



JUNE 2009

Taranaki Beekeeping Club



What's happening in Taranaki

Hi Fellow Beekeepers,

Hope you are enjoying the fine break in the weather after the wind and rain that heralded the onset of the Winter. I dug up my Dahlia tubers and will store them in the garage for the next few months away from the frost and I noticed that the Tulip bulbs had started to shoot, so Spring can't be too far away. The shortest day will be the AGM of our club !

The AGM will be held on Sunday 21st. July at the residence of Stephen and Fiona Black at their Extraction Plant located at 685 Uruti Road. It is some distance from New Plymouth and may take around 50 minutes to get there from New Plymouth.

You leave New Plymouth heading North to Waitara, onto Urenui, through Onaero heading towards Mt Messenger. When you drop off the terrace into the valley with the Uruti stream on your left, you pass through a series of 'S' bends, and Uruti Road goes off to your right as you reach the straight bit, before you cross the bridge and Uruti River. Drive up the Uruti Road for about 10 km until you come to a huge colourful BEE on the roadside at No. 685 on the left hand side. If you see a tunnel opening ahead, then you have gone too far and will have to turn around and your destination will be on the right hand side behind the big Bee !

(We were hoping to have a guest speaker that has first hand knowledge of Hive Beetle to give us a brief talk about the damage it can do if it arrives here. This is probably the next pest we will have to deal with as Beekeepers so come and hear how to minimise its destructive invasions. We shall organise him for a future club meeting.)

We will also be able to see how a commercial operator organises the honey extraction process, from the arrival of the truckload of supers from the apiary, the unloading, the de-boxing machine, the uncapping machine, an automatic radial extractor, a rotating mechanical sieve and all the wonderful machines that now make life much easier for the modern commercial operator.

Being the AGM you will be able to have your say on how you think the club should be run and perhaps stand for a place on the executive.

We will also make time for your questions and problems and hope that someone can supply the answers.

See you at the AGM of the Club on the 21st June at No 685 Uruti Road at 1.45pm. **("No club meeting on the 15th June")**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

21st JUNE 2009

At # 685 Uruti Road

1.45pm

CARPOOL

If anyone is interested in **carpooling** for this wee journey to Uruti Road, please contact one of the committee members noted in this bulletin.

This is definitely well worth the journey

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

High-Priced Manuka Honey Produced in Britain

British Beekeeper Charging \$144 a Jar for Manuka Honey

Otago Daily Times (New Zealand), 5/19/2009

British beekeepers have imported manuka plants from New Zealand to produce their own version of medicinal manuka honey, which they are selling at £5 (\$NZ13) a teaspoonful.

The honey is being produced on the Tregothnan estate in Cornwall.

"At £55 (\$NZ144) a small pot, few people will be smearing Tregothnan manuka honey liberally on their breakfast toast any day soon," The Guardian newspaper in London reported.

The estate company claimed the price tag was justified because its 100,000 bees are housed in 20 special hives claimed to be worth £5000 each and have the exclusive run of the garden's manuka bushes.

Tregothnan's garden director, Jonathan Jones, said: "The honey is expensive, but it is Britain's only manuka honey..."



Thursday, June 04, 2009

Bulgarian Scientists Invent Device to Monitor Status of Bee Hives

Bulgarian Scientists Invent Unique Device Expected to Provide Explanation for Bees' Disappearance

Radio Bulgaria, 6/3/2009

...According to a survey of British researchers from 60 to 90% of bees in USA have disappeared, and the percentage is 40% for Canada. The problem has spread to West Europe as well.

Prof. Nikolay Simeonov from the Sofia Apiculture Union, says that there are only few cases in Bulgaria, but there is no reason to neglect the problem. A team of Bulgarian scientists has developed a system for monitoring bees and their environment. For the purpose, special devices with sensors should be installed directly into beehives...

Via a remote control the beekeeper will be able to monitor data inputs from different hives. The device will report on honey making, diseases and contamination with herbicides, on temperature, humidity and noise levels. Besides, this system provides effective ways of ecological monitoring. Data will be recorded for 20 years, so as to capture relevant trends...

In this ways bees can be used to judge about environmental pollution, Prof. Simeonov adds:



A normal bee colony during the active season numbers 30 to 40,000 insects going to collect nectar, pollen and propolis from an area up to 40 sq. km. A bee carries out

some 30-40 flights a day. In this way harmful substances in the air or on plants can easily get into the nectar, pollen and propolis, and even stick on bee wings...

Friday, May 22, 2009

New Zealand Honey Producer Calls UK Manuka 'Rip-Off'

NZ Beekeeper Offers to Test \$13 Tsp UK 'Manuka Honey'

New Zealand Herald, 5/22/2009



A New Zealand manuka honey producer has offered to test a British "rip-off" of manuka honey for the active ingredient, amid reports consumers are paying £55 (\$145.54) a jar for the product.

Cornwall beekeepers have imported manuka plants from New Zealand to produce their own version of medicinal manuka honey.

Kerry Paul, chief executive of honey health science company Manuka Health New Zealand, said today he was incredulous at the gullibility of British consumers.

He offered to test the Cornwall honey for levels of the active ingredient.

"If consumers are expecting that honey to have the antibacterial properties which genuine manuka honey is famous for, I'm afraid they will be disappointed," he said.

"The natural compound methylglyoxal (MGO) is the active antibacterial ingredient in manuka honey, but it is not present at sufficient levels in all manuka honey..."

Mr Paul said he had seen a photograph of a pot of the Cornwall honey on a British newspaper website and could tell it was not manuka honey from the colour.

He doubted there was much manuka honey in the pot, which he said looked like it came from "mixed sources"...

Monday, May 18, 2009

British Tourist in France Stung 500 Times

Hols Trip Brit Stung 500 Times By Bees

The Sun (UK), 5/18/2009

A group of British tourists were badly injured after being attacked by thousands of bees at an art gallery in France.

One woman in her 20s suffered FIVE HUNDRED stings, with bees covering her face and hair.

She was rushed to hospital along with two other tourists.

Several others were treated at the scene by ambulance men.

Shocked witnesses said the attack was "like a scene from an Alfred Hitchcock horror film".

The Britons had been visiting a country house in Moulidars, near Cognac, when the bees descended from a pigeon loft...

Club Contacts

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



How to help save the Bees

Grow plants that give honey - on a windowsill, on a terrace, or in a flowerbed. Plants rich in pollen and in nectar attract pollinating bees. Aromatic plants like thyme, oregano, or rosemary are also recommended. You could also plant a flowering hedge.

Cultivate a bio-garden - avoid using fungicides or pesticides in order to fight diseases or pests. Compost vegetable peelings in order to maintain a fertile, healthy soil.

Plant a bee-friendly garden - a variety of native plants with overlapping bloom times and in sheltered spots.

Encourage teachers to involve children in creating bee habitats around their schools.

Petition governments to delay mowing roadside wildflowers until they stop blooming (i.e., later in the summer).

In addition, petition governments to create pesticide-free zones.

Encourage golf-course operators to leave "wild zones" adjacent to play areas.



Q: Who is the bees favorite singer?

A: Sting!

Q: Who is the bees favorite pop group?

A: The bee gees!

Q: What do you get if you cross a bee with a skunk?

A: An animal that stinks and stings!

Q: What did the spider say to the bee?

A: Your honey or your life!

Q: Who is a bee's favorite painter?

A: Pablo Beecasso!