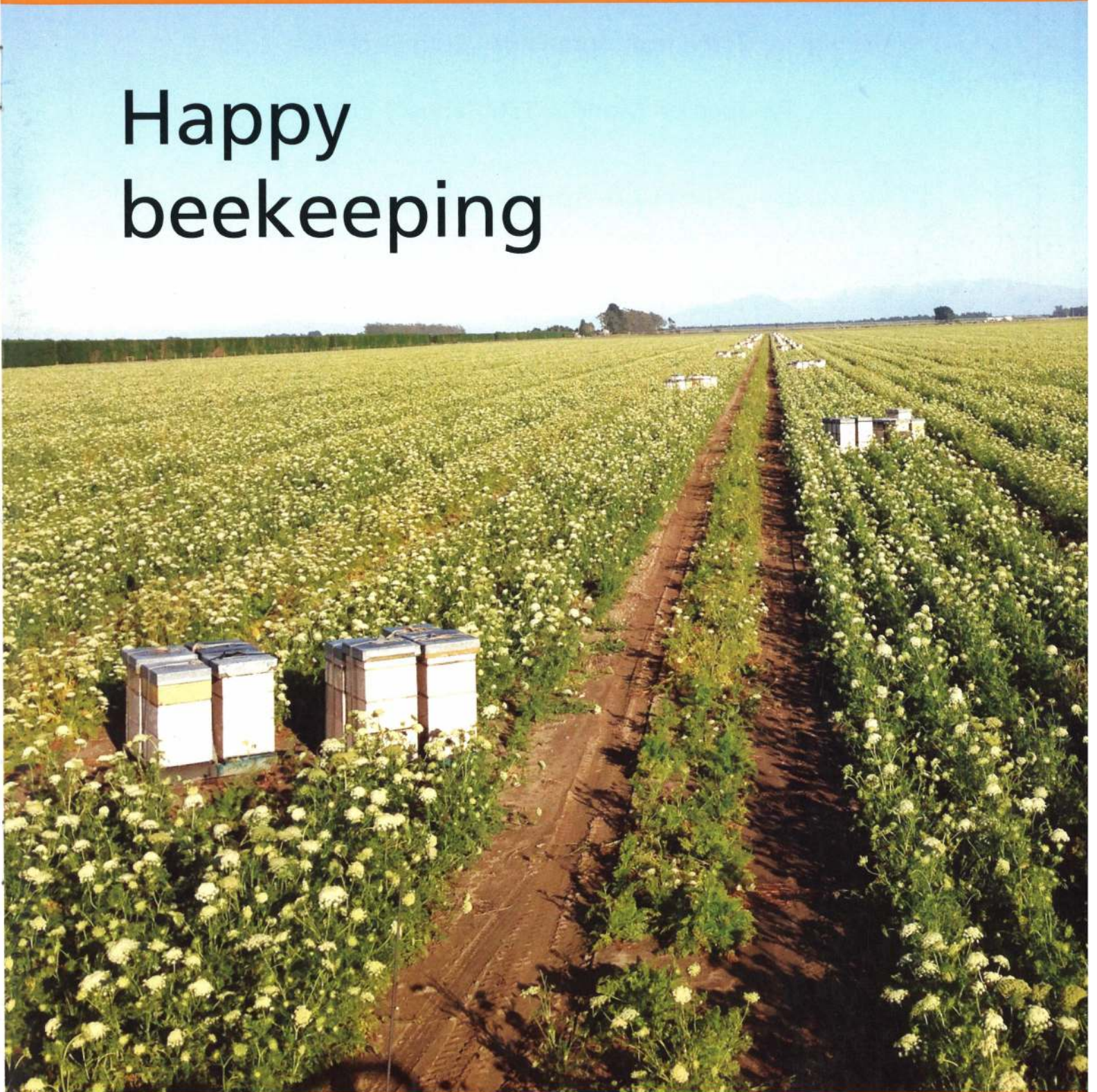


December 2013, Volume 21 No. 11

The NEW ZEALAND BeeKeeper

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- Final instalment NBA archives
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Front cover: Just one of the many carrot crops in Canterbury that require an intensive level of pollination. It is tough for registered apiaries close by to achieve a honey crop when this happens. Photo courtesy of Geoff Bongard.

It is all up to us

By Ricki Leahy, NBA President

By the time we all read this, it will only be a couple of blinks and the Christmas–New Year holiday break will be upon us.

I know for me it's a frantic time working hard getting hives moved and re-supered, working long days (hopefully spinning out honey) and nights (shifting hives), and all the rest of it just to prepare for the break. This is made so much harder knowing that if we haven't managed to get on top of the work, we will be on edge and won't be able to relax, as we should, with our family and friends. The best Christmas for beekeepers surely is when all the hives are set, so even if the weather is wet or fine there is nothing that desperately needs doing, except for ... another piece of pavlova, please. ☺

At this very busy time of the beekeeping season, I think it's appropriate to step back a bit and think about all the good and positive things that a lot of people, out of the goodness of their hearts, are doing for the wellbeing of our buzzy little friends. From the farmer who phones up about the swarm down the end paddock or perhaps your fellow beekeeper, advising that a couple of your hives are knocked over, to all the folk who are as busy as bees keeping our NBA ticking along. Where do we start?

Well, there is always a committee organising the next conference. Equally, someone is always writing an article for the next journal, like Frank Lindsay with his popular 'About the Apiary' column. We are grateful for the generosity of those who advertise in the journal and sponsor our conferences. And let's not forget about the work of South City Print to liaise with our advertisers and lay out and print the journal, and indeed the Publications Committee, including Nancy Fithian, our accomplished editor, who, I would imagine, would never have 'nothing' that needs consideration!

Field days need to be planned by someone and our Branch meetings don't just happen. It's a good time to recognise and appreciate the work undertaken by all of our dedicated

Branch secretaries and presidents, not to mention the Ward reps, treasurers and indeed, our Secretariat. And who's this Apiarius Antiquary? [Editor's note: We reveal his identity on page 8. Haven't his historical columns been a treasure in the NBA's centenary year?]

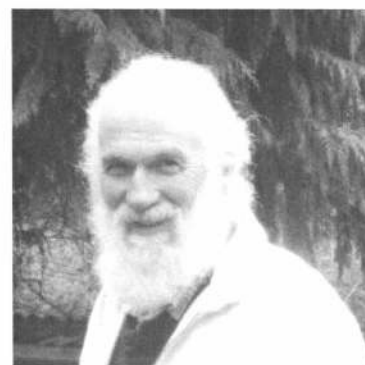
We should all be thankful for the volunteer effort put in by people such as Don MacLeod, who is forever checking up on new chemical registrations and the like and identifying those that our Technical and Submissions Committee would need to consider.

