April 2010, Volume 18 No. 3

The NEW ZEALAND BeeKeeper

Make this man redundant

- US beekeeping duo to speak at NBA conference
- Banding together to safeguard manuka honey
- New Hobbyists' Corner

Ceracell Beekeeping Supplies Ltd

24 Andromeda Cres, East Tamaki, Auckland, New Zealand PH 64 9 274 7236 Fax 64 9 274 0368
email: info@ceracell.co.nz

**Capping Spinner suit Hobby Beekeepers or small Commercial outfits.
Manufactured from Stainless Steel including baskets. POA**

Senior suits more than 100 Hives **Junior suits up to 100 Hives**

Honey Pumps in Stock at all times.
New 3" Stainless Steel Pump available early November

Special

Emlock Type Hive Strappers

Without Galv Strapper
1-50 = $7.95 ea +gst
51-100 = $7.10 ea +gst
Over 100 = $6.10 ea +gst

With Strapping
1-50 = $9.30 ea +gst
51-100 = $8.45 ea +gst
Over 100 = $7.45 ea +gst

Special prices valid from 31/03/2010 to 31/05/2010 or until stock lasts

- Available Now -
12 Frame Reversible Extractor with Auto Control $12'700.00 + gst

The New Zealand BeeKeeper is the official journal of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Inc.)

ISSN 0110-6325

Printed by South City Print, PO Box 2494, Dunedin 9013, New Zealand

JOINT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:
Gemma Collier and Daniel Paul
PO Box 10792
Wellington 6143
Ph: 04 471 6254
Fax: 04 499 0876
Email: ceo@nba.org.nz

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:
Jessica Williams
PO Box 10792
Wellington 6143
Ph: 04 471 6254
Fax: 04 499 0876
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

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE:
Frank Lindsay
26 Cunliffe Street
Johnsonville
Wellington 6037
Ph/Fax: 04 478 3367
Email: lindsays.apiaries@clear.net.nz

NBA MEMBERSHIP & JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTIONS:
Jessica Williams
PO Box 10792
Wellington 6143
Ph: 04 471 6254
Fax: 04 499 0876
Email: secretary@nba.org.nz

JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTIONS:
— 11 Issues —
NZ $120.00 GST inc
Australia NZ$130.00
US, UK & Asia NZ$140.00 inc p&p
Subject to review if postage charges increase

DEADLINES FOR ADVERTISING AND ARTICLES:
May issue: 6 April
June issue: 6 May
All articles/letters/photos to be with the Editor via fax, email or post to Nancy Fithian (see details above).
Please direct advertising inquiries to:
South City Print Ltd, PO Box 2494, Dunedin 9044.
Phone: 03 455 4486, Fax: 03 455 7286
Email: sales@southcityprint.co.nz

CONTACTS TO THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY:
Rex Baynes, AFB NPMS Manager
PO Box 44282, Lower Hutt 5040
Email: rbaynes@ihug.co.nz

American Foulbrood Management Strategy
www.afb.org.nz

AsureQuality Limited
Ph: 0508 00 11 22
www.asurequality.com

Exotic Disease and Pest Emergency Hotline 0800 809 966
www.biosecurity.govt.nz

Contents

Cover photo: Make this man redundant. Photo: Gemma Collier.

Let's build a stronger NBA

By Frans Laas, NBA President

Welcome to the new-look *New Zealand BeeKeeper* journal. You'll notice we've modernised the layout and introduced a couple of new regular sections which we hope to add to in the future.

In our member and non-member surveys conducted in October last year, some of you suggested more content for hobbyists and others said you wanted to read about other beekeepers. So last month we published our first NBA member profile and this month we've introduced a new Hobbyists' Corner. This section dedicated to hobbyists will include practical beekeeping information and a chance for our hobbyist members to ask questions of more experienced beekeepers. If you have a story idea, or a topic you want to hear more on, email Nancy at editor@nba.org.nz or call the NBA on 04 471 6254.

Last month I dedicated part of my president's report to concerns members had regarding the debate within the manuka honey industry over labelling and testing standards. During the past few weeks many of you have continued to voice these concerns to your ward reps and the NBA secretariat. As such, the NBA has continued to work closely with Federated Farmers NZ Bees to ensure the industry is clearly consulted regarding any standards or proposed regulations for manuka honey and its export. This is a rather dynamic situation and it is very likely it will have changed considerably by the time you receive this journal, however, we have included an update on the situation on page 29.

This month much of the magazine is dedicated to the American Foulbrood National Pest Management Strategy. Rex Baynes, the AFB NPMS manager is urging beekeepers to band together and eradicate AFB from New Zealand—and put him out of a job. All the information you need to do this is included in this issue and on the AFB NPMS website www.afb.org.nz.

The Nelson Branch Conference Organising Committee is working hard to pull together this year's NBA conference at the Rutherford Hotel. The conference has a couple of great guest speakers including Kristen and Michael Traynor from the US, and is a chance to network and discuss the latest issues in the industry. Remember also to get your honey and photos ready for the Honey Show and NBA photo competition.

As anecdotal evidence suggests varroa is showing signs of resistance to synthetic pyrethroid treatments and as we head into winter it is important all beekeepers are aware of the need to monitor their varroa treatments. Page 19 includes an article on the current varroa situation and suggests methods for checking if your treatments are working correctly.

The results of our member and non-member surveys made it clear that many of you consider biosecurity and the incursion of foreign pests or diseases to be one of the biggest issues facing not only the NBA but the entire beekeeping industry. As many of you will be aware, the NBA has been working closely with MAF to try and establish a better working relationship to ensure we work collaboratively with them on matters of biosecurity. However, beekeepers should ensure they play their part in this process as well. As such, I urge members to heed Frank Lindsay's advice on page 18 when visiting beekeepers in Australia and strongly support the work of the EFB working party—an update is on page 23.

> "This is a rather dynamic situation and it is very likely it will have changed considerably by the time you receive this journal ..."

Page 43 includes an article from the NBA secretariat on Daniel Paul's, NBA joint CEO, visit to Auckland where he met with NBA members and associates at the Auckland Beekeepers Club. Daniel commented on how valuable it is to hear first-hand some of the concerns and ideas our members have. I would like to reiterate this point and highlight how important it is that members tell us when they have a problem or an idea for how something might be improved. And if you're not a member, the NBA wants to hear from you too. Tell us why you haven't joined up and what would make you join up. The new CEOs have already made several improvements to processes following feedback from members and non-members. Simply give Daniel or Gemma a call on 04 471 6254 or ceo@nba.org.nz and let them know your suggestions. And if you think the secretariat is doing something well and you'd like to see it continue—feel free to let them know that too.

The NBA is a membership organisation built and run by its members and it needs you to make it successful. Your contribution can range from simply becoming a member, to providing feedback, to becoming an active member in your branch or ward. The stronger our membership, the more effective and influential we can be as an advocate for our industry. I look forward to building a stronger NBA with you.

Do your bees have too much space?

By Kumar Vetharaniam

Over time, equipment manufacturers have changed the recommended 8-mm bee space between beehive boxes to 10-12 mm.

The result has been more brace comb built between boxes, meaning slower hive inspections, more dead bees, angrier hives and more robbing. The brace comb in each box can equal a shallow frame of comb, and in honey supers will contain a lot of honey that will not be extracted. The bees also waste lots of energy in building brace comb and repairing it after inspections. All this represents a loss to the beekeeper. Is it time to change back?

Does 2 mm make much difference?

An extra 2 mm may not seem a lot, but it is a 25% increase and makes a difference to a bee! Bear in mind that if a worker cell is increased in diameter by 0.5 mm the queen may not lay in it. Increase it by another 0.5 mm and it becomes a drone cell.

A 10-mm or bigger space between boxes is a recipe for lots of brace comb, which has to be broken when frames are removed or boxes separated. This makes hive inspections more clumsy, agitates the bees and spills honey. Brace comb crushes bees when the hive is reassembled.

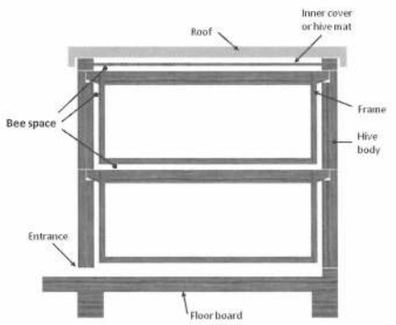
Broken brace comb and spilled honey during a hive inspection.

What is the bee space?

The discovery of the bee space, by Jan Dzierzon in the mid-1800s, revolutionised beekeeping and enabled the development of the Langstroth hive. Inside their hive, bees will keep spaces which allow them to move around—the "bee space". In a box the bee space between combs is normally 6 to 9 mm, while between boxes, the bee space is about 5 mm to 9 mm.

This discovery was exploited to develop removable comb beehives, which had a bee space surrounding the outside of the frames. This is shown in the diagram in the next column: a bee space is needed between boxes, between the frame ends and the hive wall, and between the inner cover and the frames in the top box.

When a correct bee space is used, it makes for easy removal of the inner cover, frames and boxes during inspection. If the space is too small, the bees will fill it with propolis, gluing everything together. If the space is too big, the bees will fill it with comb, which has to be broken to take the frames out.



Hive diagram.

New Zealand hives

In the 1970s, MAF formulated a standardised New Zealand Langstroth hive with an 8-mm bee space (Walton, 1975). It was a "bottom bee space" hive (shown in the diagram above), with the frames more or less flush with the top of the box, and the bee space provided at the bottom. Nowadays, that dimension between the supers has somehow jumped to 10 mm or more, depending on the manufacturer. We also have a 2- or 3-mm space at the top of our boxes. This means that even if your queen excluder or inner cover has 8-mm rims, the bees will build brace comb under them. After I started beekeeping in the 1980s, I found that it was the newer hiveware that tended to suffer from brace comb while the older hiveware I had obtained did not. It took me a while to cotton on to the bee space having changed. Recently I experimented with a 7-mm bee space between boxes and found there was a huge reduction in the building of brace comb between boxes.

Brace comb from too much space under the cover.

"A 10-mm or bigger space between boxes is a recipe for lots of brace comb ... "

My experiment was not of course a scientific study, but the results suggest there may be some advantage to revisiting what dimension we use for the bee space.

Reduce the bee space!

I would recommend reducing the bee space between boxes down to 6 mm, with a 1-mm clearance at the top of the box and 5 mm at the bottom. A 6-mm bee space would allow for increases in the space caused by propolis build-up on the box rims. The 1-mm clearance would allow for propolis build-up under the frame lugs.

Since full-depth frames sold in New Zealand vary from 230 to 232 mm deep, the full-depth box should be reduced to 238 mm, down from the current range of from 240 to 243 mm. This would give a 6-mm bee space

with the 232-mm frames and an acceptable 8-mm bee space with the 230-mm frames.

Since three-quarter depth frames are now 175 mm in depth, the three-quarter depth box would best be reduced to 181 mm from the current 185 mm.

Shallow frames are 135 mm in depth, and so the shallow super should be reduced to 141 mm, down from its current 146 mm.

Brace comb above wire Herzog excluder.

Propolis below flat plastic excluder.

I would also recommend that inner covers and queen excluders should have a 5-mm bee space.

One-sided queen excluders?

The queen excluders we have available are currently of two types: the wire Herzog excluder which has a bee space on both sides, and the flat, plastic or wire excluders which have no bee space on either side. With the wire excluder, this gives too much space between the excluder and the honey super above it. With the plastic excluder, there is no bee space between the excluder and the frames underneath, meaning a lot of propolis. How about an excluder with a bee space on just one side?

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank both Murray Reid and Dr Mark Goodwin for useful discussions and feedback.

Reference

Walton, G. M. (1975). The metrification of beekeeping equipment. *Bee World*, 56(3),109–119.

[Photographs and diagram supplied by Kumar Vetharaniam.]

Review of tutin standard

By Jim Sim, Principal Advisor (Animal Products)

NZFSA is currently gathering information to support the review of the operation and impact of the tutin standard.

We expect the following timetable to be followed for the review process:

- drafting of review document April–May
- discussion with the Bee Products Standards Council in late May
- release of review discussion document for public consultation and targeted consultation with beekeepers, including presentations at industry conferences in June–July
- finalisation of review in August
- Implementation of consequential changes to tutin standard (if required) in September–October, and notification to beekeepers and processors of any new or changed requirements.

If you have information you would like to share with the review team as we draft the discussion document, please write it down and send it to me as soon as possible:

Jim Sim
Principal Advisor (Animal Products)
New Zealand Food Safety Authority
PO Box 2835
Wellington

Or email: jim.sim@nzfsa.govt.nz

Once consultation begins, we would be pleased to meet with groups of beekeepers to discuss their experiences of working with the tutin standard and future options for managing this problem. If you wish to organise a local meeting during the consultation period to discuss the tutin standard and have someone from NZFSA attend, please contact me by email or phone (04) 894 2609.

Tutin limits

The limits for tutin in honey (2.0mg/kg in honey and 0.1mg/kg in comb honey) are set as temporary limits in the Food Standards Code. These temporary limits expire on 31 March 2011.

Temporary limits were adopted in 2009 to allow time for some further research to be done and for formal consultation to occur on setting permanent limits. NZFSA has been in discussion with Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) and has also funded some further toxicology work underway at AgResearch, the University of Auckland and the University of Otago to help make sure the limits are set at an appropriate level.

We expect FSANZ to consult on permanent limits later in the year. Once the proposal goes on the FSANZ workplan you can follow it on the FSANZ website (www.foodstandards.govt.nz) and register to be an interested party by completing the form available under "Changing the Code".

Tutin sampling and compositing issues

By Jim Sim, Principal Advisor (Animal Products)

Some beekeepers lack the equipment to homogenise batches of honey and are taking samples from honey sumps or from honey lines or drums.

Taking samples in this way may either miss toxicity, or over-estimate it if tutin is present. This is because tutin is not likely to be consistently through a batch. A slug of contaminated honey may end up, for example, in one part of a drum undetected because the whole batch wasn't homogenised.

Samples taken in this way do not comply with the tutin standard. However, they may provide some indication of whether there is a likely problem with the product. If the honey is then sold to a packer who blends and tests it they can ensure the final product complies with the standard. What they cannot do is rely on the beekeeper's testing to demonstrate compliance.

> "Beekeepers relying on testing of honey for compliance with the tutin standard must not composite samples themselves."

If you are relying on testing to guarantee the safety of the product you must ensure that the batch of honey is homogenous and a representative sample is taken from that batch for analysis.

It has also come to NZFSA's attention that some beekeepers are compositing honey samples before sending them into laboratories for analysis where the laboratory further composites the samples. This makes for a very cheap analysis. Unfortunately it also makes the results completely meaningless because the compositing of samples dilutes the tutin if it is present!

This is why the tutin standard only permits laboratories to composite samples. Beekeepers relying on testing of honey for compliance with the tutin standard must not composite samples themselves.

Make this man redundant

Rex Baynes is urging Kiwi beekeepers to make him redundant.

The American Foulbrood National Pest Management Strategy (AFB NPMS) manager says if all beekeepers complied with the AFB NPMS there would no longer be a role for him.

"I would gladly step down from the management position if it meant New Zealand had beaten AFB."

If every New Zealand beekeeper was registered, and complied with the laws of the strategy, AFB would be wiped out—or at levels so low as to not be a problem, he says.

"It's time beekeepers took responsibility for their actions. We have the system, we have the tools, the challenge is now in their hands."

Rex says getting AFB under control is even more important as varroa is showing signs of resistance to synthetic pyrethroid treatments.

"We face the risk of another pest or disease such as European Foulbrood (EFB) or Small Hive Beetle arriving from across the Tasman," he says.

"How can we realistically fight EFB or another incursion when we can't even manage to bring AFB down to minimal levels?

> "Beekeepers are paying a levy... so let's get the system working for us."

"Either we're serious about eliminating AFB or we're not. Beekeepers are paying a levy for this so let's get the system working for us."

All beekeepers are required to register their hives and complete an Annual Disease Return (ADR) accurately, honestly and on time.

Rex believes the success of combating AFB will lie in communication.

"It is time to put aside prejudices and past histories and start communicating with each other.

"If you find AFB, tell your neighbours and work together to eliminate it in your area.

"While it is not an offence to have AFB. It is an offence to not deal with it as per the legislation.

"Come on beekeepers, let's get serious about AFB and make me redundant!"

Beekeepers unsure of how to identify AFB or what to do if they think they have AFB are encouraged to read the *Elimination of American foulbrood without the use of drugs — a practical manual for beekeepers* by Dr Mark Goodwin. This book is available from the NBA: please contact secretary@nba.org.nz or 04 471 6254 for a publications order form.

Permit to keep AFB material

By Rex Baynes, AFB NPMS Manager

The Management Agency may, upon application by notice in writing, approve a permit for the storage of AFB for the purpose of education, research and training.

In line with the provisions of the Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy) Order 1998, Clause 30, such a permit gives authorisation for the applicant to hold AFB-infected honey bee brood frames for educational and training purposes for a period not exceeding 12 months.

The Management Agency will require certain conditions be met, such as:

1. Storage of material: all AFB-infected brood frames and/or material must be wrapped in newspaper and held in a sealed plastic bag(s) and stored in a freezer belonging to your organisation and/or a freezer under your supervision, when not being used for training and/or educational purposes.

2. Security and non-exposure of infected brood frames: the AFB-infected brood frames and/or material shall, at no time, be permitted to be exposed to live honey bees, and must not be allowed to come into contact with non-infected beekeeping equipment.

3. Labelling of infected material: all infected material is to be clearly marked with the abbreviation "AFB".

Permit application

When wishing to hold AFB material, please apply by letter to the Management Agency via Rex Baynes, AFB NPMS Manager, PO Box 44282, Lower Hutt, or email to rbaynes@ihug.co.nz

Normally the process can be completed in a couple of days.

Do's and don'ts of AFB control

Do

- Inspect your hives for AFB at least twice a year.
- Inspect hives before removing bees, honey or equipment.
- Inspect all brood frames.
- Shake bees off frames before inspecting them.
- Train yourself and your staff in techniques to recognise and eliminate AFB.
- Report AFB to the Management Agency within 7 days.
- Burn infected colonies.
- Feed pollen substitutes rather than pollen.
- Feed sugar syrup rather than frames of honey.
- Use hive and apiary quarantines.
- Only use approved sterilisation methods.
- Use a thermometer and timer when paraffin wax dipping (10 min at 160°C).
- Treat hives to clear up parasitic mite syndrome (PMS) before checking for AFB.
- Become an approved beekeeper.
- Get suspect AFB samples tested.

