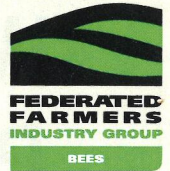


June 2014, Volume 22 No. 5

# The NEW ZEALAND Beekeeper



The National Beekeepers  
Association of New Zealand



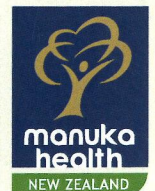
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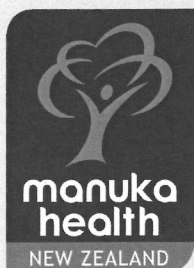
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- Memories of a special Waikato man • Separating honey and wax



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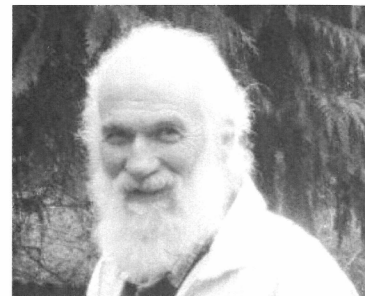
Front cover: If you haven't already registered for Conference, get a wiggle on! The registration form was inserted in the April journal or can be downloaded from <http://nba.org.nz/news-events/events/conferences>

Check out the programme on page 19. We look forward to sampling and viewing your entries for the National Honey Show, photo competition and the Roy Paterson Trophy. See you there!

# Shifts and changes

By Ricki Leahy, NBA President

I have just returned from the second Trees for Bees Conference, held again in Gisborne at the Eastwoodhill National Arboretum from 9–10 May.



What a beautiful and inspiring place, at this time resplendent with the autumn colours.

Day one was split into four sessions, where the current context and need for Trees for Bees research was discussed. We learnt about the biology and ecology of planting bee forage, studied presentations on demonstration farms with bee forage plantings and ideas incorporating bee plants in multi-purpose planting programmes.

We are so fortunate to have such a high-calibre research botanist as Dr Linda Newstrom-Lloyd leading this project, and also very fortunate to have the support of the Eastwoodhill Arboretum. The whole point of the Trees for Bees project is to encourage farmers and other landowners to plant trees and shrubs that provide beneficial pollen and nectar sources for our bees. Linda's research identifies these plants.

The second day was a field trip focusing on severe erosion control and checking out the manuka forests that are being planted for honey production. We were transported by bus and visited Puketoro Station—the Ingleby Farm on the East Coast inland of Tokomaru Bay—where blocks of erosion-prone land have been retired from grazing production and are being planted in manuka for honey production with willows, flax and other native species for erosion control.

I was very excited by the initiatives, the determination and commitment in planting these vast areas. The erosion in the gullies is incredible, as the soil is comprised of mudstone and simply flows down the hill.

Impressive numbers of willow poles have been planted and even whole trees helicoptered in to form 'beaver dams', and it isn't all without ongoing challenges. Goats and deer need to be controlled and young

manuka plants look like they are struggling to beat the grasses.

The bee hubs (apiaries) were also well thought out. They are being surrounded by plantings of good pollen and nectar species to enable good hive build-up and allow hives to potentially remain year-round. What we saw was absolutely inspirational.

We also learnt about partnerships being formed in other parts of the East Cape with local iwi, providing opportunities to develop their lands for honey production. It was suggested that as pine forests are harvested, further opportunities would present themselves to expand manuka production even further.

---

### "Shifts and changes ... are happening throughout our industry."

---

I was totally blown away to witness the change that is happening in our industry, and to understand the potential of partnerships between landowners and beekeepers and the absolute value of local involvement. This all represents the huge shift that is happening in our industry.

#### New Zealand Apiculture Industry Conference

The shifts and changes to which I refer are happening throughout our industry. This is why the New Zealand Apiculture Industry Conference in Wanganui, being an all-of-industry conference, will be so important to attend. **This will be a time to discuss matters that focus on the future rather than those that dwell on the past.** We need to take the opportunity to create a vision for our future generations of beekeepers. It's absolutely

hopeless at present, compared to how it could be if we were all prepared to give a bit more and take just a little less.

As for GIA, we should at least consider a minimal commitment and see how that may work. It's absolutely essential that we take a lead role in our industry's wellbeing and future. If we don't take part, it could be construed as an indication to the rest of the primary sector that we don't have any problems and that we don't care about biosecurity, which would lead to future decisions being made with that opinion in mind.

#### Electronic certification (E-cert)

As you may know, the E-cert system has been updated and went live on Monday 2 June. Many of us use the E-cert system only occasionally and if that includes you, it's a good idea to familiarise yourself with the new features of the system rather than wait until the last minute.

It does take a bit of effort to set up your RealMe® identification that enables you to do business with government departments over the Internet. The new updated E-cert version is very similar to the previous version and the systems have been improved considerably.

Even though the information required is basically the same, it does take time to familiarise yourself with it. I recommend that you take the opportunity to play around with the training system that has been set up specifically to assist you.

I hope by now you've managed to get on top of your work for this season. And I hope that those who think they haven't done quite so well as others have managed to come out with enough to carry on. Those tight spots

*Continued on page 6*

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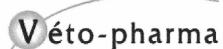


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Continued from page 4

happen to us all occasionally. Sometimes you just have to stand on the spot until the time to throw the beekeeping dice comes around again. Get those hives cranking again and with a bit of luck, things soon come right.

So what can we learn from our bees at this time? Probably not a lot as the bees have all slowed down. Maybe we should do the same. Time to sit around and have a bit of a rest and a bit of a chat. Have a few sleep-ins and use some time to get all those records up to date. Take time to come to conference. Knock up a bit of gear in the workshop and wait for next season to roll around. The bees seem to have a habit of telling us when that is....

Happy beekeeping.



*Trees for Bees field trip participants visiting Owetea Station north of Gisborne owned by Ingleby Ltd. Ingleby New Zealand has retired this land and planted manuka, and bee-friendly trees here for erosion control and bee forage. Long-term sustainable practices are part of the Ingleby philosophy; hence this gully is being restored by using a mix of native and exotic species rather than a short term fix using pine trees. Photo: Barry Foster.*

## Have an anecdote?

All beekeepers have a wealth of tales to tell about their own sticky situations, mishaps or other near-disasters that are good for a laugh, even though it might take a while to see the funny side! Usually some good lessons are learnt that are well worth imparting to others.

We're putting out a challenge to you all to share your beekeeping adventures and misadventures with your colleagues. Feel free to use a pseudonym if you wish.

If you're shy about writing a story or think you're not a writer, banish those thoughts: we are happy to help shape your story.

Still feeling bashful? Photos are fine too, either to illustrate your story or simply on its own with a caption to help tell the tale. We look forward to hearing from you!

- Your Publications Committee

## Get snapping

It's nearly Conference time, so prepare to enter your photos in the sixth annual Ecroyd/NZAI photography competition, to be held as part of the New Zealand Apiculture Industry (NZAI) Conference, Wanganui, 22-26 June 2014.

