From the Editor’s desk

SABIO contacts

Chairman’s message

Brieve aan die Redakteur

From the Chairman’s mailbox: How not to win friends and influence people

Sticky, insect-sized drones could act as pollinators

A burning issue that needs to be resolved

SU researchers develop method to detect honey fraud

Charter addresses bee safety issues in crop pollination

Verhoudinge tussen bestuiwings agente en vrugteboere word uitgelig deur byebenutter

Things are buzzing in Pretoria – thanks to Riekie

Craig Campbell re-elected KZNBAF chairman

Real beekeepers are not fazed by rain

Women do it all at garden show

Beekeepers Bookshelf: Neglected field receives timely attention

Bees require special attention to survive a Highveld winter

Winter hive care in the Eastern and Western Cape

Obituary: R H (Andy) Anderson

Cometh the hour, cometh the man...

Pollination services charter

Contact details

Disclaimer: While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this journal, SABIO cannot be held responsible for any errors which may arise and cannot be held liable for any damages whatsoever arising out of the use of or reliance on the contents of this journal. SABIO is also not responsible for the statements and opinions advanced in the Journal, which may not reflect its own viewpoint.
**Letters to the Editor**

The SABJ welcomes readers’ letters and these should be addressed to the editor (editor@sabio.org.za).

All letters are subject to editing. It helps to keep letters short (about 150 words) and to the point. Anonymous letters or letters written under pseudonyms will not be considered.

For verification purposes they should include the writer’s name and telephone number.

---

**SABJ Classifieds**

**WHY NOT SELL YOUR EQUIPMENT OR PRODUCTS THROUGH OUR PLANNED CLASSIFIED (SOLMS) ADVERTISING SECTION WHICH WILL APPEAR IN THE BACK SECTION OF FUTURE EDITIONS.**

Rates are available from Amanda le Roux.
Send the information and we will make up the advertisement for you at no extra charge.

Remember the special discounts for SABIO members.
All classified advertising placed in the SABJ must be prepaid prior to the publication of the issue in which the advertisement appears.

---

**FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK**

**Time to regulate the bee removal service industry**

Not every Joe who has a bakkie and wants to make some extra dough can become a pest control operator. Why not?

Because the pest control industry is organised, and by law you cannot run a business as a pest control operator unless you are registered in terms of section 10 of the Fertilisers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act 36 of 1947.

And yet anyone who has a bakkie and wants to make some extra dough can become a “bee removal service provider”. Technically he has to register annually with the Department of Agriculture as a “beekeeper” but he doesn’t have to be a beekeeper; he doesn’t have to have any experience in beekeeping; and he doesn’t have to belong to any organised industry body or association related to beekeeping.

And if he exterminates bees in the course of his activities, he doesn’t have to be a member of the SA Pest Control Association nor attend any of their mandatory courses.

If the pest control industry can adequately regulate, control and manage themselves then why is it that we cannot adopt the same approach in our industry?

Is it not time to present a more professional image of our industry by regulating who can carry out bee removal services? The demand for bee removals is growing year by year; not only because of the exponential growth of annual swarming, and the attractive habitat offered by urbanised environments, but also because of the growing consciousness of the general public to “save the bees”.

“ IF THE PEST CONTROL INDUSTRY CAN ADEQUATELY REGULATE, CONTROL AND MANAGE THEMSELVES THEN WHY IS IT THAT WE CANNOT ADOPT THE SAME APPROACH IN OUR INDUSTRY?”

Is it not time that “bee removal service providers” should not only be required to register with the Department of Agriculture on an annual basis, but should also be licensed by a professional body and backed by a certificate of competency, to enable them carry out the work?

Donald Marshall

---

**Beekeepers take note…**

**NOTICE TO REGISTER**

All beekeepers are required to register with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF). This is a requirement in terms of the regulation: Control Measure R858 published on 15 November 2013 under the Agricultural Pest Act, 1983 (Act no. 36 or 1983).

*This registration applies to everyone in the beekeeping business ie. bee removals, honey producers, pollination as well as hobbyists.*

Registration takes place between 1 January and 31 March every year. There are no registration fees involved.

Registration forms can be downloaded off the DAFF website with the following link: [www.daff.gov.za](http://www.daff.gov.za) Production Health Food & Safety, Inspection Service, Forms, Beekeepers Registration Form. Completed forms can be emailed to RofhiwaN@daff.gov.za or MavisMat@daff.gov.za or faxed to 012 309 8774. Failure to comply will result in the deregistration of the beekeeper.

For further enquiries call Mavis 012 309 8763 or Gloria 012 309 8791.
SABIO is the official mouthpiece of the bee industry of South Africa. Its mission is to “represent and promote the interests of all persons involved in the beekeeping industry in South Africa in order to establish, support and develop an economically viable and sustainable apiculture sector and ensure the environmental security of the honeybee”.

SABIO website: www.sabio.org.za

SABIO Board as from July 2016

Mike Miles 082 456 4177
Jaco Wolfardt 083 301 5165
Charles Salmon 082 651 7466
Craig Campbell 084 774 8692
Sandy Muller 083 441 1199
Phil Walker 084 510 1556
Danie Vorster 072 363 9478

CHAIRMAN’S MESSAGE

LET’S STAND TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS

SABIO is currently addressing a number of key issues facing the bee industry.

We have once again written to government requesting the continuation of our regular meeting agendas. DAFF has responded favourably and the next meeting is to be scheduled during March. A number of outstanding items remain; the current status of AFB in the country and a strategic plan to deal with future outbreaks; honey adulteration; the abandoned imported honey at HEPRO, Cape Town; the drafting of a new Beekeeping Act for South Africa; the re-establishment of the Apicultural Advisory Council; and honey irradiation... to name a few.

SABIO recently concluded talks with the crop protection sector and crop growers association to establish a Pollination Charter – guidelines for all parties to adopt when using honeybees for pollination services.

The licensing or accreditation of bee removal services is also under consideration.

There have been talks with SA Tourism regarding their support for a potential South African bid to host Apimondia 2023. We are also looking at the possibility of South Africa hosting an Api-Trade convention in the next few years – the regional African Trade Show for beekeeping on the continent.

Majority support

SABIO has also put together an exciting budget opportunity for South African beekeepers to experience an international Apimondia by attending this year’s convention in Turkey. (See pg 12).

There is plenty going on within the national body but we can only continue to achieve our goals if we have the support of the majority of the beekeepers in this country. Whether we agree with one another is not the issue; it’s what we can do to make this a strong and viable institution, representing the interests of beekeepers at large and finding ways to grow the industry both in terms of honey production and pollination services.

Mike Miles
Geachte Redakteur,

Die vraag wat SABIO se grootste uitdaging is word dikwels gevra. Is dit ‘n gebrek aan ondersteuning deur die regering? Weidingsstekorte? Nee. Vir my is dit die ontstellende onvermoë om groter getalle byebeenutters (kommersieël, deeltyds en stokperdigeewys) as nuwe lede vir SABIO te werf.

Die probleem kom regdeur die organisasie se 100-jarige bestaan voor. ‘n Studie van SABIO en sy voor-gangers se verlede, bevestig my vermoede dat die werwing van lede, nog altyd as doelwit (as dit wel een was), aan die agterspeen gesuig het.

Hierdie toedrag van sake is moeilik om te begryp. Hoe sterker ’n organisasie, hoe groter tog is sy kansse op sukses. Die onvermoë van die bedryf om daadwerklik vooruit te boer kan veral aan die voortdurende gebrek aan fondse toegeskryf word. Inkomste uit ledegeld word tans op R72 000 per jaar geskat – ‘n geringe bedrag. Daar word algemeen aanvaar dat die oorgrote meerderheid byebenutters in Suid-Afrika nie lede van SABIO is nie. Hoe moeilik kan dit wees om hulle te werf?

Hierdie toedrag van sake is moeilik om te begryp. Hoe sterker ’n organisasie, hoe groter tog is sy kansse op sukses. Die onvermoë van die bedryf om daadwerklik vooruit te boer kan veral aan die voortdurende gebrek aan fondse toegeskryf word. Inkomste uit ledegeld word tans op R72 000 per jaar geskat – ‘n geringe bedrag. Daar word algemeen aanvaar dat die oorgrote meerderheid byebenutters in Suid-Afrika nie lede van SABIO is nie. Hoe moeilik kan dit wees om hulle te werf?

