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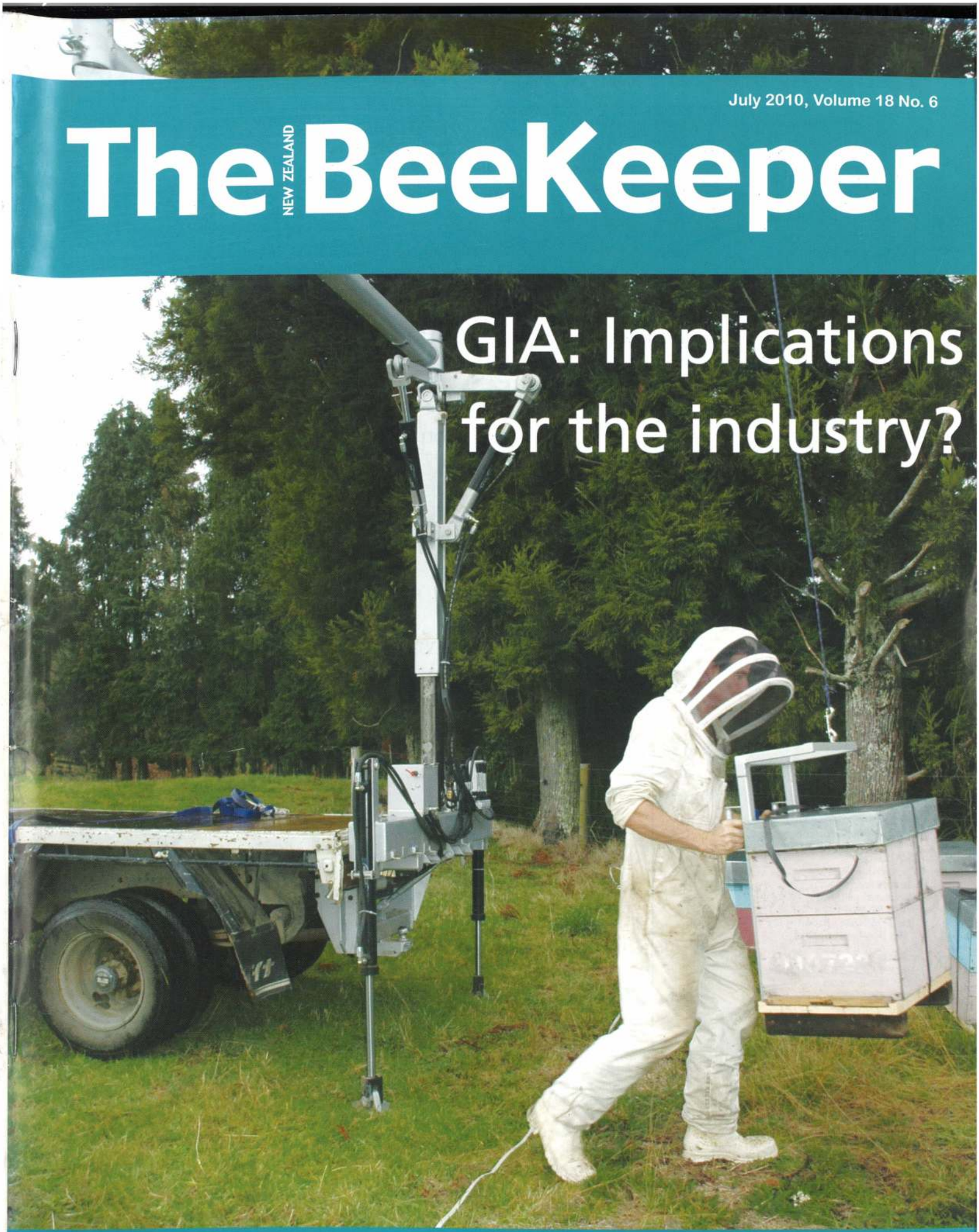
The New Zealand BeeKeeper



GIA: Implications for the industry?

- Hive lifter reduces back injury risk
- Frans gets chatty on Radio NZ
- MAF draws line of defence at Queenstown

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The July journal went to print before the 2010 Conference. Any changes will appear in the August issue. If your details have changed, please email editor@nba.org.nz and secretary@nba.org.nz so that we can update your details in the journal and the NBA website.

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Cover photo: A hive lifter makes moving hives like taking a walk. Photo by Kushla Haenen.

GIA: Implications for the industry?

By Frans Laas, NBA President

As I have mentioned, Government is intent on involving various primary production industries in the process of responding to incursions of organisms that will cause economic harm.

The Government-Industry Agreement (GIA) strategy involves a two-pronged approach: readiness and response. The affected industries will partner with the Government to develop preventative strategies and a response mechanism in case of an incursion. This, of course, will require the affected industries to pay for a portion of the costs involved.

Some of you who are of a cynical demeanour will see this as an attempt to pass on the costs of failures in the biosecurity sector on to the affected industry. While there is possibly an element of truth in this argument, the issue is more complex.

MAF's arguments relating to moving to a Government-Industry Agreement clearly have some merit. The rather poorly handled varroa responses probably have had a significant influence on MAF's current thinking.

How would the Government handle an EFB incursion? Under the present system we would probably get more of the same traumatic experience and wasted energy as with varroa. Under the proposed system, the industry would at least have some input to determining the best approach to dealing with such an incursion.

What is the Government-Industry Agreement (GIA) initiative?

According to MAF, Government and industry would "work together to plan biosecurity readiness and response for priority areas of concern. Decision-making and costs are shared."

The big question is cost sharing. The beekeeping industry is in an unusual position in the primary production sector in that the presence of economically important pathogens in bees also impacts significantly on other sectors. There is also an element of public good involved. MAF recognises this and has indicated that other affected sectors need to be brought into any agreement with the bee industry. This could be an interesting exercise as the beneficiaries of pollination have a significantly larger economic base—and may be more influential—than the bee industry. We would need to address this issue as part of negotiating agreements with MAF.

"Under the proposed system, the industry would at least have some input to determining the best approach to dealing with such an incursion."

Government has indicated they will fund the implementation and administration costs for the first six years as an incentive for affected industries to sign up early on. There will be a gradual progression to full cost sharing over time.

Can we opt out of signing an agreement with Government? Yes we can, but the consequences are not very palatable. Quoting MAF again:

"Mandatory cost recovery will be considered for non-participating industries where significant benefits are received. Those who already have an agreement in place will be in a position to participate in decision-making: while those who don't will only be consulted about how the response is conducted. This is in response to industry concerns about free riding."

Any cost recovery for the beekeeping industry would most likely occur through a hive levy system. The cost of funding the response will probably be paid for over a period of years if a significant event ever arose. This effectively forces all beneficiaries of beekeeping activities to work together to keep costs equitable and as low as possible.

Australia is already implementing such agreements and it appears the EU is beginning the process of adopting a similar system for animal health issues.

The Government wants to have negotiations completed with willing industries by March 2011. This may require significant input to deal with our own issues but also consult with other affected industries prior to this, if we choose to get in early on this. This could potentially be quite a complex process.

Visit to NSW beekeepers' conference

My attendance at the NSW Apiarists' Association Conference was an interesting experience. I met a great bunch of people there.

