



SEPTEMBER 2010

# Taranaki Beekeeping Club



## WHAT'S ON IN TARANAKI

Seasons Greetings Fellow Beekeepers – well after all, it is the beginning of the new season for us and it depends to a large degree, what is done over the next few months, as to how good the harvest will be next year. The weather may be wet and cold now but the day length is increasing fast and the orchard trees have started to bloom. My plum tree is a mass of white blossom but I suspect that there will be a poor crop due to the weather however the pear trees have swelling buds showing white blossom tips so they may catch a spell of warm sunny weather, with a bit of luck.

The hive should be building up in numbers now with the queen laying as fast as the brood nest can be kept at maximum temperature. With the increase in numbers, there is the possibility of the hive running out of room and becoming over crowded so you will have to steer a fine course between ex-



panding too quickly and not having enough space for the queen to lay because of the adjacent abundance of stores and the chilling the brood because there is not enough bees to keep the brood warm enough for it to develop.

Swarming season is approaching fast and there have been swarms by now in other years. If you are to keep up the numbers in the hive you must prevent swarming as you aim to have as many foragers as possible in the hive during honey flows.

At our next meeting we will be talking about how you can do this. Prevention of swarming, checking for potential swarming, what to do if you have a swarm issue from the hive, how to deal with swarms and what not to do. Taking swarms requires skill, dependent on where they are and how large the swarm is. We will try to familiarise you with the basics in order to increase your confidence in handling the new colony.

I had hoped to have a disease-a-thon organised for September, where we inspect a number of local hives for disease under the guidance of an experienced beekeeper but we have not had any joy with Agrisure to date. This exercise gives you the opportunity to view a number of hives in our area, in various localities, with owners of variable competence. I hope to re-programme this exercise next month on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October starting about 9am. so pencil this date in your diary



**Next club meeting**  
**20th September 2010**  
**In the PLUNKET ROOMS**  
**6.30pm**  
Next to New World Supermarket  
**Third Monday of every month**

and we will confirm it by e-mail/letter before then.

This summer, remember that you will need at least 4 supers of frames per hive, preferably comb frames, so order your requirements now – before you need them. Have you got enough foundation or have you prepared your plastic frames for use, don't leave it to the last minute. You will need to renew your Varroa treatment strips too before the year is out, as strips only effectively last 8 weeks. Do you know how to find out if there are Varroa in the hive and if the strips are doing their job?

We will attempt to answer all your questions and cover as much of the work details to be done at this time of the year at our next meeting in the Plunket Rooms, opposite the Warehouse and adjacent to New World, at 6.30pm. on Monday the 20th September.

I hope to see you there

## Thursday, August 19, 2010

### Apitherapy Firm Founder Credits Bee Products for Long Life

At 100, the Comvita Man Says His Health Products Work  
By CLAIRE McENTEE, Business Day, 8/18/2010

The founder of Comvita will turn 100 today and, from his Te Puke rest home, he lists his daily health regimen of – mainly – Comvita products: bee pollen, manuka honey, olive leaf extract, multi-vitamins and Omega 3 capsules.

And don't forget the Comvita elixir for treating coughs and sore throats, he says...



Thursday, July 29, 2010

## FDA Approves New Honey Wound Dressing

### Links Medical Products Announces Approval for Sale of New MANUKApli® Sterile Wound Dressing

Irvine, California (Vocus) July 27, 2010 - Links Medical Products Inc. (LMP), a leader in the manufacture and marketing of innovative, caring products for use in both acute and long-term care, announces FDA approval for the sale of MANUKApli Sterile Wound Dressing. MANUKApli is 100% medical-grade Manuka honey in an easy-to-use applicator tube.



MANUKApli is the pure, all-natural solution to manage and treat wounds and burns that are not producing excessive exudate. Extensive research demonstrates that medical-grade Manuka honey offers bacteriostatic<sup>1</sup>, anti-inflammatory<sup>1</sup>, and antioxidant<sup>2,3</sup> properties to promote accelerated wound healing. Manuka honey also maintains a moist healing environment<sup>1,4</sup> and helps clean and debride wounds<sup>1,4</sup> while controlling malodors.<sup>1,5</sup>

MANUKApli is designed for ease of use. It can be applied either directly to the wound bed or to a primary dressing.

MANUKApli is ideal for a variety of partial- or full-thickness wounds with low to moderate levels of exudate, including burns, skin tears, and small abrasions.

“MANUKApli is unique among Manuka honey products because it is made from 100% medical-grade Manuka honey, so it is never a blend,” states Tom Buckley, CEO of Links Medical Products. “We harvest it from our hives dedicated to bees that pollinate only the Manuka bush (a species known as *Leptospermum scoparium*), native to New Zealand.”

MANUKApli is part of LMP’s ManukaMed® brand of advanced wound care (AWC) dressings. Great care is taken to ensure that the products are of the highest standard in purity and bioactivity. The ManukaMed brand of medical-grade Manuka honey is finely filtered to remove all processing particles and sterilized by gamma irradiation to eliminate bacteria, microorganisms, and spores. Gamma irradiation also assures that the honey retains its biologic activity...

