to be more evenly shared across all those who benefit from the work done by the NZFSA. It recognises that RMPs provide the only viable approach to cost recovery at present.

The BPSC confirmed its stand against the use of para-dichloro-benzene (PDB) in beekeeping in New Zealand because of the problem with residues and the real impact that PDB has had on market access. It also looked at research needs for Tutin to ensure that the public health risk was well managed.

- **Jim Edwards**
Chairman, BPSC



Ready to sell your honey? Have you done your paper work?

Where is your honey crop going this season? If you are intending to export, or have your honey sold by an exporter, to a country that requires government assurances then you needed to have met some new requirements. From 1 July 2006 unless otherwise exempt, all establishments storing, handling or processing bee products for human consumption must have implemented a risk management programme (RMP) registered under the Animal Products Act.

It is important to use all correct forms, and as at the date of publishing this edition of *The New Zealand BeeKeeper* the two current paper forms in use are:

- Apiarist and beekeeper statement for the harvest or honey or other bee products for human consumption—dated 1 December 2005 (Harvest Declaration)
- Statement for the transfer of bee products between listed establishments—dated 1 July 2006 (Transfer Statement).

Under the Animal Products Act, all beekeepers are required to produce a harvest declaration (if using a contract extractor) or similar records of bee product harvest for those extracting their own honey. The system is designed so that normally the harvest declaration would only need to be provided to the contract extractor. However, at this time and until all auditing is complete, a copy of the harvest declaration needs to be part of the supporting documentation with the honey consignment. This is to give verifiers confidence that the product complies with the official assurances programme. It could be possible to give a copy of your harvest declaration directly to AgriQuality, if they are your verifier (for export certification) if you are unhappy about this process. As the bee product is passed through listed RMP premises all transfer statements back to the extractor must be sighted as well; again this is to give confidence in compliance with the official assurances programme.

At this time the harvest operation (beekeeper) does not require a risk management programme. You do, however, need to comply with the Human Consumption specifications clause 108 of the Animal Products Act. Watch this space! After three years of review Government has agreed to NZFSA's proposals to redesign New Zealand's domestic food regulatory system. The changes will cover all aspects of the safety and suitability of food including production, processing and manufacturing. Food operators who supply product for the New Zealand market and don't already have a risk-based food safety plan will develop a food control plan (FCP). Anyway, back to the here and now.

Completing the harvest declaration (see page 11 for form)

- It is very important that all parts of the harvest declaration are completed. It needs to be completely filled in: all information provided.

- Consignment details may be an attached document but must link to the statement and provide all the information required by the statement. Alternatively, the back of the form may be used.

If you want your honey to be available to be exported to the EU, part of the Overseas Market Access Requirement (OMAR) incorporates testing for Paradi-chlorobenzene (PDB). The exporter (not necessarily you) needs to be able to choose from two options. Those options ensure that they are complying with the OMAR. To assist in this process, two further statements can be written by you on the declaration before you give this to your contract extractor:

- 1 If you have not been using PDB during the previous two years:

No PDB has been used during the previous two years on any beekeeping equipment or material that has come in contact with the bee products in question. Eligible for EU.

- 2 If you have been using PDB:

Not eligible for EU unless tested for PDB.

With these statements on your harvest declaration, the exporter can choose to use the harvest declaration to show compliance with the OMAR, or can proceed with a laboratory test of the final batch of product being exported to confirm any levels of PDB.

Choosing option 1 does not exempt a beekeeper from having their honey tested by the exporter, who needs to be certain of the contents of their consignment. Testing is their way of protecting their market.

If as a packer/exporter you receive a harvest declaration from a beekeeper that has neither statement on it, then a laboratory test of the final batch of product to be exported is needed to confirm any levels of PDB.

With regard to both harvest declarations and transfer statements, it is very important that whoever you are in the paper chain, copies must be kept of the documents. That applies to beekeepers and secondary processors etc.

Completing the transfer statement (see page 13 for form)

- It is very important that all parts of the transfer statement are completed. It needs to be completely filled in: all information provided.
- It needs to show traceability information from the incoming transfers to the outgoing transfers. Note

this may reference other documents; e.g. inventory. Alternatively, the back of the form may be used.

- All bee products must be stored/handled/processed in an NZFSA-listed bee product premise
- From 1 July 2006: stored/handled/processed or prepared for export in premises registered as a RMP premise under the Animal Products Act 1999 or
- Prior to 1 July 2006: either registered as a risk management programme under the Animal Products Act 1999 or registered and complying with Food Hygiene Regulations 1974, or operating under a Food Safety Programme and have a certificate of exemption from the Food Hygiene Regulations 1974, pursuant to the Food Act 1981
- Does it comply with the requirements of, and therefore is eligible for the EU?
- For bee products to be eligible for exporting to the EU, are all premises on the EU list? (Refer to OMAR for specific types of bee products).
- EU eligibility regarding PDB: are your bee products eligible?

Examples of transfers between RMP premises are:

- 1 From the extractor to the store
 - From contract extractor to beekeeper's own RMP shed
 - From beekeeping extracting premise to beekeeper's RMP shed (another location)
- 2 From beekeeping extraction premise to export — bulk drum
- 3 From stores to process premise
- 4 From process premise to store or freight forwarder
- 5 From process premise to freight handler
- 6 Between stores/freight forwarders.

If you are having your honey contract extracted, as you take your honey away, take your documents but check them first. All bee store premises must have inwards and outwards transfer documents for all post-extraction product being stored.

Transfer statements can be completed on paper, (unless it contains other animal product, i.e., deer velvet) or electronically using an E-cert Eligibility document (ED). However if you are the last person in the chain and are transferring to the registered exporter, then this transfer must be done using E-Cert.

Beekeeper's Assistant Wanted (Rodney District)

No experience needed as full training
will be provided.
Must be fit and capable of heavy lifting.
Phone 09 420 5028

BK 310

And last but not least, if you send your product without proper documentation, you may just see the freight truck back in the driveway if your packer chooses to not accept the consignment. This applies to anyone—person or business—in the exporting chain.

Forms

Copies of the most recent Harvest Declaration and the Transfer Statement forms are provided for your convenience on the next two pages. However, it's best to check the NZFSA website for the latest versions of these (and any) forms.

You can download the Harvest Declaration form at <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/animalproducts/publications/forms/statements-declarations/beestatement.pdf>.

You can download the Transfer Statement form at <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/animalproducts/publications/forms/bees/bee-transfer-statement.pdf>

For further information, check the NZFSA website <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz> or ask your verifier. (Either AgriQuality or NZFSA Verification Agency.)

Correction

In our haste to meet deadlines for the December issue of *The New Zealand BeeKeeper* we inadvertently called the updated Statement of Transfer form 'Harvest Declaration July 2006'. This was printed on page 22 of the December 2006 issue. We apologise for any confusion that this has caused.

The current and correct forms are:

'Apiarist and Beekeeper Statement for the Harvest of Honey or Other Bee Products for Human Consumption'. Go to the NZFSA website at <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/animalproducts/publications/forms/statements-declarations/beestatement.pdf>, where you can download the Harvest Declaration form.

'Statement for the transfer of bee products between listed establishments'. Go to the NZFSA website at <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/animalproducts/publications/forms/bees/bee-transfer-statement.pdf>, where you can download the **Transfer Statement** form.

[Editor's note: you can also find these forms on pages 11 and 13 of this issue.]

If the website link changes then you can try another way. Go to the NZFSA website www.nzfsa.govt.nz, locate the menu 'animal products', and look for the words 'publications and forms'.