My main task was to present a talk about how New Zealand beekeepers manage AFB through the Pest Management Strategy. The Australian State Governments are moving to force the beekeeping industry into a more self-funded and managed AFB elimination scheme. Based on the New Zealand experience it is probably the right way to go.

However, Australian beekeepers are more likely to enter into a partnership arrangement than be pushed into the water unceremoniously as we were in 1998. Also, we had a few bonus sharks added in with the provision of an unworkable Section 154(q).

The use of antibiotics for EFB in eastern Australia is causing all sorts of problems with AFB management. Aren't we glad we never used the stuff in the first place?

From a New Zealand perspective, the different apiary laws in each Australian state also complicate compliance and management. I suggested Australia introduce a federal apiary management system to simplify the complications of interstate hive migration. This didn't go down well with one state official as state parochialism is quite strong.

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MAF draws line of defence at Queenstown

By Grant Bryant, *The Southland Times*

MAF Biosecurity will intensely scrutinise Queenstown Airport as more trans-Tasman flights touch down in the resort.

AsureQuality searches the airport annually checking for targeted pests including the small hive beetle, European foulbrood and the Asian tropilaelaps mite, which could wipe out bee hives a lot quicker than the varroa mite.

AsureQuality apiculture officer Tony Roper, of Christchurch, said the discovery of the varroa mite in Queenstown this year was an accidental find by biosecurity experts on the hunt for the targeted pests.

Yesterday, Mr Roper said although the latest search indicated the Wakatipu was free of the targeted pests, the international airport would come under intense yearly scrutiny.

"There's a very, very high risk of the small hive beetle coming from Australia, and also the European foulbrood infection—and because Queenstown receives a large number of Australian tourists it will definitely come under close scrutiny in next autumn's search," he said.

The tropilaelaps mite could kill the entire population of a beehive in a year, while varroa mites could take up to two years, Mr Roper said.

Since the discovery of varroa in the Wakatipu other flow-on effects for the local rural sector had been identified, Mr Roper said.

"Bees kept in hives can be treated, but varroa has the potential to wipe out wild bees. High country farms could face real pollination issues, and white clover, which is a high country staple could face a huge decline," he said.

Since MAF lifted restrictions on moving hives from areas infected by varroa in June last year there was nothing stopping the movement of hives, Mr Roper said.

"It's very unfortunate varroa has got into Otago, and I can see the same thing happening to Southland, where someone will shift an infected hive down there and it will spread."

National Beekeepers' Association Otago president Allen McCaw yesterday said the arrival of the small hive beetle was "probably inevitable. It seems to find its way around, and somehow got from Florida to Australia, and could arrive here with a devastating result," he said.

The high level of international travel and large amount of goods moved from international ports in shipping containers meant that New Zealand's "thin green line" of biosecurity was under constant strain, and it was only a matter of time before more exotic mites and infections arrived Mr McCaw said.

Source: MAF draws line of defence at Queenstown Airport (2010, June 8). Southland Times. *Retrieved June 10, 2010, from http://www.stuff.co.nz/southland-times/news/3784672/*
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Update

Varroa has now been confirmed in hives between Alexandra and Clyde, just a few mites per board. It appears these hives came down from Wanaka and have been there for a few weeks. Please read the article 'Keep monitoring your varroa treatments' (April 2010, page 19) for information on monitoring your hives.

Oxalic acid registered in Canada

By Frank Lindsay, NBA Life Member

We recently received the May 2010 issue of *HiveLights,* the Canadian beekeeping industry's magazine.

Spring has come a little early and overall winter losses are lower, perhaps because beekeepers are now paying more attention to the health of the bees going into winter. Only the south end of Vancouver Island had heavy losses (up to 70%) this winter.

The Canadian Honey Council has pushed through the registration of oxalic acid as a pesticide under the Pest Control Products Act so that overseas countries will recognise this type of treatment for varroa mites as legal. They mostly use the vaporisation of oxalic acid dihydrate as a control in the late autumn as it's very safe for the bees, and this type of application doesn't disturb the cluster. Without brood it can give a 97% knockdown. (In New Zealand, when and if this method gets approval, we would have to vaporise a number of times as our hives contain a little brood year round.)

Like America, Canada is putting money into researching bee health and investigating alternative strategies to combat rising bee mortality rates. They are also looking at safe organic compounds to control mites, including thymol, oregano oil and clove oil, as these compounds are non-toxic to bees.

The May issue of *HiveLights* also featured a new virtual exhibition on the Canada Agriculture Museum website titled 'Bees: A honey of an idea" (http://www.agriculture.technomuses.ca/english/bees/default.php). The site is well worth a visit and is a must for children.

Honey seized from sweet yacht

As many of you will be aware, the NBA now has an account manager, Katie Owen, at MAF to help manage our relationship with the organisation.

Katie has been doing a great job of reporting any biosecurity finds of relevance to the bee industry to us.

Recently she advised us of two hives with larvae suspected of having half-moon syndrome or parasitic mite syndrome but which might also have had EFB. The samples were all negative for EFB and branches were emailed the news.

More recently, Katie advised the NBA that an unusually large assortment of honey was seized from a super yacht at Auckland port. The honey was sourced from a number of different countries: Australia (8 bottles), USA (3 bottles), China (10 bottles), Germany (5 bottles), Switzerland (2 bottles) and Italy (1 bottle). The honey was removed for destruction by Quarantine Officer Jeff O'Neil.

If you would like to receive this type of news directly to your email, please ask Jess (secretary@nba.org.nz) to add you to our email list.

MAF's Katie Owen, second from left, with NBA President Frans Laas, NBA Vice President Barry Foster and NBA joint CEO Gemma Collier.

Bumblebee "rescue mission" fails

From NZPA

Hand-picked New Zealand bumblebees waiting to be sent to Britain on a pollination "rescue mission" have died in captivity.

Natural England, the British government's countryside agency, chose the short-haired bumblebees from New Zealand because they were descended from a species originally imported from England to pollinate red clovers on South Island farms.

The short-haired bumblebees were declared extinct in Britain a decade ago but less than two weeks before the selected bees were due to be exported for release in the south of England, the consignment died in hibernation, *The Guardian* newspaper reported.

The bees—scientifically known as *Bombus subterraneus*—had been bred near Christchurch by state science company Plant and Food from queens collected by the project's scientist, Dr Nikki Gammans, who had hoped to get at least 50 bees in the first shipment.

But Natural England said the deaths would only delay the re-introduction project, which was now planned for next summer.

"An expedition to New Zealand will take place this November to collect queen [bees] to rear, and the next generation of queens will be returned to the UK the same time next year for release," the agency said in a statement.

"Over the next six months, work will concentrate on creating more habitat for bumblebees, perfecting the rearing technique in New Zealand and raising the profile of the importance of bumblebees with local communities. This is a long-term project and we hope for many future releases."

The short-haired bumblebees were transported to New Zealand in the first refrigerated lamb ships in the late 19th century, to pollinate crops of red clover to help new emigrant farmers. They have clung on in small numbers, but are unprotected and under threat.

> **"... the deaths would only delay the re-introduction project, which was now planned for next summer."**

Numbers of bumblebees and other pollinating insects have declined in Britain in recent years as their wildflower habitat is eradicated in Britain's intensively farmed landscapes.