Don't

- Don't feed drugs for control of AFB.
- Don't scorch boxes to sterilise them.
- Don't try to control AFB by removing diseased frames.
- Don't extract honey from infected colonies.
- Don't feed bee-collected pollen to colonies.
- Don't feed extracted honey to bees.
- Don't let hives be robbed out.
- Don't shook swarm.
- Don't let stock knock over beehives.
- Don't use steam chests to sterilise infected equipment.
- Don't distribute the equipment from dead hives between other hives.
- Don't allow colonies to die of varroa or any other cause.

[Excerpted from the revised edition of *Elimination of American Foulbrood Disease without the use of Drugs—a practical manual for beekeepers,* by Dr Mark Goodwin.]

Beekeeping and the law

New Zealand beekeepers have a number of legal obligations that must be met regarding American foulbrood disease.

In summary, the most important of these obligations are to:

1. Only keep bees in moveable frame hives.
2. Keep access to apiary sites clear from obstruction.
3. Not feed drugs or substances that mask, obscure or conceal the symptoms of AFB.
4. Not keep beehives more than 30 days in a place other than a registered apiary.
5. Register all apiaries with the Management Agency.
6. Mark all apiaries with the beekeeper registration code.
7. Change registration numbers only by the beekeeper who has the code number assigned to them, unless permission to do so is provided by the management agency.
8. Remove all identification codes when transferring the ownership of the hives.
9. Where a case of AFB is found, the owner of the hives must report to the Management Agency within 7 days of becoming aware of the case.
10. Complete an Annual Disease Return by 1 June each year.
11. Destroy equipment and bees associated with a case of AFB within 7 days.
12. Not deal with or transfer ownership of material associated with a case of AFB.
13. Sterilise beekeeping equipment only by approved methods.
14. Ensure hives are inspected for AFB by an approved beekeeper with a DECA provided to the Management Agency by 30 November (unless there is a certificate of inspection exemption).

Under certain conditions there are some exemptions for these obligations.

[Excerpted from the revised edition of *Elimination of American Foulbrood Disease without the use of Drugs—a practical manual for beekeepers,* by Dr Mark Goodwin.]

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Wasp eradication

By Russell Poole, Alexandra

Many beekeepers are approached by the public to deal with wasp nests, and in our area a lot of grapes are grown for winemaking.

The winemakers are particularly keen to rid their properties of wasps as they say the wasps bite the grapes for the juice that should be used for winemaking.

Despite this, a friend who has acres of grapes has never asked me to kill wasp nests on the property. When I asked if he has no problems with wasps, he said that he has developed a strategy that works very well. Because of the terrain it is very difficult to find the nests, so he uses a battery-operated 'Dustbuster' vacuum cleaner. He sucks up wasps from his grapes until he has 20 or 30 in the bag of the cleaner, then he sucks up a little Carbaryl powder so that the wasps become coated with the powder. He then opens the cleaner and releases the coated wasps to return to their nest, where the dust on their bodies kills the nest. The result has been a wasp-free environment and juicy grapes available for winemaking.

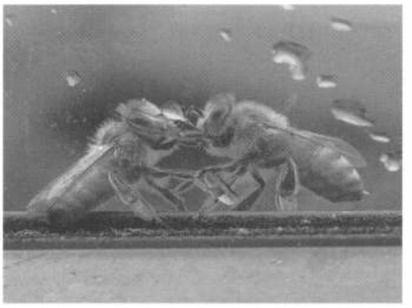
Book your space on the front cover

The inaugural NBA photo competition was such a success last year that we have brought it back in 2010.

This year the competition will be split into three categories:

1. Then what happened (two photos): *two photos that show a situation and then what happened; i.e., Bob got his truck stuck and couldn't go back or forward (pic 1). Bob had to get some guys to help lift the truck out (pic 2).*
2. Staff at work
3. Lunch/picnic spot: *a scenic pic that features your hives.*

This competition is open to NBA members only. Entries must be unmarked, printed 10 x 15 cm (6 x 8 inch) photos. They must be received by Gemma Collier, NBA Joint CEO, either via post on or before Thursday, 24 June 2010 or delivered to the NBA stand at Conference no later than midday Sunday, 27 June 2010. (The NBA takes no responsibility for non-delivery or late delivery of photos.) You will find the entry form under conference on the News & Events section of the NBA website (www.nba.org.nz).



Winning entry (photographer's choice) in the inaugural NBA photo competition. Photo: Fiona O'Brien.

For each category members will be able to vote for their favourite. Awards will be given for each category for the following:

- Members' favourite
- Winner of category judged by professional photographer
- Supreme photo judged by professional photographer

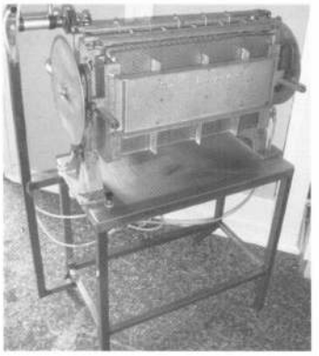
South Island Singles For Sale

New queens. Good gear. Approx 500.
Available November 2010.
Make the most of the manuka flow.
Plan ahead - contact us now.
Phone 021 238 9422 evenings

40 HIVES FOR SALE

Timaru area — for removal
Phone 027 228 3696 or
after hours 03 686 4725

FOR SALE



Manuka honey Pricker-Loosener, one button operation, air operated, automatic with side shift, works very well. $3500 plus gst ono.

Phone Bill 027 677 5998

POLYSTYRENE MATING NUCS

Easy to use • Cost effective • Proven results
1-100 $12.00 plus GST 100+ $11.00 plus GST
Phone Steve, Apiflora NZ Ltd
07 543 0984 027 4923 937

BK91

DRIWRAP®

(Formerly WOODLIFE)

A water-based product which forms a semi-porous protective membrane on the surface of wood and acts like a breathable raincoat. Suitable for boxes, weatherboard walls, decks, beams and posts.

Distributors:

PROCESSING AND JOINERY AGENCIES LTD
Ph: 06 835 5353 Fax: 06 835 5323
Mob: 027 246 3950 Email: rktaylor@xtra.co.nz

BRAGUTA'S QUEENS

Bay of Plenty Queens

QUEENS AND QUEEN CELLS ORDER NOW

Contact: AUREL 021 153 2610
aurelbraguta@yahoo.com

manuka health

Manuka Health New Zealand Ltd

Buying Now!
Propolis! Propolis! Propolis!
Free Cleaning of Mats Provided!

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

BK356

We hope to meet you there!

By Kerry Gentleman, Nelson Branch Conference Organising Committee

This year's conference will be held at the Rutherford Hotel in sunny Nelson, from Sunday 27 June until Wednesday 30 June.

The conference venue is in central Nelson and is within easy walking distance to many cafes, bars and shops. The Nelson region often has fine, settled weather in winter—but no guarantees! There is plenty to do and see in the top of the south so we hope that you can build in some holiday time before or after conference. Nelson/Marlborough is known for its arts and crafts, wineries, beautiful beaches, bush, mountains and friendly locals. There are three national parks accessible within 1–2 hours' drive from Nelson, where many outdoor recreation opportunities are available.

We still have many programme details to finalise. Look in the May issue of the journal for more information.

New and small beekeepers' forum:
Sunday 27 June

The last two annual conferences have run very successful hobbyist days. Those new to beekeeping and those who run a few hives for their own interest can benefit greatly from networking together. We bring you some experienced Kiwi beekeepers to share their ideas and also Kirsten and Michael Traynor from the USA (see their biographies later in this article).

Specialty group meetings:
Sunday 27 June

Seminar days:
Monday 28 and Tuesday 29 June

The seminars will showcase a variety of topics and speakers. We have much finalising yet to do. Included will be:

- overseas guest speakers **Kirsten and Michael Traynor** (USA).
- a discussion on the manuka honey industry
- Jim Sim from NZFSA with an update on the tutin standard review
- marketing: a variety of speakers
- 'Toys for the Boys' outside over a 'cuppa'—outdoor equipment
- our HortResearch scientists.

Dinner and dance:
Tuesday 29 June.

We have a great local band lined up for your evening's entertainment. Dust off your dancing shoes!

AGM of the National Beekeepers' Association: Wednesday 30 June

Sorry – no field trip this year!

Competitions

There will be three competitions running at this year's conference. The **Roy Paterson Trophy** is contested by those with inventions that can help beekeepers in their work. (See elsewhere in this journal for information on the **Honey competition** and the **Photo competition**.)

Thank you so much to our sponsors. We could not run our conferences without you! We look forward to seeing you with your products and services on display at the trade stands again this year. Our confirmed sponsors for this year include:

Ecroyd Beekeeping Supplies, Ceracell, Tecpak, FMG, Hills Laboratories, 100% Pure New Zealand Honey, Manuka Health New Zealand, Comvita, Beetek Ltd, Airborne Honey, Tunnicliffe's, NZ Honey Co-op, Boutelje Products, AsureQuality Limited, Beegreen, NZ Beeswax, M & K Stafford Engineering Pty Ltd, Croftpak, Comag Agencies Ltd, Milburn Apiaries, Oritain, Auckland Drums, Kai-Iwi Honey, NZ Sugar Co., Apiary Services, NZ Labs, Waimea Truck and Crane.

There will be more sponsors at conference: we will acknowledge them as they confirm their support.

Please register early to assist us with planning and catering. If you have special dietary requirements, please contact the Rutherford Hotel directly and they will cater for you. The contact person is Gaylene Elvy, email gaylene.elvy@rutherfordhotel.co.nz or phone 03 546 3002 or 0800 437 227. Vegetarians will be catered for.

Committee Contacts

Kerry Gentleman
registration and general enquiries
Ph 03 525 7571
email frazer.kerry@clear.net.nz

Frazer Wilson
sponsors and displays
Ph 03 525 7571
email frazer.kerry@clear.net.nz

Glenn Kelly
co-ordinator, sponsors and displays
Ph 03 528 8174
email nzhoneys@yahoo.com

Arthur Day
New and Small Beekeepers' Forum
Ph 03 577 8143
email arthur@beekeepernz.com

All of us: speakers and seminars and everything else!

Biographies

Kirsten S. Traynor:
An avid beekeeper, Kirsten recently returned from 18 months of researching the differences between European and American beekeeping. She received a German Chancellor Scholarship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, a prestigious fellowship awarded annually to 10 Americans.

Upon returning to the States, Kirsten desired to pursue her interest in apiculture. She is currently working toward her PhD in biology at Arizona State University under Robert Page, where she received a Director's Fellowship. In 2009 she received an Honorable Mention from the National Science Foundation. In 2010 she received a Graduate Student Fellowship from the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees.

Her research interests include brood pheromone, honey bee longevity and learning. She is a regular contributor to *American Bee Journal*, covering a diverse array of topics including honey bee diseases, bee breeding and honey marketing. Several of

her articles have been translated into other languages.

In addition to her work with honey bees, Kirsten enjoys writing about scientific topics for the general public. She also writes short stories, poetry and historical novels.

Michael J. Traynor:
An enthusiastic beekeeper and a commercial photographer, he recorded his wife's research during her 18-month stay in Europe, helping her document the beekeeping industry. The two travelled over 50,000 miles throughout Western Europe by car, visiting honey bee researchers and breeders in Germany, France, Austria, Denmark, England and Wales.

Michael is a commercial and fine art photographer, who views the world with a photographer's eye. He can visualise a scene as if looking through a lens without picking up a camera. Over 50 years he has honed his technical expertise and refined his sense of composition.

The head of National Geographic's photography lab asked him to teach their photographers. He was asked to be the head archivist at the Library of Congress. His work has appeared in hundreds of magazines and newspapers around the world.

Although he started in film, working from 35mm format up to large 8x10" view cameras, he has been in digital since before "digital" became a household word. Michael also developed his own photographic black and white process that produces stunning photographs of such an exceptional tonal scale they appear almost three-dimensional.

The Traynors:
Kirsten originally came to study with Michael to learn photography. As she likes to say, she hasn't left since. Together they combine their visual and linguistic skills to create informative articles and inspired artwork. Their skills blend seamlessly, each helping and advising the other. Working as a team, it is difficult to pinpoint who created what.

Oops!

The front cover of the March issue was mistakenly listed as February, although the volume and issue number are correct. Apologies for the error.

On your marks ... get buzzing!

This is your chance to be the first Supreme Honey Producer in New Zealand at the first New Zealand National Honey Show.

Apart from wishing to provide some interest, varietal awareness, entertainment and lip-smacking fun for attendees and public at the National Beekeepers' Association's Annual Conference, the National Honey Show has the serious aim of raising the standards in the production of honey and all other hive products.

NATIONAL HONEY SHOW SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

General rules:

1. Entries will only be accepted from financial members of the NBA.
2. Members may only have one entry per class with the exception of Class 12 Beekeepers' Special Reserve Honey, where more than one entry can be made per exhibitor.
3. All honeys exhibited to be presented in two anonymous (unlabelled) 500-gram (400 ml) Transparent Square PET Plastic Jars with white plastic lids (available from Ceracell Beekeeping Supplies, Auckland or Ecroyd Beekeeping Supplies, Christchurch).
4. All honeys presented must be below a moisture content of 18.5% as tested by refractometer.
5. All honeys entered must be naturally produced by Apis Mellifera in accordance with the Codex Alimentarius Honey Standard.
6. All honeys entered must be bona fide produce from beehives owned by the exhibitor.
7. Should the quality of entries in any class not reach adequate standard, the Judges are empowered to withhold awards.
8. The Judges' decision will be final.
9. Entries to be received by 10 am on the second day of the NBA Conference, Monday 28 June 2010. Entry forms under conference on the News & Events section of the NBA Website (www.nba.org.nz), or from the Secretary, telephone 04 499 0873.
10. Awards will be given in each of the following Classes, with a Supreme Award for the highest scoring Exhibitor overall:

CLASS 1: Liquid or Clear Honey—colour light. Two identical jars per entry.

CLASS 2: Liquid or Clear Honey—colour medium. Two identical jars per entry.

CLASS 3: Liquid or Clear Honey—colour dark. Two identical jars per entry.

CLASS 4: Naturally Granulated Honey—colour light. Two identical jars per entry.

CLASS 5: Naturally Granulated Honey—colour medium. Two identical jars per entry.

CLASS 6: Naturally Granulated Honey—colour dark. Two identical jars per entry.

CLASS 7: Creamed Honey—Any varietal or blend. Honey produced using a fine-grained starter.

CLASS 8: Chunk Honey—Liquid honey with each jar to contain a piece of comb honey measuring not less than 70mm x 40mm.

CLASS 9: Traditional Wooden Whole Frame Honeycomb—Frame may be either three-quarter or full depth. Presentation stand to be provided by exhibitor.

CLASS 10: Traditional Wooden Honeycomb Sections—2 to be presented; not less than 340gms nett weight. No identifying labels to be shown.

CLASS 11: Honeycomb cut comb—2 to be presented in square white plastic container with clear lid. Not less than 340gms nett weight. No identifying labels to be shown.

CLASS 12: Beekeeper's Special Reserve Honey—Moisture content appropriate to floral source. Two jars to be exhibited as above: the first to be used for judging and tasting purposes, and the second to be auctioned at the presentation event. Floral type and region to be specified where known.

CLASS 13: Inter-Bee Club Trophy—Two jars to be entered as per above. One entry only per club please.

CLASS 14: Natural Beeswax Block—Wax to be unbleached and presented as one 500 gm block. Polished or unpolished at exhibitor discretion.

CLASS 15: Pollen—Cleaned and dried. Pollen to be presented in one unlabelled square transparent PET plastic jar with white plastic lid as above.

CLASS 16: Products of the Hive—Two samples to be presented as appropriate. This class is to show added value or alternative uses for products of the hive. Judges will be looking for originality, presentation, quality of product maximising the natural advantages of the beehive. This could include candles, wax sculptures, honey meads, honey beer or other beverages, honey baking or confectionery, polishes, cosmetics or skin care products, natural medicinal or culinary products.

HINO
driven to perfection

500
FT 1022 4x4

KEY FEATURES

Cruise Control

Selectable 4 x 4 + low range

Low range ratio 2.224:1

KEY SPECIFICATIONS

GVM 10,000kg

GCM 14,500kg

Power . . . . . 152kW (215Hp) @ 2500rpm

Torque . . . . . 608Nm @ 1500rpm

Transmission . . . . . Six-speed synchromesh, Hi – Lo speed transfer case

Wheelbase 3750mm

For more info contact your nearest your Hino sales person, or visit www.hino.co.nz

NORTHLAND
Lyndon Andrew..... 027-477-0704

AUCKLAND
Bill Lachlan..... 027-4956-066
Lyndon Andrew..... 027-477-0704

WAIKATO
Ian Roberts..... 027-666-9777
Lester Malone..... 027-4957-269

HAWKES BAY/WAIRARAPA
Colin Duley 027-4484-400

MANAWATU/TARANAKI
Jeff Hall..... 027-2758-970
John Patterson 027-2275-558

WELLINGTON
Keith Higgs 027-4428-206

NELSON WEST COAST
Ian McDrury..... 027-4326-028

CHRISTCHURCH/CANTERBURY
Dave Ching..... 027-2741-181
Murray Brown..... 027-4322-411

OTAGO/SOUTHLAND
Greg Kirk 027-2589-425

Medium Duty

Thymovar®

FOR THE CONTROL OF VARROA MITES IN BEEHIVES

Consider alternating your Autumn Bayvarol treatment with Thymovar in the Spring

TESTED AND PROVEN IN NZ

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Thymovar wafer contains the volatile oil thymol. Through volatilisation from the wafers, thymol vapour concentrations build up in the hive. These vapours are highly toxic to varroa mites but concentrations are not high enough to harm bees. This product shall only be used in beehives, but not used in hives where comb honey is to be collected.

SINGLE-STOREY (1 CHAMBER)

MULTIPLE-STOREY (2 CHAMBERS)

ACTIVE INGREDIENT

Contains 721g/kg thymol in the form of a vapour-releasing wafer. (Each wafer contains 15g thymol).

Registered pursuant to the ACVM Act 1997, No. P7303. See www.nzfsa.govt.nz/acvm for registration conditions.

Bio Gro Certified

Thymovar®

FOR THE CONTROL OF VARROA MITES IN BEEHIVES

HARMFUL AND CORROSIVE

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN - ECOTOXIC

DANGER: This product is corrosive and may cause skin burns and eye damage.

HARMFUL: May be harmful if swallowed or inhaled.

TESTED AND PROVEN IN NZ

PRECAUTIONS: Store in unopened original packaging away from foodstuffs. Avoid inhalation of product vapour when opening the sealed sachet. Avoid contact with skin and eyes and wear goggles and latex gloves when handling the wafers. Wash hands thoroughly after handling and before eating or drinking. Harmful to aquatic organisms and terrestrial vertebrates.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE - GENERAL

DOSAGE RATE: Two applications of one wafer per brood chamber at a 3-4 weeks interval. Open the sealed sachet containing 5 wafers. Place one wafer (cut in half) on top of the brood chamber as depicted in the diagram. Use two wafers uncut for a double storey box of chambers. Wafers can be cut with a pair of scissors.