Hierdie toedrag van sake is moeilik om te begryp. Hoe sterker ’n organisasie, hoe groter tog is sy kansse op sukses. Die onvermoë van die bedryf om daadwerklik vooruit te boer kan veral aan die voortdurende gebrek aan fondse toegeskryf word. Inkomste uit ledegeld word tans op R72 000 per jaar geskat – ‘n geringe bedrag. Daar word algemeen aanvaar dat die oorgrote meerderheid byebenutters in Suid-Afrika nie lede van SABIO is nie. Hoe moeilik kan dit wees om hulle te werf?

Dit kan vergesel word van ‘n kort bekendstellingsnota waarin SABIO se doel en voordele uiteengesit word. Ek is seker dat DAFF geen beswaar teen so ‘n vergunning sal hê nie. Voorgaande is eenvoudige en basiese stappe.

Ek is seker dat DAFF geen beswaar teen so ‘n vergunning sal hê nie. Voorgaande is eenvoudige en basiese stappe. ‘n Verdere moontlike rede vir SABIO se geringe ledetal (180 uit ‘n geskatte 2000) is waarskynlik daaraan tewe te dat die organisasie se lys van portefeuiljes, tot onlangs, geen voorsoening vir die portefeuiljes en aksies ten opsigte van allerlei ander sake en siektes.

Mense kan net vertrou dat hierdie uitdaginge nog eendag die hoof gebied sal word. Ek is egter skepties. Ek het die behoefte aan ledwerwing reeds met volgende SABIO-voorsitters geopper, maar het nog nooit enige terugvoering daarop ontvang nie. Op ‘n keer het ek selfs ’n praktiese plan voorgelê om werwing aan te help. Ook hierdie poging is met stilswye begroet. Wat kan mens nog meer aan die situasie doen? Kniel, pleit en soebat?

Dit mag dalk net bydra om SABIO te help oorleef.

Ferdie du Preez

Die vraag wat SABIO se grootste uitdaging is word dikwels gevra. Is dit ‘n gebrek aan ondersteuning deur die regering? Weidingsstekorte? Nee. Vir my is dit die ontstellende onvermoë om groter getalle byebeenutters (kommersieël, deeltyds én stokperdijegewys) as nuwe lede vir SABIO te werf.

Dit kan vergesel word van ‘n kort bekendstellingsnota waarin SABIO se doel en voordele uiteengesit word. Ek is seker dat DAFF geen beswaar teen so ‘n vergunning sal hê nie. Voorgaande is eenvoudige en basiese stappe.

OM DIE PUNT TE MAAK BEHOORT DIT OOK FISIES IN DIE HAND GEGEE TE WORD.

Meneer, wanneer daar na die doelwitte en funksies soos vasgestel deur die SABIO-Raad gekyk word, kan jy bogenoemde situasie beter verstaan. Wanneer die Raad se akseiplan onder oë geneem word skiet dit tekort, want geen definitiewe taktiese optrede om werwing vorentoe te neem word gegee nie. Terugvoering (uiters skaars) oor die raad se werksaamhede bevat nie ‘n enkele verwysing na nuwe lede wat gewerf is nie.

Indien werwing buite die bereik van die SABIO-Raad val, kan hierdie funksie altyd deur vrywilligers oorgeneem word – indien só versoek.


Ferdie du Preez
To: The chairman of SABIO

I have a situation that I would like to get some clarity on. We had a swarm of bees on our property, which we didn't mind, I actually want them here as they are good for our veggie and fruit garden. But recently we have decided to put up a fence and the contractors won’t work on it unless the bees are gone for this time.

I contacted a guy to “subdue” these bees or provide me with another option where we could have the contractors work on our fence but not lose our bees.

He came and put up a box for the bees to move into (obviously he did whatever needed to be done to get the bees to move in there).

He now claims it is his swarm which means I have to pay him for the labour/hours plus he moved the bees and if I want them back I have to pay for the swarm and the hive, even though they were here in the first place. None of this makes sense to me. I don’t want the bees moved, well I want them moved away.
from that specific wall but there are other places on our property he could put them.

He is charging us R1300 for the labour, wants another R2700 for the swarm back and then wants to come take 90% of the honey each time as well.

He told me this is how beekeeping works.

Please could you shed some light on the situation? Thanks.

“Dissatisfied”

Chairman’s reply:

No, this is not how beekeeping and bee removal service providers should operate! There was clearly miscommunication between you and the service provider; he should have been told that you do not want the bees removed from your property permanently and that once they have been taken out of the place they were in you want them back on your property.

However you cannot just move a colony of bees a few meters as they will relocate the next day back to their original home; he would have had to take them away and only return them a few weeks later. If he was to put them into a beehive these bees need to be managed properly; you cannot just leave the bees as they could become a danger if not properly looked after.

Maybe he has costed in the price of a beehive; you need to ask him how he justifies wanting R2700 to do so.

I cannot comment on the fees charged; they appear quite excessive but the fees should all have been negotiated up front before the job was done.

If it was a difficult bee removal the price is determined by that. Those beekeepers who do manage beehives in other people’s property often have an arrangement to provide the landowner with some honey; this is an ethical issue as to how much you share but there are costs involved by the beekeeper to look after the bees on your property.

Any person who carries out bee removals has to be registered with the Department of Agriculture.

Any person who carries out bee removals has to be registered with the Department of Agriculture. You do not say in which area you are from. I would suggest you contact him and request he be more compassionate about the services he quotes you on.

Most beekeepers are always on the lookout for new sites to place a beehive and it would be in his interests to foster a good relationship with you rather than bring the reputation of the industry into disrepute.

I hope this helps.

“Dissatisfied” replies

Thank you very much for taking the time to shed some light on the situation.

We were very clear from the start that we didn’t want to lose our bees, we knew he had to take them away for a few days and I am happy to pay for that and the removal plus the hive.

What I couldn’t understand was that according to him he now owns my swarm and if I want them back I need to pay for the swarm and the hive. I am happy to pay for the hive, I do not want to buy my own swarm back though.

He also claims 90% of the honey. He insists it is his honey now and that I cannot get anyone else to remove it. Surely if I decide to use someone else I could?

I am very confused, my main problem is the ownership he is taking of my bees/honey now all I want is to:

• pay for the hive
• pay for the removal and relocation/labour
• get my hive back.

If I want to retrieve honey in future I want to be able to decide who does this or do a beekeeping course myself. But the reason I want the bees here isn’t for the honey/money. It’s for my gardens.

But to get this beekeeper out of my life I have told him to take the bees. This whole experience has left a very bad taste in my mouth.

Thank you again for taking the time to shed some light.

Small drones, or robots, coated with horsehair and a sticky gel could one day help pollinate crops and help offset the costly loss of bee populations worldwide, according to researchers in Japan.

The miniature robots described in the journal Chem are a long way from being deployed in the field, but researchers say they may offer a partial solution to the loss of bees due to disease and climate change.

“The findings, which will have applications for agriculture and robotics, among others, could lead to the development of artificial pollinators and help counter the problems caused by declining honeybee populations,” said lead author Eijiro Miyako.

“We believe that robotic pollinators could be trained to learn pollination paths using global positioning systems and artificial intelligence,” said Miyako, a chemist at the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology Nanomaterials Research Institute.
When reports began to come in from further afield – as far as Gauteng – we were prompted to take a closer look at the situation and, apart from personal visits by committee members, we started asking for samples from dissatisfied consumers. These samples were supplied with an accompanying letter giving details of where it was purchased, plus the reason for the complaint about the quality of the “honey”.

It did not take long for us to realise that it was a far bigger problem than a situation created by just one or two disgruntled buyers, as the samples that were coming in – and there were many – did not appear to be pure honey as claimed on the label of the containers.

Being new to the SABIO board at the time (2015), and being involved with honey judging at the Royal Agricultural Show in Pietermaritzburg on a yearly basis, it fell on me as part of my portfolio to deal with honey standards, which included the complaints of adulterated honey.

Although most, if not all the complaints about below-standard honey were directed to SABIO, or to regional beekeepers’ associations, it became apparent that these institutions did not have the legal authority to deal with the situation.

The legislation comes from the government and the agent in this regard is the Department of Agriculture which oversees the Agricultural Product Act 1990 (Act No 119 of 1990). Many hours of work over time have gone into
drawing up this legislation and it has far reaching implications if enforced.