To prepare for the bees' return, Natural England worked with farmers in Kent to make more than 550 hectares of land suitable for the bees, as well as nesting birds, mammals and invertebrates.

"This international rescue mission has two aims—to restore habitat in England, thereby giving existing bees a boost; and to bring the short-haired bumblebee home where it can be protected," Natural England said when the project was announced last year.

"Bumblebees play a key role in maintaining food supplies—we rely on their ability to pollinate crops and we have to do all we can to provide suitable habitat and to sustain the diversity of bee species".

Source: Flight of the bumblebees fails to take off. NZPA (2010, June 7). Retrieved June 8, 2010, from http://nz.news.yahoo.com/a/-/top-stories/7361306/flight-ofthe-bumblebees-fails-to-take-off/. Reprinted with permission.

A microscope's view of bees

If you want to see some amazing images of bees taken through an electron microscope, then visit the *Los Angeles Times* blog at http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/home_blog/2010/04/the-common-honey-bee-as-landscape.html

This link refers to a new book, *Bee*, by artist Rose-Lynn Fisher, which provides some "otherworldly" images of bees, some of which are magnified at 550 times original size. The book is published by the Princeton Architectural Press and is now available. Ms Fisher's images are being exhibited in galleries in the United States, including Brooklyn, New York and Los Angeles.

Source: The common honey bee as landscape (2010, April 26). Los Angeles Times *(Home & Garden blog, by Deborah Netburn). Retrieved June 11, 2010, from http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/home_blog/2010/04/the-common-honey-bee-as-landscape.html*

Managing the media

Recently the NBA secretariat helped a couple of NBA members with various media issues.

One member had been misquoted in a newspaper and the other was concerned a misleading news story about another beekeeper was going to adversely affect his business.

The NBA secretariat worked with the members to get a correction printed and a press release prepared.

Dealing with, or being interviewed by, journalists can be nerve-racking and stressful.

> "If you want assistance with a beekeeping-related media issue, feel free to give the secretariat a call to discuss your options."

But it needn't be. NBA CEO Daniel Paul has over 20 years' experience in public relations and dealing with the media. If you want assistance with a beekeeping-related media issue, feel free to give the secretariat a call to discuss your options.

Alternatively, outlined in the boxes below are a few tricks of the trade that can prepare you for an interview and give you confidence that you will get the right message across.

Remember, if you have an idea for a media angle that you think could promote the NBA and the bee industry, flick the team an email on secretary@nba.org.nz or call 04 471 6254.

What to do when a journalist calls you

The rural reporter from a local newspaper or radio station has called to ask your opinion on a bee subject.

1. Identify the journalist and the publication or station.
2. Clearly establish the reason for the call. What angle are they taking on the topic?
3. Are you the best person to speak to the journalist on this topic? If the journalist wants the NBA's stance on a matter, are you an approved spokesperson for the NBA?
4. Be helpful, not antagonistic.
5. Don't be panicked or rushed.
6. Feel free to say, "I'll call you back shortly" and prepare yourself for the interview.
7. Have a think about what the facts are and any 'key messages' you want to get across to the audience.
8. Stick with the facts, don't prevaricate or 'run on'. If you don't know the answer, just say you don't know the answer.
9. Think what you could gain or lose.
10. Think through the implications (legal, political).
11. Call back if you said you would. But, be aware of deadlines. Make sure you call the journalist back well in advance of their deadline.
12. If you need help or assistance call the NBA secretariat.

What are the risks of talking to the media?

They get it wrong. Misquotes and quotes taken out of context are commonplace. You may convince the paper to run a correction afterwards but it will be unlikely to be seen by anyone. Before any interview, think through the risks first and be very clear about what you want to say—and what issues you don't want to talk about.

What are the benefits to getting media coverage?

Positive media coverage will raise the profile of your business and also that of the beekeeping industry. IBM says editorial is worth seven times the value of an equivalent area of paid advertising. Put simply, people believe what they read or hear in the media. And remember, journalists are people too. Nine times out of 10 you will know more on the subject than they do.

Frans gets chatty on Radio NZ

NBA president Frans Laas joined Jim Mora on Radio New Zealand's 'Afternoons with Jim Mora' programme twice recently.

Frans first joined Jim and his panel to discuss the decline in bee numbers overseas and the current situation in New Zealand.

Then he re-joined Jim and a new panel of speakers, including Mark Inglis and Gordon McLauchlan, to discuss some new research released by a university in India that explored the effects of mobile phones on bees.

NBA joint CEO Daniel Paul also featured on radio recently. He was interviewed by Australia's ABC Radio presenter Tim Marshall on the NBA's view on honey imports from Australia.

To listen to Frans or Daniel's interviews visit www.nba.org.nz click 'News and Events', then 'Latest Industry News'.

Sugar price may slump

By Lucia Kassai

Sugar may slump 44 percent next season as rising production in Brazil, India and China means that global output will exceed demand by 5 million metric tons after two years of shortfalls, F.O. Licht GmbH said.

Increasing output in the three largest producing countries may help push the price of sugar down to as low as 10 cents per pound in the next 18 months, from 17.84 cents on ICE Futures U.S. in New York yesterday, F.O. Licht analyst Stefan Uhlenbrock told reporters in Sao Paulo today. The output surplus in the year that starts Oct. 1 will follow a two-year deficit of 20.9 million tons.

Sugar prices more than doubled last year after excess rains pared yields in Brazil, the biggest producer, while dryness damaged crops in India, the second largest. Futures reached 30.4 cents on Feb. 1, the highest price since January 1981.

Brazil's output will climb to 40.5 million tons in the next season from 36.2 million in the year that ends Sept. 30, Uhlenbrock said. Indian mills will boost output by 7 million to 8 million tons, he said.

Source: Kassai, L. (2010, March 23). Sugar price may slump on surplus, F.O. Licht says. Bloomberg.com. Retrieved June 7, 2010, from http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601012&sid=axHt2IYZHKLI [Editor's note: The article above is an excerpt.]

Brazilian flag in front of Sugarloaf Mountain (Pão de Açúcar), Rio de Janeiro.

Which bees do which tasks?

New research has revealed which emerging bee will perform which duty, depending on the temperature maintained in the cell of each pupa.

Heater bees locate in the empty cells of the brood nest. So don't worry if there are a few empty cells in the pattern.

These heater bees decouple their wings so the muscles run at full power without moving their wings. This allows them to raise their body temperature as high as 44°C. By this means, cells maintained at 35°C turn into foragers and those kept at 34°C become housekeepers, feeding the larvae and cleaning the frames. Thermal imaging cameras reveal how heater bees warm up the brood to precisely the right temperature. These heater bees somehow are able to withstand this elevated temperature.

> "These heater bees decouple their wings so the muscles run at full power without moving their wings."

Dr. David Aston, chair of the British Beekeepers Association's technical and environment committee, stated that there was not thought to be any advantage in the presence of individual empty cells. Now Professor Jurgen Tautz, head of the bee group at Würzburg University, Germany, has provided an explanation. Beekeepers can look more closely at the brood combs to see if they can observe heater bees at work.

