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Front cover: South Wairarapa Mayor Adrienne Staples getting ready to plant wildflower seeds in the South Wairarapa District Council's bee-friendly garden. More than 30 councils across New Zealand participated in the Bee Aware Month Council Challenge. Photo: Donald Yee.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WORKING THROUGH THE CHANGES

Ricki Leahy, NBA President

The resounding call for change from within the industry is being acted on with great intensity, keeping those working on the details to make those changes very busy indeed.

I do realise that many of you might be frustrated waiting to see the changes that will be proposed. It is human nature to have a little fear of change but if we remain patient and exercise a little courage, I am sure that the final outcome will benefit us all in one way or another.

Our industry currently is going through a transitional period. However, the end goal remains the same as laid down by the Interim Working Group: to deliver to all industry stakeholders an industry structure to establish and achieve a fully inclusive, fully funded organisation that will be a strong platform for future growth and prosperity.

The Interim Working Group has now completed its task of presenting its recommended industry model. This was given strong approval at conference and at the annual general meetings of NBA, BIG and the Honey Packers and Exporters (HPEA).

The work towards reaching the industry goal of attaining a single representative body is now being undertaken by the interim Apiculture Industry Governance Board (AIGB).

It is so encouraging to have strong constitutional and governance expertise within the newly appointed AIGB, along with some fresh ideas and positive intent to work through the restructuring process. The rules of the NBA are being rewritten to make them more transparent and acceptable to all sectors of the industry. The approval of these changes will be the final step in the transition process.

Everybody in the industry should feel that they have an equal opportunity to participate without feeling marginalised in any way. The structure will allow each of us to identify a sector that represents our interests, and also to have sector representation on the board with a system for ideas or concerns to reach the decision makers.

Everybody in the industry should feel that they have an equal opportunity to participate without feeling marginalised in any way.

At the same time, it is very encouraging that the first of the bimonthly face-to-face meetings of the NBA and BIG executives has proved to be very constructive. It is important that these two executives communicate and work together, as well as continue to make positive decisions that will align us towards the restructured entity. This process has started with transforming the NBA committees into what are now known as focus groups.

All of us will need to work through these changes as they happen. The main thing is to keep the attention on the important existing projects that give strategic value to industry. A positive aspect is that when we reach the goal date of 1 April 2016, when the new entity will 'open for business,' the focus groups would have already metamorphosed, thus creating a seamless change. The business of the focus groups is to work on issues that benefit the entire industry, and this should continue as usual from 1 April 2016.

Funding mechanisms

There is no doubt in my mind that future industry success will depend on striking some kind of a levy, whether on beehives, production or a combination of both. Most other primary industries either already have some sort of levy or are in the process of establishing one. This funding mechanism provides organisations with an extremely valuable resource to make progress on industry matters that give protection and strength to their members.

For the same reasons, our apiculture industry also needs to be well funded. The industry has matured in many ways and we are far more profitable than we were 20 years ago.

Without question, we can afford a levy. As a point of interest, when the question was asked at conference, most beekeepers indicated they were expecting to pay some sort of a levy.

However, to adopt our new industry structure would not necessarily depend on the imposition of a levy. Either way, our new entity will obviously have to kick off with funding based on some level of subscription. Perhaps in the interim, a voluntary levy of some description could be called for to fund research and other industry-good activities. It must be noted that funding from a levy and being well resourced would be a substantial advantage to us all.

Any decision on a commodity levy can only be made by going through the Commodities Act process very carefully. All cost projections and the reasoning behind them will need to be communicated with all proposed levy payers in order to achieve a mandate.

Please understand that even before we can make progress towards striking a levy, we need to become a united industry under a structure suited to us all. Otherwise, which of our present organisations will instigate proceedings, and who will fund the process? We would soon revert to square one, having got nowhere … again.

If you are a hobbyist beekeeper, please don't be alarmed by all this levy talk. Levies will apply only to the commercial sector. There is no value in collecting levies if administration costs outweigh the funds collected.

Don't forget to take part in the NZ Colony Loss and Survival Survey. You can find more information on page 21.

The days are getting longer and suddenly the bees are making queen cell cups and wanting to swarm. To save yourself extra work, try keeping up with your bees by giving them ample space early. Happy beekeeping.

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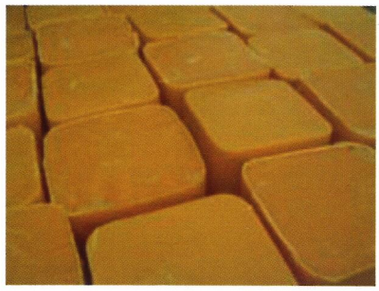

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INDUSTRY UNIFICATION

NEW APICULTURE PEAK BODY ONE STEP CLOSER

The apiculture industry is one step closer to forming a new industry association following the inaugural meeting of the interim Apiculture Industry Governance Board (AIGB).

The AIGB, which met for the second time last month, has been tasked with establishing the new entity by the target date of April 1, 2016.

This follows the recent 2015 Apiculture Industry Conference at which delegates indicated overwhelmingly that they favoured 'unification' and the establishment of a new peak body for the industry.

The new AIGB comprises 11 members from the apiculture industry and an independent chair who also has industry experience.

Board members were selected by an independent consultant after applying for their roles following the 2015 conference. Full details of the board are available on www.beeunified.org.

The AIGB is operating to a terms of reference that focuses solely on the creation and establishment of the new industry organisation.

They are working to a tight deadline and there is a lot of work to do in coming months to ensure the organisation is 'open for business' by the due date.

A key priority is to draft a proposed constitution and rules for the new organisation.

Because the NBA is being used as a 'platform' for the new organisation, the new rules and organisational structure will be based on the NBA's, but they will be modernised and updated to reflect the wider apiculture industry as it is in 2015.

This will require NBA members to formally approve the new constitution and rules through a special vote that will be held later this year.

In the meantime, a detailed work plan is being developed to project manage the development of the new organisation over coming months, and support its first year of existence through to March 31, 2017.

Once finalised, that work plan will be posted on the beeunified.org website along with regular updates about the AIGB's progress.

MEET THE INTERIM APICULTURE INDUSTRY GOVERNANCE BOARD

Following are brief biographies of each of the interim members of the AIGB.

Member biographies, and their photographs, are on the NZ Apiculture Industry Unification Project website beeunified.org

Neil Walker – Independent Chairperson

Neil is the director of Food Standards Australia and New Zealand, the chair of Manuka Research Partnerships Ltd, and is a sixth-term Taranaki Regional Councillor. He is currently in the process of developing a large scale manuka centre in Taranaki.

Neil is a Justice of the Peace and an RMA Hearings Commissioner with full accreditation, and understands the processes of getting agreement and achieving natural justice. Having a coherent and successful apiculture industry with successful operators dovetails with his Primary Growth Partnership roles and fits in with his strong personal commitment to make the back country of New Zealand as successful and prosperous as the dairy industry.

Bryan King

Bryan is a self-employed mediator/arbitrator/barrister. He has extensive governance experience in specific industry governance bodies, in which issues about the boundaries between collaboration and competition, different needs of different industry players, coordination of lobbying, and infrastructure development, often arise.

Bryan is a hobbyist beekeeper with a longstanding interest in apiculture, sparked by family members' involvement in beekeeping. He has the impression that supporting collaboration in areas where all industry players will benefit, and where those players are accustomed to and proud of their independence, will raise some really interesting questions and challenges for the Board.

Christopher Stuckey

Christopher, who is currently Sales and Exports Manager at Waitemata Honey Co Ltd, is a relatively new member of the apiculture industry, and is passionate about establishing a long-term career in the industry. Christopher has theoretical knowledge of management processes, as well as practical experience from running the extracting plant for a season and from being the senior worker in the packing plant.

He would like to see a strong, united industry capable of facing current challenges head on, as he believes that New Zealand honey is a great product, and that beekeeping provides many benefits to the community in terms of pollination and sustainability.

Dave Wrathall

Dave is the Managing Director of Ecrotek Ltd, a recently formed company as a result of a merger of Ecroyd Beekeeping Supplies and Beetek Ltd. Dave brings a level of commercial insight and critical thinking to the board, based on over 30 successful years in business across a variety of industries. Dave's core competence is sales, marketing and business strategy, and therefore brings a focus on "value to the customer" to the interim board.

Dave entered the industry in early 2013, and sees an industry which is ready for further maturation and professionalism. He believes it's important that the industry continues to grow in a healthy and well-governed manner, as it represents an opportunity to make a significant contribution to the New Zealand economy.

Dennis Crowley

Dennis is currently vice president of the National Beekeepers Association, and was also a member of the industry unification Interim Working Group. Dennis has been a commercial beekeeper since 1997. He has developed good relationships within the kiwifruit industry around pollination and how beekeepers and growers can help each other out.

Dennis has been a long-time advocate for industry unification, and believes the board can design a model that will see the apiculture industry move forward for the next 100 years.

John Hartnell

John has a forty-year involvement in apiculture, including beekeeping, domestic and export packing, export development and sales. Since 1990, his business, Hartnell & Associates Ltd., has been solely export driven.

He is currently Chair of the Federated Farmers Bee Industry Group, and was a FF National Board Member from 2007-2011, responsible for Biosecurity, Food Safety and GMO portfolios, and the NAIT Stakeholder Governance Board. John also works as a consultant to small/medium sized industry on business governance, staff management and future direction.

He believes that as the industry steps forward, it will be paramount that the structure, constitution and rules of engagement for industry are clearly defined, modern, and form a strong platform from which future generations can prosper and grow.

Kim Poynter

Kim is a Registered Nurse and an owner operator of retirement villages and rest homes for 28 years. She has held governance positions in both public and private health, and runs a consultant services business within the aged care industry, covering structure, operations, financial and quality management.

Kim is also a hobbyist beekeeper, has completed the Certificate in Apiculture, and is the President of the Rotorua Honey Bee club. Beekeeping is Kim's hobby and passion. She believes having quality education and support available to hobbyists is essential, and that as the majority of registered beekeepers are hobbyists, the emphasis on meeting those needs within the wider industry must not be underestimated.

Moira Haddrell

Moira owns and operates Cambridge Bee Products Ltd with her husband, operating 3250 hives and selling their products in the export market. Prior to this, Moira was a primary school teacher from 1987–1995.

Moira has a skill set that will assist with the unification through being involved in all aspects of the beekeeping industry. She has also been involved in governance roles within the beekeeping industry on the Unique Manuka Factor Honey Association, and the working groups with the Manuka honey industry.

Moira is keen to see the beekeeping industry become one of the best primary industries in New Zealand.

Peter Luxton

Peter is the Independent Chairperson of the Unique Manuka Factor Honey Association (UMFHA). He has extensive experience in primary based industries, domestic and internationally based. This includes senior executive roles and multiple governance roles, including with pan-industry organisations.

He was a senior executive within Zespri, including while the industry transitioned from a multi exporter to a single-desk model. Peter is currently a government appointee on the NZ Horticulture Export Authority (HEA).

Peter has gained first-hand knowledge of the honey industry in his previous role as Independent Commissioner in the UMFHA from 2011–2014, and in his current role.

Ricki Leahy

Ricki is a commercial beekeeper successfully producing honey in the Buller Region of the South Island. His company produces honeydew, multi floral bush honey and some manuka. They raise most of their own queens and migrate their bees from the coast through to the high country.

Ricki sees how the industry was held back from moving forward on several key issues by simply not being able to speak with a single united voice, and is therefore keen to see the apiculture industry united, and the benefits that unification will bring.

Ricki is currently the President of the National Beekeepers Association. As President he has taken the opportunity to build on the efforts of the two previous presidents by progressing industry unification. One significant advancement was the instigation of a united industry conference, and the other was the formation of the Bee Industry Advisory Council (BIAC) with its accompanying MOU, which has provided the initial framework to work together.

Sean Goodwin

Sean is the Chief Executive of 100% Pure New Zealand Honey Ltd. Sean has been a member of the GS1 New Zealand Board for the past four years, representing the food and grocery sector. In this role, Sean provides governance and strategic direction for the executive team.

He brings a mix of large multinational and small, privately owned commercial experience, as well as experience with financial reporting, governance and interaction with government agencies, not-for-profit and community based boards. Sean is passionate about NZ business and the potential for an innovation-led future. Sean and his company believe a unified industry body is necessary to develop governance and processes required to ensure long-term sustainability and profitability.

Tony Wright

Tony is the General Manager Technical of Comvita, the only NZX-listed company with a focus on bee products. Tony has eight years of experience within Comvita, working in areas of quality assurance, laboratory management, regulatory affairs, product development, innovation, research and marketing.

As a member of the senior management team, Tony also has a broader role across the business and has represented Comvita on the UMFHA executive for several years. Tony is the main contact point for interaction with MPI and industry matters. He is also a member of the Bee Products Standards Council.

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INDUSTRY UNIFICATION

UNIFICATION COSTS QUESTIONED

Southland Branch of the NBA

At our branch meeting on 9 August 2015, some serious concerns were raised regarding the process undertaken towards industry unification. We would like to express our concerns regarding the process in which decisions are being made by the Executive Council (EC).

We understand that the budget that was approved at the AGM was not first presented and approved by the EC and subsequent expenditure has not been properly authorised. We would like answers to the following points:

1. what total expenditure has been budgeted and approved by the EC for the unification project?
2. how much of this expenditure has already been spent?
3. what are the contributions of the other industry bodies?

We are also concerned:

1. to hear the appointment of the industry governance board was undertaken without the EC meeting and approving the potential candidates
2. the independent board is heavily biased to Federated Farmers, especially the appointment of the chair.

Our Branch is behind the unification effort, but we are left feeling we are meeting the significant costs of the project and not driving the agenda. Is it a case of the 'tail wagging the dog'?

GREATER TRANSPARENCY NEEDED

Roger Bray

I am responding to the President's report and the information about the formation of the interim AIGB [IGB] in the September issue of *The New Zealand BeeKeeper*.

Whilst these items are factual, it disturbs me that the 'professionalism' displayed at the joint NBA/Federated Farmers Bee Industry Group (BIG) meeting was lacking. Most beekeepers would support the rationalisation of the industry under one body; unity is a separate issue. Industry participants should be able to observe transparency and integrity as the steps to forming one organisation take place. The joint NBA/FF BIG meeting agenda did not identify **all** the items for discussion and provided **insufficient** background material that would enable participants to reach 'informed decisions'.

It appears from the President's report that the appointment of the interim Apiculture Industry Governance Board was a task that was transparent and an 'independent' process. As a participant at the joint meeting, I was surprised at the inclusion of this topic as a 'last-minute' non-agenda item. We were provided no background material until the meeting and were expected to 'endorse' a recommendation that we had less than two minutes to read. Surely, sound decision making is a result of a consideration of background material and robust discussion of relevant information.

It is unfortunate that the 'independent chairman', Mr Bruce Wills (former Federated Farmers National President), may not have been *all* that independent. This is a departure from what has been presented to all beekeepers via the 'Unification Project, Information Pack' which states (p. 6) **What would happen to the NBA?** "The EC, branches and sub committees will need to continue as is until the AIGB and appropriate sector groups are open for business 1 April 2016." **However,** the chairman led discussion with a view to having NBA committees **include** 'representatives from FF BIG'. Whilst **we all agreed** it is beneficial that passionate people with skills and ability progress the work of the NBA committees, the appointment of personnel on a 'political' basis does not necessarily promote the 'unity' that is being strived for.

The chairman later acknowledged that there had been shortcomings at the meeting and there was a need to 'smarten up' on the professional issues.

I accept that the President's report should not incorporate the content that I have highlighted. Given all the hype surrounding unification and some people suggesting the industry gets more professional, it does appear that there is a need for our industry leaders to look into the mirror.

As the industry moves forward, transparency of processes can be displayed by the inclusion on the website of meeting agendas and background information, as well as minutes of the meetings available for all those who are interested. That way, potential levy payers should be shown that the 'new' organisation is trustworthy to administer **$1.5 million** of levy payers' money.

At the moment it does appear that the apiculture industry is in a state of turmoil, saying one thing and doing something completely different. There is a lot of 'misleading information' that could taint the 'new' organisation and wind up with the beekeeping industry becoming further fragmented by the start-up of yet another organisation, the AIGB.

The reality is that a simple amalgamation of NBA and Federated Farmers BIG into one organisation is probably all that beekeepers desire, rather than a complicated overarching body and seven sector groups that is beginning to look like an expensive bureaucracy.

READ ON!

See pages 11 and 12 for further information about industry unification, including an article from NBA Chief Executive Officer Daniel Paul that addresses the issues raised above, and a call to action from the interim Apiculture Industry Governance Board.

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INDUSTRY UNIFICATION

MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT INDUSTRY UNIFICATION

Daniel Paul, NBA Chief Executive Officer

There are a number of rumours circulating about the industry unification process. Unfortunately, most are incorrect as most rumours tend to be. But they are being actively circulated by people with their own political agendas and who don't wish unification to proceed as proposed. That is unfortunate and does little to foster the cohesive industry that delegates at the last two industry conferences have called for so overwhelmingly.

Industry participants seeking up-to-date information on the process should regularly visit beeunified.org for the latest details of the progress of the interim Apiculture Industry Governance Board (AIGB), the independent body that is tasked with developing the new entity.

To set the record straight. The NBA EC is continuing to hold meetings to oversee the affairs of the Association, and it has also started meeting with its counterparts at FFNZ BIG as part of working together on industry issues. These joint meetings are likely to occur every two months. Unfortunately, there were certain parties present at the initial meeting who chose to express their concerns in a negative manner. But the business of the NBA, and the process of unification, is being—and will be—managed appropriately by those charged with this responsibility.

Neither the NBA, FFNZ BIG nor the Honey Packers and Exporters Association (HPEA), can sway the workings of the AIGB, which is working independently. The AIGB's terms of reference are to develop the new entity so it's ready for business by April 1 2016, and it is using the NBA organisational structure as the 'design platform' for the new entity.

So NBA members can be confident the best bits of the NBA will be kept and folded into the new entity as was promised at the most recent conference.

Now let's deal with some myths that we understand are circulating, and present some facts, below:

MYTHS	FACTS
NBA Branches will be disestablished.	There is no intention to disestablish the Branch structure. The NBA is to be used as a 'design platform' for the new entity, as per NOM #1. The plan for the new entity recognises the value and importance of regional representation for meetings, information sharing, workshops, seminars and field days.
Unification is being driven by BIG.	The 2014 and 2015 apiculture industry conference attendees showed overwhelming support for unification from all quarters. The NBA AGM voted to support unification using the NBA as the platform, refer NOM #1. The BIG supported this through a like NOM at their AGM, as did the Honey Packers and Exporters Association (HPEA).
NBA is fronting up all the money #1.	The NBA has contributed to costs so far, as have other parties, including FFNZ BIG and the HPEA, which have invested hundreds of hours into this process. Private individuals and companies have also supported the process with funds.
NBA is fronting up all the money #2.	Funds to continue the process are coming from proceeds from the 2015 conference, the FFNZ BIG, the HPEA, and from private individuals and companies. In addition, an application to the Honey Industry Trust has been made with a decision pending.
The budget that was approved at the AGM was not first presented and approved by the EC and subsequent expenditure has not been properly authorised.	This is incorrect. The 2015 budget that was presented at the 2015 AGM was moved and approved at the EC meeting of June 16, 2015. That budget includes funds earmarked for unification. Spending on unification is within budget.
The new body may decide not to use the NBA as the agreed 'platform'.	The initial meeting of the interim Apiculture Industry Governance Board (AIGB) which is tasked with developing the new entity, was very firm on this point. The NBA **MUST** be used as the platform as per NOM #1.
NBA Executive Council sub-committees are ceasing to operate.	These sub-committees, now renamed **focus groups**, are continuing to operate. However, in the spirit of co-operation with FFNZ BIG, they now include, where appropriate, FFNZ BIG representatives and or other skilled individuals. This seems sensible because the focus groups are working on exactly the same industry issues that FFNZ BIG are working on. And we're supposed to be coming together as an industry.

continued...

MYTHS	FACTS
The NBA EC did not know who was going to be on the AIGB.	This is actually TRUE. They did not. This was deliberate. A totally independent consultant was used to review and assess the Expressions of Interest that were received for the AIGB roles. That consultant made the selection based on accepted **best practice criteria for governance role responsibilities**. An independent consultant was used deliberately to avoid any suggestion of partiality or favouritism.
The independent board (AIGB) is heavily biased to Fed Farmers. Especially the appointment of the chair.	That is totally incorrect. The 11 members of the AIGB are clearly identified on the beeunified.org website. Federated Farmers and FFNZ BIG are significantly under-represented. Neil Walker has been selected as the independent chair of the AIGB. Neil has considerable governance experience in a variety of roles and sectors and is highly respected. He does not have any relationship with Federated Farmers.
The NBA's EC is not aware of what's going on.	The NBA EC is still running the affairs of the NBA. It is also meeting regularly with FFNZ BIG to discuss issues of mutual, industry interest. The AIGB is being run as a totally separate entity to either the NBA or FFNZ BIG. The AIGB's task is to develop the new entity using the NBA structure as the "design platform". It has received funding from a variety of sources. Any and all NBA funding to it has been or will be approved by the NBA EC.

INDUSTRY UNIFICATION

ARE WE LISTENING?

Interim Apiculture Industry Governance Board

The groundswell for unification has been building since the NBA Conference, Nelson 2010. This was soundly reinforced at the inaugural 'Working Together' Apiculture Industry Conference in Wanganui 2014 and ratified by attendees. Unification was also supported at the annual general meetings of the key industry associations at the New Zealand Apiculture Conference in Taupo this year. The message was simple: "unification – yes … and get on with it – now".

The work of the interim Apiculture Industry Governance Board has commenced. The AIGB is operating to a very tight deadline, with the finish date set at 31 March 2016.

It is undeniable that our industry is facing unprecedented growth, substantial change and increasing Government attention. We must ask ourselves some key questions: are we prepared? Are we organised? And can we meet these challenges?

Of the 5,500 (and growing) beekeepers in New Zealand, fewer than 800 belong to the two industry associations that currently aspire to serve their needs.

By comparison with other industries and professions, this is a very poor turnout. Just 15 percent of industry members believe it's worth paying to join a representative body. It could be described as voting with their wallets, but clearly the vast majority of the apiculture industry made its choice.

Of the 5,500 (and growing) beekeepers in New Zealand, fewer than 800 belong to the two industry associations that currently aspire to serve their needs.

That's not to denigrate either the NBA or FFNZ BIG; rather, it adds weight to the argument that we absolutely need professionalism and a single and strong voice, to take our rightful place as one of New Zealand's agri-sector leaders.

So, on the one hand, we have industry stakeholders declining to join either of the two organisations that can support them. Which means our industry fails to present that compelling voice to government on the various issues that affect our industry.

And there is no question we need to talk to government on issues like market access, biosecurity, labour shortages, health and safety, honey imports, manuka standards, etc, etc.

While on the other hand, we have government desperately wanting to talk to industry about the various issues industry faces, but not being able to do so because neither existing body actually represents industry.

Are we listening? At the last two industry conferences, we have heard—loudly and clearly from delegates—that they want a single, unified and influential industry organisation. **It is now time to act.**

Our industry is no longer what it was in the last century; in fact, it bears little resemblance even to the industry of the early 2000s.

Things are moving fast in the apiculture industry and the stakes are very high now. There is more money in the business, more risk, more diversification, more opportunity and a big future, provided we can deliver.

More than ever, we need a strong, unified and influential voice. There is no alternative.

Our industry has spoken!

BEE AWARE MONTH

WANGANUI CLUB COMPETITION 'SUPER'

Neil Farrer, NBA Life Member

As part of its contribution to Bee Aware Month, the Wanganui Beekeepers Club again held a competition for primary school children, which started in early September. Twenty nine schools expressed an interest in participating.