Please ensure that you use all correct forms for all honey and bee products that you are harvesting, extracting or transferring products between places.

APIARIST AND BEEKEEPER STATEMENT FOR THE HARVEST OF HONEY OR OTHER BEE PRODUCTS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

This statement is made under the Animal Products (Specifications for Products Intended for Human Consumption) Notice 2004 for the purposes of clause 108.

Apiarist name:	Apiarist physical address:
Apiarist registration number ¹ :	Extraction site address:

Consignment Details

Product type	Quantity	Identified as (code number)	Apiary location(s) ² or apiary registration number(s)	Date of harvest

The following statements relate to the location(s) and period of time that the beehive was producing the products covered by this declaration:

- | | | | |
|-----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | Yes | No |
| (a) | From your knowledge of the bee foraging area ³ , is there any likelihood of the honey or other bee products containing harmful levels of plant toxins from the plant tutu (<i>Coriaria arborea</i>)? ⁴ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) | Have any veterinary medicines or agricultural compounds (other than those permitted for use in beehives in accordance with any label or approval conditions) been used in the beehives that this honey or other bee product have been sourced from? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

If you have answered "Yes" to either of the above questions please provide further details (e.g. product name, date, and code) for affected product, and explain why this product should be considered suitable for human consumption.

I declare that all the statements made in this document are true and correct. I am aware that the details provided will be received and retained by the processor and may be provided to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (New Zealand Food Safety Authority) for the general administration of the Animal Products Act 1999. I consent to that happening.

Apiarist or beekeeper signature: _____ Date: ___/___/___

Note: It is in offence under section 127 of the Animal Products Act 1999 to provide false or misleading information in this supplier statement and under the Privacy Act 1993 you have certain rights of access to and correction of personal information held about you.

¹ As specified in the Apiaries Register kept pursuant to the American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy.
² Apiary location may be specified by grid reference, farm location, or Apiary registration number.
³ Bee foraging area is generally recognised as a 3km radius around the location of the beehive.
⁴ When leafhoppers on tutu are generating honeydew that is then available for foraging bees to collect.

BAYVAROL®

NZ's No 1 VARROA TREATMENT

Why?

- it's highly effective (up to over 99% efficacy)
- it's the easiest to use (rigid strips - no curling)
- it's very safe to use (very important - especially for staff)
- it has twice the contact area (4 strips per brood chamber)
- very kind to beeswax, propolis & comb honey
- very gentle on queen bees & nucs
- it can be used during the honey flow if required

— 8 Week treatment now approved in N.Z.

— showing no signs of resistance

— no residues detected

We'd strongly recommend that you use Bayvarol® as one of your alternate treatments.

We believe that Bayvarol is now New Zealand's most popular Varroa treatment.

Current prices

20 to 96 strips	\$1.87 + GST each
100 to 796 strips	\$1.75 + GST each
800 to 8800 strips	\$1.49 + 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. For orders of up to 100 strips please add \$6 incl. GST for freight. 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.

For any enquiries or orders, contact Stuart Ecroyd
Free Fax: 0800 233 929 or email: Bayvarol@beehealthy.co.nz

Bayvarol® - Registered trademark of Bayer AG Germany - Approved under the Animal Products (Ancillary and Transitional Provisions) Act 1999



www.beehealthy.co.nz

Ecroyd Beekeeping Supplies Ltd

Distributors, Exporters & Importers of Beekeeping Equipment
Distributors of Bee Healthy & Beeway Honey & Bee Products



www.ecroyd.com

P.O. Box 5056 Papanui, Christchurch, New Zealand • 6A Sheffield Crescent, Burnside, Christchurch
Phone: (03) 358-7498 • Fax: (03) 358-8789 • Free Fax 0800 233 929 • Email: ecroyd@beehealthy.co.nz

Effective from 1 July 2006

STATEMENT FOR THE TRANSFER OF BEE PRODUCTS BETWEEN LISTED ESTABLISHMENTS

Consignor name and identifier:	Consignee name and identifier:
--------------------------------	--------------------------------

Consignment details

Description of goods	Quantity & Package Type	Identified as (code number)	Net Weight

The bee product contained within;

- | | Yes | No |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| (a) meets the requirements of the "apiarist and beekeeper statement for the harvest of honey or other bee products for human consumption" and is suitable for human consumption. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) is of New Zealand origin | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (c) has always been processed, stored or handled within a NZFSA listed bee products premises | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (d) has always been processed, stored or handled within EU listed bee products premises, and is eligible for the European Union. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (e) has been prepared for export in premises either registered and complying with the Food Hygiene Regulations 1974, or registered as a risk management programme under the Animal Products Act 1999, or operating a Food Safety Programme, and have a certificate of exemption from the Food Hygiene Regulations 1974, pursuant to the Food Act 1981. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (f) is eligible for the listed countries (meets requirements as notified by way of OMAR) | | |

Processing details (if applicable) – use this space for any additional required declarations.

If you have answered "No" to any statements (a) to (e) provide further details for affected product, where required (including the product name, date, and code).

I declare that all the statements made in this document are true and correct. I am aware that the details provided will be received and retained by the processor and may be provided to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (New Zealand Food Safety Authority) for the general administration of the Animal Products Act 1999. I consent to that happening.

Operator signature: _____ Date: ___/___/___

Operator Name: _____

Note: It is in offence under section 127 of the Animal Products Act 1999 to provide false or misleading information in this supplier statement and under the Privacy Act 1993 you have certain rights of access to and correction of personal information held about you.

From the colonies



Auckland Branch

The honey shed is full steam ahead at the moment with only a couple of minor hiccups with the equipment. The Pohutukawa flowered well this season as well as the Kanuka, which had some excellent flower set. The pasture is also going well after all the rain we've been having.

Our branch had a visitor from Serbia who gave an interesting talk at our meeting. Ivan is a keen hobbyist who runs up to 100 hives without any treatment for varroa. His son Alex translated for the rest of us. Ivan explained that he went back to nature to try and find bees that were naturally more tolerant of varroa. He noticed that some hives weren't entirely killed out by the mite, so he started to select a breeding line from these bees. Although he loses around five per cent of his hives annually to varroa, he explained that varroa works in a cycle, which means about every fourth year or so he can lose more like 30-40 per cent of his hives to the mite.

The bees in Serbia are similar to the carniolan bee we get here: dark looking, although beekeepers don't wear veils or any protective gear when handling them as their bees are quite docile. The conclusion of most of our members at the meeting was that using this technique wouldn't be applicable here, due to the different type of bee we have, and the fact that unfortunately all our feral hives were knocked out by the mite. Ivan's talk emphasised breeding for resilience, rather

than fully relying on chemical-based products to rid bees of varroa, something which everyone needs to think about to some degree.

At our meeting we also saw a French film of a bee larvae evolving through the stages with varroa feeding from it. The film was shot through a transparent cell, sped up so you saw the life cycle. The film explained that varroa are blind and use smell to establish the different age of larvae, so are able to attach to it when it was of a certain stage. In one experiment a piece of human hair dipped in the right-aged larvae was able to lure a mite across a flat surface like leading a donkey with a carrot. Anyhow that's something to think about.

- James Harrison

Waikato Branch

Most Waikato beekeepers look forward to a white Christmas. Usually it's just clover, but toward the end of 2006 the weather pattern could have delivered snow. From then until now the temperatures have risen steeply, the sun is beginning to shine and our wish is that this heat will stay with ground temperatures rising.