"Our Association will only be as good as we make it."

I know I shouldn't mention names for fear of not mentioning others of equal significance, but I must acknowledge the importance to the NBA of having those very polished and professional submissions written and presented to the Environmental Protection Authority on our behalf. All of the Technical and Submissions Committee members (Roger Bray, Barry Foster, John McLean and Don MacLeod) do a fantastic job and create one of those unseen values that are always asked about. The protection this work gives our bees is also a very good reason why our membership of, and thus our financial support to, our association is so important for us all.

Then there are the umpteen-dozen people who make such a positive contribution to improve and add value to the NBA in this ever-changing world by doing whatever, and whenever, they possibly can.

It is all up to us. The NBA is our association: it will only ever be as good and as functional for



us as we make it. Don't forget that we all get caught by the buzz of the bees and when you think about it, our association is just like a hive of busy bees all doing their bit here and there. Like anything in life, you only get out as much as you put in.

If we are to make a New Year's resolution, perhaps it should be to become more involved with and supportive of our local Branch activities. A good start would be to renew your NBA membership (or become a new member). You'll find a membership form inserted into this journal. Some of us are quite isolated and busy but it's really no excuse not to catch up with each other, such as at meetings. They can be fun, especially when lots of us turn up. Surely that's what an association is all about. It sure beats staying at home and watching the old goggle box.

So is it time to learn from the bees again? When we shake a whole lot of bees together for whatever reason, maybe to boost a weaker hive, it's surprising how little they fight and niggle. OK, some of the older ones may get a bit stroppy (nothing like a bit of free speech), saying something like, "Ugh, we never used to do it like this in the hive I came from". But they soon settle and it doesn't take long for them all to be working together as if nothing had happened. The past is forgotten and they soon work positively together for the good of their newfound situation.

The bees create a pretty strong bond amongst us despite our diversity. Although we have different beliefs, different philosophies and different political persuasions, the bees are the ones that bring us all together.

Must be time to wish you all the very best for the season and a Merry Christmas. Happy beekeeping. 🐝



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Dealing with bee stings

By Frank Lindsay, NBA Life Member

Most of us would have read or heard about the truck driver being stung while taking off his bee suit after inspecting the load of hives he was transporting.

McAuleys Transport Ltd in Masterton has been transporting hives and honey supers for Wairarapa beekeepers for the past five years without incident. They have a fully enclosed unit with air conditioning to keep the bees cool and healthy during long transport jobs.

The driver was following the firm's normal procedure of doing a periodic inspection of the load when the incident happened. He had inspected the load and was taking off his bee suit 50 metres away from the truck when the incident happened; he was stung about the head and neck, which later developed into an allergic reaction requiring hospital

care. All the gods were smiling on him that day as a passing ambulance stopped and provided assistance and when his blood pressure dropped, he was airlifted to hospital.

Apparently the replacement driver found the hives and bees in good condition with all systems operating correctly. The bees were unloaded without incident so it's very difficult to explain what happened. Whether it was bees from the load or externally that attacked him is unknown.

I could only offer the following advice to McAuley's Transport, which they were already aware of. Wash bee suits regularly, and separately from normal household washing. Shake any bees off and get into the cab before disrobing. With the windows slightly down, the bees will leave within 10 minutes. Some beekeepers have reported that baby wipes will clear the cab within minutes, as the bees apparently don't like the smell.

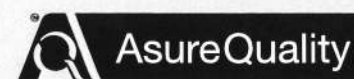
Remember that most beekeepers in the course of their careers will suffer some form of serious allergic reaction. In my case, I took a cool shower to ease the itching and rash, but then started feeling faint to the point of collapse (I was on my hands and knees). My vision narrowed to just a slit before I came out of it again—quite scary.

It seems to depend on your health at the time and adverse reactions can happen quite a long time after being stung. I was stung about 9 pm one evening by a bee that must have been in my clothing for most of the day, but I didn't get a reaction until more than half an hour later. The next day, I was stung again through normal bee work and had no reaction at all. I couldn't determine why I had a reaction but tiredness might have been a factor.

Be prepared. Have a plan. Keep family members informed of your whereabouts. Keep a special eye on new workers. If you regularly go beyond cellphone range, consider VHF radio or an emergency locator beacon. Be aware that beacons don't work well in a narrow, high-sided valleys; the satellite may have to be overhead to receive the signal so your signal may not be detected quickly.

[Editor's note: see page 10 of this journal for an order form that enables NBA members to receive a discount on the Anapen® device. This order form is also available on the members' section of the NBA website. For more information, refer to the article 'Anaphylactic shock' in the October 2013 journal.]

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NBA archives 1884–2013

By Apiarius Antiquary (Roger Bray)

Throughout this year, the journal has featured a series of articles providing an overview of events that have shaped the history of the NBA and beekeeping for the past 100 years.

This article concludes the series of articles looking at each decade and examines the broader issues of the past and the future.

The introduction of bees into New Zealand nearly 175 years ago sparked not only a beekeeping industry, but contributed to the agricultural growth of our country through essential pollination of our various crops. There have been many initiatives that beekeepers have developed, altered, continued or abandoned over the decades that have led to an association and industry as it is today. Perhaps our greatest asset (and need) as an industry is that there is a mechanism for 'common good' and 'industry initiatives' to be progressed.

Isaac Hopkins undoubtedly had a major influence in the early beekeeping of New Zealand, not only in the promotion of beekeeping but also in promoting an organisation of beekeepers. During the 1880s, Isaac published a beekeeping magazine, *The New Zealand and Australian Bee Journal*, as well as a very informative *Australasian Bee Manual*. A report of a meeting of the New Zealand Beekeepers' Association appeared in the July 1884 edition of *The New Zealand and Australian Bee Journal*:

A MEETING of the Committee appointed by the above association to frame, rules, &c. [etc.], to be submitted to a general meeting to be called by the Committee, was held on

Tuesday 3rd June, at the Commercial Hotel, High Street, Auckland.

Present—Messrs. Hopkins (in the chair), Shadwell, Robinson, Hayr, and Dr Dalziel. The minutes of the previous meeting having been confirmed, apologies for the absence of Messrs. Mulvany, Bagnall, and Newland were read.