Each school received a honey super for each syndicate in the school to paint or decorate following the theme 'Feed the Bees'. In all, the club prepared 100 three-quarter-depth honey boxes and issued them to schools around the city and district.

Schools enthusiastically joined into the spirit of the competition, which is graded for different levels of primary schools. Some schools have made up a full programme on bees, pollination and honey, as well as painting the boxes supplied by the club.

Pictured are some of the completed supers that will be entered into the competition. It is expected to have close to 100 supers on display, and there will be an auction in October to sell off the boxes.

Neil Farrer with a sample of the honey boxes supplied to schools. Photo supplied by the Wanganui Beekeepers Club.

BEE AWARE MONTH

KIWIS KEEN TO FEED THE BEES

Lauren Crimp, NBA Management Team

September's Bee Aware Month has once again proved a popular success, with the country welcoming this year's 'Feed the Bees' message.

This year, we spread the word about how every New Zealander can, and is encouraged to, pitch in to help feed their local bees by planting 'bee friendly' plants in our gardens, on our farms, in our public gardens and along our roadsides. We received overwhelmingly positive feedback via social media, e-mails and phone calls from the public, keen to learn more about how they can help feed the bees, and spread the word to their community.

The Bee Aware Month Facebook page was very successful, and combined with national print and radio coverage, public awareness of the need to feed the bees has been increased substantially. Sales of wildflower seeds have also gone through the roof!

Bee Aware Month events have been occurring all around the country, from small towns to big cities, at farmers' markets, in libraries, schools and councils. Thanks to everyone who's been involved!

Council Challenge

The Bee Aware Month Council Challenge proved a hit, with over 30 councils around the country getting on board to help feed the bees. This involved each council dedicating a patch of land in their community to a 'bee-friendly garden', and planting it with wildflower seeds which we provided. The cover of this journal shows South Wairarapa District Council's garden, with Mayor Adrienne Staples getting ready to plant.

Some councils took it a step further, with Mackenzie District Council planting a whole berm in Fairlie, and Porirua City Council covering an area of the cemetery in wildflower seeds. We look forward to seeing these in bloom.

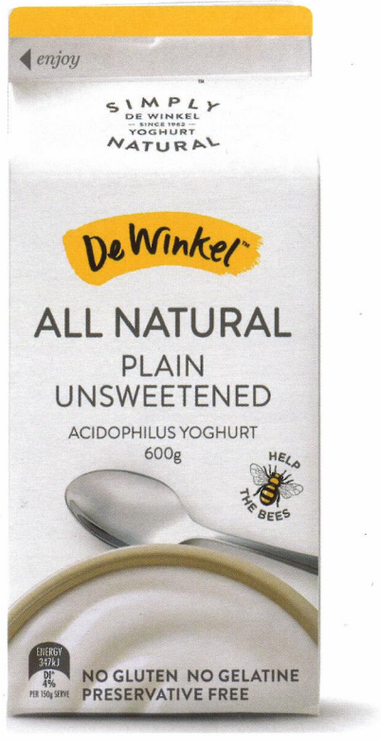
School Photo Competition

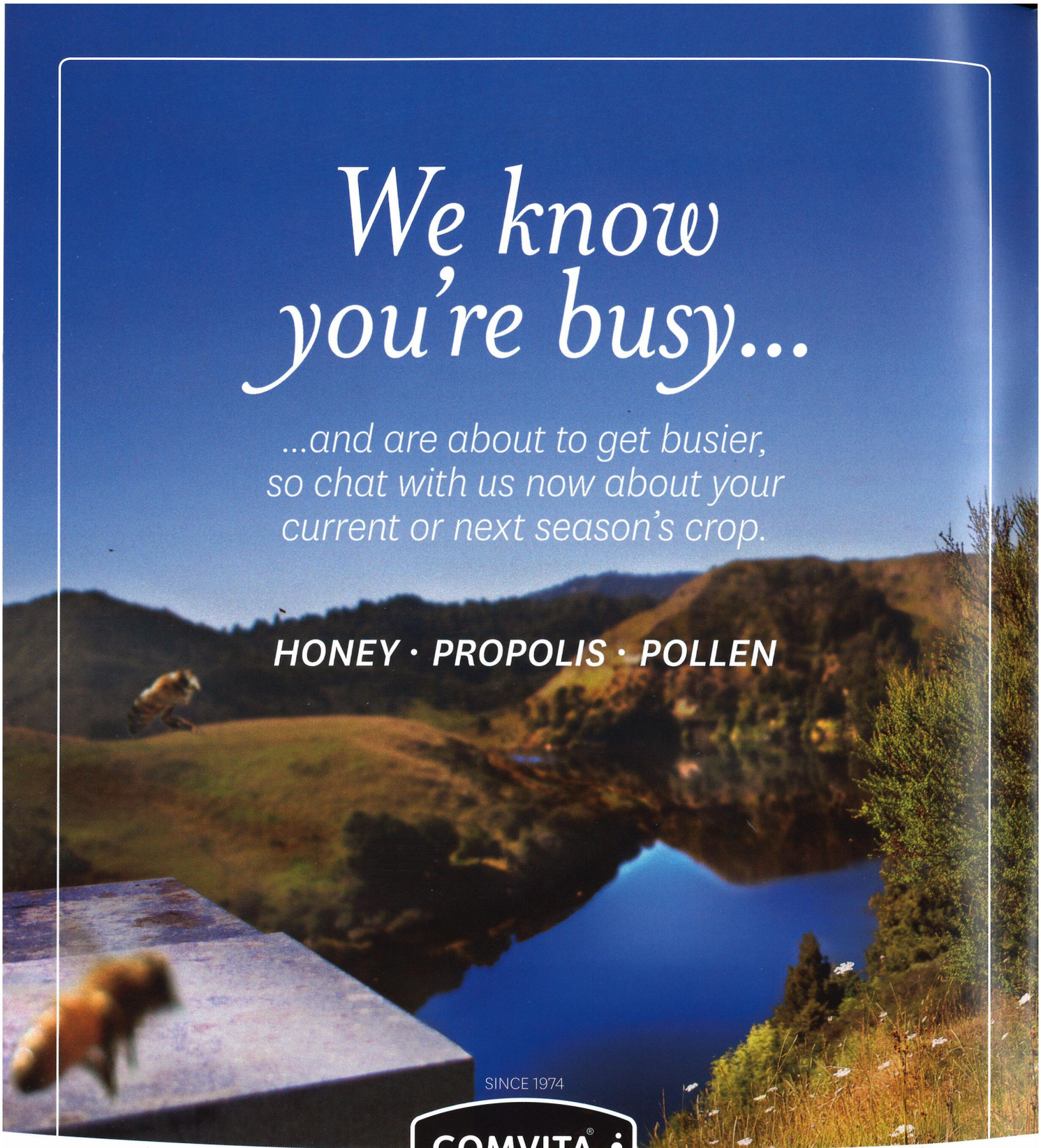
Schools around New Zealand were encouraged to celebrate Bee Aware Month in style and show what they were doing to help Kiwi bees prosper. Palmers generously donated the prizes for each school, and also got behind Bee Aware Month through in store signage and merchandising, bee-friendly workshops, colouring competitions, advertisement in the NZ Gardener and a donation from the sales of lavender during September and October. Thank you Palmers!

The Bee Aware Month Palmers School Photo Competition also was held during September. The top three schools will be announced in the November journal, along with their winning photos.

A big thank you …

A big thanks must go to our Bee Aware Month strategic partner, De Winkel All Natural Yoghurt. De Winkel is proud to support the NBA in protecting the future of bees in New Zealand, and we're very lucky to have them on board—this year, they donated $20,000 to the cause. Thanks, De Winkel, for your continued support!





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Email: joshua.easton@comvita.com

South Island: Glen Drummond
Phone: 027 801 8538
Email: glen.drummond@comvita.com

BEE AWARE MONTH

BEE AWARE **ART EXHIBITION,** AUCKLAND

Kim Kneijber, Auckland

The 'Bee Aware' art exhibition was held at the Estuary Art Centre art gallery, Orewa, from 4 August to 4 September. The exhibition was inspired by an overseas art event of postcard-sized art with a bee theme.

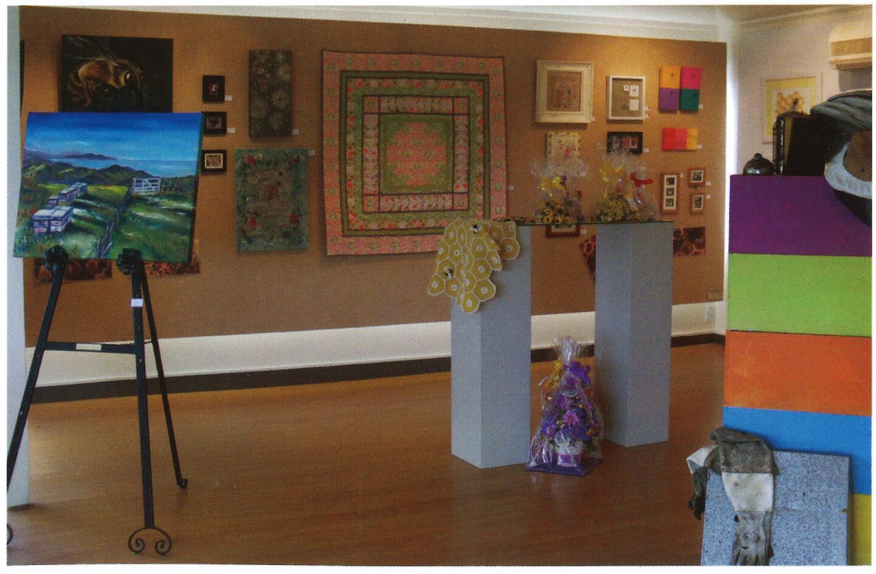
This exhibition was to become bigger not only by the size of artwork presented, but also by asking friends to enter work and to include artists informed about the event. Thirty people contributed art to the exhibition. Art included crochet, patchwork, other fabric media, paper craft, mixed media, glasswork, jewellery, etching, chocolates, and painting in different styles.

Some of the pieces were for sale and the price included a small commission for the NBA research fund; the NBA received these proceeds.

Public awareness has seen more people becoming beekeepers, so this exhibition was to invite people to plant for bees, or just to 'Bee Aware' while learning a few facts with handouts and posters. Handouts included the NBA information sheets and worksheet for children.

As there was no budget to stage the exhibition, money donated from the Auckland Branch of the NBA covered the gallery costs. I donated the cost of photocopies and posters. The number of items exhibited led the gallery to give us a bigger room at the same cost. The larger room allowed the art and information to include a brightly painted beehive and beekeepers' gear. There were educational pictures on the stairwell, and the café in the venue had a display of the winning photos from the NBA/Ecrotek competition held at the 2015 Apiculture Conference.

The gallery received a lot of positive feedback. Perhaps this event could be planned in future in other parts of the country. For example, it could be included as part of conference, being held in a local gallery for the public to view, as a way to raise funds through different avenues.



Some of the beautiful artwork displayed in the 'Bee Aware' exhibition at the Estuary Art Centre. Photos: Kim Kneijber.

OBITUARY

DR PETER CHARLES MOLAN, MBE

Cliff Van Eaton

Dr Peter Molan passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, September 16, 2015, following a long illness. He was farewelled at a service at the St Peters Cathedral, Hamilton on Tuesday, September 22, 2015.

Cliff Van Eaton, the author of Manuka – The Biography of an Extraordinary Honey, *has written the tribute that follows. Cliff was at Apimondia, the World Beekeeping Congress in Daejoen, Korea when he received word of Dr Molan's passing.*

It is with profound sadness that I must announce the passing of one of the world's great honey scientists, and the person who more than anyone else helped ignite a renewed global interest in that product's therapeutic properties. Dr Peter Molan, the discoverer of the unique antibacterial property in manuka honey, has died at his home in Hamilton, New Zealand. He was 71.

Dr Molan and his family immigrated to New Zealand from Wales following the completion of his PhD in 1973. He subsequently worked as a lecturer in biological sciences at the University of Waikato for 41 years before his retirement in 2014. He held the positions of Professor in Biological Sciences and Director of the Honey Research Unit.

His qualifications were in biochemistry, but the research work in his career spanned a wide range of topics related to human and animal health. He began to focus primarily on the use of honey as a medicine following his discovery in 1980 that manuka honey has an unusual type of antibacterial activity that makes it especially effective in treating infections. That then led into research on the treatment of wounds with honey, and the development of honey-based materials for use as wound dressings.

In 1995 he was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Honours List for his services to beekeeping. The citation read: "His work has been the single most important factor in both the domestic and international change in perspective regarding the value of New Zealand honeys."

I had the immense good fortune to have interviewed Peter extensively during the writing of my book on manuka honey. He and his wife Alyson kindly invited my wife and I into their home, and we later shared the podium on several occasions once it was published. It was a great thrill for me to invite them both to the awards dinner after the book was chosen as a finalist in the Royal Society of New Zealand Science Book Prize. The book was titled *Manuka – The Biography of an Extraordinary Honey,* but it was always also a biography of Peter, an extraordinary man.

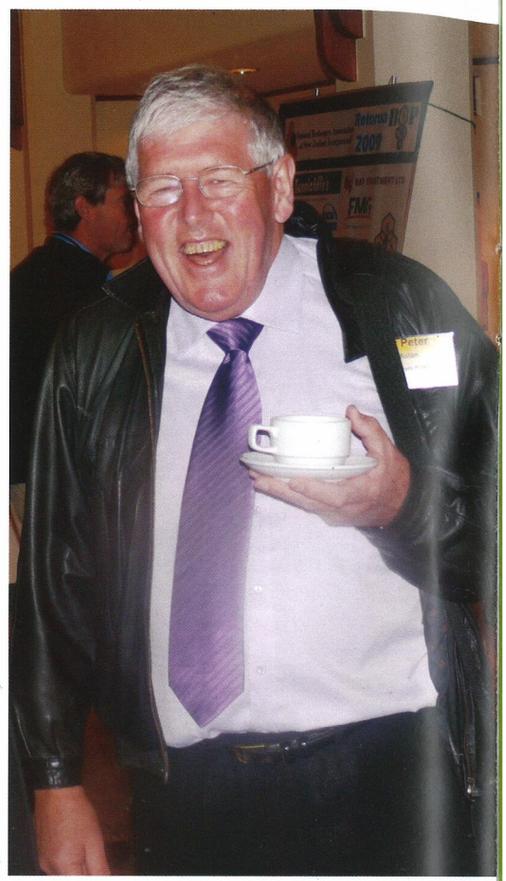
In his honour and memory, here's my favourite passage about Peter, from chapter 4:

"More than anything, Peter Molan has an enormous enthusiasm for his subject. It comes out in his writing, and of course far more in the many talks he has given all around the world. If you are in the audience you can't help but be caught up by it all. He is fascinated by this substance which he once knew absolutely nothing about; how the bees make it, how wonderfully self-preserving it is, how strongly it can deal to potentially life-threatening bacteria, and what an almost perfect wound dressing it makes.

The more Peter has studied it, the more amazing things it has revealed. It is a simple substance which most of us just take for granted, but which is turning out to be so much more. Just as he took apart his parents' clock when he was a child, he and his fellow scientists have been figuring out more and more about how honey works. And he can't help but share that sense of discovery with the world."

Following is an entry that was posted to Peter's funeral website from Aaron Phipps, the brave young man I wrote about in the book:

"I didn't know Peter but his work around honey changed my life. I suffered Meningitis Type C aged 15 and had to have both of my legs amputated below the knee. I lost a lot of skin and the wounds on my leg wouldn't heal. By chance the wound specialist at my hospital had heard about honey being used to treat wounds in a clinical trial. I went from 9 months of nothing to being healed in 6 weeks. I am 32 now married with two beautiful children. I lead a full and active life.



Dr Peter Molan at the NBA Conference, Rotorua, 2009. Photo: Frank and Mary-Ann Lindsay.

So as I said I didn't know Peter personally but his great work changed my life.

I wonder how many other 1000's of people he has helped.

Aaron Phipps,
Southampton UK"

From the Publications Committee

Dr Peter Molan was a frequent and erudite contributor to the journal over many years. He had a talent for communicating complex concepts to non-scientists, including beekeepers and laypersons throughout the world. His final article for the journal is on page 51.

Dr Molan was a giant in his field, and will be sorely missed. We pass along our condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.

All communications to the Molan family C/- PO Box 5523, Frankton 3242. Or visit his Guest Book at http://www.legacy.com/guestbooks/waikato-times-nz/peter-charles-molan-condolences/175861927?cid=full

Donations preferred to Hospice Waikato, PO Box 325, Hamilton 3240.

REMEMBERING PETER MOLAN

Neil Stuckey, Waitemata Honey Co Limited

I am unsure just when Peter first became interested in honey and in particular, manuka. I think it was in 1981 that he first 'discovered' some interesting properties in manuka.

I met up with Peter in 1995 when the NBA Marketing Committee, in conjunction with the University of Waikato, set up the Honey Research Unit.

This was very much Peter's baby and as a member of the committee we had numerous meetings at the university with Peter.

The enthusiasm and passion in those early meetings I will never forget; particularly the combination of Peter and Bill Floyd and the way they bounced ideas off each other, which never ceased to amaze us all.

Peter's only gripe was the speed at which the results from his research were being taken up. He knew what good manuka honey could do medically and that people were suffering unnecessarily because of the slow pace of progress.

Sadly, the eventual success of the whole manuka story caused a rift between Peter and some parts of our industry. Peter talked to me on several occasions about this and I know the anguish this caused him.

However, nothing dampened his enthusiasm and he continued to research honey. He wrote many, many articles and papers and he travelled around the world presenting his findings: he would have lost count of the interviews he gave.

Peter inspired—and continues to inspire—students to do further research, and indeed, I believe he has been responsible for other countries researching beneficial properties in their own honey.

Even though Peter was struggling with his health, he was at yet another meeting in Hamilton recently. His passion simply didn't allow him to just sit and listen but ensured that he was actively involved in the meeting.

Our industry has literally been turned on its head because of Peter's involvement. New Zealand's growth in beekeeping, at a time when other countries have been struggling, will be a lasting tribute to Peter Molan.

Thank you, Peter. It has been a fantastic ride.

BUSINESS

OPPORTUNITIES FOR BEEKEEPING ON CONSERVATION LAND

Department of Conservation

Due to a significant increase in interest for beekeeping on public conservation land, the Department of Conservation (DOC) is undertaking a review of beekeeping-related issues.

As part of this review, interim National Guidelines for Beekeeping on conservation land have been developed. These guidelines guide the Department's current decision making, inform other work under investigation and reflect our advocacy of beekeeping in relation to conservation. Further work is under way to define low/high conservation risk areas for beekeeping on conservation land. The guidelines will be adapted as new information is available.

On 1 September 2015, DOC also started an Expressions of Interest process for beekeeping. Any interested parties must go to the DOC website (see below) to lodge an expression of interest if they wish to be part of this process. This allows DOC to proactively identify appropriate beekeeping opportunities, identify industry demand, consult with iwi and beekeeping representative bodies, and design and run allocation processes to the parties who have registered their interest.

These opportunities will be rolled out on a region-by-region basis from early December 2015 and completed by September 2016.

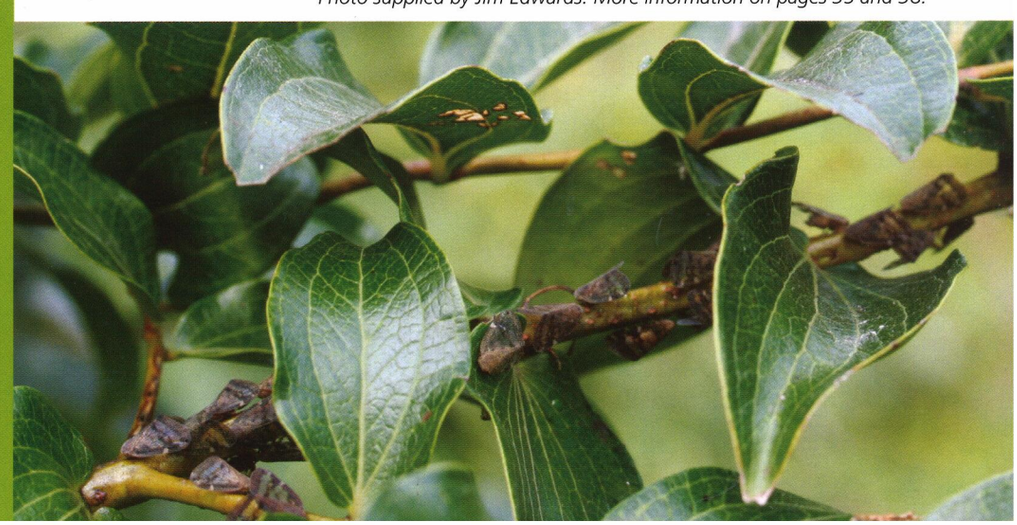
DOC will not accept any applications for beehive placement on conservation land until 1 September 2016 except as part of this process. Existing concession rights are not impacted by this process. This process will run for a one-year period.

Beth Masser from DOC is project managing this work. Beth said, "Overall this process allows us to put conservation at the centre of decision making and ensure iwi cultural values are identified and appropriately safeguarded. DOC is about conservation sustainability and we also want to support the beekeeping industry in their ambition of sustainable beekeeping."

Discussions are under way between the National Beekeepers Association, Federated Farmers Bee Industry Group and DOC.

Full details, including the Department's guidelines and Expression of Interest registration document, are included on the DOC website: www.doc.govt.nz/beehiveseoi

What to be aware of: adult passion vine hoppers (Scolypopa) *on a tutu shrub. Photo supplied by Jim Edwards. More information on pages 35 and 38.*



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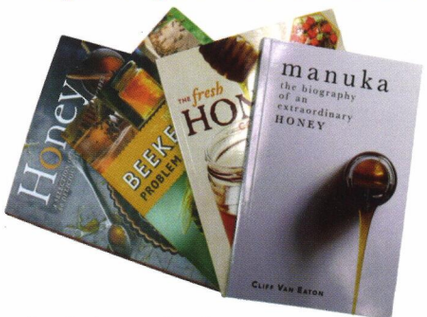

Manuka: the biography of an extraordinary honey	$30.43 + GST
The Beekeeper's Problem Solver	$26.08 + GST
Backyard Bees: A guide for the beginner beekeeper	$59.00 + GST
The Honey Connoisseur	$39.95 + GST
The Complete Meadmaker	$44.00 + GST

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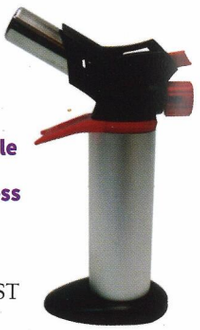

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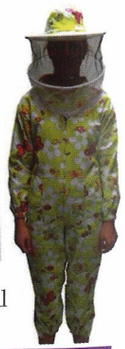

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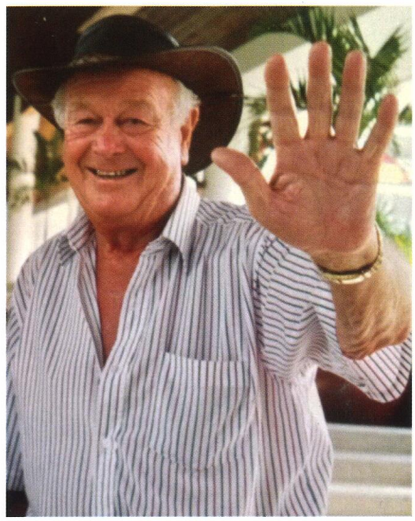
OBITUARY

TRIBUTE TO **ARTHUR KEVIN ECROYD**, 1928–2015

Compiled by the Publications Committee from furnished sources



As reported in the March 2015 journal, Arthur Kevin Ecroyd, known as Kevin, passed away on 20 February 2015 at the age of 87.

