

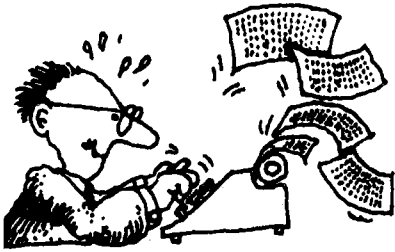
NO. 10

DECEMBER 1980

**waikato
bee
notes**



Ministry of
Agriculture
& Fisheries



This has been a very interesting spring, if nothing else. All you can say about the weather is that we had some, and we'll probably get some more tomorrow. But despite all the cold, and wet, and wind, queens were mating very quickly and very well. I had some queens mated and laying within one week of emerging, and this was back in early October. I have no idea why this should be. The willow yielded very well in many areas, but the barberry rewarewa and buttercup didn't product a great surplus. I'm guessing there won't be much dark honey extracted this year. Reports suggest that the tawari is budding very well.

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MAF DISCLAIMER

Kevin Ecroyd took exception to my May newsletter where I mentioned the Frankton Dairy Co, as a source of supers, and wrote to the Deputy Director in Wellington. He said *"It is my contention that the commercial enterprises should pay for their own advertising through the normal channels and in particular they have two beekeeping magazines available to them. I feel the Apiary Instructions should advise when asked where goods can be procured, but should not be seen to promote the product of one manufacturer to the detriment of another."*

The fact that Alliance Bee Supplies gets exclusive mention in some MAF Aglink publications and a free mention in my handouts to hobbyists was conveniently overlooked.

However, as a result of the complaint I have been advised to include a "disclaimer" from time to time. So here it is.

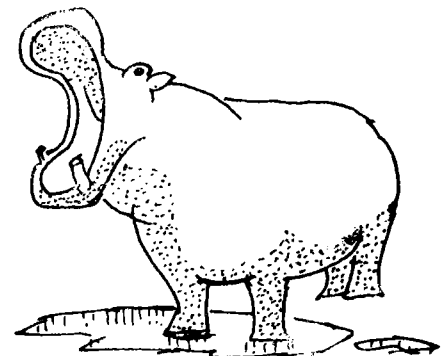
"The mention of any particular brand name or source of supply in this publication does not infer MAF endorsement of this product or source of supply, nor is criticism inferred of products or sources not mentioned in this publication."

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Buzz hates puns - but quotes them anyway. Tarzan went out to get the evening meal, but all he could catch were two small birds and two baby chimpanzees. When Jane saw what he had brought home she sighed : *"Oh no....not finch and chimps again."*

MORE ON FLOOR SURFACES

I've two new products to tell you about. The first is a hard-wearing plastic floor coating marketed by NZ Safety Flooring Ltd, Sylvia Park, P O Box 62-013, Auckland, Ph: 793-408. The floor coating is put on by applicators employed by NZ Safety Flooring Ltd and is approved by MAF for food handling environments.



The material is carbon bisol tryphose or CBT, a very hard and inert material resistant to abrasion and acids. The non-skid properties of the floor are due to tiny carborundum chips embedded in the CBT itself. The chips come in three densities and grades depending on the use of the floor. The carborundum chips are black but the CBT base is available in a range of colours.

The price quoted is \$22 sq metre laid.

The other product is made by AHI. It is called Hippolon and comes in sheets 2400 x 1200 mm x 3 mm thick. The material is the extremely tough plastic, polypropylene. It is resistant to most substances and will withstand impact and thermal shock. It can take wide variations of heat and cold (from -40°C to 110°C) making it ideal for lining coolrooms or hotrooms or any part of the honey house. It is approved by MAF for use in farm dairies.

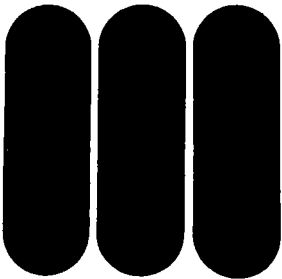
Sheets of Hippolon are fixed to existing walls by Fastfix Christmas Tree Fasteners. Joints can be filled with sealant and covered with PVC mouldings (walls) or they can be thermofused (floors). Hippolon can be bent or moulded to fit around corners or covings.

One of the local AHI rep's I talked to about this exciting product is Salvé Barnao. The sheets retail at \$29.33 each.

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think metric

Do you metric lovers believe this one?

Teacher explained the system to a class of youngsters and asked them to use the word centimetre in a sentence. Little clever dicky said: *"Last week my auntie came to visit us and I was centimetre."*

TREATMENT OF HIVES IN BEEKEEPERS' ACCOUNTS

Most of you should have received a letter last month from the Inland Revenue Department on how they (and hence you) are to treat your hives for taxation purposes. The letter was clear enough. What they want to do is get all beekeepers to regard their hives as plant and equipment.