A code of rules, after being carefully considered, was drawn up and agreed to, together with the several clauses embracing the objects of the Association. The following resolutions were then submitted to the meeting and assented:

1st. That the Secretary be empowered to have the several clauses stating the objects of the Association printed in circular form and sent to every known beekeeper throughout Australasia.

2nd. That the Secretary be empowered to communicate with His Excellency the Governor of New Zealand requesting him to become Patron of the New Zealand Beekeepers' Association.

3rd. That the Secretary be empowered to communicate with Sir George Grey, requesting him to become President of the Association.

4th. That the Mayor and Resident Magistrate of Auckland be requested to act as Vice-Presidents of the Association.

It was also arranged to call the general meeting by advertisement in the NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIAN BEE JOURNAL for the 7th August. A vote of thanks to the chair terminated the meeting.

Little information is available on the activities of the organisation, nor are there any available records that would indicate how long the New Zealand Beekeepers' Association survived.

The publication of the bee journal ceased in June 1885; however, a 'bee' section was incorporated within the more widely

circulated *New Zealand Farmer, Bee and Poultry Journal*.

The vision (and influence) of Isaac Hopkins within the beekeeping industry has been a foundation not only for the industry, but also for the association that has become the National Beekeepers Association (NBA), founded in 1913. Some of the core values of the NBA, such as the control of AFB, and the prevention of overseas pests and diseases entering New Zealand through imported bee products, have dated back to the time when the NBA was founded.

Throughout the decades, the NBA has been an association that has provided a sounding board for ideas as well as a focus point for beekeepers to communicate and meet for mutual benefit. There have been times when the industry was in the doldrums with a glut of honey reflecting on poor returns for beekeepers. The setting up of the various beekeeper co-operatives over the years has been seen as a benefit for beekeepers to work together for a common goal.

Between 1938 and 2002 there has been some form of compulsory contribution to industry-good funding by beekeepers. Initially a 'seals levy' was imposed to promote honey and to provide a subsidy for the running of the 'beekeepers cooperative processing and marketing organisations'. The seals levy, and later the various 'commodity levies', then became a funding mechanism for running the NBA, which provided an 'organisation' to promote the industry-good initiatives on behalf of the beekeepers (members). Various projects have been undertaken for the benefit of all, perhaps the most significant of which has been the raising of the profile of manuka honey.

In earlier times, manuka was the curse of farmers because it colonised 'productive land', as well as the curse of beekeepers because of the strongly flavoured, difficult-to-extract honey. Many stories of beekeepers' efforts to get rid of an abundance of stronger-flavoured manuka have become part of industry folklore and there are tales of beekeepers digging manuka frames into their gardens.

The natural healing power of the manuka plant was well known to Maori and when Dr Peter Molan tested and developed a method of measuring the natural antibiotic properties of manuka honey, a new door opened for the unique product of manuka honey. Without manuka honey, the New Zealand beekeeping industry would be in a totally different position than it is today, but it has also caused a few 'growing pains' for the industry.

So what is the 'NBA'? In essence, it is simply the name given to a group of people who have come together for mutual benefit. The association has a set of rules governing the conduct of the group, as well as a mechanism for assessing policy or projects that could be classified as 'common aims or good'. This is normally done as a 'notice of motion' at the Annual General Meeting. The NBA was set up as an Incorporated Society to provide legal standing for the organisation. This has the benefit of the association operating as a non-profit organisation, although this should not be taken too literally, as the NBA does need funds to progress the work for the members.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the organisation is that there have been some people who actively participate in the affairs of the association; as well, there is a need for others to support (in principle and financially) the direction of the organisation, and those who progress the common goals.

Where to for the next 100 years?

Some issues will always be better progressed as part of an 'industry' initiative—it saves resources and provides greater input and benefit if the industry works together. The New Zealand beekeeping industry is somewhat complex in that a minority of beekeepers own the majority of beehives, whilst the majority of beekeepers operate at hobbyist level.

Some of the issues that commercial beekeepers are concerned about, such as the world trade in 'fake' honey or the issue of pesticide damage to bees will have little relevance to a city dweller with a hive in their backyard. However, hobbyist and commercial beekeepers can learn from each other better ways to care for bees. The New Zealand beekeeping industry is very small

and at present the beekeepers' 'collective' is considerably fragmented. Groups have been set up (and continue to be set up) over the past few years that have duplicated activities while devoting valuable resources to administration.

New Zealand beekeeping has undergone rapid growth in the last few years and it does sadden me that beekeeping is moving away from a gentle craft to what appears to be an extremely competitive, individualistic pursuit that has moved away from the beekeeper ethics that existed when we viewed our neighbouring beekeepers as friends in the same occupation.

There will always be a need for an independent beekeepers' organisation and we should look forward to a time when beekeepers (or rather, beekeeping organisations) see some value in pooling resources and making the best use of individual talents to strive to promote an organisation for 'better beekeeping, better marketing'.

This article concludes the centennial year looking back over the history of the association. In assessing how the NBA should mark its centennial year, I thought that it would be interesting to devote articles to each decade and depict the more notable aspects of the times. This has presented challenges along the way, notably the necessity to read 10 years of journals each month to form the basis of each of these articles.

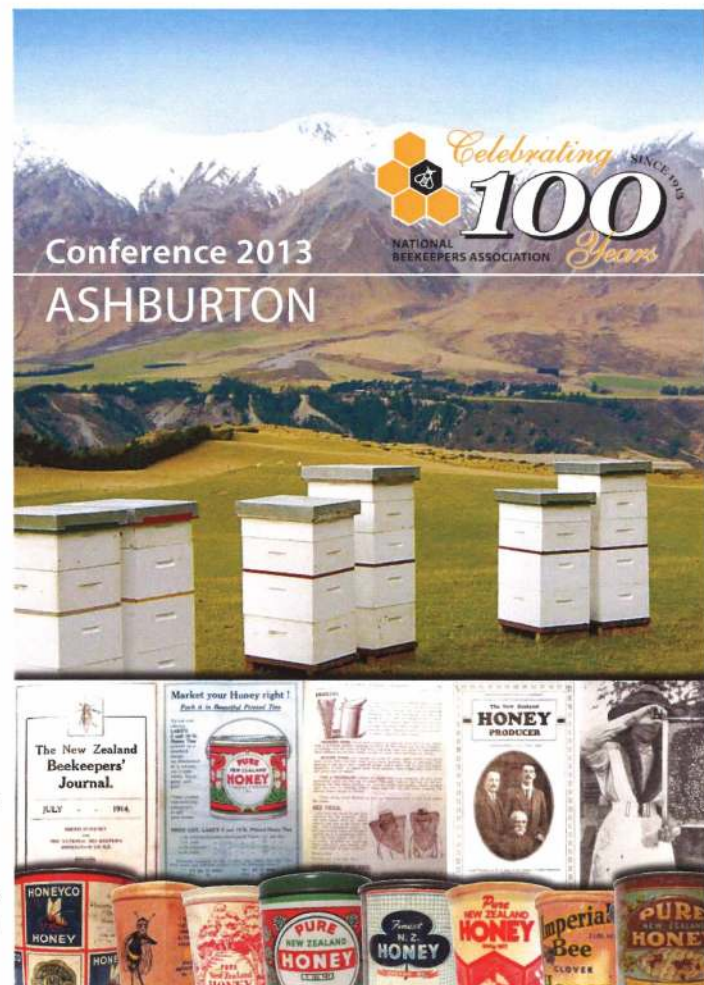
The value that looking back over history gives us is that we may learn from history and avoid making the same mistakes in the future. However, in most instances