He was elected as a Life Member of the NBA at the Christchurch conference in July 1987 for his services to the NBA and the beekeeping industry.

Kevin was elected as a producer member to the Honey Marketing Authority (HMA) in September 1970. He became one of the founding members and a director of the New Zealand Honey Producers Co-operative in 1981 when the HMA was disestablished.

Kevin was born and raised in Christchurch. According to his son Stuart, Kevin entered the University of Canterbury to pursue a Bachelor of Commerce degree. However, he left university in 1947 before completing his degree to assist his father, Arthur Ecroyd, in the business that Arthur started in 1913. (Arthur Ecroyd was a general secretary of the NBA in the 1930s.) Arthur and Kevin then formed A Ecroyd and Son Ltd, which processed and exported beeswax.

In 1955 the pair bought Alliance Bee Supplies Co Ltd, which manufactured all of the wooden components of the beehive. In 1956, they moved the business from Dunedin to Christchurch but retained the name.

The year 1956 was a busy one for Kevin. He married Sunny after they met at a Young Nationals Party dance a year earlier. During 1956, Kevin was appointed 'Press Officer' of the Canterbury Branch of the NBA.

In 1958, Kevin took over A Ecroyd and Son. Aviation was one of his many interests, which also included hunting, fishing and "good wine".

Kevin held a private pilot's license. According to a report in the August 1970 journal:

"FIRST FLYING BEE man to attend Conference in control of his own wings is probably Kevin Ecroyd of Christchurch, who pointed his nose northward from Christchurch to Auckland in a Canterbury Aero Club's plane, accompanied by his trusting wife, a Club aero instructor and another guest. Time logged on the trip counts as flying hours towards Kevin's acquisition of coveted private pilot's licence. Happily, the flight to Auckland and return was made without incident."

Stuart Ecroyd relates that Kevin's business dealings led to "many overseas trips to very interesting parts of the world, including Tehran (Iran), Mexico, Poland and Hungary and many others. A lot of the trips were to the beekeepers' Apimondia Conferences. On a number of occasions he was a tour leader for a group of up to 30."

In 1989, Kevin helped to establish Airlink, a regional airline that operated between Christchurch, Timaru, Alexandra, and Wanaka. He and Sunny were passionate overseas travellers and were planning another trip at the time of his death.

Kevin sold two of his three businesses in 1987. Stuart Ecroyd took over the remaining part and named it Stuart Ecroyd Bee Supplies, which later became Ecroyd Beekeeping Supplies (EBS) Ltd. (EBS Ltd continued until 31 March 2015, when it merged with Beetek Ltd to become Ecrotek.)

Kevin and Sunny moved to Wanaka in 1987. Stuart Ecroyd recalls that prior to this time, Kevin had beehives up the Cardrona Valley, which he called the 'Cardrona Honey Company'. Alpine Honey bought that enterprise from him and has continued the brand. Stuart said, *"Kevin extracted, packed and labelled honey in his purpose-built honey house in Anderson Road, and supplied the local stores in Wanaka."*

> Kevin can rightly be described as a visionary, innovator and leader within the industry

Steve Lyttle and his brother Peter bought the beeswax processing part of Kevin's business. In his eulogy at Kevin's funeral, Steve remarked:

"Kevin can rightly be described as a visionary, innovator and leader within the industry. His extensive overseas travel to industry related trade fairs and conferences ensured New Zealand beekeepers always had access to the latest beekeeping equipment and supplies."

Kevin Ecroyd attended the NBA's centenary conference in Ashburton, June 2013, where he cut the 'beehive' centenary cake along with the other NBA Life Members who were over 80 years old (Bob Blair, Ian Berry, and David Penrose).

Kevin Ecroyd is survived by his wife, Sunny, son Stuart and three other children. We extend our condolences to the family and apologise that we were unable to print this obituary in the April 2015 journal.

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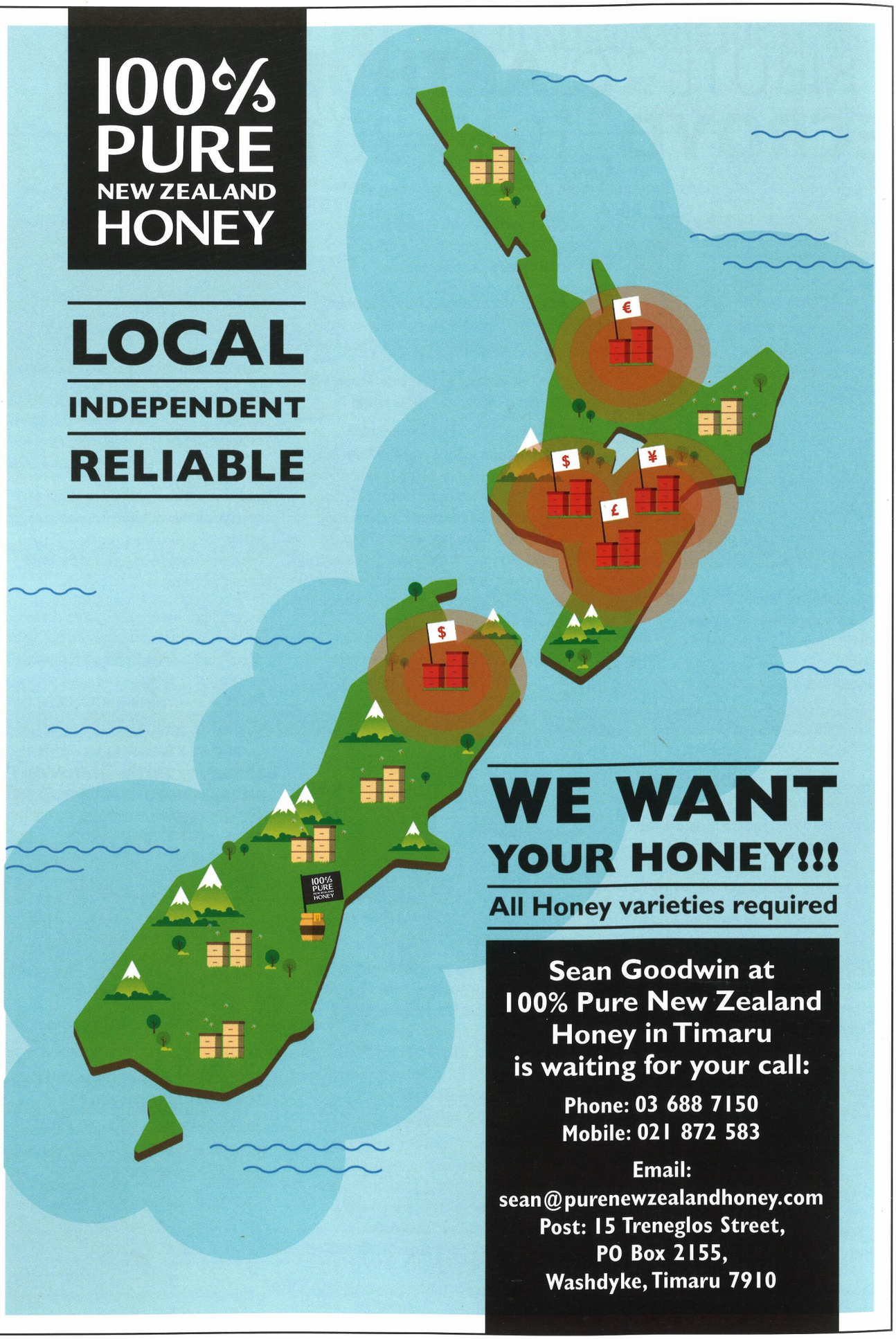
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AMERICAN FOULBROOD PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT LEVY INVOICES

Rex Baynes, AFB PMP Manager

Under the Biosecurity (American Foulbrood – Apiary and Beekeeper Levy) Order 2003, a levy is imposed on all beekeepers in New Zealand. This levy is payable to the AFB PMP Management Board in order to fund the AFB Pest Management Plan.

The invoices are raised in early April of each year and are based on the apiary and hive numbers registered against individual beekeepers on the apiary database.

Beekeepers are advised that the policy of the AFB PMP Management Board is to calculate the amount owing based on the apiary and hive holdings as at 31 March of each year as definitive for invoicing purposes.

To further clarify, this means the invoice total as calculated is what you will owe.

IMPORTANT

It is the responsibility of all beekeepers to ensure the apiary database correctly reflects his/her apiary and hive holdings, especially as at 31 March of each year.

For further information on this subject, please refer to the Management Board policy number AFB/22/0/11-027, which can be found on www.afb.org.nz.

NZ COLONY LOSS AND SURVIVAL SURVEY

BUILDING THE BASELINE

NZ COLONY LOSS & SURVIVAL SURVEY

Landcare Research Ltd

How are your spring inspections shaping up? If you're all done, then please make sure you take some quiet time to share what you found in the NZ Colony Loss and Survival Survey.

The survey is online and available here: http://surveys.landcareresearch.co.nz/s3/NZCOLOSS

The survey team at Landcare Research tell us that they've talked to a number of beekeepers who are much happier than last spring, reporting a better start to the season with fewer losses overall. This is great news. However, the survey will help the industry set a scientific baseline, so it's important to record losses and survival every year!

The survey will ask you about

- the number of production hives in each apiary when you wintered down in the autumn, and the number you have this spring
- the number of nucs, splits, and tops in each apiary when you wintered down in the autumn, and the number you have this spring
- the number of surviving but weak colonies and the number with queen problems
- key symptoms such as dead bees in front of the hive or dead workers in cells—with or without food
- the nature of losses in production hives and nucs, splits and tops—are they likely to have been from AFB, wasps, weather, vandalism, queen problems or colony death?

If you had a link to the survey e-mailed to you, please respond to the link in the e-mail.

Otherwise, please click: http://surveys.landcareresearch.co.nz/s3/NZCOLOSS

If you have any questions or need a hand with the survey, you can contact Christine Harper at Landcare research on 04 382 6644 or harperc@landcareresearch.co.nz

Do the survey to play your part in building a better understanding of the on-the-ground realities of beekeeping to help the industry move forward.

AFB RECOGNITION COURSE LIST ON WEBSITE

Are you planning to take the AFB recognition course to obtain your DECA? If so, you can now find a list of courses on the AFB website **www.afb.org.nz**

You can go directly to the URL www.afb.org.nz/beekeeping-courses

Alternatively, go to the homepage, look for 'Education, Training, Videos, Resources & Policy Statements', and select 'AFB Recognition Courses (with test)'.

NB: the only remaining courses confirmed for 2015 are in Levin, Cromwell and Timaru.

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"Having used AgriSea Bee Nutrition for several seasons we believe it has no adverse effect on the bees. The bees would seem to prefer the syrup with seaweed added to that without. We see good vigour in the bees during spring feeding and add seaweed to pollen supplement also. We are aware of the decrease in pollen sources around New Zealand so supplying the bees with additional nutrition is common practice. Using locally made seaweed makes sense, we add Agrisea Bee Nutrition whenever we feed our hives whole year round and keep the hives healthy and strong."

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Minerals and Trace Elements (mg/L - ppm)

Nitrogen 50.35	Phosphorus 10.07	Potassium 2134.84
Sulphur 271.89	Calcium 90.63	Magnesium 211.47
Sodium 1701.83	Iron 0.703	Copper 0.064
Manganese 0.041	Iodine 454.50	Molybdenum 0.01
Selenium 0.01	Zinc 0.360	Boron 6.060
Cobalt 0.010		

Vitamins Vitamin A, Vitamin C, Vitamin E, Vitamins B1, B2, B3, B5, B12, Fucoxanthin, Choline, Folic Acid

Amino Acids (µmol g dwt)

Aspartate 5.171	Histidine 0.548	Glutamate 0.74
Phenylalanine 0.717	Arganine 0.583	
Asparagine 1.141	Proline 0.683	Glutamine 0.733
Alanine 3.974	Serine 0.621	

Phlorotannins 8-10% g dwt

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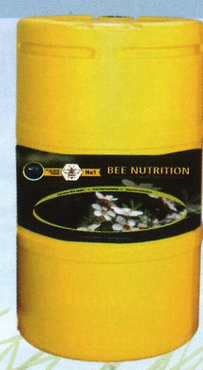

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AMERICAN FOULBROOD PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

AFB PMP MANAGEMENT BOARD **MAKING TECHNOLOGY WORK** FOR BEEKEEPERS

Rex Baynes, AFB PMP Manager

Over the past 18 months, the American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan (AFB PMP) Board has been busy developing training and technology designed to assist New Zealand beekeepers.

Much of the work has been done in four key areas:

1. a major overhaul of the www.afb.org.nz website, with the goal of making it a 'one-stop shop' for all matters pertaining to AFB
2. the development of a smartphone application to assist beekeepers in the diagnosis of AFB
3. a complete review of the AFB Recognition Course training package, to make it more interactive and effective
4. development of 13 video training modules on the eradication of AFB in New Zealand.

Any one of these projects by itself would have been a reasonably significant undertaking, but for the AFB PMP Board to complete all four within an 18-month timeframe has been a commendable effort.

The Board was acutely aware of the need to ensure that beekeepers' levies were spent in a fiscally responsible way. To ensure this was done, skilled volunteers undertook as much of the work as possible. We extend our special thanks to those people.

AFB website: www.afb.org.nz

Please visit this website.

We are pleased to report that since the new site was launched in April 2015, statistics tell us that several thousand visits have been made.

We have nearly finished developing a Sale and Purchase of Hive Agreement form that can be downloaded and used by beekeepers when making hive transactions. This initiative is designed to provide both the seller and purchaser with a level of protection, especially with regard to ensuring the disease status of the hive(s) in question. We welcome feedback on its use.

The AFB App

From what we can gather, The AFB App is proving very popular as a way of assisting beekeepers in checking for AFB.

The development of The AFB App started midway through 2014 and was trialled in early 2015. It is a smartphone application that will operate on both Android and Apple devices. It is free to all beekeepers.

Please note: the app is a *field diagnostic tool only;* it is not a website.

An instructional video on the use of The AFB App is located in the 'video section' on the AFB website.

To download the app, simply go to the app store appropriate for your device, search for 'The AFB App' and follow the download instructions.

Revised AFB Recognition Course training package

In 2014, work commenced on the upgrade of the AFB Recognition Course training package. Our objective was to put in place a more complete course package that included a variety of delivery techniques, while still allowing tutors to utilise their knowledge and experience.

The new course consists of three main components:

1. a theory element that includes a range of new videos specifically tailored for the course
2. a practical component that consists of hands-on frame inspections and syndicate exercises
3. the AFB Recognition test.

The new course package was launched in Whangarei on 6 June 2015. It has been trialled since then on four separate occasions with very pleasing results.

Work is now under way to appoint certain beekeepers and others to assist in rolling out the new package. Trainers will be required to attend a 'train the trainers' course before being permitted to use the training resource.

STAY AHEAD OF AFB WITH AFB.ORG.NZ

The AFB website afb.org.nz has a wealth of information for beekeepers. If you want to brush up on your knowledge of disease symptoms (or if you are planning to attend an AFB recognition course), you can find photos and other information to assist. Take the 5-minute quiz to test yourself before heading out to your hives.

The website also contains information about your legal responsibilities and other aspects of the management plan.

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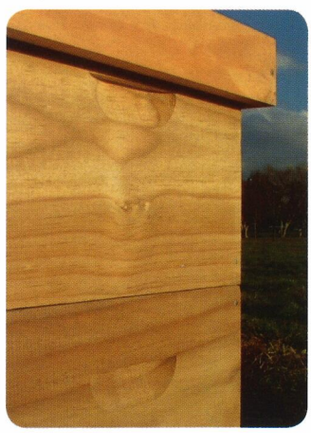

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Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan) Order 1998

THE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
NATIONAL AMERICAN FOULBROOD
PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

AFB PMP Management Board
Strategic Goals and Performance for Period 1 June 2014 through 31 May 2015

Vision: **Elimination of American Foulbrood in New Zealand**

Industry Overview:	As at 31 May 2015 there were 5,551 registered beekeepers operating 546,777 hives.		
Financial Goals:	**Audit** Financial statements are available for audit by 31 October 2014 (Biosecurity Act 1993 Section 95 (2).	✓	(August)
	Budget 2015 / 2016 Consultation In accordance with Section 16 of the Levy Order 2003 the AFB PMP Management Board is to consult with beekeepers on how the levy is spent and what levy rate will apply for the 2015/2016 financial year.	✓	(October 2014 Beekeeper Journal and New Zealand Gazette)
	Levy Invoices Invoices mailed to levy payers by 20 April 2015.	✓	(April)
	Aged Receivables 75% of levy invoices paid by 30 June 2015.	✓	(84%)
Education Goals:	**Smartphone Application** Develop and make available for downloading an AFB App to assist beekeepers to diagnose AFB.	✓	
	Website Upgrade www.afb.org.nz.	✓	
	AFB Recognition Course Training Package Upgrade and modernise the existing AFB Recognition Course Training resource kit.	✓	
	Refresher Course Training Package Develop an AFB refresher course training kit.	✓	
	AFB Recognition Course Test Passes 640 beekeepers sit and pass the AFB Recognition Course Test.	✓	(751 in 2014 calendar year)
	Video Modules To develop and make available 13 video modules covering the Eradication of AFB in New Zealand.	✓	
Governance Goals:	**Governance Document** To develop and have accepted by the NBA Executive Council a Governance Document setting out the rules of operation and reporting.	✓	
	Policy Development To develop policies that will assist in consistent decision making and clarification of the Order 2003.	✓	(28 policies confirmed)
	Contract Negotiation To successfully negotiate service contracts with agreed contractors.	✓	
Apiary Audits Goals:	**AFB Auditors** To appoint and retain on contract 23 MPI accredited persons to undertake under direction AFB related inspections.	✓	(28 in place)
	AFB Reported Incidents Maintain or better a nationwide AFB reporting rate of 0.23% of hives.	✓	(0.21%)
	Annual Disease Return Compliance Maintain or better a compliance rate of 92%.	✓	(93.5% as at February 2015)
	Certificate of Inspection Maintain or better a compliance rate of 70%.	✓	(72.2% as at February 2015)
Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement (DECA) Goals	**DECA Reviews** To review 200 Disease Elimination Conformity Agreements belonging to North Island beekeepers with holdings of 50 or more hives.	✓	(287 reviewed)

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1000 ml	$ 215 + GST	250 beehives
500 ml	$ 125 + GST	125 beehives
200 ml	$ 68 + GST	50 beehives
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AMERICAN FOULBROOD PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

PROPOSED AFB PMP BUDGET 2016/2017

Rex Baynes, AFB PMP Manager

The input of beekeepers is sought on the proposed AFB PMP 2016/2017 Operational Budget.

The budget covers the period 1 June 2016 through 31 May 2017.

Biosecurity (American Foulbrood – Apiary and Beekeeper Levy) Order 2003. Payment of levy

Section 16: Consultation on how levy is spent.

(1) The Management Agency must, before the start of each levy year, consult with beekeepers on how the levy money is to be spent.

(2) The Management Agency must use the following process to consult with beekeepers:

(a) it must send to every beekeeper a proposed budget for the levy year's expenditure; and

(b) it must give every beekeeper an opportunity to make submissions to it on the proposed budget; and

(c) it must send to every group or association of hobby and commercial beekeepers known to it a copy of the proposed budget.

The budget outlines how the Management Agency intends to spend levy income for the above period.

If the Budget is approved, the levy will be set at $20.00 per beekeeper and $14.00 per apiary.

The levy rate remains unchanged.

Important: If you wish to make a submission on the proposed budget, please do so in writing by 1 December 2015 to:

Rex Baynes, AFB PMP Manager
PO Box 44282, Lower Hutt 5040
Email: rbaynes@ihug.co.nz

PROPOSED AFB PMP **OPERATIONAL BUDGET** 2016–2017

Income	Penalty on Levy	$10,000.00	
	AFB NPMP Levy	$585,000.00	
	Bad Debts Recovered	$5,000.00	
	Interest Received	$11,000.00	
	Total Income		**$611,000.00**
Expenditure	Accounting and Reporting	$9,000.00	
	Aerial Surveillance	$8,000.00	
	ADR Administration	$9,500.00	
	ADR (AsureQuality)	$70,000.00	
	AFB Refresher Courses	$8,000.00	
	AFB Recognition Courses	$15,000.00	
	AFB Counselling (AsureQuality)	$12,500.00	
	AFB Counselling and Audit Administration	$6,000.00	
	AFB Auditor Apiary/Hive Inspections	$140,000.00	
	AFB Apiary/Hive Inspections (AsureQuality Administration) for the above	$70,800.00	
	AFB Auditor Recruitment and Training (Incl. Health and Safety)	$21,500.00	
	Apiary Data Base Upgrade	$10,000.00	
	Audit Fees (Rodewald Hart Brown Ltd)	$5,500.00	
	Bad Debts Written Off	$8,000.00	
	Bank Fees	$50.00	
	Beekeeper Communication	$500.00	
	Beekeeper Education	$500.00	
	Certificate of Inspection Administration	$4,000.00	
	Certificate of Inspection (AsureQuality)	$24,000.00	
	Conference Attendance	$800.00	
	Debt Collection Expenses (Legal)	$16,000.00	
	Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement (AsureQuality)	$18,000.00	
	Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement (Administration)	$5,000.00	
	Honoraria	$13,500.00	
	DVD/Video	$1,500.00	
	Smartphone Application Development	$1,500.00	
	Levy Default Administration	$8,000.00	
	Levy (AsureQuality)	$3,000.00	
	Spore Testing	$20,000.00	
	Suspect Substance Tests	$1,000.00	
	Insurance	$900.00	
	Legal Expenses	$4,500.00	
	NBA Journal (April and October issues - Postage)	$9,500.00	
	Management Agency Appointments	$2,500.00	
	Manager Regional Visits	$7,500.00	
	Management Agency Meeting Expenses	$13,000.00	
	Official Information Act Requests	$3,500.00	
	Postage, Printing and Stationery	$26,500.00	
	Reporting to Government	$500.00	
	Telephone	$4,500.00	
	Travel and Accommodation	$6,500.00	
	Website	$4,500.00	
	Total Expenditure		**$595,050.00**
	Surplus		**$15,950.00**

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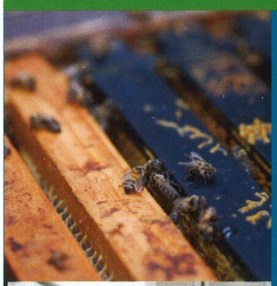

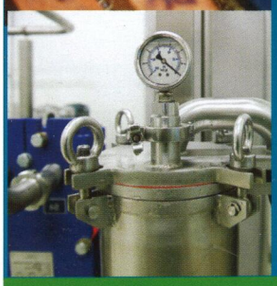

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AMERICAN FOULBROOD PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER, APIARY AND HIVE STATISTICS **BY APIARY DISTRICT AS AT 8 SEPTEMBER 2015**

APIARY REGISTER LOCATION	CATEGORY 0 - 5 HIVES		
	BEEKEEPERS	APIARIES	HIVES
Blenheim	292	322	555
Canterbury	593	684	1073
Hamilton	305	337	625
Otago/Southland	348	387	746
Palmerston North	816	917	1636
Tauranga	293	334	598
Whangarei	975	1061	1970
NEW ZEALAND	**3622**	**4042**	**7203**

