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Permit

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2008 Conference & AGM

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Deadline for articles and advertising

October issue: 28 August
(goes to all registered beekeepers in New Zealand)

November issue: 25 September

NB: No magazine in January

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President's Report

Conference 2008

Another successful conference was held this year. Many thanks must go to the organising committee for making everything happen without too many glitches.

Hobby Forum

The hobby forum on the Sunday before the main conference proceedings was very well supported, with approximately 100 attending. This was well above expectations and very pleasing, with most of the attendees coming from the lower North Island. I believe one person even came from as far away as Waimate, South Canterbury.

AGM

At the AGM David Boldt, our legal representative who has been engaged to deal with the honey imports issue, gave the members his viewpoint on the progress of our case against MAF. Now that we are in the review process he expressed concerns that MAF was not acting impartially in setting up the "independent" review panel, and was trying to make sure that the Government's position on allowing honey imports into this country was upheld.

He also mentioned that in the past MAF had concluded that importing honey into this country from Australia was too high a risk. What has changed in the interim? With the discovery of Nosema ceranae and Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus (IAPV) in Australia in recent times, the risk factors have significantly increased. So based on their initial conclusions and with the new information at hand, why are they persisting? David was also concerned that they would not allow the inclusion of IAPV in the review process and felt that if MAF's persistent stonewalling continued, another judicial review may be required.

A politically neutral Public Service: another advertising gem for Tui Breweries.

The audience was spellbound by his presentation and I believe that a CD of his talk will be made available to those members who were not able to attend.

Membership Subscriptions

The setting of subscriptions is always a vexatious issue, and last year's decision to reduce the number of categories was not as successful as intended. The main loss of income was because a significant number of members chose not to pay at the correct rate based on their hive holdings. However, the amount of money donated to fund future research work was extremely pleasing.

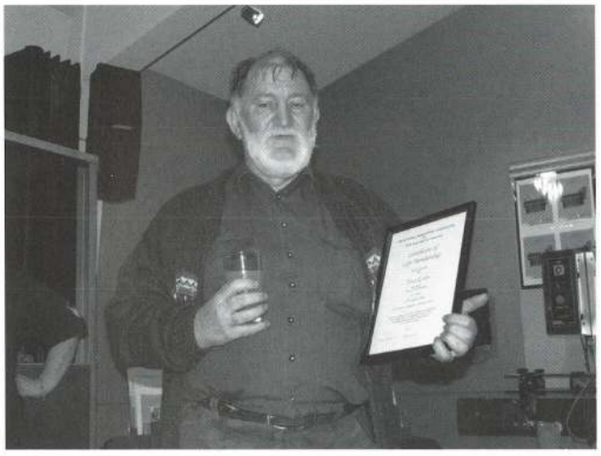
A respected member of the NBA stood up and forcefully stated that while membership of the Association is voluntary, once you have chosen to join then you are morally obliged to pay at the correct rate. If the Association is to be able to deliver the services that the members would like, then they need to pay for them.

AFB NPMS

Traditionally the AFB NPMS Report presented by AsureQuality has been an integral part of the AGM proceedings. This year it was decided to have a completely different session to try and get into the minds of beekeepers that the NBA and the AFB NPMS entities are somewhat separate. The creation of a website specific to the NPMS has also been done to further this aim. More on this in the next issue.

Life Memberships

At the AGM a nomination for National Life Membership was received from the Publications Committee. The nomination was for Trevor Cullen, a person whose generosity and selfless support for the beekeeping industry is legendary. He was not present at the AGM and was due to arrive later that evening. During the sponsors' evening he was presented with his Life Membership Certificate. He had intended to pop in to the evening for only a short time, but was subtly prevented from doing so and manoeuvred into the correct place for me to bestow the honour upon him. Trevor was somewhat stunned by the attention he received and afterwards sat down staring for a long time at the framed certificate, not really believing what he was seeing. Hopefully he has recovered from his shock.



Trevor Cullen, New Life Member of the National Beekeepers' Association.

Branch Life memberships were also bestowed upon Ian Browning and John Brookfield from the Auckland Branch. Congratulations to you all for your dedicated service to the Association over the years.

- Frans Laas

Letters to the editor

Conference guest speaker thanks the NBA

I would like to thank all those involved in your 2008 Conference at Masterton for making me so welcome. I thoroughly enjoyed the stay and look forward to fostering good beekeeping relations between our respective islands in the future.

Regards,
Des Cannon
New South Wales, Australia

More thanks and comments on Conference

I have had a most enjoyable time at the Masterton Conference. I met a lot of old friends and many I had only talked to on the phone earlier. A great team organised it.

The seminar presented a lot of good and often new information that will help us move forward as an industry.

I was particularly fascinated at the reaction to my motion suggesting a return to a type of Apiaries Act instead of being tacked on to the Animal Products Act, which really doesn't suit our industry.

Many appeared to appreciate a possible move in the direction of an Apiaries Act and indicated by voicing their approval. After David McMillan's view suggesting no change could occur, a vocal and possible minority influenced the Chairman to declare the motion lost, in spite of Russell Berry requesting a show of hands that was declined.

I am interested to see next year if the same minority will be as vocal after another year of red tape and additional costs having been added.

Crossing my fingers for a change in Government, as I know that some National MPs are considering ways to make things more user friendly for exporters, including having our own Act if necessary.

Yours truly,
Gary Jeffery

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Conference presentation: Australian honey imports

David Boldt gave an overview on the challenge against Australian honey imports to the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 15 July during the NBA Conference.

For 60 years Australian honey and bee products have not been allowed into New Zealand. By 1978, European foulbrood (EFB) had been found along the complete coast of Eastern Australia. In 2000, the government of Western Australia applied to import honey to New Zealand, claiming that the state was completely free of EFB.

MAF New Zealand concluded in 2001 that Australian honey was not safe enough to allow into New Zealand. The Australian government applied pressure. Dr Mark Goodwin's research also concluded that it was not safe for Australian honey to come into New Zealand. MAF New Zealand then decided to conduct its own review, and in 2004 concluded that Australian honey imports were safe. MAF New Zealand then allowed the honey to come into the county.

Russell Berry and the Waikato Branch then started the ball rolling to challenge the decision. Barrister David Boldt was employed to work on the NBA's behalf. He found that the application had not been passed to ERMA for approval and MAF New Zealand was not showing any interest in doing so. MAF then approached the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) to try to prove that *Paenibacillus alvei (P. alvei)* was already in New Zealand. ERMA determined that *P. alvei* was in fact not present in New Zealand.

The NBA went to the Court of Appeal and won its case, so honey imports from Australia were not allowed to commence. MAF then decided that incidental imported new organisms should now be approved by them. MAF decided that if the importation of Australian honey into New Zealand was not allowed, they would have to put a halt on all imports until this was sorted out. MAF then introduced new legislation into Parliament to enable this to happen. Despite strong opposition from most primary sectors to the Primary Production Select Committee, the Bill was passed into legislation.

David spoke on the Select Committee's decision and the review process that was written into the new Bill. The terms of reference have been written but are very biased towards the MAF, so the fight continues.

At the conclusion of David Boldt's presentation, Russell Berry moved and Neil Farrer seconded that this meeting supports the ongoing fight to stop Honey Imports. The motion was carried.

David Boldt. Photo: Jim Edwards.

[Editor's note: this report was developed from notes taken by NBA Executive Secretary Pam Edwards of David Boldt's presentation]

NIWA's climate outlook: July to September 2008

In the New Zealand region, mean sea level pressures are expected to be higher than normal to the south of the South Island, and lower than normal to the northwest of New Zealand, with more winds from the northeast than normal over the country.

Air temperatures are likely to be above average in the North Island, and average or above over the South Island. Rainfall is expected to be near normal in all regions. Normal or below normal soil moisture levels are likely on the South Island east coast, and normal moisture levels elsewhere. Normal or below normal stream flows are likely in the north and east of both islands. In the west and south of both islands, normal stream flows are likely.

Hobby forum popular

The hobby forum on the day preceding the conference (Sunday, 13 July 2008) was a great success. We expected about 40 registrations but were blown away with 90-odd registrations. We also had commercial beekeepers popping in at times to observe what was going on, so the room was full.

