



APICULTURE

NEW ZEALAND

The Roy Paterson Trophy

The Roy Paterson Award was instigated to remember Roy and his work with the beekeeping Industry. The award is for innovative ideas or inventions to help New Zealand beekeepers.

Annually at the national conference industry members can be nominated or submit innovative ideas for judging.

Background:

Roy served in the Second World War and on return, started beekeeping in the Oamaru area. He then moved to the West Coast as an Apiaries Inspector with the Department of Agriculture, transferring to Hamilton in 1936.

Roy was a keen inventor with an engineering background, so he spent a great deal of time designing equipment for mechanising the handling of honey in the honey house. Some of his equipment included honey warmers and immersion strainers with hot water jackets and a steam plant for a hand uncapping knife. He also designed and made float switches to operate in honey tanks and a safe saw bench where the blade only came up from underneath when a pedal was pushed.

Prior to 1945, the tree shrub that had caused honey poisoning hadn't been identified and although scientists had isolated Hyenachin in the honey, they knew this was not the complete story. Roy camped out and spent days in the Pongakawa Valley where some of this toxic honey had been sourced, trying to work out which flower the bees were working. Roy noticed the honeydew on the Tutu bush after observing the large numbers of *Scolypopa Australis* feeding on the Tutu. He then realised that the bees were working the honeydew. From the leaves sent by Roy to Wallaceville, Dr Sutherland isolated the melitoxin as well as tutin from the Tutu Honeydew.

Following his observations and subsequent findings identifying the Tutin problem, Roy was offered the position of Superintendent in Wellington. However, wishing to remain in the Hamilton area, he declined the post and continued to work with and for beekeepers from the Waikato. Roy was happiest if he was out in the field meeting with beekeepers rather than in an office. He also enjoyed visiting schools and talked to many children about bees and beekeeping.

The beautiful handcrafted timber trophy was made by John and Peter Berry from Arataki Honey, Hawke's Bay.

Download the entry form and submit your innovative ideas now.