APIARY REGISTER LOCATION	CATEGORY 6 - 10 HIVES		
	BEEKEEPERS	APIARIES	HIVES
Blenheim	49	92	376
Canterbury	79	139	575
Hamilton	46	71	366
Otago/Southland	64	111	503
Palmerston North	116	190	899
Tauranga	63	104	506
Whangarei	138	208	1025
NEW ZEALAND	**555**	**915**	**4250**

APIARY REGISTER LOCATION	CATEGORY 11 - 50 HIVES		
	BEEKEEPERS	APIARIES	HIVES
Blenheim	40	138	1032
Canterbury	53	196	1170
Hamilton	54	118	1252
Otago/Southland	55	153	1297
Palmerston North	129	347	3273
Tauranga	78	178	2042
Whangarei	154	402	3361
NEW ZEALAND	**563**	**1532**	**13427**

APIARY REGISTER LOCATION	CATEGORY 51 - 250 HIVES		
	BEEKEEPERS	APIARIES	HIVES
Blenheim	28	548	3595
Canterbury	38	762	4798
Hamilton	32	233	4383
Otago/Southland	26	326	3506
Palmerston North	82	684	9963
Tauranga	92	567	9381
Whangarei	97	809	10465
NEW ZEALAND	**395**	**3929**	**46091**

APIARY REGISTER LOCATION	CATEGORY 251 - 500 HIVES		
	BEEKEEPERS	APIARIES	HIVES
Blenheim	12	242	4278
Canterbury	14	445	5604
Hamilton	10	306	5203
Otago/Southland	14	407	4641
Palmerston North	23	409	7719
Tauranga	35	635	10661
Whangarei	35	646	10677
NEW ZEALAND	**143**	**3090**	**48783**

APIARY REGISTER LOCATION	CATEGORY 501 - 1000 HIVES		
	BEEKEEPERS	APIARIES	HIVES
Blenheim	10	393	6450
Canterbury	17	693	11234
Hamilton	14	606	11693
Otago/Southland	21	935	14729
Palmerston North	17	679	12589
Tauranga	31	718	17297
Whangarei	18	755	13433
NEW ZEALAND	**128**	**4779**	**87425**

APIARY REGISTER LOCATION	CATEGORY 1000+ HIVES		
	BEEKEEPERS	APIARIES	HIVES
Blenheim	13	1282	25902
Canterbury	16	1927	37654
Hamilton	19	2022	54652
Otago/Southland	11	1169	22724
Palmerston North	30	4903	97676
Tauranga	33	2636	61365
Whangarei	21	2705	48889
NEW ZEALAND	**143**	**16644**	**348862**

APIARY REGISTER LOCATION	TOTAL		
	BEEKEEPERS	APIARIES	HIVES
Blenheim	444	3017	42188
Canterbury	810	4846	62108
Hamilton	480	3691	78153
Otago/Southland	539	3488	48146
Palmerston North	1211	8087	132977
Tauranga	623	5128	100911
Whangarei	1438	6585	89808
NEW ZEALAND	**5545**	**34842**	**554291**

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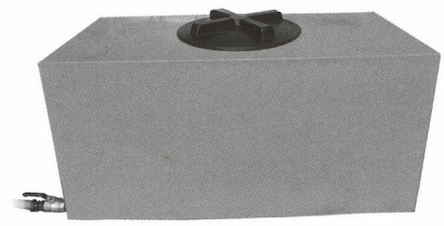

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AMERICAN FOULBROOD PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

RECENT APIARY AUDITOR INSPECTION ACTIVITY

AsureQuality Limited and Rex Baynes, AFB PMP Manager

Poverty Bay

One of our auditors has now completed inspections of a number of apiaries in the Gisborne region (of the ones that were missed from the Diseaseathon). No AFB was found.

Coromandel/Bay of Plenty

Our auditor in the region completed a number of hive inspections in the Coromandel, where a beekeeper reported finding disease. The disease appears to be linked with boxes the beekeeper bought off the Internet a year earlier from the Pinnacle Hill area, Bombay. One of our Auckland-based auditors will be checking the Pinnacle Hill area.

The auditors have been undertaking follow-up inspections around significant AFB finds throughout the Bay of Plenty area to assess the scale of the reports. This work is ongoing.

Wanganui/Taranaki

Our auditor in the area has completed inspections around Hawera, where it was thought a new beekeeper with 200 hives may have AFB problems. Eight cases of AFB in 14 apiaries were found and destroyed.

There has been continuing work both in Wanganui and Taranaki following up on reports of unregistered hives being dumped in these areas.

Hawke's Bay

An inspection programme has been completed in the Hawke's Bay region, with no AFB being located. This inspection programme was as a result of complaints received from existing beekeepers in the area about outsiders moving in and possibly spreading AFB. An Apiary Officer directed that a second inspection initiative (possibly over a three-day period) be undertaken in the area north of Napier up to Wairoa.

Auckland

One of our Auckland based auditors has recently followed up on some abandoned hives reported in Auckland. No AFB was found.

The auditors have been undertaking follow-up inspections around significant AFB finds throughout the Auckland area to assess the scale of the reports. As in the Bay of Plenty, this work is ongoing.

Wairarapa

A commercial beekeeper registered a large number of apiary sites following a helicopter surveillance operation. The beekeeper also had his DECA cancelled.

A second commercial beekeeper failed to register any his sites. He was contacted by phone and given an extension until the end of February to become fully compliant. He too lost his DECA.

A beekeeper with a hive at Victoria University reported AFB through the AFB hotline two weeks ago. AsureQuality contacted Frank Lindsay, who checked the hive. It was not AFB.

All apiary sites in the vicinity of Greytown were checked for AFB. No AFB was found.

Nelson/Marlborough

A Nelson-based auditor found quite a number of AFB cases in the Nelson city area when checking apiaries in the vicinity of reported AFB cases.

A Marlborough auditor checked four apiaries of a local commercial operator after a neighbouring beekeeper reported a few cases of AFB on a single apiary site.

Technical advice has been given to a Nelson beekeeper who rents out hives. Our auditor found a few of his hives were infected by AFB.

A number of commercial apiary sites in Golden Bay were inspected following reports of AFB. No disease was found.

West Coast/Canterbury

A commercial beekeeper in the West Coast was subject to a full AFB inspection. This will be followed up with another inspection round this spring.

A West Coast auditor checked some apiaries in South of Hokitika. He also checked three apiary sites (two unregistered) of a beekeeper and found some disease.

A Canterbury-based auditor checked a couple of apiary sites of the above beekeeper. One was found to be unregistered.

Another Canterbury auditor checked four unregistered sites of the above beekeeper. This beekeeper has had his DECA cancelled.

A Canterbury auditor found a source of AFB in Okuti Valley. All hives that belonged to this beekeeper were burnt.

An unregistered apiary site of another beekeeper was confirmed by land owner in Methven. This was the third unregistered apiary site found by the auditors or the public within the last 12 months. This beekeeper's DECA was also cancelled and his ADR was returned to him as it was incomplete.

A Christchurch hobbyist lost his DECA for failure to register his apiary.

A Canterbury auditor inspected hives in the Horotane Valley near Christchurch, chasing the source of reported AFB.

A South Canterbury auditor carried out AFB inspections in South Ashburton and Geraldine area. No AFB was found. He is to carry out some inspections soon in the Alexandra area and inland South Canterbury.

Robbed-out AFB was reported in Christchurch in September. A 'robbed-out' letter was sent to 49 beekeepers within a five-kilometre radius.

A semi-commercial beekeeping operation was subject to a full AFB inspection. The beekeeper lost his DECA as a result of these inspection findings. A follow-up AFB inspection will be done in the autumn.

Otago

An Otago-based auditor inspected 14 apiary sites of a Southland beekeeper, following a report from another beekeeper concerned at high AFB levels. No AFB was found.

A second beekeeper had his DECA cancelled as a result of the neglected status of his beehives.

continued...

An AFB case was found at exotic surveillance inspection in the Queenstown area.

A new AFB auditor was appointed in the Alexandra region.

Southland

An unregistered apiary site belonging to a commercial operator was found by an auditor chasing the source of an AFB find. The landowner confirmed that hives have been on site for a couple of seasons and that more apiaries are put on site during the summer period. The beekeeper was contacted to confirm that hives belonged to them. Once this was confirmed, and considering this beekeeper has a recent history of keeping beehives in unregistered sites, the DECA was cancelled.

A Southland auditor identified a few unregistered apiary sites. Notices to register them have been left on site. These sites were destroyed on default.

The same auditor was directed to seize and destroy all beehives, live or dead, from another beekeeper. This beekeeper purchased all hives and boxes that were left from a local beekeeper who was put out of business through non-compliance with the AFB PMP.

NEW APIMONDIA OCEANIA PRESIDENT

At the Apimondia Congress in Korea in September, New South Wales commercial beekeeper Jodie Goldsworthy was elected as the new President of the Apimondia Oceania Commission. Jodie's contact details are on page 71.

Immediate Past President Maureen Conquer is remaining involved as Vice President. More to come in the November journal.

AMERICAN FOULBROOD PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

APIWEB UPDATE: **LODGING YOUR ADR IN 2016 AND BEYOND**

Byron Taylor, Apiculture Technical Manager, AsureQuality Ltd

Most readers will be aware that the American Foulbrood Pest Plan Management Board is committed to delivering a cost-effective pest management plan for American foulbrood disease. The continuing increase in beekeeper numbers has put a considerable strain on the existing administrative support structure.

To this end, the Management Board has invested in the APIWEB system, which allows beekeepers to manage the information held on the Apiary Database relating to their operation.

In recent months, APIWEB has been upgraded to include additional functionality. One of the key enhancements is the ability for beekeepers to file online ADR returns.

With this new functionality, **beekeepers will be asked to submit their ADRs online in 2016 using the APIWEB system.** A paper ADR will not be mailed out this coming April but, in circumstances where the APIWEB system cannot be used, a paper version will be mailed on request.

Instructions about filling out your ADR online will be placed on the AFB website afb.org.nz to assist with the process.

I would encourage you to make use of the APIWEB system between now and April 2016. This will assist you in gaining familiarity with the system and will help to make the electronic ADR return process easier to manage.

AN INVITATION

Rex Baynes, AFB PMP Manager

The AFB PMP Management Board is looking to upgrade the current schedule of Approved Beekeepers who are prepared to undertake Certificate of Inspection (COI) activities for non-approved beekeepers (COI Holders).

In order to promote your availability to COI holders, we will require permission to publish your contact details on the AFB website.

Note: DECA holders with more than 12 months' experience can undertake COI inspections, regardless of whether or not you elect to be part of this programme.

If you are prepared to assist, please e-mail us at info@afb.org.nz

For administrative purposes, please put "Approved Beekeeper List" followed by your beekeeper registration number in the subject line.

PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL

TEST SHOWS **WASP CONTROL METHOD HAS NO IMPACT ON BEES**

E. Edwards, E. Woolly & R. Keyzers

Tests have confirmed that beehives were not affected by a wasp baiting method piloted on public conservation land over the summer.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) carried out wasp control using a protein bait containing the insecticide fipronil at five pilot sites, including the Nelson Lakes National Park. The programme proved effective at significantly reducing wasp numbers for the season.

The programme proved effective at significantly reducing wasp numbers for the season.

The bait has been developed specifically to attract wasps when they are gathering protein, and contains nothing attractive to bees, so is safe to use in areas where hives are present. However, DOC included a test to validate this assertion as part of their project monitoring.

In February 2015, Murchison beekeeper Ricki Leahy generously allowed DOC to use his beehives for the preliminary test. We were checking for the unlikely exposure of his bees to fipronil insecticide during the wasp control operation.

The test involved two steps. The first was to develop a highly sensitive method of detecting fipronil and one of its environmental break-down products (fipronil sulfone) in samples. Sample processing was done at Victoria University of Wellington's School of Chemical & Physical Sciences using a sophisticated Liquid Chromatography–Mass Spectrometer (LC-MS). The result was a detection limit of 0.5 ng/g or 0.5 parts per billion of bees or bee products. This means we would be able to detect trace quantities of fipronil at levels much less than that required to kill a bee and at the lowest levels that sub-lethal effects are reported (El Hassani et al., 2005).

We then tested samples of bees, honey and hive detritus taken from bee hives. Samples were collected before the wasp treatment with baited stations began, and more samples were taken immediately afterwards. Hives in a site with no wasp control were also sampled.

In the sample analysis done at Victoria University, no traces of fipronil or fipronil sulfone were detected for any sample. This supports our expectations for a protein bait. It is an encouraging finding for the future of wasp control near bee hives, using protein bait stations containing fipronil. We intend to take more samples next wasp season and report those results too.

This supports our expectations for a protein bait.

E. Edwards is an entomologist for the Department of Conservation. E. Woolly & R. Keyzers are chemists at Victoria University of Wellington.

Reference

El Hassani A. K., Dacher, M., Gauthier, M., & Armengaud, C. (2005). Effects of sublethal doses of fipronil on the behavior of the honeybee *(Apis mellifera). Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior 82(1)*, 30–39.

Common wasps Vespula vulgaris *inside a bait station & carving up bait to take back to their nest. Photo: R. Toft.*

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PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL

BOTANICAL INFORMATION ON THE TUTU PLANT

Tutu (*Coriaria arborea* and *C. sarmentosa*)

Small trees and shrubs with shining opposite leaves, four-angled branches and long drooping racemes of flowers 15 cm to 30 cm long, small and reddish. The flowering period extends from September to March and offers bees an enormous source of pollen.

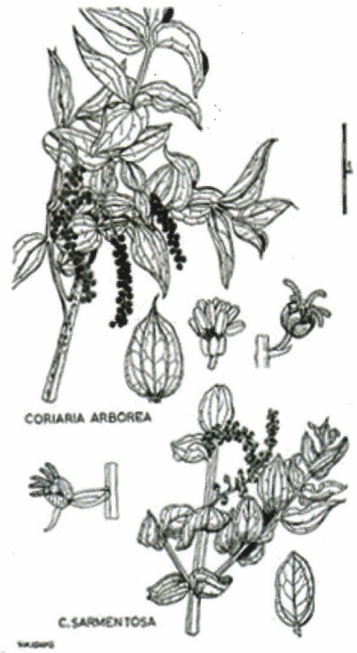
On Rangitoto Island from September to November is a dearth period of pollen and the Tutu plants are covered with bees throughout the day collecting a dull greenish yellow pollen. The Tutu is also a source of toxic honey dew under certain conditions.

Source: R.S. Walsh, Nectar and Pollen Sources of New Zealand. *Fully revised and published by the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Inc.), February 1978.*

Additional information

The tutu shrub usually is found along stream beds and overhanging banks. It can be killed off by frost but puts up new spikes again in the spring. The reasonably soft stems are easily penetrated by sap-sucking insects like the passion vine hopper.

[Editor's note: this information was originally published in the April 2008 journal.]

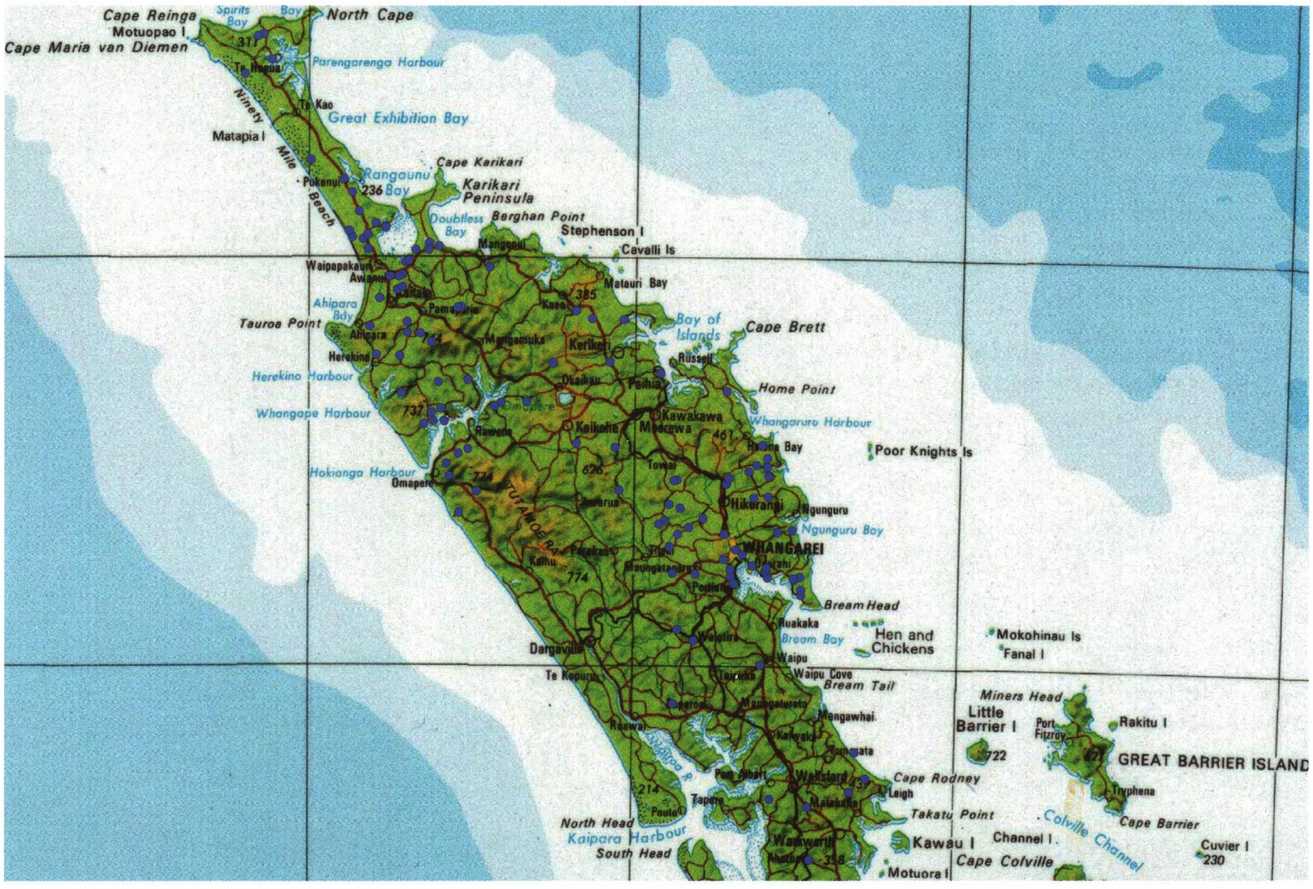


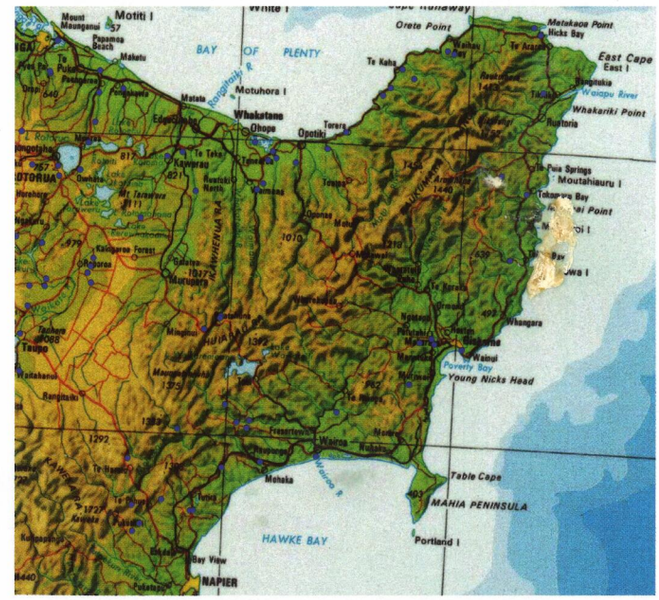
The tutu plant. Photo: Frank Lindsay.

*This photo was taken at Tawa on a kaka beak (*Clianthus puniceus*). This insect likes warm sheltered situations. The juvenile form sucks the sap off soft stem plants and excretes honey dew which attracts other insects. Photo: Frank Lindsay.*

Adult passion vine hopper. Photo: Dr Mark Goodwin.

AFB REPORTED FROM 1 JUNE 2014 TO 31 MAY 2015





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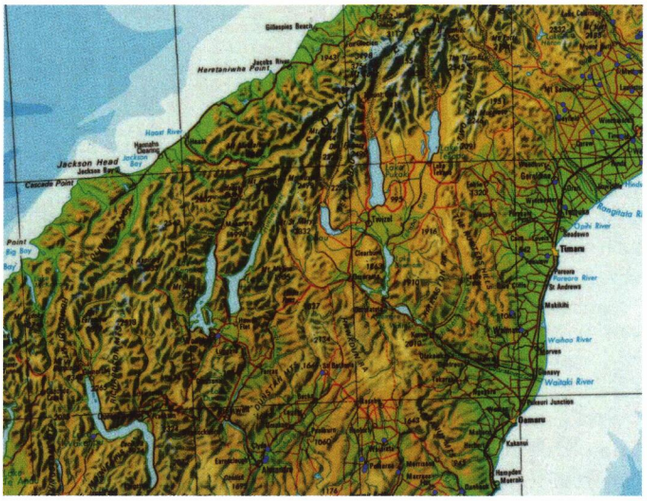

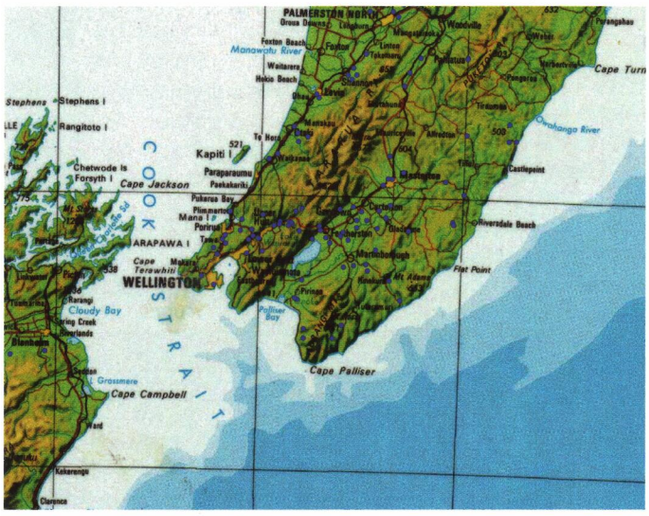

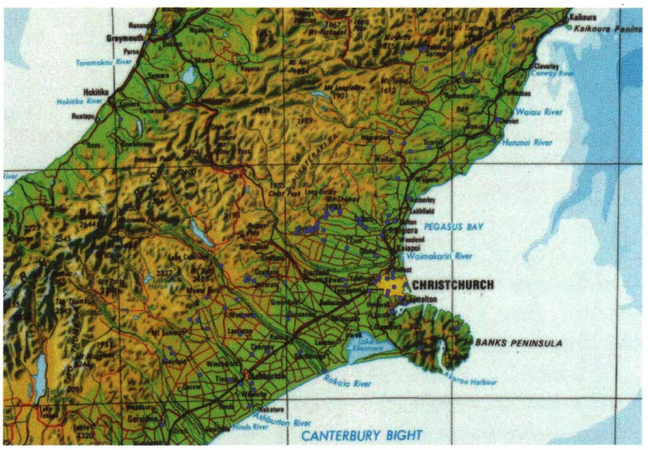

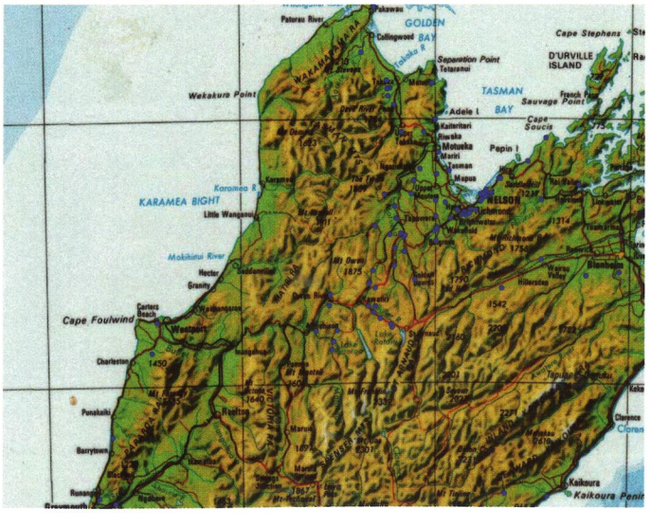

Maps courtesy of AsureQuality Limited

PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL

KEEP YOUR **HONEY SAFE: UNDERSTAND TUTIN** AND THE RISKS

Bee Products Standards Council

Tutin is a very real issue for the honey industry and the reputation of our product as being safe. The Bee Products Standards Council (BPSC) is raising awareness of the risks from tutin so that everyone is aware of their legal obligations and where to find information.

