

16 March 1996

Dear John

General Library Matters

Thank you for the report you prepared for the recent Executive meeting. It certainly helps a lot when a summary of activities and any requests for policy/approval are presented in such a clear manner. Its one of those things I want to extend to a lot of the other groups (branches, specialty groups, and so forth) - if they would jot down their ideas, concerns and plans to give to the Executive before a meeting, the meeting time can be so much more productive.

Keith had some photos he had taken of the library in its new location. Congratulations on a good job! It reminded me a lot of the time I first went to visit Chris Dawson in Timaru and actually got to see the library. I'm not sure how much most of our members recognise the real long term asset we have with such a collection of materials.

The Executive discussed the future of the library, and once again reiterated its confidence in you and any decisions you make about the library. We took on board your comments (I think from a previous report) that we should keep in mind looking for a replacement librarian. I just want you to know, John, that that decision will be yours - if there *ever* comes a time when you feel the library is taking too much of your time or effort, just let us know. But there will never be any suggestion of replacing you.

I would ask (I think I did say this in a previous letter) that you keep in mind the thought of letting Executive know of any potential future candidates for the job. Keith mentioned a few people you had discussed with him, and we even discussed the possibilities of approaching Frances Trewby. I'd be interested in your thoughts and comments. But for goodness sakes, John, *please* don't take this as any sort of indication that we are looking to replace you! That would not happen at all. I *personally* would like to hope you will continue to see the NBA Technical Library as something that you can continue with for many, many more years, providing you with interest and continuing involvement with the Executive and giving a very great return to the NBA.

After some discussion on the question of duplicated journal sets and foreign language materials, the Executive came to a sound decision. That is, you, Allen and Keith make the best decision for us! I believe that all the Executive really needs to do is give you the backing, the assurance that we will support whatever decisions the Library Committee makes in these issues. So talk it over between you all, and just let us know what you decide to do. And if there is anything the Executive could do to help, be sure to ask (letters, packaging, suggestions, etc).

Enclosed Materials

Again, I'm sending on to you a various collection of the branch-type newsletters that seem to collect to me. You're welcome to either save them or chuck them! I know there must be a continual 'culling' of all library materials, but I feel that the more things that you can have to choose from, the better our collection can be!

Commodity Levies Issue

I don't know if Allen has spoken to you or not, as I sent him a fax on Wednesday evening, I think. The story is this: the NBA will be sending out the April issue of the NZ Beekeeper to *all* beekeepers in New Zealand, as our 'accompanying material' for the Commodity Levies referendum for support.

Could I get you to provide a short summary of (1) what the NBA Technical Library consists of, (2) why it is important to all beekeepers (3) who is able to use it, in the form of a short article for the magazine? The deadline is 1 April (and that is no joke...)

What I'm hoping is to have a number of such 'articles of support' to indicate to the people who don't really know what the NBA is about why they would want to vote in favour of the levy.

And in a more insidious manner, if you wanted to work in any comments into your hobbyist notes about the NBA, disease control or marketing, they would be welcome too!

Old minutes of the Executive

Harry mentioned that he had come across some old bound copies of NBA Executive minutes. I'd be very interested in the chance to go through them, if you could make them available to me, John. I'm always fascinated by *how* and *what things* the NBA Executive of year's past undertook.

I've got a reasonable collection from the last 20 years, but a lot of gaps, too, so I'd be interested in just about anything pre-mid 80s (I've got pretty complete from then).

Someday, my book on the history of the NBA might get to the stage I could actually have a grasp on what it would contain! All it consists of just now is a massive collection of unrelated facts and figures!

Sincerely