there seems to be a large amount of 'reinventing the wheel' every so often.

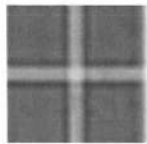
I have written under the pen name 'Apiarius Antiquary' as a mark of respect for 'Apiarius', a rather prolific contributor of letters to the editor during the early years of the NBA. I have endeavoured to present the 100 years' summary in a factual way and tried to present the accomplishments of the NBA as a 'team effort'.

I am, however, humbled at the amount of work that has been put in over the years by the many volunteers who have given their time to create an organisation and industry that we have today.

It has been an interesting experience to have looked at so much of the association's history and I do thank those who have shared their knowledge of the NBA so that I could make some headway with the articles. I wish all of you a prosperous season and an enjoyable future of beekeeping.



Cover of the NBA Conference programme.



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Who do you call?

Recently the Secretariat has been receiving a lot of calls regarding hive registration and pest management issues, most of which we are unable to answer as those issues are dealt with by other entities. So, to make it easier for you to know who to call for what we thought we would give you an easy reference guide.

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See page 7 for more AsureQuality contacts.



Thanks, and see you in February!

The Publications Committee (Frank and Mary-Ann Lindsay, Serena Richards, Tom Baty and Trevor Cullen) and journal editor Nancy Fithian wish you all a happy Christmas and New Year, and a bumper honey season.

We hope you will be able to take some time to be with your families before resuming work.

Thanks very much to our advertisers, without whom the journal would not be published—please support them! We are also grateful to everyone who has contributed articles and photos over the past year.

Many thanks to the members of the Executive Council and the Secretariat for their unflagging efforts on behalf of all NBA members, and to South City Print for a job well done again this year.

NB: The deadline for the February journal is 7 January, with a cutoff date of 15 January for receipt of articles and advertising. Please mark the date in your 2014 diaries now.

Erratum: AsureQuality contact details

We published an outdated list of contacts for AsureQuality Limited in the October journal. Please refer to page 7 for the corrected version. The NBA website has also been updated to include the corrected details.

We apologise to AsureQuality and to anyone else who has been inconvenienced by this error.

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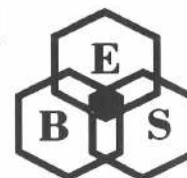


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Interview with Murray Elwood

Murray Elwood is the President of the Nelson Branch of the NBA.

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

How long have you been a beekeeper?

This is my 23rd season.

How did you get into beekeeping?

My father asked me to help him for a few months. Twenty-three years on, I still love beekeeping.

What do you enjoy about beekeeping?

I enjoy being my own boss. I get a kick out of arriving at an apiary and finding that the bees have filled up the honey boxes, which means that we have successfully worked the hives in the previous few months.

Tell me about your current business.

We do some pollination, but mainly honey production producing kamahi, honeydew, native and manuka. We also collect some pollen.

What made you decide to seek election as Branch president?

I felt it was time to give back to the beekeeping industry in our area, as other beekeepers have done before me.

Tell me about your priorities as Branch president.

To keep local beekeepers informed with important information and news of the latest issues happening (both good and not so good) within the New Zealand beekeeping industry.

What events do you have coming up?

We held a field day in October, which was a great day out and well attended by local

beekeepers. We hope to hold another one after the busy season is over.

What do you think your Branch does well?

When the need arises, we all pull together and help each other out where we can.

What do you think the Branch could improve on?

It would be great to see more attendance at meetings and stronger support for the local Branch. A good challenge for me. 😊

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

We always forward any emails from the Executive to keep everyone informed. We recently held meetings for local pollinators regarding Psa and the implications for beekeepers if there is an incursion locally, so that we all understand how we will need to work together if this is to happen during pollination season.

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

Our clean, green image. Also, we have some very passionate people working for the industry in many areas, from legislation to imports/exports to research and everything in between, which is fantastic.

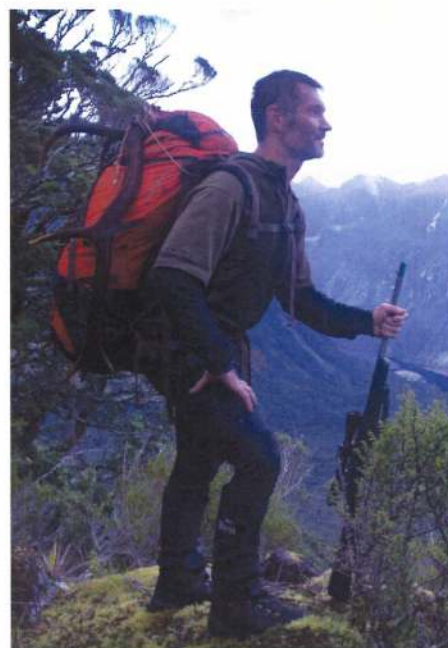
What do you believe to be negative?

Sadly, greed has come before honour and decency with a few beekeepers. Maybe I'm old fashioned but I find it disappointing.

The international publicity surrounding manuka labelling, which is causing a lot of confusion, is very concerning for the industry on many levels.

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

I would like to see a more combined effort in working for the better good for the whole industry. Being passionate about the industry



is awesome, if channelled in the right direction. It's about the big picture.

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

I enjoy family time with my wife and three kids. Fishing, camping, sport and hanging out together. And I love heading for the hills for some tramping and hunting.

What is your number one tip for beginner beekeepers?