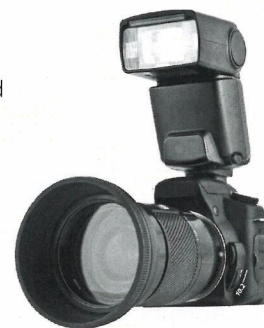
### Entries will be accepted in the following categories:

- Class A. Close-up print.** Subject must relate to beekeeping.
- Class B. Scenic print.** Apiary subject such as flowers, hives etc.
- Class C. Portrait print.** Person, beekeeping procedure, honey, hive by-product processing in appropriate setting, commercial frontage or beekeeping base.
- Class D. Essay prints.** A set of from 4 to 7 pictures depicting a beekeeping story.

The photo competition is open to all registered members of the **NBA and BIG.**

As an added inducement, winning photographs will be published in *The New Zealand BeeKeeper*, perhaps even on the front cover if taken in portrait format.

For more information, go to <http://nba.org.nz/news-events/events/photo-competition>



# Memories of a special Waikato man

NBA Life Member John Dudley Lorimer died on 16 April, just shy of his 100th birthday. To mark his passing, we are reprinting this article by NBA Life Member David Penrose, written in 2006.

Dudley Lorimer must have been born around 1915. His family had dairy cows but at the age of 15 he became tired of being whacked around the head with a wet and dirty cow's tail at milking time. He decided to go down the road to Bert Davies, who needed an apiary assistant. This was when Dudley's love of bees began. His interest in bees has lasted 76 years, for at 91 he still has hives and retains a love for the tiny creatures that he grew to understand and care for, and which in turn cared for him and his family over all those years.

Dudley worked for Bert Davies until the outbreak of war in 1940, at which time he enlisted and went overseas. By that stage he owned around 100 hives, and while he was away Pearson Bros looked after his hives. On his return, Bert said that he would sell his hives to Dudley if he wanted them. This was his dream: he was now to become a commercial beekeeper!



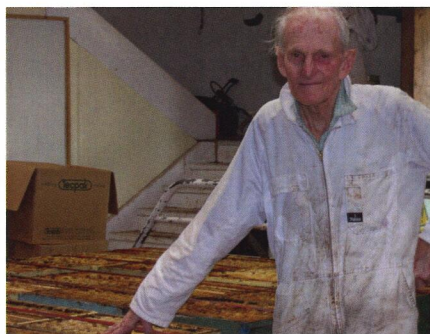
Dudley standing proudly in one of his apiaries with Mt Maungatautari in the background.

My first meeting with Dudley was at a conference around the late 1950s or early 1960s. I was so lucky to see him on the



No wonder he has a smile on his face—this hive was very full of honey!

debating floor with the likes of Harry Cloake, Percy Berry, Jasper Bray and Jack Frazer, to name but a few. They were vigorous and robust debaters—leaping to points of order, refusing to be seated when ordered to by the chair—because in the white-hot debates generated at the time, these powerful orators were certain that their points were valid.



Dudley standing by his 2006 honey crop after a hard day's work.

Dudley would sit back and listen. You could tell when he became moved by the debate: the telltale smoke cloud would begin to issue from his pipe, becoming like smog over Christchurch on an autumn evening. When the debaters were beginning to run out of steam he would rise to his feet and with a few well-chosen words, sum up the debate as he understood it, and then deliver his interpretation of the essence. Almost without fail his comments would become the substantive issue on which members would vote, often bringing consensus to a widely divided group of 'rugged individualists'.

Dudley also had a substantial effect on me, 20 years his junior, during my early years on the NBA executive. His quiet manner, sound judgement and ability to sum up the essence of a debate played a pivotal role in industry decisions. His promotion of the

use of the "inch-to-mile" map series led to apiary registration accuracy, which then led to the early war to control AFB. Also at this time, when we sometimes would gather in some hapless member's room after dinner to "down a dram", he would tell me of this wonderful area around Taupo that was being developed. They added molybdenum super, clover and ryegrass and the area became a beekeepers' paradise. "Ten ton to the 100" was the norm and to service it, Dudley bought a funny Japanese truck called an Isuzu. This 'funny' truck proved to be not so funny when it was finally pensioned off after 800,000 miles—not bad for an investment. But it wasn't all work in Taupo. Dudley would also recall how he would lie under a willow after lunch, smoke a pipe, while one of his staff would tempt a trout for tea. Not a bad boss—not a bad job!

His strong beliefs in single-desk selling lured him away from the NBA executive to the board of the Honey Marketing Authority (HMA). His passion for doing the best for the industry, together with his finely honed debating skills, saw him guiding the Authority through difficult times, and his gentle nature was often tested in the robust debates of the day.

I am proud to have known Dudley—the beekeeper, the orator, the sage and the man. May the sun always shine on his hives and may the young queens he raises produce copious quantities of honey!

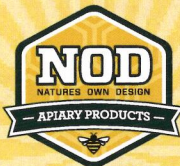
## Reference

Penrose, D. (2006). Memories of a special Waikato man—91 not out. *The New Zealand Beekeeper*, 14(5), 16–17.



Most of his crop for 2006 that we helped to remove from his hives. He went out a couple of days later to remove the last few boxes of honey with his car and trailer. Photos supplied by Jane and Tony Lorimer.

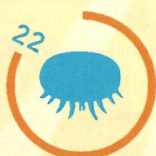
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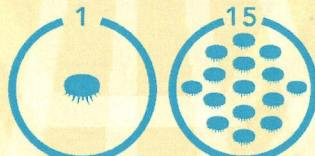
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OVERALL EFFICACY IS EXPECTED TO BE IN THE 95% RANGE OVER TIME, WHEN COMPARED TO OTHER PRODUCTS THAT JUST TREAT VARROA ON THE ADULT BEES (PHORETIC VARROA)

## HOW MITES MULTIPLY



Under the brood cap, doubling the population every 22 days



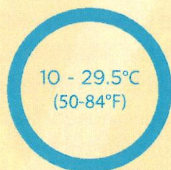
1 mite becomes 15 in 4 months Just takes 1 female



In 12 weeks, the number of mites in a western honey bee hive can multiply by (roughly) 12

THE STRIP'S INNOVATION IS THAT THE TREATMENT **SUCCESSFULLY PENETRATES THE BROOD CAP, TARGETING THE VARROA MITES WHERE THEY REPRODUCE, ARRESTING THE TRANSMISSION OF VIRUSES.** WHEN BEES ARE TREATED WITH MAQS<sup>®</sup> THERE IS **NO RISK OF RESIDUE** CONTAMINATION TO THE HONEY OR WAX. HELPING BEE-KEEPERS THROUGH THE LEARNING CURVE OF ADOPTING THE NEW TECHNOLOGY IS INSTRUMENTAL IN MEETING THE NEEDS OF BEEKEEPERS." - David VanderDussen, CEO NOD Apiary Products Ltd.

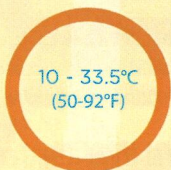
## RANGE TO HIGH



Day of application

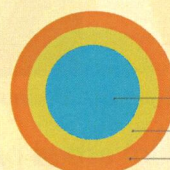


Maximum high on the first day



Day 4 to 7 temperature range

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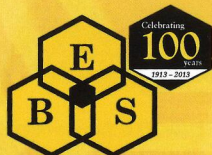


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# Possible research fundraising mechanism

By Dr B. J. Donovan, Donovan Scientific Insect Research, Private Bag 4704, Christchurch 8140, New Zealand

Our honey bees and products from bees are beset with many problems.