We covered the basics in 20-minute sessions: too short to get deeply into things, but ideal to give an understanding. Biology, local body regulations, siting of hives, purchasing hives, requeening, honey processing, exotic diseases, pest management strategy and food hygiene regulations were all covered.

Alternatives were suggested for varroa treatments purely for hobbyist beekeepers who do not sell their honey. Powdered sugar (icing sugar) treatment was suggested as a cheap alternative for those with a few hives in the garden. This consists of sprinkling a quarter-cup of icing sugar between the frames every three days for 21 days. Icing sugar causes the varroa to lose their grip and fall through the mesh bottom board safely away from the bees. This treatment can give as good a result as strip treatments but takes a little more effort.

All beekeepers should be experimenting with alternative methods as we are fast approaching the time when varroa become resistant to our strip treatments. What is really necessary is monitoring of hives. Even with strips, efficacy of treatments can vary so we should be monitoring the success of treatments a week or so later.

One of the highlights for me was Carol Downer's address. Carol is the President of the Auckland Beekeepers' Club and told us of their activities. The Auckland club has grown considerably in the last couple of years. They use every opportunity to get the message out through local newspapers, TV appearances etc., promoting beekeeping as a great hobby and pastime.

I will be sending out a DVD on most of the day's proceedings, including Carol's presentation to all clubs to inspire them and to give them ideas they can use in their club's activities.

Quite a lot of work before conference was put into producing a draft booklet, "Starting with Bees". This 1970s Department of Agriculture booklet has been updated and was passed out for comments. *Please get suggestions to me quickly so we can have this as a download on the NBA website in the near future.*

I would like to extend my appreciation to all the speakers who gave their time and travelled long distances to make this a successful event.

For those that missed out, the Bay of Plenty Branch is considering holding another forum at next year's conference for northern hobbyists.

- Frank Lindsay
Southern North Island Branch
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AsureQuality

Report to the annual NBA conference, Masterton, 12 July 2008

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BEEKEEPER, APIARY AND HIVE NUMBERS

There were 2589 beekeepers, 20439 apiaries and 343155 hives on the 20th of June 2008 compared to 2602 beekeepers owning 313399 hives on 19228 apiaries this time last year. The downward trend of beekeeper numbers that we have experienced over the last eight years since the arrival of varroa has virtually stopped with a net reduction from last year of only 13 beekeepers. Both apiary and hive numbers continue to trend upwards and have contributed to a record honey season. Most of this increase is still happening in the North Island (15% hive increase compared to 2% in the South Island).

Table 1: New Zealand beekeeper, apiary and hive statistics as at 20 May 2008

Location	Beekeeper	Apiaries	Hives
Blenheim	261	1913	27638
Canterbury	499	3866	54655
Hamilton	181	2254	43722
Otago/Southland	334	3397	51248
Palmerston North	573	3432	57395
Tauranga	259	3077	65588
Whangarei	487	2549	43877
New Zealand	2594	20488	344123

EXPORT OF LIVE BEES

Shipments of live bee packages to Canada increased by 49 percent over last year, as a result of increased demand from Canadian beekeepers and the introduction of a non-stop air service from Auckland to Vancouver. Over 22500 1kg equivalent packages of bees were exported to Canada. In comparison, 15120 packages and 4350 individual queen bees were exported in 2007, 8988 packages and 10,172 queen bees in 2006, and 15711 packages in 2005. Prices paid to beekeepers for bulk bees increased by $2 per kg to $22. Some queen bees were sent to the UK and 648 packages of bees and 122 queen bees went to Germany, which is a new market and the first time packages have been sent to the EU.

HONEY CROP

The New Zealand honey crop for 2007/08 is estimated at 12375 tonnes, up 28 percent on the 2006/07 crop of 9666 tonnes, and 17.3 percent higher than the six-year average. This record crop for New Zealand beats the previous best crop of 12252 tonnes recorded in 2003 (Table 2).

Above-average crops were reported from Southland, Nelson-Marlborough, the West Coast and South Canterbury. South Island hives continue to be sold to the North Island to make up for winter losses or for increase in hive numbers for manuka production. Good yields were recorded in parts of the Waikato and King Country, the Bay of Plenty, Hawkes Bay, Taranaki and the Manawatu. Northland was the only region to report a smaller crop than last season due to prolonged periods of heavy rain and tropical storms. The national average was 36 kilograms per hive compared to 30.7 kilograms last season.

The La Niña weather pattern had developed more fully by November and into December, which resulted in warm settled conditions with below-average rainfall in many areas. Golden Bay, Nelson, Marlborough, Taranaki and inland Canterbury had record sunshine hours for November. The exception was Northland, which experienced heavy rains and floods.

Early flowering manuka, kanuka, rewarewa, kamahi and tawari yielded good crops of honey, as did thyme in Central Otago. Some beekeepers on the West Coast reported yields of over 100 kg per hive of kamahi and other bush sources. Unfortunately, below-average rainfall and above-average sunshine hours were experienced over much of the country from late December to January and this affected pasture nectar flows, especially clover. Despite this, a record honey crop was still recorded.

Table 2: New Zealand honey crop

	2003 (tonnes)	2004 (tonnes)	2005 (tonnes)	2006 (tonnes)	2007 (tonnes)	2008 (tonnes)	6-year average (tonnes)
Northland, Auckland, Hauraki Plains	1 066	1 047	1 221	1337	1252	1186	1185
Waikato, King Country, Taupo	2 210	1 164	1 095	1124	1270	1436	1383
Bay of Plenty, Coromandel, Poverty Bay	2 064	2 052	1 498	1937	1897	2492	1990
Hawkes Bay, Taranaki, Manawatu, Wairarapa	1 607	1 330	1 440	1935	1912	2755	1830
Marlborough, Nelson, Westland	1 350	550	800	690	675	966	839
Canterbury	2 400	1 500	1 500	2100	1620	1980	1850
Otago, Southland	1 555	1 245	2 135	1300	1040	1560	1473
New Zealand	12 252	8 888	9 689	10 423	9666	12375	10549
Yield/hive (kg)	40.8	30.2	33.1	34.7	30.7	36.0	

AFB DISEASE REPORT

Between June 1 2007 and 31 May 2008, 1117 cases of American foulbrood (AFB) were found by beekeepers and/or AsureQuality staff in 557 apiaries. This is an average disease rate of 0.32% of hives. Of these AFB reports, 140 cases were found and reported in hives on 49 apiaries owned by beekeepers who are not DECA holders. This represents 1.3% of the total number of hives held by non-DECA holders. This is a significant increase from last year due to the fact that over 50% of the AFB cases reported by non-DECA holders were as a result of one outbreak.

New Zealand beekeeper, apiary and hive statistics by apiary district as at 16-May-2008

Apiary Register Location	Category 0 - 5 Hives		
	Beekeepers	Apiaries	Hives
Blenheim	152	181	325
Canterbury	316	357	686
Hamilton	105	120	224
Otago/Southland	166	187	428
Palmerston North	363	403	807
Tauranga	95	111	222
Whangarei	286	323	576
New Zealand	1483	1682	3268

Apiary Register Location	Category 6 - 10 Hives		
	Beekeepers	Apiaries	Hives
Blenheim	29	50	231
Canterbury	52	97	395
Hamilton	18	24	138
Otago/Southland	45	67	355
Palmerston North	87	144	688
Tauranga	36	53	290
Whangarei	80	136	620
New Zealand	347	571	2717

Apiary Register Location	Category 11 - 50 Hives		
	Beekeepers	Apiaries	Hives
Blenheim	37	86	813
Canterbury	49	155	1088
Hamilton	13	32	425
Otago/Southland	50	139	1206
Palmerston North	58	185	1499
Tauranga	34	70	893
Whangarei	57	166	1264
New Zealand	298	833	7188

Apiary Register Location	Category 51 - 250 Hives		
	Beekeepers	Apiaries	Hives
Blenheim	16	208	2372
Canterbury	25	313	3424
Hamilton	14	113	1561
Otago/Southland	26	272	3311
Palmerston North	29	303	3470
Tauranga	36	251	4232
Whangarei	38	286	4810
New Zealand	184	1746	23180

Apiary Register Location	Category 251 - 500 Hives		
	Beekeepers	Apiaries	Hives
Blenheim	9	222	3267
Canterbury	21	641	7715
Hamilton	11	244	4710
Otago/Southland	14	367	4535
Palmerston North	13	228	4583
Tauranga	18	254	6154
Whangarei	5	73	1616
New Zealand	91	2029	32580