Further reading and source

An expansion of this summary of Professor Jurgen Tautz's work can be viewed at the website http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/wildlife/7435950/Honey-bees-secret-world-of-heat-revealed.html

Thanks to Ron Morison for this summary, which was taken from the April 2010 newsletter of the Wellington Beekeepers' Association Inc.

SHB, varroa and thermoregulation

By Marc O. Schaefer, Wolfgang Ritter, Jeff S. Pettis, Peter Neumann Schwarzenburgstr. 161 3003 Bern Switzerland
Email: marcoliver.schaefer@alp.admin.ch

The small hive beetle, *Aethina tumida*, and the ectoparasitic mite, *Varroa destructor*, are parasites of the honeybee, *Apis mellifera*.

Both parasites overwinter in honeybee colonies. Occasionally, these parasites are found concurrently within honeybee winter clusters.

We tested if the efficacy of thermoregulation by bees in concurrently infested clusters is altered. We examined thermal fluctuations and maxima inside winter cluster core zones. Concurrently infested colonies showed higher thermal maxima in the winter clusters cores compared to the controls, whereas winter clusters with one parasite species alone showed no significant effect on thermoregulation. Furthermore, combined infestations and infestations by *V. destructor* alone resulted in significantly higher thermal fluctuations compared to infestations with *A. tumida* alone. One factor which could induce these changes could be altered physiology of the host workers due to *V. destructor* infestations during their pupal stage which leads to reduction in body weight and longevity. Moreover such workers don't fully develop typical winter bee features. Other factors affecting thermoregulation could be altered bee behaviour due to phoretic influences of *V. destructor* which induce general unrest, grooming behaviour and altered nestmate cleaning behaviour. Also, the presence of adult small hive beetles which induce trophallactic feeding and aggressive behaviour could be a contributing factor. Our data indicate that heavy infestations by *V. destructor* in combination with infestations by *A. tumida* reduce the efficacy of thermoregulation in honeybee winter clusters which could contribute to winter losses.

[Editor's note: The full title of this abstract is 'Concurrent infestations by Aethina tumida *and* Varroa destructor *alters thermoregulation in* Apis mellifera *winter clusters'.]*

Weight of honeybee queens

By Malgorzata Bienkowska, Beata Panasiuk, Dariusz Gerula, Pawel Wegrzynowicz Research Institute of Pomology and Floriculture, Apiculture Division, Pulawy, Poland Email: beata.panasiuk@man.pulawypl

One of the quality criteria of honey bee queens is their weight at emergence. It depends on the age of larvae used for queens' rearing, season, strength and condition of rearing colony.

The younger larvae used for queen rearing the heavier queens emerge.

The aim of the research was to verify the influence of weight of queens at emergence and at insemination day on oviducts condition and a number of spermatozoa in spermatheca. The research was carried out in the Department of Bee Breeding, Apiculture Division in Pulawy, Poland. Carniolan bee queens were reared from 1-day-old larvae. They were inseminated at the age of 7 days with single dose of 8pl semen. Queens were kept in Zander cages before insemination in queenless colonies. After the insemination queens with 25 attendant workers were put into mailing cages and moved into queenless colonies. Queens were weight at emergence and at insemination day. The dead queens were counted 48 hrs after insemination. Surviving ones were killed and dissected to examine their oviducts for residue of semen. The volume of spermatheca was measured and the number of spermatozoa in spermatheca was counted. Altogether of 358 queens were inseminated. The average body weight at emergence was 199,5 mg. To the insemination they lost about 30 mg of their initial weight reaching on average 170 mg. Among examined queens, 79.1% cleared oviducts, 18.7% had some semen residue and 2.2% were dead. The higher percentage of queens with some semen in oviducts was observed among light ones. Significant correlations were found between the weight at emergence and at insemination day and other factors: volume of spermatheca and number of spermatozoa.

[Editor's note: The full title of this abstract is 'Weight of honeybee queens and its effect on the quality of instrumentally inseminated queens'.

Over the course of this year we will reprint some abstracts of the approximately 500 papers and other presentations to the 41st Apimondia Congress, Montpellier, France, 15–20 September 2009.]

Barrelling through China

Nahum Kelly, a beekeeper and son of NBA member Glenn Kelly, sent some photos to his dad recently while visiting China.

Thls photo shows the barrels used as beehives by beekeepers there:

Nahum's friend Jilly took the photos in the south of China. The barrels were "on a path leading up into the Karst 'mountains' (big hills really) at Zhangjiajie in Hunan Province".

In an email to his father, Nahum commented, "I had the opportunity to go through a hive about a week back. Very similar layout to our design. Italian stock, which I think is pretty standard. Just a small swarm, but fun to have a look through all the same".

Thanks to Nahum and Glenn for sharing Jilly's photos with us.

Photo: Jillibean.

Arthropodium cirrhatum

By Tony Lorimer, NBA Life Member

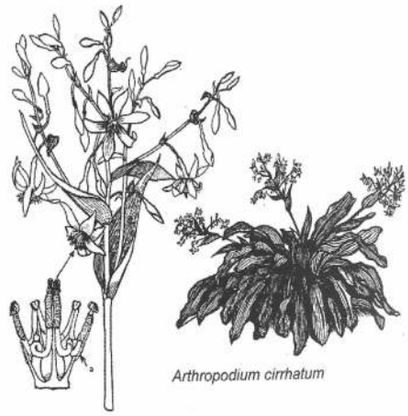
The Rengarenga Lily (*Arthropodium cirrhatum*, also known as the New Zealand Rock Lily) is a handsome plant, two to three feet high, with shiny leaves and conspicuous white flowers.

The flowers are covered with orange or pink bristles that resemble small Bottle Brushes when seen under a magnifying glass.

It is a coastal lily, growing on rocky cliffs in the North Island and in the Nelson area. The Rengarenga Lily flowers between November and December, the bees gathering brownish pollen and a little watery nectar.

The Rengarenga is considered one of the five sacred mauri of the Maori, often honoured by a pattern painted on the rafters of houses that imitated the curved petals of the flowers.

Rengarenga Lily roots were eaten by the Maori and considered to have a flavour resembling the potato.



Arthropodium cirrhatum

The Maori used the lower end of the leaf stem, beaten to a pulp and applied as a poultice to cure ulcers or allay the swelling of joints or limbs. When heated, this poultice was used on boils.

Looking back at the error of my ways

By Anne Hulme

It all started in early 1986, when a swarm settled in a wooden packing case in a sunny open shed at our farmlet.

I was fascinated and watched those bees from close quarters coming and going and fertilising our fruit trees for two years, until a meat inspector/beekeeper saw them. "Ooh", he said, "you are breaking the law. They should be in a hive with moveable frames. I can do it for you if you like".

So hubby got the measurements from Canaan Apiaries, and with his joinery skills and machinery made and painted the components for a flash new hive. I made my own veil and over the next few weekends I watched our friendly beekeeper cut out the brood, honey, pollen and empty drawn comb, and wire them into my new wooden frames, telling me all the time that they were nice quiet bees. He scraped out the old wax and took it away, leaving the packing case empty. Then he put my new box and frames on top of the packing case, blocked up their old entrance, and enticed them to use a new entrance into my box. He got the hive ready to move in eight weeks' time as we intended to take it to our new farm 20 kilometres away at the end of April 1986.