Reports around the region indicated that by mid January the honey crop was not looking too flash, so maybe there is enough time to pick up late honey, pasture and Manuka.



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

PROPOLIS — PROPOLIS — PROPOLIS — PROPOLIS

Payment Terms

Single payment on Propolis purity results. We endeavour to have payment in your hands within three weeks of receipt. If sending Propolis for the first time please advise of your GST registration. Minimum receipt quantity is five kilograms. Please include a Harvest Declaration Form with each consignment.

Phone to arrange

FREE REMOVAL FROM MESH MATS

SCRAPPING AND MESH PROPOLIS REQUIRED

SOUTH ISLAND SUPPLIERS

Freight forward your propolis to Te Puke by Post Haste or Tranzlink.

Contact Ken for details.

BK19

Some beekeepers still have empty boxes in the shed, and hives may be stacked only with empty supers in hope rather than anticipation. But that could all change; it could also mean that honey stocks in sheds have more value than some of the gutter prices being touted around at present. Beekeepers, unfortunately, are now talking about whether it is economical to take honey off the hive or pack the bees down royally.

Looking through the pasture at the moment, clover is like a large white blanket covering many a farm in the King Country. Moving further north to the northern Waikato the hills are browning off and some areas the pasture is rank. Looking closer, the clover is there but so are the other weeds: Pennyroyal, Catsear, Lotus Major to name a few. Farmers are behind in haymaking, and once cut the pasture comes away nicely in flower.

All around the region, talk is on the upcoming auditing by AgriQuality and NZFSA verifiers. A lot of apprehension, misinformation and lack of information. Only something the first audit can clear up, or will it? New AgriQuality staff (new to beekeeping anyway) are having a training day at the Lorimers' honey house, and after that it's all on.

Lastly, through the Central North Island there has been an outbreak of AFB. One beekeeper had one or two hives in an apiary, then a few more and at last count that one yard had 11 hives infected out of 24. Where it comes from is anyone's guess. It could be an old swarm; more likely someone isn't looking after some hives. Perhaps you have seen hives come through the winter with five honey boxes, a sure sign that the honey wasn't removed, received no varroa treatments and come early spring, bees find an opportunity to rob it out. It is the tracking of gear though that is the hardest and this comes back to good traceability; that is, what have you taken away from the apiary? Creating an apiary quarantine is important to stop escalation of AFB, as the disease can continue to appear for up to 18 months after the initial exposure. If you are serious about getting rid of AFB then quarantining means no movement of hives or hives. Refer back to the AFB elimination manual (*Elimination of American foulbrood without the use of drugs* by Dr Mark Goodwin and Cliff Van Eaton) in the first instance. A new edition of this book will be in production shortly.

- Fiona O'Brien

Hawke's Bay Branch

Prospects are good for a late clover flow if the weather would just settle down, but I am beginning to wonder if this will ever happen. Most areas have at least some honey on with some of the coastal areas already having an above-average crop. Many beekeepers here are still dealing with the after effects of one of the worst swarming seasons in living memory; indeed we're still finding the odd hive raising cells even at this time of year. Varroa numbers are already increasing and will have to be carefully monitored.

- John Berry

HAWKE'S BAY BRANCH AGM

The Hawke's Bay Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association will be holding its Annual General Meeting at 7.30 pm on Monday 16 April 2007 at Arataki Honey, Arataki Road, Havelock North. All are welcome, although only financial members of the NBA are entitled to vote.

There has never been a more important time to voice your opinion on how the branch and the beekeeping industry should move forward. Don't sit back to allow the bureaucrats to dictate.

One of the important issues is to support the Executive's application for a judicial review of the decision to allow the importation of Australian bee products with the risk of introduction of further destructive diseases or pests. Another is to push for funding into research for alternative methods of controlling the scourge of the varroa mite. Further, a strong branch encourages members to share ideas about how best to manage beekeeping in Hawke's Bay.

- Ron Morison, Hawke's Bay Branch secretary

Nelson Branch

As I write this it is still too early to anticipate what sort of honey crop the Nelson area can expect. Of course, those commercial beekeepers that were unable to take their hives into their honey area after spring pollination in the Nelson area will be able to give a simple answer: they will get no honey.

There has been much publicity about varroa being found in ever-expanding circles around the original Nelson incursions. Varroa has now been confirmed in apiaries in Brightwater, Wakefield, Tapawera, and the Marlborough Sounds (Havelock). It seems that varroa is living up to its reputation of being ahead of where you think it is. Most beekeepers here in Nelson will *not* be surprised with this anticipated spread, but most *will* be surprised to still be reading optimistic quotes about varroa eradication!

Those who are not facing up to the reality of varroa being here to stay remind me of my work with hospice patients. It's not my intention to associate the varroa mite with the dying by any means, but varroa is a terminal situation! Those dying patients and families who accepted their situation and got on with living, fared a lot better than those who refused to face reality and fought against all odds. Yes, there is life after this diagnosis. Let's get on with 'life after varroa' like the rest of the world.

December's weather was up and down like a yo-yo. It's been very hot, and cold, and everything in between. But I must say that after a visit to the Kaikoura coast over New Year's, I was reminded that when Nelson's weather is foul, it is even worse in other parts of the country. Those strong cold southerlies are something that we don't get.

Well excuse me, I am going out to our local apiary and check our one hive left here in Wakefield once again to see if I can find our first varroa mite. This is something that every beekeeper in the top of the South Island should be doing.

- Merle Moffitt

Otago Branch

Bees and their keepers in Otago have ridden the usual roller coaster ride this season. After a spring that threatened drought, we again had a wet December that was difficult to get through with swarms and hungry hives, but it did set us up for a good summer crop.

The early spring flows were patchy, with willow and bush poor. In November and early December the thyme in Central Otago suffered from the then dry conditions, although a few managed a reasonable crop.

Those annoying white things (best kept on a BBQ) that eat all 'our' clover on 'our' farms actually did us a service by cropping the paddocks to a bowling green before the rains arrived. Those warm rains brought a burst of clover growth unhindered by too much grass cover, and in many places the resulting snow-white fields are bee heaven. Don't you just love it when driving along with the windows up you can smell the clover on a cool morning? Or is that just an Otago thing?

Cloud cover has kept things quite cool on the eastern coast, slowing up bees on the Manuka, but like last year the bees seem to be locked on to it, flying past clover often also available to them.

Inland, the flow is excellent in mid-January and some very good crops might be made. It will be a great year for comb honey if these conditions continue. So as usual by now we have done our best: the rest is up to the weather and we await the results.

- Peter Sales

Southland Branch

After an awful spring mating averages were well down. December saw most of us still feeding hives until just before Christmas. Cold weather continued with a lot of hives gone queenless. On the brighter side, if the weather improves the clover is just waiting to produce. We've just had three hot days, the honey starts, then next day cloud comes, then it rains for a day, then we are back to the sun. The bees are getting grumpy and so are the beekeepers! Looks like the weather will be like this for the rest of January.

- Doug Lomax



Dan Haig Hansen (1918–2006)

by Roy Burke

To many Dan Hansen was an unconventional man. He became paraplegic at 21 from a farm accident, but never let it stand in his way. He was firmly pacifist, unswervingly vegetarian, completely generous, and a grassroots philosopher. Above all he had mighty courage.

Dan was essentially practical. He was a skilled welder, mechanic, and inventor—a hands-on man despite almost useless legs.