APPLICATION: The first part of the treatment is to put the wafer(s) on the top of the combs of the brood chamber. Close the hive as usual. Open floors have to be closed. Repeat the application of wafer(s) 3-4 weeks later. Remove used wafers after 3-4 weeks. After opening the sealed sachet all wafers should be used immediately.

TIMING: Application can be made in the spring before honey supers have been added for the first honey flow. Alternatively, an application can be made in the late summer to early autumn period immediately after all the surplus honey has been removed. Apply when maximum daily temperatures are between 12°C and 30°C. All hives of an apiary should be treated with Thymovar at the same time, to avoid robbing.

Factors such as temperatures dropping below 12 °C for a longer period during the treatment can lower the effectiveness of treatment. Also temperatures higher than 30 °C increase the sublimation of the thymol, and can have negative effects on the bees (e.g. robbing). It is recommended that the natural mite fall be monitored 2 weeks after completion of the Thymovar treatments and if more than 1 mite per day is recorded alternative non-thymol based treatments be applied. If the mite drop is not checked, all colonies have to be subjected to a follow-up treatment. Otherwise sufficient efficacy for all colonies cannot be guaranteed.

WITHHOLDING PERIOD: Not for use when honey supers are present in the hive.

STORAGE: Store in a cool dry place out of direct sunlight, avoiding temperatures above 25° C. When stored appropriately, this product should show no significant degradation for 4 years from date of manufacture. Contact your supplier for further information about the use of any product that is older than this.

Approved under the Animal Products (Ancillary and Transitional Provisions) Act 1999.Approved pursuant to the HSNO Act 1996, Approval Code: HSR001727. See www.ermanz.govt.nz for approval controls.

® Thymovar is the registered trademark of, and is manufactured by, Andermatt BIOCONTROL AG, Stahlermatten 6, CH-6146 Grossdietwil, Switzerland.

Current Pricing as at April 2010

10 to 90 wafers	$4.40 plus GST each
100 to 470 wafers	$3.96 plus GST each
480 to 4990 wafers	$3.56 plus GST each
5000 + wafers	$3.39 plus GST each

Report of BPSC meeting

By Dr Jim Edwards, Chairman

The following report describes the topics considered by the Bee Products Standards Council (BPSC) at its meeting in Wellington on Thursday, 4 March 2010.

Among the issues discussed was that the NZFSA requires that drums should be in separate stacks to separate EU and non-EU product. The BPSC is asking for this to be reviewed.

Japanese border posts seem to be requiring importers to do antibiotic tests on honey imported from New Zealand. The BPSC seeks your feedback on how much of an issue this is for exporters and if necessary will ask the NZFSA to discuss the border clearance activity with Japan.

The difficulties being experienced by small packers concerning three-monthly verifications for final load outs were discussed. In principle, the transfer statement could be replaced by adopting e-cert throughout the industry, which would aim to improve things for RMP operators who are not doing the final container loading for export. This would require that all businesses involved in export have access to a computer and the Internet. NZFSA's preference is to move towards 100% use of e-cert in the bee products export industry. In the meantime, packers could consider using a freight forwarder as an alternative, though if the freight forwarder demands an e-cert eligibility document from the packer the three-monthly verifications would still need to continue.

Even during the busy season, exporters who usually ignore emails should monitor the changes to export requirements which are listed on the NZFSA website. Most changes occur outside the 'busy' period, but operators may only become aware of changes during the busy period when the changes are possibly months old. Direct notification to RMP operators could be arranged with their verifiers, likely incurring a charge.

Another useful option is to look at the "What's New" NZFSA web page periodically (once a week at a minimum). This page contains the titles of all items NZFSA has published (so you can see at a glance whether anything has been published recently that might apply to bee products), and the date on which they were published. The "What's New" page retains publication records for about six months. Refer to http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/animalproducts/whats-new/index.htm

> "... exporters who usually ignore emails should monitor the changes to export requirements which are listed on the NZFSA website."

Some beekeepers have honey extracted by a contract extractor (RMP certified) and then move their honey to a packer (RMP certified), then move it again to storage (RMP certified) and when required, move it from the storage to a carrier's depot. The BPSC considered that one of the existing RMP/RCS options put forward by NZFSA should be economically viable.

Additional statements such as "Best before" statements are not required if they are not documented in any standard. Such issues are not subject to verification.

Documentation must be kept for four years following the product leaving the premises.

The first port of call for RMP operators looking for information should be the verifier, who is well placed to answer questions. Second port of call should be the verification technical managers. These people should be asking NZFSA for clarification on behalf of industry.

The RMP transport templates should now have been completed and submitted to NZFSA for approval. If necessary, they can be discussed with Charlotte Treffers in the Approvals section. Note that transport requirements can be met by a receiving RMP.

Progress towards the implementation of the monofloral standards continues with the BPSC working with LabCheck Proficiency Services Ltd to do an inter-laboratory comparison involving laboratories in Europe and New Zealand. The BPSC wants to ensure that method is transportable so that results from laboratories involved are within the parameters on a repeatable basis.

Presentations are being planned for the national conference (NBA and Federated Farmers Bees) seminars during June. The indicative date for the standard to become operational remains as 1 October 2010.

The BPSC heard about the Supplemented Food Standard that comes into effect on 31 March to regulate food-type dietary supplements instead of the Dietary Supplement Regulations. The Dietary Supplement regulations will now be administered by the Ministry of Health and largely cover tablet and liquid preparations. The Supplemented Food Standard is being

aligned with the Food Standards Code. There will be a two-year implementation period. Copies of the standard are on the NZFSA website.

The Council received a report on the review of cost recovery and compliance costs, which are unlikely to increase in the next fiscal year except for the RMP fee. The NZFSA is aiming to minimise processors being subject to audits from several different verifiers under different legislation administered by NZFSA.

The tutin standard is under review and any new requirements should be in place by September. The focus is on Northland, Coromandel and northern South Island. The NZFSA is looking for more robust controls for comb honey and wanting to examine alternative options for tutin management. Consultation is planned for June and during the industry conferences. There is an open invitation to interested groups to arrange consultation meetings. The NZFSA wants to ensure that only laboratories are compositing samples and not submitting beekeepers.

Residue reports are not available in the public domain because they are paid for by the export sector and not available to the domestic market. The BPSC noted that the NBA and Federated Farmers could be privy to the reports; and that the timeframe of production of the total residue programme is dictated by the work involved.

PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL

Biosecurity threats should be taken seriously

By Frank Lindsay, NBA Life Member

Every day New Zealand faces biosecurity threats: insects, snakes, spiders and unseen microbes which come in as passengers on cargo, mail and airline passengers.

We are a county that has been protected by time and distance from most unwanted organisms but we also have a fragile ecosystem.

We have all had the experience of going through the airport and having our shoes washed. However, the importance of this practice was brought home to me when I visited a Perth beekeeper last year and was astounded by the amount of dieback in their forests. It was not confined to one species: banksias as well as different eucalyptus species were all affected. Large trees only have a few tufts of leaves on thin branches—the rest seemingly dead because of phylloxera, no doubt introduced by humans on their shoes or something, but it is also being spread by humans and vehicles travelling through their parkland. I washed my shoes before leaving the motel as I had been walking in parkland where the trees were dying.

> "We must all do our bit when we travel overseas and not inadvertently bring anything back with us."

Our biosecurity service intercepts things and has alerts everyday. They intercept countless pots of honey at the border, but we also remember the ones that got through, such as the varroa mite and the clover root weevil.

Officials can't be everywhere. We must all do our bit when we travel overseas and not inadvertently bring anything back with us; for instance, the small hive beetle from Australia. We're all curious to see what SHB looks like, but if you visit a beekeeper and open a hive in areas that have the beetle (even in winter), they will fly off and look for somewhere to hide. Our beekeepers found them in their pockets a few days later during the tour. We have seen them in our room while staying with a beekeeper. Only one of these beetles needs to get in your bag and within three hours it will be in New Zealand. They are strong fliers and will soon find a hive. I believe that the effect of SHB on our beekeeping will be worse than varroa when they get here.

This threat is being heightened now that both our governments are relaxing our border controls to permit speedy entry of passengers into both our countries.

Do your thing. If you are travelling to Australia, have a good time but be especially vigilant and check your bags before you return. Perhaps spray out your bags with an insecticide so that anything that inadvertently gets in perishes before you get home.

Keep monitoring your varroa treatments

The NBA is urging all beekeepers to keep a close eye on their varroa treatments this autumn and winter.

Plant & Food Research bee scientist, Dr Mark Goodwin, recommends all beekeepers check their hives for varroa ideally half-way through any varroa mite treatments.

"At the very least, beekeepers should check their hives as soon as treatments have finished," Mark says.

This is even more important for beekeepers that have only just put in their varroa treatments as this journal goes to print.

"If your treatment hasn't worked and you wait to the end of the treatment or longer to check you may find your colony has died.

"Unfortunately you can't assume that because the treatment has worked in one hive that it will have worked in all your hives," he says.

Mark says beekeepers using synthetic treatments shouldn't see any varroa at all in their hives if the treatments have worked properly.

However, if you think the treatments haven't worked successfully the best way to check is to conduct a sugar shake test. The instructions for this test can be found in the revised edition of *Control of Varroa: A Guide for New Zealand Beekeepers* by Mark Goodwin and Michelle Taylor. This book can be purchased from the NBA. Please contact Jess on secretary@nba.org.nz or 04 4716254 to order a copy.

Alternatively, a less accurate test is to uncap drone brood. Again, instructions can be found in the varroa guide.

> "Unfortunately you can't assume that because the treatment has worked in one hive that it will have worked in all your hives."

If you are using varroa control strips to treat and find more than five varroa following treatment you should contact the manufacturer of the chemicals so a sample can be collected and tested.

If you find more than 10 varroa please advise the manufacturer, and re-treat with a chemical from a different chemical class. Bayvarol® and Apistan® are from the same chemical class. Apivar® is from a different class.

If you are using organic treatments and there are high numbers of varroa remaining following treatment you will need to use an alternative method that will kill mites quickly in order for your hives to survive.

In addition, the NBA asks beekeepers to restrict the movement of live bees or queens from the North to South Island. All efforts must be made to slow the spread southwards of varroa that might be resistant to treatment, should resistance be confirmed. If you find varroa mites you suspect may be resistant to treatment please advise the NBA on 04 4716254 or ceo@nba.org.nz so we can monitor the situation.

Current varroa situation

Not a lot has changed to the varroa situation since was last reported just before Christmas 2009. During October last year a hive near Auckland showed signs of resistance to synthetic pyrethroid treatments. Since then we have received anecdotal reports of more resistance to synthetic treatments in the North Island.

These reports have not been confirmed. More tests are planned once we have more resistant mites to test. Until we have confirmed results everyone should err on the side of caution, assume the anecdotal reports have some truth in them and monitor hives closely.

Save the date—2010 Bee Week

Following on from the success of the inaugural 'Bee Week' in 2009, the NBA will announce confirmed dates for 2010 Bee Week very soon. In the meanwhile, pencil in the last week of July and keep checking www.nba.org.nz under events for finalised details and how you and your branch can participate. We will keep you updated in *The New Zealand BeeKeeper* and on email to branches.

Bee Week 2009. Frans Laas (left) and Minister of Agriculture, David Carter, (right), hold aloft a display of live bees. Photo: Ivor Earp-Jones, www.ejo.co.nz

ADR return levels encouraging

By Rex Baynes, AFB NPMS Manager

Clause 27 of the Order in Council requires all beekeepers to provide the Management Agency with an Annual Disease Return (ADR) updating their hive information.

This information provides the basis for New Zealand's statistics on beekeeper and hive numbers and AFB incidence.

The Management Agency is delighted to report that at the time of preparing this article for the April 2010 issue, 96% of registered beekeepers had lodged their ADR for the 2009 period.

I have listed a schedule detailing the percentage of ADRs returned since 1999.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Management Agency to acknowledge the work undertaken by AsureQuality Limited staff in again attaining this excellent result.

Year	% ADRs Received
1999	76%
2000	85%
2001	70%
2002	75%
2003	70%
2004	79%
2005	82%
2006	84%
2007	83%
2008	91%
2009	96%

Trials of a beekeeper

By Frank Lindsay, NBA Life Member

During the last five years we have been renewing our beekeeping gear and upgrading our plant so that I can manage hives into my seventies and cope with small hive beetle when it arrives.

Lifting heavy supers is a young man's game but to continue beekeeping it's necessary to be able to lift full supers. My only alternative to getting a helper was to use mechanical means, so we ordered a loader from Australia.

I should have been extracting honey flat out in February, but the arrival of the loader consumed my time. I lost a week with it sitting on the back of the truck as the crate was too heavy to lift off and I'd booked the truck in to get it fitted a week later. In the meantime, a fellow beekeeper offered to help and arranged for us to use an engineering workshop to put it on.

My small two-tonne Japanese truck isn't very wide. The smallest loader is six feet wide, about 167 cm wider than the existing truck deck (or 'tray', for our Australian neighbours). The certifiers assured me that certification wasn't necessary for such a small lifter as long as it looked securely mounted, but we are only allowed a 200-mm overhang on each side, so the deck would have to be widened. During this time a South Australian beekeeper visited us. I showed him around the beekeeping areas and he imparted valuable advice on operating the loader, such as putting on additional flat bubble levels and getting a 50-watt backing light, and how to set up simple stabiliser legs which he said I'd need.

A day and a half later, the old sides were off, the deck had been widened by adding 50x50 heavy square steel along each side, and the loader was sitting in all its glory on the back of the truck. Another half day at home to mount an additional battery, new backing light and wiring, and the job was nearly finished.

I went out to get in some honey and try out the loader. I lifted up four supers, inspected the brood and put in strips and an escape board all in one action, and wondered why I didn't get one of these loaders years ago. (The company's past reputation was that each model was different and the back-up service wasn't great, but new management has sorted these problems during the last couple of years.)

The loader is rated at 125 kg but comfortably lifted a little more than this using the handgrips. As the far side of the truck lifted up quite a bit under this weight, stabiliser legs are necessary to keep the deck level. I opted in the meantime to use a piece of 4x2 (100x50 for you younger beekeepers), which supported the truck just fine.

"Lifting heavy supers is a young man's game … so we ordered a loader from Australia."

Wet weather and other circumstances led me to leave the load of 60-odd honey supers on the truck for a couple of days without supporting the springs by jacking up the chassis. This delay, and the weight of the loader on the tail of the truck, flattened the springs onto the over-riders.

I headed off to the spring engineers, who put in a couple of extra overload springs to compensate for the loader and the weight I am carrying. A day later I had new shear pins, and the deck was four inches (seven centimetres) higher and the ride considerably better.

I turned my attention to extracting the honey: much of it was pohutukawa that by this time was starting to crystallise in the frames. (I wrote last month of the long pohutukawa flow but the bees had different ideas and worked bush sources, only concentrating on the pohutukawa later and putting it on the outside of the frames, making it impossible to separate the different honeys.)

I tried the new hummer honey wax separator. Everything was working fine, so I concentrated on pushing as many frames through the extractor without monitoring the output of the hummer. I fed the steam from a small boiler through the uncapping knives to a heater in the bottom sump below the extractor. Because the steam was on almost constantly, it heated the honey to about 40°C, which I hadn't noticed because I had failed to put in a temperature probe in the honey outlet. I also forgot to turn on the actuator or water so the wax built up in the top of the separator until it overloaded the motor, which stopped. The result: a dump of honey into the wax bucket and a mechanism full of warm wax. Hours later, with help, I cleaned out the separator and got ready for action. Again the next afternoon I think I managed to kill the top bearing with wax, as it heated up more that it did and vibrated a little uncomfortably at top speed. I reduced the speed and was just about to finish off when a large storm hit Wellington and the power went off, leading to another dump of wax and honey.

So I gave extracting away and we went to the Wairarapa to get some bottling pears. The petrol pump failed on the car, so we had a very nice train ride home.

So after such a good start, what else can go wrong? I am not going to let it happen as I'm going bush for a week.

EFB working party under way

By the EFB Working Party

The Management Agency has asked a working party to look at forming a management plan for when European foulbrood (EFB) is discovered in New Zealand.

The members of this group include AFB NPMS Manager Rex Baynes, Peter and John Berry, NBA Vice President Barry Foster, and Jane Lorimer.

The working party had its first face-to-face meeting in Napier on 11 October 2009. We looked at what we definitely knew about EFB; what we thought we knew but needed more up-to-date information about; what we did not know at all and needed to learn; and how best to go about getting that information.

We were very happy to have the Berry brothers involved, as many years ago they, Gerrit Hyink and Frank Lindsay had looked at the effects EFB would have on New Zealand beekeepers when we got the disease in our hives. (Incidentally, at the time it was thought that EFB was our biggest and most likely threat, not varroa mites.) With their knowledge we were not starting from scratch, which has been of immense benefit. The working group acknowledges the work undertaken all those years ago, and appreciates the wisdom in the recommendations made at the time.

During our October meeting we decided that whatever management plan was developed, it needed to take into account the American Foulbrood National Pest Management Strategy (AFB NPMS) with its aims of eliminating the disease from New Zealand without the use of drugs (antibiotics). The group noted that most other countries saw varroa mites and American foulbrood as being the two bee diseases that caused the greatest problems for beekeepers. Therefore we concluded that our AFB NPMS was important to maintain.

However, this creates a problem in that the Order in Council, which governs what happens in the AFB NPMS, does not allow for the use of drugs to combat the disease. Almost all countries use antibiotics to treat hives that show EFB.

From the initial meeting it was agreed to focus on some key areas:

1. undertake a literature search to find the most up-to-date information
2. talk with Australian beekeepers/advisors to get our basic questions answered and learn from their experience:
   - what happened initially
   - what they are doing now
   - get the right people around the table to ask basic questions: it would also be desirable to have a beekeeper who was beekeeping in 1977 when Australia first got EFB
3. ask those exporting package bees to get feedback on how resistant our bees are to EFB: there is no information at present as bees get treated with oxytetracycline (OTC) when they arrive
4. if no information is gleaned from 3 above, get current New Zealand bee stock tested offshore to see if we have any resistant genetic material here already in New Zealand.

A small group went to Sydney for a meeting with our Australian counterparts on 2 February, attended by several beekeepers, two queen breeders, a researcher and Doug Somerville, whom many of you will know.

