



Abuzz With News

WINTER 2014

Dear Farmer

Another honey season has finished and site honey deliveries are underway. It has been a good production season in Hawke's Bay particularly for our traditional clover blend honey. Other areas of New Zealand have run bees so fortunate and honey stocks are low.

We remain committed to providing pollination for local growers and honey for local customers. This is becoming increasingly difficult with pressure on local bees and huge export demand. With many beekeepers choosing to export their total crop, Arataki and our neighbours Kaitiaki Honey are now close to supplying 70% of the honey in New Zealand supermarket shelves. Having access to your farms is vital to us and we greatly appreciate your support.

We are pleased to feature John Bostock in this edition. His work with organic produce and promoting a 100% Free Hawke's Bay fit well with the need to provide a truly environment for our honey bees.

We have been a beekeeping family for a long time now and it is a great to share my love of bees with my son, John and my grandson Kai. I hope you enjoy reading a little about them.

Warm regards
Law Harvey

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Site honey

Demand is very high for our honey this year and we have sold out for you. This means if you are unable to get any, you will have to wait until next year.

A SWEET RELATIONSHIP

John Bostock continues catching up with Arataki's John Harvey over 30 years ago when he started out as a young apple grower. This marked the start of a blossoming relationship with Arataki Honey.

"Building a successful business comes down to good relationships and our relationship with Arataki has been excellent. We just have the pollination job up in the beekeepers and then here and there results are always brilliant."

With a focus on sustainable growing practices, John is now one of New Zealand's leading growers, exporting over ninety percent of New Zealand's organic apples.

He was the first grower to approach organic apple production on a commercial scale, now shipping produce across Europe, North America, the Middle East and all of Asia.

"Like Arataki, we support a GM Free Hawke's Bay. It's a huge market advantage for us and means we can attract premium prices."

John runs BOSTOCK New Zealand, which also grows and markets squash, onions, kiwifruit and grain.

"Pollination is a very important part of our whole operation and requires a professional service, which we trust. The Arataki beekeepers are always very efficient and know exactly where to put the hives and when," says John.

"This season we had record blossoms and we depended heavily on the beekeepers to ensure we were maintaining our pollination opportunities. This proved through to the harvest where we experienced some of the best quality fruit in several years."

John is proud that his business remains family focused, with his son showing a keen interest in organic and sustainable production. His daughter has set up Bostock Organic Free Range Chicken - the huge demand leading to a further increase in production.

John is committed to the wellbeing of his 800 seasonal and 300 permanent staff. He has an organic vision to get people eating healthier and to socially invest in a new purpose built organic kitchen where staff can enjoy substantial, premium organic meals.

"We grow our own organic, premium produce and we are increasing this in our organic kitchen. We need to 'walk the talk' and create a healthy ethos inside our company to everyone who works at BOSTOCK New Zealand in Hastings can take the home to their families and show that 'we are what we eat' - that nutritious food creates a healthier lifestyle."

John says he always looks forward to receiving the honey deliveries from Arataki - enjoying the sweet success of the Arataki bees.





Bob, Grand John Berry

Three Generations of Berry Boys

Arataki beehives have been located on some Hawke's Bay farms for over seventy years.

One of the original beekeepers, company director Ian Berry, is still caring for the bees. Ian will be 83 this year so he now leaves the harder bee work to his team of beekeepers and concentrates on monitoring and innovation, looking for new ways to manage bee health and improve honey production.

Ian's eldest son, John Berry has been a beekeeper from a young age. John supplies honey to Arataki and lives nearby in Arataki Road. Beekeeping has always been challenging but it has recently become very difficult with the great surrounding mounds production and the pressure on nectar and pollen resources from "cut of trees" beekeepers pushing too many hives into Hawke's Bay like any stock there are limits to how many hives an area can sustain. Local beekeepers respect these limits but newcomers do not and bee health is at risk.

In these difficult times John has found a way to enjoy the more artistic aspects of beekeeping. Under the Berry Bee logo he has registered his

bees to produce some stunning Hawke's Bay comb honey. John supplies his Carni-horn hives selling the comb direct to honey-conscious at the Hastings Farmers Market and it's also available at the Arataki Honey Visitors Centre. Carni honey won't earned pocket money for John as a schoolboy this was extra income for him. John is a long-time volunteer with Birds New Zealand and his work with Cape Sanctuary resulted in a special hive placement under the name of "Beekeepers Comb Honey".

Also seen at the Farmer's Market is John's youngest son, Rob Berry. Rob also works as a beekeeper at Arataki. Some of the team started at Arataki before Rob was born so at 24 he is not the most experienced beekeeper but, like his grandfather, Rob is passionate about bee health. Well trained beekeepers are vital to ensure good hive management and allow the honeybees to work to pollinate and honey production. Technology is becoming increasingly important in hive monitoring and the skills Rob brings from his work in the computer industry will help progress his role in the future of Arataki Honey.

Arataki News

PIKE WAMP RAPE

Wamps are worse than ever this season. Give us a call if you are seeing wamps and we will help you with eradication.



ARATAKI SPONSORSHIP

We are pleased to continue support for the Hawke's Bay Football team. Programmes taking cooperation and Department of Conservation eradication of a sliding price at Kaitiaki Forest Park. We have visited sites in our Visitors Centre and support country sports events with honey prices.



POLLINATION

We are the largest provider of hives for pollination in Hawke's Bay. Arataki need strong healthy hives for the best harvest each in the spring. There have been many increasingly difficult to prevent on the sites. The strong demand for New Zealand honey has encouraged an increasing number of new entrants into the industry and rapidly increased beehive numbers in the country and particularly in Central Hawke's Bay and the Hutt Valley Plains. Other beekeepers over time, place hives on farms for the winter and early spring. This move does allow these months honey around the country. Arataki Honey Ltd has the history and is committed to Hawke's Bay and the needs of its growers and farmers.



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