My bees and I were on our own at the new farm, and my first mistake was soon evident, when carefully following instructions, I tried to feed syrup into a frame feeder stuffed with bracken. My protective clothing that I had made out of whitebait netting was hopelessly inadequate. The bees got inside my veil; I lost my nerve, and got stung numerous times. I had to buy some proper gloves, and I tucked a white shirt into my white pants each time I fed the sugar syrup. After all that drama it was devastating to lose my first hive during the winter through robbing. I didn't know that all the bees darting about the sides and front were not my bees and that they were getting the syrup I was feeding in the hive. That was another mistake.

The next spring I started again when a local surveyor/beekeeper brought a swarm out to our farm and tipped it onto a sheet in front of my cleaned hiveware. It was exciting to see them all trooping in. I got 15 kilograms of honey that season by scraping the honey and wax down to the foundation, and straining it through muslin. I was hooked into being a beekeeper. I looked after my bees so carefully throughout that winter, checking the brood and looking to see if the queen was laying. That was another mistake. I didn't know that I shouldn't interfere with the hive in winter. My queen disappeared and that hive got robbed out too.

The next spring I bought a very strong hive two boxes high that was delivered to a new sheltered site handy to the dining room window. I watched them flying in and out and resisted the temptation to interfere with the brood. That was another mistake.

> "I didn't know that I shouldn't interfere with the hive in winter."

I should have looked for swarm cells and manipulated the brood frames. The hive swarmed a fortnight later onto a bush down our drive, so I caught it and got my second hive. I soon realised, however, that it was not a good site. The hives were under a high-tension power wire and I am sure that was why the bees were so angry. My family and visitors forgot all about the honey they had been given and told me to move the hives or else. We took those hives away to a friend's farm for three weeks so that we could move the hives further away from the house. Even though the bees were still angry in their new site we did get three supers of honey that season and bought an antiquated galvanised extractor. That was a big mistake: I should have bought a decent stainless steel one instead.

Swarm found in Nelson, 2008. Photo: Norbert Klose.

I lost both my hives again that third winter, through another stupid mistake. They had enough brood and plenty of food supplies, so I put entrance reducers on to stop the robbing, but the bees just died inside on the floor and on the mat outside the hives. Unfortunately we had used treated timber to make the entrance reducers and I was told that the bees had died of arsenic poisoning. Was anything else going to go wrong? It was time I asked for help.

The next season we joined the local beekeeping club. I had to buy more hives and this time a commercial beekeeper with hives nearby, and who loved talking about bees, popped in frequently for a cuppa. He taught me how to split and requeen and lent me lots of books, and piles of old *New Zealand BeeKeeper* journals. That gave me the confidence to work the bees on my own, and now 20 years later I am able to help others.

My advice to the new beekeeper is to join a club and go to their working bees and the NBA branch field days. Offer to help another hobbyist beekeeper, do some background reading and study to sit the Disease Recognition and Competency test. Don't try to learn how to handle bees on your own. There are plenty of knowledgeable beekeepers out there.

You only have to be sociable and ASK FOR HELP.

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FROM THE COLONIES

Waikato Branch

I took the last of the honey off in the first week of June. Hives had very good stores and lots of brood and bees, which was surprising. The pollen coming into the hive was light pastel green and purple. The bees in general looked very strong—a couple of hives that had missed out on strips had PMS, but the rest looked great!

Some areas seem to be having increasing problems with wasps.

Up until a couple of weeks ago some areas were still on water restrictions even the fire restrictions had been postponed another month. Now the rivers are full: not in flood, but not far away.

It was good to see Dr Mark Goodwin getting more press time. He was featured in *The New Zealand Herald* on 8 May, discussing a wide range of threats to bees around the world.

- Stephen Black

Bay of Plenty Branch

Wet, wet, wet, wet and more wet. The drought has broken. Hopefully all the wintering down has taken place around the district, as now the paddocks are very wet and access is an issue in places. It's time for the inside jobs and relaxing before what we hope is a "normal" spring.

Disease Recognition and Competency Course

The Branch is running a Disease Recognition and Competency Course on 28 August at Te Puna Hall, Tauranga.

Applications for the course must be received before 14 August so that the necessary work can be completed for test papers. If you have any queries, please contract Ross Carroll on robro@kol.co.nz. We already have a number of applicants so register early to ensure your place. At this stage we only intend to run the one course.

Look forward to conference and catching up with everyone there.

- Barbara Pimm, Branch Secretary

Hawke's Bay Branch

Like most of the country we have gone from being rather dry to rather wet, but it has not been as bad here as some places.

Seminar on 12 July

The Branch is holding a seminar on 12 July at Arataki Honey, Havelock North, starting at 7.30 pm. Michelle Taylor and Byron Taylor will be our guest speakers, sharing the latest updates and information.

All beekeepers are welcome to attend. Visitors to the Hawke's Bay can contact our Branch secretary if billeting is needed: see page 2 for details.

Disease Recognition and Competency Course and test

I will be running a Disease Recognition and Competency Course and test on behalf of the Hawke's Bay Branch:

When: 14 August, starting at 9 am
Where: Arataki Honey, 66 Arataki Road, Havelock North
Cost for NBA members: course and test will be free to all NBA members
Cost for non-members: the course is free but the test will cost you $25 (see details below).

Any person wishing to do a refresher on AFB is welcome to attend at no cost.

Contact John Berry before 20 July:
Email responses preferred: jrberry@ihug.co.nz
Phone: 06 877 6205 (evenings)
Postal address: John Berry, 46 Arataki Rd, Havelock North, Hawke's Bay 4130

Non-members: please send a cheque for $25 made out to F & M-A Lindsay. Please send to me at the address given above and I will forward them on to Mary-Ann Lindsay.

The Hawke's Bay Branch Education Trust will cover the cost of the course for any NBA member (from any province). We are doing this to encourage as many people →

Help run one of only two National Pest Management Strategies

The American Foulbrood National Pest Management Strategy (AFB NPMS) Board is looking for an NBA member to fill a vacancy due to a resignation.

The goal of the AFB NPMS is to eliminate AFB in managed colonies in New Zealand. The AFB NPMS has statutory responsibilities for the entire beekeeping industry as prescribed under the Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Strategy Order 1998).

The Board role is one of governance with the majority of the day-to-day work carried out by its contractors.

The suitable candidate will have most of the following attributes:

- Understand the governance principles required for a board role
- Ability to work productively and contribute constructively to achieving the goals of the Strategy.
- Ideally should be a registered beekeeper
- Have a history of compliance with the strategy
- Have an appreciation and belief in the strategy
- Be a team player who has a vision for the future of the strategy
- Have additional skills outside of beekeeping which in turn might add value to the strategy
- Be without a conflicting interest such as a contracted service provider
- Must declare any conflicts of interest at nomination point. This will include association or membership of any political or industry groups
- Attend four face-to-face meetings per year
- Attend one-two telephone conferences per year (as needed)

If you're interested in applying for the position, please contact Frans Laas before 16 July on f-laas@xtra.co.nz or 03 489 4597.

as possible to become proficient at finding and controlling American foulbrood.

Take advantage of this great offer for NBA members and learn how to recognise American foulbrood and manage the disease effectively in line with the goals set out by the AFB National Pest Management Strategy. Not an NBA member? Why not join now and save $25 on this course.