Our bees in particular, unfortunately, may well be afflicted by more problems if one or more of the enemies of bees known to exist elsewhere in the world reach our shores. Existing and potential threats to our bees are mentioned frequently (e.g., Gonzalez, 2013; Berry, 2013), along with laments at the lack of and pleas for contributions to funding (Berry, 2013).

At the 100th anniversary of our National Beekeepers' Association at Ashburton in June 2013, a meeting of researchers identified a crying need for additional funding for research on many factors affecting honey bees, and various other aspects of the beekeeping industry.

There are many problems that afflict not only beekeepers directly, but also the industries that rely on the continuing presence of healthy bees, which suggest that these industries should contribute to the effort to raise funding.

Unified and inclusive industry organisations are far more likely to successfully apply pressure on governments to further their interests than are fractured, non-inclusive bodies. Unfortunately, there appears to be no signs of reconciliation between the NBA and the BIG, and some businesses that rely on bees such as hardware manufacturers, honey exporters and fruit and seed producers, may perhaps be members of the NBA and/or the BIG, and as such are part of the disunity.

The national bee industry meeting proposed by former NBA President Barry Foster (2013) and which is due to be held in Whanganui in late June will provide an opportunity to work towards the creation of a unified body which would represent not only the beekeepers, but all industries that rely on the continued existence of healthy beehives and prospering beekeepers.

Each Australian State has its own beekeepers' association. However, every State association and numerous businesses reliant on honey bees belong in turn to a national Australian Honey Bee Industry Council. This body is able to advocate with one unified voice for all honey bee-dependent organisations in Australia.

If there were to be organised a New Zealand Honey Bee Industry Council (NZHBIC), the potential benefits to all involved could be very significant. To name a few, the NBA and the BIG could each retain their independence, and the inclusion of industries reliant on pollination by honey bees such as Zespri, Horticulture New Zealand, Federated Farmers (because of pollination of herbage pasture plants), hardware manufacturers, honey exporters, pollinators etc., would enable the NZHBIC to approach the Government with a very powerful voice.

From a researcher's point of view, a NZHBIC could raise funds for research directly from its members. This would fulfil the wish of many beekeepers that industries reliant on bees should contribute financially to the problems affecting the beekeeping industry.

Unless new ways of raising extra funding are put in place, the beekeeping industry may well find not only that the next problem to arise cannot be funded, but also that there may be a lack of expert researchers to work on it.

### References

- Berry, R. (2013). Research update. *The New Zealand Beekeeper* 21(11), 2122.
- Foster, B. (2013). What will the next century bring? *The New Zealand Beekeeper* 21(6), 4–6.
- Gonzalez, M. (2013). Differential field diagnosis of exotics. *The New Zealand Beekeeper* 21(2), 9–13.

*[Editor's note: Dr Donovan's comments about the potential benefits of a 'national' beekeeping entity are noted. The NBA and BIG are already testing these waters by working together under the auspices of the recently established Bee Industry Advisory Council (BIAC) which is already organising a national bee health survey for the industry and doing due diligence on the potential value in signing up to a GIA.]*



## Corrected contact info

In the April edition, the cellphone number was incorrect for Quentin Chollet, the new AsureQuality Apiculture Officer, Audit & Inspection in the South Island.

Quentin can be contacted at:

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Lincoln University  
Lincoln  
Canterbury 7647

Mob: (021) 226 5731  
Fax: (03) 325 7088  
Email: [quentin.chollet@asurequality.com](mailto:quentin.chollet@asurequality.com)

A full list of AsureQuality apiculture officers and registrars appeared in the April 2014 journal.

And the home number for Apimondia Oceania President Maureen Conquer has changed. Please see page 27 for details.



The National Beekeepers  
Association of New Zealand



## Notice of the 2014 Industry Group Annual General Meetings to be held at Wanganui Racecourse Function Centre

Thursday 26 June 2014

The AGM of Federated Farmers Bee Industry Group commences 8.00am

The AGM of the National Beekeepers Association of NZ Inc. commences 9.30am

Chief Executive Officer

---

### Voting Entitlements for NBA members at the 2014 NBA AGM

Standard Hobbyist .....	1 vote
Sideline Commercial .....	2 votes
Small Commercial .....	3 votes
Commercial Level 1 .....	4 votes
Commercial Level 2 .....	7 votes
Commercial Level 3 .....	10 votes
Commercial Level 4 .....	13 votes
Commercial Level 5 .....	19 votes
Mega Commercial .....	25 votes
Corporate Membership .....	2 votes
NZ Beekeeping Club .....	2 votes
Life Member .....	1 vote

If a life member has elected to pay a membership fee they will receive the voting entitlements for their paid membership category plus one life member vote.

When several individuals are represented by a singular NBA membership, they must **choose ONE representative to place the vote(s) they are entitled.**

Example: Mr. and Mrs. Beekeeper have one hobbyist membership and pay \$150 per year. They must choose one of them only to place the one vote that they are entitled to under one hobbyist membership.

Example: The Best Beekeeping Club joins the NBA for \$200 per year. They must select one representative to place their entitled two votes on behalf of the club members.

Example: The Beekeeping Company is owned by Mr Hive and Mr Pollen. They must select one representative to place their entitled votes for their membership category.

Chief Executive Officer

# EPA u-turn on bees worries growers

By Roger Bray, NBA Technical and Submissions Committee

The headlines of a Radio New Zealand report (28 April 2014) stated that horticulturists were upset that the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) is reassessing a condition for using some agrichemicals less than six months after completing a major review of pesticide use.

This prompts some comments regarding the protection of bees. Unfortunately, this situation results from a lack of understanding and some omissions in the EPA's initial reassessment of the chemicals. To further complicate the issue, some horticulturalists appear to still not understand the rationale for the reassessment: perhaps because they feel threatened that they will not have chemicals available to protect their crops. It does seem strange that an industry somewhat dependent on the pollination of their crops by bees would not be more supportive of the protection of bees from chemical damage.

The February 2014 edition of *The New Zealand BeeKeeper* (page 8) outlined the concerns that the NBA had in connection with the omissions made in the initial reassessment process. The wheels of EPA have turned slowly but have supported the calls from NBA to address some serious concerns by way of another reassessment. This appears to be the only option available to remedy the situation.

As further clarification, we need to point out the danger to bees with the present controls that have been approved as a result of the initial reassessment. Some insecticides work as a 'contact' insecticide, where the spray kills on contact with the insect and is active until the product dries on the crop. There are also 'systemic' insecticides, where the spray is absorbed into the plant and makes the plant toxic to the insects that feed on the plant. Systemic insecticides kill chewing and sucking insects (including bees) over an extended period of time up to 10 days after application. The danger to bees exists because the 'new' controls would allow a systemic insecticide to be applied to a flowering plant, under the conditions and controls more appropriate to contact insecticides. Systemic insecticides generally have a 'control', which prohibits using on flowering plants including a pre-flowering period of up to 10 days. Common examples of systemic insecticides which are used in growing seed brassicas are Perfekthion®S and Rogor®E. There have been bee deaths in Canterbury where spray operators have misjudged the flowering time of the crop and applied these products.

