



AUGUST 2009

Taranaki Beekeeping Club



What's happening in Taranaki

Hi!! The season has just started as the gorse and the plum trees have come into bloom. All we need now is some sun with no wind and we will be on the treadmill once more.

Choose the first warm windless day to have a look into your hives to see how much brood rearing there has been over these last few weeks. I would not expect much as it has been too cold and wet but you may be lucky enough to have a Micro-climate at your place and in past years there have been swarms in September!! I don't expect that to happen this year.

Make this first inspection a quick one to see how much brood there is and how many frames of honey they have eaten and more important, how much they have left! Have a quick inspection of the brood but don't shake the bees off the frames as you would in a real Spring Check as the brood must be kept warm at all times. If you see any old, empty, black or damaged frames you should replace them with drawn comb – don't put in foundation at this time of the year! If they are damaged but have honey in them move them one space to the outside but not if they contain brood. You could scrape the bottom board if it has a lot of grunge on it but it would be better left to a later date when more bees are flying and it is warmer. If you are rich enough to have another clean bottom board, then substitute that and clean the old one at your leisure.

I think it is a little early to put in "Varroa Strips" but if you haven't got your supply in for the season, order them now. You could do a Varroa Check by putting a 'sticky board' under the brood chamber when you do the inspection to give you an idea of Mite numbers.

Make sure that the hive is dry. If it appears to be 'sweating' and there is water on the hive walls. Put a couple of matchsticks under the edges of the top or 'crown board' to increase the airflow through the hive. Is the bottom board sloping slightly downhill to the entrance?

Remember the better you treat your hives in the Spring the better opportunity the bees have to get off to a good start.

Next club meeting

17th AUGUST 2009

In the PLUNKET ROOMS

6.45pm

Next to New World Supermarket

Third Monday of every month

The club is looking at holding a field day at the club hives on or about Saturday 22 08 09 / 23.08.09. A decision will be made at the club meeting on 17th August at the Plunket rooms, New ply-mouth. Refer to What's happening in Taranaki for typical agenda

Monday, August 10, 2009

Using Honey for Local Disinfection and Healing of Wounds

Journal [Phytothérapie](#), Issue Volume 7, Number 2 / April, 2009

Using honey for local disinfection and healing of wounds

Honey has been used since time immemorial by man to treat wounds or burns which may be infected. The discovery of the therapeutic effect of Manuka honey, produced from *Leptospermum scoparium*, means we must take a serious interest in this natural therapy. Honey is a complex substance whose physiochemical action can treat wounds infected by antibiotic resistant staphylococci.



Honeymoon

The term honeymoon came from the old custom of giving newlyweds mead (an alcoholic drink made of fermented honey) for the first 30 days of their marriage.

Interview with Japanese Apitherapist Dr. Mitsuo Matsuka

Apitherapy Review, 7/30/2009



Q. Did Japanese healing in the past include Apitherapy? Which is the earliest date we have references in the Japanese medical texts about honey bee products or bee stings? When did research first start in Japan on Apitherapy?

A. Traditional beekeeping using Japanese honey bees, *Apis cerana* was not industrialized. Modern beekeeping with *Apis mellifera* developed at the end of the 19th century. Studies on bee venom were found around 1940 and effects by bee sting were experienced by beekeepers on the one hand. Several beekeepers developed a technique using sting apparatus with forceps to treat wounds, boils, joint inconveniences, etc. and in 1979, Japan Bee Sting Therapy Association was founded with 150 beekeepers. They have held workshops on the techniques of apitherapy and published magazines in Japanese. You can visit a website at <http://www.npoapi.net/english/index.htm>, though limited access. It was reorganized as Japan Apitherapy Association (authorized as a non-profit organization) in 2001...

Q. Propolis has become a very successful product in Japan. Could you tell us why propolis has managed to become so well known and favorable to the consumers?

A. Apimondia in 1985 was a lucky and clear start line as described before. Japanese people awakened to the healthy bee product world, which have been, since then, supported by health-oriented, long-lived, and wealthy Japanese people. These are not only for propolis, but also for royal jelly...

Friday, August 07, 2009

Manuka Honey Producer Upset Over TV Portrayal of Industry

Honey Producer has Bee in Bonnet Over TV Show

By Jamie Morton, Wairarapa Times-Age, 8/7/2009

Wairarapa manuka honey producer Peter Ferris is angry at how a Close Up report this week portrayed the industry. A Close Up report that labelled the New Zealand Manuka honey industry as "rife with false claims and deceit" and "in need of a clean-up" has put a bee in the bonnet of a Wairarapa producer and advocate.