- John Berry, Branch President

Southern North Island Branch

We had a very successful meeting a week or so ago. We had a lot of new faces and one beekeeper introduced himself to the others by saying that he "used to be a commercial beekeeper but put his strips in late and now [he's] a hobbyist".

Apart from going through the notices of motion, we also discussed high-moisture honey and the cleaning of honey houses. A dehumidifier should be left going overnight to dry everything out. What was a surprise to some of us was that some of the so-called "waterproof" electrical fittings were not actually 100% waterproof. It was suggested that the bungs on these fittings be removed after a general hose down to let out any water.

This led on to a discussion of insurance oddities. The cause of the honey house fire in Wanganui has been put down to an electrical wall fitting and apparently the highest cause of fires is multi-boxes. We all use them, so don't overload them.

Another farmer borrowed a neighbour's tractor and because birds had made a nest in it, the tractor caught fire. The farmer found this situation wasn't covered by the borrower's policy. If you use someone else's equipment on a regular basis, have the use of the equipment and the value written into your policy. If you extract honey for other beekeepers, have this also written into your policy so it's covered in the event of a fire or if it's damaged while in your care.

It's hard to get insurance for freezer panel buildings because they burn readily; however, a yellow fire retardant panelling is available at three times the cost. Most of our members weren't told about or offered this type of panelling.

One record to look at beating: a 56-frame horizontal radial extraction plant extracted 344 boxes of clover honey in a 16-hour day. Most are finding that filtering causes holdups in these new plants—the filters can't keep up with the extractor.

A good number of our members will be attending conference: hope to see you there.

- Frank Lindsay, NBA Life Member

Nelson Branch

We hope that you enjoyed conference in Nelson this year: time catching up with old friends and hopefully you learnt something new too! It was a huge but rewarding challenge for our Nelson Branch. Time to settle down for some winter 'time out' now. Happy relaxing and scheming times.

- Kerry Gentleman

Canterbury Branch

Canterbury beekeepers have had a great autumn to get hives ready and wintered down, with brood rearing carrying on much later than usual. This should enable colonies to carry plenty of younger bees through to the spring. After our long extended autumn, winter hit Canterbury with a vengeance by delivering more than twice the average rainfall for June within a week. The ground coped incredibly well, considering how dry the autumn had been up to this point.

It's only been a couple of weeks but it seems winter has been here forever, with copious amounts of mud about and cold, miserable days. It is snowing outside as I write this, which is unusual for this time of year at this low altitude.

Here's hoping winter doesn't overstay: looking forward to spring.

- Brian Lancaster, Branch President

Don't forget to update your Branch details!

If your details have changed, please email editor@nba.org.nz and secretary@nba.org.nz so that we can update your details in the journal and the NBA website.

Control of Varroa: A Guide for New Zealand Beekeepers by Mark Goodwin and Michelle Taylor can be purchased from the NBA. Please contact Jess on secretary@nba.org.nz or 04 4716254 to order a copy.

Bee Week: coming soon!

Bee Week is almost here. 26–30 July are the dates for 2010 Bee Week.

The NBA has a wide variety of activities planned for Bee Week to remind the public of the importance and value of honey bees to New Zealand's economy.

The NBA secretariat will be in touch with your branch very soon to let you know how members can get involved.

If you would like to help out with Bee Week 2010, please contact Jess on secretary@nba.org.nz or ring 04 716254.

When determining whether mites are present in an area for the first time, it is important to use a technique that has the sensitivity to detect very small numbers of mites.

Source: Control of Varroa: A guide for New Zealand beekeepers (revised edition), *by Mark Goodwin & Michelle Taylor, page 39.*

Hive lifter reduces back injury risk

By Kushla Haenen

The risk of back injury in beekeeping is just as real for the hobbyist with a single hive as it is for large-scale commercial beekeepers.

As a relatively young beekeeper, Glen Haenen recognises his risk of back injury is just as great as it is to an older beekeeper like his father. "I was getting broken lifting heavy hives. My old man helps me out sometimes. Last season just about killed him!"

While a two-person lift policy is fine when there is a second person available to help, Glen is often alone in the field. A serious near-miss while moving hives alone by hand reinforced the need to do something to save his back and reduce the likelihood of accidents. The obvious answer was a mechanical hive lifter.

> "Despite never physically seeing or trying any of the available models, Glen decided to build his own."

Several options for hive lifters are available on the market. Despite never physically seeing or trying any of the available models, Glen decided to build his own. "I've never used another crane, so don't really know how it compares to others, except what I've learned from the Internet, brochures or from other beekeepers." "It cost less, and I'm a stingy bugger! Also, I could build one that does some things that other marketed machines don't. I didn't want to be restricted to palletised hives with a pallet lifter. If I didn't do pollination, it wouldn't matter. But if even one hive in a pallet of four fails to meet the pollination standard, it's a lot of extra trouble to swap that one hive for another that is up to standard. Being able to shift one hive at a time is important."

The cradle is locked into place on the truck for easy transport without taking up deck space.

Glen is lucky that his engineering background enables him to take the DIY route and create something that meets his individual needs. The prototype lifter has cost approximately $5,000 in materials to build. Not intending to repeat the process, he never recorded his hours exactly, but believes it has taken around a month full-time to complete.

The best thing about this lifter, according to Glen, is infinite rotation on the main boom. A pair of rotary electrical connections, similar to the brushes you might find in a grinder, allows the operator to move from one side of the truck to the other taking the shortest route every time, rather than walking the long way around to stop electrical wires from twisting. Other features Glen built in include a boom that folds away parallel with the truck, so the width of the crane (and therefore the truck) is not an issue. "It meant I could have a longer boom, for greater reach."

An electric hydraulic motor is fitted into the frame of the crane, and an additional hydraulic ram raises the crane an extra 600 millimetres for additional height when needed. The crane is levelled manually using a plumb bob linked to LEDs and adjusted with manual hydraulics. The LEDs indicate which direction the crane needs to move. Glen says he might consider changing this to a push-button system in the future, but hasn't investigated automatic levelling. "This is simple and does what I need it to for now."

The winch is operated via a wireless remote which mounts onto the frame of the cradle, but an alternative plug-in cable controller can be used—just in case the batteries in the remote run flat or the remote receiver, located in the end of the boom, fails during operation. →

The boom can be locked in place above a load two hives high (four supers and two bases) or can be dropped to strap down on an empty deck as shown here.

Weighing approximately 300 kilograms, the whole crane unit can be unplugged and removed from the truck when not in use.

While the current prototype meets Glen's current needs, he does want to improve and add to its capabilities. He will attach a heavy-duty hook onto the end of the winch rope to replace the clip used during trials, and add a honey box lifter before next season.

The biggest advantage of having a hive lifter of any sort is the improved safety and reduced risk of injury to the beekeeper. Lifting 30 hives by hand would have taken a long time, required an extra person to help, and resulted in a sore back and aching muscles. Glen was not able to stack hives two-high on his truck before: it was too dangerous. Now he can manage it safely and easily.

If you've got the funds to buy a hive lifter (or the skills to build one yourself), it's definitely worth it.

