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Front cover: Our three sponsors ecostore, Palmers Gardenworld and De Winkel are, along with the NBA's Bee Ambassador Annabel Langbein, supporting August's Bee Aware Month. See more on page 7.

# Can we learn from our bees?

By Ricki Leahy, NBA President

There's been a supersedure in the president's role. I must say how glad I am that it was one of those natural supersedures with no injuries involved.

I'd like to introduce myself to you in case you don't know me. I'm Ricki, a commercial beekeeper based in Murchison, in the Nelson region beside the Buller River. We run 1500 hives or so and operate from the West Coast south of Westport and up to the Nelson Lakes area. I employ four full-time beekeepers, and we, with the help of my partner Lee, manage to produce most of our own queens, process all our own honey and migrate our bees from one end of the Buller to the other.

Beekeeping for me started as a hobby and I must have been a member of the NBA for at least that long. I can't really remember but it must be well over 30 years. However, I do remember that I've been on the Executive Council since last August, having taken over from Kerry Gentleman as the Ward Rep for the Upper South Island.

Since being on the Executive, although for a short time, I have gained a good understanding of where the Executive stands on the important issues facing the beekeeping industry and indeed the NBA itself.

I put my hand up for the position of President as I reckon I have the ability to work positively and inclusively with the entire Executive and our Secretariat. I believe that as a team we can progressively build and strengthen our Association to deliver better advocacy and value to our members.

So there you go ... here I am.

First I must thank Barry, our Immediate Past President, for all the effort, time and hard work he has put into the 11 years he has been on the Executive, especially during his last two years as President. I can assure you I shall struggle to match his in-depth reports to which we have become

happily accustomed. However, Barry has enthusiastically volunteered to remain on the research committee, so with any luck, we may have further wisdom-filled articles to read in the future. It is also very comforting for me as President to know that Barry is always only a phone call away to advise on certain issues to maintain a smooth transition.

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**"...as a team we can progressively build and strengthen our Association..."**

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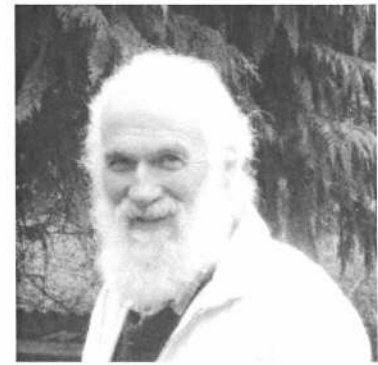
How's that for supersedure ... only beekeepers can do that!

### Conference bouquets

Huge thanks need to be given to the Canterbury Branch for organising a very successful and well-attended conference. Thanks also for the fun time we had during the 100 years' celebration with all the interesting exhibits of times gone by, stories told, memories rekindled and friendships reignited. Absolutely fantastic and we should all be so grateful to Roger and Linda Bray, who held the ship on course through all the planning and organising. May I please say thank you from us all.

Thinking about conferences, it was decided at the AGM that next year's conference is to be at Wanganui. The Southern North Island Branch is already well into the preliminary stages of organising but one thing is certain: they will find it a lot harder than in Ashburton to put on a snow display for us.

With all the chatter we hear amongst ourselves about the beekeeping industry's need for us all to be working closer with each



other, it is hoped that the Federated Farmers Bee Industry Group could come and share the two seminar days with us. This would obviously save the key seminar speakers from having to double up with two separate conferences. It would obviously be positive for the trade displays sponsors and also for all us beekeepers to have a jolly good time together and the opportunity to talk about some of the things that we should be talking about.

If we beekeepers have a couple of hives that we need to perform a bit better, we tend to unite them with a queen excluder and a few bits of newspaper so the bees won't fight and hassle each other. This, of course, gives us a two-queen hive. We all know it will now be more productive, not only because it's a lot stronger with all the bees working together, but because they also share their resources without having to double up on everything.

I'll leave you with that thought, whatever it was.

Happy beekeeping.



## We want your photos!

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# NZ test confirms purity of manuka honey

Media release from GNS Science, 18 July 2013

The New Zealand honey industry has been thrown a lifeline after laboratory testing procedures in importing countries, which were failing manuka honey, have been found to be flawed giving a higher 'apparent' cane sugar level than it actually contains.

An investigation by New Zealand scientist Karyne Rogers has shown that the internationally accepted laboratory test designed to detect cane sugar adulteration of honey was often giving false-positive results and causing problems for manuka honey in overseas markets.

Dr Rogers, of GNS Science, has developed a modified procedure to give more accurate and reliable results for manuka honey. So far the United States is the only country to adopt the new test. Other countries are expected to follow.

Manuka honey's unique properties means that the high bioactivity in the honey affects the results of a test used to detect fraudulently added cane sugar, said Dr Rogers of GNS Science, who also led a joint honey study with participants from 10 international honey testing laboratories to examine the testing issues.

In 2010, six shipments of high bioactive manuka honey worth about \$6 million failed border tests, and threatened to close market access into the United States and China. The honey was genuine, but the false-positive test results led to overseas agencies assuming this was because of sugar adulteration, which results in automatic disqualification by importing countries.

"The test itself remains the same, but the interpretation of unusual varieties of honey such as manuka has been changed slightly. Its carbon isotope value is now the main indicator of purity rather than its 'apparent' cane sugar level."

The test failures represented a cloud hanging over the New Zealand industry. Last year about \$110M of honey was exported, with manuka honey making up the bulk of this. However, a considerable amount of the harvest was not immediately exportable to markets such as China, Europe and USA because of this problem.

A recent consumer survey of manuka honey in Hong Kong has also raised some issues surrounding testing of 55 manuka honey samples, in which 14 exceeded the allowable level of sugar addition.

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**"My research has led to the acceptance of new test criteria to accommodate New Zealand honey that was giving false-positive test results."**

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To be acceptable to importing countries, honey must have a cane sugar content below 7 percent by volume. The flawed method was not measuring the real cane sugar content, and gave only an 'apparent' value.

The new criteria allows atypical honey, such as manuka, to have slightly higher cane sugar levels as long as its carbon isotope value is within a certain limit.

Prior to 2010, New Zealand honey products were not routinely tested on arrival in destination countries. However, overseas countries became more vigilant with testing in 2010 in the wake of a sharp increase in honey fraud originating from Asia.

Asian countries were selling inferior sugar-adulterated honey, some of which contained

harmful residues and antibiotics, into premium markets world-wide. The increased testing was useful to detect issues with Asian honey, but also found that New Zealand manuka honey was prone to fail the cane sugar test.

As a result of test failures in the past three years, bee keepers have been either holding on to their high-value bioactive manuka honey, or blending it with lower activity manuka containing a lower sugar content to bring down its 'apparent' cane sugar levels.

