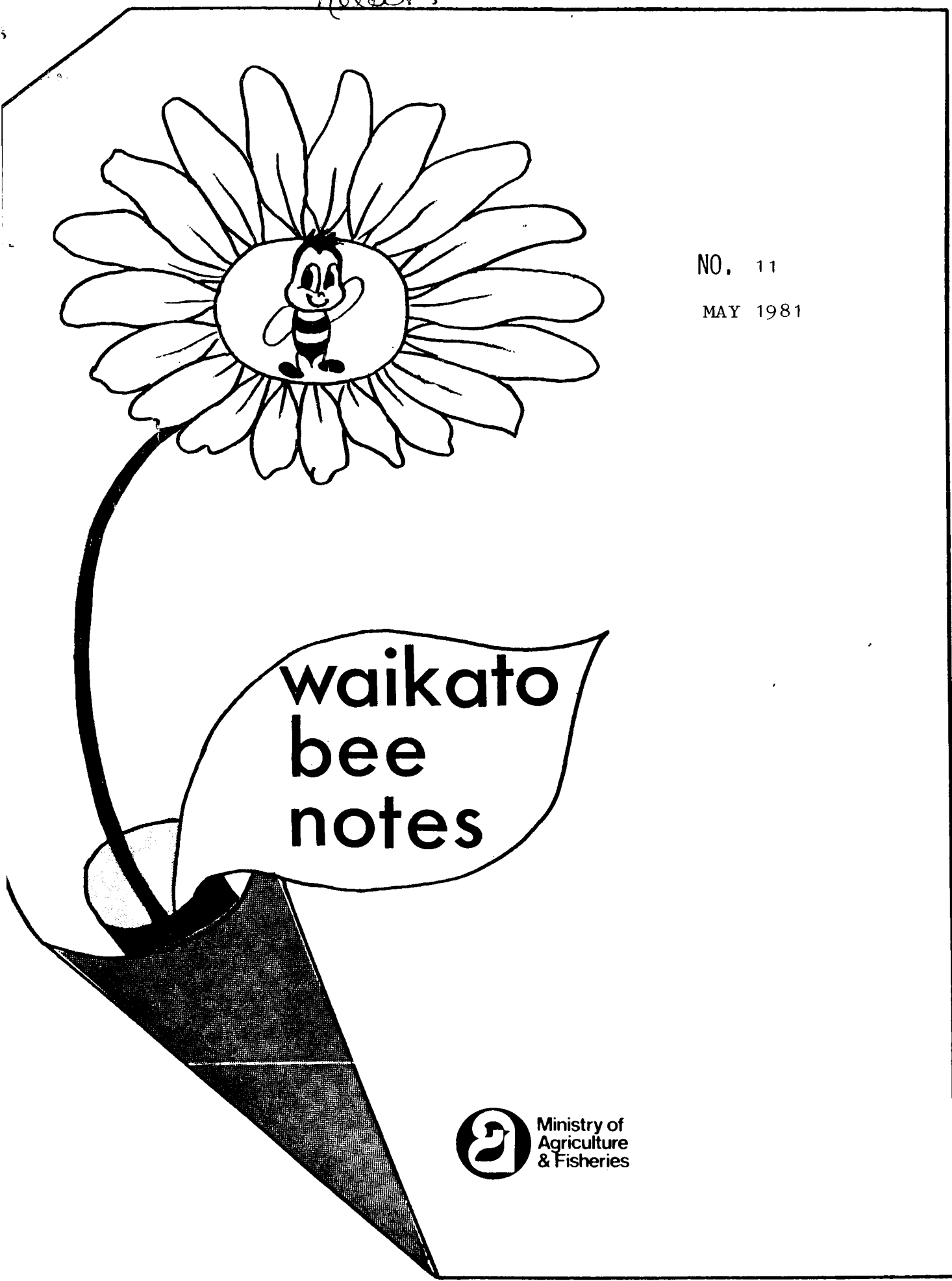


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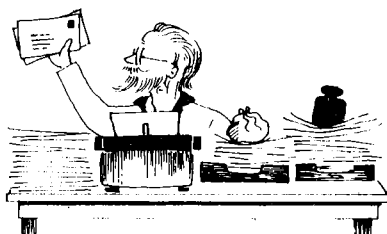


NO. 11

MAY 1981

**waikato  
bee  
notes**

 Ministry of  
Agriculture  
& Fisheries



I'm sorry I didn't produce my usual February issue of the Waikato Bee Notes. I just seemed to run out of days, what with a Flock House and staff course, overseas visitors, annual holidays, and a new house. My new residence, by the way, is 22 Burn-Murdoch Street (which is off Madill Road). The phone number is unchanged at 494-673.

Speaking of phones, many of you are reluctant to call me at home. I appreciate that, but if you do phone the office please leave a message that you have been trying to contact me. I often call into the office for such messages and to attend to the mail even if the phone operator has been told I'm out all day, or away for several days.

\* \* \* \* \*

NEWSLETTERS UNDER THREAT!

Last September all apiary staff received a memo from Head Office requesting our views on the publication of a quarterly beekeeping magazine in the Ag Mag series. This was to be prepared in Head Office.