The reassessment announced by EPA should allow adequate controls to be placed on the chemicals listed. Public submissions will be called and the way is open for the NBA, HortNZ, and indeed any other individual or group, to express their views. It is disappointing that the situation exists where the initial reassessment did not identify bee

safety provisions. The NBA will be seeking a return to the controls that existed prior to the 'initial' reassessment.

I wonder why it is in this modern world that there appears to be many decisions being made when all the facts that should be part of the decision-making process are not being identified, and sometimes appear to be forgotten or ignored.

## References

MacLeod, D. (2014). Sulfoxaflor, dimethoate and the AVID® label. *The New Zealand BeeKeeper*, 22(1), 7–9.

Radio New Zealand. (2014, April 28). EPA u-turn on bees worries growers. Retrieved May 4, 2014, from [www.radionz.co.nz/news/rural/242800/epa-u-turn-on-bees-worries-growers](http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/rural/242800/epa-u-turn-on-bees-worries-growers)



Photo copyright Rose McGillicuddy, 2011.

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Entries from the Scottish National Honey Show, Dundee, July 2009. Photo: Maureen Maxwell.

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# Food safety and E-certs

By Gary Jeffery, Mountain Beech Apiaries, Westport

I am afraid that I am one of the Old School, living at a time when we had an Apiary Advisory Service working hard to assist beekeepers to market their crop in New Zealand and overseas with as few hassles as possible.

Then we had the introduction of Food Safety [the New Zealand Food Safety Authority, now part of MPI – Editor]. 'Safety' is an overused excuse to impose quite ridiculous rules and regulations on us if involved with exporting honey and other bee products. I remember Jim Sim saying at the time of introduction that they would not be subsidising audits, etc. like the local councils did, but he also should have added that indirect taxation would be a real money-spinner forASUREQuality and Food Safety.

Electronic certifications (E-certs) are a good example. How many times have drums of

honey been delayed in transit to another RMP destination, out of control of the beekeeper who despatched it? A lot of us live in isolated places and to get a drum from one location to the next is often impossible within the 24 hours stipulated. The honey might have been held at the origin location for a month or two and could also remain at the future destination for a year or more before being packed for export, but what a fuss if it takes more than 24 hours in transit. It is no longer eligible for export.

Who came up with such an idea? Were they thinking of frozen chicken thawing in transit? Surely someone, somewhere, would have realised that at least one week is required for transport. At present, no allowances are made for road closures due to slips, fallen trees, snow or the recipient being on holiday. I have yet to hear of a reasonable explanation except perhaps it is a European Union requirement. If so, we need someone with common sense to negotiate on our behalf.

One aspect is the pinpricking attitude of some ASUREQuality staff. I have heard that one shipment was held up because the beekeeper put down the processing date as January but not the actual day. In the end, the 14th January was added and the shipment went ahead. Yet January is still quite valid for the processing date, as often honey can be processed over quite a period, so a month is more valid than a single day.

Then we come to the tutin regulations, which appear to be an excuse to persuade the beekeeper to redo the E-certs. Twenty cents a second may not seem like much, but the E-certs appear to have been set up in such a complicated way that the seconds soon go by.

Also the regulations are based on a 'might' rather than knowledge about where tutin-affected honey might occur. We need more scientific evidence, rather than a straight line over mountains etc. acting as a boundary. Why not an altitude boundary as well?

The tutin regulations as laid out lead to alternative interpretations, which in our case resulted in our crop being put on hold while being sorted out.

It is now time that the tutin regulations were updated and made user friendly for the beekeeper. One suggestion is that the beekeeper be a registered operator and the emphasis be removed from specifying the apiary of origin on the paperwork. Those details should be left to audit time and the beekeeper's own records.

[Editor's note: Jim Sim of MPI will be speaking at Conference about tutin.] 

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the NBA has local beekeeping brainboxes on hand to answer any beekeeping-related queries, from giving your hives a helping hand to sussing out your swarms. Whatever your question, simply email it to [editor@nba.org.nz](mailto:editor@nba.org.nz) and we will post the answers in a future issue of *The New Zealand BeeKeeper*.





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# Trees for Bees Programme update

By John McLean, Paul Badger and Peter Hair

This article updates progress on the Trees for Bees Programme, Gisborne, 2013–2014.

The aim of the programme is to demonstrate that by planting trees and shrubs that flower at specific times in winter and spring, a farm can be made more attractive for beekeeping. Farmers host beehives on their land to help clover pollination, which is vital to pasture production and stock health. The bees, in turn, need their pollen and nectar sources in order to build up their numbers for pollination and honey collection assignments. Early-season flowering by willows gets bees off to an early start, but late-spring flowering species can be sparse.

### Plantings

Farmer Peter Hair has fenced off areas of his property at Lake Repongaere, where trees and shrubs have been recently planted to assist the bees through the times when pollen and nectar sources are currently very limited. These plantings have been done following guidelines provided by Landcare's Trees for Bees research programme<sup>1</sup>.

Two areas were planted in spring 2012 but unfortunately the drought in autumn 2013 caused 90% losses on the dry bank and 60% losses in the wetter area. Plantings in autumn 2013 have fared much better. Plantings will be ongoing to fill in the gaps.

### Measurements

We are using the Hivemind<sup>2</sup> system to record weight changes and to evaluate the improvement in the hives over the next few years as the plantings mature. Two sets of five hives were set out last season: one in an area which is normally a supportive area for honey bees at Waituhi (Lavenham Road) and the second in the Lake Repongaere area, where late spring sources are limited. Hives were mounted on Hivemind scales supported on a solid platform that kept them



Beekeeper Paul Badger by the five hives set out at the Waituhi study site. Photo: John McLean.

above the damp ground in a stock-proof enclosure. Each set of scales was connected to a solar-powered hub that collected weight data every three hours. Once a day these data were transmitted via satellite to a ground station we could interrogate via the Internet.

Scales were used to follow the weight gains of the hives and when a 10-kg increment was accumulated, additional honey supers were added to the hives. An early fixed-weight hive (without bees) showed that 29 of 44 readings on the test scale were outside stated accuracy limits of  $\pm 1 \text{ kg} + 1\%$  of hive weight. After the first month it was also noted that there was condensation within the hubs. Scales and hubs were recalled to Christchurch for recalibration and resolution of the water ingress problem. Scales and hubs were returned to the field in early December.

One of the returned scales was placed under an empty hive. Readings were checked for several days and were well within stated accuracy limits. There continued to be a distinct diurnal variation in weights recorded, indicating that variations throughout the day

were not related to honey bee activity but rather to temperature-induced changes to the scales themselves.

For our records we used one daily weight reading as close to 00:00 as possible, to provide a guide to weight increases in order to assess the need for additional honey supers. We were able to determine the weights of supers added to each hive. We were also able to assess the approximate weight of honey harvested.

---

**"We are using the Hivemind system to record weight changes and to evaluate the improvement in the hives ..."**

---

An overview of weight gain patterns and honey collection is shown on the next page for each of the study sites.

