

THE BUZZ ABOUT BEES

Hive monitoring from home

Trekking through paddocks to reach your hives has always been one of the downsides to beekeeping. Now beekeepers can monitor their hives with the click of a button thanks to a new industry-leading product — Hivemind.

This product allows beekeepers to keep track of how their hives are doing in remote locations and has been designed by taking on board feedback from actual beekeepers, equipment manufacturers and beekeeping organisations.

Behind Hivemind, is a team of engineers who will ensure the product grows with their customers' needs. Although the product is designed to last over five years and beyond, the team

will continue to make developments and continue to broaden customers' options.

How does it work? A few supers are stacked on the scales and the Hivemind satellite tracks and records the weight readings which are then sent to Hivemind web servers. This information can then be accessed via PC or smartphone.

Hivemind is designed as an outdoor product and needs to be able to survive in hot sun, cold winters, wind, rain, and all the other variations of New Zealand weather.

It requires no charging and has a built-in solar panel and battery which will operate for years without maintenance.

The electronics are enclosed in IP67 weatherproofing case and the satellite connectivity in the Iridium network means it can be used on even the most remote hives.

The scales are accurate and industrial standard so keepers can rest assured their readings are true and correct. Multiple extra scales are available as an add-on to a single unit.

The latest development, the wireless scales, was funded by a Kickstarter campaign which saw supporters pool



together funds to help make the idea a reality.

Now that the campaign has finished, the new system is in full production and orders are available to be shipped within a few weeks.

For the small scale beekeepers and other niche areas, the full satellite system can be overkill, and as other options in the market are slim and

the team want everyone to be able to join in — this is now possible with the smartphone connected Wi-Fi scale which is a smaller version of the main product suitable for backyard projects.

While the core product is focussed on large-scale commercial beekeepers, the team have kept in mind the smaller beekeepers, being a small team themselves.



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