Apiary Register Location	Category 501 - 1000 Hives		
	Beekeepers	Apiaries	Hives
Blenheim	8	357	5443
Canterbury	25	1063	17091
Hamilton	10	481	9242
Otago/Southland	20	917	13494
Palmerston North	10	394	7813
Tauranga	20	610	12937
Whangarei	9	290	5574
New Zealand	102	4112	71594

Apiary Register Location	Category 1000+ Hives		
	Beekeepers	Apiaries	Hives
Blenheim	10	809	15187
Canterbury	11	1240	24256
Hamilton	10	1240	27422
Otago/Southland	13	1448	27919
Palmerston North	13	1775	38535
Tauranga	20	1728	40860
Whangarei	12	1275	29417
New Zealand	89	9515	203596

Apiary Register Location	Total		
	Beekeepers	Apiaries	Hives
Blenheim	261	1913	27638
Canterbury	499	3866	54655
Hamilton	181	2254	43722
Otago/Southland	334	3397	51248
Palmerston North	573	3432	57395
Tauranga	259	3077	65588
Whangarei	487	2549	43877
New Zealand	2594	20488	344123

- Murray Reid
National Manager Apiculture
AsureQuality Limited
Hamilton

Bee safety a priority

Agcarm members are going into bat for bees to ensure they can continue to do their important work as pollinators, said Graeme Peters, chief executive of Agcarm.

Agcarm, the industry association for crop protection, animal health, and farm retailing companies, is sending 10,000 brochures to growers, farmers, and sprayers to inform them of ways to reduce risks to bee pollinators.

"Bees are extremely important to New Zealand agriculture, horticulture, the home garden and our native fauna — and not only because they produce honey, beeswax, pollen, and royal jelly," Mr Peters said.

"They are extremely good pollinators of crops, so they contribute substantially to New Zealand's multi-billion dollar agricultural economy.

"Pesticides are also important to New Zealand agriculture but unfortunately many are harmful to bees. So it's vital that pesticides are used at the right times, in the right quantity, and in the right conditions."

The Agcarm brochure, developed with the National Beekeepers' Association and Federated Farmers' Bee Industry Group, explains the key risks and offers 10 ways to keep bees safe. More than 3,000 brochures were sent yesterday to growers through the Foundation for Arable Research mail-out. Agcarm is also distributing the brochures through its 30 member companies.

"Many hundreds more will be distributed to coming months through GROWSAFE spraying courses, which teach principles of safe, responsible and effective agrichemical application with minimal adverse impact on human, environmental and animal health," Mr Peters said.

"Agcarm fully supports Federated Farmers' plan to demonstrate the importance of bees to the New Zealand economy and environment, and highlight the risks bees face from inadequate spraying and irrigation practice."

Agcarm is the non-profit trade association of companies which manufacture, distribute and sell products that keep animals healthy and crops thriving. Member companies are committed to ensuring that these products are used safely, effectively and sustainably.

Source: Agcarm media release, 20 June 2008. For more information, contact Graeme Peters on 04 499 4225 or 027 6677 7400.

These photos appear in the Agcarm brochure. Thanks to Dr Jan Quay for providing them. They were taken by her son, Brendan White, who is the copyright holder.

Two beekeepers seek employment

UK beekeeper William (Bill) Summers is seeking employment for the season through a commercial beekeeper. Bill can be contacted on williamfsummers@btinternet.com.

Hermenegildo (Hermi) Cruz, a member of the Beekeepers' Network Philippines Foundation, Inc., also wishes to work as a beekeeper in New Zealand this season. Hermi's email address is brightlightsource@yahoo.com.

About the Apiary

Most of this past month has been taken up putting the final touches to conference preparations. I am writing this a few days beforehand while getting material ready for the hobby forum. We have had a great response and by the time you read this it will be all over.

Winter inspections

It's when we're in the middle of winter that we find out how good our hives are.

I have visited a few of my apiaries to check on them, hefting the back of the hives to see that they are still full of honey. (Position yourself adjacent to the hive and put your hand in the handhold of the top super and gently lift up. The hive shouldn't move off the stand.)

In one apiary four three-high hives I use to make up nucleus hives had fallen over in the wind. There were a few bees dead on the ground where the hives had split apart, but other than that they appeared undamaged. I won't find out if the queens are OK until the weather warms in the spring. Hopefully none will have been squashed and they will come through fine. After righting the hives I tied them together to make a solid block so they won't fall over again. There are other methods—notice the large stones on hives as you go around the country? It's a cheap way to keep roofs on through the winter.

In another apiary two hives were dead, completely empty of bees and honey which had been robbed out—a result of varroa? I thought I had treated them well before I wintered them down but apparently I hadn't.

Had these hives gone queenless, they would still be full of bees as well as a few drones. A lot of drones in a hive during winter is a sure sign they have a very old queen or are already queenless. If they had starved out, there would be a cluster of bees on a few brood nest frames with their heads into cells.

At another apiary everything was lovely. Despite the cold, there were a few bees on the landing board sunning themselves, or were they just keeping an eye out for the occasional wasp?

Nosema disease

At this time of the year you begin to notice hives with nosema, marked by lots of dead bees in front of the hive. Luckily we don't have *Nosema cerana*; this one is generally associated with CCD and kills hives quickly. *Nosema apis* tends to kill off the bees slowly and is easier to control. There's very little you can do for these hives at the moment. It used to be that we could feed Fumidil B to suppress nosema but this is no longer registered, so in the spring I'll change the brood frames, put in a new queen and give them a good feed to get hives building up again.

Nosema is generally associated with stress. I have also noticed that hives that don't get a lot of sunlight in winter tend to come down with nosema (you can only tell by looking at crushed bees' gut under a microscope). In the past I have marked these hives and replaced the queen. If you breed your own queens, breed from those that have a low nosema spore loading, and eventually you will hardly see this problem.

Replacement frames

All beekeepers are generally purchasing replacement frames about now. A lot of commercial beekeepers are purchasing plastic frames as there's very little work to do before they go in the hive. One can purchase these either pre-waxed or unwaxed, in which case you will have to wax the surface of the frames yourself. The easiest and most inexpensive way is to apply a good coating of heated cappings wax with a paint roller. Others have more sophisticated gear and can work a lot faster.

Some beekeepers are rewiring old frames or making up new wooden frames, and wiring them ready to put in the foundation when the weather warms. Others purchase foundation frames completely wired and waxed, ready for the hive.

I tend to be hard on old frames—any damage and it's consigned to the fire. Frames with old dark wax are given a whack with the edge of the hive tool to see if the end bars crack or break. It's no use cleaning up old frames only to have them crack when you apply pressure to the end bars when you are rewiring them.

If they pass this test I cut wire, push out the old wax and give the frame a quick scrape with a hive tool to remove any wax left behind. When I have enough frames, I drop them into hot water to clean up and free any wax still in the top bar groove. Overseas they tend to use caustic soda to reduce the wax down but this requires protective clothing, an apron, gloves and facemask. By using hot water, you only need rubber gloves. While the frames are still hot, use an old dental probe to clean out the wire holes and when the frames are dry they're ready to rewire.

I have noticed that when plastic frames are put on to the hives straight from the manufacturer they tend to be rejected by the bees. Perhaps it's the smell of the new plastic, but if left to air for a month or two the bees accept them more readily.

Tips for new beekeepers

There are a lot of new hobbyists out there itching to start beekeeping. There's also a lot of old gear still out there from beekeepers who gave up when varroa arrived. For those starting beekeeping using old gear that has been in storage for a while, treat this gear as if it's diseased if you do not know the background to the material or the beekeeper. Ask a local commercial beekeeper to dip the boxes in paraffin wax to sterilise them before you use them.

Even though the frames may look OK (they would have been cleaned out by wax moth), it pays to buy new frames and start again unless, of course, they haven't been used before. There's nothing more distressing as setting up a new hive in old equipment, only for it to come down with disease. It doesn't happen very often but it's possible, so take precautions. Any hives set up like this should be kept separate for 18 months, with no interchanges of supers or frames with other hives until the hives have been proved to be free of diseases.

