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MEMBERSHIP of WCBA

WCBA. An Association of beekeepers and bee enthusiasts, bee researchers, commercial beekeepers and fruit and seed growers in the Western Cape, binding us all together, to create a powerful lobby for our industry.

This was again proven by the recent eucalyptus report and resultant analysis and exposure it was given in the press.

This Association has put its money where its mouth was. Since the mid 80's people of the ilk of Nigel Holloway and Dick Foster and other

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members, have kept the press informed of the value of eucalypts to our industry and to the fruit industry. People like Nico Langenhoven saw that we would need funds to fight battles such as this and proposed funds that would be collated to strive for members' interests and to ensure future development of our industry.

20 years of hard work and many, many thousands of Rand later, we have proved our point. The entire country stands to benefit from the money that you made available as part of your membership of the Association. Thank you!

And, even though it seems as if your Association is not always active: believe me: behind the scenes much work gets done. We do, however realize, that it is high time we spent a lot more time on

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THIS NEWSLETTER MAY CONTAIN THE OPINIONS OF THE CONTRIBUTORS AND AS SUCH DOES NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE OPINION OF THE ASSOCIATION, ITS MEMBERS OR ITS COMMITTEES.

you our member, in an effort to provide the feedback that you need.

Your membership is now due. Please ensure that – in all honesty - you pay the full fee including a levy to the Industry Fund, which is now depleted.

LIDMAATSKAP

Liewe byeboer vriend. U sal merk dat n faktuur hierby ingesluit is. Ons versoek u om u Vereniging weereens te steun met u volgehoue lidmaatskap. Veral nou dat u – in die bloekomboom opname - kan sien wat saamstaan vir ons almal beteken.

Dit is slegs deur 20 jaar se volgehoue werk dat ons kon bewys dat bloekombome vir ons 'n onmisbare hulpbron geword het.

Ons maan u ook om asseblief – in alle eerlikheid - u volledige heffing by u lidmaatskap te voeg.

KIND REQUEST VRIENDELIKE VERSOEK

PLEASE ensure that your name is filled in the reference block at bottom right of the deposit slip for ABSA bank whenever you pay the Association directly. Also ensure that you allow for your name to be prominent whenever you use internet banking.

ASSEBLIEF: sal u so gaaf wees om u naam in die blokkies onder regs op die

deposito-strokie in te vul wanneer u regstreeks inbetaal by die Vereniging se ABSA bankrekening. Maak ook seker dat u naam wel prominent verskyn indien u internet transaksies doen.

WINTER SCHOOL

Busy Bee Apiaries CC is planning its annual Winter School again.

Email notification has been sent out and an incredible response has been received already. The 2004 course was fantastic by all counts with many attending from far away in the Southern Cape and the West Coast.

If you would like to receive the enrolment package, give us a call and we will fax or email it to you.

Do we have your correct email address?

OPE DAG

As deel van die komende Winterskool, word 'n ope dag weereens beplan op Houmoed Plaas naby Malmesbury.

Hierdie geleentheid, eens 'n baie klein uitstallingkie, het oor die jare heen gegroei tot 'n fantastiese geleentheid vir byeboere om mekaar te kom ontmoet en vir die oueres om die jongeres 'n bietjie touwys te maak. So het mense

ander ontmoet wat hulle later in diens geneem het, of wat later met mekaar saamgewerk het. Nuwe vriende is gemaak, en dit alles in 'n informele atmosfeer, tussen ander byeboere.

Daar is geen formele program nie, maar mense wat aankom, word deur die fasiliteite wat opgestel is, heen gelei, terwyl aan hulle verduidelik word wat alles ten doel het.

Baie mense bring sommer die hele familie saam om, met 'n piekniekmandjie, 'n lekker paar ure hier deur te bring.

So, Ja, U as gesoute byeboer is van harte welkom by hierdie dag, waar oud en jonk mekaar ontmoet. Skakel gerus vir verdere besonderhede.

