

Supplied Insights



ROD WILLIAMS
Owner, Hive World NZ



It's one year since Covid-19 first appeared in Wuhan and it doesn't look like it's going to go away any time soon.

There have been effects on the Apiculture industry in many ways, including both the challenges of supply when importing beekeeping supplies as well as the exporting of honey and other hive products.

The government has provided beekeeping courses up to Level 3 among their offerings to help those made redundant as a result of the pandemic. Many technical institutes throughout the country are now offering these courses free of charge. If the students pass the course, they get to take home a complete hive they have made. As I talk to these technical institutes regarding their requirements, I find that although the government means well, this initiative may not be working as planned.

One should ask: will this help our industry by making up for the lack of migrant beekeepers who normally come here over the summer?

A good percentage of those doing these courses are hobby beekeepers taking advantage of free instruction. In fact, one bee club meeting was promoting this. This is not necessarily a bad thing as our keen new beekeepers will be better informed than they would have been in the past. However, they are not necessarily looking for employment in the industry.

On the other hand, long-term unemployed are being pushed to take these courses and one tutor passed the comment that it was more like running a daycare center than an apiculture course.

Would the money be better spent on promoting our unique New Zealand honeys in overseas markets?

Rod Williams is the owner-director of national beekeeping supply company Hive World NZ, email: sales@hiveworld.co.nz 🐝



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