Things to do this month

Prepare gear for the coming season. Check hives after storms. Check hives—they could be collapsing from varroa. Plan your spring beekeeping. Order anything you need now.

- Frank Lindsay

Latest issue of AFB NPMS email newsletter available

Issue 5 of the AFB NPMS Bi-Monthly Newsletter, 'Beating AFB Together', was produced in July 2008 and is available to all levy payers.

For reasons of economy this newsletter can only be accessed by way of email as the cost of mailing is prohibitive. If you are not on email, please contact your local NBA area representative or hobby group and request a copy.

Those who are on email and would like to be on the distribution list, please contact the AFB NPMS Manager, Rex Baynes, at rbaynes@ihug.co.nz or info@afb.org.nz.

Roy Paterson Trophy: a judge's perspective

Alan Churcher won the Roy Paterson Trophy for 2008 for his invention of a combination floor, pollen trap and split board.

The pollen trap was essentially a standard under-hive type trap, but it did feature excellent drone escapes and the drawer slid under the hive, so reducing the need for fancy carpentry skills to build drawer-like containers to hold the trapped pollen.

The part that caught the judges' attention was the combination brood boxes with large cutouts on several sides, which had been covered with pieces of wire queen excluder. Bees could enter and leave through the excluders if the entrance was blocked or congestion was occurring through the pollen trap. The judges thought these extra entry and exit points could present a problem when shifting hives.

A division board also had a cutout similarly covered with a queen excluder that resembled a Stuckey Board, first demonstrated by Mike Stuckey of Waitemata Honey Company some years ago at conference. These Stuckey boards are used to separate two brood boxes, which can have a queen each side of the board, while worker bees are still able to move between the boxes and so even up the bee population. The queen excluders in the boards could be blocked with a piece of tin sheet or plastic to make one or both of the units totally queenless prior to introducing a queen or queen cell(s).

- Murray Reid

Waikato Branch Field Day "Spring Fling" Saturday 30.08.2008

Matangi Hall
Tauwhare Road, Matangi
(off SH1 –Airport intersection turn down Tauwhare Road 5km down Tauwhare Road over the railway line on RHS)

Contact: Tony or Jane Lorimer 07 856 9625
Fiona or Jeremy O'Brien 07 872 2400

9.30am for a 10am start

For those NBA members with membership cards – free
For Non NBA members $5.00

Lunch on sale

NBA Conference Masterton 2008 Photos

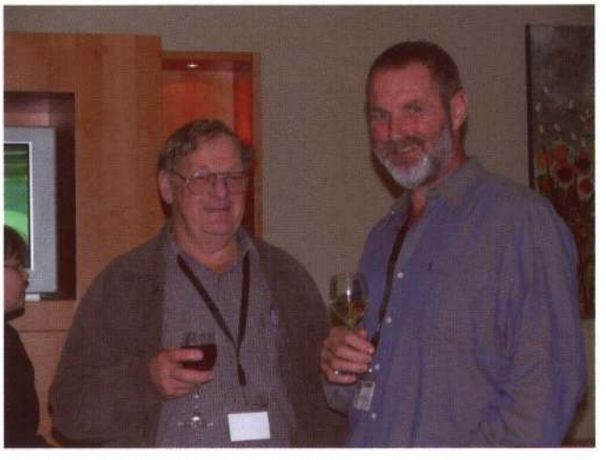
Lottie Rayner presenting Howard Norton, Wanganui hobby beekeeper, with one of the raffle prizes.

Carol Downer and Lynn Green looking at observation hive.

Judi Ferris presenting the Mayor of Masterton, Mr Gary Daniell, with the customary pollen and nectar bearing tree.

NBA Stand: Fiona O'Brien, Pam Edwards & Lewis Olsen.

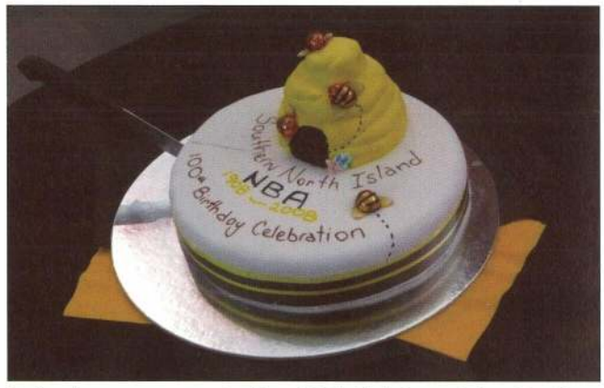
Judi Ferris with daughters Rachel and Lottie. Rachel spent all of Wednesday setting up the Masterton Airport hangar for the conference dinner.



John Bassett and Gerrit Kruithoed.

100 Years of Beekeeping, Southern North Island Style

Eight vintage planes were moved out of the hangar to accommodate the tables in the centre. It was a night for anybody interested in aircraft or history. All of the aircraft still are airworthy except the Curtiss Helldiver, which was made by Weta Workshop for the film 'King Kong'. This is an actual replica and all it needs is a real engine and it would be able to fly. All of the other aircraft will be flying during the "Wings over Wairarapa" air pageant in February 2009.



Cake to commemorate the 100th birthday of the Southern North Island Branch of the NBA.

Hangar, Masterton Airport, set up for the conference dinner.

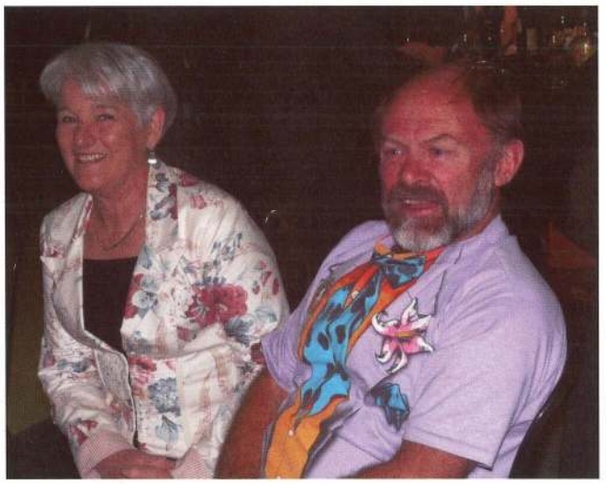
Maureen Maxwell, winner of the flight in a Tiger Moth over Masterton.

Sir Tom Williams addressing the members' conference dinner.

Maureen Maxwell won the flight in a Tiger Moth over Masterton. Sir Tom Williams donated a 20-minute Tiger Moth flight over Masterton as a raffle prize. He drew out the name of the lucky winner at the dinner.

The weather was perfect and Maureen, a former pilot, was on a high after the flight. She had looped-the-loop and done barrel rolls and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Talking to Maureen after the draw, she felt she had the winning ticket when she sat down. Also, Sir Tom's wife and Maureen are cousins. Work that out!



Sue Walker of Honeyland New Zealand, and Des Cannon, guest speaker and editor of The Australasian Beekeeper.

Waikato Branch members Bryan Clements and Pauline Bassett.

Rose Agar from Tecpac, NBA conference sponsors for 22 years.

Stuart Ecroyd has been attending the NBA conferences as a sponsor for 25 years: the first was in Nelson in 1983.

One of the sponsor's trucks.

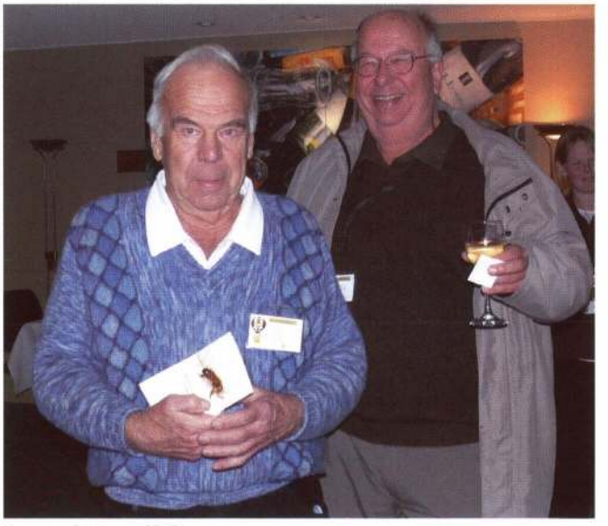
Professor Peter Molan, University of Waikato, Honey Research Unit.