The gap in measurements is for the period when scales and hubs were recalled to

*Continued on page 17*

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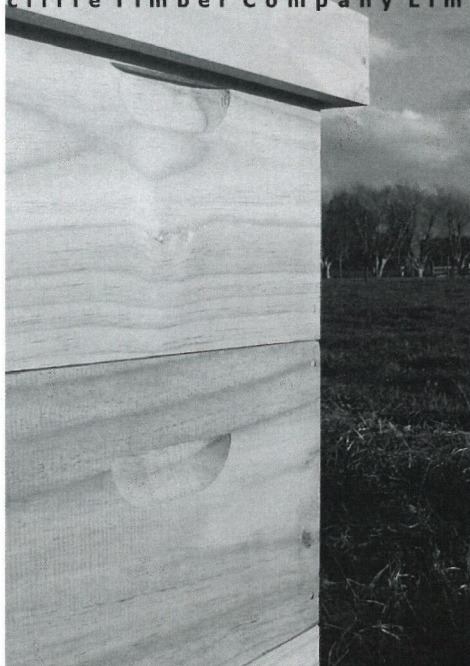
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Continued from page 15

drop for Hive 4 on Dec 24, after honey supers were added on Dec 23, proved to be a robbing event where 5 kgs were taken in the 3-hour periods from 12 noon to 3 pm and also from 3 pm to 6 pm. An additional 3 kg was taken between 6 pm and 9 pm. The average honey production for the season at this site was 62.7 kg/hive.

“ ... we intend to assess the reliability of the Hivemind system for a further season ... ”

We suggest that the lower production at Waituhi this season was related to the 24-hive apiary in close proximity to the site. At Lake Repongaere there were no hives in the same area for the major part of the year. Overall, this has been a challenging year and we intend to assess the reliability of the Hivemind system for a further season before we consider placing it in more remote regions.

### Funding

The Hivemind cost is supported by a farmer-initiated technology transfer (FITT) programme grant from New Zealand Beef and Lamb to Peter Hair.

The platforms and fencing are supplied by Peter Hair.

The plantings and labour are supplied jointly by Peter Hair and the Poverty Bay Branch of the NBA.

Recordkeeping and data analysis are done by John McLean.

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.treesforbeesnz.org/home>

<sup>2</sup> <http://hivemind.co.nz/>

[Editor's note: Photos from the Conference and field day, along with another article on the Trees for Bees project, will be published in an upcoming issue.]



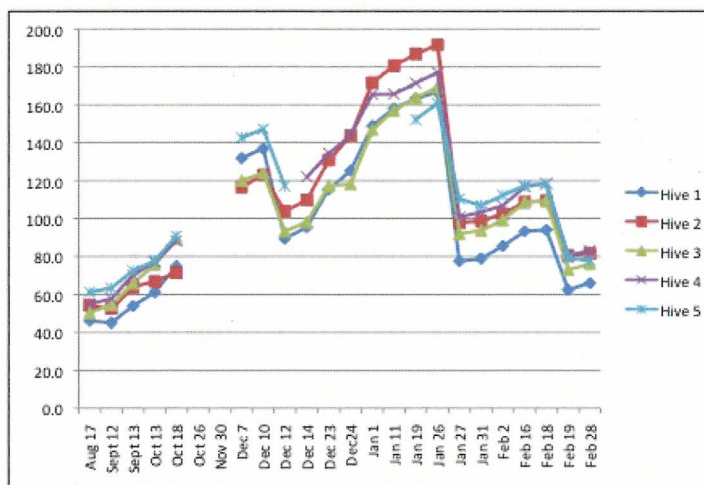
Day and Time of Readings

Solid line: Weight of hive with two bags of builder's sand (55.75Kg)  
Dotted lines +/- 1 kg +1% - stated accuracy

Diurnal variation temperature related in metal scales and electronics

### Lake Repongaere Hive Weight measurements 2013/2014

Hive Weights (Kg)

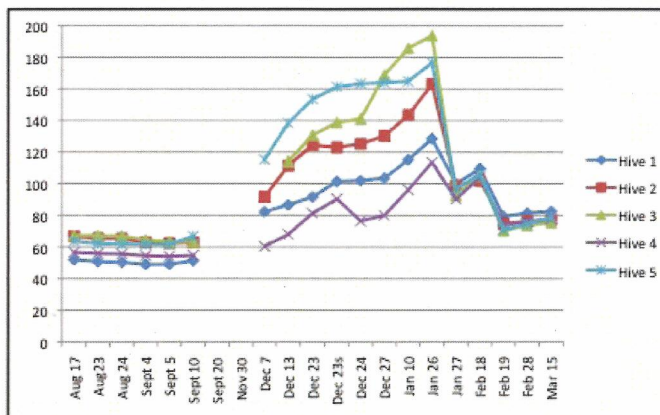


DATE 2013/2014

	Hive 1	Hive 2	Hive 3	Hive 4	Hive 5	Total
Est. wgt honey 2014	126.5	108.4	109.7	81.1	97.3	523.0

### Lavenham Road Hive Weight measurements 2013/2014

Hive Weights (Kg)



DATE 2013/2014

	Hive 1	Hive 2	Hive 3	Hive 4	Hive 5	Total
Est. wgt honey 2014	38.6	61.1	95.5	33.7	84.7	313.6

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## Conference Programme

**SUNDAY 22 JUNE** Hobby Day: Seminars

**MONDAY 23 JUNE** Hobby Day Seminar and field trip

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**Monday specialty meetings:** - *Open to all except where indicated*

**TUESDAY 24 JUNE**

INDUSTRY WORKSHOPS

8:00 am Welcome: Annette Main, Mayor of Wanganui  
8:15 am Greg Mills, GoAhead Business Solutions: Dealing with Government departments  
8:45 am Scott Gallacher, Deputy Director-General, MPI  
9:15 am Lois Ransom, Manager of GIA Secretariat  
10:00 am MORNING TEA  
10:30 am Industry speaker: James Parsons, President of Beef and Lamb  
11:00 am Industry Perspectives: Ricki Leahy, NBA and John Hartnell, BIG  
11:30 am Panel discussion/Workshop: facilitated by Greg Mills  
12:00 pm LUNCH  
1:00 pm Panel discussions (Continued)  
GIA, Peak Industry Body, levy/funding options  
3:00 pm AFTERNOON TEA  
3:30 pm Hon Nathan Guy, Minister for Primary Industries  
4:15 pm Rob Currie, University of Manitoba: Improving our queen bees  
6:00 pm SPONSORS' NIGHT: drinks with nibbles

**WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE**

SCIENCE SEMINARS/UPDATES

8:00–8:30 am Peter Taylor, FarmSafe: Action plans  
8:30–9:00 am Stuart Lindsay, Mid Central Hospital pharmacist: Work plan for allergic reactions  
9:00–9:45 am Professor Phil Lester, Researcher, Victoria University  
9:45–9:55 am Conference Photo  
9:55–10:05 am MORNING TEA  
10:05–10:15 am Linda Ormond, Oritain Global Limited  
10:15–11:00 am Rob Currie, University of Manitoba  
11:00–11:45 am Peter Deardon, Researcher, University of Otago  
11:45 am–12:30 pm Dr Mark Goodwin, Plant & Food Research: How to eliminate AFB from Hamilton  
12:30–1:30 pm LUNCH  
1:30–1:45 pm John Hartnell, Bee Products Standards Council  
1:45–2:00 pm Dr Karyne Rogers, GNS Science  
2:00–2:15 pm Jim Sim, MPI & FSANZ  
2:15–2:30 pm Update on the Giant Willow/Aphids  
2:30–2:45 pm Dr Linda Newstrom-Lloyd, Landcare Research: Trees for Bees  
2:45–3:30 pm Rob Currie, University of Manitoba  
3:30–3:45 pm AFTERNOON TEA  
3:45–4:00 pm Valerie Herno: News from the EPA  
4:00–4:15 UMF® Honey Association: Update on manuka honey  
4:15–4:30 Thanks to those who have attended: End of day  
6:30 pm Pre-dinner drink  
7:00 pm CONFERENCE DINNER

**THURSDAY 26 JUNE**

Federated Farmers Bee Industry Group AGM (8:00–9:30 am), followed by the National Beekeepers Association AGM (9:30 am–5:00 pm)

**WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE**

WORK SAFE WORKSHOPS (*Staff/new commercial beekeepers*)

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*We apologise for the short durations of the seminars and update programme on Wednesday afternoon. So many people wanted to speak that we decided to reduce speaking times to accommodate everyone.*

*The conference committee would like to acknowledge AGMARDT for sponsoring our overseas speakers Greg Mills and Rob Currie.*

### Schedule of meetings, Monday 23 June 2014

8:00 am Desk opens  
9:00 am NZ Queen Bee Producers Assn  
10:15 am NZ Honeybee Pollination Assn AGM  
1:00 pm NZ Honey Packers & Exporters Association Inc AGM  
3:00 pm UMF® Honey Assn Meeting (open meeting)  
4:30 pm Betta Bees (open meeting)



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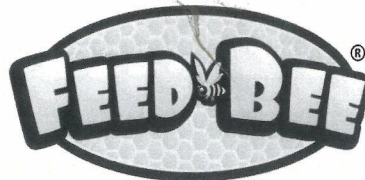
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# Top of the South field day

By Ian Henbrey, Secretary, Nelson Beekeepers Club

Beekeepers from the Golden Bay, Nelson, Tasman and Marlborough regions have enjoyed gathering on two occasions over last spring and summer. Members of the Nelson Beekeepers Club were invited to both gatherings.

The first occasion was a field day in Brightwater in October 2013 featuring queen bee breeding, which was reported on in the May 2014 journal.

In March 2014, Ricki and Lee Leahy hosted a field day at their Murchison property, where we enjoyed a gorgeous summer day and their kind hospitality.

Many appreciated seeing the well-designed honey extraction machinery in operation, the flow through from an efficiently organised honey shed through to the hot room to the extractor and centrifuge, wax separation and treatment areas, and finally to honey storage drums. It is an efficient, clean and tidy setup.

I was impressed with the speed and manoeuvring ability demonstrated with the

loading and unloading of hives using the EZYLoader.

Alex Hislop (not an NBA member) gave a great talk on running two queen hives and the use of oxalic acid to maintain low varroa levels. He made it all sound very straightforward. Cath Ayers spoke on management of breeder queens. And I have had success from applying the suggestions from Ricki's talk on wasp control techniques.

Beekeeper Daniel Levy said later, "It was a really good day and it was very interesting to see such a well thought-out extraction plant in operation and to hear the in-depth talks from experienced beekeepers. I am very glad that I went."

The Nelson Beekeepers Club thanks the Nelson Branch of the NBA for providing these Field Days. 



Photos: supplied by Lynda Hannah (far left and centre) and Daniel Levy (above)

## AGMARDT office moves to Feilding

The AGMARDT office has relocated from Wellington to Feilding. The new office has been established in the NZXAgri HQ building, 8 Weld Street Feilding. New contact details can be found at [www.agmardt.org.nz](http://www.agmardt.org.nz).

AGMARDT (the Agricultural and Marketing Research and Development Trust) is an independent not-for-profit Trust with a vision to 'catalyse and enable compelling innovation and leadership' within the agricultural, horticultural and forestry sectors of New Zealand.

Source: AGMARDT media release, 17 March 2014.

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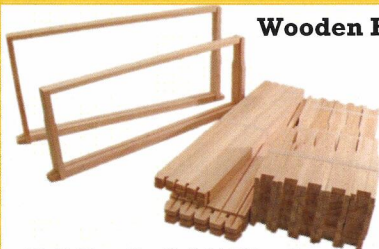
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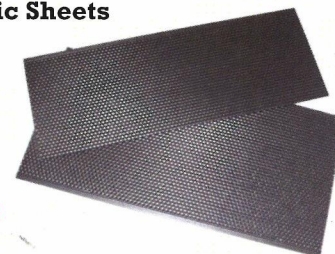
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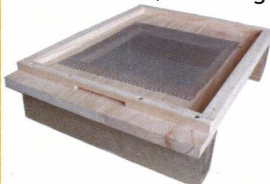


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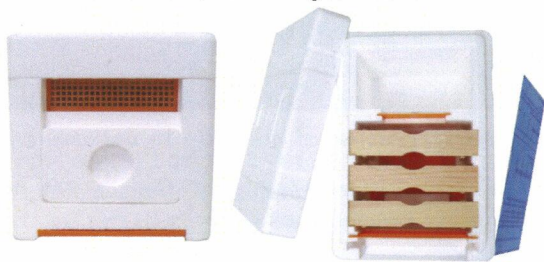
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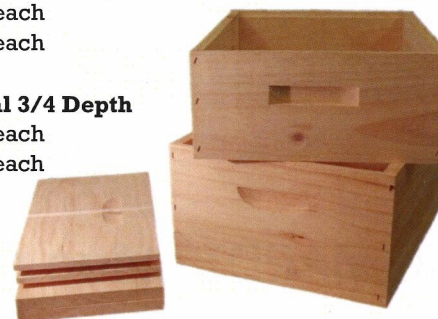
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## Step up and make a contribution

By John Hartnell, Chairman, Federated Farmers New Zealand Bee Industry Group

This notice is for all beekeepers, packers and exporters of apicultural products.

2014 is a year of change; our industry has reached another milestone in its history with a New Zealand National Conference celebrating the apicultural sector and those that support our industry.

The theme is 'Working Together': this means you and your involvement in this critical industry. It is time that all those who work and earn a living from our industry step up to the plate and make a contribution to the future of beekeeping in New Zealand.

The industry as we knew it ten years ago is not what we see today. We have seen unprecedented growth in hive numbers, hundreds of new entrants, a substantial lift in honey prices, a move to Manuka farming of high DHA yield plant stock and with it more challenges to market access, increased levels of honey testing, changing food labelling laws, a proposed change to biosecurity management and the downstream effects that will bring, to name a few.

We must ask these questions:

- what is the best industry structure to lift beekeeping to its rightful position in New Zealand agriculture and horticulture?
- how will [we] fund those critical work elements that will support and grow our industry further?