Easy-to-read updates will soon be on all the key industry websites, clubs, forums and social media. For those new to the industry and not fully aware of the risks, these updates are especially for you. Together let's keep our honey safe!

- A regulatory standard exists to safeguard honey from tutin. You can access it here: http://www.foodsafety.govt.nz/Industry/sectors/honey-bee/tutin/index.htm
- All producers of honey for sale must comply with this standard. This includes hobbyists and market traders selling or bartering honey.
- The BPSC recommends all beekeepers follow the rules in the regulatory standard, even where the honey is not for sale, to make sure it is safe.

Updates will provide more information on tutin along with links to the regulatory standard, guidance documents and other resources. We encourage you to check the resources available and to pass this information on to anyone who may find it useful.

Check out the BPSC video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZO-Loed8pWw&feature=youtu.be. This has information and advice on how to mitigate risks.

If you have any queries, please contact us at bpsc@gmail.com

MINISTRY FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

BEE PRODUCTS UPDATE

Jim Sim, Ministry for Primary Industries

There has been a lot of work going on in MPI which will shortly result in consultation on changes to a number of regulatory instruments affecting beekeepers selling honey and other bee products. Outlined below are some of the key areas we will be looking at and consulting on over the next few months.

Food (Tutin in Honey) Standard

The Food (Tutin in Honey) Standard 2010 and its 2011 amendment have been reviewed by MPI and the revised 2015 version will be consulted on shortly. This standard applies to all honey for sale and sets out the compliance options available to beekeepers and packers of honey for sale. Proposed changes include removal of the reporting requirement for results and some consequential changes due to the reduction in tutin limit in the Food Standards Code.

Animal Products (Harvest Statement and Tutin Requirements) Notice

This notice applies to all bee products intended for export for which an official assurance is required and the supply chain surrounding those bee products. Some amendments will be required to this notice and the harvest statement itself. These proposed changes are partly due to the need to update references to the revised tutin standard and partly to address concerns raised around harvest statements raised in recent MPI audits of bee products businesses.

Official Assurances Specifications Notice (OAS) and Overseas Market Access Requirements (OMARS)

The OAS and OMARS are primarily relevant to packers and exporters of honey for export and the beekeepers that supply those packers. Following discussion with regulators in other markets, we are reviewing the OAS notice as it relates to bee products and the systems that support official assurances for bee products. Additional market access requirements (OMARS) are being developed in order to maintain trade into certain key markets. Proposed changes to be consulted on will likely relate to the OAS Notice, Verification Notice and several OMARS.

These are just a few of the upcoming consultations MPI will be undertaking that may affect beekeepers or packers and exporters of honey. We recommend you keep a close eye on the consultations section of the MPI website http://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/consultations/ and take the opportunity to comment on the consultations relevant to you.

Mānuka honey science programme

The MPI funded mānuka honey science programme is entering its second year. The programme, due for completion by end of 2016, is focused on developing a definition for monofloral mānuka honey. The science programme will be looking for single apiary honey samples from both mānuka and non-mānuka floral types from this upcoming season's production. If you would like to know more about contributing a honey sample to the science programme, please e-mail manuka.honey@mpi.govt.nz

PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL

THE HONEY BEE EXOTIC DISEASE AND PEST SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME: SUMMARY, AUTUMN 2015

Tony Roper, Apicultural Officer, AsureQuality Limited, Tauranga
tony.roper@asurequality.com

The annual honey bee exotic disease and pest surveillance programme is conducted by AsureQuality Limited on behalf of the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) for the benefit of the beekeeping industry. The ultimate goal of the programme is to provide assurances to our trading partners that our honey bee disease status is unchanged and to limit the time between introduction and discovery of any exotic pest or disease of honey bees.

Early detection of any pest or disease incursion gives MPI and industry more options for eradication or control. In order to provide the greatest chance of early detection, the Honey Bee Exotic Pest and Disease Surveillance Programme is designed to provide:

1. a surveillance programme that concentrates on geographic areas in which pests or disease are likely to be introduced. This is sometimes referred to as 'targeted surveillance'
2. an education programme aimed at improving the biosecurity knowledge of the beekeeping industry as a whole and encouraging reporting of any suspect exotic pest or disease. This is referred to as 'passive surveillance', which is a very important part of the overall surveillance system
3. sampling bees from stock provided to exporters of live bees.

An additional bonus to the beekeeping industry is that during the surveillance hive inspections, any hives with American foulbrood (AFB) are also likely to be identified and can then be eliminated.

AP2 inspecting frames. Photo: Byron Taylor.

Targeted surveillance

High-risk area inspection and sampling

Partnering with industry to deliver field inspections is vitally important for a successful programme. Around 30 Authorised Persons – level 2 (AP2s) sourced from within the industry offered their services for this year's programme. As in previous years, a number of these AP2s are experienced beekeepers who have been involved with the surveillance programme for many years, while in some areas inspectors are relatively new to the programme. Refresher training for the AP2 inspectors is organised every year to ensure they maintain their pest and disease recognition skills. Both AsureQuality and MPI greatly appreciate the work of these individuals who take time out from their busy autumn schedules for the good of the beekeeping industry.

The surveillance programme requires 350 apiaries to be inspected and sampled. Hives were sampled for a range of pests and diseases of importance to the beekeeping industry. Every hive in each of the apiaries selected was required to be inspected and tested in order to maintain the sensitivity of the surveillance programme.

High-risk areas were selected as the most likely points of introduction for an exotic pest or disease and include: seaports, airports, transitional facilities, large population areas, tourist areas and other sites deemed to be an elevated risk, such as kiwifruit growing areas where there are large hive movements.

A total of 339 apiaries were inspected as part of the high-risk site surveillance against a target of 350 apiaries.

AP2s perform a thorough inspection of every hive in each selected apiary. During this inspection they look for a variety of pests and

continued...

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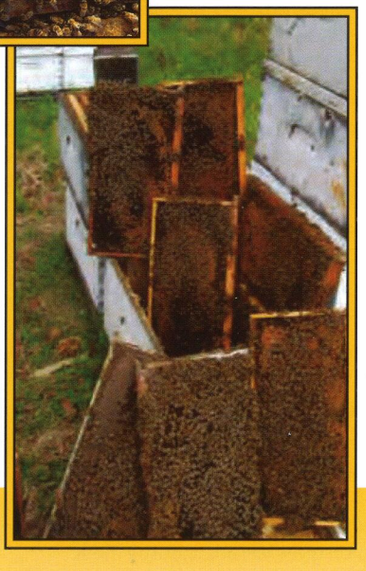

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diseases. This starts as they approach the hive where they are assessing the behaviour of the bees; i.e., how aggressive they are (African or Cape honey bees), how active they are compared to other hives in the apiary (Asian honey bee) and whether there are significant amounts of dead bees in front of the hive (tracheal mite and possibly bees infected with viruses).

As they open the hive, the AP2s are looking particularly for evidence of adult small hive beetles in the extremities of the hive. These beetles move very quickly and will actively seek cover when exposed. Additionally, the inspector will inspect the brood for symptoms of European foulbrood (EFB) and take samples as appropriate. It is worth noting that if the inspector discovers AFB in the hive during this inspection, the hive will be dealt with in accordance with the National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan.

The AP2 will also take a sample of approximately 300 older adult bees from the honey frames. These bees will be tested for tracheal mites and possibly undesirable bee genetics if suspected. If there are significant numbers of dead bees in front of the hive, a sample of these will also be taken to test for tracheal mites.

An example of a pest under the heading of 'undesirable bee genetics' is the Asian honey bee, *Apis cerana*, which has become established in the Solomon Islands and northern Queensland and more recently in Vanuatu. This illustrates just how mobile this pest is. Reports on its impact—both on local beekeeping and on access to export markets—serve as a reminder that we must remain vigilant.

Lastly, the AP2 will insert miticide strips into the brood nest and a sticky board onto the floorboard to test for external mites (particularly the Asian mite, *Tropilaelaps clareae*). The AP2 will return the next day to extract the sticky board and strips from the hives.

All bee samples are sent to MPI's Plant Health and Environment Laboratory (PHEL) at Tamaki, Auckland, where they are tested for the range of exotic pests. Any cases of suspect exotic disease are sent to the MPI Investigation and Diagnostic Centre in Wallaceville, Upper Hutt for diagnosis. No exotic pests or diseases of honey bees were detected during the high-risk site surveillance programme this season.

Low-risk samples

Samples from 521 low-risk apiaries that supply bees for export contributed to the programme this year. This is much higher than the target of 300 apiaries, and is due to the fact that package bee exports are up on previous years. No exotic mites were detected in any of the samples.

Exotic disease inquiries

In addition to the scheduled surveillance programme, each year MPI and AsureQuality receive a number of calls from beekeepers reporting suspected exotic bee diseases or unusual symptoms in hives. AsureQuality works with the MPI Investigation and Diagnostic Centre in Wallaceville to screen these calls and determine whether sampling is justified. Eight calls were received, all of which resulted in further sampling being required. If endemic diseases appear not to be the cause of the symptoms, then samples are usually tested for a wide range of exotic pests and diseases such as EFB and viruses to determine the cause. All tests were negative for exotic pests and diseases for the eight cases investigated.

Industry education

As at 30 June 2015, there were 5,551 beekeepers managing 575,872 hives on 34,476 apiaries. New beekeepers are still entering the industry at record levels, with 1,082 new beekeeper registrations in the 12 months to 30 June. Almost 34% of the industry has fewer than two years of beekeeping experience. This highlights the real need to provide ongoing education around exotic disease identification, which is paramount to increasing the sensitivity of the passive surveillance programme. By educating the industry in the identification of exotic pests and diseases, the chances of finding an incursion early are greatly increased. This is because vastly more hives can be inspected by an educated industry than through targeted surveillance at high-risk sites.

Inspecting a hive. Photo: Murray Reid.

Three articles are submitted for publication in *The New Zealand BeeKeeper* journal every year. These are written by the AsureQuality Apiculture team and are generally a summary of the latest information on a particular pest or disease of importance to honey bees. Articles are peer reviewed internally within the AsureQuality Apiculture team and externally by MPI. This season articles were written on the Africanised bee (*Apis mellifera scutellata*), the Asian honey bee (*Apis cerana*), and the Asian mite (*Tropilaelaps* sp.).

Beekeepers should keep themselves informed about biosecurity issues, pests and diseases that affect apiculture and regularly inspect their hives for any suspicious signs of pests or disease. The more educated the industry is, the greater the chance that a beekeeper will report something unusual in their hives.

Apiary database

The creation of an effective surveillance programme depends on good information. The Ministry for Primary Industries funds a portion of the costs associated with keeping the information on the national apiary database current (i.e., the Annual Disease Return). MPI uses the apiary register to design and manage the surveillance programme.

Additionally, the exotic disease surveillance programme has previously contributed to the development of APIWEB, which allows beekeepers to access and update information held on the apiary database relating to their operation. This ultimately improves the quality of information held in the database and improves the surveillance programme design. It is encouraging that the use of APIWEB is increasing and a number of beekeepers are now completing their Annual Disease Return in APIWEB. *[Editor's note: see page 32 for further information on lodging an ADR via APIWEB.]*

It is pleasing to note that more beekeepers are recognising the value of the surveillance programme now and are more supportive with having their hives inspected. A special thanks to all of these beekeepers.

The final key message to all beekeepers is to continue looking for anything unusual in their hives and if they suspect anything, ring the MPI Hotline (0800 809966) immediately.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

BEE AWARE OF YOUR HEALTH AND SAFETY OBLIGATIONS THIS YEAR

Peter Bell, Federated Farmers Bee Industry Group Vice-Chairperson, Chairperson Joint Health and Safety Focus Group

In late August 2015, the Health and Safety Reform Bill passed in Parliament and has now become the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.

This Act comes into force in April 2016 and will replace the current Health and Safety In Employment Act 1992. The new legislation places a number of overarching obligations on farmers and beekeepers.

The basic duty is to do as much as reasonably practical to eliminate or minimise the risk of accident or injury to yourself and your employees.

As you might be aware, to aid the debate in the House of Representatives, Workplace Relations and Safety Minister Michael Woodhouse released a list of occupations that could be considered high risk because of their high death and serious injury rate.

Beekeeping was described as a high-risk industry. There is scope to challenge this as regulations are further developed. But the regulations aren't going to go away.

Developing a generic health and safety policy based on the requirements of the finalised Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 is a priority.

What beekeepers can do now

The legislation will require the industry to be involved in developing a series of industry standards to describe what safe practice is.

As this process plays out, there are steps you can take now to prepare yourself for the incoming legislation and understand what your health and safety obligations are to your employees, businesses and any farms you may visit.

As business owners, it is critically important we provide and maintain a safe working environment for staff, visitors, contractors and ourselves.

We can start by developing a health and safety policy that is a living and working document available to all staff in the workplace. You must involve your employees in the development of the document.

As business owners, it is critically important we provide and maintain a safe working environment for staff, visitors, contractors and ourselves. As a starting point, your health and safety policies could include your obligations as business owners. These obligations are:

- the need to take all practical steps to meet obligations under the health and safety legislation
- foster an attitude of thinking about health and safety. This includes encouraging staff to communicate any safety issues they see and log/report all accidents or near misses in the workplace in an accident register or an accident and investigation form
- provide and maintain facilities to ensure health and safety of employees at work
- ensure all plant, machinery and equipment is safe for staff to use, and to train staff in its use BEFORE they commence work. This includes running an induction course for new employees to identify hazards at the base and in the field, and to read a copy of the health and safety policy, including a site map and a signed employee declaration. You should keep a record of training on health and safety
- ensure that employees are fit for work. This means taking steps to ensure the workplace is drug and alcohol free and any young/inexperienced employees are closely supervised by a superior until they are competent
- ensure that employees know that non-compliance with these obligations carries the possibility of prosecution. Non-compliance of health and safety regulations equates to serious misconduct, and the appropriate actions will be taken if employees are found in breach
- above all else, to think about health and safety on a daily basis.

Employees should be fully engaged and cooperate with Health and Safety obligations. They can do this by:

- cooperating fully with business owners and other staff to provide a safe and healthy workplace
- reading follow and understand the health and safety policy
- helping to train health & safety policy to new staff
- reporting all work accidents and near misses
- communicating ideas of improving workplace health and safety
- keeping driving licences and medical certificates up to date
- wearing workplace protective safety equipment
- above all else, thinking about health and safety on a daily basis.

These obligations may seem like a daunting task, but with a policy in place it will become second nature.

Once you have the health and safety policy in place, you can use it to apply for an ACC workplace safety discount. These obligations may seem like a daunting task, but with a policy in place it will become second nature.

Contractors and visitors also need to be informed of their health and safety obligations. My business is sending out visitor/contractor health and safety policies to all preferred contractors once a year, so they can read it and be aware of the hazards and emergency exit plans. They then sign it and send it back, which covers them as they come and go through the yearly period.

Health and Safety Focus Group established

As we take steps towards industry unification, a Health and Safety Focus Group has been formed, consisting of members of the executive councils from the Federated Farmers Bee Industry Group and the National Beekeepers Association.

Developing a generic health and safety policy based on the requirements of the finalised Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 is a priority. Our goal is for the document to be made available to members of the new organisation and amended to suit individual or business requirements. Whether this would be at a discounted fee for members or free of charge would be decided by the Health and Safety Focus Group once the policy is developed.

The focus group will be concentrating on these activities, among others:

- getting beekeeping off the high-risk category
- educating the industry to reduce beekeeping accidents
- working with other industry stakeholders on health and safety issues.

If you have any comments or concerns on health and safety, we encourage you to make contact with Lauren and Philippa at the details listed below.

Lauren Crimp (National Beekeepers Association)
secretary@nba.org.nz
04 471 6254

Philippa Rawlinson (Federated Farmers)
prawlinson@fedfarm.org.nz
03 357 9457

PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL

BEE-FRIENDLY INSECTICIDE ON THE HORIZON?

It's a double bind. New Zealand's agriculture and horticulture industries are highly dependent on insecticides to control the myriad pests that destroy both our crops and stored food.

However, those same insecticides can reduce the number of beneficial insects like bees, essential for pollination and crop protection and already facing well-known threats, such as the varroa mite.

A bee geneticist at the University of Otago, Associate Professor Peter Dearden, could have the answer.

Dr Dearden has developed an idea for bee-friendly insecticides and recently received funding from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) to make the idea a reality and achieve market potential.

"It is urgent that we find solutions to minimise the impact of insecticides to maintain and improve our pollination security.

"While one option is to implement better control of these very useful chemicals, another to ban them altogether, I'm hopeful my research will remove the need for such measures.

"My team will be developing the next generation of insecticides, ones that are effective against pests, but don't harm bees."

Dr Dearden's previous research into the bee genome has identified that many of its gene pathways are distinctly different to those of other insects.

"The fact that bees have quite unique genetics means it's likely we'll be able to identify chemicals that do not affect them but are lethal to pests, raising the possibility of targeted insecticides."

National Beekeepers Association Chief Executive Daniel Paul says this work is extremely important to mitigating the threat to bees caused by insecticides.

Associate Professor Peter Dearden

"Insecticides are a big issue for beekeepers, so we applaud this significant step towards finding an alternative that keeps the bees and farmers happy," he says.

New Zealand uses approximately 3000 tonnes of insecticides annually, Dr Dearden says.

"Globally, manufacturers are moving away from producing insecticides that we currently rely on due to regulatory constraints introduced in Europe as a result of pollinator decline.

"New Zealand's honey industry generates $144 million per year in export revenue, and supports a further $5.1 billion in pollination services.

"By developing bee-friendly insecticides, we will ensure the continued competitive advantage of New Zealand's primary production."

There is a risk that insects will rapidly build resistance to such insecticides, however.

"A multi-pronged strategy will be important to avoid overuse of these insecticides. That means ongoing research and continuous development of new products," Dr Dearden says.

Dr Dearden's team will receive $1 million in funding over the next two years as part of the MBIE's 2015 Science Investment Round.

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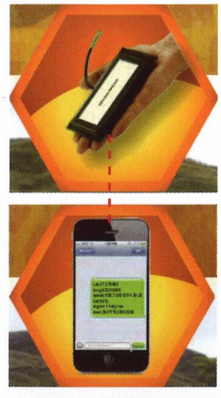

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EDUCATION

BECOME A **SUCCESSFUL BEEKEEPER,** WHEREVER YOU ARE

Lincoln University

At home, on the farm and in commercial ventures, beekeeping is on the rise. Urban beekeeping is a growing trend as people become more aware of the importance of bees to the environment and horticulture. Lifestyle block owners and farmers are increasing their hive numbers and reaping the benefits, while commercial beekeeping companies are increasing as the opportunities for exporting honey and related products become apparent, with exports valued at about $80 million annually.

If you're considering taking up beekeeping as a hobby, additional farm activity or commercial enterprise, knowledge is your best bet for becoming a successful beekeeper. Or you may already be working with bees and want to know more and get better results.

Certificate in Apiculture Knowledge

The Certificate in Apiculture Knowledge is a correspondence course, administered by Lincoln University's Telford campus in South Otago, suitable for all levels of beekeeping. The course covers a comprehensive range of topics in detail and is designed to give you the skills and knowledge required to make you a successful beekeeper wherever you are.

Each of the 17 Learning Modules in the course cover a specific subject and consist of a workbook and assessment, and sometimes additional reading on the subject. The modules are learner-centred and designed to be used flexibly. Completed assessments are posted to the Telford Campus for marking.

The course begins with a background to the industry and related career options, outlines the legislative constraints around beekeeping and the basics of establishing an apiary. A module on entomology provides information on classifying honey bees, detailing their physiology, anatomy, behaviour and development.

Knowing why bees behave as they do is crucial to good beekeeping and the health of your apiary. The division of labour in a colony, drifting, and the ways bees communicate is discussed. This will assist you in monitoring hive activity and honey production to ensure you get the best out of your hives. The module on health and safety shows you how to identify hazards, control these and apply risk assessment procedures. The topic of safety when working with hives is expanded on in the module on beekeeping equipment, including the use of smokers and dealing with bee stings.

Beehive construction and repair is necessary for keeping a healthy apiary, as is knowing about and understanding how a hive can be manipulated for stocking, feeding and extraction, and the equipment and processes required for hive manipulations. Setting up and maintaining a hive through the seasons and meeting the nutritional needs of your bees is essential for successful beekeeping and honey extraction. The course modules will give you excellent pointers on these and the process of feeding your bees.

Of course bees need flowers to thrive, so it is vital that you know about the relationship between bees and flowering plants, and the influence of weather, seasons and soil on flowering patterns as these affect the flow of honey. Pollination of gardens, orchards and pastures comes into play here, and you will need to know about managing bees for pollination purposes and transporting bees and beehives if necessary.

Everyone has heard of varroa mites and the devastation they can wreak on a bee population. But how many people know about the other pests and diseases that can and will affect a bee colony? As a beekeeper you need to be able to identify these, manage and treat them. Likewise, a sound knowledge of the advantages and disadvantages of agrichemicals as they relate to beekeeping is necessary. Pesticides can have a negative impact, while other agrichemicals are used for positive effect.

Ultimately, the desired outcome of beekeeping is the production of honey and related products. Without the queen bee there would be no honey, so understanding the process of rearing and introducing a queen to the hive is paramount. The final modules deal with removing honey from the hive, the honey house and creating hive products other than honey, quality control and marketing in the apiculture industry.

Finally, if you are running your apiary as a business—and most beekeepers are sole proprietors—you will need to have some solid business administration skills such as record keeping, budgeting and cash flow. You will also need to understand how taxation will affect your business, and possibly the legal requirements for employing people. The Certificate in Apiculture Knowledge covers all of this, so you can rest assured you are running an effective and organised business.

Two awards are provided by Ecroyd Beekeeping Supplies for high achievement in the Certificate in Apiculture Knowledge. Students who successfully complete and achieve all the assessments on the first attempt will be eligible for the award.

A range of reading materials will be supplied as part of the course. The Telford Campus has a comprehensive library covering all rural subjects. Students simply contact the campus and they will find the material they need, at no cost.

When you successfully complete this qualification, you will be awarded the 'Certificate in Apiculture Knowledge'. Lincoln University will register any relevant Unit Standards that you have gained on to the National Qualifications Framework.

THE **INTERNATIONAL CODE** FOR MARKING QUEENS

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RESEARCH

FORECASTING **THE CHANGE IN MANUKA HONEY** IS NOW A REALITY

Steve Howse and Dr. Anatoly Chernyshev
Analytica Laboratories

Introduction

A forecasting model has been developed to help those with an interest in manuka honey to get a better idea about how it will change over time. Using initial test results for DHA, MG, and HMF, the model estimates how these will change in future, with storage temperature being a very important variable in the equation. Reports containing the forecast results are available from Analytica Laboratories.

