

## **John Bambury**

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### **Current position in the kiwifruit industry –**

*Bee Keeper at Api Flora NZ*

### **Who do you work for?**

*Api Flora NZ as well as a family-run bee business*

### **What does your role involve?**

*I work with a team of several bee keepers in the management of an apiary of 2,500 hives. The work stretches from basic hive rearing, brood checking and disease control, to the pre-audit of hives to check they meet Kiwifruit Pollination Association standards. I'm also involved in kiwifruit pollination and ultimately honey harvesting ranging from clover, rewa rewa, tawari to kanuka, kamahi and manuka.*

### **What was your career path?**

*I travelled the world from when I was 15 to 28 years old, working in some of the highest-rated restaurants in the world. In 1998 I completed a degree in professional cookery, which led me to seek work in incredible restaurants such as Patrick Guillbauds, Le Manoir Aux Quat Saisons, Bathers Pavilion and Aria. To my joy and perhaps ignorance I was shouted at, educated and berated by the best! However, six years ago I followed my beautiful kiwi wife to New Zealand, where through a number of unforeseeable and fortuitous incidents (including a year of pruning, grafting, tying down and picking kiwifruit) I ended up at Api Flora. There's a saying that many bee keepers use every now and then: 'If it wasn't for the stings every bugger would be doing it!' Never a truer word has been spoken, because when you get past the long hours and arduous physical side of it, beekeeping is truly a wonderful job.*

### **What do you like about working within the kiwifruit industry?**

*Whenever I talk to people at home in Ireland or in Te Puke, I always seem to go on about how much opportunity there is in Zealand, how if you are keen and able there's always a job out there for you. This couldn't be any more true than in the kiwifruit industry. Everyone in this industry seems to have a grand story of their own which generally involves elements of risk, hard work and perseverance. The kiwifruit industry rewards people for risk and hard work. I'm really proud to be a part of it.*



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**Kiwifruit are one of very few natural sources of folate – needed in pregnancy and growth**