- how will we ensure that the political framework of our country understands and supports our industry?

You have a choice, and that choice will ultimately impact on your business and that of your fellow beekeeper. Please put aside yesterday and embrace tomorrow: only as a united and strong industry will the future of beekeeping in New Zealand achieve its maximum potential.

Join us in Wanganui, June 22nd to 26th. Have your say, make a difference. Only by 'Working Together' will positive change embrace our future.

*[Editor's note: further information, including the registration form, was published as an insert in the April 2014 edition of The New Zealand BeeKeeper.]*



## Sweet deals.

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# FROM THE COLONIES

## Auckland Branch

The Auckland Branch AGM was held at Waitemata Honey Company's premises at Rosedale on 8 May, with 22 people attending. Graham Cammell, Bob Russell and Mike Sinnock remain as President, Secretary and Treasurer for another year.

The meeting began with a shared meal of pizza provided by the Branch, followed by a showing of a video about using a detector dog to identify hives harbouring AFB. This was of great interest as there is considerable concern about the incidence of AFB in our region, and the video generated a lively discussion. It was decided that the Branch should follow up the idea and investigate the possibility of having a dog trained to work for our beekeepers.

Wasps are also very prevalent this season, and ideas and methods for keeping wasps out of the hives were shared.

Other topics covered were the GIA, and the Auckland Council's proposed bylaws and codes of practice for beekeeping in the region. Graham also gave us a brief overview of the work of the Manuka Honey Labelling Guidelines Working Group.

Altogether it was a lively and very worthwhile meeting.

- Helen Sinnock

## Waikato Branch

The rain has made a huge difference to our lovely Waikato farms. As of 9 May, the temperatures were still in the early 20s so the grass was growing back, the gardens were flowering and the bees were happy.

The rain has made it difficult for those who were still preparing package bees in late April and early May.

As I write the last of the honey was being gathered in, the last hives were coming back from the manuka sites down south, strips were in, feeding is happening and there are very few mites around. The bees are looking pretty bonny. The only worry is the wasps, which are everywhere and big! Hopefully we will get a few decent frosts to kill them soon.

- Barb Cahalane

## Hawke's Bay Branch

We held our AGM in late April and all officeholders remain the same. It's not that I mind doing it but someone with new ideas and a bit of enthusiasm would be good. Under general business, the main topic discussed was the massive increase in hive numbers in Hawke's Bay and what could be done about it.

Most beekeepers have had a particularly good year this year, certainly much better than the two previous years. Wasp numbers are very high but only in limited areas. It was nice to see some sunshine again after 10 days of continuous rain during April, although once again we have not had it as bad as some areas and the rain has certainly made the farmers happy. Overall, it has been one of the warmest, most settled autumns I can ever remember and even with the rain, most sites are still accessible.

- John Berry, Branch President



Common wasp.

## Southern North Island Branch

At a Wanganui Beekeepers Club meeting recently, a member brought along several unusual finds in a hive: a bumble bee, a mouse and a weta, all of which were perfectly preserved and intact.



Left to right: bumble bee, mouse and weta. Photos: Graham Pearson.

Bumble bees are quite often found by members but a mouse and weta are not the average thing you would expect to find inside the hive.

The weather is getting into late autumn and early winter, so it's time to start on the winter jobs. My table saw just gave up the ghost so that's another thing to buy. Like many

smaller-scale beekeepers, I enjoy the woodworking.

## New Zealand Apiculture Industry Conference

We have been contacting firms that have not responded to our earlier information packs. We have achieved a record number of trade displays, mainly, I think, because this is a conference for everyone and manufacturers and others see a real ADVANTAGE in promoting their products.

So now it is up to you to come to conference, not only for the seminars but also for the trade displays and of course, the Farm Safety courses on quad bikes, side-by-side vehicles, 4x4 utes and trucks and a number of other subjects. Courses will be running all day on the Wednesday with hands-on experience. It's good for all of us to learn some new ideas and improve our skills. So come along, be entertained and enjoy Wanganui hospitality.

OOPS: there was a misquote in some of the activities for conference in the May journal. **The Small and Hobby Beekeepers Day is SUNDAY 22 June and the field trips etc are on the Monday 23 June.**

I had the dates correct but somehow put Saturday and Sunday by mistake. On Saturday afternoon, the Conference committee will be running around attending to last-minute things and helping to get sponsors' material on site. We have invited sponsors to forward their bulky material early and we will store it until the Saturday, then deliver anything to the Wanganui Racecourse, ready for setting up displays.

- Neil Farrer, NBA Life Member



## Roy Paterson Trophy

Thinking of entering the competition for the Roy Paterson Trophy at Conference this year?

Go to <http://nba.org.nz/news-events/events/the-roy-paterson-trophy> for background information and an entry form.



# Separating honey and wax

By Frank Lindsay, NBA Life Member

This month we'll look at one of the problems we encounter during processing, now that hives have been wintered down and most of the other issues have been sorted.

One of the challenges that beekeepers in small- to medium-size operations experience during extracting is the separation of wax from honey.

All beekeepers are faced with this problem one way or another, no matter how big their operation. Some honey is always attached to the cappings and can be lost in the processing of the wax. If we can eliminate this loss, we produce more honey and therefore a greater profit. Business is all about eliminating losses, whether in production or time.

When starting off as a hobbyist, it's fairly easy to use a nylon stocking (a one-use filter), and then advance to stainless steel mesh filters that fit into 20-litre pails. These work well for small amounts. When the honey is cool, this process can be assisted by using a hair dryer or a hot air gun briefly waved over the honey to warm it up a little, so that it flows faster through the filter(s). Leave the filters to drain and place any wax residue into a top feeder on a hive for the bees to clean out. The bees retrieve the honey and you are left with nice dry flakes of wax that can be melted in a water bath, with no loss of honey. Filters are quick and easy to clean with cold water.

As one's operation increases in size, one tends to graduate to several or a line of 'sock' filters. Honey flows into the first and as wax builds up on the inner surface, it gradually

blocks the filter so the honey flows into the next. (These filters work better if the honey is warmed through a heat exchanger.) When honey starts flowing into the last filter, it's time to rub the surface of the first filter to dislodge the fine flakes of wax away from the mesh. Then squeeze the bag to remove the honey. Work the wax inside the filter to the bottom so it becomes an effective filter again, and so on down the line.

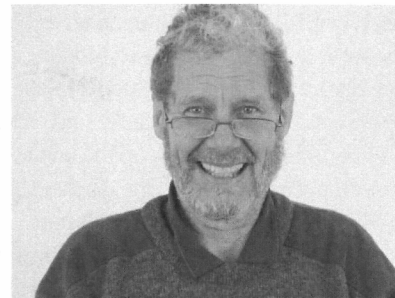
Unfortunately, this takes time and can slow processing but is a fairly cheap option, although sticky. Filters are left to drain overnight and the residue can be put on a hive to clean up, but most prefer to put it in a hot top (explained below) to recover the wax and honey. Putting wax from a number of colonies into hives to clean up becomes a risk if there is AFB in the area. We use Nybolt 400-micron bags taped at the seams to give greater strength (purchased 20 years ago and still in use). Connect the filter to a Hansen plug-in pipe connection unit with a screw-type stainless steel radiator hose clip.