Changing the test criteria will free up about \$40 million of export manuka honey, which previously did not meet the standard laboratory test.

## Background

Isotope chemist Dr Karyne Rogers, of GNS Science, has been working with the honey industry for about a decade, providing advice on a range of science-related industry topics. She became more involved in 2010 when significant quantities of manuka honey started failing overseas laboratory tests for no apparent reason.

Allied to this project, she is working with the industry to optimise bee nutrition by assessing different bee forage sources to minimise supplementary sugar and protein feeding, so the bees stay healthy, are more resistant to disease, and produce consistently high quality honey.

She was recently recognised with the National Beekeepers' Association appreciation award for significant contributions to the honey industry. To date her research has been funded by the Ministry for Primary Industries, AGMARDT, and honey industry groups. She is leading a multi-institution request for funding to MBIE to understand the peculiarities of manuka honey and find solutions to ensure continued market access, including authentication and provenance.

Source: GNS Science (2013, July 18). NZ test confirms purity of manuka honey.  
<http://www.gns.cri.nz/Home/News-and-Events/Media-Releases/manuka-honey>



### NATIONAL OFFICE UPDATE

By the NBA Secretariat

Key issues on the secretariat's agenda this month have included planning for the AGM and the post-AGM executive council meeting. This took up a huge amount of time over May and June.

Always interesting is the meeting of Branch presidents and secretaries with the EC and secretariat. As a result, it's been agreed that Branches will be sent a wider range of information that they can pass on to members as they see fit. Hopefully, this will ensure members get a better overview of the EC's work plans.

Bee Aware Month has been another major focus. The activities kick off in August, but June and July have been spent tying down last-minute details involving the NBA's strategic partners De Winkel yoghurt, Palmers Gardenworld, ecostore and Annabel Langbein.

NBA earns \$20,000. This year's Bee Aware Month has already netted the NBA \$20,000 of new revenue. The income comes from De Winkel's agreement to 'partner' with the NBA to promote bees and Bee Aware Month. It's hoped the NBA will also earn additional revenue from its partnerships with other stakeholders.

#### Executive Council news

The NBA welcomes Deanna Corbett (East Coast Ward) to the Executive Council. Deanna replaces Barry Foster who has stood down as that region's ward rep and is now the NBA's Immediate Past President. For members who couldn't attend the AGM, Ricki Leahy (Upper South Island) has been elected NBA president: read more about him on page 4.

Russell Berry has retained his 'seat' as representative for the Lower South Island Ward.



# August is Bee Aware Month!

By the NBA Secretariat

Starting on 1 August, the NBA will launch its biggest-ever public bee awareness campaign. Bee Aware Month (BAM) will run throughout August.

BAM is designed to generate widespread public awareness of the plight of bees and active support for them. We want New Zealanders to 'Love Our Kiwi Bees'.

The more publicity and consumer support for bees in New Zealand, the more pressure goes on politicians and officials to take their own steps to protect our bee populations.

This year's BAM is actively supported by strategic partners including De Winkel yoghurt, which has donated \$20,000 to the NBA. Other partners are ecostore and Palmers Gardenworld. Annabel Langbein is, of course, the NBA's high-profile Bee Ambassador.

As well as using the month to generate nationwide publicity and awareness, a key feature of the month is a schools' video competition, for which we received 15 entries from all over the country.

Schools competed to make a three-minute video on the plight of Kiwi bees and how best to protect them. By now you might have seen publicity about the deserving winners, which received over \$3000 of prizes from Palmers Gardenworld and ecostore.

#### Fundraising for bee research

Another key element of the month, and of the NBA's public support activities, is the establishment of three dedicated research funds to which the public can contribute to help raise money for bee-related activities.

Through the Bank of New Zealand, the NBA is collecting money to:

1. **Fund the NBA's efforts to promote the use of bee-friendly spraying to minimise harm to bees.** We need to ensure that garden sprays and pesticides that are approved in New Zealand and used by home gardeners and rural contractors alike don't harm our Kiwi bees. Your contributions will help the NBA in its work to ensure more people learn about bee-friendly spraying.
2. **Stamp out the varroa mite.** Varroa is one of the biggest threats facing our Kiwi bees. We have established a public donations fund to help find a solution.
3. **The Kiwi Bee Health survey.** The NBA wants to undertake the first-ever, nationwide Bee Health survey to find out what's really happening to our Kiwi bee populations, so we can take steps to better protect them. We are asking the public to help fund this important work that we hope will start later this year in conjunction with MPI.

Donations to any of these projects can be made through the BNZ, account number 02-0733-0057338-005.

Branches have been participating actively in BAM, organising school visits and other local community activities. We thank you for your support.

BAM is based on the premise that Kiwi bees are worth over \$5 billion to the New Zealand economy. Unfortunately, bees tend to be forgotten about and marginalised in the scheme of things because they are small, often remote and they 'fly under the (political) radar', so to speak.

BAM is about changing perceptions, raising awareness and making sure Kiwi bees take their rightful place on the political and policy agenda.

You, too, can do your bit for BAM, even if it's just to visit and 'like' our Facebook page Bee Aware Month, and check out our BAM website [www.beeaware.org.nz](http://www.beeaware.org.nz)



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# *Chelifer cancroides* at Lincoln

By Dr B. J. Donovan, Donovan Scientific Insect Research, Private Bag 4704, Christchurch 8140, New Zealand and Ms S. Read, Plant and Food Research Ltd, Private Bag 4704, Christchurch 8140, New Zealand.

This article presents results of research into the role of *Chelifer cancroides* in controlling the varroa mite.

## *Chelifer cancroides* in Europe

In 1873, a species of chelifer was first recorded associated with honey bees in Europe (Kistner, 1982), and later it was said to be *Chelifer cancroides*. Alfonsus (1891) believed the chelifers to be an enemy of the bee louse (the varroa-sized small wingless fly *Braula coeca*), and in 1922 he thought that an immense number of mites (acarine mites) must have been eaten. However, by that time chelifers had generally disappeared from European beehives, possibly because the adoption of clean-sawn moveable frame hives didn't provide secure nooks and crannies within which chelifers could construct nests in which to raise their young (Donovan & Paul, 2005).

To date here at Lincoln, research to determine whether chelifers could control varroa has centered on two native New Zealand species of chelifers, *Nesochernes gracilis* and *Heterochernes novaezealandiae*, which occur under beehive roofs etc. near Kati Kati in the Bay of Plenty (Donovan et al., 2009), but ideally *C. cancroides* would probably be a better bet because of its long history of association with the Western honey bee. The original distribution of *C. cancroides* isn't known, but it was probably restricted to Europe where it occurred in a range of situations such as stables, barns, grain stores and houses, and especially among books in libraries (Koch, 1873), where presumably it fed upon the book louse *Liposcelis divinatorius*. The range of *C. cancroides* now includes many areas of the world (Weygoldt, 1969), probably as a result of inadvertent movement by humans of habitats that the chelifers live in, such as

horse tackle, domestic fowls and their nests, and libraries with old musty books.