Regrettably the legislation has not been enforced. Honey is also an extremely complex substance and I think that only an analytical chemist can fully understand its complexities.

In pursuing our investigation into the composition of the so-called adulterated honey, samples were presented at a SABIO board meeting for forwarding to a local, accredited testing laboratory.

Up to then, it was believed that the tests would reveal any inconsistencies in the samples. The laboratory chosen was one used by the Department of Agriculture.

After too long a time and numerous enquiries as to what was happening with the testing, we eventually received feedback that the samples were in fact honey.

We then questioned the nature of the testing and it emerged that a simple sucrose test had been conducted on the samples – a most unsatisfactory procedure for what we were looking for.

Not being willing to accept this, we decided to research the problem further.

Firstly we attempted to determine what tests were necessary to prove the purity of honey. Many hours on the internet later, we found that Carbon 12 and 13 ratio tests were needed to establish whether honey had been adulterated.

WE ATTEMPTED TO DETERMINE WHAT TESTS WERE NECESSARY TO PROVE THE PURITY OF HONEY. MANY HOURS ON THE INTERNET LATER, WE FOUND THAT CARBON 12 AND 13 RATIO TESTS WERE NEEDED TO ESTABLISH WHETHER HONEY HAD BEEN ADULTERATED.

those approached responded, while others directed us elsewhere.

Eventually, we made contact with people in the USA and in England. The English contact was the most positive and more than willing to help, but at fairly expensive rates (taking the exchange rate into consideration). We had to ask ourselves who should pay the costs?

We had, in the interim, also made contact with a researcher in Stellenbosch who indicated an interest in becoming involved in developing a system to test South African honey. Again, there would be costs incurred and, again, we had to ask who would be responsible for carrying the cost.

In the meantime, it had become obvious that the problem was far more extensive than we originally thought and it was now apparent that every man and his dog wanted to see this below-standard honey problem resolved.

The severe drought that we have experienced over the past few years has had a marked impact on local honey production. Lower production and an increase in demand (from more health-conscious consumers) for honey have also created an opportunity for bottlers of low-cost, impure honey.

SABIO and its regional structures are not at fault for the situation that the industry finds itself in. The only solution is for a unified effort from all the players in the industry – Department of Agriculture, SABIO, local structures and beekeepers – to get involved.

There are too many accusations of who should carry the blame and typical he-said, she-said scenarios around which need to be put to bed before progress can be made. Bluntly put, personal agendas need to take a back seat for the good of the industry.

We need to know whether testing facilities exist in South Africa to deal with this problem and, if so, why have they not been used?

In researching this problem, it was apparent that this “impure honey” problem has been around for a very long time and we need to ask ourselves why it has taken so long for the industry to take affirmative action to eliminate this scourge?

"Phil Walker"

WOODLANDS
BYE TOERUSTING

Hoogste Kwaliteit Korwe
Goedkoopste pryse in Afrika!
Groothandel pryse direk aan die publiek.
Bye toerusting beskikbaar.

Skakel gerus
Sel: 082 878 0481
Epos: mustang646464@gmail.com
Posbus 12881
Onderstepoort, 0110
Food scientists and researchers from Stellenbosch University (SU) and the Sapienza University of Rome have proactively developed a quick and user-friendly method that South African producers and distributors of honey can use to detect whether the products they are selling is the real thing or not.

A recent article in the international journal *Food Control* explains how near-infrared (NIR) spectroscopy can be used to test South African honey. Laboratory and portable NIR instruments were calibrated specifically with South African honey in mind.

Because portable and mobile NIR instruments are available on the market, it would be possible to perform the tests on site at for instance a honey producer or distribution plant on calibrated equipment.

The specific NIR calibration for South African honey was developed by lead author Dr Anina Guelpa, as part of her postdoctoral research work in the Department of Food Science at SU and the University’s Central Analytical Facility (CAF) CT-Scanner Facility.

Dr Guelpa was assisted in developing and testing the method for South African conditions by her supervisor, NIR spectroscopy expert Prof Marena Manley of the SU Department of Food Science, SU researchers Dr Anton du Plessis and Dr Ruhan Slabbert, and Dr Federico Marini of the Sapienza University of Rome in Italy.

According to the records of the South African Beekeeping Industry, 1500 tons of honey is produced locally every year. It is however not enough to meet consumer demand, and therefore roughly the same volume is imported every year – at a lower price than that of locally produced honey. Because honey is a high-value foodstuff, it has unfortunately become a target for adulteration and subsequent food fraud in many parts of the world. Whether it occurs in South Africa, and if so the extent of it, is not known.

In some parts of the world, cheap sugar syrups are sometimes added to honey being sold. Another form of misconduct may occur when honey is labelled as being produced locally, but in reality it has been imported or diluted with imported honey.

“Not only will the consumer be misled in the process, but it means that the local producers cannot compete with the low pricing of these adulterated honeys,” says Prof Manley.

“There was therefore a need for a fast, non-destructive, easy to use and low cost classification method to detect potential adulteration in South African honey,” she explains the reasoning behind the study.

Current methods to detect adulterated honey, such as the use of stable carbon isotopic ratio mass spectrometry (SCIRA) or thermal analysis, are expensive, time-consuming and in most cases destroy the sample used.

The researchers decided to proactively develop an NIR spectroscopy method with which to test the authenticity of South African honey.

The research team decided on NIR spectroscopy, because the technique has been used before in international studies to determine the floral origin of honey, or to authenticate its geographic or botanical origin.

By developing calibrations using the spectral information of honey of South African origin, it was possible for Dr Guelpa to verify whether samples are indeed produced by South African bees or not. The test can also pick up whether any sugars (such as glucose or fructose) or non-South African honey are added to a sample. This is possible even in cases where only a little bit of extra sugar has been added.

“Authentic South African samples, despite coming from diverse regions
and having been made from pollen from different types of flowers, share specific spectroscopic characteristics that helps to differentiate them from imported and adulterated honeys,” explains Prof Manley. She says the technique could potentially also be used to distinguish between different types of South African honey (for instance bluegum of fynbos). Other advantages are that NIR measurements can be done quickly, it is non-invasive and is easy to perform. Because the samples tested are not destroyed in the process, these can be stored as evidence in further investigations.


How does it work?

A sample of what is to be tested (such as honey, oil or wheat) is placed in an NIR spectrophotometer. No prior preparation is needed – the sample can be used as is. This means that for instance in the case of wheat it does not have to be ground, and the whole kernels can be investigated as is.

- A simple halogen light beam emits a harmless light (including the NIR region), and hits the sample.
- The light beam loses energy because it is partially absorbed by the sample. The amount of light being absorbed depends on the physical and chemical composition of each sample.
- The spectrophotometer measures the remaining light that is reflected. The lost (or absorbed) light is seen as unique spectral information which is specific to a sample. Each type of sample therefore has its own spectral information.
- The spectral images of for instance South African honey look the same at first glance. However, with the help of already developed calibrations it is possible to differentiate between honey that is from South Africa and honey that is not. In a similar way, the protein and moisture contents of different wheats can for example be measured simultaneously from a single sample.

Near-infrared (NIR) spectroscopy is technology that uses the NIR part (800 to 2500 nanometres) of the electromagnetic spectrum and used in NIR spectrophotometers.
The charter sets out the key principles that each of the players involved in the pollination “chain” should observe to ensure the safety of bee colonies placed within or close to croplands where chemical applications are used.

Two consultative meetings with commercial beekeepers were organised by SABIO prior to the drafting of the charter.

The first meeting was held last October in the Western Cape, where the view was expressed that the charter did not go beyond current legislation, as stated in Act 36 of 1947, and without stricter enforcement the proposed charter would have little impact on changing current mindsets towards protecting the bee industry.

Delegates urged SABIO to approach DAF, and in particular the Registrar of Act 36 of 1947, to have the Apicultural Advisory Council re-established, and in so doing involve all players in the pollination chain.

Delegates at this meeting were adamant that the manufacturers of pesticides as well as the crop growers, should be held accountable for infringements of the pesticide regulations.

A follow-up meeting with commercial beekeepers from the central and northern regions, Northern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal was held in Pretoria in December, where the draft charter was again discussed in depth.

SABIO’s chairman, Mike Miles, explained that the initial intent behind the charter was to get those involved to work together to promote communication between all parties on the application of pesticides, the pollination needs of the crop producer and on the role of the beekeeper in the production chain.