Megan Grainger has written a series of articles in *The New Zealand BeeKeeper* journal this year about manuka honey and why we test for things like DHA, MG, HMF, and C4 sugars. A unique thing about manuka honey is that its NPA (Non Peroxide Activity) changes over time. This has given rise to the now-widespread practice of storing honey after harvest to 'grow' it; or, in other words, store it while its MG and NPA levels increase.

Questions about how best to store manuka honey, the potential for 'growth' in batches of honey, and the likely shelf life of honey after it has been packed are very common. Some people in the industry have developed 'rules of thumb' about these matters from their experience, and others have used test results over time to develop their own ways of answering these questions.

Analytica Laboratories has invested in controlled temperature storage and regular testing of a set of honey samples to understand how manuka honey changes. Based on the results of these samples, over the past two months we have made reports available to the honey industry that provide a forecast of how honey will change over time.

The forecasting model

Forecasting of future changes in a batch of manuka honey uses '3-in-1' test results (DHA, MG, and HMF) for a sample of the honey. The test results are entered into a forecasting model, and estimates of how the honey will change in future are produced. A wide range of storage temperatures and storage times can be used.

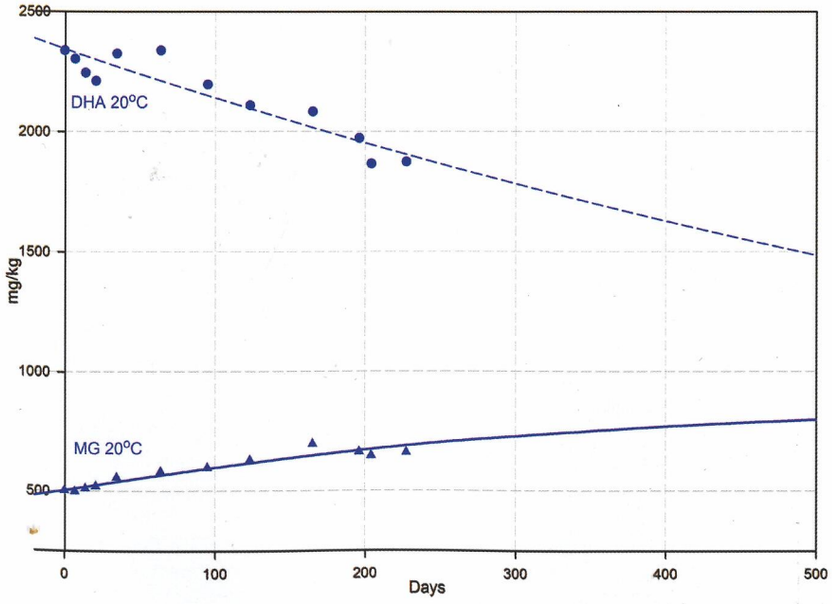

Figure 1: Changes in DHA and MG concentration over 500 days at 20°C in honey (initial concentration of 2338 mg/kg DHA and 503 mg/kg MG).

Analytica Laboratories executive director Steve Howse.

Figures 1, 2, and 3 show forecast results of a honey sample with initial test results of 2338 mg/kg DHA, 503 mg/kg MG, and 4 mg/kg of HMF. The lines in the figures are the forecast values for the honey following the initial test date.

Figure 1 shows how DHA and MG change at a 20°C storage temperature and Figure 2 shows how they change at 34°C storage. Figure 3 shows how HMF changes at 20°C and 34°C.

The individual points on Figures 1, 2, and 3 show actual test results for the honey when analysed at various times over the first 7–8 months after the initial test. They compare estimates from the forecast model with how the honey has changed in reality. While not perfect, you will see that the model has done a pretty reasonable job of forecasting the changes in this honey over time, at the two temperatures.

So what can we learn from this?

Storage temperature is very important: the changes taking place in manuka honey are chemical reactions, so the warmer the honey is, the faster those reactions will occur. Honey stored at a temperature of around 20°C does not change all that quickly, whereas storage at 34°C produces a much faster change.

continued...

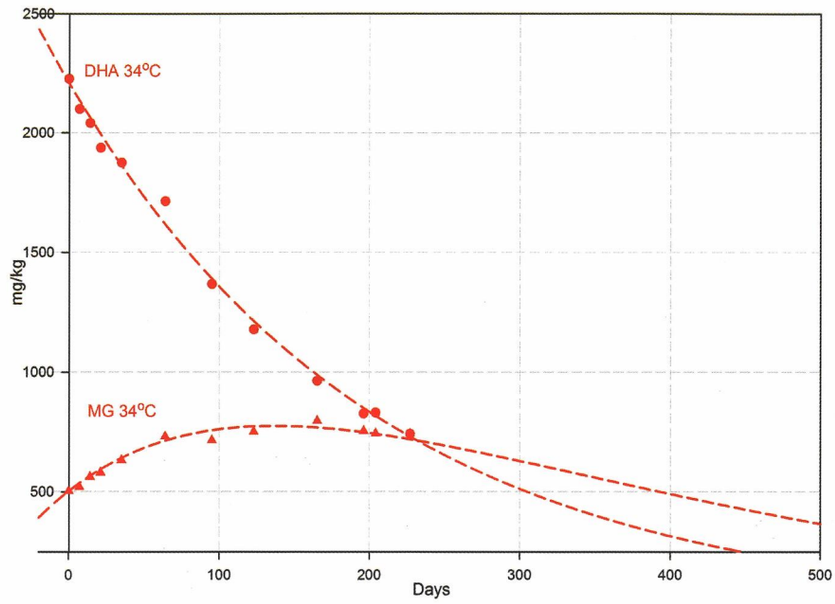

Figure 2: Changes in DHA and MG concentration over 500 days at 34°C in honey (initial concentration of 2338 mg/kg DHA and 503 mg/kg MG).

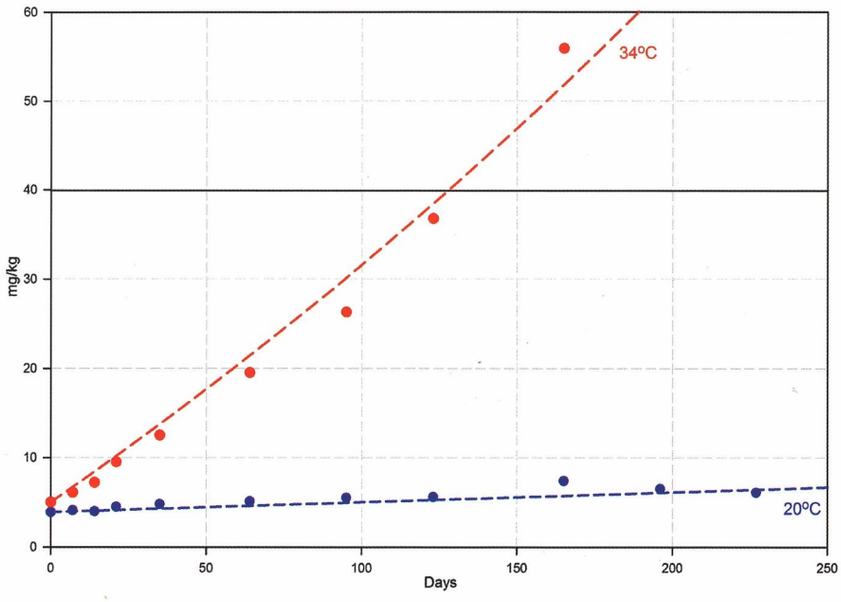

Figure 3: Changes in HMF concentration over 250 days at 20°C and 34°C in honey (initial concentration of 4 mg/kg HMF).

DHA only goes down: DHA is the naturally occurring chemical found in manuka nectar that bees bring back to the hive. It is the precursor to MG in the honey, and over time will convert into MG. You can see from Figures 1 and 2 that DHA concentrations start high, and eventually reduce to zero (or close to it).

MG goes up, then down: MG is the naturally occurring chemical in manuka honey that is strongly associated with the NPA of the honey. Initially MG increases as the high levels of DHA are converted into MG. However, MG is also converting into other things in the honey, and after a period of time the rate at which DHA is converting to MG is overtaken by the rate at which MG is converting to other things. When this happens, MG is at its maximum in the honey, and after that its concentration will reduce (eventually to zero).

Also, look at the rate at which MG increases: quickly at first, and then more slowly at it gets closer to its peak.

HMF only goes up: HMF forms in honey through a completely different chemical reaction to DHA and MG. It is a result of sugars 'caramelising' in the honey, and this process never stops. Figure 3 shows how HMF keeps increasing, and you will see the really significant effect that temperature has on this. When you consider that many processors want no more than 40 mg/kg in their honey, you can see the negative effect that long periods of storage at high temperatures can have.

Using forecasting information

As mentioned earlier, the most common questions we are asked by people having manuka honey tested are to do with how best to store manuka honey, and how it will change over time. We have designed two reporting formats to provide forecast information for honey owners to use when making decisions affecting their honey.

Honey storage and growth

This report is designed for beekeepers, and people buying or selling honey prior to it being processed into final consumer packaging. It uses test results for DHA, MG, and HMF from a specific date to:

- forecast the maximum MG (and NPA) that the honey will reach. It also indicates how long it will take to get there at different storage temperatures, and the HMF after that time
- forecast how the honey will change over a 12-month period at different storage temperatures, to help with decisions about storing honey following harvest.

Shelf life of honey

This report is designed more for honey processors. It also uses test results for DHA, MG, and HMF to forecast the change in MG (and NPA) and HMF over up to a five-year period to help with estimating a 'best before' date for honey. Once again, temperature is key variable in this. Processors find this useful as they provide a product to their customers that will be true to label over time.

Closing comments

A lot has changed in regard to manuka honey in the last 30 years. As its value as a premium natural product has been recognised, testing has evolved to help with buying, selling and labelling of the honey.

Forecasting is simply another step in this process, and we hope it will be a very useful tool to build on the all the great work done by those in the manuka honey industry to date.

BUSINESS

'SIGNATURE COMPOUNDS' OF MANUKA HONEY

Unique Manuka Factor® Honey Association

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HONEY ASSOCIATION

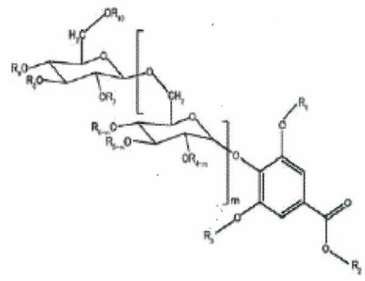
The outputs of the Manuka ID Project have identified a number of characteristic 'signature compounds' that together yield a unique chemical fingerprint for Manuka honey. The UMF Honey Association has selected the most defining of these 'signature compounds' for their capacity to differentiate Manuka honey, and filed for patent protection to enable their ongoing utilisation in the best interests of all Manuka honey producers.

The Manuka ID Project is using a multidisciplinary team. Key leaders in this phase are identified in this update.

Adding value to Manuka, NZ Inc., and the UMFHA through Intellectual Property (IP)

The IP generated from this work includes:

- identification of novel compounds specific to Manuka
- strengthening NZ's honey market credibility globally
- exclusion of counterfeit or adulterated honey, from NZ or elsewhere
- protecting the value in the New Zealand Manuka positioning



Structure of Leptosperin as an example of a signature compound.

- potentially new bioactivity from these novel compounds
- adding incremental value to Manuka honey producers should new bioactivity be found.

Risks:

- if the IP is not protected, the value opportunity may be diluted or even lost
- consumers & customers may be confused about what the correct standard should be, and premiums compromised
- IP not being secured may result in a loss in value to genuine Manuka honey producers.

Opportunity from IP Protection:

- test regimes based on international best practice, with standardised results across major markets
- legitimate producers can label authentic product with confidence that the inherent value is recognised internationally
- regulatory authorities in-market will align with and lend credibility to the best practice test regime
- new findings, including for example bioactivity may be used under licence for the benefit of NZ Inc. and UMFHA members
- through licensing the markers the UMFHA can secure an ongoing ROI to offset protection costs and fund future R&D programmes.

Source

Abridged from Unique Manuka Factor® Honey Association Members' Update: Identifying and protecting 'signature compounds' of manuka honey, August 2015, Number 21.

Early morning delivery. This photo, taken by NBA Bay of Plenty Branch member Jody Mitchell, was judged the winner of the People's Choice category in the Ecrotek apiculture industry photography competition, June 2015.

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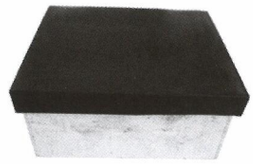

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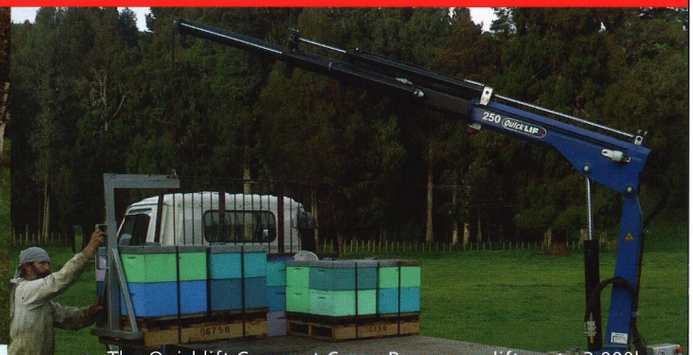

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EXPORTS

ANALYSIS OF NZ **HONEY EXPORTS TO THE USA**

Peter Molan

In May 2015, the New Zealand Consulate-General in Los Angeles released a report entitled "The New Zealand Honey Phenomenon in the USA". Professor Peter Molan has written a synopsis of this report below, along with some personal opinions.

The report provides "an analysis of New Zealand honey exporters in the USA from an in-market perspective". It raises some points which should be given some serious consideration by the New Zealand honey industry, especially the segment of the industry selling manuka honey.

A very big opportunity is at stake. The report says:

"The importance and potential of the US market is clear:

- The US is the largest importer of honey in the world (146,700 tonnes in 2013), however only consumes approximately 5% of the total volume of New Zealand honey exports (471 tonnes in 2014).
- The average FOB value per kilogram is significantly higher in the US (NZ$30 per kg) compared to all of the other main export destinations (China averages NZ$22 per kg).
- Manuka honey sells at up to 25 times the retail price of US honey."

It also says, "There is still a lot of potential growth in manuka honey supply and market development, but there is also a significant mono-floral honey opportunity utilising New Zealand's extraordinarily unique flora natural heritage." It says, "there is no reason to doubt New Zealand honey exports can grow like wine exports".

The report proposes that the New Zealand honey industry acts more like the New Zealand wine industry. It is critical of the fragmentation of the New Zealand honey industry, and says that in the USA, all the potential in the market "is being put at risk by inconsistent behaviour by New Zealand honey exporters". It says, "For the last 25 years the rampant individualists of the New Zealand wine industry have found ways to come together to develop common sustainability systems; consistent labelling and a common platform for promoting New Zealand wine and its categories. There is no reason the apiarists and honey exporters cannot do the same" and similarly "become its biggest by volume and highest by margin market."

The "inconsistent behaviour" referred to is in labelling claims and grading systems for manuka honey. It says that this "creates utter confusion for the consumer". The report says, "The fragmented approach of the honey industry has failed to develop a consensus on standards or certification of New Zealand honey resulting in a wide range of standards and rating systems being used on manuka honey labels in the US". The report gives verbatim examples of consumer confusion copied from comments and questions from Amazon. It states the opinion, "This is not a trivial issue and if remained unchecked it will damage the industry and jeopardise the industry's ability to grow from $200 million in exports to $1.2 billion by 2027".

It is concluded in the report that "Policy-makers in New Zealand would be best to focus on supporting the industry to (1) develop more coherent leadership (2) develop consistent certification and standards, (3) increase supply and (4) support the industry to develop common promotion platforms and also develop greater capacity and capability in online marketing. However, it also says that, "Ultimately it is up to the honey producers of New Zealand to collaborate on standards and the promotion and development of "New Zealand", "Manuka", and other "mono-floral" categories in the United States. A lack of cooperation will lead to missing some of the opportunity."

Opinion

The one big chance for the "consistent certification" that the report calls for briefly existed at the end of 2014, when the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) ruled that only the content of methylglyoxal could be rated on manuka honey. This would have provided for consumers a completely unambiguous indication of the level of the non-peroxide antibacterial activity that is unique to genuine manuka honey. (The report says, "There is no doubt that the perceived health benefits of Manuka honey are the main reason why such a premium price is put on the product".) However, pressure from one sector of the industry caused MPI to allow UMF ratings to continue. Other rating systems then had to be allowed, and now there are even more of the confusing rating systems than before. Furthermore, the description of manuka honey in the MPI interim labelling guide has been carefully crafted so as to allow kanuka honey to be legitimately sold as manuka honey.

The report quotes Paul Grey from ExportX saying, "Individual marketers can do their best, and the UMF association could do more in the USA, but a huge difference could be made by an 'official voice' providing reference facts, e.g. a NZ Government web page that listed the key facts, UMF to MGO conversions and specified what customers should look for on a honey label, and what to avoid."

I am confident that with the industry working together, instead of having one sector seemingly aiming to monopolise the market for manuka honey, such a web page could be easily achieved.

Bee on manuka. Photo: Jody Mitchell.

TREES FOR BEES

TREES FOR BEES
DEMONSTRATION FARMS

Angus McPherson and Dr Linda Newstrom-Lloyd

The mission of Trees for Bees is to solve problems of malnutrition and starvation in bees for beekeepers and honey packers, as well as for pollination services for agricultural and horticultural production in New Zealand.

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NBA Poverty Bay Branch President Paul Badger standing beside a flowering Manna Ash tree at Peter Hair's farm at Lake Repongaere near Gisborne.

In this Trees for Bees demonstration farm, we identified a specific pollen dearth in October, and so this tree and others were purchased to cover the October flowering gap by the Poverty Bay Branch of the NBA as its contribution to the project. The trees flowered on time, and have successfully contributed to addressing the flowering gap. Photo taken October 2014.

Bee feed shelterbelt at Ingleby NZ LP's Matahiia Station, Ruatoria.

The purpose of this shelterbelt was to provide a quick hedge which would: (1) screen logging trucks from view and intercept their dust, (2) provide autumn through to spring bee feed, and (3) be aesthetically pleasing from the road and from the homestead. A three-row shelterbelt was planted; with the two rows closest to the road planted in evergreen species (e.g., *Camellia sasanqua* 'Setsugekka' as shown in the photo) to provide visual and dust screen, and a third row closest to the homestead in a mix of deciduous blossom species and specimen trees. Photo taken August 2015.

Herb bee feed at Tolaga Bay.

Mustard, borage and lupin planted by Ingleby NZ LP's managing beekeeper Ronan Ferey on his own property at Tolaga Bay. Ingleby NZ's Matahiia Station at Ruatoria has recently planted 13 ha in similar annual bee forage that is targeted to flower during the October pollen dearth period, after the willows have finished and before the clover/manuka comes into flower. Ingleby is a Trees for Bees Platinum Sponsor and demonstration farm since 2012. Trees for Bees is working with Ingleby on multiple plantations, including ground cover options. Photo taken September 2015.

Michelia yunnanensis *'Inspiration' in flower at Matahiia Station.*

Sweetly scented flowers bloom in early spring starting in August, providing abundant pollen. The nectaries are on the petals. Photo taken August 2015.

HISTORY

'DOING' APICULTURE: NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION (1906–1907)

Roseanna M Spiers, Geographer at the School of Environmental Sciences, The University of Auckland.
E-mail: roseanna.spiers@auckland.ac.nz

Apiculture, honey markets, and what it means to be a beekeeper are always being made and remade by policy makers, primary producers, science, and beekeeping communities. We 'make' New Zealand apiculture through the hive technologies we choose to use (or not), through everyday hive performance measurements, mapping notifiable disease incidents, selecting desirable bee traits, the stories and value added to honey and hive products, and through how we organise industry bodies and seek to regulate and respond to biosecurity threats.

Together these actions fabricate apiculture in a particular way, and we come to know it as such—though of course the biochemist measuring sugar ratios may 'see' and 'do' apiculture in a different way to a hobbyist with five hives, or a company with 5000.

Recognising that we are always bringing beekeeping 'into existence' puts us in a better position to identify and intervene in particularly potent moments of economy and industry making. We become attuned to the significance of everyday beekeeping choices, as well as 'big' industry happenings.

The story of beekeeping at the New Zealand International Exhibition (1906–1907) exposes one such moment where state and industry actors, scientific and technological advances were actively staged to demonstrate and propagate 'modern' beekeeping practices and rationales in New Zealand. This story unsettles taken-for-granted assumptions about how we (came to) do beekeeping. Some of the story may be familiar—what is important here is seeing the making of beekeeping in a particular way being done for an audience of potential beekeepers and honey consumers. In light of the on-going restructuring of the beekeeping industry today, challenges around funding, and the changing role of the state in providing biosecurity, I think that the question of interrogating moments of industry and economy making is particularly topical.

The New Zealand International Exhibition (NZIE)

The NZIE was held in Christchurch from 1 November 1906 to 15 April 1907. It was inspired by and modelled on the Great Exhibition at the Crystal Palace in London, 1851 (Thomson, 1998). International exhibitions and fairs were major cultural events in the second half of the nineteenth century, providing nations with opportunities to demonstrate and relate their cultural, industrial, and scientific prowess, position themselves among world cultures, and foster trade and diplomatic relations. The NZIE was New Zealand's first major international event, and a significant tourist attraction. Despite substantial financial losses, it attracted nearly two million visitors, almost double the population of New Zealand, and was deemed a success.

The NZIE was deeply implicated in projects of nation building. Richard Seddon, then premier, saw New Zealand as 'the social laboratory of the world' and the Exhibition was to proclaim its 'distinctiveness and imminent greatness' to the world (Thomson, 1998, pp. 18–26), and demonstrate the progress made under Seddon's program of Liberal reforms. The exhibition building was deliberately grand, and at the time the largest structure ever erected in New Zealand. Displays explicitly sought to fashion a new nationalism: this was a new nation but one with strong ties to the Empire.

The Department of Agriculture Court neatly represented this imperial relationship in the forging of the new New Zealand. Situated in the premier place among the governmental courts, it presented the nation as agriculturally independent and 'Britain's food basket' (Brooking & Pawson, 2011). Bees and honey were visible among the vast array of plants, crops, livestock, and agricultural products on display. Beekeeping methods were represented in a model apiary complete with 20 colonies of bees that performed alongside poultry-raising, fruit-preserving and canning in 'live shows' (Christchurch City Libraries, 2014; Cowan, 1910). In the words of historian Gavin Mclean, 'visitors walked through extensive government courts which displayed a beneficent state working in partnership with its citizens on everything from railways to beekeeping and life insurance' (Thomson, 1998, p.30).

The state apiary from Ruakura was exhibited as the 'Model Apiary' and was overseen by Isaac Hopkins, Government Apiarian, and Miss Livesay, manageress of the first state apiary at the Ruakura Government Farm. Hopkins (1916) describes the apiary in his *Reminiscences*:

> [It was] thoroughly equipped with honey house and every modern appliance, and was run as a model bee farm, the honey secured being exhibited in the Department's quarters. The apiary occupied about half-an-acre, surrounded by a six-foot fence of wire-netting, over which sweet peas were grown; it was a most attractive and popular exhibit, and did an immense amount of good in making the modern system of beekeeping known, as well as being instrumental in creating a greater demand for honey (p. 34)

The state-backed model apiary presented a unique opportunity for apicultural agents to demonstrate the technological, financial and social structuring of their industry and explore 'new' ways of shaping colonial New Zealand through the pastoral labour of honey bees. These exhibits were not innocent or inevitable—they worked to privilege and secure particular ways of coming to know and engage with bees and beekeeping and to discredit others.