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**"...we knew that *C. cancroides* was present here, but how could we find a living population?"**

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## *Chelifer cancroides* in New Zealand

In New Zealand the chelifer has been recorded in four places: Owairaka in Auckland on 15 January 1945, timber in an insectary; at Wharekiri, east of Te Kuiti; Donegal Flat (as Donegals Flat), which is just north of Kaikoura, on 11 April 1971, in a nest of *Sternus vulgaris* (starling); and at Kaikoura (Beier, 1976). So we knew that *C. cancroides* was present here, but how could we find a living population?

## Discovery of population at Lincoln

About 25 years ago Mr Pat Palmer of Prebbleton, just south of Christchurch, established a small population of the lucerne leafcutting bee *Megachile rotundata* on a north-facing wall of his old barn. Half-cartons of paper drinking straws and 6-mm diameter blind-ended tunnels about 100-mm deep drilled in wood were provided as nesting holes. Nests were in position all year round and bees emerged and re-nested naturally according to seasonal conditions so that most adult activity occurred from about early December to late March. The barn housed domestic fowls, firewood, and odds and ends of the kind found on many 'lifestyle' properties.

By early January 2012 birds were pulling out many straw nesting holes, so to save the bees Mr Palmer asked one of us (BJD) to remove the nests to a safer place. On 25 January 2012, the nests were relocated to a leafcutting bee shelter on the Lincoln property of Plant and Food Research Ltd.,

and on 9 May all nests were stored at 3–4°C. Storage at this temperature holds leafcutting bee prepupae in diapause so that there is no development to adult bees until after a return to higher temperatures.

On 5 November 2012 the nests were removed to normal room temperatures, and on 19 November chelifers were noticed crawling on the sides and lid of the large cardboard box holding the bee nests. At first it was thought that the chelifers were escapees of species we had collected at Kati Kati, but a quick microscopic inspection showed that they were quite different, and indeed appeared to be *Chelifer cancroides*.

## *Chelifer cancroides* eats varroa

By 26 November 2012, 48 chelifers had been caught, which allowed us to test whether they would eat varroa. Three chelifers were placed in a 35-ml vial with three varroa, and within a couple of minutes a chelifer seized a varroa in its pincers, moved it to its mouthparts, and fed on it (Figure 1). Half an hour later the varroa was dead, and when checked two hours later the other two varroa were also dead. Various other tests showed that varroa in vials with *C. cancroides* were readily fed on and killed, whereas varroa in vials without chelifers remained alive.



Figure 1. *Chelifer cancroides* feeding on and killing a varroa, 26 November 2012. Photograph R. Lamberts, Plant and Food Research Ltd., Lincoln.

Photographs of chelifers were emailed to the world expert on chelifer identity, Dr Mark Harvey, in Perth, Australia, who confirmed that the species was indeed *C. cancroides*. So not only had we located a population of →

the species of chelifer that once used to occur in beehives in Europe, but we also knew that it would very readily eat varroa.

### Breeding *Chelifer cancroides*

From 19 November to 20 December when the leafcutting bee nests were placed in the field, 128 chelifers were captured. Our main aim now became centered on attempting to multiply the numbers as much as possible so that experiments to control varroa within bee colonies could be initiated, so to this end we confined up to half a dozen chelifers each within small containers. The species had been bred elsewhere (Levi, 1948; 1953) so we knew there should be a little particulate matter such as fine sand and bark and filter paper in the containers, and that small insects such as moth caterpillars and *Drosophila* larvae and pea aphids should be supplied regularly as food.

In one container held at normal room temperatures and where the food was supplied were small moth larvae. A silken dome interspersed with very small particles of sand and several millimetres across was noticed built against a wall of the container on 25 January 2013. On 11 March a female chelifer was sitting just outside a hole on the silken dome, and four very small chelifers were close by. There may have been more in among the sand and pieces of wood in the

container, but we didn't inspect for fear of disrupting the development of the immature chelifers to adulthood. So from spinning the nest to emergence of young took about six weeks. Other adults were held in similar containers but at 22°C, and after several weeks up to 20 young appeared.

### Funding needed

To produce the thousands of chelifers necessary for testing in beehives against varroa, much greater effort will be needed, which of course will need substantial funding. Raising funds is now the first priority. If we can proceed with the research, we will have an excellent chance of being able to determine whether or not varroa in our beehives (and any other future invasive mite and even beetle) can be controlled with the chelifer that once occurred in beehives in Europe.

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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# MPI's expectations 'unattainable'


By John Berry

There was a lot of discussion at conference over the expectations the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) has for the beekeeping industry in New Zealand.

I don't think there's much doubt that more honey could be sold if it could be produced. However, increasing hive numbers, once hives have reached saturation point, reduces the honey crop rather than increasing it.

MPI seems to have been listening almost exclusively to their clients who seem to have a mostly expansionist point of view. If they spent some time talking to grassroots beekeepers they would hear a different story, a story of way too many hives in way too many areas leading to

very significant reductions in honey crops, massively increasing bills for sugar and pollen substitute and—saddest of all in my opinion—the loss of the moral compass that has guided beekeeping behaviour in the past.

I believe MPI's expectations are both unattainable and damaging to beekeeping as a whole. MPI would do well to remember that honey, while important to the beekeepers, is a minor and unimportant crop compared to the value of bee pollination. 



## Photo Competition results

By Mary-Ann Lindsay, Southern North Island Ward representative

The fifth annual Ecroyd/NBA photo competition was held at the Conference in Ashburton on 18 June 2013.

The competition was judged by Clarrie Brake, member and former president of the Ashburton Photography Society.

Speaking as the organiser of the competition, I was very impressed with the number and quality of the entries received this year. Thank you to everyone who entered, and congratulations to the winners.

It's never too early to start thinking about entering next year's competition. Pop a camera in the truck and snap away!

### Category winners

#### Close up

1st Zoe Mitchell  
2nd Fiona O'Brien  
3rd Frank Lindsay  
Highly Commended: Frank Lindsay

#### Scenic

1st Fiona O'Brien  
2nd Frank Lindsay  
3rd Kelsey Bruns  
Highly Commended: Kelsey Bruns

#### Portrait

1st Equal: Linda Bray and Frank Lindsay  
3rd Jody Mitchell


### Essay

1st Jody Mitchell  
2nd Equal: Carol Downer and Frank Lindsay

### Peoples' Choice

1st Carol Downer: 'Food Chain'  
2nd Zoe Mitchell: 'Close up'  
3rd Frank Lindsay: 'Apiary Site'

### Overall winner: Frank Lindsay

[Editor's note: some of the prize-winning photos will appear in future issues of the journal.] 