Concern was once again raised at the Pretoria meeting at the lack of enforcement of Act 36 of 1947 by the relevant government department, which had led to complacency and a lack of interest by the parties to co-operate.

Unless the government was prepared to become actively involved in pollination issues, players in the production chain would not be interested in supporting the charter, it was said.

Official intervention

It was not SABIO’s intention to exclude government involvement in pollination issues, although the proposed introductory period would give the industry time to get its house in order without having to rely on official intervention, Mr Miles responded.

It was also stated that several years ago, representatives of the commercial bee industry would attend farmers’ meetings in the rural areas and be given a platform to discuss with them the needs of both parties during pollination, while ensuring the welfare of the bees.

SABIO has taken note of the comments, recommendations and criticisms raised at the initial meetings, which were aimed at bringing the needs and interests of bee farmers and crop growers, as well as the crop protection industry, together, Mr Miles said.

“From here we will continue to foster relations between the crop protection industry and the crop growers through their respective organisations. If we do nothing, then nothing will happen.

“Once the main players have re-established a sound working relationship, we will be able to approach government with a strong, unified voice to have the Apicultural Advisory Council re-established and this will enable us to address the many critical issues facing the beekeeping industry in this country,” Mr Miles said.

Details of the draft charter are set out on page 50 of this journal.
Eerste aan die woord was die welbekende Nico Langehoven wat oor sy onlangse opvoedkundige besoek aan Nieu-Suid-Wallis in Australië gepraat het.

Die doel van Nico se besoek was om meer ondervinding van die bestuiwing van swartbessies en koninginteelt op te doen. Hy het sy praatjie egter in breër trekke toegespits op sy algemene waarneming en indrukke van die land.

Sy eerste, en onuitwisbare indruk, is die onbeschryflike groot getalle bloekom-bome wat hy daar aangetref het.

In November is 'n hoogs leersame velddag by die Oude Raapenkraal landgoed, Lakeside, deur die WKBV aangebied. Die landgoed is van historiese belang en behoort aan Brendan Ashley Cooper.

VERHOUDINGE TUSSEN BESTUIWINGSAGENTE EN VRUGTEBOERE WORD UITGELIG DEUR BYEBENUTTER

In die lesingsaal.
Daar meestal van plastiekvelle, iets wat in Suid-Afrika nie behoorlik wil posvat nie, gebruikgemaak. Daar word ook toenemend van plastiese korwe gebruikgemaak.

’n Laaste waarneming was dat daar nie van enkelvlak supers gebruikgemaak word nie. Broeikiste word deur die bank vir heuningproduksie aangewend.

Johan van As, ’n groot byebenutter van die Caledon/Vyeboom omgewing was volgende aan die woord. Hy het die verskillende aspekte verbonde aan ’n vrugteplaas bespreek. Klem is gelê op daardie chemikalieë wat vir die bespuiting van vrugtebome aangewend word. Die verhouding tussen die bestuiwingsagent en die vrugteboer is uitgelig. Misverstande kom dikwels voor en ’n goeie kommunikasiekanaal is van die grootste belang. Johan het vervolgens die verskillende soorte chemikalieë, en die kenmerke aan elkeen verbonde bespreek.

“Gadgets”
Die laaste deel van die besprekings is gewy aan daardie tuisgeprakseerde toestelle (’gadgets’) wat byebenutters gebruik om hulle taak mee te vergemaklik. Die toestelle wat vertoon is getuig van kreawiteit.

- Nico het ’n demonstrasie met sy wasdrom gelewer van hoe om was uit ou heuningkoeke te herwin;
- Nico het ook sy uitvinding hoe om korwe teen vandalisme en diefstal van die heuning te beskerm, vertoon;
- Dawid Smit het gedemonstreer hoe om ’n korf doeltreffend vas te gese. Hy het ook sy spesiale korfvoer vir vervoer na bestuiwingspunte vertoon.

Daar het hy nog altyd besef dat Australië die natuurlike tuiste van bloekoms is, maar so ’n magdom bloekoms kon hy nie in sy wildste drome voorsien het nie.

In Australië word die meeste byebenutters in Nieu-Suid-Wallis aangetref. ’n Interesante waarneming was dat alle bloekoms nie noodwendig heuningvriendelik is nie, en daar spesies bestaan wat nie nektar verskaf nie. In Australië groei die gras, in teenstelling met Suid-Afrika, tot teenaan die bome. Dit is die gevolg van ’n sekere bakterie wat daar in die grond voorkom.
Nog ’n waarneming is dat die Australiërs oorwegend met bakkies wat met plat bakke toegerus is ry. In Australië word
disappointing three-person meeting, decided to do something about it. She formed a Whatsapp group and from then things began to change.

"Within a month we had twenty beekeepers join and by the beginning of 2017 the Whatsapp group had grown to over 132 beekeepers – a remarkable feat. "Interest in our activities also increased – with more than seventy people attending our first monthly meeting in January, this year.

“As a result of this, we have also formed two other Whatsapp groups of beekeepers – a private group consisting of beekeepers who do not want to become involved in the daily chit-chat, as well as a group of 20 highly-qualified beekeepers who are available to conduct bee removals.

“Membership of the association is also growing and we currently have 60 paid up members – a big improvement on previous numbers," Riekie said.

Hans Blokker, stepped down as chairman this year and was made an

Field day on aloes and hive inspection at Koos van der Merwe's farm.

Northern Beekeepers’ Associations new Chairman Hendrik Kelly.

Last year, three people – Hans Blokker, Hendrik Kelly and Riekie van der Berg – turned up for the Northerns Beekeepers’ Association annual meeting in Pretoria.

This year’s meeting drew an audience of more than 70 people who have become involved in the activities of the association as a result of a concerted publicity campaign carried out by the original nucleus group.

The spark came from Riekie van der Berg who, on driving home from the
honorary member in recognition of his many years’ service to the association.

The incoming committee consists of eight members, supported by three assistants, in: Hendrik Kelly – Chairman; Adriaan Du Toit – Vice Chairman; Frenchie Lemmens, Jan Steenkamp, Henk Redelinghuys, Porky Scriven, Danie de Bruin and Leon Harris. Riekie van der Berg, Linda Lubbe and Alette King will serve as administration, social and financial assistants.

During the past year several practical hands-on workshops were organised:

An informative field day on aloes and hive inspection by Koos van der Merwe on his farm; a bee removal demonstration with a beevac-suction machine and a mead making morning. Several beginners courses were also offered.

After every meeting, members got together for a braai and social gathering where participants were able to network.

Craig Campbell re-elected KZNBFCA chairman

The annual general meeting is always the first function of the year. This year we again had a very good turnout, with 30 members attending.

It would have been great to have all paid-up members attend, but with some living far from the meeting venue it was understandable that not everyone could get to the Honey Hall in Pietermaritzburg.

There is not much to report on from the meeting, except that all business matters on the agenda were dealt with. There were no contentious issues, aside from some anonymous emails. Some of these were discussed and where relevant, action was taken. This was in accordance with the policies of our association, which is to be transparent and accommodate a wide diversity of ideas from members.

The secretary, Phil Walker, was re-elected and three committee members were not eligible for re-election, while two new members volunteered to stand on the committee. Both were welcomed on board. Our committee now has nine serving members.

The first committee meeting was held in February, where Craig Campbell was re-elected as chairman. The schedule for open days was also compiled and posted on the association’s website.


Attendees at the Honey Hall meeting.
A field day – the last for 2016 – was scheduled to take place at Guy Solomon's farm at Baynesdrift, but the timing for early spring almost led to it being cancelled. Who would have expected rain so early in the season?

It was decided to proceed with the field day. Conditions were very muddy and wet, making it impossible to get to the apiary site, so Plan B was enacted and the programme was restricted to working the bees around the farm homestead and sheds.

Numerous hives were opened and inspected, and where necessary frames were replaced and general management work carried out. This proved most interesting to new beekeepers who had turned out. The highlight of the day was transferring of a rather large colony of bees from a hot water “donkey” into a new home – a brood box. The water heater was unserviceable so could be demolished to gain access to the bees.

It was encouraging to see members willing to get involved with the hands-on work.

Rob Pooley a long time beekeeper and member of the association, managed to find a number of queens in the same colony. This caught the attention of most of those present as not many knew that there could be more than one queen in the same hive.