Enjoy these amazing wee creatures, look after them and be a sponge when anyone shares experience, information or advice.

And for the more experienced?

During the spring, summer and autumn, it seems that time is precious. I use the 80/20 rule when pressured for time. Get 80 percent of the work done with 20 percent of the time. Look for opportunities to teach and share your knowledge. 🐝



FROM THE COLONIES

Auckland Branch

Two representatives from the Auckland Branch of the NBA, along with representatives from the Auckland and Franklin beekeeping clubs, have met with a view to making recommendations to the new Auckland City Council regarding the formulation of new bylaws that will govern the keeping of bees within the region administered by the Auckland City Council.

The Auckland Branch has also been in discussion with the council's Regional Parks Department with regard to the keeping of bees in regional parks. The Council is now charging registration fees for keeping bees in regional parks. Various bodies seem to have the opinion that there is a fortune to be made from the keeping of bees! This seems to have carried over into the thinking that beekeepers should suffer heavy charges when they wish to establish apiaries on public land.

Here's a cautionary tale from one of our members. In April of this year, Bob agreed to sell some hives to an inquirer, who agreed to pay half of the price at the beginning of May, and the other half at the end of that month. At the end of May, the first payment finally arrived—a \$2,000 cheque that was less than a quarter of the agreed price. At the end of June, Bob rang the purchaser to ask for the money owing. As a result of that call, Bob received a cheque that bounced. Bob made several more phone calls to the purchaser and received reassurances, but no money arrived. Towards the end of September, Bob decided to remove all 12 hives from one site because wasps were bothering them, and the purchaser removed the remainder of the hives from another site despite having made no further payment.

Subsequently, Bob consulted the police to seek their advice on how to proceed. He thought he might need their support if he had to repossess the hives. The police advised him that his best course of action would be to go to the Small Claims Tribunal, which he did. The purchaser was co-operative in the Tribunal proceedings, and the result is that a Court Order was imposed requiring the purchaser to pay the rest of the money by 22 November. If the money is not paid according to the order, any expense incurred by the Tribunal in securing payment is to be paid by the purchaser.

Bob advises that if you are selling hives, make sure you are paid in full before you part with

any hives because, as the police advised him, it is very difficult to prove ownership in such situations, even if your hives are identified with a registration number.

Here's wishing everyone a bountiful season, a happy Christmas, and a prosperous New Year.

- Helen Sinnock

Waikato Branch

The weather has been typical for October: rain, sun, wind, drizzle, cold nights, hot days but slowly creeping into a summery feeling—fabulous!

This is the time of the year when queens are raised and hives are split, getting ready for pollination and manuka possies. Waikato beekeepers are boxing up to catch the rewarewa, which looks promising this year. Kamahi and acacia are flowering well now so the bees are looking pretty happy.

For those of you shifting hives to manuka sites far, far away, don't drive when you're tired. Keep you and your workmates safe; have a moe [*Maori word for sleep*] before you go.

Have a cool Christmas, a wee break and here's hoping everyone has a brilliant honey season!

- Barb Cahalane

Bay of Plenty Branch

I've had my head down and constantly playing catch up this spring, and I don't think I'm the only one in the region. It's been a roller coaster spring. September was warm and fine, with hives building very fast. The first half of October brought cool night temperatures and winds; the second half was warm and fine with good early honey flows, much hive splitting and swarming. Queen mating conditions and percentages have been good to very good and varroa has been manageable. A good year for making increases!

With the transition of kiwifruit orchards from Hort16A (the old gold variety) to the new G9 and G3, smaller quantities of hives are needed as the new vines develop. Pollination has been staggered over a longer period, which has added to the time running around servicing these crops. I expect this will improve as larger volumes of G3 come on in the next couple of years.

The big difference to last year is the timing. G9/G3 flowered four to five days earlier than last year and I am delivering the first hives into green orchards 10 days earlier than last year. This is a massive difference, given that the application of Hi-Cane® generally means that the difference is plus or minus three or four days seasonally.

- Greg Wagstaff

Poverty Bay Branch

The pollination season is over for another year. More covered kiwifruit blocks are springing up as growers move into more Psa-tolerant varieties. Most of these blocks are very hard on beehives, with large reductions in bee numbers because bees are getting disorientated due to the mesh enclosures. Some of these blocks are totally enclosed and some are open at the ends to some degree. Reduction in bee populations of 10 percent to 30 percent is common and I have personally recorded losses up to 50 percent.

Hives can take a month or more to recover the lost bee numbers and in an early dry season, hives will not produce much honey afterwards. Beekeepers need to factor this loss of honey production into their hive rental charges.

Kiwifruit growers are having these covered blocks erected without a thought as to how they are to be pollinated. Some are very long and it is difficult to get bees to penetrate to vines in the middle. Beekeepers are becoming reluctant to expose their bees to these conditions and some growers will struggle to get bees in the future. This could become a major problem for growers.

Manuka started flowering a week earlier than usual, so beekeepers have been busy preparing and moving hives onto manuka sites. Early indications for a good flowering look promising if the weather continues to cooperate.

Hive strength has been good, with most beekeepers reporting less than normal swarming.

Have a good Christmas break and may the flow be with you.

- Paul Badger, Branch President

Hawke's Bay Branch

We had our annual diseaseathon on 2 November and I have to say that I enjoyed it more than I have for a long time. All of the beekeepers I met were both helpful and pleased we were taking an interest.

I also inspected two top-bar hives for the first time on 2 November. Although I still think they have some serious design flaws and would hate to see one that had been neglected, I found them considerably easier to inspect than some of the neglected conventional hives. Fortunately I didn't find any disease, although one team did find four hives with AFB.

I was generally really pleased with the standard of beekeeping, except for one apiary that had a lot of three-quarter-depth frames in full-depth boxes, plus some brood boxes that had obviously not been inspected for years, let alone had any combs replaced.

With the sun shining, the birds singing, bees buzzing and beekeepers smiling, it was a really good day. The only problem we had was some of the paperwork. In the past, some of the inspectors have been a bit slack in filling in all of the (unfortunately) necessary forms. But when one beekeeper was asked for his forms at this diseaseathon, he came up with the novel excuse that the

cows had eaten them. We were all inclined to believe him about as much as the teachers used to believe our homework stories, but he did come up with some corroborating evidence, such as a few remaining cow-slobbered bits of paper.

- John Berry, Branch President

Otago Branch

There's not much news this month, other than to report that the thyme flow has started in Central Otago and swarming has begun in coastal Otago.