Zoe Mitchell (age 13), winner of the close-up photo, standing by Jody Mitchell's winning photo essay featuring Zoe, titled 'A Beekeeper in Training'. Photo: Jody Mitchell.





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# National Honey Show 2013 results

By Maureen Maxwell, President, Apimondia Oceania Commission

The 100% Pure New Zealand National Honey Show is all about celebrating success as individuals and as an industry.

2013 saw another strong showing of some superb New Zealand honey. All wards were represented, so we had an excellent cross-section of regional flavours.

Overall the standard was very high, with intensified flavour, perhaps enhanced by the drought conditions.

This year South Island Judge Claudine McCormack from the Airborne Honey Laboratory, who brought a wealth of taste and analysis experience to the judging table, joined me. Thank you Claudine.

We would like to see more comb honey exhibited and full frames entered, especially from those regions hosting the competition. And where are all those wonderful traditional honeycomb section producers?

2013 sees more bee clubs than ever before and increasing numbers of hobby beekeepers. We would encourage all clubs to enter the Inter-Bee Club Trophy next year.

I would also like to thank my very competent records analyst Lynn Green. Volunteers, I think, are sent straight from Heaven.

Lastly, a special thanks to those companies that support the competition with sponsorship, especially our major sponsors Steve Lyttle and Carolyn Ball from 100% Pure New Zealand Honey.



### Full list of winners

#### Class 1: Liquid Honey–Light

sponsored by New Zealand Honey Co.

1st Fiona O'Brien  
2nd Carol Downer  
3rd John Berry

#### Class 2: Liquid Honey–Medium

sponsored by New Zealand Honey Co.

1st Dale DeLuca  
2nd Renee DeLuca  
3rd Carol Downer

#### Class 3: Liquid Honey–Dark

sponsored by New Zealand Honey Co.

1st Jeffrey Lukey  
2nd Kelsey Bruns and Warren Yarston  
3rd Carol Downer

**Winner of the New Zealand Honey Co. Trophy for the highest score in classes 1, 2 and 3: Jeffrey Lukey, Nelson**

#### Class 4: Naturally Granulated Honey–Light

sponsored by Arataki Honey Hawke's Bay

1st Carol Downer  
2nd Paul Badger  
3rd Murray Ellwood

#### Class 5: Naturally Granulated Honey–Medium

sponsored by Arataki Honey Hawke's Bay

1st Carol Downer  
2nd Murray Ellwood

#### Class 6: Naturally Granulated Honey–Dark

sponsored by Arataki Honey Hawke's Bay

1st Murray Ellwood

#### Class 7: Creamed Honey

sponsored by New Zealand Beeswax Limited

1st Allen McCaw  
2nd Peter Sales  
3rd Barbara Pimm

#### Class 11: Cut Comb Honey

sponsored by the NZ Comb Honey Producers Association Inc.

1st Russell Berry

#### Class 12: Beekeeper's Special Reserve Honey

sponsored by NZ Honey Packers and Exporters Association Inc.

1st Martin and Stephanie Lynch  
2nd John Berry  
3rd Renee DeLuca

#### Class 13: Inter-Bee Club Trophy

sponsored by Honey New Zealand

1st Auckland Beekeepers Club

#### Class 14A: Natural Beeswax Block

sponsored by Ceracell Beekeeping Supplies

1st Carol Downer  
2nd Jane and Tony Lorimer

#### Class 14B: Brood Wax Block

sponsored by Ceracell Beekeeping Supplies

1st Carol Downer

**Winner of the Ceracell Trophy for the highest score in classes 14A AND 14B: Carol Downer, Auckland**

#### Class 15: Pollen–Cleaned and Dried

sponsored by New Zealand Beeswax Limited

1st Stephanie and Martin Lynch  
2nd Carol Downer  
3rd Murray Ellwood



Joe Peeters with his winning Honey Spirit entry for the Products of the Hive trophy, sponsored by Wild Forage Ltd. Photo: Jody Mitchell.

#### Class 16: Products of the Hive

sponsored by Wild Forage Limited

1st Joe Peeters  
2nd Carol Downer  
3rd Stephanie and Martin Lynch

*Continued on page 15*





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"Many Thanks to all our current suppliers for their support during 2012"



Continued from page 13

### Class 17: Airborne Commercial Monofloral Honey

sponsored by Airborne Honey Limited  
1st Colin and Jan Wood



Maureen Maxwell (at left) presents the 100% Pure New Zealand Honey Supreme Award to Carol Downer. Photo: Jody Mitchell.

100% PURE NEW ZEALAND HONEY SUPREME AWARD for the Highest Scoring Exhibitor overall (the sum of the top six scores of an individual exhibitor being taken into account). Sponsored by 100% Pure New Zealand Honey

WINNER: Carol Downer, Auckland



## More on Conference next month

Are you looking for Conference photos? Look out for them in the September journal.



## NBA CONFERENCE

# Roy Paterson Trophy 2013

By the Publications Committee

Bay of Plenty beekeeper Allan Pimm won this year's Roy Paterson Trophy for his innovative use of a three-frame feeder and a feeder ladder.



The coveted trophy. Photo: Nicol Finnie.

The trophy, which honours the late Waikato beekeeper and inventor, Mr Roy Paterson, is awarded annually at conference to the most innovative ideas or inventions for beekeeping put forward by industry members. Allan received the trophy at the NBA Conference in Ashburton on 19 June.

We asked Allan for some feedback on his winning entry. He wrote,

*The three-frame feeder was supplied by Ecroyd Beekeeping Supplies, and the feeder ladder was supplied by Ceracell Beekeeping Supplies.*

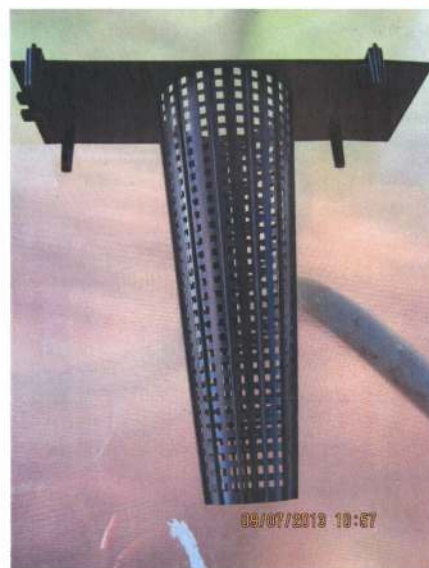
*The Ecroyd feeder allows for eight frames in the top box: a bit tight but no burring. And it's good for pollination hives as the frames don't jiggle around when moving the hives; therefore less chance of damage to queens.*

*The bee ladder stops feeders being combed out, bees dying amongst the fern and allows for a full seven-litre feed every time. The ladder is easy to remove and clean out the feeder if required.*

*Nothing new here, just using what's available and it works wonderfully well for us.*

Sounds like a typically modest Kiwi beekeeper. Congratulations on your win, Allan.

