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Comvita acquires Waikato Honey Products Business – Strengthens High Quality Manuka Honey Supply

Global natural health and beauty products company Comvita has acquired the Te Awamutu-based apiary Waikato Honey Products to strengthen its supply of Manuka (*Leptospermum*) honey.

Waikato Honey Products farms 3,500 beehives located throughout the Waikato and central North Island.

Comvita Chief Executive Brett Hewlett said the business will provide Comvita with additional supply of both pasture and Manuka honey and will be incorporated into the existing Kiwi Bee Apiary business.

The location is ideal for over-wintering hives, for growing new hives and for providing strong hive growth during the late winter and spring in preparation for the Manuka flowering. This provides Comvita with a platform to both assist key beekeeper suppliers to expand and over time, to further increase our own hive numbers.

“Our policy on honey supply remains one of supporting our loyal beekeepers and sourcing the majority of our Manuka honey requirements through these long-standing relationships,” said Mr. Hewlett.

Mr. Hewlett said to ensure the supply of Manuka continues to meet the increasing international demand for Manuka honey, Comvita has invested over the last five years in development of elite Manuka strains for reforestation of marginal land.

“Several land development projects involving planting of Manuka were initiated last season and we plan many more over the coming years. Comvita will now be able to ensure these new developments are optimally populated with beehives.”

“Waikato Honey Products provides Comvita with an ideal platform to get the most out of our significant investment in research and development.”

The acquisition was completed last week and the purchase price is confidential.

Ends

For further information, please contact:

Neil Craig
Comvita Chairman
021 731 509

Brett Hewlett
Comvita Chief Executive
021 740 160

About Comvita www.comvita.co.nz

Comvita is an international natural health and beauty products company with a strong New Zealand heritage. We are committed to the development of innovative natural health and wellbeing products, backed by credible scientific research.

We develop and manufacture products in the categories of Health Care, Personal Care (Skincare and Wound Care) and Functional Foods (Health Foods). Manuka (*leptospermum*) honey is at the core of the Comvita product range and we are the largest manufacturer and marketer of this uniquely New Zealand resource.

We sell into more than 14 countries through a network of wholesale and third-party outlets, more than 470 branded retail outlets throughout Asia – including 400 stores in 40 cities in mainland China and online. We have offices in New Zealand, Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea and the United Kingdom.