LED lights tell the operator which way to move in order to level the crane. When both lights on both levers go out, the crane is level. Photos: Kushla Haenen.

WEATHER

Mild conditions likely to continue

The NIWA National Climate Centre outlook for winter 2010 says that mean temperatures are likely to be above average for the time of year across most of the country.

However, short-term cold snaps and frosty periods typical of winter will still occur.

The El Niño conditions that prevailed since winter 2009 have dissipated, and the equatorial Pacific is now in a neutral state. Recent trends suggest a La Niña could develop by early spring.

Near normal seasonal rainfalls are likely in most places, but the Centre says that the southwest of the North Island (southern Taranaki, Manawatu, Horowhenua through to Wellington) is likely to experience normal or below normal rainfalls.

For winter 2010, normal or below normal soil moisture levels and stream flows are likely in the north and west of the North Island, but over the rest of New Zealand near-normal conditions are the most likely outcome.

> "Recent trends suggest a La Niña could develop by early spring."

The centre's latest outlook states that mean sea level pressures are likely to be higher than normal over the North Island, associated with somewhat stronger than normal westerlies over the South Island, on average for June-August.

Overall Picture

Winter temperatures are likely to be above average over most of the country, but average or above average in the east of the South Island. Despite the likelihood of a milder than normal winter, typical winter cold spells and frosts are still expected at times. Sea surface temperatures are expected to be near average around New Zealand over the winter period.

Rainfall is likely to be near normal over most of the country, but normal or below normal in the southwest of the North Island. Normal or below normal soil moisture levels and stream flows are likely in the north and west of the North Island, but over the rest of New Zealand near-normal conditions are the most likely outcome.

Gearing up for spring

By Frank Lindsay, NBA Life Member

Three weeks of mostly cold, rainy days has put paid to outside jobs like moving hives around and reorganising apiary sites.

The clay bush tracks are now too slippery and when it takes two sets of chains to stop the vehicle sliding sideways, it's time to look for inside work—of which there's plenty.

Inside work mostly consists of making up gear. Some prefer to purchase their woodware ready to assemble while others make it from scratch. In selecting timber, I prefer old pine with plenty of resin in it—although it's a little heavier, it lasts longer in the field. Most of the sawmills send this type of tree for firewood as the band-saw blades they use these days snap when they get clogged with resin. Luckily, a few beekeepers in our district have mills that cut timber using old technology: round saw blades.

If you are a hobbyist and have only a few hives, it's best to purchase all your gear ready to assemble. If, however, you are contemplating becoming a commercial beekeeper one day and have woodworking skills, then you should consider setting up a workshop.

To make beekeeping woodware you need a good saw bench (or if you have the space, a rip and a draw saw, and perhaps a router and a buzzer). It's quite expensive if you purchase everything brand new but if you are not in a hurry, there's plenty of second-hand equipment around. Just get someone experienced to check the saw to make sure it cuts true.

Viewed in a strictly commercial light, it's cheaper in the long run to purchase all your new gear (replacements are tax deductible). However, if you are starting at the bottom with very little capital, make your own gear initially and then replace it with commercially produced product when it needs replacing. This approach can save you a lot of money. I got 12–15 years of use out of boxes made from pallet timber. If you are not confident with saws, look up "mastering a table saw" on the Internet—there are DVDs available to teach you.

Safety is paramount when working with saws, as the blade can't tell the difference between a piece of wood and a finger. You will need earmuffs, safety glasses, a heavy apron, push sticks, a good steel ruler, clamps and plenty of space around the saws. You can find many types of saw blade on the market; each does a separate job. I use ripping blades and finishing blades that have more teeth to give a cleaner finish.

> "Safety is paramount when working with saws, as the blade can't tell the difference between a piece of wood and a finger."

Always work to the side of the blade, as sticks left on the top of the bench can catch the blade and suddenly flick back at high speed. Hence the apron: apart from protecting your clothing, it saves having a sore stomach for a few days if a piece of wood flicks back and hits you at high speed. Push sticks are a must. The only time I don't use them is when I am continuously feeding timber into the saw, using the next piece in as a push stick.

Here are a few of my rules when working a saw bench.

Rule 1: Never force timber through a saw. It should be a smooth easy operation at its own pace. As the blade gets duller, it will cut more slowly. I sometimes only get a few continuous days out of a blade before it needs sharpening again. It also depends on the timber and the cleanliness of the saw blade. You may need to clean the resin off the side of the blade using kerosene. A good tip is to polish all the surfaces of the saw bench with beeswax to reduce friction.

Rule 2: Don't work on a saw when you are tired. You have to concentrate all the time. I found out the hard way that seven hours of continuous work is my limit. I cut my thumb as I was moving my hand across the saw blade to turn the machine off at the end of the day. After working all day, I couldn't believe I had done it. One momentary lapse and it took months before I had full use of my hand again, even using a plastic pipe over the thumb as a protector.

Rule 3: Always use the guards. Some of the cutting will require you to remove the guard from over the blade; however, there are devices you can make and clamp to the bench to enhance your safety. Look up some woodworking books to get ideas.

Rule 4: Continually check your measurements. Repeated operations can cause the clamps to move a smidgen each time they are banged, which will put out your measurements over time. If you use a template to set the cut, only use it to recheck the measurements. I ended up with 1000 top bars whose side bar cut became over-length because I didn't check the measurements regularly. It didn't matter when I used an extractor that the frames dropped into, but they stuck going into the extractor when I upgraded to a horizontal radial "push through" model.

Split boards

Once you have the machinery to make them, split boards are one of the most versatile tools I use in my beekeeping. They are basically a crown board, made from four pieces of timber wide enough to give a bee space on each side with a hardboard centre and an entrance in one side. There's no need to carry around additional bases and roofs when making splits. I have a split board under the roof on each hive. →

I started off using sacks or a bit of carpet under the roof as hive mats. My bees at that time were a great deal more defensive, and ripping up the sealed mat caused an instant defensive reaction. I then used regular crown boards but ventilation became an issue: something to do with our wet, windy climate and hives placed close to or in bush areas. I found by spring I had wet, mouldy outside frames and the frame lugs would rot in a few years. I needed more top ventilation than a matchstick in each corner.

It took a couple of winters to work out the amount of top ventilation required to prevent moisture build-up using a split board. The entrance needs to be big enough to allow a regular change of air but small enough to stop the bees consuming extra stores in order to maintain a tight cluster when faced with too great an airflow. I settled on a 35 x 7 mm entrance/ventilation hole. However, the crown boards weren't durable when I cut the entrance in one side. They soon broke under normal working conditions so I started making them from rough sawn timber. (I changed the inside measurements so they fit flush with a super.)

Split board.

My crown boards are now 33-mm wide and 23-mm thick. They are durable and easy to staple together. I have a groove 7 mm (the bee space) in from one edge in which to fit the hardboard. This groove is cut in one operation. I have a 10-inch blade and a smaller ripping blade with a wood spacer between the blades to give me my correct bee space. I found that the thicker 5-mm hardboard wouldn't fit into a normal saw cut. Dado blades are now illegal, so to get a wider cut I used a tooth setting tool to make the small blade cut a 5-mm groove.