The field day did not attract as large a turn-out as we expected, although a number of members stayed away because they had thought that due to the bad weather the event had been called off. A pleasant “bring and braai” followed the day’s work activities.

Special thanks were extended to Guy and his wife, Trish, for hosting the association's members.
The KZN BFA walked off with the top prize – a Gold Award and a trophy – for their display set up in the Honey Hall at last year’s Natal Witness Garden Show in Pietermaritzburg.

Aimed at gardeners, flower growers and other players in the flower industry, the Honey Hall has been an important part of this show for a long time. The Honey Hall is KZN BFA’s flagship, where we showcase the association’s activities, honey production, bees and the industry in general. There is always a good interaction with members of the public and our displays are always well supported.

This high standard makes it more difficult each year to better the previous year’s show, although challenges are what this association thrives on. A big thank you to all involved and looking forward to a highly successful 2017.

Women do it all at garden show

Each three-day Garden Show has a theme and exhibitors are expected to decorate stands according to guidelines provided by the organisers. Because of the theme for the 2016 show – Fashion Fusion – males were excluded from the KZN BFA team chosen to set up the display, which was probably a good thing.

Being fashion related we called on our female members to lead the effort.

Under the capable guidance of Zofia Mack and her team of ladies we achieved a Gold Award with a trophy. This has never happened before.

Regional roundup

Women do it all at garden show

Each three-day Garden Show has a theme and exhibitors are expected to decorate stands according to guidelines provided by the organisers. Because of the theme for the 2016 show – Fashion Fusion – males were excluded from the KZN BFA team chosen to set up the display, which was probably a good thing.

Being fashion related we called on our female members to lead the effort.

Under the capable guidance of Zofia Mack and her team of ladies we achieved a Gold Award with a trophy. This has never happened before.

To view our catalogue and price list please visit www.beequip.co.za

For further information email info@beequip.co.za or phone our outlet on 011 476 5626 08h00 to 12h00. Shop visits by appointment only.
Neglected field receives timely attention

Martin Johannsmeier’s richly illustrated compendium *Beeplants of South Africa* is the most valuable and informative book on the forage resources for bees in South Africa that there is, and the ‘go-to’ resource for anyone wanting to plant bee-friendly plants in the region.

Mike Allsopp reviews the book:

If all the beekeepers of South Africa were herded into a room, and quizzed about the biggest issues facing the industry, I suspect that you would get quite a range of answers. Fake honey, imported honey, too many beekeepers, too few gum trees, the wrong gum trees, gum pests, theft, vandalism, lack of government support, too much government interference, other beekeepers, and pests and diseases are just some of the answers that you might get. But one thing that I am pretty sure of is that almost every beekeeper in the room would identify as an issue of concern the loss of suitable bee forage in the country, which threatens our ability to maintain a sustainable beekeeping industry, and to service the ever-increasing demand for commercial pollination services.

 Allied to this, we still have a relatively poor knowledge base in South Africa as to what our crucial ‘beeplants’ are, what the relative pollen (protein) and nectar (carbohydrates) values of these plants are, and how they contribute to honey bees being able to produce strong and healthy colonies from region to region. Honey is, to a large extent, labelled in hope rather than certainty, as ‘wildflower’ or ‘fynbos’ or ‘coastal bush’, because we often don’t know what the major sources of the honey really are. And without this knowledge it will always be difficult to protect our crucial forage resources, or to even increase them.

Fortunately, the much neglected field of beeplants and bee forage in South Africa has received a timely and significant boost in the past few years with the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) pollination and honey bee forage projects. The Global Pollination Project (Conservation and Management of Pollinators for Sustainable Agriculture through an Ecosystem Approach) was implemented in 7 countries (Brazil, Ghana, India, Kenya, Nepal, Pakistan and South Africa), coordinated by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, with financing from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implementation support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The Honeybee Forage Project was a national project in South Africa funded by the Working for Water Programme, Environment Programmes, and Department of Environmental Affairs.

A spectacular outcome of these projects is the publication of *Beeplants of South Africa* by Martin Johannsmeier, retired entomologist of the Plant Protection Research Institute of the Agricultural Research Council in Pretoria, and doyen of bee forage and mellisopalynology in South Africa. The book is an extension of Martin’s *Beeplants of the South-Western Cape* (first published in 1995 by the Department of Agriculture, with a revised edition published in 2005 as the ARC’s Plant Protection Research Institute handbook No.17), has been many years in the making, and is a wonderful addition to the bee literature of South Africa. Simply put, it is the most valuable and informative book on the forage resources for bees in South Africa that there is, and the ‘go-to’ resource for anyone wanting to plant bee-friendly plants in the region, including beekeepers, landowners, home gardeners, landscapers, conservation authorities and anyone concerned with the wellbeing of honey bees and the sustainability of beekeeping.

The format followed in *Beeplants of South Africa* is essentially the same as in the previous South-Western Cape book. Plants utilised by bees are divided up into categories (crop plants, Eucalypts, trees, shrubs, weeds, annuals, bulbs and grasses), and assigned pollen and nectar values. Essentially, it is a review of the exotic and indigenous plants used by honey bees in the region, giving an indication of how valuable each species is as honey bee forage, and containing additional information such as the flowering times of species, its common name, its morphology, its distribution and origin. Colour photographs of the main honey plants, as well as some
representatives of important beeplant groups, are provided as a first step in plant identification. The book also contains an extensive index to the scientific as well as English and Afrikaans common names used in the publication.

It is, perhaps, also important to note what the book isn’t. It is not a beeplant identification guide (although it does a great job with the eucalypts), and it is not completely up to date, with some recent information superseding the production of the book. What Beeplants of South Africa actually is, though, is the synthesis of a lifetime of work by the author, and the collation of the efforts of many dozens of beekeepers and other interested parties over decades, to produce a record of almost all that is presently known about the beeplants that sustain the beekeeping and pollination industry in South Africa.

Martin will be the first to concede that there remains much work to be done, and that much of the beeplant information is flimsy and anecdotal. It is great news for South Africa, and news that gladdens Martin’s heart, that research is finally under way to interrogate the floral resources in a number of locations in the country; and that this work is sure to spread to other parts of the country in the years to come. As with any book of this type, tough choices need to be made as regards format, and what to include and what to exclude. Some readers of the book may wish for more photographs to illustrate the beeplants, others may question the use of shading to break up the text. Personally, I found Beeplants of South Africa to be beautifully presented, with magnificent photographs and drawings, and full of historical snippets and personal notes that enlivened the text. It is a book that I know I will continually use, and which will have pride of place on my bookshelf.

Mike Allsopp
ARC-Plant Protection Research Institute
Private Bag X5017, Stellenbosch 7599
Email: allsoppm@arc.agric.za

The book (ISBN 978-1-928224-17-4) is available in hardcover A4. Price: R450. It can be purchased from the SANBI Bookshop at the Botanical Gardens in Pretoria, or by contacting Thomas Mapheza at bookshop@sanbi.org.za or t.mapheza@sanbi.org.za or by phoning 012 843 5099.
Bees require special attention to survive a Highveld winter

Peter Clark from Gauteng

This summer has been a trying one for most of us. The very hot and dry August to the end of October yielded a poor eucalyptus flow this season. The late summer rains in November to the end of January were welcome, although the gum flow turned out poor to fair and arrived later than in previous years.

This situation put pressure on us Highveld beekeepers to crop whatever eucalyptus honey there was in the hives by the end of December to make space for the cosmos and blackjack which promised to be the best ever.

Winter raises its head towards the end of May, followed by that inevitable cold snap in mid-June that inevitably shuts down the bees. The cosmos honey granulates rather rapidly once the temperatures dips below 14ºC and must be removed to avoid having to cut up drawn combs.

The Eastern Highveld Beekeepers’ Association (EHBA) extends south from Centurion to Heidelberg and east to Ermelo and Witbank, taking in very cold areas of the eastern Highveld where temperatures go as low as -6ºC, and even -8ºC on the odd night.

A persistent cold, easterly wind blows day and night and covers a wide area, from Devon and Evander to Ermelo, which, for unaware beekeepers, is a death trap for their bees.

In these cold areas all honey must be cropped by the end of March and the hives reduced to brood chambers only. By mid-May the bees will be forced to reduce their brood rearing to a minimum and will fill the outer two or three frames in the brood chamber with honey to provide good insulation from the penetrating cold.