In 1964, with his wife and partner, Edith and daughter Heather, he bought an abandoned farm property near Whitianga. They built it into Wilderland, a welcoming community attracting visitors from all points of the globe.

Some outsiders call it a commune. Dan never called it that. To him it was a place of sharing, with personal initiative encouraged.

After more than four decades Wilderland continues, the property a few years ago assigned to a charitable trust with the intention that it retain in perpetuity its open-to-the-world ethos.

Dan died at his Wilderland home on Monday, December 11th. He was 88.

Courtesy of the Waikato Times, Saturday 23 December 2006 (abridged).

In March 1996, the Waikato branch held its field day at Bryce Hooten's, where both he (without sight) and Dan (in a wheelchair for 50 years) demonstrated how they worked beehives (see the May 2006 issue of the *New Zealand BeeKeeper* for a photo).

In Roy Burke's full article about Dan Hansen, a paragraph that goes hand in hand with this field day was:

'He believed a disabled person with facilities (faculties) should know there is a place in the world for them. If they exercise those facilities they achieve something significant. "I don't feel the status of anybody is of value," he said in an interview 30 years ago. "It's only the function you carry out that can have any value." At the end, his regret was that 88 years was too short a life—he wanted an extra two years to finish an autobiography already 60-plus pages on the way. Hopefully that task may be picked up by others.'

A full copy of Roy Burke's article can be found at the National Beekeepers' Association technical library.



Bee smuggling claims over varroa mite

by **Tim Cronshaw**

A Timaru beekeeper stung by the theft of 200 hives and honey worth \$70,000 may have the last laugh on a smuggling ring.

In a last resort, Davidson's Apiaries managing director Robert Davidson has employed the services of an Auckland company to mark his hives with microdots so they can be traced.

The smuggling operation, which has suspected gang links, is believed to be stealing hives to order and sending them north in refrigerated trucks.

Beehives have become big business if they are varroa-free because of heavy infestation in the North Island.

Davidson said the number of thefts had increased in the past year and were difficult to stop because hives were at isolated locations.

'They took those 200 hives and that took the guts out of us. We are fairly certain it went to kiwifruit pollination services in the North Island, where there is huge demand because of varroa,' he said.

The thefts of hives were probably masterminded by gangs, he said.

'It is local people doing it but I would say there is an organisation running it because other people have lost hives,'

Davidson said. 'Buyers are probably unaware they are receiving stolen bees.'

He said the microdots were a cheap and easy system and would hopefully halt the thefts after other efforts had failed.

The hives have been sprayed with microdots by security identification company Recordit.

The dots, of 0.5mm to 1mm, carry a lasered identification number accessible by police from their computer network.

Recordit managing director Peter Haszard said the technology would deter thieves and allow police to identify stolen hives.

'The police will tell you that this type of crime is like a three-legged stool, and one leg is opportunity. Take away the opportunity and the thief will look somewhere else,' he said.

Using the microdots in beehives is a first in New Zealand, but they are successfully securing vehicles, boats and personal products.

Federated Farmers has started an initiative to have a million of the microdots sprayed on farm equipment to prevent rural crime.

[Reprinted from The Press (Christchurch, New Zealand), Thursday, 18 January 2007].



Manuka Health New Zealand Ltd

We buy

- All types of Manuka honey
- Crude Propolis

Fast payments. Competitive prices

Contact Richard Hopkins:
Manuka Health New Zealand Limited
1 Carlton Street, Te Awamutu
Phone: (07) 870 6555, Fax: (07) 870 6556
Mob: 0274 504 334, Email: richard@manukahealth.co.nz

API LIFE VAR

New Zealand's No 1 organic product for mite control

Some very good reasons to use ApiLife:

- it is an organic registered varroa treatment
- there is no resistance, which make ALV a sustainable product
- It is highly effective, average 95% +
- the easiest and quickest treatment to apply, no need to split the beehive, which saves you time and money
- All the components are completely safe for the beekeepers, the bees and all the products of the beehive
- Meets all EU standards for the products of the beehive
- Used effectively & successfully for over 15 years in Europe

**ApiLife var contains four essential oils:
Thymol, Eucalyptus, Camphor and Menthol
absorbed on a vermiculate wafer,
with slow vapor release**

It is the natural alternative for the fight against varroa mites

For orders and enquiries:

1. **Beegreen**, Reuben and Anne Stanley, beegreen@fastmail.fm
NEW phone / fax 07 333 2249 Rotorua
2. **Mossop's honey**, Neil and Wendy Mossop,
info@mossopshoney.co.nz phone / fax 07 543 0971, Tauranga
3. **Honey centre**, Kerry and Wilma Fountain, honeycentre@xtra.co.nz
phone / fax 09 425 8003, Warkworth
4. **Rongoa honey**, Don Simm, donsim1@xtra.co.nz
phone / fax 06 868 3866, Gisborne

Current prices (1box =100pces / 1 pce = 2 wafers)
1 to 49 boxes, 100 to 4900 pces = 4.80 each +GST
50 + boxes, 5000 + pces = 4.70 each + GST

Use ApiLife and your bees will have a happy life

BK246

Meeting with Chilean beekeepers

We met with beekeepers and government officials during our visit to Santiago in November 2006. It was interesting to listen to their issues, which are similar to those that matter here in New Zealand. We compared notes and outlined the legislative background that is necessary to manage issues affecting the beekeeping industry.



Meeting in Santiago. Photo: Pam Edwards.

Residues and honey quality were important. Antibiotics and insecticides such as coumaphos were presenting problems. We outlined the control programmes used by the New Zealand Food Safety Authority and the development of the Bee Products Standards Council.

We noted that the Chileans were envious of our development of premium differentiated rather than commodity honeys and the potential for better returns.



Honey for sale at a local market (2000 pesos = \$NZ 5.85). Photo: Pam Edwards.

Diseases have become an increasing problem. Varroa arrived with queens from Argentina in 1992 and now American foulbrood has become established. The Chileans were considering six-monthly inspections of all hives to start managing these problems. We described New Zealand's Biosecurity Act 1993, which provides for the surveillance and control of diseases in New Zealand.



Beekeeping near Villarica. Photo: Pam Edwards.

Chilean beekeepers have visited New Zealand before and we can expect another visit when they come to Apimondia.

- Jim and Pam Edwards

Chief Executive Officer and Executive Secretary



Chilean Beekeeping Facts

5,000 commercial apiaries
420,000–450,000 colonies
Annual production: 7,000–11,000 tonnes of honey, 80–90% of which is exported
Domestic consumption: 100g/capita
Business value: \$US 22–43 million
Pollination value: \$US 225–450 million

Sacbrood infects all stages

Well recognised as a brood disease affecting larvae the virus disease Sacbrood affects larvae in a most visible way.

The skin of the larvae thickens and goes a little firmer. The interior of the body breaks down into an opaque granular substance and a clear straw coloured fluid.

If the infection takes place very late in the larval period the brood can pupate and carry through to the adult stage. But metabolic changes slow the activity of the virus and these stages do not show symptoms of the disease.

However, the virus continues to replicate in the adult and carries over until the next season. It is typically found in the brood food (hypopharyngeal) glands which ensures its passage through to the next generation.

[Source: Reprinted from The Australasian Beekeeper, September 2006, page 127.]

About the Apiary

As of mid-January the southern North Island has had about nine lovely summer days so far, but not consecutively. We have even had some \$100 days (a description given by one of our past branch presidents to a beautiful nectar-collecting day: high cloud cover, humid with no wind). The nectar doesn't dry out and the bees keep working all day. The rest of the time it's been either raining, misty, or cloudy and blowing.