SMALLS

1) 'For Sale Small VAT registered beekeeping business, approx 70 hives un-cropped, 24 frame Thomas extractor, lock stock and barrel. price negotiable ph 021 761 6116

2) 'Warmers for crystallised honey readily convertible refrigerator cabinets (2): 1 of 500 litres capacity in 2 compartments (approx 300 + 200 each) the other approx 400 litres capacity in one compartment What offers? Ph 021 761 6116'

Ten tye van die byebedryfsfunksies soos die BEECON (Nasionale bye kongres), en die Bestuivings Nabetragtingsvergadering ontmoet 'n mens die gaafste mense van oor die hele land, en selfs van die buiteland. Hier net 'n paar voorbeelde van wat ons vanjaar ontvang het.

KORRESPONDENSIE VAN NABY en VAN VER

Hello

Ek skryf om uit te vind hoe vind julle in die Kaap hierdie bye seisoen met die knaende droogte?

Wanneer oes julle gewoonlik jul heuning? Is daar slegs een nektarvloeiperiode; gedurende lentetyd? Met die huidige droogte moet julle seker bietjie die bye voer ook, of is daar darem genoeg blomme?

Hier in KZN het ek al vroeg opgelet dat die bye baie eiers lê en het aangeneem dat daar moontlik goeie reën kom, wat toe wel die geval was. In sommige areas is daar nou genoeg heuning opgegaan om die bye deur te sien tot wintertyd. Ek twyfel of ek enigiets sal kan oes. Is maar nog jonk in die bedryf en het nie baie korwe nie.

Ek sal baie graag wil sien dat die byebedryf bietjie beter vertoon in

Suid Afrika. Wat is dit wat verhoed dat die bedryf groei soos dit oorsee groei?

Hoop die reën wat vir hierdie week voorspel is kom wel voort daar by julle.

Voorspoed met die werk!
Hein van Kralingen
KZN Dept. of Agriculture & Env. Affairs

Mnr. Post !

Baie dankie vir die byeenkoms in die Voortrekker Saal (die Bestuiwings Nabetragtings vergadering). Dit was vir my as leek interessant om te hoor watter probleme daar is. Soos dit vir my lyk is U en die ander sprekers reg ingestel om sake te beredder.

My een korf op die motorhuis se dak gee my baie plesier, heuning, en as tydverdryf gesels ek met hulle.

Groete, H. Kogler

ATIPODEAN APPRECIATION

Dear Robert

Just a brief note to thank you again for all your help in South Africa plus to send you some info on the bee plant, Vipers Bugloss.

Murray & I appreciated the very enjoyable and informative day you spent with us. Also a very special thanks for providing us with meals and for running us around. We particularly enjoyed meeting Nico and the other beekeepers of your association, thank you for organising the meeting at such a short notice. We were sorry we missed you on the second day as we appreciate you making apiaries available for us to look at.

With Vipers Bugloss (*Echium vulgare*), it is very similar to Paterson's Curse (*Echium plantagineum*) and most beekeepers confuse the two. Paterson's Curse has a somewhat larger, prettier flower on a single stem whereas Vipers Bugloss produces a number of smaller flowers on the same stem (see attached photos). Vipers Bugloss is an extremely hardy plant with hairy leaves and a deep penetrating tap root. Sheep will eat Vipers Bugloss, especially in times of drought when there is not much else available. Finally Vipers Bugloss produces an excellent white honey, which takes a long time to granulate. I feel this plant would do very well in your environment.

Once again thank you for all your help in making our study trip such a success.

Please let me know if I can help in anyway in the future,
Kind regards, Tony

Tony Roper was one of a team from New Zealand that visited a number of research facilities and commercial beekeepers (at short notice) during the early summer.

SABIO STATUS???

Dear Robert

A bouquet and a brickbat:

Thanks for an interesting Capensis Journal. Liked the extra touch of the Pure SA Honey sticker.

I think the Western Cape Bee Industry Association should know about the trouble I have had with SABIO. At the Winter Beekeeping School, we were encouraged to register with them, because according to the law we are supposed to.

I did this in June. They enthusiastically accepted my money but sent me no confirmation of my registration, no number, nor a receipt for my payment. I then tried to contact their offices. What a mission. All the numbers quoted in the bee literature proved to be dead ends. Eventually I got hold of Jeanne de Klerk. She promised to fax me the documentation above,

but despite repeated requests, nothing has been forthcoming.

