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This is our first quarterly newsletter specifically designed for beekeepers. Our aim is to keep you informed about XenBee features, updates, future developments along with industry news. If you have any questions about the XenBee application please email or write to us (contact details on page 2). If you do not wish to receive these newsletters, please let us know,

and we will remove you from our database. Happy reading, and until next time, successful beekeeping - XenBuzz team

Words from XenBee designer

One of our aims with developing software is to make our customers lives easier. We try to achieve this by speeding up manual processes. We ensure that data is available quickly and easily rather than having you troll through paper documents and maintain various assorted spreadsheet and word files.

One of the hot topics we are

finding at the moment is the provision of documents proving traceability and adherence to legal requirements.

With this in mind, we are going to concentrate our next design release to make sure XenBee meets all audit requirements from government departments which will quickly allow you to print and distribute any required documentation.

Also, one of the top

requested new features is the ability to scan and weigh supers prior to extraction. We are currently investigating an interface between electronic scales and XenBee. We will keep you updated with progress on this feature. Please continue to request new features you would like to see in the system and we will continue to incorporate them into new releases. *Regards*

Heather

Nosema ceranae detected in Coromandel - MAF dispatches surveillance team

Nosema ceranae was detected for the first time in New Zealand in hives in the Coromandel in September 2010.

Nosema disease is a disease of the digestive tract in honeybees. It affects adult bees only and is highly infectious. The disease occurs primarily in late winter and early spring. Nosema is troublesome in temperate areas and especially in long periods of bad weather where bees are confined to the hive and are unable to leave on cleansing flights, allowing more spores to accumulate in the rectum. The disease is less readily spread in warm climates with mild winters.

Impacts of Nosema disease

Nosema increases the mortality of adult bees and can cause the death of some colonies during winter and spring. Nosema reduces honey yields, and causes poor population build up because the bees are unable to produce enough brood food. If a queen becomes infected, her ovaries degenerate and her egg laying capacity is reduced. The severity of infection varies among colonies. In slight infection, losses are small, but in severe infections the colony will dwindle and may ultimately die out.

Defecation by diseased bees inside the hive is the prime

source of infection. When healthy worker bees clean the hive they become infected with spores by ingesting faecal matter or contaminated food.

Transmission between hives

The spread of nosema disease from hive to hive occurs by transferring contaminated combs between hives, feeding bees with honey contaminated with spores, and by splitting and uniting contaminated hives.

The occurrence of this disease varies during the year. For more information check out:

www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests/nosema-ceranae

You may find these websites useful:

- www.nba.org.nz
- <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/animalproducts/subject/bee-products/>
- www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests/
- www.nzte.govt.nz/
- www.pir.sa.govt.au
- www.honeybee.org.au
- www.honeybee.com
- www.britishbee.org.uk
- www.beeeculture.com
- www.dadant.com (American bee journal)

XenBee - Benefits & Reports

XenBee computer application enables beekeepers to manage their beekeeping operations more efficiently. If you are a beekeeper still using a paper-based system, XenBee can reduce the amount of paperwork and assist you in the following areas by:

- providing **full traceability** for hive and super movements enabling tracking and treatment of disease. Also displays '**flagged hives**' and sites based on the recorded results of tasks.
- **saving hives** by managing them more efficiently.
- **saving time** by enabling you to easily locate hives e.g. those ready for pollination.
- providing **full scheduling and completion of tasks** carried out at the **hive and site** levels, with the ability to schedule a task for all hives that may have been impacted by a diseased hive.
- **reducing** the amount of **data-entry errors** as there is one point of entry only.
- printing off completed Statement of Transfer documents, saving you time.
- enabling you to create a variety of reports, based on your selections. For example, you can create **Site Numbers Report**—see below. They are clear and easy to understand.

Recipes -

STRAWBERRY KIWIFRUIT SMOOTHIE (2 servings)

Ingredients

- 1-1/2 cups frozen strawberries
- 1 large kiwifruit, peeled
- 1 container (8 oz.) low-fat vanilla yogurt
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 10 ice cubes

Directions

In a blender or food processor, combine all ingredients and process until smooth. Serve immediately.

SMOOTHING SKIN LOTION

Ingredients

- 1 teaspoon honey
- 1 teaspoon vegetable oil
- 1/4 teaspoon lemon juice

Directions

Mix together honey, vegetable oil and lemon juice. Rub into hands, elbows, heels and anywhere that feels dry. Leave on 10 minutes. Rinse off with water.

The above recipes are from <http://www.honey.com>.

If you would like more information about anything included in this newsletter please contact us.

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XenBee		Heathers Honey Company			
		Site Numbers Report as at 30 Sep 2010			
Region:	Waikato				
Site Name	Last Visit	Total Hives	Brood x 1	Brood x 2	Brood x 3
French Pass	23 Sep 2010	3	3	0	0
Te Miro		2	2	0	0
Woodside Road		2	1	0	0

Scheduled event report - see who is doing what, when, and where.

XenBee		Heathers Honey Company			
		Scheduled Events Report			
Sites: Te Miro , Woodside Road - All Hives - All Event Types - Completed By: Heather Wickham - Results: 30 Sep 2010 to 07 Oct 2010					
Site: Te Miro	Address: 123 Te Miro Road, R D 4, Cambridge, Waikato				
Event Type	Category	Scheduled Date	Assigned To	No. Hives	Hive Code
Feed Hive	Hive	24 Sep 2010	Heather Wickham	2	*ALL*
	Hive	07 Oct 2010	Stephen Hammond	2	*ALL*
Site: Woodside Road	Address: 22 Woodside Road, R D 10, Hamilton, Waikato				
Event Type	Category	Scheduled Date	Assigned To	No. Hives	Hive Code
Hive Maintenance	Hive	29 Sep 2010	Heather Wickham	2	*ALL*

Customised reports are available on a cost and materials basis. Contact us at Xenacom (07 827 0890) or email info@xenacom.com.

Relocation of XenBee server will benefit everyone

On 3 October the XenBee application was moved to a new server in a managed data centre. The reason for this move was to improve availability and performance of the XenBee application. The

new server hardware, better Internet connection and 7 x 24 monitoring will result in significantly fewer outages and much shorter time to recovery if they do occur. This will benefit everyone. If you are experiencing any problems please contact us on 0800 XENACOM, 07 827 0890 or email support@xenacom.com.