Unfortunately, none of the beekeepers present had been keeping bees prior to 1977 when EFB was discovered, but most had begun beekeeping soon after. Comments were made about the initial severity of the disease in the early years, with 100% of hives infected with EFB, to it now being a disease where the researcher/diagnostic team would only get a case a week during a 'bad' spring. They believed this change had occurred due to selection happening, where beekeepers would only breed from hives that were not showing symptoms. The two queen breeders present were now carrying out a selection programme to try to breed consistently resistant stock.

The consensus was that most beekeepers no longer blanket-treat their hives with OTC, but only treat those showing severe symptoms. A few beekeepers are now not using OTC at all, but killing the hives in the worst cases (1–3 hives in 150), or killing the queens and spreading the brood into healthy hives (1 or 2 frames into each) that were then cleaning out the diseased larvae. **NOTE: This is only done for European foulbrood, NOT American foulbrood.** It was commented that the beekeepers who had severe Americanfoulbrood problems were the ones who did not check for AFB prior to treating the hive for EFB. OTC does mask AFB but only for a short period of time before it becomes apparent again. In the meantime, if beekeepers have split these hives it is a great way to increase the spread of American foulbrood.

"We will be making several recommendations to the Management Agency after discussing resistant bee stock issues with New Zealand researchers ..."

Conclusions from the meeting

1. The spread of EFB is such that movement controls are not viable, other than a possible North Island/South Island split when disease is found in New Zealand.
2. OTC should be registered for use for a limited period of time, under strict conditions, and only be available in

pre-mixed packs. (Meeting participants in Australia said more hives were lost initially due to over-treatment of hives.) Hives must be checked for AFB prior to treatment for EFB. This will ensure hives are available for pollination and ensure beekeepers still are able to produce honey from their hives.

3. Bee stocks in New Zealand should be tested for EFB resistance to see if we have any stock here already. Otherwise, selection will need to be undertaken when EFB is found in New Zealand and is likely to take at least three seasons to breed more resistant bees.

Where to from here?

The working party will be making several recommendations to the Management Agency after discussing resistant bee stock issues with New Zealand researchers, and redefining the scope of the literature research.

The working party will attempt to gather information on alternative treatments being developed rather than using antibiotics, and to find out if any other groundbreaking research is being undertaken overseas. We do not anticipate finding too much new information. The Australians commented that in the scheme of things, EFB is seen as a minor bee disease compared to varroa mites, AFB and Colony Collapse Disorder, so very little research is being undertaken on EFB.

EDUCATION

School opens in Far North

Adapted by Dr David Woodward from a Te Runanga o Te Rarawa press release

An official opening of Te Kura Kohi Miere or the School of Honey Gatherers occurred at 24–26 Matthews Avenue, Kaitaia on Friday, 26 February 2010.

Te Runanga o Te Rarawa and Telford Rural Polytechnic have established an apiculture training school that will deliver Telford and national certificate qualifications to full-time students.

Enterprise Northland co-ordinated this new venture and has been supported by local commercial beekeepers and local councils. The one-year course of study officially started on Monday, 1 March 2010 with 18 students.

Chairman of Te Rarawa, Haami Piripi said, "Te Runanga o Te Rarawa is committed to establishing an economic platform for our constituent hapu and whanau. We are also committed to the eco friendly and sustainable use of our resources. Consequently we have great pleasure in promoting this initiative which combines community development with economic opportunity for land use, employment, training and commercial enterprise. We are convinced that this initiative will spark economic growth leading to community and iwi prosperity."

> **"We are convinced that this initiative will spark economic growth leading to community and iwi prosperity."**

"The vision for the far north is for the region to become a major source of medical grade Manuka honey. In fifteen years Manuka Honey has gone from a 'throwaway' product into the world's premier grade honey because of its medicinal uses and its bioactive nature. Manuka as a plant has gone from unwanted scrub to a valuable resource because of the honey phenomena and sustainable farming systems now being developed. In some areas the beekeeping industry is rapidly expanding to capture this commercial opportunity. It is ironic that the much denigrated Manuka-covered Maori land should now be a resource sought after for economic salvation."

The intent of Te Kura Kohi Miere is to provide a learning centre for the education of students to become beekeepers in NZQA-recognized unit standards at level two (Beekeepers' Assistants), level three (Team Leaders) and development of business skills for individuals to operate their own beekeeping business.

AFB NPMS Chairman's report

By Frans Laas

The American Foulbrood National Pest Management Strategy is under review at present.

The process was stalled by Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry officials, who decided that more pressing issues needed to be dealt with. The process has now been set in motion again. The second round of consultations will be made public around the end of May for levy payers to read and comment on.

Enforcement

The Management Agency (MA) has been frustrated by the inability to utilise the provisions of Section 154(q) of the Biosecurity Act to deal with breaches of the Strategy rules. The MA has been in regular consultation with MAF enforcement officials over the use of Section 154(q).

In effect, the use of Section 154(q) as a means for dealing with non-compliance is not feasible due to the level of proof being required. Also, the Annual Disease Return (ADR) compliance provisions include a reasonable excuse clause. This effectively renders a successful prosecution almost impossible. MAF are now exploring ways to get around this problem.

But before all the compliant levy payers throw up their hands in horror and non-compliers rejoice because we can't prosecute them, we have developed an alternative strategy to deal with non-compliance. This could be more costly to a non-complier than any court-imposed fine.

This strategy entails a number of actions that can be undertaken. The most likely scenario we will be dealing with will be ADR issues.

In the first instance, a list of all ADR defaulters after 14 June will be sent to the NZFSA informing them of the non-compliance. Those who are involved in export of bee products will not be able to export until they have become compliant.

In the second stage, non-compliers will have their Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement (DECA) suspended until they are compliant. For commercial beekeepers, this penalty will entail a considerable cost as they will have to contract an independent person to do all their inspections.

If the non-complier still refuses to put in their ADR, we can then use the option of a compliance audit to inspect their entire operation at their expense.

> "Putting in your ADRs on time and truthfully is not an onerous task, especially … now that we are rolling out the new web-based interaction with the Apiary Register."

Putting in your ADRs on time and truthfully is not an onerous task, especially for commercial beekeepers now that we are rolling out the new web-based interaction with the Apiary Register.

Certificates of Inspection

COIs have always been a bit of a problem due to poor levels of compliance and a poor understanding of the simple process involved. Currently only around 30% of COIs are filed every year. Some of the problems occur because many hobby beekeepers either have not passed their disease recognition exam or don't wish to do so, and if they are not involved in a club they might not be able to find a suitable person to inspect their hives. We are putting out a list of people who are willing to act as inspectors along with their general location. This will be available on the AFB NPMS website and other mediums in due course.

COIs are a measure for new beekeepers and for people who, for whatever reason, are unable to certify the disease status of their hives according to the requirements of the Strategy rules. We encourage all new beekeepers to pass their disease recognition and competency test as soon as practicable after initial registration. It is not an onerous test and it also provides some extra educational benefits.

Disease recognition and competency test course trainers

We are reviewing the status of our pool of trainers. We will be running refresher courses for currently approved trainers and to recruit new trainers. Our intention is to increase the number of AFB recognition and competency test courses and also to make them a more regular event in locations throughout the country. At the moment these courses are held on an ad hoc basis, which means that many beekeepers are not in a position to attend one.

Interaction with the beekeeper register

Last year the MA gave a presentation to the two industry organisation conferences, showcasing the web interface that will allow beekeepers to partly self-manage their apiary information. The beta versions were sent out to a selected group of beekeepers for testing and comment. Currently this is being rolled out in the first instance to larger beekeeping entities.

The advantages of introducing a web-based interface with the register include reduced administration effort for beekeepers, making it easier to report disease and to keep apiary information more current. This also puts the onus on beekeepers to take some direct responsibility for the accuracy of the information that is held on the register about them.

We'd like your feedback!

As you can see, we've revamped the format of the *BeeKeeper* to give it a fresh new look. We hope you like the new format and features, and we're interested in your feedback: contact the NBA at secretary@nba.org.nz or 04 4716254.

The NBA needs you

Subscriptions for the 2010 year were due in January. However, we are still processing memberships. Enclosed in this issue is a NBA subscription form. The form can also be found at www.nba.org.nz or by contacting Jess on secretary@nba.org.nz or 04 471 6254. The stronger our membership, the more effective and influential we can be as an advocate for our industry. For more information on the benefits of joining the NBA, visit www.nba.org.nz and hold your mouse over 'About Us'.

AFB RECOGNITION AND COMPETENCY COURSE

The Franklin Beekeepers Club will be hosting a Refresher/Test in June at the Ramarama Hall.

Register by 1st June with
Matt 0224 203040 or
tunzy@clear.net.nz

Full details in May Beekeeper issue, and from the above.

Beekeeping Business For Sale

Approx 800 hives in Nth King Country, well established run on good sites with good resource balance. All equipment and plant in excellent order. Hives well fed and disease-free. Would prefer to sell as going concern, which includes 14 ha farmlet with factory, workshop and 2 houses, however other options will be considered.

Enquiries to
John or Pauline Bassett, Waitomo Honey Ltd, Te Kuiti
Ph 07 878 7193 or email waihon@actrix.co.nz

FOR SALE

Beehive Boxes ¾ and full depth
Floors – single and double
Top feeders

Order now for next season

Raeson Milling
Phone 03 319 6309 after hours
Email raesonmilling@amuri.net

Experienced Beekeeper Wanted

New Zealand

Blaycliff Apiaries Ltd is a progressive and innovative beekeeping operation in the Upper South Island of New Zealand. We own and manage over 2500 hives producing mostly manuka and clover honey.

This is an excellent opportunity to base yourself in the Marlborough region. The job offers not only excellent rewards but a fantastic lifestyle opportunity with the Marlborough sounds at your doorstep. Marlborough is known for its clean green image, hunting, fishing, tramping – an outdoor paradise.

Blaycliff Apiaries Ltd is a focus driven company using leading edge technology to further develop its operations and continuing improvement of its product. Blaycliff Apiaries Ltd focused on innovation which is driven by its hands on management team.

Blaycliff Apiaries values committed individuals who are enthusiastic about the challenges this role may present. The remuneration package will be based on experience and opportunities to progress. Possible assistance with relocation and accommodation is offered.

The successful applicant will require:
- Experience and enthusiasm in all aspects of beekeeping.
- Ability to communicate well, manage staff and report to the manager.
- Basic computer knowledge.
- Be physically fit.

Preference will be given to applicants who:
- Hold a DECA
- Have a current drivers licence/Heavy trade (clean)
- Have a Forklift License
- Hold a current First Aid certificate

Please send your CV in the strictest confidence to either the postal address below or email directly to Darren Clifford.

BLAYCLIFF APIARIES LTD
829 TAYLOR PASS ROAD, BLENHEIM, NEW ZEALAND
TELEPHONE: 0064 3 577 6955 MOBILE: 0064 27 2497771
EMAIL: darren@thehoneycompany.co.nz

The need to quarantine two hives

From Wanganui Beekeepers' Club

Over two years ago, our club was very pleased to accept a donation of three strong hives that had been checked for AFB, bringing our hive numbers up to eight at that time.

Young Anton getting his hive records checked. Photo: Graham Pearson.

We replaced the old boxes and floors with new ones and put them on new varroa screens with sticky boards underneath. The hives were requeened and were treated with strips at the same time as the other hives; also, we noted that the varroa drop was not excessive.

We had a working bee each month for all our new members. Many times during the season, we inspected the brood in all hives, mainly for teaching purposes and to make nucs for the beginners. No AFB showed up until we did a check before taking the honey off in February, when we found six AFB cells in one of the donated hives.

So that night, with the beginners helping, the bees were killed with petrol fumes (a good lesson), then we sealed the whole hive in large plastic bags to be removed to a safer burning site. The fire department readily gave permission for a daytime fire in a clear sandy spot and the newest members were there to dig the hole and feed the fire: good lesson number two.

Unfortunately, one of the novices had taken her nuc from this strong hive in October and on checking her brood at the same time before extracting the club honey, we found four AFB cells. We didn't waste time looking for any more—we decided to burn it in the same fire. So the dead bees, brood, and honey frames as well as her crown board were put in the fire. Later on, her saved hiveware was paraffin-treated by one of the commercial beekeepers who felt sorry for her: good lesson number three.

Luckily we had full notes in the apiary record book that showed no other equipment had been swapped. However, we decided to put the other two donated hives into quarantine for 18 months. They had two fully capped honey supers that stayed on the hives all that time. Their hive numbers were marked and all care was taken to clean the hive tools with Janola and to use disposable gloves on top of the leather gloves when inspecting the hives: good lesson number four. Those hives came out of quarantine free of disease last October and we know that our hygienic practices and use of full written records have paid off because no other hives in the apiary got AFB.

> "No AFB showed up until we did a check before taking the honey off in February, when we found six AFB cells in one of the donated hives."

This season we have extracted 444 kilograms of honey: the most we have ever got from our club apiary in the 11 years we have been using it for teaching purposes. All this was accomplished in spite of the bees having to draw out 22 new supers of waxed plastic frames.

We hope you enjoyed the first New Zealand BeeKeeper Hobbyists' Corner. This will be a regular section in the journal and is designed to give practical, seasonal information to beginning beekeepers and those with just a few hives. If you're a hobbyist and there's a particular topic you would like to hear about, please don't hesitate to let us know. Simply send your idea or suggestion to editor@nba.org.nz

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
- strips have a 5 year expiry date from date of manufacture

Note:
There have been **NO** confirmed reports to date in New Zealand of Varroa being resistant to Bayvarol®

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

Bayvarol is New Zealand's most popular Varroa treatment, for **very** good reason.

Current prices as at April 2010

20 to 96 strips	$1.98 + GST each
100 to 796 strips	$1.89 + GST each
800 to 8800 strips	$1.53 + GST each
9600 plus strips	$1.48 + GST each

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, please phone 03 358 7498 or email: Bayvarol@beehealthy.co.nz

BK121

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

Ecroyd Beekeeping Supplies Ltd

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

www.beehealthy.co.nz

www.ecroyd.com

P.O. Box 5056 Papanui, Christchurch 8542, New Zealand • 6A Sheffield Crescent, Burnside, Christchurch
Phone: (03) 358-7498 • Fax: (03) 358-8789 • Email: ecroyd@beehealthy.co.nz

Banding together to safeguard manuka honey

By Frans Laas

In my report in the March issue of the journal I noted there was widespread concern amongst NBA members about the Manuka Honey Steering Group's proposal to bring manuka honey under the control of the Horticulture Export Authority Act 1987, and about the consultation process that was being used.

Since then, Gemma Collier and Daniel Paul (Joint NBA CEOs), and John Hartnell (representing the Federated Farmers Bees group) and I had a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture David Carter and his officials at Parliament. At the meeting we indicated that our members have expressed significant concerns about the way the process was being handled by the Manuka Honey Steering Group (MSG). We also advised the Minister that our members had indicated there was insufficient support for the idea to place manuka honey or any other honey under the legislative umbrella of the Horticultural Export Authority Act 1987. The Minister stated that if the majority of industry did not support this direction, it would not proceed; he also supported the view that the key priority was to sort out the standards issues.

A point of clarification: it was subsequently confirmed by the Minister's office that "industry" covers all sectors of the honey industry. In a letter from the Minister dated 22 March the **Minister indicated that the MSG, ourselves (NBA/FFNZ) and the BPSC needed to work together to "safeguard the position of the manuka honey industry".** He also indicated that the science-based standards for the industry accepted monofloral manuka honey and NPA (non-peroxide activity) honey needed to be finalised, and should be regarded as a key priority.

On 25 March an open invitation to a meeting was called with the MSG and the NBA/FFNZ. This was in response to the Minister's directive. The convenor of the MSG, Stephen Franks, and his assistant represented the MSG. Two Government officials were in attendance as well.

The MSG outlined their belief that once standards are set, then there needs to be an industry regulatory body to enforce them. However, we indicated to the convenor that our members had the view that once published standards are available the whole process becomes self-enforcing from the market down to the producer. There are already regulatory bodies able to deal with any problems now, so another layer of regulation is viewed as not necessary by our members.

While there has been criticism of the MSG's actions, there also have been some positive outcomes. An inter-laboratory comparison project (ring testing) has been commissioned to highlight and remedy the problems with variable results in NPA testing. This project has indicated that all the laboratories involved are now producing more consistent results with good precision. There will be further rounds of "ring" testing to validate the earlier work and support consistency moving forward.

The MSG has also begun drafting a "code of health claim conditions" to be used with the Manuka standards. While there are some parts of the draft code that members have indicated concern with, there are some elements that may have some merit. It is intended that the MSG continues to refine this and then present this draft for industry comment in the near future.

As mentioned in my president's report, by the time you receive the journal the situation may have changed considerably. However, we will endeavour to keep branches updated on the situation by email. We welcome your comments on this matter to us by email: ceo@nba.org.nz

Manuka monofloral standards

At present some overseas importers require a 70% pollen percentage to define monofloral manuka. While this marker (pollen count) might be acceptable for the majority of honeys, it can create issues with the definition of monofloral manuka.

Clearly producers/marketers have justifiable concerns about the scientific validity of this requirement, as quite a lot of manuka honey which appears to be the real deal has very low pollen percentages and pollen count. As we gain a better insight into the composition of manuka honey, the manuka honeydew factor becomes a very significant issue. There is anecdotal evidence of manuka honey being produced when there are no flowers present. Current scientific evidence indicates that many manuka honey samples contain sooty mould spores and also abnormally high electrical conductivity readings consistent with honeydews. Honeydews by definition have no pollen, so a manuka honey exhibiting a low pollen percentage may actually have a significant percentage of manuka honeydew in it.

The BPSC acknowledges this position, and is now seeking further information to support this understanding. Any submissions or validated information on this issue is requested with urgency. The Council has our support and encouragement.

In an effort to provide greater clarity about the roles of the BPSC, the council has commissioned a website www.bpsc.org.nz to describe the role and report on the work undertaken by the BPSC.

STOP PRESS:

As this journal goes to print, on 31 March I attended another meeting at the NBA office with John Hartnell (FFNZ Bees), Jim Edwards (BPSC), Gemma Collier and Daniel Paul (Joint NBA CEOs), Sir Wira Gardiner (AMHA Chair) and John Rawcliffe (AMHA General Manager). The meeting was very constructive and all parties agreed that clear lines of communication were needed to ensure all their members were consulted appropriately.

AMHA are planning on inviting all of their members and manuka producers and exporters to a meeting in May. At this meeting they plan to hold their AGM and then reaffirm the principles of why AMHA joined the Steering Group. They will use the meeting as an opportunity to fully inform their members of the current situation. They then hope to present a voice that is representative of the majority of their members at the NBA conference in June.

This would see a working partnership between the Review Group, NBA, FFNZ, BPSC and AMHA. We will endeavour to ensure that any work that is undertaken with the above parties is fully explained and consulted with our respective members.