Kerry Paul, Managing Director, Manuka Health New Zealand.

Participants enjoying lunch at the Tui Brewery factory.

Joe Peeters with the other Tui women.

Joeline Dennes from FMG.



Ian and Russell Berry.

Photo credits: Maureen Maxwell (Rex Baynes), dinner photos (Frank Lindsay), Stuart Ecroyd (Paul Beauchamp-Legg), Joe Peeters (Kevin Gibbs). Other photos: Fiona and Jeremy O'Brien.

Brewery tour group.

Acronyms and jargon heard at conference

WOMBAT - Waste of money, brains and time.
PPB - Piss poor beekeeping.
Non-NBA members - Disadvantaged people flying under the radar.
Mono-Ab - Large belly developed in the kitchen.

From the colonies

Northland Branch

The branch has organised a DECA course for Friday, 22 August. Contact Jo, 09 432 7149, for details.

- Jo Scott

Bay of Plenty Branch

The delegates selected, the voting done, we are off to conference with our merino/possum packed and looking forward to a good conference in Masterton.

It's cold but sunny with enough rain to keep the farmers happyish. A bit more would be all right, but meanwhile it looks good for the kiwifruit growers as far as winter chilling is concerned. At this point in time the bees are wintered down, miticide done and dusted, and generally the hives are looking OK for this time of year. The real proof, of course, will be in August when it warms up a bit and we get going for the spring; meanwhile we enjoy the rest and relaxation this time of year brings.

The branch last met on 29 July and our next meeting is planned for Tuesday 26 August. Look forward to seeing you there.

- Barbara Pimm

Poverty Bay Branch

I hope things are well and spring is coming soon as it has been a long cold winter. This morning is the heaviest frost I have seen in many years: must be global cooling, ha ha. Shame about this global warming myth being manmade and being pushed onto us by the Government.

I had read in a previous issue about the benefits of invert sugar, and yes, I have seen the benefits. It is really good for bees as they store it, build comb, etc, and general bee health is good in what were hungry hives in the autumn.

As I write the NBA conference is two weeks away. As usual there will be lots of discussion on various topics, all of which are important.

Bye, I am off to go surfing down Mahia for the day.

- Don Simm

Hawke's Bay Branch

While the weather has been quite cold and wet here, I don't think we have had it as bad as the rest of the country.

Having taken part in the organics trial I personally found two very interesting results:

1. Bayvarol still appears to kill all the mites in my hives.
2. Queen excluders should really be called honey excluders, as even the control hives in the yard treated with Bayvarol produced 15 to 20 kilograms less than two adjacent apiaries, and that was with old queens and more dud hives.

Excluders can make hive management easier, but at least in some years under certain conditions they can cost you a lot of honey. It would be interesting to do some comparative tests between hives with excluders on top of one and two boxes and also with no excluders. This would have to be done either in a lot of yards or over several years to give any meaningful results, but I am sure we would all learn something interesting.

- John Berry

Nelson Branch

The Nelson Branch held its AGM recently with the existing president and secretary/treasurer elected unopposed.

We are experiencing very wintery conditions here with snow on the hills, and presumably all managed hives wintered down. Gorse is out in flower and tree lucerne is under way. Hopefully, varroa is not breeding much, though beekeepers are preparing for substantial reinvasion this spring as the feral population collapses. Those of us attending conference at Masterton will inevitably seek information from our North Island fellow beekeepers.

- Glenn Kelly

Current honey research at the University of Waikato

I have been asked to write for *The New Zealand BeeKeeper* an outline of the presentation that I gave at this year's national conference of the NBA. This presentation was on research on honey currently being done at the University of Waikato.

To put what has become a very large part of our research into context, I briefly outlined the history of the chance finding by a PhD student at the University of Dresden in 2005 that few samples of manuka honey examined in a survey of foodstuffs contained an exceptionally high level of MGO, which led to the proposal in 2006 that MGO, is the antibacterial component of manuka honey. It was the bringing of this to the attention of the world by Manuka Health in July 2007 that led to six of our research group having to work very hard for the past year on gaining an understanding of how MGO forms in manuka honey, seeking scientific evidence to demonstrate that this worryingly toxic substance can be safely consumed when it is in manuka honey, and that when in contact with wound tissues at the high levels at which it occurs in undiluted honey, it does not interfere with the healing process.

We have recently managed to devise a way to grow cells in the presence of undiluted honey without the high content of sugar in the honey killing them. We are now starting experiments to find if manuka honey will protect the cells from being harmed by MGO, which occurs in manuka honey at levels several times higher than the level of MGO alone that is known to kill cells. We have also been carrying out research to seek evidence that manuka honey will protect the body from the sort of damage that occurs in diabetes (e.g., arterial disease, blindness, kidney failure) that is mainly due to MGO formed in the body when blood sugar levels are high. There is sufficient MGO in a teaspoon of UMF 25 honey to provide enough MGO to raise the blood level to three times that in the blood of a diabetic. (But it is not known if it does - research is needed to find the answer.) We have been carrying out the research on harmful effects of MGO with great urgency to find supportive evidence in case there should be a health scare about the high level of MGO in manuka honey.

We are also very engaged in gaining a good understanding of how much MGO contributes to the antibacterial activity of manuka honey. The researchers at the University of Dresden concluded that "the pronounced antibacterial activity of New Zealand Manuka honey directly originates from MGO". I showed in my presentation published data which demonstrated that manuka honey inhibits bacteria at much lower concentration than the researchers at the University of Dresden found the level of MGO in it was capable of doing, and that the graph showing correlation between UMF and MGO indicated that there was another substance involved in the antibacterial activity besides MGO. I also showed some results we have recently obtained from an experiment carried out which demonstrate that the curve in the correlation graph is not due to a curved relationship between MGO and UMF. The results show that the curve is in fact due to there being less of this second substance in low-UMF honeys, which will be blends of manuka with other nectars. I reported that when MGO is added to other types of honey the UMF activity is the same as when it is added to water, unlike when it is added to manuka honey where the resultant activity is much higher. It is the variation in the amount of this second substance that would explain why the correlation between MGO and UMF is poor. Data was presented that showed that for a single level of MGO the UMF activity of honeys could vary by 6 UMF units.

A research project under way by one of the postgraduate students in the Chemistry Department, working in conjunction with Hills Laboratories, is expected to provide a quick means of determining the proportion of different types of nectar in honeys and identify the floral sources of honeys. This is an updated version of the "fingerprinting" work done in the past, but using state-of-the-art technology to get the volatile components from the honey for gas chromatography, instead of the cumbersome and slow technique of ether extraction previously used.

We have also been investigating how MGO forms in honey and why it forms only in manuka honey. Good progress is being made in this work. From our work we now have devised a way of detecting if MGO has been fraudulently added to honey.

It was briefly mentioned that much work has been going on investigating the antioxidant activity of honey, but because of commercial confidentiality details could not be given of a development in this area, which will be announced soon.

The progress of the research on the anti-inflammatory activity of honey was reported. Watson & Son funded a three-year PhD scholarship for this work, and already after two years of work the way in which the anti-inflammatory activity of honey works has been identified and an assay devised that uses cells in culture rather than animals. Many samples of honey have been assayed and very large differences in the strength of the anti-inflammatory activity have been found. It is anticipated that honeys will be rated for their strength of anti-inflammatory activity. Something I have predicted is that the anti-inflammatory activity of honey will become more important for selling honey than the antibacterial activity.

I also reported that I am involved in a clinical trial under way at Waikato Hospital to find if the anti-inflammatory activity of honey will help decrease the inflammation that results from radiotherapy of breast cancer. Another clinical trial I am involved in, that is awaiting the outcome of a research grant application, is with the University of South Australia on using honey to prevent sore and cracked nipples in nursing mothers, and thus prolong the period for which breast-feeding of babies is possible.

Research work being carried out supported by an MSc scholarship funded by the NBA, investigating the effectiveness of honey against various types of viruses, is producing good results. Activity against influenza virus, herpes virus and adenovirus has been demonstrated.

Work with an ear, nose and throat surgeon in Australia on the use of honey in nasal sinuses cleared by surgery was mentioned. Work is now being done developing suitable ways of getting honey to stay in place for a while in the sinuses. Work on developing forms of honey for other specialised therapeutic applications is ongoing.