As can be expected the hives are ticking over, full of brood but not gathering a lot of nectar. The bees did quite well on Kamahi but the cooler weather seems to have affected the Manuka flowering. I have noticed that not all the Manuka shrubs have flowered; some are still putting on growth. Within the city there has been an extended Pohutukawa flowering and swarms are still being reported.

Further upcountry, there are masses of clover flowers and just north of Wanganui there are Californian thistles everywhere. Pity this thistle isn't a prolific nectar producer. Over on the East Coast some areas are said to be producing well, while others are still waiting for things to happen.

Through January I have been 'taking and putting'. When entering an apiary I observe the bees flying from the entrances of the hives. I'm looking for weak hives. Another method to determine a hive's strength is to fog the hives and observe the number of bees that come out of the entrance. Investigate those where not many bees come out. These hives could be queenless, or have swarmed and are only just getting established again. Check the brood area for disease. If none, remove the honey supers (until you get down to a decent number of bees covering the frames) and give these to other hives that are white waxing in the top super. Generally I take the hives down to two full-depth supers and hope they store enough honey to winter over.

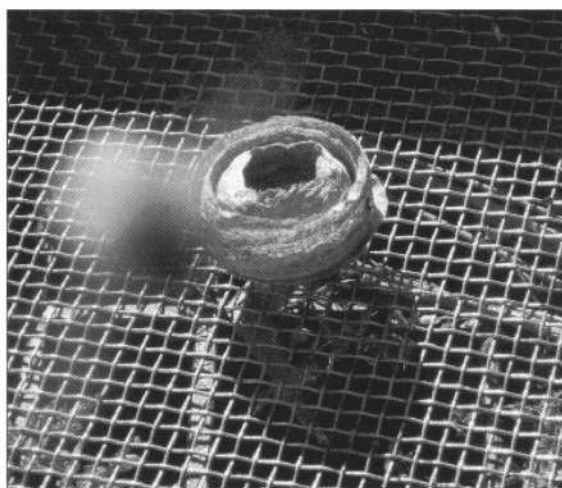
If the hive is queenless, I shake all the bees from the supers in front of a strong hive (along with a bit of wet nectar so the bees will be accepted into the hive) and redistribute the supers. The idea is to boost the bee population to bring in the last of the nectar.

I have also been adding supers of mostly foundation frames to the really strong hives; i.e., to the hives with a beard of bees up front. Generally I have two drawn frames interspaced in the centre of a super of foundation frames to bait the bees up into the super. On these strong hives, I remove one or two of the top honey supers, put the foundation super above the brood nest and replace the honey supers on top. The foundation frames, being fairly close to the brood area, will provide more room within the hive and give those bees clustering on the outside of the hive something to do. This method might

even stimulate the bees into collecting more nectar. If not, at least the frames will be drawn out and can be swapped into the brood nest, either in the autumn or next spring. The idea is to reduce the amount of residue in the brood frames from the mite treatments by replacing at least one-third of the brood frames each year.

Some beekeepers have started extracting. I'll get underway shortly when I've cleaned up a bit. I live in a humid area and our honey rarely gets below 18% moisture, so I wait until the honey is fully capped before removing it. Beekeepers in drier areas can remove their honey earlier but to be safe, wait until it's at least three-quarters capped. If you're not sure, give the frame one quick shake. Unripened honey will shake out so should not be removed. I am told that those beekeepers who remove their honey each month as it's capped, extract it and replace the boxes again often outperform those who leave the hive to fill all the supers. The wet combs and empty cells stimulate the bees into bringing in more honey.

Our bees aren't the only ones suffering from this season's inclement weather caused by an El Niño cycle. Queen wasps normally start their nests in October and are well established by now. But this year, queen wasps have probably been flying around for a few months looking for a nice dry spot. One queen I spotted had finally found one close to food sources, but it wasn't a good decision as far as I was concerned. She had started making her nest under a mesh floorboard of one of my hives. I removed it, of course.



**CANTERBURY QUEENS
SPRING & AUTUMN QUEENS
QUEEN CELLS & NUCS
CALL CHRIS 021 0279 8656
FAX 03 312 3426**

BK282

Mite levels

We in the southern North Island are now in the 'chronic stage' where mite growth in hives is more stable. MAF's *Control of Varroa* manual tells us to expect mite levels to be building, and generally I try to get the honey off and mite strips into the hives during the last weeks of February. Well, the mite levels should be building, but fogging once a month with food grade mineral oil (FGMO)—not to mention that the bees are swarming a lot—seems to be keeping numbers low. I have seen a few mites in the drone cells on the top bars when the supers are broken apart, but the natural drop is still very low (only two mites in two weeks, which is nothing). But it's easy to become complacent and I have only a quarter of my hives on mesh bottom boards, so there could be the odd hive in which the mites have been increasing. Be alert for telltale signs. If you don't use mesh floorboards there are other methods you can use (refer to the *Control of Varroa* manual). I don't use queen excluders and often the queen will come up and lay in a frame of drone comb in the honey super. It's easy to fork out the well-developed brood and count the mites. One hive had a count of four in 100 cells so I removed all the drone brood, which should put a dent in their reproduction.

One of the easiest warning signs to see is crawling bees. At first it will be just drones that are fully formed but can't fly. At this time of the year I see perhaps half a dozen in an apiary—again, not a big number, but an indication that mites are around. When you see 20 to 30 drones crawling away from a hive, it's generally an indication that a hive is getting near the threshold level and should be investigated further as it may need immediate treatment. Sometimes, however,

there are no external signs—all you notice is a reduction in bee numbers on your next visit.

Be very careful when handling strips. An article in one of the American magazines gave a time limit of only 10 minutes before the chemical molecules penetrate the thin latex gloves, so these gloves should only be used when treating an individual hive. Use proper protection when handling chemicals. You may not initially feel any effects from these chemicals, but in time they will build up in your body. We hope to use strips for some time to come provided our bees do not get mite resistance, so treat the chemicals within these strips with respect. When removing strips, it's said to be easier to use pliers as often the bees will have sealed the strips in.

So what do you do if the honey flow is still on but you have a hive that's reached the mite threshold? The instructions that come with the strips and the *Control of Varroa* manual state that they should not be used when honey is on the hives, which usually means that strips are not put into hives until after the flow has finished and the honey has been removed. However you must protect your bees. We learned at Jacqui Todd's seminar at the NBA Conference 2006 that Kashmir Bee Virus (KBV) is transmitted from adult bees to larvae once the threshold is reached, which is what kills your colony. It is far better to treat the hive even for a short time so that the larvae are protected from this virus. [Editor's note: see the article by Jacqui Todd et al. in the September 2006 issue, pp. 26–28.] Lift off the honey, put in the strips and put an escape board between the brood frames and the honey frames so that the frames are protected. (Seal all cracks to prevent other bees robbing out the honey.) You may then treat the hives for 5–10 days, which should take the mite levels back down