It would be wrong to suggest that the NZIE created a new apicultural world. Rather,

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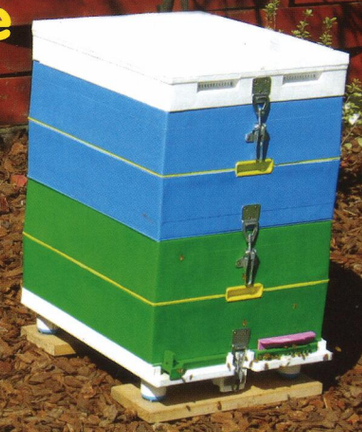

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authorised by significant beekeeping agents and the Department of Agriculture, the NZIE apicultural exhibits provided a credible platform for enacting this new national apiculture and a culturally significant theatre for staging its emergence. The NZIE successfully choreographed the performance of desirable trajectories in apiculture.

The NZIE successfully choreographed the performance of desirable trajectories in apiculture.

The NZIE privileged specific beekeeping practices and ways of knowing, technologies, and colony management that had been congealing into an identifiable form prior to the Exhibition. The model apiary featured Langstroth (vertical, movable frame) hives, Italian bees, and large, reversible honey extractors. This was not an inevitable choice. Other movable-frame hive designs were available in the latter half of the nineteenth-century.

The first used in New Zealand, a 'Berlepsch' hive, was sent from California in 1876. Hopkins acquired two duplicate 'Berlepsch' hives but found that they did not allow for easy removal of comb honey. In 1878 he learned through an English beekeeping journal of technologies being developed by A. I. Root in America. He ordered a comb-foundation machine, honey extractor, smoker and other appliances, and ordered from London Langstroth's famous text and "best bee book obtainable" (Hopkins, 1916, p. 6). While the text included details for constructing hives, Hopkins had to learn through trial and error how best to work the hive in New Zealand.

Hopkins' assembled his apicultural practice experimentally. The Root honey extractor and comb-foundation machines enabled him to harvest beeswax and honey from his hives without destroying the colony, and to produce comb-foundation printed with hexagonal cells. A tin smoker allowed for non-lethal subduing of bee colonies, making everyday management more efficient, comfortable and less disruptive to the colony. The Langstroth hive, fitted with frames coated with comb-foundation, allowed ready examination of comb for brood, stores, presence of disease

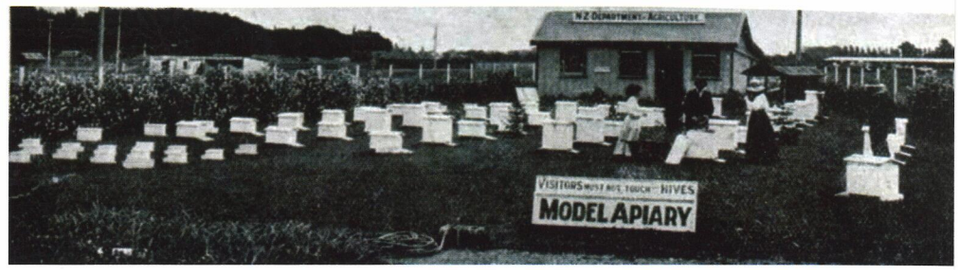

Figure 1: New Zealand Department of Agriculture model apiary at the New Zealand International Exhibition. (Sign reads: 'MODEL APIARY: Visitors must not touch hives'). (Source: Beken, 1907a).

or pests; removal of honey comb; and queen intervention. His apiary, known as 'The Apiary' at Parawai, Thames, became a working model and a key site where his experimental assembling of apicultural best practice began to crystallise.

The visits of multiple visitors, including former governor and premier Sir George Grey, began to translate this experiment to other sites and moments, as did the distribution of the emergent apiculture apparatus through Hopkins' supply business. Others were actively trialling different hives, management strategies and technologies; however, Hopkins' public visibility saw him appointed as Government Apiarist responsible for management of the state apiary at the Ruakura Government Farm. This made him the obvious choice to manage the model apiary at the Exhibition. The apicultural apparatus at the Parawai Apiary became that modelled at the Ruakura State apiary.

The NZIE model apiary (figure 1) depicts evenly spaced white-painted Langstroth hives arranged regimentally in front of the small honey house where beekeeping paraphernalia and honey were stored. The grass around the hives is clipped short and the section fenced with flowering sweet peas. The cover of one of the hives has been removed, and the exhibit attendant is explaining apiarian comings and goings to visitors. Other photographs taken at the Exhibition depict a similarly ordered apiary scene where apicultural technologies are presented as modern, clean, simple, and efficient.

The observatory hive (figure 2) provided visual 'proof' of the objective, scientific knowledge upon which were founded both the apicultural model crystallising at the Exhibition, and understandings of the work of honey bees as pollinators in colonial New Zealand. The observatory hive allowed 'pupils' to survey hive activity closely. It enabled visitor-participants to 'enter' into the hive by supporting a God's-eye position of surveyor. Observatory hives (of multiple designs) emerged in the mid-1600s and were very important for educational and scientific research projects in apiculture (Crane, 1983; 1990; 1999). The role of the queen bee as monarch, the apparent

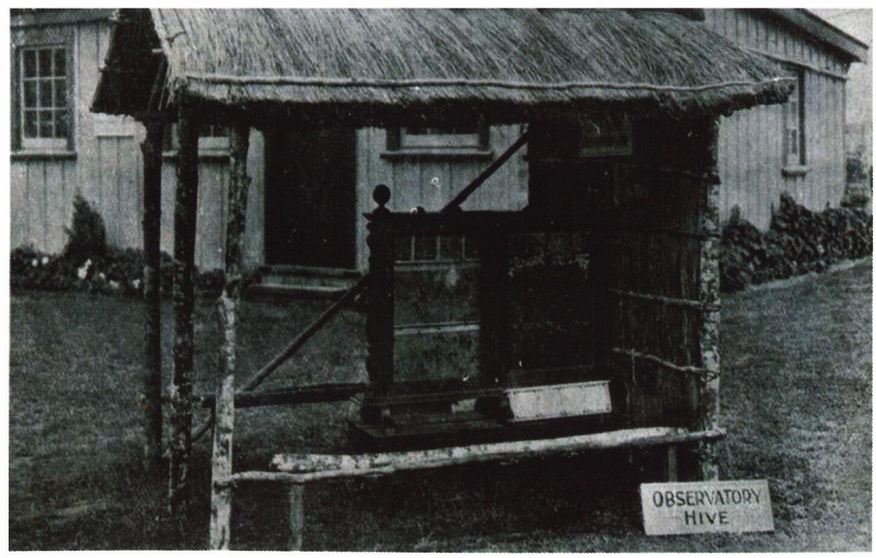

Figure 2: The observatory hive (Beken, 1907c).

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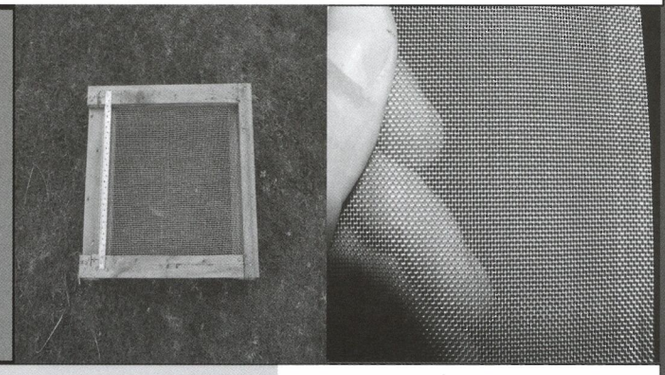

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Figure 3: 'Old style of hives – picturesque, but not profitable' (Beken, 1907b).

subordinate and industrious labour of the chaste worker bees, and the presence of caste and gender-based division of labour were 'revealed' through the observatory.

Therefore, the Exhibition secured one particular form of apiculture by silencing other possibilities. One of the ways it did this was by deliberately contrasting the desirable constructions of the model apiary with other possible ways of knowing and doing bees and beekeeping. Perhaps most notable was the change in how the 'straw skep' was represented (see figure 3). (Bees were introduced to New Zealand in these early hives.)

Part of the apicultural exhibit, this photograph of the 'straw skep' hive was published in *The Press*, Christchurch. It emphasises the difficulty of inspecting the hive and thus managing honey bee pests or disease. The beekeeper is also reliant on bees' "natural' reproductive methods (i.e., swarming), and the ability of the beekeeper to capture the swarm and successfully re-home it in another skep. The straw skep had been in use for several hundred years and widely used throughout Europe (Crane, 1983). As a form of hive technology and management, it is very different to that associated with Hopkins' movable frame hive.

In a straw skep, straw or other natural fibre is plaited, coiled and stitched into a cylinder shape with an open base, which is secured to a wooden board. Bee colonies build their own combs, which they fix to the sides of the hive. The 'hat' facilitates rain run-off. Beekeeping intervention is difficult and harvesting hive products involves destroying the hive and colony at the end of the season.

The Department of Agriculture juxtaposed the model apiary with established apicultural systems, such as the straw skep. The beekeeping exhibit featured a prominent display of 'old style hives' described as 'picturesque, but not profitable'. In doing so, these hives were re-positioned as obsolete. Scientific and technological 'progress' had rendered the straw skep outmoded by a 'superior' apicultural apparatus that privileged productivity and profit as expressed in terms of honey and wax output. The 'old style hives' were presented as quaint historical artefacts or nostalgic museum pieces, fit for amusement but not productive 'modern' or scientific beekeeping. Hopkins (1916, p. 4) identified them as 'very neat and cosy-looking'. The model apiary therefore helped relegate the skep to the quaint English cottager context of the early nineteenth-century.

The greater challenge, however, was to extend and reproduce the work of the Exhibition beyond the staged encounter with the model apiary at the NZIE. Practices running through the event itself included:

- establishing regional and national beekeeper associations and clubs (Hopkins, 1916; Matheson & Reid, 2011; Wallingford, 1999)
- publishing material in pamphlets, national papers, new beekeeping journals, or Australasian journals (Cowan, 1890; Barrett, 1996; 1999; Hopkins, 1916; Rayment, 1925)
- the multiplication and spread of 'modern' beekeeping technologies, materials and designs
- the associated knowledge production and propagation of 'modern' apicultural rationales through supply businesses, such as that operated by Isaac Hopkins in Thames (1886; 1916; Winter, 1961; 1975).

Transition to the Apiaries Act

The Exhibition cemented modern apicultural institutions and supported the passing of the Apiaries Act (1908) shortly after Hopkins' appointment to Government Apiarist (Hopkins, 1916).

The Exhibition cemented modern apicultural institutions and supported the passing of the Apiaries Act (1908)

The Apiaries Act introduced compulsory registration of all apiaries, instituted an inspection regime, outlawed fixed frame hives (including straw skeps and box-hives) and introduced measures to control American foulbrood. It was one of the world's first modern bee disease control laws (NBANZ, 2014) and in Hopkins' view 'without doubt the best of its kind … for protecting the interests of commercial beekeeping' (Hopkins, 1916: 34).

The new Act included appointment of the first two apiary inspectors in 1908,

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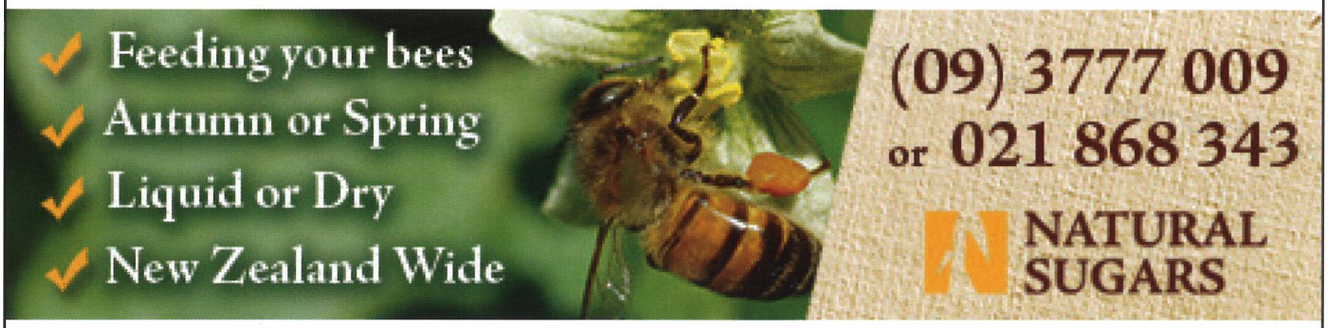

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one each for the North and South Islands. The inspectors were charged with doing "everything possible *to assist legitimate beekeepers,* to cope with disease (foul brood), and to abolish box-hives" (emphasis added, Hopkins, 1916, p. 35). These apiary inspectors were later increased to four, and provided with motorcycles to replace their bicycles! Their duties were soon expanded to include acting as graders of all honey for export (Hopkins, 1916: 35).

As officially appointed inspectors, they worked to enforce the legislative and ideological framing of 'legitimate' beekeeping practices in New Zealand. The inspectors as apicultural enforcers embodied a pedagogical position that helped to reproduce the apicultural system represented at the Exhibition, and to resource the transition from the discredited 'old style hives' to 'modern' commercial systems of management.

The work of the model apiary, the Apiaries Act, the inspectors, and Hopkins himself as Government Apiarist, was complemented by the training of beekeeping 'cadets' at the Ruakura Government Farm. The state apiary was expressly built "on cheap but efficient lines, as a model for beekeepers with little capital, and everything was done that could in any way assist beginners by example" (Hopkins, 1916, p. 33). It was visited by thousands of prospective beekeepers seeking industrial know-how and advantage, and trained several cadets each year. The state apiary was increased from 15 to 100 colonies specifically to provide sufficient work during the busy season to keep two or three cadets employed (Hopkins, 1916, pp. 33–34).

For Hopkins (1916, p. 34), it fulfilled "an important function in the progress of advanced bee culture in New Zealand". A number of cadets returned to Australia and England, hinting at just how far the work of the emissaries of the new 'modern' form of beekeeping spread, and how they helped secure 'legitimate' apicultural knowledge and associated technologies and practices.

Taken this way, the state-backed model apiary at the NZIE provided a pivotal platform for reproducing 'modern' apiculture and desirable industry trajectories. We see numerous interests and actors at work shaping and reshaping the very 'stuff' of beekeeping and what it means to work and do work with bees. How similar is the work described here to that which goes on at local beekeeping clubs, apiculture courses, the annual beekeeping conference, and Bee Aware Month? In each of these contexts, we are doing and knowing beekeeping in some ways and not others in a very real sense. We strengthen some forms of apiculture as 'legitimate', 'efficient', 'sustainable', etc. and erode others.

These apiary inspectors were later increased to four, and provided with motorcycles to replace their bicycles!

Developing sensitivity to this sense of 'doing' beekeeping, both collectively and at local levels, might enable us to identify those moments of industry and economy making. It might also help us to be conscious of how we choose to intervene and shape the form of bees and beekeeping in New Zealand. Keeping in mind, of course, that choosing not to recognise our agency and valuable sets of knowledge and experiences is also a choice that might similarly affect apiculture in New Zealand. The story of the NZIE and model apiary tells of an opportunity created and taken full advantage of.

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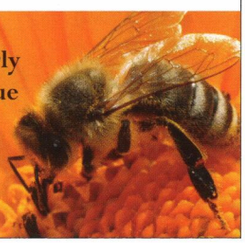

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Heather Bell, Auckland Beekeepers' Club

Early last year I decided that my backyard needed wildlife, or at least more than the resident hedgehog family rustling under a composting pile of branches.

My neighbour had chooks but I didn't want that great a commitment; snails and worms were already there in abundance but lacked the warm fuzzy factor; puppy farming seemed almost as profitable as politics but I'm allergic to both; so I thought of bees.

I went along to the Auckland Beekeepers' Club (ABC)'s beginners' course, devoured all the beekeeping books in the local library, and wore out YouTube's icon on my iPad watching eccentric, obsessive and evangelical beekeepers. I was hooked.

ABC's field days were a wonderful way to get hands-on experience. Paul Brown's demos encouraged us to pass around frames, taste royal jelly, and identify drones, workers and the queen. And with Paul Walsh we used icing sugar to count varroa numbers, and pulled glistening-white drone grubs out of their cells to see if they had the dreaded varroa mites.

After all my reading and viewing I was drawn to top-bar hives—working at waist height, no lifting heavy supers, and a window to spy on the inmates. So when a swarm was installed in the empty ABC top-bar hive in spring, I hovered around whenever Carol *[Downer]* was tending the bees. Her bee handling was much gentler and more merciful (except to drones) than other beekeepers I'd seen, and the only lifting involved was of single frames. When she offered me a brand new top-bar hive she had for sale, I collected it the same day, set it up in my backyard, and put my name on the swarm list.

That was in mid-November after the first flush of swarming, so I thought I might have a long wait. But just three days later I got a call saying there was a swarm 10 minutes' drive from my home. I had no bee suit, so improvised with a long coat, leather gloves, and a mesh ginger beer strainer bag as a veil—not the Trelise Cooper school of stylish beek-wear, but I made it work.

The swarm—a buzzing mass of dark-brown bees—was in a pseudopanax (five-finger) shrub in a suburban garden, and had bent the soft trunk down to where I could easily snip it with secateurs and catch it in a cardboard box. Once cut, the trunk rebounded and quite a few bees flew away but I had most of them, so taped the box shut and took it home, leaving another open box beneath the tree to collect the rest later.

Around dusk I returned, in a rush to get to a class I was teaching, so didn't bother with the veil. I repeated my snip-and-catch method with the remaining bee cluster that I left in the open box under the tree, hoping all the stragglers would join their sisters as it grew dark. When I disturbed the bunch, a few bees flew and one got tangled in my hair and stung my earlobe, which blew up like a mini-balloon and amused my students that evening.

I collected the box later, with all the bees inside, and took them home.

The first load had gone into the hive earlier in the afternoon; the next morning I tipped the second boxful in, and was fascinated to see that they'd already begun building their perfect wax hexagons on the box sides and branch.

My bees made themselves at home straight away, and through the top-bar's side window I watched, fascinated, as daisy chains of bees rapidly built comb. There was no drone comb for the first couple of months, but although I didn't see her until autumn, I knew they had a vigorous queen because there was plenty of worker brood and a cloud of hovering bees at the hive entrance. It soon became obvious that she'd had a Latin lover or two, because the workers gradually changed from dark brown to golden as summer progressed.

As they filled all the bars, I put in a queen excluder and stole some honey for myself, friends and neighbours, and for the lawnmower man, who was very nervous about cutting the grass nearby. I also put three full frames of honey into my freezer for the hive's winter supplement, before anti-varroa treatment.

Beeutiful Bee Veil, modelled by the maker, Heather Bell. Instructions for making this veil are on the Auckland Beekeepers' Club website: details on page 70.

One day in early autumn I noticed a loud, angry buzz coming from the normally quiet hive when I opened my bedroom window. The bees were flying fast, in straight lines and zig-zag angles, instead of their usual curving, floaty, hovering dance. It was obvious that robbing was under way, so I scrabbled around and found some old wine corks to block two of the three entrance holes, and threw a bed sheet over the hive—I had read that the bees who belong there would find their way under and in, but robbers would be confounded. It worked.

It's now mid-June. I checked my bees on a mid-winter's day and they're still numerous and lively, bringing in food—five bars with brood, pollen and honey, six more with honey, so not looking like they'll need any extra food supplies.

Now my dilemma is what to do in spring. With such a vigorous hive, swarm prevention will be my next challenge—with sage advice from ABC experts and YouTube.

Source

Originally published in the journal of the Auckland Beekeepers' Club, 2015, and provided courtesy of the club.

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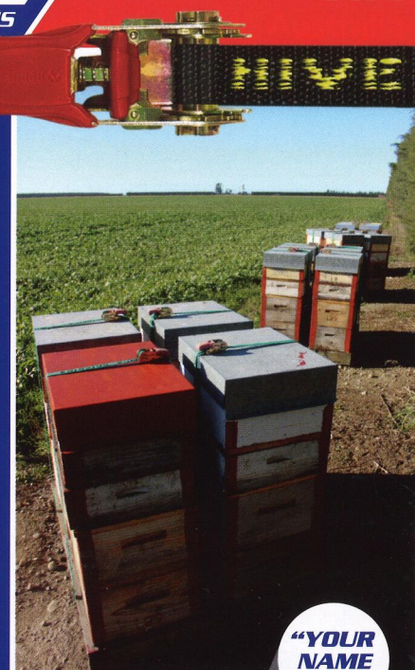

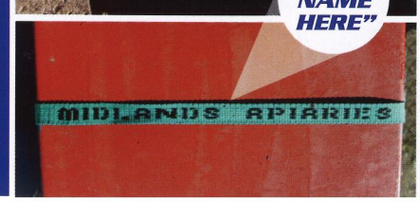

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BRANCH REPORTS

FROM THE COLONIES

Auckland Branch

The Auckland Branch held a very successful meeting on 27 August at Waitemata Honey Company's premises. Approximately 48 people attended.

Those attending were very interested in Manfred Hirsch's demonstration of the Nassenheider Professional Formic Acid evaporator he imports from Germany. The beauty of this system, unlike others that are available, is that the amount of formic acid evaporated is automatically adjusted to the temperature by the wick arrangement.

The system uses a 65% formic acid solution (recent reports from Germany suggest that a 60% solution gets just as good a kill) and Manfred claims that it achieves an almost total kill of varroa mites. The evaporator tray sits on top of the brood box so it is very accessible, and the acid is easily and safely replenished by replacing the bottle that feeds the formic acid to the wick. This is necessary approximately once a fortnight.

Later in the evening, Kim Singleton gave us some background about the formation of the interim Apiculture Industry Governance Board (AIGB). Chris Stuckey, who is a member of the AIGB, had just attended the first meeting of the new group and offered to answer questions from the floor. One of the issues raised in discussion was whether the branches will continue under the new regime. Those present were unanimous that the branch should continue.

Branch President Graham Cammell, on behalf of the Branch, gave a vote of thanks to Trevor Cullen for all he has done for the industry and the willing assistance he has given to individual beekeepers over many years.

Waikato Branch

Hmmm, it is raining again. There is mud everywhere and the ground is really soggy and waterlogged. I have got stuck in paddocks twice this last week, much cursing and muttering!

The weather on the whole though is heating up, the fruit trees have their buds on, the plums are flowering and the bees are happy. By all accounts, hives in the Waikato have wintered over well and the bees are podgy.

However, in other areas beekeepers have had big losses this season. Because of this, we are being asked to record our losses and anything unusual for a national study. This hopefully will show in which areas these losses are occurring and why, so please don't forget to help your fellow beekeeper by completing the online survey. *[Editor's note: refer to the article on page 21.]*

The other day I spied a book in the library and brought it home to read. It is called *The beekeeper's problem solver: 100 common problems* explored and explained, written by retired professor James E Tew. He is an American and the book is written for the USA market, so some things, such as creepy crawlies, are a tad different from here. At least it is not bears, like the Canadians!

The layout is pretty neat for a new beekeeper: it has a full colour photo on one page, then the explanation on the corresponding page. It's a pretty practical wee handbook and well worth a look if you are a newbie.

When you're not reading, have fun in your queen yard! And if you have time, go and see the film *Mr Holmes*, starring Ian McKellen. It is a mystery/murder story with a bee story running parallel. It is set in England in 1947 and is just beautiful—enjoy!