To accommodate two blades, you need to make a new throat plate. This can be made out of an old cutting board: something with a smooth surface that won't chip. Cut this to shape and bevel the edges (I used a wood file) so that it fits flush into the throat. Clamp a piece of timber across the saw so that it covers the throat, turn on the saw and then gradually raise the blades slowly to the top of the adjustment. You now have a throat plate with two cuts in it.

Then it's just a matter of setting up the guides, setting the width of the cut, adjusting the height of the smaller blade (7 mm) and pushing the timber through. The small blade cuts the groove for the hardboard while the larger blade cuts the timber to size all in one operation. You get rigidity by cutting the hardboard so that it fits fully into the groove all the way around. Assemble and put a staple in each corner. Wax dip to preserve it, but be very careful as the hardboard contains oils and takes time to heat up. Add only five split boards to the dipper and wait a minute or so until the bubbling wax starts to wane, then add a few more and wait. If you add 10 or more at a time into the dipper, the wax suddenly bubbles up and all over the sides of the dipper. Once cooled you can add another staple to each corner. The hot wax sometimes loosens the existing staple's hold—it depends upon the timber.

Top hive feeders are made the same way. Just make it a little wider, about 50–60 mm (depending upon how many cuts you can get out of a board), and drill a 25-mm hole in the middle to allow bees to come up into it. I find these quite useful apart from a dispenser of raw sugar used for emergency feeding of strong hives. The bees will come up into the feeder when the supers below get overcrowded, which tells me the hive needs another super. The bees will also store honey in the feeder if I fail to put enough supers on the hives during the flow. Most beekeepers don't bother with this type of feeder, preferring frame feeders that take sugar syrup. I hardly ever feed my hives sugar syrup.

Recycling frames

We are now recycling brood frames through our hives every three to four years to keep the pathogens and residues down so that our bees are healthier. This also means that we have a larger number of frames to melt out. I used to have a melter copied from Tweeddale's in Taihape, which consisted of two insulated 44-gallon drums welded together with a steel frame to slide supers in and out. (From memory, Tweeddale's have

Bees in the feeder. Photos: Frank Lindsay.

two units of three drums welded together, which makes the units more viable.) Mine used to hold three supers: each super had a queen excluder nailed to the bottom of the super to stop the old black cocoons from dropping through. It was set up on a slight angle, the opening covered with a sack, a steam hose put in and wax and water would run out into a bucket. However, we had to make room so that went to the dump and now I'm going to stack up a number of supers on top of each other and just keep poking steam in at the bottom. A hive lid and bits of foam plastic should be all that's needed to keep the steam from escaping.

I remove the frames from the supers after an hour, upend the supers to get rid of the residue and whack the side bars of the frames with a hive tool to test their structural integrity (for rot). This also removes most of the wax residue left on the bars. Frames that break are used as fire starters and the ones that pass are reused. The wax that comes out of the chamber is put into the melter and the residue from the frames goes into the garden; after breaking down, it makes excellent compost.

Beekeepers who regularly clean up their old brood frames in this way have noticed a drop in disease levels. Bees on new gear are happy bees and if they are continually building new wax, they tend not to swarm.

Of course there are other methods. One Australian beekeeper now places all his frames and old supers on the truck, takes them to the local dump and burns them all in one pile. He then purchases all new woodware and makes it up. This beekeeper can't leave old frames around the honey house any more as hive beetle gets into it and that causes more problems for him.

Things to do this month

Make up and prepare gear for replacement or hive increase. Check hives after storms.

Department of Labour publications

The Department of Labour website www.dol.govt.nz is a valuable source of information on health and safety, employment relations, the labour market, and more.

Check out some of the publications described below.

Notifiable Occupational Disease System (NODS): Information for Employers

This is a three-page factsheet published in 2010 to explain NODS, a system for recording cases where employees' health have been affected by some aspect of work – such as dust, fumes, noise, chemicals, toxic metals, diseases caught from animals, etc. http://www.osh.dol.govt.nz/order/catalogue/183.shtml

Guidelines for the Safe Use of Woodworking Machinery

This is a 39-page document published in 1995. These guidelines apply to woodworking machinery in places of work covered by the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 and its regulations. They are not intended to apply to machinery that is subject to and other Act or regulation that specifically provides for its inspection or safe use. http://www.osh.dol.govt.nz/order/catalogue/112.shtml

Workforce 2020

Workforce 2020 is the Department of Labour's new futures work programme. It is designed to ensure a prepared and productive workforce for 2020 and beyond. http://www.dol.govt.nz/services/LMI/workforce2020/index.asp

Maori Labour Market Information

The Maori web page contains information and useful links that are designed to assist anyone with an interest in Maori social and economic issues to gain a better understanding about labour market trends among Maori. http://www.dol.govt.nz/services/LMI/maori/index.asp

Always take an adult bee sample for varroa from at least three brood frames. Don't take bee samples from honey supers.

Source: Control of Varroa: A guide for New Zealand beekeepers (revised edition), *by Mark Goodwin & Michelle Taylor, page 40.*

Beirut schoolkids learn about beekeeping

By Robert Cusack

The importance of bee-keeping and its special role in nature conservation was highlighted at the closing celebrations for project "Oak Honey" at UNESCO palace, Saturday.

Project "Oak Honey" is a project masterminded by the Association for Forests, Development and Conservation (AFDC) and works by educating Lebanese school children about the environmental, economical and sociological significance of honey and beekeeping.

Ten schools were provided with educational kits which were aimed at all ages and work by isolating the importance of beekeeping and the role of forestry in honey production and educating children about the conservation of Lebanon's nature and its natural resources.

The contents of the kit include six lesson plans, three supplementary educational books and a CD on environmental topics such as "Bee Community," "Production of Honey," "Characteristics of the Honey," "Honey Products", "Honey and Nutrition," and "Oak Trees" for students in elementary, intermediate and high school classes.

> "... we started this project in 2006 as a result of a large number of bee-keepers and farmers in south Lebanon losing everything after the war."

When asked why beekeeping had been chosen as a project specifically, Giorgio Colombo, project coordinator with the Italian organization Unity and Co-operation for the Development of Peoples (UCODEP) told The Daily Star: "This is just one project of many that we do ... but we started this project in 2006 as a result of a large number of bee-keepers and farmers in south Lebanon losing everything after the war."

"We work alongside the beekeepers by educating them as to how to develop and improve their business," he said, "We also work with two centers in the south – one that reproduces queen bees and one that works to bottle honey, ready for the market."

The organization is also looking to start a new program that would work alongside the Agriculture Ministry against the use of pesticides that are harmful to bees by educating farmers and beekeepers about the damage their chemicals inflict upon nature.

The AFDC is a Lebanese organization and was established in 1993, it works to raise awareness on sustainable conservation of natural resources and improve environmental management in community-based conservation. They work to educate Lebanese children and local communities through developing and maintaining the conservation of forests and Lebanon's natural resources and its sustainable management.

Source: Schools taught about role of beekeeping for conservation (2010, June 7). Reprinted from The Daily Star (Beirut, Lebanon). *Retrieved June 10, 2010, from http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_id=1&categ_id=1&article_id=115651#axzz0qObn76lx*

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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: 09 436 1631
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: Paul Jenkin, Chairman
Phone 0800 534 466
Email: Paul@legiontv.co.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