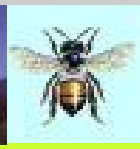

JULY 2011

Taranaki Beekeeping Club

WHAT'S ON IN TARANAKI

Greetings and welcome to the new season of beekeeping. There were only 10 members of the club present at the A.G.M. which was disappointing. So if you are unhappy with the current Club Executive then you only have yourself to blame. We have the same Executive Officers in charge this season and the Club is financially sound but is running out of funds so the subscription has been increased to $40 per family per year. If you pay early, like now, you will get a $5 reduction so please bring your contribution to the next meeting.

One point raised by the Custodian of our Hireage gear was that some people are not reading the instructions when assembling and transporting the extractor. If breakage occurs please inform us when you return the gear as it means inconvenience and a delay to others who are next on the list.

The new season is underway with the weather reminding us that it is Winter and we need to take care of our charges. The happier we can keep our bees over the next four or five months, the more productive they will be.

With driving rain trying to get into the hive, make sure that you have the floorboards on a downwards slope towards the entrance so that any rain trying to enter runs out quickly. The entrance should now be about an inch in width, which should keep most rain from entering the hive but the accumulated Winter debris on the floor will soak up moisture like blotting paper! Later on in the season when the weather warms up, moisture may condense on the cold walls and run down to the bottom boards, so don't forget to put a sac or bit of carpet above the brood chambers to absorb this moisture or put in a match between the crown board and the top super rims, at each corner. Bees are quite good at surviving spells of cold weather but their hive must be as dry as you can make it.

Our first meeting will be on the 18th July in the Plunket Rooms, opposite the Warehouse, at 6.30 pm. We will be holding our Annual Honey Competition, so please bring along a sample of your honey for us to admire.

We will be discussing the hive situation, gear, combs, feed, varroa, queen renewal/replacement, and all your problems!

If you require new gear – now is the time to order it – not when it breaks!

See you next Monday.
Adrian.

Next club meeting
18th July 2011
In the PLUNKET ROOMS
6.30pm
Next to New World Supermarket
Third Monday of every month

The New Zealand Icon Buzzy Bee

Buzzy Bee™ is the best known of New Zealand's toys. Three generations of New Zealand children have grown up with this brightly coloured wooden pull along toy. It is now considered to be a much loved New Zealand icon, as there would be few New Zealanders who wouldn't immediately recognize this toy as a feature of their younger years.
Buzzy Bee™ along with Mary Lou™ is the inspired creation of two Auckland brothers, Hec and John Ramsey, first produced in the early 1940's. Buzy Bee™ is an intriguing mixture of spinning wings, quivering antennae, buzzing sounds and bright colours which fascinate the inquiring minds and senses of very young children.
Buzzy Bee is so well known in New Zealand, that it has been the subject of such things as television advertisements, postage stamps, magazine covers and parades. He is often presented by New Zealand to visiting dignitaries and VIP's. Recipients of note include the future King of England, Prince William, Princess Aiko from Japan and the Spanish Royal family.
Buzzy Bee™ will continue to intrigue young children for many years to come. Although he has evolved over the years and is now made using more up to date materials, he is still essentially the same Buzzy Bee™ that was introduced to New Zealand children all those years ago. Now also available in branded merchandise.

Friday, March 04, 2011

Australian Jelly Bush Honey a Powerful Antibacterial

Native Honey a Sweet Antibacterial

By Katherine Nightingale, Australian Geographic, 3/3/2011

A native honey may well be the most powerfully antimicrobial honey ever discovered, say Queensland researchers.

The honey, cultivated at undisclosed locations in northern NSW and southeast Queensland, is made by bees that have fed on Leptospermum polygalifolium, also known as jelly bush or the lemon-scented tea tree.

The researchers tested 100 jelly bush honeys from a range of areas and found that some had 1750mg/kg of the antibacterial compound 'methylglyoxal' – the highest concentration yet found in this kind of honey. This is higher even than the concentration found in New Zealand's famed manuka honey, made from Leptospermum scoparium, a cousin to the myrtle tree.

Honey has long been known to have antimicrobial properties, and has been used since ancient times as a remedy for wounds. Interest in its medicinal use has resurged in recent years with the discovery of the potency of manuka and jelly bush honeys.