BeeLine Supplies

Suppliers to the Beekeeping Industry

Southern Cross Plastic Frames
FD 33 and 35mm end bars. ¾ 35 mm and modified Manley style.
Drop shipments available in Christchurch.

APPROVED STOCKISTS

ALLIANCE
QUALITY BEEKEEPERS WOODWARE

SUPPLIERS OF:
Apistan® (The world's most used varroa control)
Apiguard® - now approved for use in organic hives
Boxes - all sizes and grades
Hive Mats
Queen excluders metal and plastic
Suits
Smokers
Hive tools
Metal lids
Wooden frames
and for all your beekeeping needs

EXPORT GRADE BOXES NOW AVAILABLE

Hours For Warehouse:-
Monday to Friday - by arrangement

For orders and quotations phone Brian Pilley

Phone: (03) 488-0151 Fax: (03) 488-0152, After Hours: (03) 488-0151

Email: beelinesupplies@xtra.co.nz

45 Elwyn Crescent, Green Island Dunedin

Stockists of Tecpak Containers, Southern Cross Plastic Frames

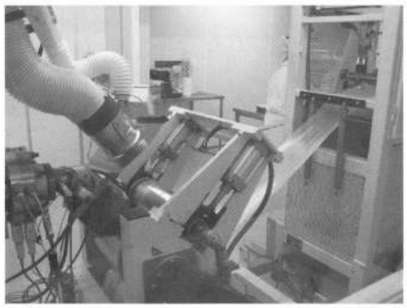
A visit to Wyjolab in France

By Peter Lyttle

As part of our trip to Apimondia in France we were invited to visit Wyjolab, where Apivar® is produced.

Wyjolab (pronounced 'vee ja lab') is situated in a rural setting near Chaillac, about 300 kilometres south of Paris. The rural location is due to the lab's origin, being established by a progressive farmer who started making animal remedies. Over the years the lab grew and was eventually taken over by Veto-Pharma, and is now a large and sophisticated operation producing several different animal remedies and veterinary medicines.

Apivar® is manufactured in a dedicated line using equipment specifically designed for its manufacture. Entry to the manufacturing area is via a small room where you must put on a disposable coat, shoe covers and hair cover, before stepping over a low



A ribbon of Apivar strips leaves the extruder.

barrier beyond which you must wear sterile clothing. You then pass through an air lock into the manufacturing area proper. The air entering and leaving the area is filtered by a massive filtration system to ensure that nothing unwanted enters or leaves.

There are really only two ingredients in Apivar®—amitraz and the polymer which forms the strip. These ingredients are quarantined on entering the premises, in a colour-coded area and marked with corresponding colour-coded stickers. From here, every individual container is sampled

Left to Right, Philippe Gendron, Wyjolab pharmacist, Peter and Susan Lyttle, NZ Beeswax Ltd, Benoit Siefert, Veto-Pharma General Manager.

and analysed to ensure the contents meet the high specification required. Very few plants in the world can produce amitraz to the degree of purity required for Apivar® production. The polymer is also very special and has unique properties required for the production of Apivar®. Once passed, ingredients are marked with special stickers and can pass into another colour-coded area for accepted ingredients. The quality of the raw materials is of paramount importance and quality control procedures are very strictly applied.

> "the quality control laboratory is very well equipped with many complicated-looking glass instruments"

One batch is produced each day. The polymer and the amitraz are mixed together so that they are perfectly dispersed. The mixture then enters an extrusion machine, which melts the ingredients and extrudes them in a film of strips. As they cool, the tabs are punched and the pairs of strips are guillotined off. The strips are then put in packs of 10 and vacuum-sealed in their specially designed foil and plastic packaging. Packets of strips are taken at intervals throughout the batch production for analysis to ensure that the strips contain the correct quantity of the active ingredient. Because Apivar® is registered as a veterinary medicine in France, strict quality control and monitoring is mandatory under French law.

As you might expect, the quality control laboratory is very well equipped with many complicated-looking glass instruments, plus a wide range of other very sophisticated analytical equipment including a GC-MS machine (gas chromatography-mass spectrometer).

We were lucky enough to be at the plant the day that a batch of Apivar® was being made for the New Zealand market and were able to watch the production process through observation windows. We were very impressed with the plant and quality control procedures in place.

Our visit was capped off by being taken to lunch at the local village hotel by management. The French take great pride in their cuisine and wine, and with lunch being an important meal it was quite an occasion. The chef was a keen rugby man and a follower of the All Blacks, so when he heard that they were having guests from New Zealand, he wore his All Blacks T-shirt and did his best to impress by providing several courses of his best traditional dishes, which we very much appreciated. To my relief, snails and frogs' legs were not among them; however, we did have to eat *foie gras* (very rich and fatty duck liver) to be polite.

INVITATION

NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF NZ (INC) SEMINARS AND CONFERENCE 2010

Rutherford Hotel—Trafalgar Square, Nelson

27–30 June 2010

Sunday 27 June

Small and New Beekeepers' Forum:
— All welcome
Specialty group meetings
Mix and mingle in the evening

Monday 28 June

Seminars
Sponsors night

Tuesday 29 June

Seminars
Conference dinner and dance

Wednesday 30 June

National Beekeepers' Association AGM

THE NBA WELCOMES ALL MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS TO JOIN US FOR AN INTERESTING AND SOCIABLE CONFERENCE 2010.

Rutherford Hotel Nelson Reservation Form

RUTHERFORD HOTEL NELSON
A HERITAGE HOTEL

To: Stacey Dodd

Reservationist
PO Box 248
Nelson 7040

Phone: +64 3 546 3000
Fax: +64 3 546 3003
Email: enquiries@rutherfordhotel.co.nz

Reservations for attending the National Beekeepers' Association Conference
27 — 30 June 2010
Quote Block # 49200

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Company: _____ Fax: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Arrival Date: Time:

Departure Date: Time:

Executive room priced at $155.00 inc Room Only or $175.00 inc Bed & Breakfast

90 rooms have been held for the above conference until 24 May 2010
- after this date bookings will be accepted based on availability.

Prices are based on one or two people sharing a room.
An extra adult is charged at $36.00 inc per night, for 3 adults sharing a room.
All rooms are non-smoking.

Rooms Required:	Single	Twin/Double
No. of persons in room:		

Special Requests:		

Note: All special requests are subject to availability, but will be honoured where possible.

- ☐ Check in is from 2pm and check out is 10am. Luggage storage is available.
- ☐ Cancellation policy: please cancel your booking by 6pm the day before your arrival to avoid cancellation fees. No-show booking will incur 1 night cancellation fee.
- ☐ All rooms are subject to availability.

Method of Payment

Card type:	Number:	Expiry:

3rd Party Credit Card charges—please advise payment details

☐ Room only ☐ Room & meals ☐ Full charge back ☐ Room & Breakfast

Signature: _____ Date: _____

NBA National Seminar & Conference 2010 Registration Form

Date: _____ Name: _____ NBA Membership No: _____

Partner's Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Postal Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Please indicate your Conference attendance choices below: **Tax Invoice: GST No 14-437-525**

Event	Number Attending	NBA Number	Non Member	Total
New and Small Beekeepers' Forum		$50	$60	
Mix & Mingle		$35	$40	
Seminars: Day 1 Monday 28 June		$75	$95	
Sponsors Night		**Courtesy of Sponsors**		
Seminars: Day 2 Tuesday 29 June		$75	$95	
Conference Dinner Tuesday 29 June		$80	$90	
AGM Lunch available for purchase		No charge		
Late Registration fee for payment after 31 May 2010		$30	$30	
TOTAL PAYMENT (GST incl) **Cheque** ☐ **Direct Credit** ☐				

New and Small Beekeepers' Forum: Lunch is not included for this day. Morning and afternoon tea is included.

Seminar days: Includes snacks and two complimentary drinks - bar available to purchase additional drinks at own cost thereafter.

Sponsors night: Includes finger food meal and two complimentary drinks - bar available to purchase additional drinks at own cost thereafter.

Dinner will be at Rutherford Hotel - ***Bring your dancing feet!***

Payment options

Cheques made are payable to Nelson Branch NBA Conference 2010.

Direct Credit to Kiwibank account # 38 9009 0550421 00. Please ensure a suitable reference is applied to the transfer to identify yourself and remember to send the registration form by snail mail or email to Kerry Gentleman.

Please send completed registration and payment to:

Kerry Gentleman, Ward-Holmes Rd, RD2, Takaka 7182 or email: frazer.kerry@clear.net.nz

of Inspection each year for your hives. However, you must maintain a record of inspection dates and relevant information for audit purposes. As part of the DECA, you must undertake a test on AFB recognition and control before a certificate will be granted and your DECA approved.

What happens if I don't have a DECA?

Those beekeepers who fail to respond to the Management Agency's offer to enter into a DECA agreement will be required to furnish a Certificate of Inspection each year for their hives. This certificate must be completed, and hives inspected by, an Approved Beekeeper or by Management Agency personnel. Most beekeepers will incur some cost to have this work done for them. This will happen every year and the beekeeper must complete a Certificate of Inspection, again completed by an Approved Beekeeper, or by the Management Agency.

Beekeepers who for any reason do not have a DECA must obtain the services of a person who has a DECA to assist with inspection and signing off the Certificate of Inspection.

Obligations for all beekeepers

AFB—Exposure: you must not allow honey bees to have access to any hive, equipment or products that have come from an AFB-infected hive. You must not extract the honey from an AFB-infected hive.

AFB—Destruction of Hives: you must destroy by burning any of your hives that have AFB within seven (7) days of it being found, unless you have written permission from the Management Agency to do otherwise.

AFB—Moving Hives: you may not transfer ownership of any AFB-infected hives or infected equipment or products, or remove the hives or equipment from the place where it was found, without permission of the Management Agency. You may move the diseased hives or equipment, however, if you have a provision in your DECA allowing you to transport diseased hives to a safe place for destruction.

AFB—Notification: if AFB is found in your hives you must notify the Management Agency Contractor (AsureQuality) **in writing within seven (7) days.**

AFB—Sterilising of Equipment: this can only be done with permission of the Management Agency, using methods they have approved.

Annual Disease Return: before 1 June each year you must record, on the form mailed to you by the contractor:

- the number of hives you have
- the number of AFB hives found during the previous year (if any: this is in addition to the 7-day reporting requirement), the dates on which they were found and where they were found, and the dates that you destroyed them
- any changes to the apiary information you have supplied to the Management Agency. Complete all sections
- the dates on which you transferred the ownership of any of your hives to someone else, and provide the name and address of the new owner.

Apiaries—Registration: an apiary is any group of your hives that are more than 200 metres from any other apiary that you have registered. All apiaries must be registered with the Management Agency Contractor (AsureQuality) if hives are on a site for more than 30 days.

When registering the apiary you will need to supply:

- your full name and address
- the number of colonies in the apiary
- the name and initials of the occupier of the property
- the road name and address of the property
- a written description of where the apiary is on the property
- a Topo 50 grid reference or 260 series
- whether it is seasonal (stating the months it is usually occupied) or permanent.

If you have a permanent apiary site that has been unoccupied for 30 days or more, you must deregister it. You will, therefore, need to deregister all your permanent apiaries that are not occupied, or alternatively change them to seasonal apiaries if you intend to use them in the next 12 months.

Approved Beekeepers: any beekeeper can become an Approved Beekeeper by:

- having an American Foulbrood Disease control plan (known as a 'DECA') for their hives that has been approved by the Management Agency Contractor (AsureQuality) and
- having sat and passed an AFB Disease Recognition and Destruction Competency Test.

Certificate of Inspection: unless you are an Approved Beekeeper, you must ensure all of your hives are inspected by an Approved Beekeeper between 1 August and 30 November each year. An authorised beekeeper must complete the Certificate of Inspection form, which details the inspection, and forward it to the Management Agency within 14 days of the inspection. The Approved Beekeeper who carries out the inspection will need to fill out parts of the certificate, including signing off the form.

Change of ownership: when you transfer the ownership of your hives you must remove or deface all of your codes on the hives and notify the Management Agency that you have done it. You also need to give them the name and address of the new owner of the hives.

Code (hive registration) numbers: new beekeepers will be given a new code number. The code number must be marked on the outside of one hive in each apiary or on a sign in the apiary. Only the beekeeper who was allocated a code may remove or alter the code (without written permission from the Management Agency).

You should not have any other person's code number on your hives, or any other number that could be confused with a code number. In reality, many beekeepers have equipment in their apiaries that have purchased from other beekeepers over the years. Considering the difficulty of removing code numbers, it will be considered sufficient in the meantime to remove any confusion by erecting a sign in the apiary with the correct apiary code number.

Compensation: no compensation will be paid by the Management Agency for any

losses occurred by beekeepers in having to comply with the Pest Management Strategy.

Drugs: you must not feed any substance to your bees that has the effect of obscuring AFB or attempting to 'cure' it.

Hives—Access: you must ensure that the area around your hives is kept free from vegetation to allow normal access.

Hives—Moveable frames: you must keep your bees in moveable frame hives. Exemptions may be granted by the Management Agency for research, queen rearing, package bees and public display.

Unregistered/abandoned hives: please report them to the Management Agency Contractor (AsureQuality Limited), who will take reasonable steps to find the owner of unregistered apiaries. If they are unable to locate the owner they may destroy the hives.

To ensure that the Pest Management Strategy works for the benefit of all beekeepers, the Management Agency may have to enforce compliance of the above obligations. This enforcement may take the form of any or all of:

- cancelling a beekeeper's approved status
- conducting the above obligations on behalf of the beekeeper and sending them an account for the work done, and
- bringing a prosecution under the Biosecurity Act.

You will have noticed that you may need to contact the Management Agency Contractor (AsureQuality Limited) to gain permission for a number of things that you have been doing already (e.g., keeping bees in non-moveable frame hives, wax dipping, moving AFB-infected hives to central location to deal with them, etc). This is not a change, as you have always required permission. It was just that it wasn't enforced before so people didn't bother. The best policy would be for beekeepers to seek permission in writing early on: indeed, it is an integral part of the DECA agreements that most beekeepers have with the Management Agency. In most cases the permission will be granted automatically as part of your DECA, although the permission will probably be conditional.

So what do I have to do?

Don't be concerned if having read the information about the PMS you are suddenly confronted with the prospect of breaching the rules and you are fearful of prosecution. The Management Agency is available to assist in a constructive manner and asks that you make direct contact with the AFB NPMS Manager, Rex Baynes.

For many/most beekeepers, you can expect a confirmation of acceptance of your DECA application within a short time, though more complicated DECAs may take longer. Please contact your nearest disease coordinator regarding AFB field days, and disease elimination courses and the tests.

All beekeepers will need to complete an Annual Disease Return and the declaration when it is sent to you this autumn.

Conclusion

The prospect of being able to keep bees in a country free of AFB is exciting. It will save the beekeepers of New Zealand millions of dollars, and much stress and heartache. Almost every beekeeper in the country has had to deal with this disease at some time or another.

We would love to see the end of it. It really can be achieved. So let's do it!

Additional information

If you require additional information on the National American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy or AFB control, the following documents are available:

- the Biosecurity Act 1993 (available from bookshops that supply government publications)
- the Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy) Order 1998 (available from bookshops that supply government publications)
- The Biosecurity (American Foulbrood – Apiary and Beekeeper Levy) Order 2003 (available from bookshops that supply government publications)
- The AFB Disease Elimination Manual (available from the Management Agency or from the Executive Secretary of the National Beekeepers' Association)
- www.afb.org.nz

Contact details

Management Agency:

Rex Baynes
AFB NPMS Manager
PO Box 44282
Lower Hutt
Email: rbaynes@ihug.co.nz

Contractors: AsureQuality Limited

Hamilton

Murray Reid
AsureQuality Limited
Private Bag 3080, Hamilton
Email: reidm@asurequality.com
Ph: 07 850 2881
Fax: 07 850 2801
Mobile: 021 972 858

Byron Taylor
AsureQuality Limited
Private Bag 3080, Hamilton
Email: taylorby@asurequality.com
Ph: 07 850 2867
Fax: 07 850 2801
Mobile: 021 918 400

Christchurch

Tony Roper
AsureQuality Limited
Private Bag 4718, Christchurch
Email: ropert@asurequality.com
Ph: 03 358 1835
Fax: 03 358 6222
Mobile: 021 283 1829

Marco Gonzalez
AsureQuality Limited
Private Bag 4718, Christchurch
Email: gonzalezm@asurequality.com
Ph: 03 358 1835
Fax: 03 358 6222
Mobile: 021 951 625

Ceracell Beekeeping Supplies Ltd

24 Andromeda Cres, East Tamaki, Auckland, New Zealand PH 64 9 274 7236 Fax 64 9 274 0368
email: info@ceracell.co.nz

Looking for a TOTALLY ALTERNATIVE treatment in the warmer months then try APIGUARD ®

Apiguard ®

Registered as an input for Organic Honey Production with AsureQuality New Zealand

- Up to 93% efficiency rate
- Works best in warmer temperatures
- Thymol based treatment. Thymol is a natural constituent found in thyme and some honeys such as lime.
- Withdrawal period for honey: 0 days
- Easy to use foil trays, sold in carton of 10 x 50g trays. 2 trays per treatment per hive. Also available in 3kg tubs.
- Registered in over 36 countries worldwide including such countries as Germany, France, Italy, Switzerland, UK and USA.

Apistan ®

The most effective Varroa Treatment
The most reliable Varroa Treatment

The standard against which other treatments are measured
Registered bee medication in over 50 countries worldwide

Resistance to Synthetic Pyrethroids has now been scientifically confirmed in a yard of beehives in Northland. This may not be an isolated instance. Please ALTERNATE your treatments!