[Editor's note: if you've got a new idea or invention, or a new solution for an existing way of doing things, start thinking about submitting an entry for the 2014 Roy Paterson Trophy.]



Three views of Allan's innovation. Photos: Allan Pimm.

# Interview with Doug Lomax

Doug Lomax is the president of the Southland Branch of the NBA.

The Publications Committee interviewed him about his role and experience in the industry.

### **How long have you been a beekeeper?**

Hobbyist for a couple of years then full time for the last 13 years.

### **How did you get into beekeeping?**

Did a 10-hour course at Polytech over a period of five weeks and thought I had learnt it all.

### **What do you enjoy about beekeeping?**

Being my own boss and having a different smoko room every day.

### **Tell me about your current business.**

All bulk honey for export.

### **What made you decide to seek re-election as Branch president?**

Someone had to do it.

### **Tell me about your priorities as Branch president.**

To bring new members to the NBA and provide social and educational opportunities for beekeepers .

### **What events do you have coming up?**

Election of Lower South Island ward officer to the Executive Council. Also planning a field day.

### **What do you think your Branch does well?**

Field days.

### **What do you think the Branch could improve on?**

Enthusiasm from more branch members would be useful.

### **What important issues are you informing your Branch members about currently?**

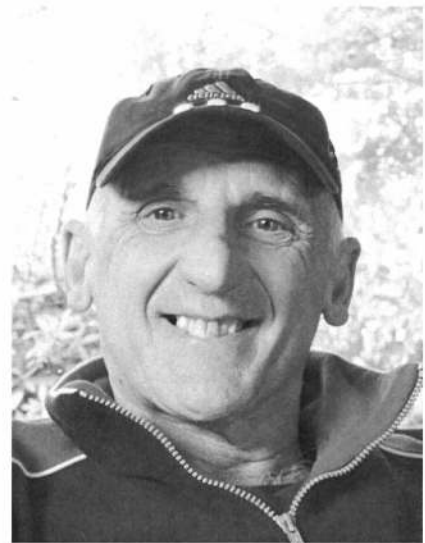
Running an election for ward representative. [Editor's note: Russell Berry was re-elected as the Lower South Island Ward representative.]

### **What do you believe to be positive about the beekeeping industry in New Zealand?**

The passion and dedication to beekeeping displayed by many, many beekeepers in this country. The Conference in Ashburton is a good case in point.

### **What do you believe to be negative?**

That there is more than one organisation representing only a small number of beekeepers. Also, so many beekeepers do not belong to any organisation but are happy to get the benefits that might flow on to them.



### **What would you like to see improved in the beekeeping industry?**

A unified single organisation to which all beekeepers should belong. This would lead to a much stronger voice in Wellington and more benefits for all beekeepers.


### **What do you do in your spare time/ what are your hobbies?**

Try to fit in some golf, and holidays whenever possible.

### **What is your number one tip for beginner beekeepers?**

Ask lots of questions, take on board all answers and advice and do what works best for you.

### **And for the more experienced?**

Network and communicate with other beekeepers and try not to work too hard. 

## Claude Stratford QSM, 1910–2013


Most of you will have heard the news of the passing of Comvita founder Claude Stratford on 10 July. The NBA expresses its condolences to his family and colleagues.

Claude's involvement with bees started in 1921 when he was 11 years old. He founded Comvita in 1974, at first working

from the basement of his Bay of Plenty home, with the aim of promoting the health benefits of bee products. The business grew rapidly and is now an award-winning multinational company.

Claude received the Queen's Service Medal in 1999 for services to the community.

Comvita has published a pictorial tribute to Claude on its website: <http://www.comvita.co.nz/blog/news-blog/tribute-to-claude.html>

[Sources: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/industries/8901869/Honey-products-innovator-dies-at-102> and <http://www.comvita.co.nz/blog/news-blog/tribute-to-claude.html>] 



# FROM THE COLONIES

## Auckland Branch

Full marks to the organisers of last month's NBA annual conference. Those who were able to go from Auckland reported having a great time—an entertaining, informative and well-organised celebration of 100 years of representation for New Zealand beekeeping. And the 100th birthday cake was cut by our very own Bob Blair, being the oldest and, probably, most long-standing NBA member present.

The word is that the bees have wintered down well, and we are now looking forward to spring and an end to the cold and wet weather. How short our memories are when it comes to the weather! Only three months ago we were begging for the drought to end.

- Helen Sinnock

## Bay of Plenty Branch

The Bay of Plenty has been blessed with benign winter weather so far, not experiencing the extremes reported in some parts of the country. Lots of warmish and sunny days, with busy bees in my home yard. We have a good variety of floral types on the property and are further developing these. I have about 100 metre-high tree lucerne scrubs, grown from seed by my good ol' mum, to be planted out, which will improve future winters' bee foraging.

I missed going to conference this year, but understand that the BoP Branch was well represented and I am hearing great reports from those that did make the trip south. Well done to the inventive Allan Pimm for winning the Roy Paterson Trophy.

A few weeks back, a number of branch members took part in a 4WD driver training day. This followed on from an earlier presentation to a branch meeting by Pete Ritchie, an experienced 4WD driving instructor. The morning covered the theory of driving techniques and vehicle technology. The afternoon involved beekeepers driving their own 4WD trucks and utes into, and getting safely out of, challenging situations. Pete imparted a great deal of knowledge and provided a good introduction to more detailed driver certification courses that many organisations now undertake as part of their staff health and safety training.



*Aureliu Braguta executes a controlled hill descent.*

The 4WD training generated a lot of discussion. I wonder how many of our businesses have a documented Health and Safety policy and procedures along with the staff training that adequately covers the



*Allan Pimm navigating a stream crossing.  
Photos: Greg Wagstaff.*

activities we perform. The owner operator acquires a tremendous amount of knowledge and routinely puts this into practice. Transferring this knowledge to our staff and demonstrating their competence is another matter.

- Greg Wagstaff

## Hawke's Bay Branch

I would like to give a big thank you to Linda and her team for the Ashburton conference. The weather was the only indifferent thing there and I especially enjoyed the memorabilia room.

Being the middle of winter there is nothing much happening here at the moment: just the normal winter work with everybody looking forward to spring.

- John Berry, Branch President

## Southern North Island Branch

Southern North Island Branch was appointed to run Conference 2014, to be held at the Wanganui Racecourse from 22–26 June 2014.