To process the wax, make a simple hot top, which consists of an insulated cabinet with 500-watt bathroom heat lamps over the top of a fine food-grade mesh or netting that sits on top of a small frame. Cappings are placed on top and as the cappings are heated, the honey and finally the wax flows away from the wax/propolis/pupal silk residue—known as slum gum. If the honey runs away out of the cabinet into a pail, the heat does not compromise its quality.

### Other options

Another option is to install a large tank and allow time for the wax cappings to rise to the surface. Pump off from the bottom and stop pumping as soon as you see tiny wax particles coming through the pipe. The disadvantage is you still have to clean out the tank and process the wax in some way to remove the last of the honey. But this method saves time as it is done at the end of a week's processing.

Australians tend to use a hot top melter, which sits in the top of their settling tank and uses steam or hot water to melt the wax floating on the surface of the honey coming



out of the uncapper. The melted wax is floated off into moulds.

The drawback is that this process heats the honey in the top of the tank to a high temperature (63°C), which can cause the HMF (hydroxymethylfurfural) level to rise, slightly darkening the honey. However, this doesn't seem to be a problem in Australia as they rely on a high throughput to stop any deterioration of the honey. The little bit that does get heated doesn't seem to worry them as most of their honey is sold as runny honey.

The cost of this process is having a unit big enough to produce enough continuous steam or hot water to melt the wax. Time is saved in that it's a continuous process done during extraction. At the end of the day, the sump tank is left to cool and any surface wax, once solidified, is skimmed off. Swienty manufactures an electric cappings wax melter for mid-range beekeepers: go to <http://www.swienty.com>

At the top of the range are machines that continuously remove the honey and wax using centrifugal force. Cook & Beals Ltd (<http://www.cooknbeals.com>) introduced a large cappings spinner many years ago and now similar units are produced by a number of manufacturers, as well as two manufactured here in New Zealand. →



*Small honey sump with baffles removed.*

Another type and more compact model was produced by Ross Ward, dubbed the 'hummer' (now superseded by a horizontal model), which works well but requires a constant flow of honey and wax through them. Like all machinery, you soon find out how it works best after a few spills. I still use a filter when first starting up the unit as there's always a bit of wax in the machine following a dump and clean. After about 60 kg of honey, the filter is bypassed until a dump is initiated at the end of the day. The drawback for me is the time spent cleaning the unit between extractions. I haven't quite mastered the injection of a pail of warm honey to restart the machine without stripping it.

**Before altering a plant or planning a new one, check manufacturers' websites and visit some NZ honey houses.**

In my system, the honey is pumped from a tank below the extractor through a small heat exchange at the back of the stainless drums (which heat the honey to 4°C) into the top of the hummer. Wax drops into the bin at the base (assisted with a fine spray of water). Honey flows out the bottom into a stainless steel tank and is then pumped up to the filters. For small runs, I leave the honey in the drums to settle overnight (to allow any dross to rise to the surface), then pump it into a stirring tank before it is drummed.



*A rotary honey strainer produced by Peter Boutelje. This photo was taken in Don Tweeddale's honey house.*



*My honey house in 2010. The 'hummer' (old model) spinner is on the right with the final filtering system over the tanks. The looping pipes at the front are now tucked underneath. I run the first 60 kg through and then bypass the filters as the wax in the hummer acts as a filter and use the filters again during the dump, which drains the last of the honey from the hummer at the end of the day. Photos: Frank Lindsay.*

Another type of unit uses an Archimedes' screw. Honey and cappings wax are gradually pushed along a filtering tube by a slowly rotating screw. Honey runs off while the wax is gradually pushed to the end, where it is compressed to remove the last bit of honey and the wax is extruded out the end in a dry state. Tiny wax particles can get through the filtering screen, but these are separated out using a large filter bag that is changed daily. The unit is easy to clean with a high-pressure wash.

I first saw one of these in action at Kintail Honey's plant in Takapau, Hawke's Bay. I was very impressed but it was too big for our small processing room and required three-phase power. However, there are now single-phase models available that easily cope with 140 boxes a day and cost a lot less than a cappings spinner.


Broken lugs during extraction can be a pain. Some beekeepers hammer a nail in place so that the frames can proceed through the plant. Like all filters and pumps, if a nail or plastic frame lug goes through the unit, they can damage the filter screen. The safest option is not to process any frame with a broken lug, or else watch them carefully as they go through. These machines are fairly compact and take a lot of hassle out of the extracting process.

This still leaves the dry wax to process, which is bagged in muslin and put into a water bath (Norm Finlay makes a tidy unit). After 12 hours the bags are weighted down and the wax floated off into moulds. The bags are lifted and allowed to drain and the residue in the bags is composted into the garden.

Before altering a plant or planning a new one, look at all the manufacturers' websites around the world. Some have floor plans to assist you in your planning: check out [www.cowenmfg.com](http://www.cowenmfg.com).

Also, visit a number of honey houses around New Zealand so you have a good idea of what you need and then firm up on your plan. Most commercial beekeepers have been through this process and are happy to assist.

### Things to do this month

Make up and prepare gear for replacement or increase. Check hives after storms. Check to see that your mite treatments have worked. Those beekeepers in the first three years of acute phase of varroa mites can expect your bees to collect honey during the winter from dying feral hives. But there is a downside if this happens, as without additional treatments, your hives could also be lost to mite re-invasion. 

# NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSN OF NZ (Inc.) EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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**NBA Branches: First named is President/Chairperson. The second named is Secretary.**

## NORTHLAND

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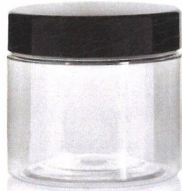
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## APIMONDIA OCEANIA COMMISSION

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360ml Round Pot



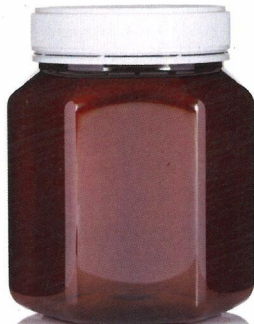
500gm Round Jar



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

# NEW ZEALAND'S MOST EXTENSIVE RANGE OF HONEY PACKAGING

Pharmapac's range of export quality packaging for honey has now expanded to contain square, hex & round jars. Sizes range from 250gm - 2kg.

Pharmapac is a New Zealand owned company, with more than 30 years in the business of designing, manufacturing and producing plastic packaging solutions for not only local, but an ever growing list of international clients.

All of our products are manufactured in our ISO9001-2008 accredited facility in Auckland, New Zealand.

**No supply contracts are required.**

Pharmapac follows well defined parameters of quality, conforming to various national and international standards. As these standards change, we work with our suppliers to continue to meet these requirements.

*For more information or product samples please contact us at:*

**Pharmapac Limited**  
88 Wairau Road  
Glenfield  
Auckland 0627

+ 64 9 444 9631  
sales@pharmapac.co.nz



Quality  
ISO 9001

\* Our stock jar colours are amber & clear. Stock closure colours are white, blue, gold, green & black. For your own custom coloured closures, a minimum order of 5000 units will apply.