The swarms have a good rest during the winter months and only minimum flying will be observed, probably to fetch water or to absorb a little warm sunshine. Hives should be placed on the northern sides of eucalyptus woodlots for the best shelter from the southerly winds. Hives left on the open, unsheltered grassland areas will die.

Warm weather towards the end of July can herald an early gum flow and if this happens the bees will need additional space to house their increasing numbers.

The beekeeper needs to “spring clean” by removing the outer frames on both ends of the brood chamber and inserting two frames of new foundation. These should be placed two or three frames in on both ends of the brood chamber.

A super chamber should be added, but no queen-excluder should be placed between the brood chamber and super at this stage as it draws cold into the brood areas.

This revival after the cold delays the swarming impulse and good eucalyptus and early blossom honey flows will be enjoyed, while the natural swarm-off occurs after these flows. In the warmer areas the swarm-off occurs before the honey flow and only a moderate amount of honey is obtained.

Migratory beekeepers, on the other hand, move to warmer areas north of Pretoria and eastwards to Rustenburg and do not have to nurse their bees through cold winter days and nights, except for the cold fronts which sweep across the Highveld which affect all of us.

Peter Clark is a commercial beekeeper who manages 200 hives. He has kept bees for 63 years. At 79, he finds the 600 hives he used to maintain “a bit too much”. He still fulfills pollination contracts, removes troublesome swarms in areas no further that 20 kilometres from his home base and harvests up to three tons of honey annually, in addition to conducting beekeeping courses.
Winter hive care in the Eastern and Western Cape

There are four things on the ‘to do’ list in preparing for winter.

1. Provide food for the hive to survive the winter

If all the honey is harvested in late summer then, to be fair, feed the hives once or twice during the winter. A litre of 50% sugar water will make a great difference. Too much feeding stimulates the queen to lay and then the field bees will starve for lack of food. There are also commercial products on the market which work very well. If you do not have feeders available, zip-lock bags containing a sugar solution can be placed on top of the frames. Make a few pin holes on the top of the bag to give the bees access to the solution and the bees will queue up to collect the food, I have been told!

2. Check the brood pattern in the brood box

Check for signs of disease and take appropriate action if necessary. If unsure call an experienced bee farmer who knows what to look for. All of us are willing to assist for the sake of everyone. Call the inspector allocated to your area for more follow-up.

3. Make sure colonies are strong

If there are weak colonies, combine two or even three to make up a single strong colony. Weak colonies battle to survive the winter, especially if the winter is very cold. They also do not build up very much when the spring flow starts. A combined hive will be ready to work when required and will be productive. Weak colonies simply take up space and time and rarely become productive. Close down hives to a maximum of one super on each and down to the brood box only for medium-strength colonies.

4. Keep records of the hives in each apiary

Note the condition of the brood chamber, the brood pattern, the state of the combs, how many supers were left on which hives. Also record which hives will need to have two new brood frames added when the time comes to carry out spring management, prior to the onset of pollination duties or honey production. There is a very useful website, hivetracks.com which is available on computer or as a smart phone app. I have used it for a number of years and have found it very helpful.

On the whole strong healthy hives will survive winter conditions in the Eastern and Western Cape regions, with a little extra care.

However, the Western Cape winters pose a major challenge. The weather is cold and wet and there is little forage for bees. These are prime conditions for disease to take hold. The major disease which has decimated apiaries around the Western Cape is American Foul Brood, or AFB as it is more commonly called, and it is highly contagious. It is very important for all bee farmers to recognise the signs of an outbreak and to call in the designated inspector immediately.

In the Eastern Cape, although the winters can be cold, they are on the whole dry and bees can withstand any amount of cold if kept dry. The predictions of rain into April this year could pose a problem with the threat of AFB spreading further up the coast from the
Reg Morgan started keeping bees in Durban in 1982, when a hive settled under the kitchen sink of their home on New Year’s Day. About May they swarmed and a local beekeeper assisted him to hive his first swarm. From then on he was hooked.

In 1987 he took on the Parish of Greytown, which is set in the middle of gum plantations. During swarming season the bees arrived during service time on Sunday’s and Wednesday’s and filled his catching boxes.

“Those were the days when the gum flow filled the supers to overflowing, and stripping supers with honey running out of the bottom was the order of the day,” he said.

In due time he trained and qualified as a honey judge.

In 2000, Reg moved to East London where he took up ministry in the city centre, and 2005 saw him take up ministry at what is now the Cathedral of St Michael’s in Queenstown.

“Learning the ways of Eastern Cape bees on the imaginary line between King Williams Town and Queenstown was a new challenge. I am still not sure whether we have Capensis or Scutellata in the area. The best bet is both.

Last year Reg was joined by a group of boys from a local school doing the President’s Award Scheme. They had to learn a new skill and this group chose bees.

“What a joy to have active young people willing to learn and do the heavy work. It extends the active life of a retiree! Hopefully it also instils a desire to work their own bees in time,” Reg said.
It was affirming, just to be in Anderson's office. I suspect that few bee people in South Africa are aware as to what an impact Andy Anderson made on bees and beekeeping in this country. His legacy includes the following:

- His work for his MSc at Stellenbosch, on the qualities of South African honeys, remains the basis on which our Honey Standards Act is based.
- His PhD study on the laying working behaviour of *Apis mellifera capensis* laid a cornerstone in the study of this incredible animal, and remains central to our understanding of Cape bees.
- Anderson (1963) must appear as a reference in at least thirty of my papers over the years.
- Ground-breaking work on the pollination of apples and pears, culminating in the publication of a booklet in 1985 with the Elgin Fruitgrowers on the subject, and fundamental to the development of a commercial pollination industry in South Africa. When Andy started this work, less than 2% of deciduous fruit growers in the Cape introduced bees for pollination purposes, and pollination revenue was less than 1% of the total revenue earned by beekeepers.
- The establishment, with beekeepers like Walter Hartman and George Bradford, both sadly also departed, of POSA (Pollination Association of South Africa), which established commercial pollination services in the country.
- The senior author of Bulletin 394, *Beekeeping in South Africa*, the “Blue Book”. Beekeepers in South Africa mostly do not realise just how good a general beekeeping text this is.

Mike Allsopp pays tribute to a legendary figure in bee research –

I have occupied the same office at Vredenburg Farm (ARC-PPRI in Stellenbosch) since 1990, and for the first twenty plus years of that time, an observant visitor to my office would have noticed an adhesive tape label (do you remember those?) above the door. RH Anderson was on that label; Andy Anderson, my predecessor at PPRI, who passed away suddenly in December at the age of 92; because this was his office before it was mine.

I can’t pretend that I knew Andy well. I think that I met him for the first time in the mid-1980’s when I first started working with Cape bees, and I remember us both being part of the Capensis Workshop in Pretoria in 1992. After his retirement in 1989, and my move to the Cape in 1990, we met infrequently, most recently when Andy attended a couple of recent talks of mine to U3A groups, and where he was kind enough to compliment me on my talks. Throughout our history I always found Andy to be very private and reserved, a trait others have also commented on. Sadly, we were acquaintances, never friends or colleagues.

So why did I keep his name above my door for more than twenty years? Maybe I was just too lazy to take it down. Maybe because I still viewed it as Andy’s office, especially in the early years. Maybe because my introduction to bees and beekeeping was a Christmas present from my cousin Barrie in 1974, the “Blue Book”, *Beekeeping in South Africa*, by Anderson, Buys and Johanssmeier, priced at R1.00 (!), urging me to ‘take up a family hobby’. [It took me ten years to start!] Or maybe because I really liked to know that it was once Andy’s office, and that I now shared that space, because Andy was my link to a beekeeping past, and one of a small number of legendary figures in bee research in South Africa.

Andy also wrote articles on queen rearing on Cape bees, on the Robben Island breeding programme (stock improvement was a central theme in how Andy viewed bees in South Africa), on the history of bees and beekeeping in the Cape, about establishing sanctuaries for Cape bees, and was the senior author of the 1974/75 Beekeeper Census, amongst other things. Andy also served for many years on the committee of the Western Cape Beekeeping Association, becoming an honorary member in 1965, as well as on the Department of Agriculture’s Apicultural Advisory Committee.

For me personally, however, Andy’s legacy was more than this; it was the treasure trove of correspondence that he left for me when he retired in 1989, letters between Andy and the scions of the beekeeping world. People like Francis Smith (Tanganyika, now Tanzania),

The cover of my 1974 "Blue Book".