We are fortunate that there is ample space to accommodate seminars, meetings and sponsors. Wanganui has accommodation for over 3500 people, but we have secured preferential accommodation arrangements with the Collegiate Motels and Grand Hotel. More will be provided on facilities in future reports, and of course transport options.

The Branch anticipates plenty of room for at least 40 sponsors at a cost that will be very reasonable. There will also be ample room for outdoor sponsors, with areas both outside and under cover.

We would like to see as many beekeepers attending as possible, including those from BIG and non-members of NBA. We will make every endeavour to contact everyone and invite them to Wanganui.

Already there are plans to have a theme that is different (remember the Masterton Conference dinner amongst the antique aircraft, a unique feature). Wanganui is a conference city with many annual conferences and events held here, including Masters Games which have had up to 8000 participants.

We will be inviting branches to give us ideas of subjects, etc. that they would like discussed over conference. Already we have started on ideas for overseas speakers.

On 8 July the Branch held a meeting at the Wanganui Racecourse so that team members could see the facilities first hand. Start your plans for 2014 now.

## Camp Rangī

There are still some spaces available for registration. The programmes for Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday morning have been sorted and speakers, including one overseas speaker, have been arranged. There will be something for all beekeepers but especially small (hobbyist) and small commercial beekeepers, including practical hands-on training in many aspects of bee work. Come and learn new ideas.

*Continued on page 19*





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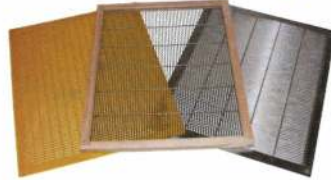
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Continued from page 17

The dates are Friday 6 September to Sunday 8 September and yes, there is room for campervans and day registrations. Contact [lindsays.apiaries@clear.net.nz](mailto:lindsays.apiaries@clear.net.nz) for more information.

Apart from these two main issues, hive work continues, with feeding and checking after the big storms, plus making replacement gear. The weather alternates between cold and wet (good days for being in the workshop) to fine and warm, which is hive inspection and feeding time. We are looking forward to August—the start of bee work and the queens cranking up.

- Neil Farrer, Life Member

### Canterbury Branch

The 100-year celebration of the NBA and the National Beekeepers' Association Conference and AGM is once again behind us. We are now looking forward to the next 100 years.

On behalf of the Canterbury Branch, I would like to thank the sponsors, who enable

us to put on a conference that is diverse, interesting, a platform for introducing science to beekeepers and, most importantly, all this at a price that is accessible to anyone who is interested. Please go through your sponsor packs and support these businesses that have supported our annual conference.

I would also like to thank the speakers who give up their time to put forward these new ideas and concepts and maybe, just as importantly, remind us of the old ones by keeping ongoing concerns in the spotlight.

Also on behalf of the organising committee, I would like to thank our Canterbury Branch members who have helped pre- and

post-conference by toiling away in the background. Without you guys (and girls) it just would not have happened.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the people who attended. Without you guys making an effort to come from all over the country, we would not have a successful event. I wish the Southern North Island Branch all the best for next year's conference and look forward to seeing you all there.

P.S.: We still have beanies, caps and badges with the generic conference logo for sale.

- Brian Lancaster, Branch President



## October journal deadline

The October journal goes to all registered beekeepers in NZ. If you are planning an article, please email [editor@nba.org.nz](mailto:editor@nba.org.nz)

**Deadline for submission of articles: 6 September.**

Please see page 3 for more details for deadlines of articles and advertising.

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# The decade 1973–1983

By Apiarius Antiquary

The start of the decade 1973–1983 coincided with a time when the Honey Marketing Authority (HMA) achieved exceptional returns for exported honey, particularly on the Japanese market.

The government of the day was not only reluctant for the HMA to pass these returns on to the beekeepers that supplied the honey, but also imposed limits on the 'payout' that the HMA could return to the beekeepers. It is to be remembered that the HMA was in a privileged position of being an exporting organisation, whilst other industry participants were not able to enter the export market on their own account.

The scene was set for tension within the industry, with some suppliers becoming increasingly hostile to the prospects of 'their' money (i.e., the difference between market realisation and the 'reduced' return paid to suppliers) being used as a source of 'capital' for the HMA. The domestic packers were also under pressure to supply the local market in competition with the HMA, which was in a much healthier financial position.

At the same time, the financial position of the NBA was under pressure, and there was disharmony within the industry regarding the seals levy. It would appear that there was a narrowing down of 'proposals' for a better, more equitable levy during the annual conferences, only to become stalled afterwards.

Journals published during this time expressed not only many opinions but letters to the editor became very public—sometimes personal—attacks. Industry unity was the cry of the times. It is not helpful when writing of the events of the association to open old wounds; however, we should be aware of the history in order that we can have better judgement for the future.

Resolution of the levy debate came as a result of a Hive Levy being accepted by the 1974 conference held in Palmerston North. The hive levy was 'up and running' by May 1975, with the editor noting:

### Hive Levy

*It can be said with little fear of contradiction that the gazetting of "The Honey Marketing Authority Regulations" is the industry's most significant recent step forward.*

*The recent financial crises of the NBA will be completely eliminated and they will now be able to get on with their more important tasks of "Better Beekeeping and Better Marketing".*

### HIVE LEVY

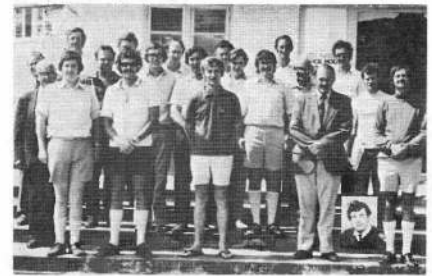
Under the terms of "The Honey Marketing Authority Regulations, 1975" every honey producer in this country is liable to pay a levy of 15 cents per hive by 20th February each year, after declaring the number of hives owned as at 1st January in that year.

Because these Regulations were not gazetted in time, the due date for payment has been amended to 20th April for 1975 only.

The hive levy was payable by all beekeepers owning over 50 beehives at the rate of 15 cents per hive. Those hobby beekeepers with fewer than 50 hives were able to pay a subscription of \$7.50 for membership fees.