A three-year postdoctoral researcher position has been funded by Watson & Son, to start immediately, for a project to find the mechanism by which honey debrides wound (cleans off pus and dead tissue), inhibits protein-digesting enzymes which otherwise prevent wounds from healing by destroying tissues, and stimulates the growth of cells which repair injured tissues.

A research scientist from a government agricultural research institute is visiting for one year and is working on identifying an antibacterial component of bee venom and on isolating and identifying the component of honey that stimulates immunity to infection.

A PhD project almost completed has demonstrated the sensitivity to honey of species of bacteria that cause gastroenteritis. Campylobacter, which are the most common cause of bacterial diarrhoea in New Zealand, have been found to be sensitive to honey even when honey is diluted down to 2% or less.

A research project, funded by a grant from Fonterra, has recently been completed in which rats were fed long-term on a diet with a sugar content like a typical New Zealand diet. One third of the rats had the sugar in the form of sucrose, one third had it in the form of honey, and one third had no sugar in their diet, as a control. (The honey was selected to have a high fructose content and a high antioxidant activity.) The rats fed sucrose gained significantly more body weight, as fat, than the rats fed honey. The weight of the rats fed honey was like that of rats fed no sugar at all. As the rats became old they were found to have significantly less anxiety and a significantly better memory if fed honey instead of being fed sucrose.

The fifteen members of the research group (besides myself) were each introduced (by means of photographs) as their part of the research activity was covered.

- Professor Peter Molan
Honey Research Unit

Responding to a disease report

A question raised on several occasions during a recent visit to a number of regions is how we respond to a disease report, in particular how we deal with it.

In the case where one or two AFB infected hives are reported, an assessment is made as to the seriousness of the report received and we respond accordingly. A possible response could be as little as a quick chat with the beekeeper through to a full DECA review and audit inspection.

In general terms the most serious AFB situation is, as we know, a "rob out" report. This severely weakened hive can no longer defend itself and has had its stores robbed by neighbouring bees. This situation more than likely results in AFB being spread to neighbouring hives via the robbing process. In this case, letters would be sent to all beekeepers who own hives, generally within a three to five kilometre radius (depending on terrain) of the infection, advising them of the situation and suggesting they inspect their hives or have them inspected by an approved person. Further, if the beekeeper is DECA accredited, a review would be undertaken and depending on AsureQuality's knowledge of the beekeeper concerned, a follow-up inspection might take place.

If the report is considered serious—in other words, if the number of infected hives is high and the area and/or the beekeeper was previously clean or some other risk factor came into play—then the process as already outlined would be implemented. In this case and the "rob out" situation, attempts would be made to ascertain the source of the infection via a database search, beekeeper interview or indeed local intelligence.

A further situation, which is probably the most frequent, is the case where very low infection levels are reported in an area (say, one to two hives) and the beekeeper or the area has a history of disease. Often the beekeeper will say where he thinks the disease is coming from, or that it is self infected and it is established, in which case nothing more can be done. Some beekeepers have a style of operation that makes it very hard for them to eliminate AFB; for example, operators who have high pollination hive commitment or who have high staff turnover.

- Rex Baynes
AFB NPMS Manager

AFB Recognition and Competency test (DECA)

The Southern North Island Branch will be running a DECA course in the Wairarapa (Masterton) on Saturday, 30 August 2008. Cost: $50
Contact Mary-Ann Lindsay: 04 478 3367

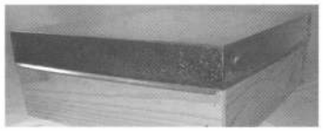
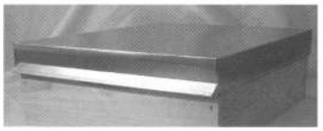
Ceracell Beekeeping Supplies Ltd

24 Andromeda Cres, East Tamaki 2013, Auckland. PO Box 58-114, Greenmount, Manukau 2141, Auckland. PH 09 274 7236
FAX 09 274 0368. Email: info@ceracell.co.nz
Prices Exclude GST. Stock based on availability. Prices subject to change without prior notice. Current as of 11th July 2008.

Folded Galvanised Steel Lids

Check this out!

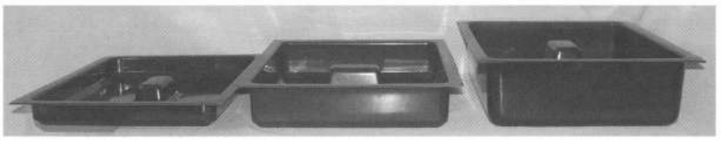
Good Quality New Zealand Made Folded Lids—Available in 0.4 thickness, 0.55 thickness, and 0.75 thickness. 0.9 thickness available on request. Also come in various styles either Standard [closed corners], Double Bend End [spring action/telescopic], or Open Corner Tin Lids.


Folded Galvanised Steel Lid Prices -

0.4 thickness $13.00ea + GST	0.55 thickness $13.50ea + GST	0.75 thickness $14.50ea + GST	0.9 thickness POA
100 + $12.00ea + GST	100 + $12.50ea + GST	100 + $13.50ea + GST	Nuc Lids $11.50ea + GST

Sugar Syrup Feeders



Top Feeders/Miller Type—Made from Heavy Duty ABS plastic. A strong dependable feeder. Only ONE plastic piece required. Available in three sizes—Deep 13Lt, Med—9.5lt, Shallow—5lt. We can also supply the wooden rims if required POA.

Heavy Duty ABS Plastic Top Feeder Prices—

Shallow 5lt Top Feeder	$9.65ea + GST
For 100 +	$7.80ea + GST
Med 9.5lt Top Feeder	$9.65ea + GST
For 100 +	$7.80ea + GST
Deep 13lt Top Feeder	$9.95ea + GST
For 50+	$8.95ea + GST
For 100+	$8.35ea + GST

VARROA TREATMENTS

Apistan or **Apiguard**. The A+ of Treatment Options! **Apistan®** is used world wide. In NZ it is still one of the most effective treatment options in the fight against Varroa. For those looking for a more natural treatment option we also sell **Apiguard®** which is a thymol based treatment. Due to the fact that these two products are not of similar properties this provides a completely alternating treatment plan. Don 't be locked into using the same or similar products—why put your hives at risk, you have options. Having choice is everything! Want more information on safety, effectiveness, and efficiency then go to **www.vita-europe.com**

Internal / Division Feeders—One, Two, or Three Frame Feeders Available. They take up the space of 1-3 frames in a Full Depth Super.

Apistan Prices -
(2 strips required per hive per treatment. Sold in pouches of 10)
10+ $3.75 per strip + GST
100+ $3.35ea per strip + GST
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Apiguard Prices-
(50g trays sold in carton of 10. Two trays required per hive per treatment)
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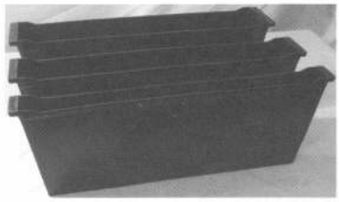
Apiguard 3kg Tubs -
1 x 3kg Tub $145.00ea + GST
10 x 3kg Tubs $136.00ea + GST
50 x 3kg Tubs $126.00ea + GST



Internal/Division Feeder Prices -

1 frame 2.5lt	$8.70ea + GST
50+	$7.90ea + GST
100+	$7.50ea + GST
250+	$7.20ea + GST
2 frame 4.5lt	$9.70ea + GST
50+	$8.60ea + GST
100+	$7.90ea + GST
250+	$7.20ea + GST
3 frame 7.5lt	$9.70ea + GST
50+	$8.60ea + GST
100+	$7.90ea + GST
250+	$7.50ea + GST

Review of your Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement (DECA)

If you are a DECA holder you will be aware that you have entered into a formal agreement with the Management Agency. The agreement you have signed sets out a "code of beekeeping practice" to ensure the incidence of AFB in your hives will reduce to zero over a period of time and remain at that level once achieved.

The DECA requirement is specifically mentioned in the Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy) Order 1998.

Each DECA agreement is tailored to suit each beekeeper's particular circumstances, with regular reviews being central to the success of the DECA tool.

Of concern to the Management Agency is that a large number of DECAs have now been in existence for upwards of 10 years, and in some cases longer, with a very large number requiring a full and comprehensive review of the terms of each agreement.

