

Notes from the President

Nick Wallingford

Shortly before writing these notes, the notification of the NBA's Pest Management Strategy was confirmed. While I feel in a sense I should write these notes about that important event, I feel also that the Disease Control Committee has that all well in hand! Elsewhere in this magazine you'll find details and information that is of critical importance to the future of the industry's disease control plans. Please read and participate! There. Now I can write about whatever I want to!

This is the thirty-third time I have sat to write these notes as the President of the National Beekeepers' Association. It is my last, and I feel a sense of both relief (in not having to meet the deadline again!), and pride in being able to have had this forum to express myself as your President.

I've several times sat before this computer and thought there was really nothing I could write that would have serious meaning to the NBA membership. Sometimes, I've surprised myself, too, in finding a topic and a viewpoint that made me proud of what I wrote, as I felt it could inform, stimulate discussion and help to formulate an industry viewpoint on an issue.

The column that attempted to highlight the activities (and non-activity) of the Executive in May 1995 brought out all sorts of strong feelings among the membership, and particularly some of the Executive! I was obliged to apologise for

several errors I made. I do make errors, and I do apologise when I make them. I still believe that the NBA membership needs to know more about how the work of the organisation gets done, and the Executive members should be willing to accept accountability for the work they both do and don't do after agreeing to do so. Just because the organisation depends to a great extent on voluntary effort doesn't mean it should accept anything less than outstanding performance!

From two of my columns, I've had implicit and explicit threats of legal action! While it was somewhat unsettling, I am pleased that in neither case did the people involved actually find reason to proceed further!

I've several times attempted to put some of the last few years of NBA activity into a chronological context, reminding us of why and how we have gotten to the present point with the bigger issues such as Commodity Levy or with our Pest Management Strategy. These 'historical' pieces have been enlightening to me even as I wrote them. Though I have been involved or at least aware of the decisions on the issues, it is sometimes only by putting it all down on paper that I realise how we have gotten to a particular point. It is important sometimes to trace how an over-riding philosophy, backed with a multitude of smaller decisions, can lead an organisation to a desired end point.

I've been present at many momentous meetings in the longer term history of the NBA. I've been able to help formulate a levy system, having watched it wend a slow but consultative path through the industry, and the even slower and more tortuous path through the legislative process! I was able to publicly state at least three times that we reached a final solution to the poisoning of bees with 1080 jam baits — like I say, I'm not always right! But, it seems now, the last time I did manage to say it and not get proven wrong by events!

I've received some of the most heartwarming "thank you's" and phone calls and letters of appreciation that anyone should ever be able to expect in doing a job like this. For those of you who have supported me, whether you have let me know about it or not, I sincerely thank you. I can say with no hesitation that I have done my very best to reflect the feelings of New Zealand's beekeepers, and I feel good about what we have accomplished together.

I may very well become involved in NBA affairs in the future (that should keep a few people out there on their toes, hopefully!). In the meantime, you can be assured that I will still maintain an interest in the NBA and with the beekeepers that make it the fine organisation that it is.

Thank you for the opportunity you have given me to serve you as President for these last three years.

Library News

Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists. *Honey Bee Disease and Pests*. 1996, 25pp, Canada.

It has been presented to the library by Cliff van Eaton, MAF Tauranga. Thank you.

A very good little book, compiled by a team of experts. Clear text, good colour photos. It covers a wide range of endemic and (for us) exotic diseases, protozoa and mites and abnormalities. Written for Canadian beekeepers but of good use to us here in New Zealand too.



Front cover...

Sunny Nelson. Photo taken by Nelson Tourism.

Notification of Rates of Levy for 1997 Calendar Year

The National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand (Inc.) advises that the rates of levy payable under this order have been fixed by the association for 1997.

The levy is payable at two rates, being:

- (a) Class 1: A rate of \$50 plus G.S.T. payable for each beekeepers' first apiary site; and
- (b) Class 2: A rate of \$22 plus G.S.T. payable for each additional apiary site.

The levy for 1997 is calculated for a beekeeper on the basis of the number of the beekeepers' apiary sites on 1 June 1996.

A beekeeper who owned or controlled fewer than 11 beehives and had fewer than four apiary sites on 1 June 1996 is exempt from paying the levy for 1997, provided he/she supplies a statutory

declaration to that effect to the association.

For further information please contact Harry Brown, NBA Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 3079, Napier. Telephone (06) 843-3446. Facsimile (06) 843-4845.

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