This means that some of you "old timers" who have a book value on your hives will have to go and see an officer in your local IR office and arrange to convert your books over.

Basically you will need to revalue your hives to near current values. This will be a very big jump for some of you. The Commissioner of Taxes, in some areas anyway, is accepting revalued hives on the basis of present day costs to buy all the timber and manufacture a hive. An allowance is made for inflation between 1970 and 1980 in the valuation of hives. Bees and honey are not included in the valuation but you could probably make a case to have foundation wax included in the value of your "kitset hive".

The price you arrive at should still be below current market values and any "profit" you make on the sale or transfer of your hives should be taxable. This is to off-set the taxation advantage you received when the hives were written down to book value following the initial purchase.

As hives are regarded as plant and equipment all repairs and maintenance (RM) on the hives are tax deductible. However, to ensure timber, paint and nails purchased or claimed as R & M are not used to build new hives beekeepers must furnish a "Memorandum Plant Account". The format desired by the IR is given below:

<u>Amendment No.202</u>			
<u>YEAR ENDED - 19</u>			
	<u>Hives</u>	<u>Extra Supers (with Comb)</u>	<u>Surplus Supers (Numbers Only)</u>
Number on hand at end of year			
Number sold during year			
TOTAL (A)	_____	_____	_____
<u>Less:</u>			
Number on hand at beginning of year			
Number purchased during year			
TOTAL (B)	_____	_____	_____
Increase or Decrease (Compare A to B)			
If number increase state cost of additions	\$	\$	\$
If number decreased state amount received for surplus sold	\$	\$	\$

REFLECTIONS ON THE INSPECTIONS!

'I received this little ditty from Kerry Simpson (AAO Oamaru) some time back.
Eat your heart out Willie Wordsworth!

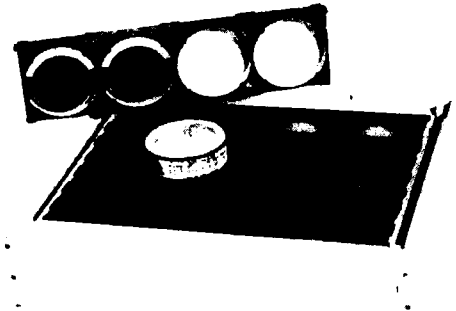
Hail sky bright blue, no sign of rain!
 Just wait till the willows flow again.
 Dreaming of flows that never stop
 So I forget that last year's crop.
 When levering out stuck frames I hope
 Grubs will not be brown and rope.
 Lots of brood and not much feed,
 We cater for their every need
 With overdraft or hard earned loot.
 Don't spill the syrup down your boot.
 To orchards then, with straps of iron
 And carbaryl and gusathion.
 Ere summer comes we shift them back
 On rainy nights with aching back.
 Dull November starves some bees,
 While others hang about in trees.
 But later on, no time to play,
 We'll gather honey while we may.
 Those rotten lugs, I curse them so
 When heavy frames fall on my toe.
 Tons of drums, but all's not well, it
 Still remains a job to sell it.

Though beekeeping be full of strife
 We have, at least, OUR WAY OF LIFE.

ROUND PLASTIC COMB HONEY SECTIONS

Curtis Wicht (Manager HMA) has imported a number of the American made Ross Round Sections and has them for sale to anyone who is interested. Curtis got slugged with a heavy import tax even though the sections were on a trial basis! This has affected the price somewhat.

Anyway, there are 8 frames to go in a half-depth super and each frame holds 8 sections. The filled sections should weigh about 225 gm. The units available come complete with frames, the round sections (in 2 halves), a snap on base (opaque), a lid (clear) and a label. You supply the super and foundation which is simply fitted between the two halves of the section and trimmed off with a knife when filled.



* * * * *

IS COMB HONEY HONEY PRODUCTION ECONOMIC?

This is a very difficult question to answer; there are so many if's and but's. One of the biggest problems is putting a value on the "loss of production" with comb honey compared with extracted honey using drawn combs.

We all know that bees use a lot of honey/sugar to produce wax and honey/wax ratios of 8:1 are often quoted. They are also more reluctant to draw foundation and fill combs in erratic or poor flow conditions such as we had last season in many parts of the Waikato.