Tunnickliffe's

Tunnickliffe Timber Company Limited



Beehive Boxes

Full Depth
¾ Depth
½ Depth
Beehive Floors

Untreated

or Bee Friendly

Tanalised® Ecowood™

Contact **Derek or Daan**

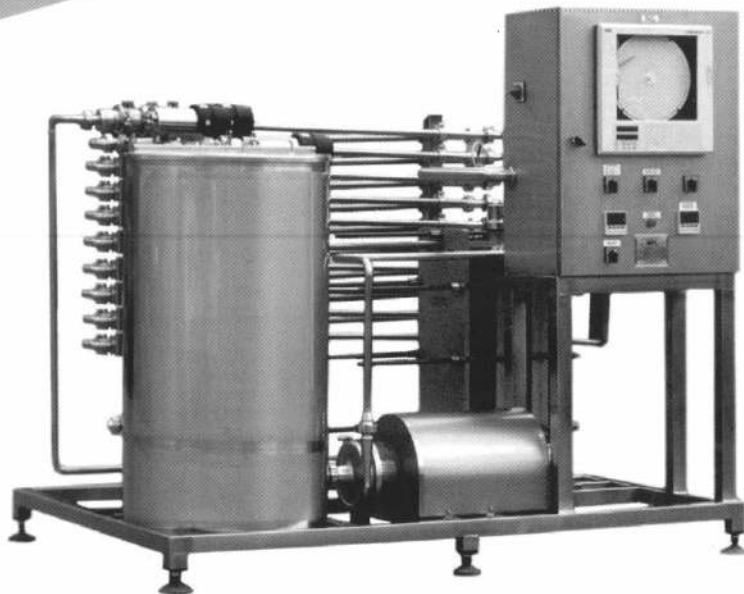
Visit our website: www.tunnicliffes.co.nz

Ph 0800 657 934 • Fax 07 304 8208 • info@tunnicliffes.co.nz
37 Kowhai Ave • PO Box 54 • Edgecumbe

BK174

PASTEURISERS

**WANT TO
ADD VALUE
TO YOUR
HONEY?**



We specialise in;

- In-line and Batch Pasteurisers
- Stainless steel tanks designed specifically for your needs
- Flexible impellor and stainless steel lobe pumps
- Tub fillers

THERMAFLO
LIQUID FOOD PROCESS SYSTEMS

PO Box 4309, Palmerston North, New Zealand

Phone: 64 6 353 3640, Facsimile: 64 6 353 3644

Email: process@thermaflo.co.nz Web: www.thermaflo.co.nz

below the threshold. Then remove the strips (seal them up again in their original packet and store under the roof above the top mat) and the escape board, which will need cleaning as the bees will have propolised the mechanism. Monitor the hive to see that the mite levels have reduced. Don't extract the honey the bees brought into the brood supers while the strips were in the hive—leave this as winter stores for the colony. Replace the strips again after the honey has been removed for the remainder of the eight-week treatment.

Making up nucs

Late summer is the best time to make nucs up for overwintering or replacement stock. February is an excellent time to do this. There are plenty of drones around, the weather is generally calmer and warmer so mating is more successful, and there's plenty of pollen and still a dribble of honey coming in. You can either buy in mated queens, purchase 10-day-old queen cells if you live close to a queen producer, or you can try to produce your own queen cells by dequeening a good hive.

Make up a nuc with two frames of emerging brood and two frames with pollen and honey and put a shake of extra bees in from another brood frame. The idea is to find the queen before attempting this so she's not included in the nuc. It's easier if you take the frames from hives in one apiary, and then move the nucs to another site at least a couple of kilometres away so the bees do not abscond back to the original hive. Cover the side of the queen cell with oven foil, leaving the bottom of the cell exposed so the queen can emerge, and gently press the queen cell in the surface of a brood frame. If you can't make up the nucs from a distant apiary, use a local hive but plug the entrance with grass and leave in a cool place for a day. Partially release the grass towards the evening of the next day so one or two bees can get out at a time. Hopefully not many bees will abscond: the queen will have emerged and will be mated within a week. Check after 10 days. Look for eggs. Once you see eggs you know she has mated successfully, so close up the nuc. Full disturbance of the hive could lead to the queen being balled, so just make a quick check.

Things to do this month

Extract honey, remove comb honey (as soon as it's capped to prevent travel stain), rear autumn queens, introduce purchased queens, and produce nuclei. Check for AFB before removing any honey. Keep an eye out for wasps. Their numbers are building and last autumn a lot of beekeepers lost hives to them. Nests are in ditches and banks, usually within 500 metres. Knock them off early with a little insecticide powder down the entrance before they have time to produce queens. Put on propolis mats—once the honey flow finishes, the bees fill all the cracks with propolis to seal the hive for winter.

- Frank Lindsay



Articles published in *The New Zealand BeeKeeper* are subject to scrutiny by the National Beekeepers' Association publications committee. The content of articles does not necessarily reflect the views of the association or the publisher.



Melbourne, Australia, 9–14 September, 2007

Information sheet no. 6

The Apimondia 2007 website has been updated with new information.

On the website you will find the entry form and the rules and regulations for the World Honey Show and the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS) conditions. These AQIS conditions are very easy to comply with and I would see no one having problems bringing their entries for the World Honey Show into Australia.

I hope beekeepers are preparing their entries for the World Honey Show. Note that there are also classes for honey packers and those who produce a nice bottle of mead. And what about the cooks amongst you? You will be able to enter the baking/confectionery class. I can personally recommend the macadamia and honey biscuits.

More details on the contests plus the entry form are also on the website. I am sure there are beekeepers who have entries that they could submit for the various contests.

A new section on the Honey Queen Competition has also been added. This was a new section which was held for the first time in Dublin in 2005. This will be continued at Melbourne in 2007. We welcome entries from the beekeeping associations for this competition.

oo

On a sad note, I would report the untimely passing of one of our Organising Committee members, Graeme Matthews. Graeme was looking after the organising of the Technical Tour day at Apimondia and the other tours associated with Apimondia. Graeme had put a lot of effort into bringing together the program for the Technical Tour and his input into the Committee will be missed.

- Trevor Weatherhead (Organising Committee)
queenbee@gil.com.au

[Editor's note: check out the 'Contests' section on the Apimondia website: <http://www.apimondia2007melbourne.com/english/contests.php> These contests include photography and honey competitions but entries must be in by 1 July 2007, enclosing the entry fee and using the proper entry forms.]

Thailand odyssey

Wanganui Beekeeping Club member Ned Bates is currently in Thailand for two months furthering his knowledge on Thai massage treatments. He visited a beekeeping enterprise at Chiang Mai and sent these photos.

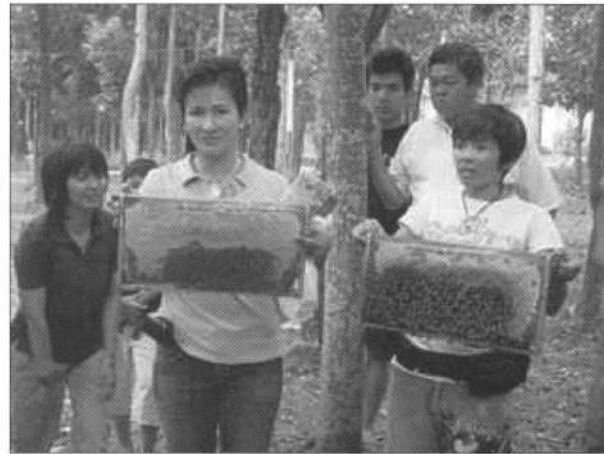
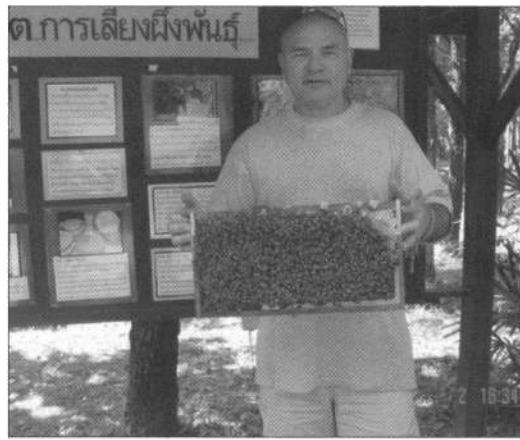
The Thai beekeepers were not using any protective clothing etc. At the time they were examining the hives and feeding sugar syrup. There was no apparent pollen or nectar flow available to the bees.