- Still a viable treatment option where there is no resistance
- Eliminates up to 100% of all mites in a hive
- Strips can be used in a hive for up to 8 weeks
- Will not give sub-lethal dose during 8 week period - controlled release combined with therapeutic dosage, used correctly will not promote resistance in mites.
- Proven efficiency from beginning to end of treatment period
- Apistan is that effective that it will resurrect hives that are collapsing from parasitic mite syndrome
- Economic to use only two strips per brood nest required
- Long shelf life, current stock 01/ 2013 expiry
- Apistan is not affected by removal from its packaging and can be repacked for use if necessary.
- Packed 10 to sealed foil pouch, 10 pouches per carton=100

For more information ask for a brochure or refer to Vita Europe website
http://www.vita-europe.com

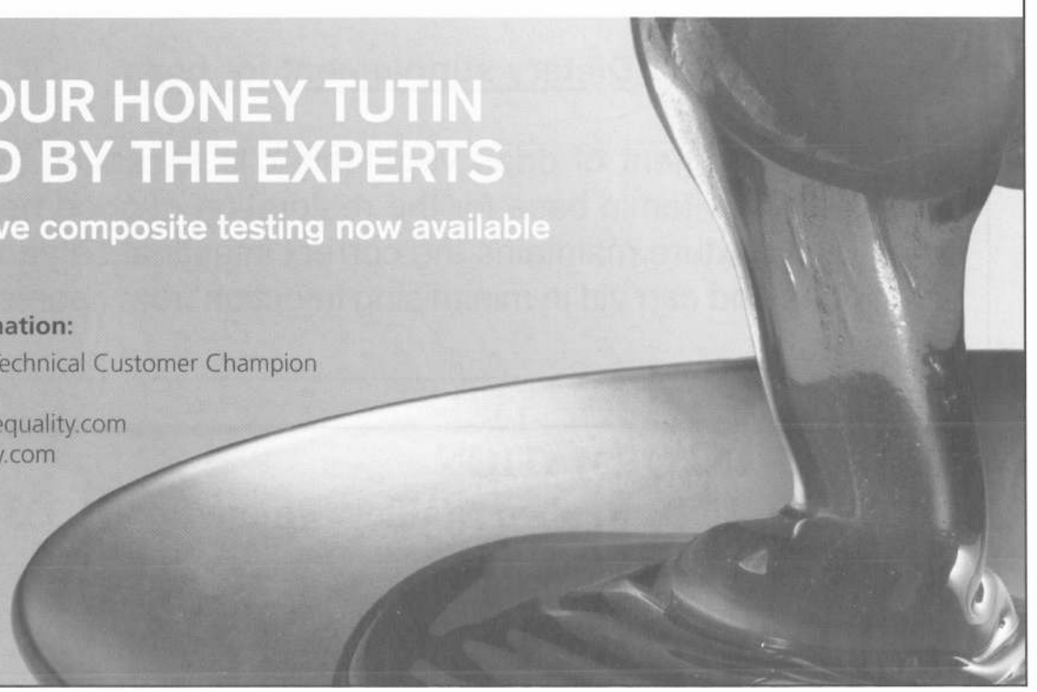
Did you know?

By Rex Baynes, AFB NPMS Manager

There are 2,948 registered beekeepers of which:

- 1,767 (59.9%) own less than 5 hives. These hives are located on a total of 1,991 apiaries (average of 2 hives per apiary).
- 309 (10.5%) own more than 251 hives. These hives are located on a total of 17,215 apiaries (average of 20 hives per apiary).
- 98 (3.3%) own more than 1,000 hives. These hives are located on a total of 10,919 apiaries (average of 21 hives per apiary).

Year	Registered beekeepers	Number of apiaries	Number of beehives
2000	4,864	21,633	299,712
2001	4,550	20,993	320,113
2002	3,973	20,258	305,152
2003	3,649	20,228	300,729
2004	3,211	19,592	292,530
2005	2,911	19,281	294,886
2006	2,694	18,954	300,728
2007	2,602	19,228	313,399
2008	2,589	20,439	343,155
2009 (March)	2,675	21,347	354,603
2010 (March)	2,948	22,561	376,524



API LIFE VAR

New Zealand's No 1 organic product for mite control

ApiLife var contains four essential oils: Thymol, Eucalyptus, Camphor and Menthol, absorbed on a vermiculite wafer, with slow vapor release. It is the natural alternative for the fight against (resistant) varroa mites

Prices	**2 wafers per packet**
10 to 800 pck = 5.00 each + GST	(1 wafer = 2.50 + GST)
900+ pck = 4.80 each + GST	(1 wafer = 2.40 + GST)
5000 + pck = 4.60 each+ GST	(1 wafer = 2.30 + GST)

Payment is required prior delivery by cheque or electronic banking

API HERB

NOW APPROVED FOR USE IN NEW ZEALAND

Dietary supplement for bees

Dietary supplement of dried vegetable oils essences for bees in a dextrose and vitamin base for the restoration of good health in adult bees. The mixture maintains the correct intestinal balance in healthy adult bees and can aid in minimising infection from spores of Nosema disease.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
BEEGREEN LTD, Reuben Stanley, Phone/fax 07 333 2249, beegreen@fastmail.fm
Manufacturer www.chemicalslaif.it

BURNING QUESTIONS

Tar deposits and cockroaches

Is there an easy way to clean the tar deposits on the inside of the smoker lid?

Sometimes when using sacks or pine needles the exit hole gets almost blocked, and I have to put it in a vice to scrape it clean. Is there some liquid I could soak it in to get it thoroughly clean?

Answer: I give my smoker a five-yearly clean and there's no easy way but to use your hive tool and hope that it flakes off in slabs.

However, I will try using a primus bottle flame to warm up the outside of the smoker to see if this works any better.

There are always a lot of cockroaches running between the crown boards and the lids in all our club hives. Would it be safe to put some roach poison there, or do you think a sticky trap (which costs more) would be better?

"Cockroaches are in most hives but vary in number among apiary sites."

Answer: Cockroaches are in most hives but vary in number among apiary sites. They clean up the pollen and bits of discarded debris that fall on to the bottomboard, which normally the bees clean out. Cockroaches tend to hide above the crown board to keep out of the bees' way.

I wouldn't put any sort of insecticide on the crown board to clear the problem. Better to place a larger diameter stick between the roof and crown board to create a bigger space and hopefully discourage the cockroaches. I don't like finding the odd Pacific roach when lifting off the roof. They move very quickly but so does the hive tool.

We want to know your burning beekeeping questions. Do you want to know how to set up your hives for winter? Are you having problems with wasps? Whatever your question, simply email it to editor@nba.org.nz and we will post the answers in the next issue of **The New Zealand BeeKeeper** *and on www.nba.org.nz.*

TREES AND SHRUBS OF NEW ZEALAND

Passiflora tetrandra

By Tony Lorimer, NBA Life Member

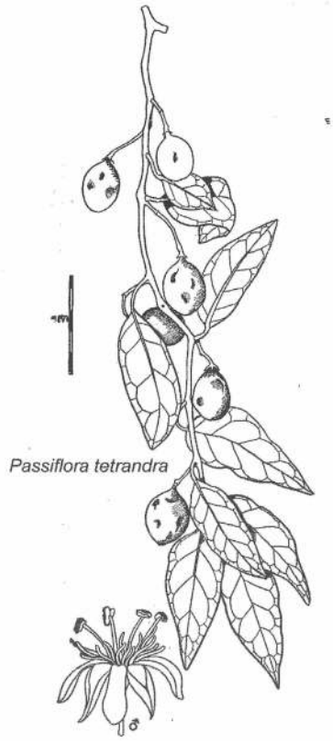
A slender climber with glossy leaves, the Kohia *(Passiflora tetrandra,* or New Zealand passionfruit) is found from Auckland to Banks Peninsula and is endemic to New Zealand.

The flowers are one to two centimetres across and are green with a corona of white or yellow filaments. Although the Kohia is often found on the edge of the bush, possums love it.

The Kohia gives a supply of white pollen and a little nectar from September to December. The fruit is bright orange, the size of a cherry, and is most often seen in the tops of the trees that the vine has climbed.

The Maori used the dried wood of the Kohia as a slow match with which they were able to carry a spark from place to place.

The seeds were crushed to obtain oil, which was used by the tohunga for various treatments. Kohia oil also was used as an ointment for itch and old wounds.



Passiflora tetrandra

Member issues heard at Auckland meeting

NBA joint CEO, Daniel Paul, heard various issues raised by NBA members and associates at a picnic lunch at the Auckland Beekeepers Club on 26 February.

"It is valuable for Gemma and I (NBA joint CEOs) to hear, firsthand, some of the concerns and ideas our members have. We're already beginning to look into these issues," says Daniel.

Among the concerns mentioned was the need to provide some beekeepers with more information about how best to deal with abandoned hives they might come across. It would also be useful to provide easily understood guidelines (perhaps in the form of flow charts) that outline the steps beekeepers should follow, and who they should contact, if they discover pests or diseases in their hives.

"The secretariat is also looking very closely at ways of promoting the NBA and increasing membership ..."

"A key issue for beekeepers who do all the right things is to get prompt feedback from the authorities about whatever it was they send in for checking. That's very important." The secretariat is also looking very closely at ways of promoting the NBA and increasing membership. Daniel said this is already high on the NBA's agenda and there are some ideas in the pipeline.

This year the NBA head office introduced a membership benefit scheme and hopes to build on this with more discounts and value for members.

"We've developed a forum on the NBA website and would like to work with the branches to give them the tools to market their branch locally.

"The forum gives members a chance to post questions and have them answered by beekeeping gurus or just generally chat to other beekeepers around New Zealand. It's a way of building a knowledge hub while also providing a sense of community between members," says Daniel.

Note: To access the forum, please login to the members section of the NBA website.

From left: Peter Biland (Franklin Beekeepers Club Secretary), Ian Browning (President Auckland Branch NBA), Daniel Paul (joint CEO, NBA), Dr Mark Goodwin (Plant & Food Research), Trevor Cullen (Ceracell Beekeeping Supplies), Kim Kneijber (Auckland Beekeepers Club President), Carol Downer (Auckland Beekeepers Club Vice President/Secretary). Photo supplied by Maureen Maxwell.

The Management Agency - Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy) Order 1998
Special Purpose Financial Statements Year Ended 31 May 2009

AUDIT REPORT

To the Minister of Agriculture:

We have audited the special purpose financial statements of The Management Agency Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy) Order 1998 on pages 2 to 5. The special purpose financial statements provide information about the past financial performance of The Management Agency Biosecurity (National Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy) Order 1998 as at 31st May 2009. This information is stated in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 6.

Executive Committee Responsibilities
The Committee is responsible for the preparation of the special purpose financial statements which fairly reflects the financial position of The Management Agency Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy) Order 1998 as at 31st May 2009 and of the results of their operations for the year ended 31st May 2009.

Auditor's Responsibilities
It is our responsibility to express an independent opinion on the special purpose financial statements presented by the Committee.

Basis of Opinion
An audit includes examining, on a test basis evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the special purpose financial statements. It also includes assessing:

- the significant estimates and judgments made by the Committee in the preparation of the special purpose financial statements; and
- whether the accounting policies are appropriate to The Management Agency Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy) Order 1998 circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We conducted our audit in accordance with New Zealand Auditing Standards. We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to obtain reasonable assurance that the special purpose financial statements are free from material misstatements, whether caused by fraud or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the special purpose financial statements.

Other than in our capacity as auditor, we have no other relationship with or interest in The Management Agency Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy) Order 1998.

Unqualified opinion
We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required.

In our opinion:
- proper accounting records have been kept by The Management Agency Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy) Order 1998 as far as appears from our examination of those records; and
- the financial report on pages 2 to 5 complies with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand and fairly reflects the financial position of The Management Agency Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy) Order 1998 and the results of its operations for the year ended 31st May 2009.

Our audit was completed on the 9th March 2010 and our Unqualified opinion was expressed as at that date.

Auditors: RHB Chartered Accountants Limited
Address: 525 Cameron Road, Tauranga

The Management Agency Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy) Order 1998

Statement of Movements in Equity For the Year Ended 31st May 2009

	Note	2009 $	2008 $
INCOME			
PMS Bio Security Levy		191,226	191,761
Penalty on Levy		20,217	5,168
Interest Received		3,220	3,309
AFB-NPMS		0	2,180
Default Inspections Cost Recovery		0	883
		214,664	203,302
Levies - Charged Next Year to 31 May	1(b)	273,972	225,149
Less Income in Advance		(273,972)	(225,149)
Total Income		214,664	203,302
LESS EXPENSES			
Accountancy Fees		3,920	4,145
Administration Fees		9,401	5,659
Aerial Surveillance		968	2,610
American Foulbrood Counselling & Audit		11,521	10,565
American Foulbrood Hive Inspection		48,889	49,401
Annual Disease Return (AsureQuality)		40,604	47,142
AP2 Training		8,669	10,938
Apiary database upgrade		5,515	0
Audit Fees		3,200	2,909
Bad Debts written off		6,194	735
Bank Fees		29	27
Beekeeper Communication		843	1,095
Beekeeper Education		6,030	7,912
Chargeable Surveillance		0	438
COI Admin		5,115	5,994
COI AsureQuality		7,964	7,811
Collection Costs		0	1,489
Compliance Costs		3,117	3,233
Conference (NBA)		1,159	1,377
DECA AsureQuality		13,736	12,968
DECA Scheme Admin		1,949	1,766
Default Inspections		2,602	3,518
Honoraria		4,000	0
Hort Research Contract		9,409	18,300
Insurance		766	725
Legal Expenses		2,827	0
Legal Expenses - re Collection		1,407	1,093
Legal Expenses Recovered		0	(2,726)
Magazine Expenditure		9,924	11,414
Management Agency Appointment		0	2,900
Manager Branch Visits		3,540	4,030
Meetings Management Agency		9,882	7,602
Pest Management Strategy		0	955
Postage Stationery & Printing		10,238	7,714
Reporting Government		545	945
Telephone		3,907	4,658
Travel & Accommodation		5,267	3,789
Website Expenses		1,958	4,602
Total Expenses		245,096	247,733
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		(30,433)	(44,431)

NOTE: This statement is to be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements.

The Management Agency Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy) Order 1998
Statement of Movements in Equity For the Year Ended 31st May 2009

	Note	2009 $	2008 $
EQUITY AT START OF PERIOD		(14,863)	29,568
SURPLUS & REVALUATIONS			
Net Surplus After Tax		(30,433)	(44,431)
Total recognised revenues & expenses		(30,433)	(44,431)
OTHER MOVEMENTS		-	-
EQUITY AT END OF PERIOD		(45,296)	(14,863)

The Management Agency Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy) Order 1998
Statement of Financial Position As at 31st May 2009

	Note	2009 $	2008 $
CURRENT ASSETS			
National Bank of New Zealand		158,273	116,484
National Bank Term Deposit		0	22,696
Accounts Receivable	1(b)	141,669	132,026
RWT Paid		0	
Total Current Assets		299,943	271,206
TOTAL ASSETS		299,943	271,206
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
GST Payable	1(c)	18,659	18,240
Accounts Payable		52,607	42,679
Income in Advance		273,972	225,149
Total Current Liabilities		345,238	286,069
TOTAL LIABILITIES		345,238	286,069
NET ASSETS		($45,296)	$14,863
Represented by;			
EQUITY			
Funds Settled		(52,064)	(52,064)
Retained Earnings		6,769	37,202
TOTAL EQUITY		($45,296)	$14,863

Treasurer _____ Vice Chairperson _____

Date 7/3/2010

NOTE: This statement is to be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements.

The Management Agency Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy) Order 1998
Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31st May 2009

1 REPORTING BASIS AND NATURE OF BUSINESS

The National Beekeepers Association is a non-profit organisation that acts for and facilitates on industry matters for the benefit of its members.
Further to this it has been appointed as the Management Agency for the AFB NPMS. The duties relating to this appointment are set out in the Blosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy) Order 1998. Levies used to pay for the running of the AFB NPMS are collected through the Biosecurity (American Foulbrood - Apiary & Beekeeper Levy) Order 2003. Pursuant to the Biosecurity Act 1993 the Management Agency must provide transparent financial records with respect to the management of the AFB NPMS Levy Order and this is what is reported in these statements.

The Management Agency; Biosecurity National American Foulbrood Management Strategy is a non-profit organisation.

The accounting principles recognised as appropriate for the measurement and reporting of earnings and financial position on an historical cost basis have been used, with the exception of certain items for which specific accounting policies have been identified.

a. Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies. All policies have been applied on bases consistent with those used in previous years.

b. Receivables

Receivables are stated at their estimated realisable value. Bad debts are written off in the year in which they are identified.
Member levies for the year ended 31 May 2010 have been charged prior to 31 May 2009. The amounts unpaid at 31 May 2009 are included in the Accounts Receivable balance. An adjustment for levies charged in advance is shown in the Statement of Financial Performance.

c. Goods & Services Tax

These financial statements have been prepared on a GST exclusive basis with the exception of Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable which are shown inclusive of GST.

2 AUDIT

These financial statements have been subject to audit, please refer to Auditor's Report.

3 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

At balance date there are no known contingent liabilities (2008:$0).

4 SECURITIES AND GUARANTEES

There was no secured overdraft as at balance date nor was any facility arranged. The Management Agency Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy) Order 1998 has not granted any securities or guarantees in respect of liabilities payable by any other party whatsoever.

NZFSA clarifies bee fees information

The New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) is working on simplifying how it communicates the complexities of fees and levies to beekeepers and bee product business operators.

It is also looking at the timing of annual levies with a view to moving billing into line with production dates when beekeepers are likely to have income from their operation.

Of New Zealand's 2680 or so registered beekeepers, only about 200—less than 8%—are directly subject to NZFSA regulation that incurs fees.

The vast majority of New Zealand beekeepers are hobbyists who don't sell their honey, or are 'primary processors'—that is, small business owners who simply supply supers to others for extracting and processing.

Neither of these groups is subject to fees levied by NZFSA. They may be subject to some regulation, though, such as supplying harvest declarations to extractors operating in the export sector who require official assurances. In areas where bees are at risk of feeding on toxic honeydew found on tutu bushes, beekeepers will have to show they are complying with regulatory limits for tutin, which may involve costs for auditing or testing.

Standards director Carol Barnao says NZFSA is aware the rules applying to producers from all sectors under the Animal Products Act can be confusing.

"NZFSA understands the pressures the several layers of requirements impose, especially for small and medium-sized businesses. That's why we're taking steps to try to amalgamate the way we present information and simplify the way we communicate regulatory requirements to industry."

A major website redesign is under way which should improve access to information for all sectors. In the interim, a table of the possible regulatory requirements that might apply to different bee products operations has been developed and is available on the website www.nzfsa.govt.nz under the Bee Products section (see http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/animalproducts/subject/bee-products/fees-charges/index.htm). For those without internet access, a printed copy can be obtained by calling 0800 693 721.

"A major website redesign is under way which should improve access to information for all sectors. "

"This is meant to be a starting point for beekeepers who want to identify the rules that apply to them, and what the fees and charges they're being levied actually pay for," Carol says.

NZFSA had also been listening to beekeepers who found it difficult to pay annual levies which are set in July each year and generally billed around October. A review of billing is under way to look at the timing of these charges with a view to delaying charging till the start of the harvest in January, Carol said.

NZFSA administers the regulatory requirements and related fees under the Animal Products Act and its regulations including risk management programmes, the bee products annual levy, annual storage charges, regulated control scheme charges, exporter registration and official assurances, and—for those who use it—e-cert. It also runs organic programme implementation and official assurances that are not mandated under legislation but are market access requirements.