Still the manual for the pollination of apples and pears.
Poppy Papadopolous (Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe), Harry Laidlaw and Roger Morse and JW White (USA), Eva Crane (UK), Warwick Kerr (Brazil), Friedrich Ruttner (Germany), Townsend and Smith (Canada) and Keith Doull (Australia). Not to mention correspondence with legendary figures in beekeeping in South Africa like Bill Crisp, Robin Guy, Frank Steinheobel, Harry Villiers and Arnold Lundie. Andy and his letters (and his writing is even worse than mine) was a portal for me into the history of bees and beekeeping around the world over the past seventy years, and for that I will always be grateful.

Immense contribution

Robert Hilton Anderson was born in Durban and educated at Maritzburg College. He was a keen sportsman, and swam for Natal. Andy served in the 2nd World War from 1942-1945, seeing action in North Africa and Italy. Returning from the war he completed a BSc Agriculture (Entomology) at Stellenbosch and joined the Department of Agriculture in 1950, originally working on bee forage and pollination. His first scientific publication was ‘A provisional list of Eucalyptus species suitable for honey production in the Western Province’. Sixty-five years later, and nothing has changed!

Andy completed his MSc in 1958 on the physical properties of South African honeys, and then spent three years at Cornell University in the USA on a government bursary, completing a PhD on the biology of the Cape bee. This must have been quite a period for Andy, as he somehow managed to visit 46 of the 50 states whilst in the USA. He returned to the Department of Agriculture in Stellenbosch where he continued to work until his retirement in 1989, after forty years of service.

With his passing Andy leaves his late wife Joyce, whom he married whilst studying for his BSc and to whom he was married for 59 years, a daughter and a son, a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and Elsabé, his companion in his later years. He also leaves a beekeeping community in South Africa poorer for his passing, but thankful and cognisant of his immense contribution to their cause. It occurred to me, while writing this obituary, that a good way to honour Andy and his contribution to beekeeping in South Africa, would be to repeat the 1974/75 survey, with a few added questions. They received 702 responses from 1736 questionnaires; any chance that beekeepers of today in South Africa would match that return?

Mike Allsopp
ARC-Plant Protection Research Institute
Private Bag X5017, Stellenbosch 7599
Email: allsoppm@arc.agric.za

www.beequip.co.za Email: info@beequip.co.za
Telephone retail outlet: (011) 476 5626 (mornings only)
Cometh the hour, cometh the man...

To Shaun Pollock, former Proteas all-rounder turned television commentator, Pierre Hefer should have been declared “Man of the Match”, a move that would have been endorsed by millions of cricketing followers around the world.

This would have been an outstanding climax to a very unusual afternoon’s cricket when the South African Proteas took on Sri Lanka in an ODI at the Wanderers in Johannesburg at the beginning of February.

Sri Lanka were busy knocking up a good score when a swarm of bees invaded the pitch, halting play and scattering players. Nobody knew what to do, but let Pierre, a business consultant in real life and a keen beekeeper, tell the story:

“I was watching the game on TV at my home in Emmarentia, a suburb about 20 minutes’ drive from the stadium, and when I saw the players and umpires lying down on the field I realised that there was a serious problem.

“When I saw the bees being blasted with fire extinguishers I knew that the issue was not going to be resolved in a hurry, so I packed my bee kit in the car and raced for the ground in the hope of catching the swarm and clearing the field so that play could continue.

“Arriving at the ground, I managed to get around the normally tight security, passing the traffic police who normally demand a parking ticket, and gained access to the ground without a ticket or any form of accreditation – a remarkable feat – although my white overalls and black gum boots must have helped.”

To the amazement of the 30 000 spectators who had filled the stadium to capacity, Pierre walked on to the field and scooped as many bees as he could into a brood box and then calmly withdrew so that play could proceed after a 60-minute break.

It was unprecedented in cricketing history.

Pierre received a huge cheer from the 30 000 crowd for his efforts.

“Yup, definitely the biggest audience I have worked in front of... my 15 minutes of fame,” he quipped to the media afterwards.

He was an instant celebrity, with television and press cameras following his movements. Radio and television interviews with the world’s cricketing media followed.

A fitting reward, perhaps, would be for Pierre to be made honorary beekeeper at the ground – just in case of future swarm invasions.

Editor’s comment

Many a true word said in jest, you might say. But there have been several incidents of bee invasions at sporting events both in this country and elsewhere, in recent years.

Who can forget the swarm of angry bees that went on the rampage at Kings Park in Durban in 2010 shortly before the kick-off of the Currie Cup semi-final between the Sharks and Blue Bulls?

And what about the incident in Bulawayo in July last year when a swarm of angry bees sent players fleeing to safety during the second day of the cricket match between New Zealand and Zimbabwe?

We are not suggesting that the incidents provide grounds for beekeepers to be stationed at all major sporting events. What we are suggesting is that bee associations affiliated to SABIO make enquiries to find out if officials in charge of sporting venues would think it advantageous if staff members received training on how to handle bee invasions.

Bee invasions can turn nasty and have tragic consequences. A trained person on hand could assess the situation and act appropriately. It’s like having the St John’s Ambulance on duty – they seldom have much to do, but it is comforting to know they are in attendance.
Pollination Services Charter
Building relationships between Crop Growers, the Crop Protection Industry and Bee Farmers in South Africa

The Crop Protection Industry should undertake to:

• Recommend and apply pesticides within an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programme
  • Only recommend pesticides when necessary

• Always recommend pesticides as prescribed by the label
  • Pay particular attention to warnings and precautions regarding pollinators on product labels
  • Use the recommended dose rate
  • Use according to registered application methods
  • Only recommend aerial application when necessary and adhere to Aerial Application Code of Conduct
  • Do not apply when there is a danger of drift onto non-target areas
  • Recommend drift-reduction application equipment and methods
  • Ensure that application equipment is properly maintained and calibrated
  • Avoid the persistence of any deleterious residues during flowering.

• Ensure that dust minimizing measures resulting from treated seed are introduced according to the CropLife & SANsOR guidelines. This includes
  • Pour treated seeds carefully out of bags
  • Do not shake dust or loose material from the bag
  • Ensure that seeding machinery is properly calibrated and maintained to minimise dust losses
  • Recommend film coatings that minimise dust
  • Avoid spillage of seed and clean up spills
  • Dispose bags and other waste (included unused seed) properly
  • Avoid contamination when cleaning equipment.

• Avoid spraying recommendations when bees are foraging unless when necessary. Only use products which are explicitly designed for bee-safe application during flowering
  • Minimise sprays during the flowering period
  • Sprays should preferably be applied after dusk
  • Apply measure to control flowering weeds in orchard crops when intrinsically bee-toxic products are intended to be applied
  • Avoid contamination from spray liquids
    • Take care when mixing and loading spray equipment
    • Advise on proper disposal of waste and used material
    • Clean up all spills

Agtent must complete annual training on responsible use of Crop Protection products

Crop Growers should undertake to:

• Apply pesticides within an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programme
  • Only use pesticides when necessary
  • Avoid pesticide application when bees are foraging
  • Avoid application during flowering / pollination periods
  • Avoid the persistence of any deleterious residues during flowering.

• Insist on using a CropLife SA accredited advisor (refer to www.CropLife.co.za)

• Always use registered (under Act 36 of 1947) pesticides as prescribed by the label
  • Pay particular attention to warnings and precautions regarding pollinators on product labels
  • Use the recommended dose rate
  • Use products according to registered application methods
  • Do not apply when there is a danger of drift onto non-target areas
  • Use drift-reduction application equipment that is properly maintained and calibrated

• Minimise dust from treated seed according to the CropLife & SANsOR guidelines
  • Pour treated seeds carefully out of bags
  • Do not shake dust or loose material from the bag
  • Use properly calibrated and maintained seeding machinery that minimises dust

• Use recommended film coatings that minimise dust
• Avoid spillage of seed and clean up spills
• Dispose bags and other waste (included unused seed) properly
• Avoid contamination when cleaning equipment

• Avoid spraying when bees are foraging unless when necessary. Only use products which are explicitly designed for bee-safe application during flowering
  • Minimise sprays during the flowering period
  • Sprays should preferably be applied after dusk
  • Apply measure to control flowering weeds in orchard crops when intrinsically bee-toxic products are intended to be applied
  • Avoid contamination from spray liquids
    • Take care when mixing and loading spray equipment
    • Properly dispose of waste and used material
    • Clean up all spills
    • Avoid contamination when cleaning equipment

• Communicate with your local/contracted Bee Keepers
  • Enter into a Contractual Agreement for pollination services or at least a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commercial Beekeeper
  • Notify the Bee Keeper when an application is planned
  • Highlight the planned spray programme when giving permission to Bee Keepers to put out their hives
  • Only allow Beekeepers who have your permission to place bees on your property; discourage vagrant beekeeping.