On the recommendation of our service provider AsureQuality (Byron Taylor), consideration is being given to undertaking, over a period of two to three years, a review of DECA holders and the terms of their agreement with the Management Agency.

- Rex Baynes
AFB NPMS Manager

Improvements to the UMF assay

With the increasing price of manuka honey there are increasing calls for a more precise measurement of UMF activity. Two years ago I gave to the AMHA executive a written report on some work they had commissioned me to do investigating variation in the results in the assay. In this report I made some recommendations for improvements, but these were never adopted. Instead their approach has been to seek an alternative method, firstly assay by MIC, and then assay by MGO content, despite my explaining why these methods would not be more accurate. So the honey industry is now two years further down the track and nothing has changed, other than some moves to give small improvements in accuracy that could be made by the testing laboratory without the approval of AMHA to change the testing methodology. (These were to introduce regular checking of the incubator temperature and the pH of the phenol standard solutions.)

There are also increasing calls for something to be done about the problem of partial inhibition that is seen with some samples of manuka honey. This problem is increasing as more samples of manuka honey are tested early in the season, before the UMF activity has had a chance to increase, and as manuka sites are more heavily stocked with hives so that the honey produced has a higher proportion of non-manuka nectar in it and thus has a lower UMF activity. Again, in my report two years ago I recommended how this problem could be dealt with, but this has not been conveyed to beekeepers.

Consequently I am repeating these recommendations in this article so that beekeepers are made aware of them. (The numbering here has been changed from that in my report.) After each recommendation I have added a brief explanation.

Recommendation 1: *Where honeys are found to give partial inhibition, re-assay them blended 50/50 with a UMF 20 honey that has its activity known with certainty. That will give clear activity that is the average of UMF 20 and the true UMF activity of the honey that showed partial activity, thus true activity can be determined. (For example, if blending a "partial" honey with a UMF 20 honey gave a result of UMF 15, then the true UMF value of the "partial" honey would be 10, since the average of 10 & 20 is 15.)*

Our research had shown that partial inhibition results from the honey having a different type of antibacterial activity, such that at a quite wide range of lower concentrations it only slows the growth of bacteria, not stops it. (This would not be effective in clearing an infection.) At a higher level of activity it is possible to measure the area on the plate where the growth is completely stopped, and thus get a rating of the true therapeutically useful level of antibacterial activity. Knowing the level of honeys giving partial inhibition would allow blending with honey of higher activity to obtain a product with certifiable UMF activity.

The safest way of obtaining a blended honey with the correct activity would be to mix together in measured proportions truly representative samples of a partially inhibiting honey and a honey with a high UMF activity, and get the activity of the blend measured to find what the activity will be when the bulk quantities of these honeys are blended.

Recommendation 2: *Use manuka honeys of known activity as the day-to-day standards for the agar diffusion assay, instead of using phenol. Thus any variation in temperature, bacterial culture sensitivity, or culture inoculum will affect equally the samples being assayed and the standards, and thus will not influence the results. (The activity of the standard honeys will have to be carefully and repeatedly checked against phenol to ensure that the activity level they are said to have is correct.)*

It is standard practice in any type of assay to use a standard for comparison. This ensures that if the assay is giving high results one day or low results another day, the results for the standard will go up or down also. But when results for the samples being assayed are calculated relative to the standard they will be correct, because the results for the sample and the standard go up or down together. The problem with the UMF assay is that the phenol used as a standard is not the same substance as that which gives manuka honey its antibacterial activity. Thus the bacteria may increase in sensitivity to phenol on one day and decrease on another day, but their sensitivity to the antibacterial components of manuka honey may not change. Or vice versa. But if, for example, two different honeys (standard and sample) were both UMF 15, then no matter how much the bacteria and conditions varied and the size of the inhibition zone varied as a consequence of this, the zones of inhibition of these two honeys would always be the same size as each other.

There would be extra costs involved because of the assays needing to be done to establish and confirm the UMF rating of the standard honeys to be used. But these would be offset by fewer assays having to be done overall, since there would be no more instances of assays having to be thrown out and repeated when the results for the control honey of known activity are found to vary too much. This would also increase the throughput of assays at busy times.

Recommendation 3: *Until such time as Recommendation 2 is adopted, have the phenol standards on the agar plates positioned in a row with a space between that row and the honey samples.*

Our research found that the nature of the honey sample next to the phenol standard affected the size of the zone of inhibition from the phenol standards. Adopting this recommendation would decrease the number of samples that can be assayed on a plate, and thus would increase costs and decrease the number of samples that can be assayed at busy times. But if Recommendation 2 were adopted, this recommended procedure would need to be used only to find the UMF rating of the honeys to be used as standards on the plate so the activity of these standards could be known more accurately.

Recommendation 4: *For honeys that are above UMF 20, require that for a certified result they be re-tested with a 12.5% honey solution instead of the standard 25% honey solution so that the diffusion of the activity into the agar is of an extent that allows the activity to be measured accurately. (This will require numerous samples in the range UMF 17 to UMF 20 to be measured as 25% and 12.5% solutions to get the correct multiplication factor, as was done when testing as 50% solutions for honey below UMF 8 was first started.)*

The method currently used, which has honey as a 25% when put into the wells on the assay plate, was optimised for honey activities in the range UMF 10 to UMF 20, since activity above UMF 20 never used to be found. The reason for the lower accuracy at high UMF levels is that it is the area of the clear zone of inhibition on the plates that is proportional to the activity but it is the diameter of the zones that is measured. The area of a circle is proportional to the square of the diameter. So at around UMF 10 a difference of 1 mm in the diameter corresponds to a difference in activity of 0.85 UMF units, but at UMF 30 a difference of 1 mm in the diameter corresponds to a difference in activity of 3.6 UMF units.

The extra cost for finding the correct multiplication factor is a one-off cost of doing the number of repeated assays necessary to get a reliable figure. If the improvement to the method in Recommendation 2 is adopted then there should not be many repeated assays necessary.

With recommendations 2 and 4 adopted, any remaining inaccuracy would be due to errors in measuring precisely the diameter of the clear zones of inhibition, the edge of these zones not being a "black and white" difference but actually a narrow "grey" area of partial inhibition. Some preliminary work we have done has confirmed that the area of the zone can be measured by digital imaging, which should give much more accurate results and will avoid subjective judgement by technicians of where the edge of the zone actually is when measuring the diameter. This, however, would need further work that would have to be funded.

I can only advise on the assay of UMF activity. It is up to members of AMHA, through their executive, to implement improvements.

- Professor Peter Molan
University of Waikato, Honey Research Unit

Comment: what beekeepers should be doing to get accurate activity results

In talking to Professor Molan while arranging for him to attend this year's conference, we discussed the varying results in manuka activity testing. Most beekeepers were blaming the lab for the differences in results to double blind tests; however, beekeepers should also be doing their bit to improve the accuracy of results so packers can be confident that the results they get back from core sample testing of a drum are accurate.

Most beekeepers would not be aware that the activity stratifies out in the drum vertically and horizontally. This means that a sample taken from one side of the drum could be different from the other.

Also, how the drums are stored compared to the samples beekeepers take could also mean varying results are received. That is, if the samples are stored inside and the drums outside, then the activity of the sample could, over 12 months, be slightly higher than the drum contents. Also, the amount of air in the sample could affect results, so these should be the same.

How do beekeepers producing manuka honey achieve an even result? By stirring honey for 24 hours at brood temperature with the right type of stirrer—one that folds the honey down on the outside and up in the middle. This type of stirrer folds the honey in on itself without adding air to the honey.

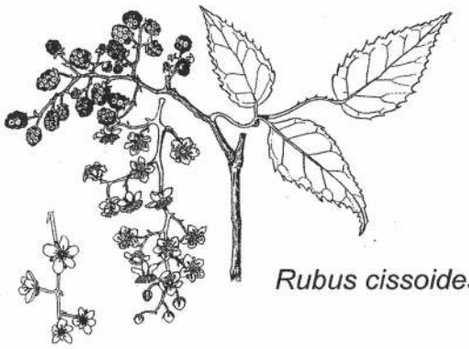
If you are having your honey contract extracted, the cost is often higher for manuka. Along with this extra cost comes an obligation/responsibility by/for contract extractors to give due care to what is essentially a beekeeper's hard-earned income. If your contract extractor is simply running your honey into a drum, then you will not realise the true value of your crop.