The Wednesday evening segment reported that jars of Manuka honey were being sold overseas for up to \$200 a pop, "but the claims on the packaging often failed to match what's inside, meaning huge profits for unscrupulous producers".

Active Manuka honey is well known for its anti-bacterial and healing properties, and is often used to combat digestive problems.

Peter Ferris, managing director of Wairarapa Manuka Limited, believes the story vilified the entire industry instead of the small number of packing companies he said were responsible for misrepresenting the product in labels.

Mr Ferris, who is also president of the National Beekeepers As-

sociation Southern North Island Branch, said the programme constantly indicated "producers" were misrepresenting the contents.

However, producers did not receive "anything close" to \$200 a jar and were instead paid according to the tests carried out by the packers who buy the honey. It was at the packing stage that the true content of the jars were hopefully labelled correctly, he said.

Mr Ferris was especially angry that John Rawcliffe, of the "Honey Association" - which he said was in fact a "very small group of people" - publicly called for a review that he knew was already under way...



Club Contacts

| | | |
|----------------------|---------|-----------|
| Adrian King | 7534681 | President |
| Stephen Black | 7526860 | Secretary |
| Sue Billing | 7514337 | Treasurer |

Tuesday, August 11, 2009

The Benefits of Manuka Honey

Can Zealand's much-hyped 'superfood' really heal, both inside and out?

By Alice Hart-Davis, The Telegraph (UK), 8/10/2009

...A recent survey of people who bought the stuff showed that 58 per cent of them believed Manuka honey to be better than ordinary honey, but they didn't know why. In addition, 70 per cent of them didn't know what the UMF (Unique Manuka Factor) number on the front of the pots meant.

Manuka honey has long had a reputation as a "healing" honey and, because it comes from bees that have been busy pollinating the Manuka trees that grow almost exclusively in the East Cape region of New Zealand, it has rarity value. This makes it expensive.

Honey has long been seen as one of health's "superfoods" (I use the inverted commas as no food is "super" in isolation), offering a number of benefits. Local honey containing local pollen can help reduce the symptoms of hay fever.

Most honeys contain a naturally occurring active agent, which is thought to support good health but is easily destroyed when exposed to heat and light. Manuka honey contains an extra, naturally occurring active ingredient, which makes it distinct from other honeys. This additional component is stable and doesn't lose its potency when exposed to heat, light or dilution. Its special quality is known as UMF and the higher the UMF, the more potent the honey and its powers (aficionados reckon that you need a UMF of 10 or higher for the honey to be properly effective). It has antiviral and antibacterial actions, which is a good excuse for scoffing the stuff neat at the first sign of a cold or sore throat.

Most people who buy Manuka honey simply put it on their toast or in their tea, but where it really comes into its own is in treating wounds. In New Zealand, it has long been used in this way and studied extensively. Now, the NHS is doing the same...

First aid for sting victims

Project personnel should be trained and authorised to apply appropriate treatments according to current legal regulations applying in individual states and territories. There may be a legal requirement for persons to self-administer medication.

Bee stings are seldom fatal unless there is a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) or the victim has been stung many times in a mass attack. However, even if a person receives only one or two stings and appears relatively untroubled, those giving first aid should be alert for symptoms of allergic reaction.

Practical first aid instructions for sting victims are as follows:

- Remove stings with a scraping, sideways movement of fingernail or knife to prevent more venom being pumped in by the venom sac. Do not use tweezers or squeeze the sting, as this will inject more venom into the victim.
- Avoid vigorous exercise or heat.
- Apply an ice pack to relieve pain and calamine lotion to relieve itching.
- Keep the victim under observation in case they develop an allergic reaction

HOW TO CONTROL WASPS

Be extremely careful when attempting to control wasps. They are aggressive and will

swarm when disturbed.

Wasps can be effectively controlled by destroying their nest by:

Fumigation, using kerosene or diesel.

Locate all openings to the nest. Control can be undertaken in all weather conditions, but should be undertaken in the late evening when the wasps are all in the nest and are less active. Pour the liquid into the opening. Do not light. The vapours will kill off the wasps.

Carbaryl (a white powdered substance purchased from most plant centres) can be sprinkled at the entrance of the nest. The wasp will cover themselves in the powder and take it into the nest cavity. Normally within 12 hours the nest will be destroyed.

Contractors, a list of contractors are available in the yellow pages under Pest Control. The contractors will remove the nest at your cost

Sweet preservative

Bees have been making honey for about 10–20 million years. The ancient Egyptians used honey to embalm their dead, and Alexander the Great was buried in white honey.