NZFSA also administers the Food Act, including registration of food safety programmes, which beekeepers may opt for as a possible alternative to the food hygiene regulations. Annual verification fees will then be charged by an approved verifier on a commercial basis. Local councils set and charge fees for the food hygiene regulations, and enforce the rules. Under the Act, everyone in New Zealand who sells food for human consumption—including honey—has to make sure it is safe, suitable for its intended purpose, and does not have false or misleading labelling.

Labelling (including allergen warnings) and composition rules are set out in the Australia-New Zealand Food Standards Code, administered by Food Standards Australia-New Zealand.

Agencies other than NZFSA may also charge beekeepers for other purposes. For example, the American Foulbrood Pest Management Agency charges for managing American foulbrood under the Biosecurity Act. AsureQuality Limited offers services relating to live bee exports and pollination standards. None of these are anything to do with NZFSA. Verification of regulatory or market access requirements administered by NZFSA may be undertaken by an independent organisation; e.g., your local council sets the fees and administers the food hygiene regulations requirements for domestic-only operators, and independent third-party agencies verify that beekeepers who wish to export organic products are meeting the requirements for gaining official assurances from NZFSA. You should contact these agencies directly for information on any of these issues.

The Hadda beetle has recently been found in Auckland. The beetle predominantly feeds on solanaceous plants such as potatoes, tomatoes and aubergines. As such it is unlikely to affect pasture or horticulture pollination. We will keep members informed of any updates. A fact sheet on the beetle has been posted on the NBA website (www.nba.org.nz) under News/Latest Industry News. If you suspect you have found Hadda beetles feeding on plants on your property, call the MAF Biosecurity NZ freephone on 0800 80 99 66.

Training, trout and tramping

"Trout fishing definitely keeps me fit for beekeeping, or should I say my beekeeping keeps me fit for trout fishing."

Paul Badger first got into beekeeping when his teenaged daughter set up hives in their backyard.

After undertaking some apiary work in his day job for MAF, beekeeping became a full-time 'hobby'.

Paul has now been producing honey and offering pollination services for six years in the Gisborne area. Alongside his commercial beekeeping activities, Paul retains a strong interest in teaching.

Alongside his commercial beekeeping activities, Paul retains a strong interest in teaching.

Throughout Paul's career in bees, he's taught a beekeeping certificate, run an introduction to beekeeping weekend class and has even travelled to Tonga to undertake a varroa disease survey.

Paul with his new Ezyloader bee truck. Photo: Paul Badger.

"...he's taught a beekeeping certificate, run an introduction to beekeeping weekend class and has even travelled to Tonga to undertake a varroa disease survey."

From co-coordinating 'disease-a-thons'—he's the local disease coordinator for the East Coast NBA branch—to lecturing at the polytech, Paul is a team player and says he loves being involved in the training and development of other beekeepers. He is a keen fly fisher and a committee member of the Gisborne Anglers Club.

"To me trout fishing is the ultimate sport. I make all my own flies and live by a catch and release mentality—unless I'm camping in the nearby bush and need something for tea, that is."

Paul and his wife have also been tramping their way around New Zealand.

"We've recently completed tramps around the Nelson Lakes district, northern circuit, Mt Ruapehu, Queenstown, the Tongariro Crossing and we don't plan on stopping there.

"The Kaimai ranges are definitely next on our list," he says.

For Paul, being a member of the NBA not only means association with other beekeepers but also building a sense of community between all beekeepers.

"There's a lot of fragmentation in the beekeeping industry. At present, we have two industry groups and I would love to see them join into one body which works together for all New Zealand beekeepers."

Health Tips

Keep rubber gloves clean!

Soak your rubber gloves in bleach often to kill bacteria that build up in them. If bacteria get into the root of your fingernail, it's very hard to cure. Better still, use cotton gloves inside the rubber gloves and wash them daily. Gloves should not smell.

Prevent your children from becoming allergic to bee stings

1. Don't store unwashed beekeeping protective gear in your house.
2. Don't carry beehive equipment in the passenger compartment of your car.
3. Don't wash your protective gear with the household washing.
4. Remove your gear at the back door and wash it immediately.
5. Wash gloves in a separate container to remove stings and venom and soak your gloves in bleach to prevent bacterial build-up. (Put gloves on just before they are completely dry to retain the shape.)
6. Wash your face and hands immediately upon finishing your beekeeping.
7. Store all your spare gear in a shed away from the house.
8. Queens can be stored in the house before being put into the hives.

Bay of Plenty Branch

Here we are mid March and needing rain. After a dismal few weeks from mid January to mid February, the weather has picked up and been brilliantly fine, warm, not a lot of wind and no rain. The clover seems to have gone to ground and although present no flowers are visible. Possibly a combination of too dry weather and hungry stock.

The honey crop around the district varies from poor to good (and in some places, very good) depending on timing, location and density of bees. All in all it's a good outcome for what has been a different sort of year from August onwards. Now we have the chore of bringing hives home and ensuring mite treatments are applied (and working) with the stores as good as they can be for the winter.

The Waikato Field Day on varroa resistance was very interesting showing how to check for resistance: another thing we all need to be monitoring carefully.

I fully agree with the comments from the Waikato Branch in the February issue about the silly beekeepers who turn up in public places with hives or bee-laden supers. Unfortunately it's not just hives: honey supers may be clear of bees but park up for a while and any local bees turn up for a free lunch. Local business owners and residents do not appreciate angry bees in their environment and it gives all beekeepers a bad name. Have some thought for others when deciding to stock up on fuel or food (how about an extra tank on the truck and enough food for the return trip?). The vast majority of people do not share our fascination with bees and would happily forego any income generated by beekeepers' trucks stopping while laden for a bee-free environment.

Have a good autumn and see you all at conference in Nelson.

-Barbara Pimm, Branch Secretary

Waikato Branch

It would appear that some of my predictions in my February report about silly beekeepers have come to fruition. At the Waikato Branch meeting on 19 March, we heard whispers that the Police investigation mentioned in the report has resulted in a beekeeper been charged with having an insecure load; i.e., not covering a load of hives and allowing the bees to leave the truck when moving hives during the day. It will be interesting to see how this turns out: we need to keep an eye on the court reports in the newspaper.

The main topic of the day was the Manuka Steering Group and the HEA proposal. Steering committee members Moira Haddrell and Russell Berry gave presentations which were followed by a robust discussion, resulting in a consensus that this proposal and the direction of the steering committee was not supported by the members attending the meeting.

Most members at the meeting were gearing up for the package bee season, with one or two having started collecting bees as well as being up to their oxters (armpits) in supers and drums.

-Stephen Black

Hawke's Bay Branch

It's finally stopped raining and now we could use some rain: beekeepers are never happy. Most areas are still gaining small amounts of honey and should shut down well. Some hives in the drier parts of Hawke's Bay have done quite well over the last month, while those in the higher altitudes have done very poorly and some need urgent feeding just to keep them alive.

Most people have not had much of a problem with varroa this autumn but some isolated apiaries were hit hard for some reason. In our own case we had only one apiary that was badly affected by varroa, with bad PMS and bees with deformed wings crawling on the grass. Deformed wing virus (DWV) appears to be affecting hives far worse now than in the past. I suspect what happens is that a swarm or several swarms in the local area survive through the winter and spring and then die over summer, creating an invasion of mites. There is not much you can do about this except keep monitoring your drone brood throughout the season. I have noticed that as varroa numbers build up, the amount of drone brood in the hives diminishes: this is worth watching for.

Despite a good autumn—or perhaps because of a bad summer—many hives are weaker than normal at this time of year. They have good brood and are still laying well, but there are just not many bees in the hives. I experimented with some protected cells in late January. I have had some success with protected cells in the past but the results from the first lot I put out this year were very poor. The second lot was marginally better, probably because the weather had slightly improved. Overall, fewer than 20% had new queens and at this time of year I often find that many young queens have come from natural supersedure. I'm not saying that protected cells don't work because they can work very well but if, like us, you have had six weeks of rain over summer, don't expect to have a good year with your requeening if protected cells are all that you have used.

Frans mentioned vandalism in last month's President's report: it has been an ongoing problem in some of the more isolated parts of Hawke's Bay. One of my own yards gets vandalised once a year on average, and a friend who has bees up the road gets four or five sites vandalised every year. I had a report of a site last year that looked like a bulldozer had been through it. I think the worst case I have ever seen was where an orchardist insisted on the hives being placed hard into a hedge, and then forgot about them when the hedge trimmer came.

- John Berry, Branch President

Southern North Island Branch

Southern North Island Branch Autumn Field Day
Wairarapa Manuka Honey Ltd
Francis Line, Carterton
10 April, starting 10 am at the new honey factory

Speakers: NPMS, Tutin, HEA
Practical beekeeping demonstrations—bring your protective gear.
Area competition—second time, so this will be more physical and harder.
Sausage sizzle
Equipment, stockists, raffle
NBA members/families with cards free, non-members $5.00, Families $10.00

Follow the signs: turn 1 km north of Carterton, into Hughes Line (Y-intersection with State Highway 2), travel 300 metres then right into Francis Line. Down this road 3 km (across Perrys and Dorset Road intersections), and venue is on your right. If you get to Carters Line

(the third intersection), you have gone 400 metres too far.

AFB Course at the Johnsonville Community Centre
Room one, starting at 1pm on Saturday, 12 June 2010
Run by the Wellington Beekeepers' Association.
Cost: $50

Enquiries to M-A Lindsay before 31 May 2010
Email: lindsays.apiaries@clear.net.nz
Phone: 04 478 3367

Canterbury Branch

Branch open meeting 11 May

We welcome all beekeepers to an OPEN meeting of the Canterbury Branch on Tuesday, 11 May 2010, 7.30pm at the Westview Lounge, Hornby Workingmens' Club, Christchurch. Steve Lyttle (Manuka Honey Steering Committee) will present on the topic "The Manuka Industry: is there need for change?" RSVP by Tuesday 4 May please, to Secretary, ph 03 308 4964 or email birdsnbees@xtra.co.nz.

Summer finally arrived in Canterbury towards the end of February after a disappointing start to January. The hot fine weather was enough to enable the bees to gather the last of the crop. The change of weather was enough to improve autumn matings—a far cry from last year.

The turnaround in the weather has left Canterbury very dry and I wouldn't be surprised if fire restrictions are put in place soon. With all the long grass around after such a good growing season, fire is a real concern. Varroa seems to be all through the region at this point: it is absolutely amazing how quickly it spread through this area.

The good weather has enabled beekeepers to get on with their final rounds and get hives ready for winter. This winter will be interesting if the Northern Hemisphere is anything to go by.

Best of luck.

- Brian Lancaster,
Branch President

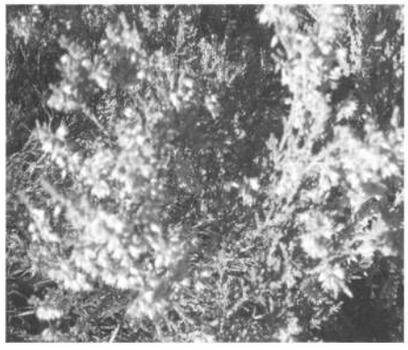
Impressions of Scotland

By Maureen Maxwell, NBA Executive Council member, Northern Ward

Here are some images of me in the heather moors, taken not far from Aviemore in the Scottish Highlands.

I was attending the SICAMM Conference (Societas Internationalis pro Conservatione Apis melliferae melliferae, or the International Association for the Protection of the European Dark Bee).

The 2009 conference was held in Scotland, so I accompanied my hostess from the Scottish National Honey Competition, Enid Brown (shown at left in the photograph at top right). I was duly impressed with the level of passion of SICAMM members to conserve this heritage species.



There were attendees from all over Europe and Scandinavia and much talk about breeding for resistance to CCD-type symptoms and outcomes, and the importance of breed specialisation alongside the continued global interbreeding. This global breed uniformity could, of course, leave us vulnerable to mass destruction.

Whilst attending the conference, Enid had a call for a full frame of heather honey for a gift for Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth. Now this was September: late summer, a little cooler than usual I was told. Enid wears shorts regards of the wee breeze—after all, it was summer! (I was very glad to have my Icebreakers, Swanndri and merino gloves and beanie!). Chilly winds and rainstorms were making for a poor harvest, so Enid and I went searching for a full frame fit for a queen. After several hives we selected four frames for the customer to choose from.

This site experienced temperatures of -23° Celsius in early January 2010.

Photos supplied by Maureen Maxwell.

Kiwifruit pollination hive quality

Shane Max and Richard Pentreath, ZESPRI Tech Transfer

Following two years of increased focus on hive quality in kiwifruit orchards, the industry is asking itself, "Should it be paying for quality to reward beekeepers supplying the better quality hives?"

Hayward kiwifruit orchardists have, over recent years, succeeded in continually improving their yields each year. This strategy has been necessary to maintain or improve profitability as costs continue to increase. But as orchard croploads increase, so does the need for optimal pollination to ensure not only maximum fruit size, but also high flower-to-fruit conversions. To achieve this, orchardists are steadily increasing their use of supplementary pollination using blown dry pollen; however, good quality hives are still a critical part of the mix.

The Focus Orchard Network (FON) is a set of five orchards, situated in different districts of the Bay of Plenty, which is supported by ZESPRI and MAF's Sustainable Farming Fund. Intensive monitoring (including hive inspections) is undertaken on these orchards to allow the orchardists to improve their management decisions and thus maximise their profit. Information from the orchards is shared with the wider industry via regular field days, industry publications and postings to the zespricanopy website www.zespricanopy.com.

Maximising pollination is critical to the kiwifruit industry's need to continually improve productivity. Photo supplied by Shane Max.

Focus Orchard Network hive scoring

The hive scoring system used on the Focus Orchards uses the Kiwifruit Pollination Association (KPA) hive standard as a baseline (Table 1). The scoring was developed in conjunction with Neale Cameron (ex-KPA auditor and Beesafe Coordinator).

Table 1. The Kiwifruit Pollination Association (KPA) standard for hive quality.

Requirements of the KPA Standard for Hive Quality:
On a full-depth hive system there should be 7 frames 60% full of brood; that is, at all stages of development (eggs, larvae and capped pupae) or 7000 cm^2. On a three-quarter-depth hive system there should be 9 frames of brood.
On a full-depth hive system there should be 12 frames of bees, and on a three-quarter-depth hive system there should be 15 frames of brood.
There has to be a laying queen.
The colony has to have room to expand with some available empty comb.
The colony has also to be free from disease.

The maximum achievable score of 5 is based on:

1. a full-depth hive with 8.5 frames of brood 60% full or 6 full frames of brood; that is, at all stages of development (eggs, larvae and capped pupae).
2. a full-depth hive with 20 frames of bees.
3. other quality requirements as per the KPA standard.

The rating system scores a hive between 1 and 5, with a score of less than 1 being below the KPA standard, a score of 1 being the KPA standard and scores greater than 1 being increments above the KPA standard. The KPA standard was used as a minimum standard and it was expected that average hive quality on the Focus Orchards would be well above this level. This reflects what is happening in industry, with orchardists expecting beekeepers to supply hives to the KPA standard as a minimum standard, with the expectation that hive quality will exceed the standard. Interestingly, in both seasons the highest FON hive quality scores were achieved by the only KPA member!

Findings

This year, hives supplied to ZESPRI Focus Orchards were again independently audited and then graded on the 1–5 scale. Findings are shown in Tables 2 and 3. The average score across the FON group decreased from 2.2 in 2008 to 1.7 in 2009. However, all orchards in 2009 scored above 1.0 on average (minimum standard), compared with two orchards scoring below 1.0 in 2008. In one orchard this year, 41% of inspected hives failed to meet the standard, yet it still managed to average above the standard. This result reflects the large range in quality from the particular beekeeper. Bee numbers seem to be more of an issue this year compared to 2008.

These FON results do not appear atypical. For a number of years, Pollination Management Services, owned by Trevor Bryant, has been auditing hives for entities within the industry. And this year a number of packhouses grouped were also involved in a ZESPRI-initiated pilot programme to increase the number of hives being

Auditors undergo training provided by Murray Reid and Trevor Bryant. Photo supplied by Linda Peacock.

checked. An auditor training day was held for a number of people with beekeeping experience. Results from their work confirm what was found in the FON orchards. While some beekeepers have managed to deliver good quality hives in spite of a difficult spring, others have struggled despite awareness of auditing activity.

Table 2. Summary of FON hive audit results 2008 and 2009.

FON orchard	Avg. frames of brood		Avg. frames of bees		NP score (1–5)	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
McCormick	7.85	8.7	13.9	11	1.72	1.1
Holmes (Hayward)	7.95	11.7 (3/4) (3/4)	16.5 2.82	16.8 1.2		
Holmes (Hort16A)	6.4	13.5 (3/4) (3/4)	13.4 0.48	17 1.3		
Birley	6.45	9	13.4	12.1	0.53	1.1
Jordan	7.2	9.3	15.8	12.8	3.08	1.6
Jensen*	8.15	12.2	19.5	13.8	4.73	3.7
Group average	7.3	9.8	15.4	12.5	2.2	1.7
*The only orchard supplied by a KPA member.						

Table 3. FON hive failures and main reasons.

Orchard	Failed hives (% of inspected hives)		Main reason for failures	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
McCormick	nil	41%	-	Bees and brood
Holmes (Hayward)	20%	35%	Brood & Bees	Brood
Holmes (Hort16A)	30%	6%	Brood	Bees
Birley	30%	33%	Queen Brood & Bees	Bees
Jordan	10%	26%	Brood & Bees	Bees
Jensen	10%	nil	Brood	-
Average	**17%**	**23%**		

Other auditing programmes

Results of Pollination Management Services' audit programme are summarised in Table 4. Auditors commented that hive quality delivered to growers was often inconsistent, and failing queen bees and poor bee numbers were a major cause of poor hive quality. Failing queens and declining brood probably resulted from poor nutrition/lack of pollen available during a disrupted flowering period. Hives that were fed supplemental sources of protein are reported to have performed very well. Auditors were concerned that many beekeepers were unprepared for the conditions. These results were not scored on the same scale used for the FON orchards but we can present the core findings. It should be noted that this auditing programme often targeted suppliers of hives that had previously performed poorly in auditing. In the worst two cases, the beekeepers were asked to replace all of the hives supplied.

Table 4. Pollination Management Services' hive auditing results.

Region:	Beekeepers	Orchards	Total no. of hives	Hives split	Hives inspected	Failed hives
South Auckland	3	12	456	259	64	39
Bay of Plenty	29	64	2333	1224	290	108
Motueka	7	12	859	343	55	23

Quality payments

Basing payment on a graduated payment scale would reward beekeepers providing good quality hives and provide an incentive for others to lift their quality standards. This incentive approach has been proven more effective than a penalty system (that penalises for poor quality) in other industries.