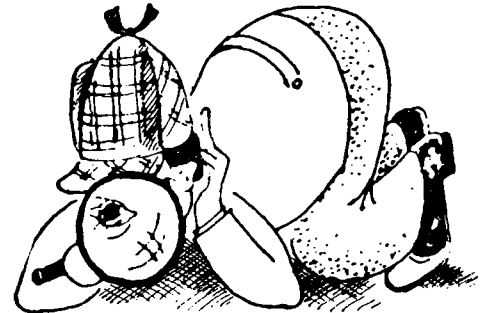
Dr Tibor Szabo, working at the Beaver Lodge Research Station in Alberta, has evidence to suggest that bees given all foundation produce 25% less honey than bees with drawn comb.

Buzz says, "Is a low neckline addict a cleftomaniac?"

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A POT POURI

Healtheries in Auckland are after supplies of propolis and royal jelly and pollen. They want up to 250 kg of propolis a year with the price to be negotiated. They also want 50 kg of royal jelly and are offering \$150/kg.



Steven Mahon, 15 View Rd, Workworth is importing a foundation machine from Europe. Steven recently spent several weeks in Germany learning how to operate the machine which should be here before Xmas. The machine will make any size and thickness of foundation. This is welcome news with freight rates of around \$500 per tonne of wax to Christchurch and foundation back to the Waikato.

Lindsay Hansen is also planning on building a foundation mill at Taupiri.

The source of supply of bee boxes from the Frankton Dairy Co has dried up until next May at least, so don't go bothering Stuart Moffit the Manager. They are very busy making over 1 000 pallets a day to store all the dairy produce on following the go-slows and strikes resulting from the Southdown schemozzle.

I had a letter from Theras Broadley a few weeks ago. He writes from the spinal unit at Otara where he had been sent for rehab training for life in a wheelchair "... I had the misfortune to slip off my chair....and broke my leg so have had 9 weeks in plaster lying flat on my back. Am up again now and hope to be back in Thames before Xmas."

The MAF booklet "Rural Industry Incentives 1980-81" is now available from all MAF offices.

Trevor Bryant, AAO Gore, is on a year's exchange with the Department of Agriculture in Alberta. Here are some snippets gleaned from his letters to me.

- * The USSR is very interested in buying leafcutter bees from Canada at 3¢ each!
- * The Canadian honey crop is expected to be down about 8 million pounds this year. Saskatchewan and Alberta will average 160 lb and 155 lb hive respectively.
- * Some areas in Alberta did 300+ lbs, others 180-210 lbs while some bombed out at 100 lbs hive.
- * Honey is selling at 58-60¢ lb bulk.
- * Sugar is costing \$56 for a 70 lb bag and is expected to climb to \$62 plus freight. Some beekeepers are predicting a hike to \$70 bag by next spring.

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Buzz saw another bumper sticker:

*"If you love tennis honk
If you can't honk
Make a racquet!"*



MOBILE SINK IN THE HONEY HOUSE

This is a neat idea I saw in Len Hunt's new extracting room at Ashburton last year.

Len had put a handbasin in a cabinet and mounted the whole unit on castors. Rags and cleaning aids were stored in the cabinet. The basin was rolled over to the taps on the wall for filling while a drain pipe extended out one side for emptying the water into a waste hole.

The unit really only replaces the "bucket on a honey box" but it looks so much neater. However, there could be a moment of embarrassment if someone pulls the plug while the cabinet was in the middle of the floor!

Thanks for that idea Len.

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STORY OF THE MONTH

This story comes from a Len also; this time from Len Baker at Gordonton. It seems Len was having one devil of a time getting some new numbers put on the face of his wife's watch. A certain watchmaker had had the watch for over a year and still hadn't delivered the goods despite promise after promise.

Len was becoming a "little" tired of making trips to town to collect a watch that was never ready, not to mention the phone calls. So he collected up a couple of 6 kg pails of bees from a randomly selected hive, presented himself at the watchmakers and proceeded to liberate the bees in the pocket-handkerchief of a room. "Now", Len says "If that doesn't make you fix my watch in quick time, I'll come back and" The gist of the message was that Len planned to re-arrange the physiognomy of a certain watchmaker.

What was the outcome of all this? I'm tempted to keep it to the next newsletter, but to save Len receiving numerous phone calls, I'll tell you. He got the watch back in very short time, all fixed, the watchmaker was closed for business for a day or two while the can of Blackflag, or whatever, did its job, and Len received a visit from the boys in blue. The outcome of that "encounter of the third kind" I will keep for another time.

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IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN

I'd like to wish you all a good season and a restful time over Xmas. By-the-way, did you know that beekeepers have a Patron Saint? He is St Ambrose, and was born in 340 AD in Treves, France. December 7th is celebrated as his day. Perhaps we should petition the government for a holiday on December 7th!

Regards

Murray.

*G M Reid
Apicultural Advisory Officer*



"If that's another flaming farmer I'll scream."

"another time & another place - but the
sentiment is the same"