- Tudor Caradoc-Davies, Branch Secretary

GOVERNMENT INDUSTRY AGREEMENT

Where are we really at with GIA?

Following is an article from the Canterbury Branch and a response from NBA CEO Daniel Paul about the Government Industry Agreement (GIA).

At a recent Canterbury Branch meeting we had a vigorous discussion on the GIA.

The outcome of this debate was that the majority of members in the Canterbury Branch were opposed to the Executive pursuing GIA and wanted to express this. We wanted our ward rep to convey this to the Executive, along with wanting more transparency in the process and developments that have gone on to date.

In the South Island we were 'lucky' enough to have the forerunner of GIA pretty much forced on us in the form of the Varroa PMS (scare tactics). The reality of what we were promised by the strategy and what the strategy delivered when varroa was found in Nelson was abysmal. We, the beekeepers, played our part (i.e., we paid). MAF played its

part (spending our money on surveillance) and when varroa was found, the government bailed on us. I would be very interested to hear from anyone who thought they got value for money.

It is unbelievable that Executive and our Secretariat are in talks with MPI regarding GIA considering recent history. The definition of stupidity is repeating the same action and expecting a different result.

While we seem to have scare tactics at work all over again over what will happen if we do not agree to GIA (reference 2013 conference), I do not believe that the Government is about to abandon biosecurity relating to bees and beekeeping any time soon. Can you imagine a government stupid enough to put its \$5 billion tax base at risk? (Bee-related pollination and products.) Think about it. This is the start of a very slippery slope that is a one-way trip.

It is disappointing to our Branch that Executive and our Secretariat are pursuing this course and to this point, we do not believe that the majority of the membership is in agreement with this position, especially after talking to attendees at the Ashburton conference.

It appears that our elected and paid leaders are taking a similar position on GIA as our

Prime Minister, John Key, did on asset sales. (i.e., the attitude that "I'm not interested in the outcome of the referendum: one million people voted for asset sales in the last election.") I personally do not know one person who voted for National who is pro-asset sales. This is a head-in-the-sand position that assumes all members are happy. Just because we are members of the NBA doesn't mean we are pro-GIA or that industry wants it.

I want our organisation to stay strong (and I am one of the very few who kept the Canterbury Branch afloat when Federated Farmers Bees went their own way). However, I feel (along with our branch) that GIA is a generational change that the Government is trying to force onto our industry, and the Executive—and especially our Secretariat—appear to be rushing headlong into this agreement on our behalf without a mandate from its members.

If you feel as strongly as us about this and feel your voice is not being heard, I urge you to pay the minimum voluntary fee when renewing your NBA membership. This will serve notice that you are unhappy with our organisation's stance on GIA and will give you a chance to have your say when the Secretariat rings you up to ask you

Continued on page 17



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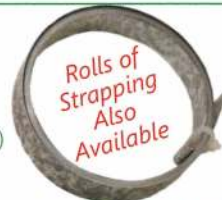
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Continued from page 15

why you have chosen to pay less than last year, without having to vote with your feet. Remember that the Ministry that is pushing us to sign a GIA agreement (Ministry of Primary Industries) is also the Ministry that thinks its protocols and procedures will keep us safe when they allow honey to be imported into New Zealand.

After all, it is a voluntary organisation that should be representing the views of its members.

- Brian Lancaster, Canterbury Branch President

Chief Executive's response

I'd like to make a couple of points in response to Brian Lancaster's article. Please refer to the table below for a summary.

Members of the NBA GIA working party are:

- Ricki Leahy
- Roger Bray
- Stephen Black
- Dennis Crowley.

Working party members have attended an initial discussion with MPI earlier this year.

That meeting was really held to decide what the NBA's priorities were around GIA. Then Ricki and Roger attended another full-day session in Wellington two months ago. That session was also attended by representatives of about 20 other industry groups, many of which are in exactly the same boat we are in—trying to gather together enough background information to figure out whether there is any value in GIA.

- Daniel Paul, Chief Executive Officer 

Chief Executive's response to points raised in Brian Lancaster's article

Brian's point	CEO's response
He says the Canterbury Branch has told its ward rep that it wants more transparency around the work the Executive Council is doing on the GIA value proposition.	The Canterbury ward rep sits on the NBA's GIA working group and has been involved in the latest round of meetings. The Canterbury Branch should be better informed than most about these developments.
Brian raises the varroa incursion and how beekeepers were treated by MAF. He suggests things will be no different under GIA.	MPI says things will be totally different. Brian Lancaster, and other beekeepers, I'm sure, think they won't be. But the Executive Council won't know for certain, and won't be in a position to advise members properly UNLESS it does its own 'due diligence' and undertakes its own investigation. That's all that's happening. We are EXPLORING the value proposition. There MIGHT be value for us in GIA. There might not be. We need to be sure either way.
Brian asks what will happen if we don't sign GIA. He stresses the government wouldn't be 'stupid' enough to 'abandon' the beekeeping industry.	Agreed. But unless we are part of GIA we won't have any say at all in how MPI handles biosecurity on our behalf. But we'll still be asked to pay. Do we want to be put right out of the decision-making loop? Do we fully understand the consequences? That's why we are doing due diligence—to make sure we fully understand all the pros and the cons behind GIA.
Brian doesn't think the majority of NBA members are in favour of us even exploring whether there is any value in GIA for beekeepers.	This item has been on the agenda for the last three NBA conferences and the Executive Council has been very open about its plans to do its due diligence and report back to members. The EC has only proceeded because it got the green light at those three conferences. This suggests that NBA members are prepared to at least explore the opportunities. Let the EC do its job and report back to members.
Brian compares the EC with John Key's stance on asset sales, calling it "a head-in-the-sand position that assumes all members are happy."	Again, the EC will not be forcing anything on anyone. Beekeepers on the ground, including NBA members, will make the final decision. All the EC is doing, including Canterbury's ward rep, is seeing if there is any value at all in GIA for beekeepers. We are also looking for all the downsides. That way we can present all the information to NBA members so they can make an informed decision. If we didn't do our due diligence, then we could be accused of having our heads in the sand, as Brian suggests.
Brian and the Canterbury Branch feel the government is trying to force GIA on the industry, and that the EC—and especially our Secretariat—appear to be rushing headlong into it.	Two things: Government has made it clear GIA is a 'take it or leave it' thing. There's no forcing—we don't have to sign if we don't like it. Secondly, the 'Secretariat' doesn't have a view either way on GIA. That's partly because there's not yet enough information to make an informed decision. Partly, it's because the Secretariat does what he's told by the EC. He doesn't get a personal view. He doesn't get to make decisions on behalf of NBA members.
In the same sentence, Brian suggests there is no mandate from NBA members for what the EC is doing (due diligence).	As I said above, the last three conferences have discussed this issue and have given the EC the green light to 'explore the value—or lack of it'. Not to sign the GIA, but to explore the value. The EC has, rightfully, assumed that is a mandate to do what it's doing.
Brian says he wants the NBA to be strong, but in the next sentence urges members not to pay the appropriate level of subscription as a protest against 'our stance on GIA'.	What does Brian actually want you to protest about? We don't have a 'stance' on GIA. We are entirely neutral, impartial, undecided. That's because we don't know enough to know whether it'll be good or bad. We don't know enough to have a 'stance'. That's why we are doing due diligence. We are trying to find out all the necessary information to present to members so members can then make an informed decision. If members follow Brian's advice and choose not to pay their subs, they won't have to worry about what the EC does about GIA. Because not paying subs will mean there will be no more NBA. Is that what members want?
Brian suggests that MPI is "pushing us to sign".	He's wrong. They are not. No one is pushing any industry to sign. It's entirely up to individual industries whether they sign or not.