Unknown x-factor

Jelly bush grows all along the east coast from southern NSW to Cape York, but no one knows why only certain trees lead to the highest methylglyoxal levels in honey, says Dr Yasmina Sultanbawa, with the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI), which carried out the latest study with the University of Queensland and two medicinal honey companies.

An additional unknown is how methylglyoxal works, she says. All honey has antibacterial activity to a certain extent, but only honeys such as jelly bush and manuka have particularly strong antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory effects, and they also seem to hasten the wound-healing process.

What is known is that methylglyoxal's antimicrobial potency is strengthened when it's taken in honey, suggesting that it acts in synergy with other components – this is an area the researchers plan to further study. "We're looking at the mechanism of action of methylglyoxal and also the other antimicrobial phytochemicals and enzymes in honey. This is just the tip of iceberg; there is a lot more to be done," says Yasmina…

However, Dr Peter Molan, from the University of Waikato in New Zealand, argues that a higher methylglyoxal level doesn't necessarily correlate with a better antimicrobial effect. Peter, a biochemist, discovered the antimicrobial activity of manuka honey in the 1980s and says the synergy that boosts methylglyoxal activity has been found only in some types of manuka honey.

On its own, methylglyoxal can kill some human cells as well as bacterial cells, but there is something in medical-grade manuka honey which counteracts this toxicity, says Peter. "With the Queensland honey, it is not known whether there is enough of the protective component to overcome the toxicity of the very high levels of methylglyoxal. A lot more testing would be required before it could be assumed to be safe to use on infected tissues," he says…

Monofloral Honey

Monofloral honey is highly priced in the market due to it distinct taste, fragrance and flavor as it is predominantly from one single nectar source. The taste spectrum of monofloral ranges from bitter to sweet and texture from clear to creamy. Similar to wine, the color, taste and texture can differs from year to year even from the same location and beekeeper. The exact same flower from a different region, a different weather pattern and 'blossoming pattern" can make a difference in the honey. The next interesting fact about monofloral honey is the taste of the honey might or might not be similar to the fruit of the flower. So it is important check the label to differential how the honey acquires its taste - natural with no artificial flavoring or infused. Monofloral honey are 100% natural with no additional of any flavors. The taste, texture and fragrance is acquired from the nectar.
Production of monofloral honey is not easy as the beekeepers cannot control the forage areas of individual bees and impossible to train each individual bee to collect nectar from a single nectar source. Experience beekeepers have a few tricks up their sleeves to produce monofloral honey. What beekeepers can control is the location of the beehive and point of time during the "blossoming season" to deploy their beehives. With knowledge of the flowering period of the targeted plant species and types of plants around the area, beekeepers can position their beehives in to produce as much nectar from a single plant as possible. While it is impossible to produce 100% monofloral honey, a large majority of nectar from a single source is sufficient to cover the components of the minority nectar.

Monofloral honey is exclusively for regular honey drinkers or people who feels that honey is boring. With so many different plant species in the world and so many different variety of monofloral honey, there will bound to be a few special honey for you. The application of monofloral in bakery and cooking is only bounded by the limits of the applicant.

List of nectar rich plants suitable for gardens:

Banksia spp.
Barberry *(Berberis spp.)*
Bee balm *(Monarda didyma, M. citriodora)*
Bottlebrush *(Callistemon spp.)*
Borage *(Borago officinalis)*
Brassicas *(Brassica spp.)*
Buddleia *(Buddleja salviifolia)*
Buttercup *(Ranunculus repens)*
Cabbage tree *(Cordyline australis)*
Californian lilac *(Ceanothus spp., cvs)*
Catmint *(Nepeta spp.)*
Coneflower *(Echinacea purpurea)*
Clover *(Trifolium repens)*
Cucumber, melon, zucchini *(Cucurbita spp.)*
Dahlia *(Dahlia imperialis)* & varieties
Echium spp.
Gum tree *(Eucalyptus spp.)*
Harakeke / NZ flax *(Phormium tenax)*
Heather *(Erica spp.)*
Ice plant *(Sedum spectabile)*
Kanuka *(Kunzea ericoides)*
Karo *(Pittosporum crassifolium)*
Kohuhu *(Pittosporum tenuifolium)*
Lemon, grapefruit, orange *(Citrus spp.)*
Koromiko *(Hebe macrocarpa)* & varieties
Manuka *(Leptospermum scoparium)*
Manatu *(Plagianthus betulinus)*
Kumarahou *(Pomaderris kumeraho)*
Lavender *(Lavandula spp)* & varieties
Mexican aster *(Cosmos spp)* & varieties
Mimosa *(Acacia baileyana)*
Northern rata *(Metrosideros robusta)*
NZ lacebark *(Hoheria populnea)*
NZ jasmine *(Parsonsia heterophylla)*
Persimmon *(Diospyros kaki)*
Penstemon *(Penstemon spp.)* & varieties
Phacelia tanacetifolia
Poached egg plant *(Limnanthes douglasii)*
Pohutukawa *(Metrosideros excelsa)*
Rewarewa *(Knightia excelsa)*
Rosemary *(Rosmarinus officinalis)*
Sage (Salvia apiana, S. fallax, S. officinalis) and other spp.
Sneezeweed (Helenium autumnale)
Sunflower *(Helianthus annuus)*
Symphytum grandiflorum
Thyme *(Thymus vulgaris)*
Tree lucerne *(Chamaecytisus palmensis)*
Tulip tree *(Liriodendron tulipifera)*
Wharangi *(Melicope ternata)*
Zinnia *(Zinnia spp.)* & varieties

Native Plants for Bees

Scientific name	*Casual name*	*Flowering*	*Posture*
Alectryon excelsus	Titoki	Early summer	20m
Aristotelia serrata	Makomako	Spring	8m
Arthropodium cirratum	Rengarenga Lily	Spring - Summer	60cm
Astelia sp.	Astelia	Spring	1-2m
Avecennia resinifera	Manawa (Mangrove)	Winter	3m
Beilschmiedia tawa	Tawa	Spring	25m
Brachyglotis repanda	Rangiora	Winter - Spring	7m
Clematis paniculata	Puawhanaga	Spring	Climber
Cordyline australis	Ti (Cabbage Tree)	Spring	17m
Corokia sp & var	Corokia	Late Spring	3m
Dodonea viscosa	Ake Ake	Spring - Summer	3m
Elaeocarpus dentatus	Hinau	Summer	15m
Fuchsia excorticata	Kotukutuku (Konini)	Spring - Summer	15m
Geniostoma ligustrifolium	Hange hange	Spring	3m
Griselinia littoralis	Papauma	Spring - Summer	15m
Griselinia lucida	Puka	Spring	8m
Hebe sp & cultivars	Hebes	Spring - Summer	1-4m
Hoheria populnea	Houhere	Autumn	12m
Hoheria sexstylosa	Narrowleaf houhere	Autumn	6m
Ixerbia brexiodes	Tawari	Spring - Summer	17m
Knightia excelsa	Rewarewa	Spring - Summer	30m
Kunzia ericoides	Kanuka	Summer	15m
Laurelia novae-zelandiae	Pukatea	Spring	30m
Leptospermum scoparium	Manuka	Spring (various)	6m
Lophomyrtus bullata	Ramarama	Summer	8m
Melicytus ramiflorus	Mahoe	Spring - Summer	10m
Metrosideros excelsa	Pohutukawa	Spring - Summer	30m
Metrosideros carminea	Crimson Rata	Spring	Climber
Metrosideros robusta	Northern Rata	Summer	30m
Myoporum laetum	Ngaio	Spring - Summer	8m
Olearia furfuracea	Akepiro	Spring	5m
Olearia rani	Heketara	Spring	7m
Phormium tenax	Harakeke (flax)	Spring - Summer	3m
Plagianthus betulina	Manuatu (Ribbonwood)	Spring	15m
Pittosporum crassifolium	Karo	Spring - Summer	10m
Pittosporum eugenioides	Tarata (Lemonwood)	Spring	12m
Pomaderris kumeraho	Kumerahou	Spring	3m
Pseudopanax arboreus	Whauwhau (Fivefinger)	Winter - Spring	6m
Pseudopanax crassifolium	Horoeka (Lancewood)	Summer	15m
Pseudowintera colorata	Horopito, Pepper tree	Spring	5m
Rhopalostylis sapida	Nikau	Summer	10m
Sophora tetraptera sp.	Kowhai	Spring	10m
Vitex lucens	Puriri	Winter (P)	2m
Weinmannia racemosa	Kamahi	Summer	25m