## High Quality Manuka Honey in Short Supply

Radio New Zealand, 6/21/2010

A severe shortage of high-quality manuka honey is leaving exporters struggling to fill orders, and hitting beekeepers' incomes.



Processor and exporter Steve Lyttle of Honey Valley in Timaru says variable weather conditions this year, which may have seen manuka flower at the same time as other trees, severely affected production of manuka honey.

Mr Lyttle says the manuka content in the honey is lower than usual and exporters are struggling to fill orders for high-quality honey...

## Apitherapy News

The Internet's Best Source of Information About the Medicinal Use of Bee Products

Thursday, September 09, 2010

## Are Bee Products the New Alternative Medicine?

### Bugs as Drugs, Part 1: Insects: The "New" Alternative Medicine for the 21st Century?

Altern Med Rev, 2010 Jul;15(2):124-35

Insects and insect-derived products have been widely used in folk healing in many parts of the world since ancient times. Promising treatments have at least preliminarily been studied experimentally.

Maggots and **honey** have been used to heal chronic and post-surgical wounds and have been shown to be comparable to conventional dressings in numerous settings. Honey has also been applied to treat burns. Honey has been combined with **beeswax** in the care of several dermatologic disorders, including psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, tinea, pityriasis versicolor, and diaper dermatitis.

**Royal jelly** has been used to treat postmenopausal symptoms.

**Bee and ant venom** have reduced the number of swollen joints in patients with rheumatoid arthritis.

**Propolis**, a hive sealant made by bees, has been utilized to cure aphthous stomatitis. Cantharidin, a derivative of the bodies of blister beetles, has been applied to treat warts and molluscum contagiosum.

Combining insects with conventional treatments may provide further benefit.

Wednesday, September 01, 2010

## What is Apitherapy and Its Benefits?

Allergies-Gone

There are literally hundreds of alternative therapies that are available for people to try. However one of the least known and probably accepted therapies is apitherapy. In this article we will look at what apitherapy is as well as the health benefits that can be gained from it and the possible risks to apitherapy.

### What is Apitherapy?



Apitherapy is often also called bee therapy and is basically the use of bee products to treat different conditions. There are a number of products that can have health benefits and be used in apitherapy and they include pollen, raw honey and royal jelly however the main one used is bee venom. The use of bee products and in particular bee venom dates back to ancient Greece, Egypt and China. In fact it is believed that Hippocrates who is considered to be the father of medicine actually used bee stings to treat people for conditions such as arthritis. In addition in 1888 Philip Terc published a paper on bee venom and rheumatism. Today bee stings are used throughout the world as a treatment for a wide variety of different conditions and below we will consider the benefits that you could get from the treatment.

### Health Benefits of Apitherapy

The different bee products have different benefits and can be used in different ways. Below we have put a list of the most popular bee products that are used in apitherapy and the benefits that you can get from them:

1. **Bee Venom** – this can be given to people as actual stings or can be given through a needle. Bee stings have been shown to contain substances such as adolapin and melittin which are anti-inflammatory substances and are thought to be more powerful than commonly prescribed products such as cortisol. For this reason bee stings are thought to be very valuable for treating conditions like arthritis, bursitis, rheumatism and tendinitis.
2. **Bee Pollen** – this product is high in vitamins and minerals and can be used as a nutritional supplement. In addition it can be a valuable treatment for people suffering from seasonal allergies such as hay fever. In additions some claim it can help with anti-aging and athletic performance.
3. **Raw Honey** – this is honey that has not been processed in anyway and is thought to be a source of energy. In addition it is believed to have antibacterial properties that could make it good for treating things like sore throats.
4. **Royal Jelly** – there have been a number of claims about the health benefits of royal jelly and some say it can help with things like fatigue, infertility, asthma, and lack of appetite. In addition studies have shown that it could be useful at reducing cholesterol

### Bee-Keeping By-Products are Relatively Untapped

Jamaica Gleaner, 8/16/2010

With the bee-keeping industry valued in excess of \$1.3 billion and currently experiencing growth of 40 per cent, the Ministry of Agriculture says there is room to diversify the relatively untouched by-products and value-added markets.

The production, harvesting and marketing of other products of the beehive such as **bee pollen, beeswax, propolis, royal jelly, bee venom**, queen bees and packaged bees (the latter for overseas targeted markets) are only marginally addressed by 1.2 per cent of the island's 1,202 bee-keepers.

At present, by-products and linkages generated locally and available on the domestic market include personal-care items such as soaps, ointments, shampoos, hair wax and candles from beeswax, jams and jellies, wines and infused flavoured honey...

Peddy said the value-added component of the apiculture industry has been relatively untapped because of the fact that financing for such ventures are often unavailable or too costly for individuals to undertake. The situation is also made difficult because farmers are required to source and secure their own markets...