• Communicate with your fellow Pollination Service Providers
  • Respect the pollination arrangements between other Pollination Service Providers and Growers; don’t encroach on other’s contractual arrangements
  • Liaise with other Pollination Service Providers known to be operating on other farms

• When placing hives for pollination ensure that healthy colonies are placed in orchards and fields.
  • Ensure healthy queens with good brood patterns are utilised
  • Do not introduce diseased or contaminated colonies into pollination areas
  • Remove and replace any diseased or contaminated colonies during the pollination contract period
  • Do not overwork hives

• Introduce good hive management practices
  • Only utilise strong, non-leaking beehives of Langstroth brood chamber design with movable frames when providing pollination services
  • Ensure suitable internal spacing requirements to reduce swarming tendency during pollination period
  • Inspect bee activity regularly during pollination period
  • Keep Crop Grower regularly informed and address any concerns during the pollination period

Pollination Service Providers and Bee Farmers should undertake to:

• Maintain compliance with statutory requirements in terms of Control Measure R858 relating to honeybees
  • Register annually with DAFF Inspection Services
  • Mark all Bees with the DAFF registration number
  • Maintain proper records of all beekeeping activities
  • Conduct regular inspections of beehives to ensure sound beekeeping management practices

• Be a member of SABIO or a local Beekeeper Association
  • Adhere to pollination guidelines as drafted by organised industry bodies where applicable

• Allow SABIO or a local Beekeeping Association to disclose information of ownership of marked beehives on landowners’ properties to contracted Bee Farmers and Crop Farmers.

• Formalise the relationship with the Crop Grower and Land Owner
  • Enter into a Contractual Agreement or at least a Memorandum of Understanding for Pollination Services with the Grower

• Communicate with your local Growers
  • Notify Growers formally when hives are placed on or close to their property.
  • Request a copy of the Grower’s proposed spray program
  • Do not place beehives on landowner/grower’s property without their permission
  • Introduce precautionary measures to avoid the poisoning of hives
  • Ensure that local farmers and landowners are aware of your night movements

• Express your intention to establish a working relationship with Crop Growers or other Pollination Service Providers
  • Ensure that local farmers and landowners are aware of your intentions
  • Liaise with other Pollination Service Providers
  • Respect the pollination arrangements between other Pollination Service Providers and Growers; don’t encroach on other’s contractual arrangements
  • Communicate with other Pollination Service Providers

• When placing hives for pollination ensure that healthy colonies are placed in orchards and fields.
  • Ensure healthy queens with good brood patterns are utilised
  • Do not introduce diseased or contaminated colonies into pollination areas
  • Remove and replace any diseased or contaminated colonies during the pollination contract period
  • Do not overwork hives

• Introduce good hive management practices
  • Only utilise strong, non-leaking beehives of Langstroth brood chamber design with movable frames when providing pollination services
  • Ensure suitable internal spacing requirements to reduce swarming tendency during pollination period
  • Inspect bee activity regularly during pollination period
  • Keep Crop Grower regularly informed and address any concerns during the pollination period
The Bayer Bee Care Program

Honey bees (and other pollinators) play an essential role in the pollination of a large number of flowering plants and food crops throughout the world. Although the global number of bee colonies has increased by approximately 45 percent over the last half century, the decline in some countries in Europe and North America over recent years is concerning. As a company with many years of experience in both animal health and crop protection, Bayer has set up a Bee Care Program as part of its commitment to bee health.

We care about bees

For more information visit the Beecare website at www.beecare.bayer.com or email beecare@bayer.com.

For more information visit our website at www.crops.care.bayer.co.za/www.bayer.co.za or download the Bayer App.

Bayer (Pty) Ltd, Reg. No. 1998/011102/07
27 Wrench Road, Island, 1001, PO Box 154, Island, 1000, Tel: +27 11 921 0000

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

SABIO: South African Bee Industry Organisation
Chairman: Mike Miles, Johannesburg, Gauteng
Cell: 082 456 4177, Email: mikemiles@sabio.org.za
Administrator: Amanda le Roux, Douglas, Northern Cape
Tel: 053 298 1101, Email: membership@sabio.org.za

REGIONAL/LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

Eastern Highveld Beekeepers’ Association
Chairman: Peter Clarke, Springs, East Rand, Gauteng
Tel: 011 362 2904, Email: highlandsapries@gmail.com

Knysna Bee Group
Co-ordinator: Eddie Hart, Knysna, Garden Route
Tel: 044 387 1995, Email: eddiehart@telkomsa.net

KwaZulu-Natal Bee Farmers Association
Chairman: Craig Campbell, Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal
Cell: 084 774 8692, Email: ctrmcampbell@gmail.com

Mpumalanga Bee Group
Co-ordinator: Fred Bence, Nelspruit, Mpumalanga
Cell: 082 608 2008, Email: fredbence@yahoo.com

Northern Cape Bee Group
Co-ordinator: Douglas Bee Farms, Douglas, Northern Cape
Tel: 053 298 1101, Email: dbf@vodamail.co.za

SABIO: South African Bee Industry Organisation
Chairman: Mike Miles, Johannesburg, Gauteng
Cell: 082 456 4177, Email: mikemiles@sabio.org.za
Administrator: Amanda le Roux, Douglas, Northern Cape
Tel: 053 298 1101, Email: membership@sabio.org.za

Southern Cape Bee Industry Association
Co-ordinator: Hannes van Zyl, George, Southern Cape
Cell: 084 582 4380, Email: suidkaapbyye@gmail.com

Knysna Bee Group
Co-ordinator: Eddie Hart, Knysna, Garden Route
Tel: 044 387 1995, Email: eddiehart@telkomsa.net

KwaZulu-Natal Bee Farmers Association
Chairman: Craig Campbell, Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal
Cell: 084 774 8692, Email: ctrmcampbell@gmail.com

Mpumalanga Bee Group
Co-ordinator: Fred Bence, Nelspruit, Mpumalanga
Cell: 082 608 2008, Email: fredbence@yahoo.com

Northern Cape Bee Group
Co-ordinator: Douglas Bee Farms, Douglas, Northern Cape
Tel: 053 298 1101, Email: dbf@vodamail.co.za

INTERNET FORUMS

BeessA Email Discussion Group:
Moderator: Robert Post, Joostenbergvlakte, Boland, Western Cape
Tel: 021 971 1022, Email: crpost@telkomsa.net

Apiculture SA Email Discussion Group:
Moderator: Dean Lennox, Cape Town, Western Cape
Email: deanlennox@gmail.com
Web Address: http://groups.google.co.za/group/apiculture-sa

For more information visit the Beecare website at www.beecare.bayer.com or email beecare@bayer.com.

For more information visit our website at www.crops.care.bayer.co.za/www.bayer.co.za or download the Bayer App.

Bayer (Pty) Ltd, Reg. No. 1998/011102/07
27 Wrench Road, Island, 1001, PO Box 154, Island, 1000, Tel: +27 11 921 0000

Science For A Better Life

53
Honour your product with the packaging it deserves

Widely recognised as the nectar of the sun, and one of nature’s ‘super foods’, it is only fitting that your honey is packaged in glass. Quality packaging that not only preserves the purity, taste and flavour, but is environmentally conscious too.

Glass – trusted for centuries as nature’s packaging – is the perfect packaging choice. Made from natural substances, glass contains no contaminants and is pure, odourless and inert. It is also the only packaging type that can claim to be 100% recyclable, non-porous and ‘generally regarded as safe’ (GRAS) by the US Food and Drug Administration.

With exciting new innovation and design techniques, glass also provides the opportunity for packaging enhancement. This allows for product differentiation and enhances ‘on-shelf’ consumer appeal.

Choose taste
Choose pure
Choose quality

To assist you in your choices, contact:
Marina de la Port on 011 874 0000, or
Lenelle Gainsford on 021 888 4000.
www.consol.co.za

Consol
It’s good. It’s in glass.