Ned said that all the bees were very calm on the frames. Basically European queens but some hives contained Thai bees. All were very calm and easy to handle.

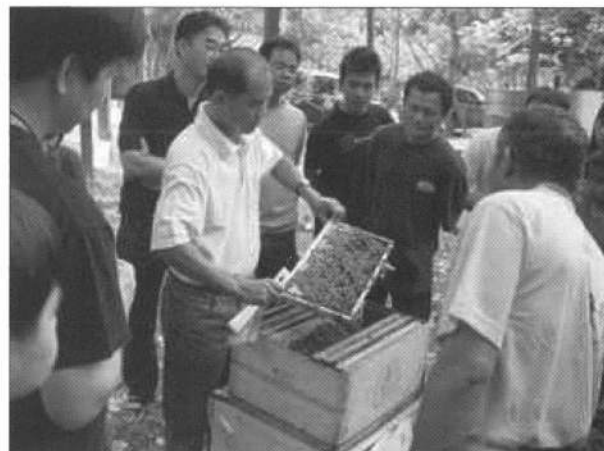
- Neil Farrer



The Bates family in Chiang Mai.



Chiang Mai beekeeping enterprise and beekopers.
Photos supplied by Ned Bates.



FGMO and using foggers

General points

1. Always keep the fogger at least a hand's width away from hive entrance—approximately 6 inches or more.
2. Always keep the fogger level: if the fogger is pointed downwards, liquid propane can escape downwards and the fogger turns into a flame thrower.
3. If the fogger tip is too close to the hive entrance—and the fumes ignite—you will give yourself and the bees one hell of a fright, to the extent that the explosion can pop the lid off a hive. It looks very impressive but upsets the bees.
4. Once lit, you should let the fogger warm up well (approximately 1–2 minutes). The fog should be white: if it's bluish then you are burning the oil. Either wait for a bit or pump more oil, away from the hive, until it turns white again. White fog is what should go into the hive to coat the bees and destroy varroa by suffocation, as the droplets are at 15 microns. This is big enough not to harm the bees, but it coats the spiracles of varroa and they die by suffocation.
5. The BernzOmatic® containers seem to get the best results. I usually buy a number at a time to get a better price from hardware/plumbing supplies firms.
6. Coleman green 400g containers will also fit some foggers, but do not seem to burn as hot. They work on the Burgess 1443 foggers, but on the Bonide foggers (Chinese model) there is a protruding arm which prevents the use of the Coleman bottle. Either cut the arm off, or only use BernzOmatic® cylinders.
7. From time to time the fogger tip and end piping will need cleaning. The easiest way is to unscrew the tip and poke some frame wire up, say 6 inches or as far as you can. Then immerse the bottom part of the oil pump intake in hot water and pump the water through the fogger to clear out any oil residue and carbon build-up. Once the water flows easily the fogger is ready to use again. Screw the tip back on and go to work.
8. Parts can be obtained, but often it is quicker and cheaper to get another fogger (like repairing an old car).
9. After prolonged use (several years), the plastic around the oil and propane lines before the burner gets charred and will burn out. I have found that repairs are not effective, so an alternative is to have a small heat shield in front of the plastic. I have been experimenting with this but have no recommendations at this stage.
10. Foggers work best in calm conditions. If it is windy the fogger will blow out which can be frustrating. Either get a large baked bean tin or similar, place it over the burner with space to allow air in, but not strong gusts—a few holes at the back and open at the front. OR make a carry

box to surround the fogger. I made one out of plywood two years ago and still use it. The base under the burner is mesh and all of the sides are plywood, with a removable tin cover over the top and front so that only the fogger tip protrudes. I can use this one in very windy conditions.

11. Make sure that the fogger does not bounce around on the back of the truck. They will bend and break, so a carry box is helpful.
12. It is preferable to unscrew the propane cylinder between apiaries. A little Vaseline on the thread helps to get a good seal and makes it easier to screw on and off. If left on the fogger, the propane can leak out, which could be a fire risk but mainly a nuisance as the cylinder runs out and you cannot finish the job. Also, the cylinder puts a lot of strain on the screw threads: the threads can break or wear with rough handling.
13. It is a good idea to carry a replacement propane bottle and 1 litre of FGMO in the truck so that you do not run out halfway through a day's work.
14. Foggers can be used at any time of the year, so they are a great help during December to March when there are honey flows.

- Neil Farrer



NIWA's climate outlook: January to March 2007

Atmospheric circulation patterns for January to March are likely to feature a stronger than normal westerly or southwesterly airflow over the country, with below average mean sea level air pressures over the south or to the southeast of New Zealand, and higher pressures to the north.

Air temperatures are expected to be average in the east of the North Island, and average or below average in all other regions. Rainfall is expected to be normal or below normal in all regions except the west of the South Island, where normal or above normal rainfall is expected. Soil moisture and riverflows are expected to be normal or below normal in many areas except the west and south of the South Island, where they are likely to be above normal or normal.

© Copyright 2007 by NIWA (National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research), abridged from 'Climate Update 91 – January 2007'. See <http://www.niwascience.co.nz/ncc/cu/2007-01/outlook> for full details.

POLYSTYRENE MATING NUCS

Similar to those previously made by John Dobson
Easy to use • Cost effective • Proven results
1-100 \$11.00 plus GST 100+ \$10.00 plus GST

Phone Steve, Apiflora NZ Ltd
07 543 0984 027 4923 937

BK91

Recent industry awards

Comvita Ltd wins Agritechology, Life Sciences and Biotechnology Exporter of the Year Award

Comvita Ltd, a natural health and wellness company with a strong heritage in innovating and manufacturing therapeutic apicultural products and which grew export sales by 25 per cent to \$18.7 million last year, is the Agritechology, Life Sciences and Biotechnology Exporter of the Year.

The Award was presented to the Bay of Plenty company at the 2006 New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) Export Awards in Auckland on Thursday 30 November. Seven sector Export Awards were presented, with the DHL Supreme Exporter of the Year won by Opus International Consultants.

The Export Awards' judges said they were particularly impressed by Comvita's smart, sophisticated structure, management and planning. They said the company had achieved 'good manufacturing practice' in the difficult nutraceuticals market.

Source: Excerpted from a press release by MarketNewZealand.com, 30 November 2006. For the full story, see <http://www.marketnewzealand.com/MNZ/News/Story/14403/16288.aspx> or go to the NBA website <http://www.nba.org.nz/>

Wellington Top Shop awards

At the recent Wellington Top Shop awards, Honeyco won the category Excellence in Retail Innovation, recognising their truly unique and innovative product range and retail concept

stores. Sandra Woodman, Honeyco's retail manager, noted that the award "was great for the UMF brand and all the beekeepers that supply Honeyco".

Honeyco is headed by 'NZ Honey Meister' Kris Jansen, who grew up in the honey industry. There were many beekeepers on both sides of her family, but it was her late father, Robin Jansen, a well-known beekeeper during the 1970s and 1980s, who involved Kris in all aspects of his beekeeping operation.