Even more frustrating has been my attempt at ordering badger-friendly stickers. This I did in July (before Joan Isham took over). Once again, my money was accepted and deposited, but to this date I have received no stickers and no receipt. Again, I have spoken to Jeanne about this several times. She says she posted the stickers, but I have not received them. She promised to send me more; I have not received those either.

I think it is appalling for a national body to respond to the industry with such apparent disdain and lack of responsibility.

If it is law for beekeepers to register with SABIO, then money must be receipted and registration certificates issued promptly. By law I am supposed to put a number on my hives. This number should have been sent to me in an official letter or certificate. And orders must be executed timeously. I am frustrated beyond sanity. ...

Kind regards Sigi Howes
Centre for Conservation Education
9 Aliwal Road 7800 Wynberg

Dear Sigi

The problems with SABIO are mainly due to a lack of funds experienced during the past few years.

I had Johan van Eck here during the week. He is the vice chairman of SABIO. I drew his attention to your plight and those of others in similar vein and he assures me that these issues are being addressed.

In addition another meeting is being planned at SABIO during March where the issue of Joan Isham's completion as Badger sticker issuer will be addressed.

Glad to hear that you subsequently received your stickers.

Good beekeeping, and I will make a turn there before autumn!

<p style="text-align: center;">EUCALYPTUS SURVEY: QUESTIONS ASKED.</p>

Dear Robert,
Thank you for a very interesting letter

From your tone, it sounds very positive.....

I would please like to receive a full copy (56 pages) of the "results of the survey and analysis thereof" per email or whatever method is convenient to you. Cost to me?

Re the finances, before I am able to make any decision whether to contribute to "the burden currently placed on WCBA to fund their

(additional) portion of the research", I would appreciate answers to the following questions"

1. Why was the budget over-run?
2. Did the researchers refer-back and inform the management organisation (there must surely have been one!) before incurring the additional expenditure?
3. Was WCBA consulted, as a contributor, for approval for the budget over-run before the additional expenses were incurred?
4. If WBCA was consulted, and agreed, why were members not informed of the situation and the probable consequences?

With best regards
Dick

Dear Dick

Thank you for your questions.

We have asked the researchers, but have received no replies.

We have to assume that a lot of this may be allocated to the process of trying to straighten out the lists of beekeepers that existed and which had to be merged and verified. This was a process that cost us a lot in time, effort and money. For this, we now have a newer, more streamlined list of beekeepers in the Cape – one that will be a valuable

tool in the unification of beekeepers in the Cape.

2. See below. The management organisation of the project is a Working Group created with permission from the Land Use directorate of the Department of Agriculture (LUSM) and contained elements as listed in the letter. The researchers acted as consultants to this group.

As reported WCBA was not, and had not agreed to the additional amount. The fundraising letter has been broadcast to attempt to raise these additional funds. Working for Water (who foots R100,000) has already increased their contribution as well. The consequences for WCBA are not severe. The Industry Fund - created with exactly this in mind many years ago by Nico Langenhoven - will foot the bill.

It contains all the levies and bits of membership contributions that are over and above the base membership fee over many years - even with occasional withdrawals.

Sure it will set this account back many years, but the positive results of the survey and its consequences should mean many years of high advantage to all beekeepers utilising eucalypts (and especially cladocalyx) and more

3. No. WCBA had agreed to fund the Bee Industry part of the bill. With it having over-run, I decided to

create the letter on your desk, which I have subsequently forwarded to many individuals and organisations (see distribution list) and requested the recipients to forward to their principals.

4. I don't believe the researchers would have utilised the money - read overrun their budget - in any fraudulent way. They are responsible and reputable individuals from sterling organisations. I suppose they should have - and indeed might have - discussed this with Dawid who is the "kingpin" in this game for the Bee Industry. He only advised me of the request on the table, for additional funds to meet the shortfall, on the day of the initial presentation.