- Barbara Cahalane

Bay of Plenty Branch

The season is under way: bee trucks are everywhere with feed tanks on the back.

Our bees have wintered well but are using stores fast. Spring is always an interesting time, as the ground is soft and we seem to forget how easy it is to get stuck.

Hi-Cane® is going on kiwifruit and mite sprays on avocados; all in all, a very toxic time in the BOP.

Most orchardists are very bee-aware but there are still a few that seem to have no concerns over the health of our bees. The kiwifruit industry is very proactive in this area and it is good to see the spray education that is available now.

Over the past month our branch has been busy with more training days, including member crane courses and the annual AFB DECA course, held on 5 September.

No time to write much as the real beekeeping part of the year is upon us, and as every season is different, we will be trying to pre-empt what nature is going to throw at us and beekeep to suit.

- Bruce Lowe

Poverty Bay Branch

Winter

The weather over winter was warm and dry, with the hives coming through very well. Since the beginning of August it has been much colder and wetter. This is affecting the development of hives that came through with lower bee numbers. Some warm weather is needed now to take advantage of the willow flow.

Giant Willow Aphid

Hives have generally wintered well on a mixture of willow honeydew and multifloral honey.

Giant Willow Aphids were still feeding up till early June when the leaves fell off the willow trees. The first of the aphids were spotted in late August. Last season we did not find any until January. I hope this does not indicate that we are going to get an early build-up.

Trees for Bees

Trial hives are wintering well with weights presently sitting at 56–72 kilograms. Most of the trial hives will need splitting in mid September. Another 30 tree lucerne have been planted to replace losses. We hope to see an improvement in October development as our plantings mature.

- Paul Badger, Branch President

Hawke's Bay Branch

Talking to beekeepers around the bay, the three main areas of concern at the moment (in no particular order) are:

1. The weather. Actually, it hasn't been as bad as last year but unlike most of the country we could use some rain and people are already talking drought. El Niño certainly has some people worried, with the typical weather pattern in this area being severe and early drought coupled with screaming nor'west winds blowing all bees away, particularly near the ranges.

continued...

2. The perceived imminent demise of the NBA. People are starting to get nervous, especially with talk of disestablishing all the branches. Whether this is true or not I don't know, but it is what we are hearing. A lot of people have the impression that all this is being driven by the Bee Industry Group while the NBA is fronting up all the money. Perhaps it is time for a vote to be taken on this issue.

3. Too many beehives. Enough with all the positive publicity. It is becoming increasingly difficult for people to run their beekeeping businesses because of huge numbers of hives being placed with no consideration for existing beekeepers. I know two beekeepers who have been forced out of the industry because hundreds of hives were being dumped on top of them. In one case when the person remonstrated with his new beekeeping neighbour he was told, tough! It's pretty obvious that these people have never read commandments 8, 9 and 10. Whatever your beliefs, these are good rules to live by.

It not only makes it very difficult to plan when you never know when someone will take a yard out from underneath you, often by giving totally unrealistic promises of returns to the farmer. This is becoming a matter of regional importance: all of the good spring areas that are vital for the production of pollination hives are being overrun by thousands of hives, and the ability to supply pollination hives is being seriously threatened.

There is also a major threat to public safety with massive apiaries being placed far too close to roads, cycleways, etc. As keepers of bees, we run the risk of causing serious injury to people and even death. I once put a girl in hospital because of an inappropriately sited apiary. She made a full recovery, but over 30 years on I can still hear her screams. It is something I have to live with and something that I have done everything in my power to avoid ever since. I guess that comes under commandment six.

- John Berry, Branch President

Southern North Island Branch

As I write this spring is here: plums are in flower, willows are almost ready, and peaches are starting to blossom. The weather reports continue to be difficult with rain and cool conditions forecast, followed by a hot, dry summer—could be an interesting season.

Many beekeepers are still in recovery mode from the June floods, which is putting pressure on those supplying boxes, etc. Staff are working flat out making up new gear and trying to get out to feed hives as well.

Of concern is the number of commercial and hobby sites that are not registered. I have been requested to check a number of sites. In most cases there is nothing to identify the beekeeper.

Remember, we are supposed to identify each apiary: even just one box with an identification number is enough to comply with the regulations. In one instance, the landowner had no idea who had put the hives on his land. The beekeeper may find that hives are removed and destroyed, which is not a good outcome.

Equally disturbing is the numbers of hives being stolen, so mark your boxes with your registration number. Some beekeepers are burning in these numbers to provide a permanent record.

-Neil Farrer, NBA Life Member

Nelson Branch

Things are definitely warming up, with many buds cracked and new tissues emerging on several plants. Hives I have observed are very active on warm days. The beekeepers I have caught up with are all feeding hives, with some strong hives following the winter with new laying and brood present. That will be great for those involved in pollination towards the end of the month. There are some reports of varroa already in drone brood, indicating that those pesky little mites will need some form of treatment soon.

In other events from the region, the Nelson Beekeepers Club recently had its annual election, which resulted in the current executive being re-elected for another term.

One or two retail shops have managed to get into the swing of the Bee Aware Month with some window displays, which is fantastic. Anything that can be done to promote and educate the general public about bees is for the better.

- Jason Smith

Canterbury Branch

August has been a very cold month with the effect of reducing bee flying time to gather fresh pollen for brood rearing. This has resulted in lower than normal bee populations for this time of the year, with many hives in a weaker state. Early September has had some warmer days and the bees are bringing various types of pollen in now to stimulate brood rearing.

The main item of interest for many South Island beekeepers was the invitation to inspect the new Midland Apiaries Ltd facility a division of Midland Seeds Ltd., Ashburton. Assembled beekeepers were taken on a tour to view the four departments of extracting, packing, warming and storage. Outside the fleet of trucks were standing proud for all to inspect. The gleam of stainless steel is still shining in my eyes. It is a magnificent facility with large capacity for the future. Attendees were thanked for their contributions to Midlands.

A presentation from the Midlands team and guest speakers followed, including a dinner at the Ashburton Hotel.

Celebrity speaker 1974 Commonwealth Gold medallist Dick Tayler concluded the evening. He was a most humorous and engaging speaker with a real-life story to tell.

- Noel Trezise

Southland Branch

Shaun Lawlor is our new branch president. His contact details are given on page 71.

See also the letter from the branch on page 9.

Bee on a peach blossom. Photo: Jane Newton.

ABOUT THE APIARY

SWARM CONTROL MEASURES

Frank Lindsay, NBA Life Member

"Spring has sprung, the grass has riz ..." (author unknown, but popularised by Spike Milligan and others).

Wander through the bush and you can see shrubs developing their flowering buds. Hangehange (*Geniostoma rupestre*) is one of the first to flower with its distinct perfume. In the pastures, the odd dandelion is flowering, but the bees are really working the pussy willow, coming back to their hives covered in pollen. Bees are also gathering pollen from camellias and other garden flowers.

How do we know whether spring is going to be early or late? Without recording the flowering periods of some of your garden plants over the years, it's very hard to tell. I use a succulent growing on a bank at home to tell me. On average, it starts flowering on 7 October, but we can also look at the weather maps on TV.

Surprising as it may seem, Ashburton is the first district in New Zealand to reach 20°C around the second week in September; the temperature needed to mate queens. It's not until early October that the lower western North Island reaches this temperature.

And then just as you think things are warming up, another southerly dumps snow on the ranges again, restricting us from completing our hive inspections.

Swarming

In the Wellington area, strong hives start swarming around the last week in September and into early October. Hives have been stimulated by the continuous flowering of tree lucerne and Spanish heath through the winter, causing bee numbers to increase gradually. The flush of nectar and pollen that comes in with the willow flowering in mid- to late September cranks the hives into even greater brood production, as well as drone production. Some of the really strong hives are now filling two and a half full-depth boxes with bees and have the equivalent of eight frames of brood so have reached a point in their development (40,000+ bees) where they can easily issue a swarm.

Swarming is triggered by a number of conditions, but the main ones are to do with the age of the queen and congestion. The queen's pheromones control the hive, and when not enough pheromone reaches all of the worker bees to suppress the development of their ovaries, some of the worker bees will start to construct queen cell buds.

Congestion is caused when the brood nest is restricted; i.e., it cannot continue to expand. When the hive can't expand, the bees will swarm, regardless of the size of the container the colony is in, or whether it's a nuc, a two-high hive or larger.

In the wild, bees generally like to occupy a cavity of a volume of 60 litres (about the size of a full-depth Langstroth box). When the hive becomes full of bees, they will swarm every second year, which is nature's way that bees reproduce.

Checking for queen cells

Queen cell buds are formed along the bottom bars in the top brood super and along the edges of the frames on the outer limit of the brood nest. In checking the hives, I leave the queen cell buds along the bottom edge and rub out any that can't be seen when viewing the super from underneath. I also mark any frames that have a hole in the comb, as this is also a likely spot where the bees will produce queen cells.

With the flowering of the cabbage tree and hawthorn in early October, the bees start to store the fresh nectar in and around the brood nest, preventing the queen from expanding the brood nest upwards. When a barrier of nectar is formed above the brood nest, congestion occurs and the bees start producing queen cells.

It hasn't been proven whether the queen lays in the queen cell buds or whether the worker bees transfer eggs to the buds, but I believe it's the former. The bees narrow the neck of the queen cell buds, which prompts the queen to deposit a fertilised egg in the cup when there are few other cells to lay in. You will see new, lighter-coloured wax around the tip of the buds as the bees start to draw out the queen cell. Inside the cell there is an egg or a developing queen larva.

Preventing swarms

No matter what you do, a hive will swarm unless you reduce its population. We beekeepers don't want our hives to swarm

No matter what you do, a hive will swarm unless you reduce its population.

as there goes the honey crop, so we perform a few management tools to stop this. Most commercial beekeepers reduce the brood and bee population by putting excess capped brood and bees into less-developed hives to give them an instant population boost in the next eight days, or they make nucleus colonies.

The books are full of different techniques, such as walk-away splits. This generally stops swarming, provided all queen cells are removed. You need to shake the majority of bees off the brood frames to locate all the queen cells, and especially look along the bottom of the comb adjacent the bottom bar. Sometimes a queen cell will lie horizontally along the bottom bar. If overlooked, the hive will swarm.

If the colony has a full box of bees covering all frames and has six frames of brood, plus adequate pollen and nectar, the bees will bounce back into a full, productive colony again after being split. Colonies of this size will double their number by December when the main honey flow starts.

For the less advanced hives, it's just a matter of keeping the majority of brood in the lower super and reversing those that have moved fully into the second super.

continued...

Ah, spring! Bee coming in for a landing on a camellia flower.

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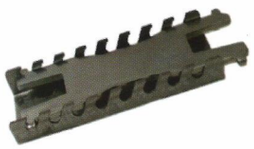

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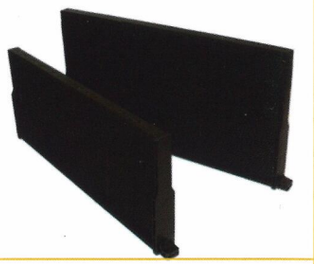

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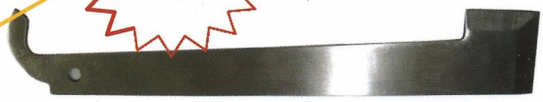

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Some beekeepers would have done this last month during the initial spring inspection. In the past month the brood area may have extended back down into the lower brood chamber as well. The procedure of reversing the brood supers is to allow the queen to keep laying to her full potential.

Quite often the majority of brood will be in the second brood super, with only a patch of brood extending down into the bottom super, perhaps halfway down in three or four frames. If these two supers were reversed again, it is likely that the brood that was in the bottom super (now in the second super) could become isolated from the majority of the brood nest and become chilled during a cold snap.

One way to prevent this is to take a fully capped frame of brood from the now-bottom super and place it in the centre of the second super, so it forms a bridge to the brood in the top part of the second super. This maintains the elliptical form of the cluster and the bees quickly clean out the lower cells in the second super and fill it with brood.

Those who use a single brood nest (restricting the queen's movement by a queen excluder) will find that strong hives will produce brood right out to the outer frames. You can't reverse the supers as there is only one; however, congestion can be removed by shaking the nurse bees off a couple of capped brood frames and placing them in the centre of the super immediately above the queen excluder.

Compact the brood nest by moving all the frames with brood into the centre of the box and replace the empty positions on the outside with drawn frames. Shake the bees off the frames to prevent the queen being transferred with the frames of brood into the upper super. Within a short time the nurse bees will have gone up through the queen excluder to keep the brood warm, thus relieving any congestion.

Hive inspections and feeding

We are now into a 10-day inspection regime. Inspections don't have to take long: just split the brood nest and look along the bottom bars of the top super for developing queen cells.

Make sure the bees have at least three full frames of honey—a week's supply for a strong hive. If there's any less, the hive should be fed sugar syrup until the nectar flow. When you notice bees covering the bottom of four frames in the bottom super, add another super. In fact, add two three-quarter supers, as this will give the bees somewhere to store the initial lot of nectar that comes in this month.

If you don't have any drawn frames, bring up some outside drawn frames from the super below and put them in the centre of the new super. This will draw the bees up into the super. Bees will not enter a super of foundation frames unless they are really congested and will often swarm before doing this.

During the next few weeks, as the bees start to draw the foundation frames beside the drawn ones, move the drawn ones out one position and place a new foundation frame between. It doesn't take long to get the box of foundation frames drawn out, provided the bees have full stomachs (i.e., you have to keep feeding them, otherwise they won't be producing wax).

Those starting with nucs will also have to keep feeding them a couple of litres of syrup every two or three days. The fewer bees committed to foraging, the more will be in the hive to keep it warm and expanding. An early four- or five-frame nuc should be able to build up and bring in enough nectar to support its self through the next winter: it just depends on the season. If the weather is unsettled, which it's predicted to be this year, continue feeding the bees.

Things to do this month

Check feed, check pollen. Do an AFB check, and get your Certificate of Inspection (COI) in the post before the end of November.

Cull old frames, or at least move them to the outside of the super so they can be removed next inspection. Replace any with broken lugs, as well as those that you can't see light through when held up to the sun.

Check varroa mite levels. Treat any that have more than two mites per 100 bees on an alcohol wash, or nine mites dropping in 24 hours through a mesh bottom board. We learnt at conference last year that hives with a 5% varroa level don't produce much honey. Hives kept at or below a 1% varroa level produce 100% more honey than those with a 5% or more mite load.

Add foundation frames into and above the brood nest to keep the bees busy. Fit foundation into comb honey frames. Super hives before the flow starts.

Wash your bee suits and gloves after any stinging incident. Take all your gear off before entering your house to protect your family from the effects of bee venom.

Bees were working the pussy willows hard, as can be seen from this bee's pollen basket (corbicula). Photos: Frank Lindsay.

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Product of New Zealand
For more information visit www.palamountains.info

ADVERTORIAL

HELPING BEEKEEPERS EXPORT PRODUCTS

Provided by Thermaflo Limited

Between 2013 and 2014, honey production has increased by eight percent, and the overall value of exports has increased by almost 30 percent. Therefore it's no surprise that we are seeing a number of small- and medium-sized businesses developing their own brands of honey intended for the export markets.

In light of these new boutique honey producers, Palmerston North-based liquid food process engineering company Thermaflo have developed a new, cost-effective honey purification process to allow many of these businesses to export their products to the rest of the world. This cost-effective process is intended to open the door for many more beekeepers looking to establish their own products.

In late 2014, Thermaflo was contracted to develop, manufacture, install and commission a honey de-aeration, de-watering and crystallisation process plant for Gisborne-based Wild Cape Honey. Managing over 2700 hives around the East Cape region, Wild Cape offers a diverse range of honey, from rewarewa, barberry, and citrus-based honey, to the highly sought after Unique Manuka Factor® honey.

Designing Wild Cape's honey process plant is the first step Thermaflo have taken to diversify their product offering. Thermaflo plans to utilise their expertise in liquid food processing within the honey industry to offer all New Zealand honey producers a cost-effective, locally manufactured piece of processing equipment that meets the highest international standards in both quality and food safety.

The specific process that Thermaflo has developed will produce 300 litres (500 kilograms) of top-quality New Zealand honey per hour. With commissioning due to begin on 9 November, it will not be long before more of Wild Cape's honey is hitting the supermarket shelves.

With the first honey process plant nearing completion, Thermaflo is looking to take what it has learnt from this project and include honey processing in its product offering. As the majority of Thermaflo's work comes from the dairy industry, it is exciting to develop new equipment and work with local businesses to help them produce more of New Zealand's premium products.

New Zealand's honey exports totalled more than $187 million in 2014. With such a large increase in the demand for manuka honey worldwide, it won't be long until exports reach the $200 million mark, and Thermaflo is there to help ensure this happens.

CLUB CONTACTS AND BEEKEEPING SPECIALTY GROUPS

AUCKLAND BEEKEEPERS CLUB
www.aucklandbeekeepersclub.org.nz
Meets second Saturday monthly at Unitec, Pt Chevalier, Auckland

Kim Kneijber
P: +64 9 418 1302
E: kimk_bees@hotmail.com

Carol Downer
P: +64 9 376 6376
E: thefairy@xtra.co.nz

Please send all correspondence to:
PO Box 44-427, Pt Chevalier 124, Auckland 1022

FRANKLIN BEEKEEPERS CLUB
www.franklinbees.co.nz
Meets second Sunday each month at 733 Paerata Rd, near Pukekohe. 10am start, for cuppa and discussion, and open the hives at 11:30. Visitors welcome.

Graham Dyche, President
P: +64 9 238 9854
E: president@franklinbees.co.nz

Joan Leitch, Secretary
M: +64 21 226 2135
E: secretary@franklinbees.co.nz
Correspondence to PO Box 1082 Pukekohe 2340

WAIKATO DOMESTIC BEEKEEPERS CLUB
www.waikatobeekeepers.org.nz
Meets every third Thursday (except January) at 7.30 pm. For prospective members: please contact the Secretary for venue meeting place.

Peter Gray, President
P: +64 7 855 0290
E: president@waikatobeekeepers.org.nz

Cathie Breeuwer, Secretary
P: +64 829 5955
M: +64 21 061 4647
E: secretary@waikatobeekeepers.org.nz

ROTORUA HONEY BEE CLUB
http://www.rotoruahoneybeeclub.co.nz
https://www.facebook.com/RotoruaHoneyBeeClub
Meets monthly

Kim Poynter, President
P: +64 21 926 937
E: birchwoodfarm@xtra.co.nz

Ruth Thomas, Secretary
P: +64 21 180 3970
E: rotoruahoneybeeclub@gmail.com
Correspondence to: 374B Hamurana Rd, RD7, Rotorua 3907

WANGANUI BEEKEEPERS CLUB
Meets every second Wednesday each month (except Jan), at 7.30pm, at Canaan Apiaries, Mosston Road, Wanganui.

Neil Farrer
P: +64 6 343 6248
E: nfarrer@xtra.co.nz

MANAWATU BEEKEEPERS CLUB
Meets every fourth Thursday in the month at 7.30 pm Newbury Hall, SH3, Palmerston North

President: Vacant

Matthew Telfer, Chairman & Media Liaison
M: +64 21 0273 2875
E: matt@manawatubeeclub.org.nz

Georgina Morrison, Secretary
E: secretary@manawatubeeclub.org.nz

(NB: Preferred address for email correspondence)
Mailing address: PO Box 4103, Manawatu Mail Centre, Palmerston North 4442

THE BUZZ CLUB OTAKI
Meets every third Wednesday of the month at 7pm at the Waitohu School Hall, Te Manuao Road, Otaki.

Sarah Bayliss, Chairperson
P: +64 6 364 0555
Ken Wells, Secretary
P: +64 6 364 5966
E: thebuzzclubotaki@gmail.com

WELLINGTON BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
www.beehive.org.nz
Meets first Wednesday of the month (except Jan) in the Johnsonville Community Centre, Main Hall, Moorefield Road, Johnsonville. 7 pm Beginners' session, 7.30 pm main meeting.

Richard Braczek, President
5 Tyndall St, Waiwhetu, Lower Hutt 5010
P: +64 4 973 3028
E: ibraczek@paradise.net.nz

Jane Harding, Secretary
M: +64 27 421 2417
P: +64 4 499 4123
E: janeh@xtra.co.nz

MARLBOROUGH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
www.marlboroughbeekeepers.co.nz
Meets the first Saturday of the month at 10 am at the Blenheim community gardens off Budge Street.

Philip Vercoe, President
P: +64 3 929 3127

Silke Powell, Secretary
M: +64 21 268 4149

NELSON BEEKEEPERS CLUB
www.nelsonbeekeepers.org.nz
Meets first Tuesday Feb–Dec inclusive, 7–9 pm
Waimea Lounge, Richmond A&P Showgrounds
Lower Queen Street, Richmond.

Jason Smith, President
M: +64 27 249 9370

Ian Henbrey, Secretary
P: +64 3 548 6220
M: +64 27 546 8283
E: tasmanbees@gmail.com

CHRISTCHURCH HOBBYIST BEEKEEPERS' CLUB
www.chchbeekeepers.org.nz
Meets on the first Saturday of each month, August to May, except January for which it is the second Saturday, at 681 Cashmere Road, commencing at 1.30pm.

Peter Saunders, President
Myrtle Davey, Secretary
E: chch.beekeepers@gmail.com

SOUTHLAND BEE SOCIETY INC
Murray Christensen, Chair
M: +64 27 721 1448

Sonya Crook, Secretary
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Postal correspondence C/o Secretary, PO Box 5031, Invercargill 9843.

NBA BRANCHES
Refer to Branch contacts (page 71) to request details of Branch meetings.

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M: +64 27 441 8508
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NZ QUEEN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION
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NZ COMB PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION
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NZ HONEY PACKERS AND EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION INC
Contact: Allen McCaw
P: +64 3 417 7198
E: amccaw@clear.net.nz

Mary-Anne Thomason
P: +64 6 855 8038

BEE PRODUCTS STANDARDS COUNCIL
Dr Jim Edwards, Chairman
P: +64 6 362 6301

IS YOUR **GROUP** OR **BRANCH MISSING** FROM HERE? OR HAVE YOUR DETAILS CHANGED?

Contact secretary@nba.org.nz. Please also send any changes or additions to: editor@nba.org.nz

NB: listings on this page are limited to clubs and groups that are financial members of the NBA.

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

NORTHLAND
Interested parties wishing to start this branch up again, please contact Kim Singleton 09 536 6516 or beewise2005@gmail.com

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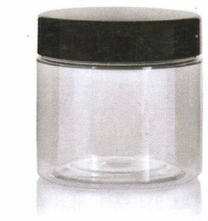
IF YOUR DETAILS HAVE CHANGED...

...please email editor@nba.org.nz and secretary@nba.org.nz so that we can update your details in the journal and on the NBA website www.nba.org.nz.

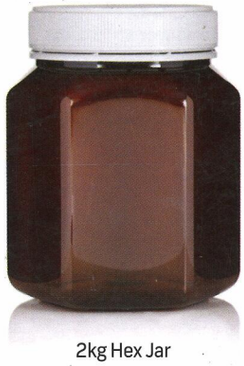


360ml Round Pot

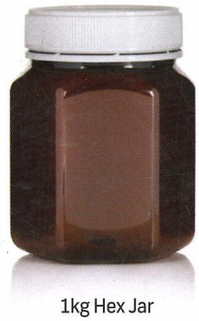
500gm Round Jar

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:

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Auckland 0627

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

100% NEW ZEALAND OWNED & OPERATED

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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.

PHARMAPAC

PPAC

NEW ZEALAND MADE

www.pharmapac.co.nz