Robin Jansen was a pioneer in many aspects of the honey industry, and Kris learned the art of making beautiful honey from her father, who was the first to introduce fruit and honey spreads to the New Zealand market in the early 1980s. Kris now creates and processes all of Honeyco's honey-based products, and has a large following of customers who love her products. Honeyco is licensed to pack UMF, and recently became certified organic so she could sell South Island Certified Organic Clover honey. Recent additions to their wide range include popular honey-based blends, like Sticky Date, Green Ginger, and Honey & Fig, as well as less commercially available honeys like Ling Heather, Pennyroyal, and Thyme.

Kris is currently planning her next expansion phase, which will be to relocate the honey factory and her family from the Kapiti Coast to Christchurch. The decision to move is probably more a family decision, but Kris realises there will be advantages with being closer to the majority of her honey suppliers. The factory will continue to supply the Honey Hive in Taupo, as well as the Kapiti and Wellington Honeyco stores. Kris plans to establish a Christchurch-based specialist honey store once the factory is fully operational.

Information supplied by Sandra Woodman, retail manager, Honeyco



NZ BEEKEEPER ADVERTISING RATES

Black Ink

Full Page	265 x 180	\$NZ 400.00
Half Page	130 x 180	\$NZ 250.00
Quarter Page	130 x 85	\$NZ 150.00
Eighth Page	65 x 85	\$NZ 80.00
Sixteenth Page	32 x 85	\$NZ 50.00

Back Cover (not available for April or October issues)

Full Page	265 x 180	\$NZ 480.00
Half Page	130 x 180	\$NZ 300.00

All prices are GST Inclusive.

Copy is required by the 10th of the month for advertising in the following month's issue.

There is a 20% discount on the above prices if the advert is to be printed for eleven consecutive issues. Full payment required with confirmation.

Other adverts are charged out monthly.

DECA course in New Plymouth

As featured on this month's front cover, eleven candidates attended a DECA course on 27 January 2007 at the Devon Hotel, New Plymouth. Several were the helpers of registered hobby beekeepers doing their part to learn to identify AFB. All candidates achieved a pass for the course.

Additional DECA training courses are being planned for those who have not yet sat the test.

Swarming

Why do we not have the camera ready at the right time?

The bees looked unsettled, with too many hanging about the entrance. Then it started, with hordes storming out and taking off. Just as water clings to a vertical surface as it falls, the escapees flowed up the front of the bottom box, before taking to flight. Round and round they circled before moving off. They did not go far before gradually settling on the top of the main trunk of a nectarine tree.

Back home to get the swarm box and a light brush to sweep them in, with the tarpaulin under to collect the strays. Easy, just wait until evening when they had all gone in to join with the queen. That's when the theory went wrong, as they decided there was nothing to keep them, leaving only a dozen to show where they had been.



The only good news is that they had left plenty of brood bees and honey, with a nice young queen that now carries a white dot.

- Ron Morison



7 days ... to report AFB
7 days ... to burn AFB infected hives after being found
7 days ... one week!

BEEHIVE BOXES & BASES




ECOWOOD™

TAN E **MADE TO ORDER** TAN E
H3, H4, H5 OR Untreated

For a free quote or more information, phone:

Randall 06 327 4724
Adam 06 327 7079 ext. 719
Fax: 06 327 8501
Russell Street • PO Box 75
MARTON



BK285

Don't panic, they are useful!

It started with an agitated phone call from an elderly widow. 'I've got these black insects flying everywhere, they fly in and out of little miniature "volcanic cones" and they are everywhere!'

Sure enough, a scene examination revealed central holes with soil neatly mounded up like earthworm casts. There were about 50 to the square metre all through a very tidy well-tilled garden of fine friable soil, even extending out into the lawns, although the neighbours' unkempt gardens had none of these little black high-speed flyers about the size of a small house fly.

Barry Donovan kindly provided the answer that these are a native solitary bee that he calls *Leioproctus paahaumaa*, similar to but quite a distinct species from *Leioproctus fulvescens* found only in the drier areas of the South Island. Examples of this North Island variety, although relatively new, are found throughout our island and 25 years ago they were prevalent on the Opotiki golf course, where they were foraging on ragwort, with the females (doing all the work again) bringing back loads of pollen.

'Yes, but do they have a sting and are they aggressive?' The females do have a sting that is only used in defense, such as when brushed against, but they are not too painful, nor do they cause swelling. By about February the bees will be gone, not emerging in numbers until about November.

'Yes, but how can I get rid of them?' Again thanks to Barry, the only sure method is deep intensive cultivation, permanent flooding or covering the total area with concrete. Insecticides do not have the penetration, but allowing the area to become overgrown would help. Why attempt to eliminate these bees? They don't have nests to defend like our honey bees, with the risk only being a slightly sore foot if stood on. They are useful pollinators of both native flowers and our crops.

For those wanting more information covering the South Island bee, Michael Wraight refers you to *Common Insects In New Zealand* by David Miller, published in 1971 by A H Reed Ltd, ISBN 0 589 00444 1.

Observe the little darlings also in pumaceous banks, but don't knock them off.

- Ron Morison

Experienced Beekeeper Wanted

Experienced beekeeper sought for permanent position. Immediate start. Enjoy the benefits of the Bay of Islands. Contact Paul 021 439 641.

BK 313

Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand

Melictyus ramiflorus

Maori name: Mahoe

Common name: Whiteywood



Melictyus ramiflorus

The Mahoe tree grows to 10 metres high. Mahoe is very abundant in the bush and its bark is white, particularly the young branches. The trunk is often covered with a white fungoid growth.

The flowers are greenish-yellow, around three millimetres in diameter, and are found along the branches below the leaves. The tree flowers from October to February, with the male and female flowers on separate trees. Bees collect a creamy pollen and dark amber nectar from the flowers. The leaves are pale green, five to eight centimetres long, with toothed edges. The female tree produces violet-coloured berries that are the favourite food of the Kereru (pigeon).

The Mahoe is one of the softwoods the Maori used to make fire, the others being Pate, Kahikatea, and Makomako, or in

the South Island, Haumakora. (Hardwoods used to make fire were Kaikomako and Totara.)

If you have a few hours at your disposal, try rubbing a softwood with one of the hardwoods—it's easy to get smoke, but hard to get flame (the Maori used dried moss to help). When carrying fire from place to place the Maori used smouldering sticks of Mahoe, shaking or blowing on them when needed to get the fire going again.

It's been said that in early European times charcoal from Mahoe was used to make gunpowder.

The charcoal of Mahoe, Kahikatea, Kauri gum or Vegetable caterpillar (a fungi) was used with the juice of the Mahoe berry or Cabbage tree sap to make the pigment for tattooing. The hammer used was called a 'mahoe' and was usually made of Mahoe wood.

- Tony Lorimer



For the attention of beekeepers who pay their AFB NPMS levies on time, the Management Agency is now actively pursuing those that don't!

SEATON VALLEY QUEEN BEES

**Order Now
Don't be disappointed**

**S.V.Q.B.
Matt Davidson
SEATON VALLEY
NELSON**

**Mobile 0274 323 634
Fax: (03) 540-2514**

BK52

COMING TO APIMONDIA?

If you are bringing bee products to display or sell at Apimondia 2007, be warned that you CANNOT trans-ship them through New Zealand. Customs will confiscate these products!

**Available for delivery from
the top of the south to the top of the north**