*Those attending the Queen Bee Production Course demonstrating the 'Alley' queen breeding method. From left: Robert Sweetman, Maurice Deadman, Gerrard Martin, Bill Haines, Gavin White (in front, partly obscured).*



*Queen Bee Production Course participants. Left to right: Dudley Ward (Dannevirke)—a day visitor, Bill Haines (Kaitaia), Alan Hill (Rangiora), Keith Leadley (Mangakino), Ian Berry (Havelock North), Gerrard Martin (Galatea)—partly obscured, Murray Reid (Apicultural Advisory Officer, MAF Christchurch), Roger Bray (Irrwell), Noel Rothwell (Horarata), Don Gibbons (Foxton), Gavin White (Rolleston), Maurice Deadman (Tirau), Ernest Adamson (Wedderburn), Grahame Walton (Apicultural Advisory Officer, MAF Palmerston North), Robin Jansen (Taupo), Don Appleton (UK)—a member of the British Isles Bee Breeders' Association, John Stewart (Principal, Flock House Farm Training Institute), Milton McKenzie (Waimate), Robert Sweetman (Kihikihiki), Bruce Stanley (Whakatane). Insert: Brian Milnes (Apiary Instructor, MAF Auckland).*

### Queen bee producers course

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries held a queen bee producers course at Flock House Training Institute near Bulls in the Manawatu for four days in January 1975. Sixteen beekeepers attended the course organised by Murray Reid, Graeme Walton and Brian Milnes. Topics covered cell raising and queen mating but also included the dissection of queens and instructions on artificial insemination. The success and benefit of this type of beekeeper education and training saw this format of courses continue over the next few years.

### Food Hygiene Regulations

The inclusion of honey houses into the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations saw the start of a process that required some checking by a responsible authority that honey processing premises were suitable for the purpose of producing foodstuffs. As was written in the March 1978 journal:

*Don't say we didn't remind you. But as from April 1 next year all packing and processing plants handling honey for sale will have to be registered by a local authority under*



*the Health (registration of premises) Regulations 1966.*

*Up till then, all honey packing houses are exempt from the provisions of these regulations and the Food Hygiene Regulations so long as they are registered as apiaries under the Apiaries Act.*

*If you extract your honey for sale in a 44 gallon steel drum in the back of your garage, the regulations will have you out of business. If you use this set up just for your family, you are in the clear.*

The interesting part of the new regulations involved placing numerous signs around honey processing premises indicating the position of the toilets, first aid kits and hand washing basins, etc. The only animals permitted in the 'food premises' were cats (which do not have access to unpacked food) used for rodent control.

### Future of the HMA

Throughout this decade it had been apparent that the export market for New Zealand honey generally produced a greater return than honey sold on the domestic market. There were calls for the monopoly of the HMA as sole exporting organisation to be relinquished to allow for exports of honey by individual beekeepers or private honey packers. The HMA was also obliged to accept any honey offered by beekeepers and found itself in a position of becoming a convenient dump for hard to sell honey. Because of government involvement in the HMA, funding for the procurement of stock was generally on favourable terms; however, the government also desired the HMA to be less dependent on public funding whilst having significant input into the HMA pricing structure.

The throughput of honey was grossly imbalanced, with approximately 440 tons of intake from the North Island being insufficient to maintain a packing plant, whilst an intake of 1500 tons from the South Island justified maintaining the South Island operation.

By 1980 the basic principles had been discussed (many times over many years!) and although it was felt necessary that some form of co-operative organisation was

desirable, the winding up of the HMA was an accepted outcome supported by a majority votes at the time. The editorial in the June 1980 journal commented:

*As this issue went to press, the top brass in the New Zealand beekeeping industry were making plans to join the board of the Honey Marketing Authority at their June 4 meeting.*

*The main topic on the agenda would be the Dellow report—a document which will hopefully have clearly outlined the financial, political, administrative and marketing structures necessary for the success of a proposed Honey Marketing Co-op.*

*The outcome of the meeting will be awaited with considerable eagerness by many in the industry. For the decisions made by the HMA and its suppliers will affect all our livelihoods.*

*It is hoped that detailed minutes of the meeting and explanations of decisions reached are widely circulated by the HMA so that when the National Beekeepers Association meets in conference on July 22, all delegates are fully informed on what has transpired.*

*For the first time in many years, the annual conference is not going to see a lush sward of remits. Hawkes Bay and South Canterbury branches, traditional sources of remits, are forwarding none and we hear that many other branches are in a similar position.*

*Instead, the scene is being set for the larger issue: The restructuring of the industry. And it is to be hoped that the conference might become a large learning workshop where all delegates and interest groups might help constructively plot the future path of the industry.*

*To date, progress has been rapid and goodwill evident everywhere. It's going to make for one of the best conferences of all time. See you in Tauranga!*

The two issues which were to be the source of further debate and beekeeper input were the setting up of a new beekeeper co-operative as well as liquidating the

assets of the HMA. Mr Noel Dellow, a Timaru consultant, prepared a feasibility study. He later assisted with setting up the New Zealand Honey Producers Co-operative and became its first chairman. Trading began on 5 October 1981, with the directors comprising Harry Cloake, Steve Lyttle, Bob Blair, and Kevin Ecroyd.

The liquidation and dispersal of HMA assets became a hotly debated subject so a Wellington-based accountant, David Kay, was appointed by the Minister of Agriculture to arbitrate on the matter. Eventually on wind-up, funding was loaned to the New Zealand Honey Producers Co-operative at favourable rates and the NBA became the guardian of the Honey Industry Charitable Trust, which was set up to provide for education or charitable purposes within the industry. David Kay was appointed independent chairman, with Russell Berry and Ivan Dickinson as the trustees for the North Island and South Island, respectively.

This decade, ending in 1983, may not have seen the unity called for earlier but does show that acceptable outcomes based on a democratic process can be achieved for the benefit of all. Differing opinions and views add to the vitality of any industry group and provide the necessary balance for robust debate and a sound decision-making process.

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NBA subscription rates for 1975.

### Sources

*The New Zealand Beekeeper 1973–1983.* 

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# Essential Skills Workshop valuable

By Frank Lindsay, NBA Life Member

When I wrote this, another winter storm was lashing Wellington and the rest of the lower North Island.

There was ice on the ground—definitely not beekeeping weather—but some were out there feeding bees. Most of mine still have lots of honey, thanks to my inactivity due to a large kidney stone.

Some hives are very strong with three to four part-frames of brood, while hives that were treated late have miserable little clusters that will need boosting if they do survive.

I have been out in the rain making preparations to move an apiary I have used for 30 years to make way for a mountain bike track. That's how things go when beekeeping on someone else's land—nothing is permanent.

### Essential Skills Workshop

Conference in Ashburton was a bit of a blur as I was involved in other things and didn't get time to talk to a lot of beekeepers. However, I was fortunate to tag along with the Essential Skills Workshop for young beekeepers on Monday, 17 June. I observed as participants learned some of the things that go wrong with small motors. They also received welding tips, a few safety essentials when working alone and instruction about how to preserve their fingers working a saw bench. The money side of things was covered by the local ANZ rural managers, who handed out their business start-up guide. We also had tips on safety from the local fire chief.