HEUNING SEISOEN

Berigte van verskeie oorde, toon verskillende resultate ten opsigte van die afgelope seisoen.

Die e. cladocalyx het – in die meeste plekke, tot 'n maand vroeg geblom. Dit het natuurlik beteken dat dié wat hulle bye 'n bietjie gestures het tydens die lente, se bye nie heeltemaal op spoed was toe die eerste blomme aan die einde van Novemer begin blom het nie. Boonop het die blou-blommetjies – wat eers só belowend gelyk het – toe maar vir 'n baie kort tydjie geblom en, in werklikheid, amper niks voorsien

nie. Die algemene gevoel is dat daar 20-30% minder heuning geoes is vanjaar.

In die Overberg het dinge natuurlik anders gelyk: daar het dit só gereën dat die canola weer blom tydens ons skrywe in Februarie!

Hierdie tendens is interresant en selfs in die Swartland tydens Desember het Canola weer in die blom gestaan nadat dit vir kuilvoer gesny was. Tans merk ons steeds lande op waar die ramenas vandag weer blom; dit terwyl ons geen noemenswaardige reën gehad het nie en die ondergrond so droog is dat bloekombome op talle plekke uitsterf a.g.v. tekort aan (dieperliggende grond-)water.

Die Tuart (e. gompocephala) dra ook op baie plekke nie veel knoppies nie, maar sal seker enige dag begin blom.

Die Karri (e. diversicolor) dra egter plek-plek baie mooi en, veral in die Skiereiland, is daar goeie vooruitsigte dat hulle darem sal help om gelykbreek te verseker vir heuningprodusente.

Ingevoerde heuning forseer tans die prys baie af en daar is reeds kopers wat onder verlede jaar se R22 koop en R18 tot R20/kg is die norm wat tans aangebied word.

Ingevoerde heuning is tans orals op die rak en baie van die produsente in die Wes-Kaap verkoop ook nou

ingevoerde heuning. Hulle belooft almal hand en mond dat hulle ettiketering streng volgens die regulasies sal wees.

Tans bestaan daar baie onsekerheid en gerugte wat onbevestigbaar is oor die ingevoerde heuning.

FIRE

As we all know, fires have ravaged many parts of the Western Cape again this year and especially around urban areas.

In one fire (the second since 2000) Brendon Ashley-Cooper lost some hives and equipment when it swooped along their property at Oude Raapkraal, Westlake. His mother and another family member lost their homes and everything in it.

Telephone chains were in evidence during many of the fires, with beekeepers contacting each other to keep them abreast of the situation where apiary sites are known to be.

Take care: the hot and dry season is far from over.

SUGÁ! SUGÁ!

Hoog tyd om by Hans Kiessling suiker te bestel. As u hierdie nuusbrieff kry, dan doen u dit sommer onmiddelik (028) 271 4334

EVENTS CALENDER GEBEURLIKHEDE

AGM 28 May 2005

We will keep you posted.

AJV 28 Mei 2005

Ons hou u op hoogte.

Winter School 2005

Day 1.....14 May 2005
Day 2.....21 May 2005
Day 3..... 04 June 2005
Day 4.....11 June 2005

BEEKEEPER'S OPEN DAY

**Houmoed Farm from 10h00
on Saturday 7 May**

(By special prior arrangement
also on Saturday 30 April and
Monday 2 May – mainly
booked for school groups.)

PRE-POLLINATION FIELD DAY

This day is still being planned for
April some time
Theme: Toxic substances on
Canola – its effect on pollination



DON'T FORGET

APIMONDIA 2005
is in Ireland this
year. For further
info, call us
urgently

FIELD DAY / VELDDAG

Plek: Nico se heuningkamer

Datum: 19 Maart 2005

Tyd: 08h30 vir 09h00

(Van na die rugby tot net voor die
rugby)

**Byesiektes, plaë en peste:
Strategie vir die toekoms.**

The Centre for Conservation
Education is arranging an
"Interactive Environmental event"
exhibit at Lanner House School in
Worcester, to coincide with
National Museum Day on 18 May
2005.

They would like someone from that
area to participate.

Call me if you have an interest!