



**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
COOK ISLANDS**

NEW BEE KEEPING ENTHUSIASTS

EDWARD TUAATI PATAI & DANIEL NGATOKORUA

RAROTONGA

COOK ISLANDS

Bee Keeper Enthusiast - Edward Tuaati Patai



Edward Tuaati Patai is a qualified pilot by profession, flying for our local airline Air Rarotonga.

Edward's interest in beekeeping, that started off as a hobby, quickly turned into a serious commitment after attending a two-day training session provided by the Ministry of Agriculture in February 2020. This training was delivered by Dr. Matairangi Porea (PHD), a bee keeping expert and assisted by Advisory officer Edwin Apera.

Edward learnt how to extract bees from hives and the splitting procedure.



Extracting is a process where the beehives are removed from their original site (on a tree, within a house) and relocated into a new hive box. This entails removing the honeycombs and placing these into a new hive box, allowing the bees to adapt to the new hive box and re-start their honey production.



According to Edward, this process is quite labor intensive as hives are located on tall trees or high roofing structures. It is advisable to have a ladder or scaffolding on hand to assist.



The Splitting procedure, if transferring from an old box into a new box, involves removing the frames from the old box and relocating to a new box. The adaptation process after splitting the hives takes between 24 to 72 hours. This process can be quite tricky, because if the bees cannot find any presence of their Queen, they will return to original breeding box that they were removed from.



Following the training, Edward commenced with one hive. Today, he has six hives to manage.

Edward is still learning the trade, but has purchased the necessary tools required to assist his bee keeping project.

Edward says, "understanding the basics is important, plus continuous practice. This has boosted my confidence in bee keeping. The end result is the extraction of honey after 7 to 9 months".

We wish Edward all the success in his bee keeping project.



Bee Keeper Enthusiast - Daniel Ngatokorua



Daniel Ngatokorua is another airline pilot by profession, who has taken a keen and serious interest in bee keeping.

Daniel harvested his first batch of honey earlier this year 2020 and was very proud of his achievements with his first harvest of honey.

Daniel has identified areas to further improve with his bee keeping project and has purchased the necessary bee keeping equipment from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Daniel has 8 active bee hive boxes and recently expanded his project by another 10



bee hive boxes purchased from the Ministry.

We wish Daniel every success in his bee keeping project and future endeavors.

Kia Manuia Edward & Daniel!