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Bee boxes and books

By Frank Lindsay, NBA Life Member

The wet, windy days of November have passed and the weather has improved so much that it's now very dry.

Farmers have taken their first cut of silage and are topping paddocks to stop the grass from going to seed.

The cabbage tree (*Cordyline australis*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus oxyacantha*) have made up for their late start and have flowered profusely, adding valuable nectar to the hives. Manuka is now flowering on the warmer northern faces in my area, but so far the bees haven't taken much notice of it as kamahi is flowering, which the bees find more attractive. In the bush areas and suburban gardens a lot more is flowering, contributing to the abundance of pollen and nectar coming into the hives.

Swarm control and supering

That stop-start weather last month stimulated a lot of swarming. Most hives that were split in half have been successful, but one I visited was rather disappointing as both halves had swarmed, leaving a patch of brood in the second split all together. An overwintered five-frame nuc is now being supered with honey boxes. It has 10 full frames of brood (mostly capped) with bees covering the frames in two full-depth supers, plus they had produced a lot of capped queen cells. Hopefully I have cut them all out as it's not a good look to have neighbours slightly terrified by a mass of swarming bees flying overhead. If they restart queen cells again, I'll split the hive into three and produce bees rather than a honey crop.

With the kamahi flowering (the main crop in my area), the honey supers are going on two at a time. I generally don't undersuper but where the hive is found to have an egg in a single queen cell (usually along the bottom bar of the super immediately above the last brood super), I cut it out and then

put a honey super directly above the brood super to create room for the bees to expand into and another on top of the existing honey supers. During these last inspections, I also move outside frames in the honey supers into the middle to stop the chimney effect of the bees storing nectar right up through the middle frames of each super. New beekeepers should continue to bait the supers they put on by taking an outside honey frame from the super below and placing it into the centre of the new super.

"...return those wet honey supers after dark."

By the end of the month some will be taking off their first super of honey. Wet extracted combs stimulate the bees into greater honey production. Hives where the honey is regularly extracted produce more than those that are supered up and left until February before the honey is removed.

A word of warning for suburban beekeepers: return those wet honey supers after dark. Wet frames will stimulate thousands of bees into looking for a nectar flow close to the hive, flying round and round looking for a very close nectar source. Put wets on after dark and by morning the bees will have cleaned up the frames and will settle straight into their normal work.

Christmas book ideas

For those looking for a Christmas present for the beekeeper, books are always at the top of my list, although I don't generally wait until Christmas when I see an interesting book come on to the market.

The *BBKA Guide To Beekeeping*, by Ivor Davis and Roger Cullum-Kenyon, is a beginner's book published in the UK in 2012. I consider this book to be as good as any on the market.

This book was written to assist beekeepers gain their National Diploma in Beekeeping qualification in the UK. It's not very long (just



182 pages), but is well set out and crammed full of colour photographs with coloured blocks of text for important information.

Yes, it does cover all the varieties of UK hives, which are different from our Langstroth hive, but provides good background knowledge for any new beekeeper and explains the difference between top beespace and bottom beespace. Some of the honey plants are different also but many are already established here, thanks to our early settlers. The book is divided into 10 chapters that cover bees and beekeeping, the colony, the hive, the history of bees, the beekeeping year, the queen, swarms, bee and colony health, plants and hive products, and how to get started. This book is up-to-date, offers alternative methods for treating varroa mites and identifies all the other diseases. I know of only a few good books produced in the UK and this is one of them.

Check to see if it's available locally but if not, it can be purchased through The Book Depository (www.bookdepository.co.uk) which offers free postage. The print ISBN is 978-1-4081-5458-8. It's also available via http://ibrastore.org.uk/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=1_5&products_id=264

Other good beginners' books include Kim Flottum's *The Backyard Beekeeper* (ISBN-13: 978-1-59253-607-8), and *The Beekeeper's Handbook* (fourth edition) by Diana Sammataro and Alphonse Avitabile (ISBN 978-0-8014-7694-5). For more comprehensive information, see the recently published *Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping* by Dewey M. Caron and Lawrence John Connor (ISBN: 978-1-878075-29-1) and *Bee-Sentials: a field guide* by Lawrence John Connor (ISBN 978-1-878075-28-4), available from www.wicwas.com.

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**Lecturer – Apiculture
Primary Industries - Faculty of Engineering
and Trades**



Are you an experienced Lecturer of Apiculture? Do you have an Adult teaching qualification and Tertiary teaching experience? Are you passionate about people and the value of education? Do you want to work with a committed and driven team?

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You will need to be prepared to work some evenings and occasional weekends; and have strong organisational and time management skills, keep accurate records, be a self-starter with good sense of humour, and enjoy working in a team and autonomously. You will enjoy working with people from diverse cultures and backgrounds. This is a fixed term, full-time position.

In return you get to be a part of a diverse team of passionate people whose mission is to transform lives, communities and industry.

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Job reference: 6690

For a copy of the Job Description or to apply visit <http://careers.manukau.ac.nz> If you would like any further information please contact Vasanti Bhana, Recruitment Advisor (09) 968 8765 ext 8369.

Applications close: 15th December 2013

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Before you start buying overseas books, make yourself familiar with our locally produced books like *Practical Beekeeping in New Zealand* by Andrew Matheson and Murray Reid (fourth edition), ISBN 978-1-877568-52-711. It's also available as an e-book from exislepublishing.co.nz.