Stirring also will bring the UMF activity up slightly, so the honey should be rested for two days before samples are sent off for testing.

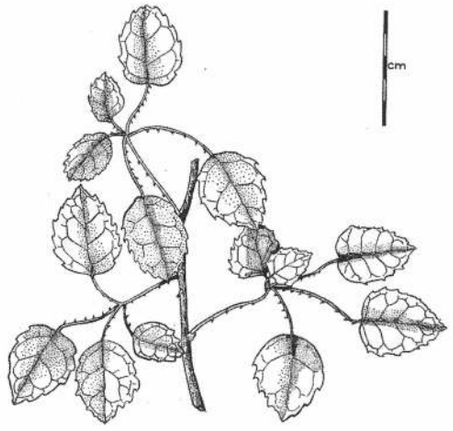
- Frank Lindsay
Lindsay's Apiaries

Gordana Aleksic, Laboratory Manager, NZ Labs.

Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand



Rubus cissoides



Rubus australis

Rubus cissoides

Maori name: Tataramoa

Common name: Bush lawyer

The Tataramoa is a lofty climbing vine up to 15 metres in length.

The flowers are either white, pinkish or yellowish in colour, flowering in profuse slender panicles and very fragrant during August to October. They yield a water-white nectar and pale-greenish pollen. The fruit is red or orange.

Another species, *Rubus australis*, flowers later. This species has round leaves compared to *cissoids*, which has oblong leaves. Both species have very curved and sharp hooks round the leaf margin, as do the stems along their length.

The Maori used the leaves of the Tataramoa (along with leaves from other plants) as a vapour bath for rheumatism. For boils, abscesses and septic infections the root of Tataramoa was used, boiled with tea and used on the infection. The bark was boiled and the liquid taken as a laxative.

- Tony Lorimer

NBA Membership Subscription Rates for 2008

Hives	2008 rate	Subscription (including GST)
Hobbyist	$120 plus GST	$135.00
11-100	$150 plus GST	$168.75
101-250	$300 plus GST	$337.50
251-400	$480 plus GST	$540.00
401-800	$880 plus GST	$990.00
801-1200	$1300 plus GST	$1462.50
1201-1500	$1600 plus GST	$1800.00
1501-3000	$3100 plus GST	$4387.50
3001 +	$4000 plus GST	$4500.00
Bee clubs: Level 1	$120 plus GST	$135.00
Bee clubs: Level 2	$250 plus GST	$281.25
Corporate	$250 plus GST	$281.25

NB 1. Those members who pay in the 801 or more number of hives category will receive additional copies, if required, of *The New Zealand Beekeeper* journal, so that copies are available for staff.

NB 2. Bee Clubs Level 1 will receive one copy of *The New Zealand Beekeeper*.
Bee Clubs Level 2 will receive four copies of *The New Zealand Beekeeper*.

NB 3. Subscription rate for *The New Zealand Beekeeper* within NZ is $112.50 inc GST.
Overseas subscription rate for *The New Zealand Beekeeper* is NZ$100.00 plus postage and packaging.
Currently: to Australia NZ$125.00; USA, UK, and Asia NZ$135.00.
Please note **all** subscription rates to *The New Zealand Beekeeper* are subject to review if postal rates increase.

Club Contacts & Beekeeping Specialty Groups

WHANGAREI BEE CLUB
Meets first Saturday each month (except January)
Time: 10.00 am, wet or fine (we are keen)

Contact: Mike Maunder
Phone: 09 437 5847
Arthur Tucker
Phone: 09 438 4283
Kevin & Melissa Wallace
Phone: 09 423 8642 (Wellsford)

AUCKLAND BEEKEEPERS CLUB INC
Meets first Saturday monthly at Unitec, Pt Chevalier, Auckland.

Contact: Carol Downer, President
Phone: 09 376 6376
Email: fairy-angel-peewee@xtra.co.nz

FRANKLIN BEEKEEPERS CLUB
Meets second Sunday of each month at 10.00 am for a cuppa and discussion. 10.30 am open hives.

Contact: Peter Biland
Phone: 09 294 8365

WAIKATO DOMESTIC BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Meets every third Thursday at Hillcrest High School, Community Room, Masters Ave., Hamilton, 7.30 pm.

Contact: the Secretary
Phone: 07 853 6304
Email: davew@gallagher.co.nz

HAWKE'S BAY BRANCH

Meets at 7.30 pm, Arataki, Havelock North for workshops or meetings as advised to the members
Contact: Mary-Anne Thomason, Branch Secretary
Phone: 06 855 8038
E-mail: kintail_honey@xtra.co.nz

TARANAKI BEEKEEPING CLUB

Contact: Stephen Black
685 Uruti Road RD 48, Urenui 4378
Phone: 06 752 6860
Email: beeclub@beesrus.co.nz

WANGANUI BEEKEEPERS CLUB
Meets on the second Wednesday of the month.

Contact: Neil Farrer
Phone 06 343 6248

MANAWATU BEEKEEPERS CLUB
Meets every fourth Thursday in the month at Newbury Hall, SH3, Palmerston North

Contact: James Gellen
55 Bruce Road
Levin 5510
Phone 06 368 8553
E-mail: james.gellen@paradise.net.nz

WAIRARAPA HOBBYIST BEEKEEPERS CLUB
Meets second Sunday of month (except January) at Norfolk Road, Masterton at 1.30 pm.

Convenors: Diana and Neale Braithwaite
Phone: 06 308 9101
Fax: 06 308 9171
Email: nandd12@xtra.co.nz

WELLINGTON BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
Meets every second Monday of the month (except January) in Johnsonville. All welcome.

Contact: John Burnet
21 Kiwi Cres, Tawa, Wellington 5028
Phone: 04 232 7863
Email: johnburnet@xtra.co.nz

MARLBOROUGH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
Contacts: Darren Clifford, President
829 Taylor Pass Rd, RD4, Blenheim 7274
Phone: 03 577 6955

Mark Biddington, Secretary
8 Belvue Crescent
Witherlea, Blenheim 7201
Phone: 03 578 9746

NORTH CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS CLUB
Meets the second Monday of April, June, August and October

Contact: Mrs Hobson
Phone: 03 312 7587
Email: n.hobson@slingshot.co.nz

CHRISTCHURCH HOBBYIST CLUB
Meets on the first Saturday of each month, August to May, except in January for which it is the second Saturday. The site is at 681 Cashmere Road, commencing at 1.30 pm

Contact: Jeff Robinson
64 Cobra Street, Halswell, Christchurch 8025
Phone: 03 322 5392
Email: alpinebee@hotmail.com

SOUTH CANTERBURY REGION

Contact: Peter Lyttle
Phone: 03 693 9189

DUNEDIN BEEKEEPERS CLUB
Meets on the first Saturday in the month September–April, (except January) at 1.30 pm. The venue varies so check phone or email contact below.

Contact Club Secretary: Margaret Storer
Phone: 03 415 7256
Email: flour-mill@xtra.co.nz

ACTIVE MANUKA HONEY ASSOCIATION (INC)

P O Box 19348, Hamilton
Website: www.umf.org.nz

Contact: Moira Haddrell, Chairperson
P O Box 862, Cambridge 3450
Phone: 64 7 827 3286
Email: info@haddrells.co.nz

or

John Rawcliffe, General Manager
St Heliers, Auckland
Phone: 09 575 3127
Cellphone: 027 441 8508
Email: rawcliffe@actrix.co.nz

NZ COMB PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

Contact: John Wright
Phone: 09 236 0628

NZ HONEY BEE POLLINATION ASSOCIATION

Contact: Russell Berry
Phone: 07 366 6111

NZ HONEY PACKERS AND EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION INC
Contact: Allen McCaw
Phone: 03 417 7198
Contact: Mary-Anne Thomason
Phone: 06 855 8038

NZ QUEEN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

Contact: Russell Berry
Phone: 07 366 6111

www.nba.org.nz

Is your group or Branch missing from here? Or have your details changed?
Please contact the National Beekeepers' Association—inside front cover.
Please also send any changes or additions to: editor@nba.org.nz

NBA Conference Masterton 2008

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