> "Would kiwifruit growers pay extra for improved hive quality? Members of Project Hyper Hive, an industry group set up to improve bee pollination in the kiwifruit industry, say they would. "

What might an incentive type payment system look like? One proposed system that has been discussed is a graduated system ranging from $140 for a hive meeting minimum standard to $180 for an extremely good hive. On the FON orchards this year, this would have seen prices range from $140 to $170/hive.

Would kiwifruit growers pay extra for improved hive quality? Members of Project Hyper Hive, an industry group set up to improve bee pollination in the kiwifruit industry, say they would. Higher quality hives mean more bees collecting pollen. More bees collecting pollen means bigger fruit and more fruit. Pollination costs typically account for around 10% of total orchard costs. The FON orchardist who had a high failure rate this year estimates a loss in income of $6000–$8000/ha. Paying an extra $400/ha for high quality hives is a no-brainer!

Concluding comments

Growers acknowledge that every season is different and that this was a particularly difficult spring for beekeepers. Despite this, some beekeepers managed to provide consistently high-quality hives. On the other hand, in some cases poor-quality hives were provided without informing the orchardist: limiting their options and compromising their ability to get the most of their orchards.

The pollination and kiwifruit industries have had a mutually beneficial relationship for many years. For Hayward growers to survive and prosper into the future, continual yield improvements will be necessary. A consistent supply of high-quality hives must be provided if orchardists are going to rely on bee pollination to achieve this. Based on experiences to date, we expect the level of auditing to increase significantly. However, if this is coupled with payment mechanisms for quality, it should provide a win–win situation where beekeepers are rewarded for higher quality hives and orchardists reap the benefit from improved pollination. Open dialogue will be important to ensure that simple, workable solutions are found.

Acknowledgements

The authors wish to acknowledge Linda Peacock and Ian McCormick for their input into this article.

[Editor's note: a version of this article was published in Kiwifruit, *Jan/Feb 2010; n.197, p.24–26.]*

NBA website forum

The NBA has recently launched a forum on the members section of the website at www.nba.org.nz. At the moment there are two forums: a general one, and one for hobbyists. The forums are a place to ask questions of more experienced beekeepers, to share information and chat about all things beekeeping with like-minded people. NBA members can simply log in to the site, click on members and then forums. The forums are a work-in-progress, so if you have any feedback or ideas please let us know at secretary@nba.org.nz

Kiwi queens fit for a Queen

by John Chapple

In 2008, Westport beekeeper Gary Jeffery supplied 50 queen bees to London beekeeper John Chapple.

The destination of the queens was rather unusual but altogether fitting. John Chapple takes up the story...

"On a cold winter's day an email arrived out of the blue from the Garden Manager of Buckingham Palace:

> *'I would like to know if it would be possible to house a hive or two in the gardens here. To this end I wonder if you would be available to meet on site to discuss the possibility? We have a number of scheduled areas of the garden that are relatively human free and I would like to show you these for your consideration....'*

How could anyone refuse an offer like this? I duly attended after the necessary security details were covered on a day pass, and arrived with a passport and driver's licence—the latter caused some amusement as my driver's licence does not have a photograph of me on it—but all went well. I met with the garden manager in a lovely secluded office tucked away at the back of Buckingham Palace. We had just had the second day of snow in London and everything was a picture in white. We spent a long time talking about the reasons for wanting to keep bees and the Palace was very concerned about the plight of all our pollinators. A plan of action was drawn up to encourage other types of bees in the grounds and I was offered what I consider to be the best site in London for keeping two hives, a secluded island where virtually no-one other than Her Majesty and family visit.

> "I met with the garden manager in a lovely secluded office tucked away at the back of Buckingham Palace."

Two months later, when all the necessary security checks had been made and agreements signed, I arrived on two different occasions with a hive each time. These were duly set up on the island. The hives have progressed during the spring and summer, and I have now taken off the first honey crop Which has been presented to the Palace. I feel greatly honoured to be in at the start of a wonderful project."

John received the following letter on Buckingham Palace stationery:
"4th November 2009

John Chapple Esq.,
(Street address)
London W3 7LT

Dear John,

Please accept my apologies for the delay in my letter. I would like to thank you so much for producing the honey from Her Majesty's garden, I was amazed at the quantity you were able to produce from just one hive (who knew they would be such productive bees).

I have received many favourable comments on the quality of the honey and must congratulate you on a splendid product.

There has been a great deal of interest surrounding the hives and honey within the Palace and I would look forward to the opportunity of discussing this with you further at some point.

Yours sincerely,
Mark Flanagan
Royal Chef and Assistant to the Master of the Household"

Postscript

John Chapple has indicated to Gary Jeffery that he wants to double his order to 100 queens for the upcoming season. Last season John Chapple produced 2000 jars of honey, despite winter losses of 15%.

New deadlines for advertising and articles

Advertisers and contributors to *The New Zealand BeeKeeper* are advised there have been changes to the advertising and material deadlines. These changes will allow us to ensure that the journal hits beekeepers' hands at the same date each month. If you have any questions, please email ceo@nba.org.nz

Advertising deadlines
Advertising is now due on the 6th of the month prior to publication. Material received after the 15th of the month and prior to publication may not be published. In order to be fair to all advertisers who occasionally offer deals for a limited time period in their ads, there will be no exception to these rules from the July 2010 issue on.

Article deadlines
Articles are now due on the 6th of the month prior to publication. Material received after the 15th of the month and prior to publication may not be published. These changes will take effect from the July 2010 issue onwards.

APIWEB update

By Byron Taylor, AsureQuality Limited

As I'm sure many of you are aware, I promised that APIWEB would be released to you all early this year. With that in mind, I thought that I had better give a brief update of where we are with the development as at late March 2010.

Over the last 6–12 months we have spent a lot of time developing both APIWEB and the apiary database itself. APIWEB has been constructed to have a significant amount of functionality but not so much that it becomes confusing to the average user. The apiary database has had to be upgraded so that it can accept information submitted by beekeepers using APIWEB.

As you can imagine, a great deal of testing has been done to ensure that both APIWEB and the database do what they are supposed to individually, but also that they 'talk to one another' (i.e., information that is submitted by beekeepers using the APIWEB system is captured and processed by the apiary database).

The last 4–5 weeks have been spent taking care of some of the last bugs in the system (we think) that emerged during testing. We are now very close to having the system signed off and released to a subset of the beekeeping industry. It is my hope that by the time you are reading this, APIWEB will be operational.

The first group of beekeepers who will gain access to APIWEB are commercial beekeepers with 500 or more hives. This will enable us to test our systems and make any last-minute changes to the way the information is handled at our end before releasing it to all other beekeepers.

"We are now very close to having the system signed off and released to a subset of the beekeeping industry."

The system is very easy to use (comparable to Internet banking) so finding your way around should be relatively straightforward. By using APIWEB you will be able to:

- view and update beekeeper details or the details of apiaries which belong to them
- add or delete apiaries
- report AFB disease
- complete Annual Disease Returns
- You will also be informed which of your apiaries fall within three kilometres of an apiary that has had disease reported within the last two years. Note: AFB rob-outs will continue to be advised via mail.

We are hoping to be able to continuously improve on the system, both in usability and functionality, so will appreciate your feedback.

I thank you for your continued patience.

WANTED: AFB Recognition Course tutors

With beekeeper registrations increasing, the Management Agency has identified as a goal for 2010 the need to increase substantially the level of beekeeper education, especially in the area of AFB identification.

We therefore intend to increase the number of trainers we already have available to us, in order to provide greater opportunity to the industry to participate in a course, as well as taking the AFB recognition test.

Trainer specifications:

- significant beekeeping experience
- AFB Recognition Course Certificated (passed test)
- be prepared to attend a one-day training course
- be confident in speaking to a medium-sized group.
- Authorised Person Level 2 (AP2) status (while not essential, it would be an advantage).

If you are interested, please contact:
Rex Baynes
AFB NPMS Manager
PO Box 44282
Lower Hutt
Fax: 04 566 0779
Email: rbaynes@ihug.co.nz

Wintering and wasps

By Frank Lindsay, NBA Life Member

Wintering down hives correctly is important as it sets them up for the coming season.

The basics are a new laying queen, plenty of bees, and enough honey and pollen to carry them through to spring. The placement of the hive is also important: protected from strong winds, in a position where it gets some sun during the day (preferably in the morning but all-day sun is better), up off the ground so that air passes underneath (like on a pallet) and close to water and early-nectar sources (100 metres or so). The entrance should have been reduced to, say, 200 mm by 10 mm (but can be smaller or bigger) to assist the bees to defend the hive and prevent mice from entering when the bees go into a cluster. Depending upon the area, or whether you use solid or ventilated bottom boards, you may also need a little top ventilation to remove the water vapour given off by the bees, thus preventing moisture from accumulating under the roof and dropping on to the bees. A small twig or matchstick under each corner of the crown board could be all that is necessary.

I use a much thicker crown board than the manufactured ones, which I also use as a split board so it has an entrance 25-mm wide on one side. This entrance provides adequate ventilation for the hives in my area. If it were even a little larger, the bees would use more honey during the winter. If it were smaller, water droplets will appear along the ends of the top bars, causing them to rot out in a few seasons. A small amount of moisture in the middle of the crown board is acceptable but overall it should be fairly dry in the hives. Mouldy outside frames is a sign of inadequate ventilation.

As you travel around the country you will observe hives in single supers, but mostly they are wintered two supers high. When you see a hive in a single super, you might think, "How can that hive support itself right through the winter into spring?" The answer is that it can't without assistance.

The beekeeper will have set this hive up with a super full of bees, six frames of honey, (the rest being brood and pollen), or it will have eight frames and a large frame feeder on one side. The beekeeper also could have placed a top feeder on the hive full of raw sugar to give the hive an emergency supply of food. The feeder also provides a little top insulation to prevent the heat generated by the bees being lost straight through the roof. The moisture given off by the bees helps keep the sugar moist and accessible to the bees.

By August the single hive will have used most of the stored honey and pollen, producing brood that will by now be in the centre of three or four frames. The hive will be given about five litres of sugar syrup (some use bigger feeders), and perhaps pollen supplement every three weeks

> "It can take up to five years to learn what an area can support and when things flower."

to keep the queen laying and the hive expanding. By October, when the first flush of nectar and pollen comes in from the willow, the hive will be in two supers but is too small in most cases to swarm. It will continue to expand (being fed all the while) to a productive unit in December when the main honey flow starts in most areas.

The hive that is wintered in two supers contains at least a full super of honey, plus three to five frames of pollen and honey surrounding the bees and brood in the bottom super. If you haven't got this much honey in the hive, feed sugar syrup (60% sugar to water mix) until it has sufficient honey. This hive contains more bees (25,000–30,000) and is better able to support itself longer into the spring. It could require supplementary feeding beginning in late September/early October, but will also need to be manipulated to prevent it from swarming. This hive will be a productive unit at least a month earlier than the single hive and can be placed on an early flow or split to make two units in the spring.

Some beekeepers will also carry over nucleus hives in four- to six-frame boxes to provide replacement units in the spring. These small hives either will need to be fed or have their honey frames replaced a couple of times during the winter and early spring before being put into a single super. Again, they can be assisted by placing a raw sugar feeder on top or having a piece of foil insulation placed on the top of the frames (covering 80% of the frames) to help conserve the bees' heat. Another method is to put the nucleus colony in a full-sized super (with more frames of honey). Using a split board, place it on top of a full-sized colony, or place four nucleus colony supers on a single bottom board with the entrances facing in different directions. The heat from the colony below helps keep the small nucleus above warm and developing. By October, each nuc should have filled the super with bees.

Every area is different and every beekeeper adapts his or her hive management to suit their work commitment and their ability to service the hives on a regular basis. It can take up to five years to learn what an area can support and when things flower. You need to record your observations of when things flower and what your hives are doing to build up a picture of the area and adapt your beekeeping to suit the area. Remember that hives just don't die out: they die from neglect. A missed feeding round due to poor weather or a missed inspection can resulted in a hive dying or swarming, which can be quite expensive if you look at what each hive could have produced. That being said, a percentage of hives will go queenless or might use more food early by continuous brood rearing, are affected by varroa mites due to reinvasion or late treatments so will die out. Hopefully your losses will be less than 10%.

This is just a brief outline. Before wintering down read the bee books, check that the hive(s) are disease free, write down what you want to achieve and set up the hive correctly. The bottom two supers usually will be full of

honey, pollen, brood and bees so won't need to be rearranged. If you are not sure, or if it's your first time, have a competent beekeeper assist you.

Wasps

After the bees' robbing season has finished, wasps become a nuisance to hives. Wasps need carbohydrates to produce overwintering queens; hence they will damage ripe fruit to get the natural sugars, but they will also attack beehives. They learn that quick jerky movements in front of a hive alert the guards, but by going straight into the hive they are unchallenged. It doesn't take long for a wasp to learn how to overcome the guards, take on the hive's smell and then they come in numbers. After they have cleaned out one hive, they will move on to the next and before long the whole apiary has been robbed out, all the bees are dead, or the queen and a few bees are left sheltering in one corner.

Robbing once started is hard to stop. Close the entrances right down to a couple of bee-widths wide (plug entrances with green grass). Put a dummy hive in the apiary and put in a container of homemade jam (it contains more sugar). Once the wasps are feeding on the jam, add some insecticide. Not too much—you want them to take the baited jam and poison back to the nest. Another method is to place a ring of insecticide powder around the jam so they walk through it and pick it up on their bodies. If you have done this correctly, wasp numbers should be substantially reduced within an hour. Ask your local commercial beekeeper what method s/he uses.

Things to do this month

Winter down the hives. Check the effectiveness of mite treatments. Check feed. Do an AFB check after the robbing season has finished. Slope the bottom board for water drainage and fit mouse guards or reduce entrances. Replace supers, roofs and bottom boards that are rotten or damaged. Attend to fences if in stocked paddocks and cut the grass around the hives. Check for wasps.

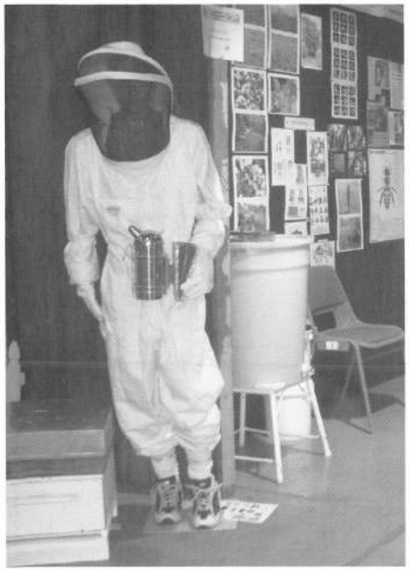
Beekeepers at the Royal Easter Show

By Carol Downer, Vice President/Secretary, Auckland Beekeepers Club

Last year, for the first time, the Auckland Beekeepers Club was asked to attend the Royal Easter Show 2009 with a view of introducing children and their families to bees and beekeeping.

Our stand was in the livestock area in the ASB Farm Zone Pavilion. We manned the stand with a team of 22 enthusiastic club members. We also sold honey that had been produced from the six hives at the club's apiary.

On display we used "Gavin" from the showroom at Ceracell Beekeeping Supplies. He was dressed in a bee suit and carried a smoker and hive tool. We had a small manual extractor and drawn frames, and a hive with hive components, frames, etc. for viewing. Around the walls of the stand was the set of photographs taken to Apimondia 2009 by Trevor Cullen, along with posters of the bee's life cycle, queen bees, honey colours and other photographs of interest. There were wax blocks, pieces of propolis and pollen. We also showed an excellent video called 'City of Bees: a children's guide to bees'. During the show a few people joined the club, which was great, and our display generated lots of interest from the public.



"We manned the stand with a team of 22 enthusiastic club members."

This year we have been offered double the display space we had last year. Live bees were missing from the stand last year, and there is no external wall or openings we could use to provide the bees with an exit cylinder to the outside. But committee member Paul Walsh has come up with a solution. With the donation the club received from last year's effort, we are building a display case and hive setup that we will use over the five-day period. There will be one frame of bees and brood (including the queen) with glass sides for visual display. Below this frame will be a queen excluder and an opening to a ventilated box; below this will be another three frames from the brood nest. We have yet to decide on the exact way of feeding the bees. One model has already been made and is still in the design process.

We are delighted to be attending the Royal Easter Show again in 2010 and look forward to sharing with the public lots of information and visual displays about bees and beekeeping.

Photographs by Carol Downer

CLUB CONTACTS AND 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: Kim Kneijber, President
Phone: 09 418 1302
Email: kimk_bees@hotmail.com

Carol Downer, Vice President & Secretary
Phone: 09 376 6376
Email: thefairy@xtra.co.nz

Website: www.aucklandbeekeepersclub.org.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: Lydia Pascoe, Secretary
Phone: 09 232 0280

WAIKATO DOMESTIC BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
Meets every third Thursday (except January) at Lab 1, Wintec Campus classroom, Hamilton Gardens, Gate 2, Cobham Dr., Hamilton, at 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

John Berry, Branch President
Phone: 06 877 6205

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 every second Wednesday each month (except January), at 7.30 pm at Canaan Apiaries, Mosston Rd., Wanganui.

Contact: Neil Farrer, Secretary/Treasurer
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 the second Sunday of the month except January, Norfolk Road, Masterton, 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 Tuesday of the month (except January) at 7.30 pm in the Trust Room, Johnsonville Community Association Building. All welcome.
Contact: Andrew Beach, Chairman
7 Teoti St., Paraparaumu.
Email: andrewbeach@hotmail.com
John Burnet
21 Kiwi Cres, Tawa, Wellington 5028
Phone: 04 232 7863
Email: johnburnet@xtra.co.nz

MARLBOROUGH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
Contact: James Jenkins, President
159a Budge St., Blenheim
Phone: 03 577 5433
Mark Biddington, Secretary
8 Belvue Crescent
Witherlea, Blenheim 7201
Phone: 03 578 9746
Email: amandab@xnet.co.nz

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

Contact: Mrs Noeline Hobson
4/76 Tennyson St., Sydenham, Christchurch 8023
Phone/fax: 03 337 3587
Mobile: 021 2112 655
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, President or
Lee Carmichael, Secretary
PO Box 167, Kaiapoi
Phone: 021 662 973
Email: alpinebee@gmail.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
Email: amccaw@clear.net.nz
or
Mary-Anne Thomason, Phone: 06 855 8038

NZ QUEEN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

Contact: Russell Berry
Phone: 07 366 6111

BEE PRODUCTS STANDARDS COUNCIL

Contact: Dr Jim Edwards, Chairman
Phone: 06 362 6301

Is your group or Branch missing from here? Or have your details changed? Please contact secretary@nba.org.nz
Please also send any changes or additions to: editor@nba.org.nz