### Small motors

The local Honda agent gave freely of his years of knowledge and experience. Kill switches are a trap for young players. You must make sure it is turned on and the wires

are connected. Next, check the oil level. Modern motors won't allow the engine to start if the oil level is low. Change the oil once a year and fill up to the input hole if it doesn't have a dip stick.

Small motors are hard to start after a period without use: it takes about 16 pulls to get the motor firing. It's likely to be that the fuel in the carburettor bowl has gone stale and won't burn. It takes that many pulls to change the fuel in the carburettor.

Non-starting can also be caused by condensation pooling in the bottom of the carburettor. Remove the plug and drain the carburettor. The trick is to turn off the fuel and allow the carburettor to drain, stopping the motor.

Another trick he gave the group was to add a little methylated spirits to the mix as this will dissolve any water build-up in the carburettor bowl or at the bottom of the fuel tank. Some fuel mixes can go off in as little as a month, depending upon the size of the container and amount of fuel stored in it. Petrol that has gone off has a vinegary smell. If you have only a small amount of fuel left after completing a job, put it in the car's fuel tank rather than let it go off.

If you are working away from base, he suggested carrying a spark plug spanner, a 10-mm spanner to remove the pull start housing and a spare start cord and handgrip, just in case you break the cord. That way, you can remove the hand start housing and wrap the spare cord on the shaft. You need to check the direction of the motor rotation as they won't start in reverse.

The Honda agent recommended buying quality motors rather than cheap Chinese copies, as quite often they don't last.

### Welding

This section of the day was just as interesting. The minimum output for a MIG (metal inert gas) welder for most farm jobs should be in the 180-amp range. Start on a higher setting and work down if you are not sure what setting to use.



A good weld has a bright crisp appearance with good flow. When considering purchasing, get the shortest possible gun lead as the wire has to be pushed through the centre. Copper tips are also important. Change them frequently as they provide the electrical circuit at tip. A worn tip will not make good contact with the wire and therefore will produce a poor weld.

Always protect your eyes with a mask. Even bystanders shouldn't be looking at the spark as it can burn their eyes. We also received tips on using arc welding and how to do a vertical weld, but it is easier to weld horizontally.

### Personal safety

Participants were asked to consider these questions:

1. Does anybody know where you are?
2. Did you write out an intention list?
3. What should your other half do if you are not home on time?

Make regular contact at the same time each day with your base. FarmSafe and other organisations put out intention pads. Leave one on the gate when you go into a property and remove it when you go out.

The presenter recommended personal locator beacons for remote working; however, these have drawbacks in that the satellite has to be overhead in narrow valleys, so actual transmission to the satellite may be delayed.

Carry a well-stocked first aid kit in each vehicle with a first aid instruction book. Take a course and know how to perform CPR. Anaphylaxis is always a possibility for both new and experienced staff, so be prepared.

*Continued on page 25*





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Continued from page 23

Carry an EpiPen® or a syringe and two ampoules and know when, where and how to use it. Put them in something like a Berocca tablet tin to protect them and disguise the contents from children as adrenaline is dangerous in the wrong hands. Store away from heat. Under the seat is likely to be the coolest place in most vehicles.

Take note of near-misses and change the way you do things. Carry enough gear to get yourself out of trouble and don't hurry or take risks. Be aware of overhead power lines when using lifters.

## Finance

The ANZ representatives told us what they looked for in a business proposal. It doesn't have to be long, but should be well thought-out and presented on paper. Financial planning can be a headache for some but it helps to clarify things when everything is put down on paper.

**"Whatever you do,  
don't skimp on feed."**

Set out your financial position. A lot of businesses start at the bottom with limited finance. Sometimes it's your ability that makes the difference. Get help from another beekeeper when preparing your business plan. They have been through it before so can help you to skirt some of the pitfalls.

As beekeepers we generally think we can do well at beekeeping but in making a case to a bank, use the average honey production figures for your region. If you think you can accomplish the project within your estimated timeframe, double it to allow for contingencies such as a poor season. We do suffer from drought from time to time.

Budgets are a must. They are a living document, so update them each month. This enables you to see where the business is going, allowing you to cut spending if something unplanned happens. *Whatever you do, don't skimp on feed.* You are running livestock and they need to be well fed to make a crop. This is a major budget item that can't be neglected.

Do your own GST rather than push it all to an accountant. There are easy-to-use accounting programs that do the calculations for you, provided they have been set up correctly.

Make as much of your own gear as possible from cheap, seasoned timber. Replacements are tax deductible but try and get at least 10–15 years out of your own gear.

(Similar information was provided in the 1980s with a "starting commercial beekeeping" course run by our MAF apicultural officers. Students today at Telford are given a good grounding as well.)

I use job sheets in my planning. It breaks everything down and allows me to itemise everything so I know what the job will actually cost and what timeframe I set myself to get the work done.

Do all of your planning and prep work in the winter rather than have a holiday. When spring work starts, it doesn't finish until there's snow on the ground. You don't have time to make up gear as you go.

When starting out, prepare a one-year, three-year, five-year and a 10-year plan and review these each year as well. These keep you going in your desired direction and you can judge how you are doing in achieving your stated goals or setting new ones.

Business planning summary:

Objectives

- Short-term
- Long-term

Strategies

Timing

Resources

- People
- Other (including money)

Critical success factors

Measurement

List of work

## Woodworking

The last session of the day was at the local college in the woodwork shop. Participants were given a good grounding in saw bench safety. We were shown a few innovations the instructor had designed for the router, draw saw and bench. He had three settings

for putting a filler board on the fence to stop kickback, which I thought was a good idea (refer to last month's column).


All in all, it was a very good day with young beekeepers learning or renewing skills and friendships.

## Things to do this month

Prepare for new season's work: queen-raising equipment (some in the warmer areas are starting this month), feeding equipment, grass-spraying gear, etc.

If queen rearing, stimulate drone production hives by feeding syrup and pollen supplement. Embed foundation into extracting frames (for the hobbyist beekeeper, this task is best left until just before the frames are put on).

Do a quick hive check for weight by hefting hives. You can open a hive for a few minutes to check it if it's not too cold; i.e., not cold on your arms with your sleeves rolled up.

For those with mesh bottom boards, check the dirt on the slide as this will tell you what's going on in the hive, how big the brood nest is, whether a mouse has been into the hive and—most importantly—mite fall. Have fun. 

The new large-format journal was introduced in December 1975. This notice appeared in the journal:

Don't sit at home and annoy your family with your GRUMBLES write to the Editor, NZ Beekeeper Box 176, Carterton AND LET THE WORLD KNOW ABOUT IT, WE ARE THE VOICE OF BEEKEEPING.

[2013 Editor's note: you won't get any joy writing to this address—indeed, the present holder of the post box might be quite perplexed—but please do continue to send your letters to editor@nba.org.nz.]

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