For the new and up-and-coming commercial beekeeper, my best buy for tips is *Some Important Operations in Bee Management* by T.S.K. and M.P. Johanson, produced by the International Bee Research Association (IBRA) in 1978, which compiles the Johansons' articles into a paperback book. Each chapter is devoted to a different subject such as making a nuc, uniting colonies, wintering, feeding, queen rearing, etc. Check this before you set out to do anything. Although it's an old book, it's still available and well worth having.

Things to do this month

Check feed. Check for failing queens. Introduce nuclei. Super hives: get them on before the bees need them.


Control swarms. Make nucs out of any hive that swarms or combine weak hives to make full-strength units for honey production. This is the best time to get queens mated for those making their own replacements or ordering queen cells.

Prepare the honey house equipment. Undertake the first honey extraction in some areas. Do a full brood frame check for AFB before removing any honey or combining hives. Get the honey off before 1 January to meet all the testing requirements for those in the tutin/passion vine hopper (*Scolypopa*

australis) areas. (If it's a dry, warm summer, there could be problems for some.)

Fit foundation into comb honey supers. Put the super of cut-comb foundation frames on top of a three-quarter-depth honey super to prevent the bees storing pollen in the comb super frames if there's a break in the good weather.

Check hives for varroa mites. Randy Oliver recommended we do a quick knock down in the middle of the year rather than wait until the end of the season. Keep those mite numbers low.

If the supers are all on, you can relax and spend time with your family. All the best for Christmas and I hope the New Year goes well. 

NBA RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Research update

By Russell Berry, Lower South Island Ward representative, Research Committee Chairperson

This is your opportunity to choose which research projects you want to be carried out in New Zealand.

Support us now. Please make donations to the Research Committee of the NBA with your dollar amount and category number listed so that the money can be held for your preferred project. All those who donate over \$500 in any area will be acknowledged in this journal.

To make the most of your donations, the NBA will also aim to secure public and private research funding. For some projects, funding may go back to NBA branches to conduct the research.

We were staggered by the very large number of very good research areas that were

suggested. The table on the next page summarises the 19 most popular research areas.

The prize draw has been made and we have sent out the cheques of \$100 each to Lester Bulmer, Gerard Wills, Barry Marshall, David Hills, Ian Berry, Adrian Heike, Cecilia van Velsen, Brian Alexander, Ray Butler and Rob Robinson.

There are two dollar columns in the table: the first is the amount donated this month and the second is the running total collected. This gives NBA members a chance to choose the research projects to which they wish to contribute.

To make a donation:

Deposit funds directly to the NBA's bank account: 02-0733-0057338-001 Please enter "research" as the reference, and email details of your donation and your preferred projects to secretary@nba.org.nz.

OR


Post a cheque with details of your donation and preferred projects to:

Research Committee
National Beekeepers' Association
PO Box 10792
Wellington
New Zealand

All donations will be recorded against your selected category, and the Research Committee will report regularly in the journal on donations received, running total of funds collected for each category and progress of projects.

If there is an area that receives a very small amount of income (i.e., not enough to start research), the committee will come back to you and ask you to allocate the money to a different research area.

The Research Committee looks forward to receiving your donations so we can start getting additional funding and getting the research projects started.

Help your industry prosper—get your research money in now! 

Category number	Topic	Popularity rating	\$ donated in November	Running total by category	People/organisations donating over \$500
	IMPORTATION OF EXOTIC BEE DISEASES				
1	Determining, via a literature search, which bee diseases, pathogens, and viruses New Zealand does not have, and publishing these results in <i>The New Zealand BeeKeeper Journal</i> . Determine what we can do to prevent these diseases getting through our borders into New Zealand.	31	\$1,000 \$1,000	\$1,000 \$1,000	Arataki Honey Ltd, Rotorua NZ Beeswax Ltd
	GENERAL, RELATED TO PRACTICAL BEEKEEPING				
2	Research the methods of how AFB spreads and how to control it, including elimination.	27			
3	<i>Nosema ceranae</i> : is it in New Zealand hives? If so, what effect is it having and how widespread? Is it causing high winter losses?	21	\$200 \$1,000 \$2,000 \$3,000	\$200 \$1,000 \$2,000 \$3,000	Arataki Honey Ltd, Hawke's Bay NZ Beeswax Ltd Tweeddale Apiaries
4	The effect of sugar syrup and artificial pollen feeding on bees, compared with using their own collected stores.	21	\$200	\$200	
5	Assist with Linda Newstrom-Lloyd's Trees for Bees project. Determining benefits of all pollens, including weeds, to bee nutrition.	17	\$500	\$500	Kintail Honey
6	Best hive placement in crops to be pollinated.	15			
7	Wasp control.	15	\$400	\$400	
8	What is causing high winter losses of bee hives in some areas of New Zealand?	13	\$200	\$200	
9	Establish a formula for assessing various areas to assist in ascertaining maximum stocking rates (i.e., ¼, ½, ¾ of the maximum honey flow in the area); also, the effect on bee health.	13	\$200	\$200	
10	Availability of nectar in new clover varieties.	10			
	GENERAL RESEARCH				
11	Benefits and qualities of honeydew. (We understand there may be benefits to diabetics in honeydew properties.)	18	\$100	\$100	
12	Queen breeding and genetics: best-practice research.	16	\$200	\$200	
13	Accurate tests for C4 sugars.	16	\$1,250	\$1,250	Manuka Health NZ Ltd
14	Accurate analysis of New Zealand native honeys, particularly manuka and kanuka, and honey purity.	15	\$400 \$1,250	\$400 \$1,250	Manuka Health NZ Ltd
	VARROA				
15	Develop varroa-resistant bees.	55			
16	Organic treatment of varroa.	20			
17	<i>Chelifer cancrroides</i> : how can they be used against varroa?	14			
18	Varroa resistance to chemicals.	10			
19	Varroa: research the current effect on beekeepers' profits of varroa because of bad practices.	10			
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Ashburton  2013 

 Celebrating SINCE 1913 **100** Years NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Photo: Jody Mitchell. Photo inset of Jody Mitchell taken by Frank Lindsay.



360ml Round Pot



500gm Round Jar



340gm Round Jar
(coming soon)



250gm Round Jar



2kg Hex Jar



1kg Hex Jar



500gm Hex Jar



250gm Hex Jar



2kg Square Jar



1kg Square Jar



500gm Square Jar



250gm Square Jar

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