Those apicultural advisers, who currently produce district newsletters, stoutly defended their right to do so on the basis that such newsletters fulfilled a need for adviser-beekeeper contact and were topical and newsworthy at the "local level". The industry already has 2 national publications. What the district newsletters might lose in terms of smart typesetting, reproduction and layout, is more than compensated for in their readability and the type of information given in them.

A number of you have given me encouragement to continue the newsletter but we may need more in the near future especially if the Government Printer is to charge for all printing as has been mooted.

\* \* \* \* \*

L Langstroth

To men time is money  
To bees time is honey

PREDICTIONS

I think I'll give up making predictions. My sun spots and honey crop didn't exactly pay off in the Waikato, but worked a treat for Canterbury!



In my planned, but never produced, February issue I was going to quote a NZ Herald snippet of December 23, that said sugar prices on the world market were rising rapidly and were already over \$900 tonne. I thought we could have been in for another price rise after the bottling season had finished. However, what happens? No price rise and the world spot price has fallen to under half its pre-Xmas level.

And wrong again! In my last issue of Bee Notes I thought there might not be too much dark honey around this year as the bush "failed" again. However, most of us have more dark than light honey with the failure of the clover to really yield.

Have you ever known the penny-royal to yield so late as it did this year? Some hives still had a shake-out in late April!

The Waikato district average should be about 1043 tonnes or 2.8 t/100 hives. Last years average 3.12 t/100
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#### FINE LIQUID SUGAR SYRUP

Those of you who attended the excellent field day at Lindsay Hansen's honey house last month heard me talk about this new form of bee-feed.

Fine liquid sugar (or FLS) is produced by the NZ Sugar Company in Auckland. White table sugar is, in fact, FLS after it undergoes a final washing and crystallisation.

The syrup is about 66% solids. This is quite a thick brew. I understand the brewery soft drink and bakery trade use lots of this sugar. The catch is you must take about 9000 litres in any one shipment (i.e. about 8 tonnes). The price is right though at \$699 a tonne (equivalent dry weight of sugar). Bagged sugar is around \$785 ex Auckland.

The other good news about FLS is that feeding trials conducted by myself and Pat Clinch at Wallaceville have shown that FLS is not toxic to bees. In fact it proved better than AI sugar syrup under caged conditions.

But there is a catch; isn't there always? The catch this time arrived in the form of a letter from the NZ Sugar Company on April 24th. In short they don't want to sell beekeepers FLS, for the moment anyway. The problem is they can't guarantee quality control and have obviously had some claims against them in the past.

They also can't guarantee "shelf life" of their product. A group of Ohaupo beekeepers were hoping to have a shipment of this syrup available for autumn feeding. They had purchased tanks and an old pump from a Petrol company to meter out volumes of syrup taken by the group members. The product still looks exciting and would save messy mixing of bagged sugar.

There's no harm in keeping in touch with the refinery though, if you're interested in FLS. Your contact is Mr Peter Jack or Mr Broad, phone 30-457 or CPO Box 30 Auckland.

\* \* \* \* \*

Buzz saw these bumper stickers in Canada

"Honey on bread makes a good spread", and  
"Honey, it's only natural"

\* \* \* \* \*

ADULTERATORS ON THE INCREASE

I did say adulterators, not adulterers!

Anyway, I'm talking about the growing practice in the States where certain companies are selling high fructose corn syrup as honey. This corn syrup is produced by enzyme action; just as honey is, and it takes fairly sophisticated tests to tell that the produce is not honey.

The marketing ploy of these honey adulterators goes like this: take a quart sized jar of corn syrup and add 10% honey to it, label it 100% pure honey, give it a "honey label" like "Miss Cathy's Honey", sell it cheap, maybe add a piece of comb honey to the jar and select small markets such as roadside stalls to foist it on an unsuspecting public.

Several small shipments have been seized and one of the marketers was even arrested in one state. However, he simply posted bond and went back across the border into his own state. American law and local enforcement authorities aren't being effective so far in stopping the practice. It seems the authorities are really too busy chasing drug traffickers to worry about a bit of adulterated honey which isn't harmful to the consumer anyway.

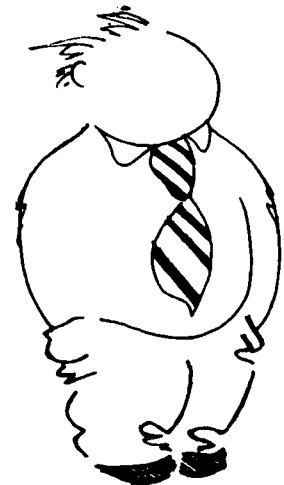
So far corn syrup is not readily available in NZ, but all beekeepers should be aware of the threat it could pose to our industry when marketed as honey by unscrupulous individuals. It will compete with honey more than successfully in the bakery trade as it is.

THE LESSER SPOTTED

TROUSER POCKETED FACELESS BUREAUCRAT - also known more correctly as Homo couldn't care lesses, or H. incompetus.

Distribution: World wide

Habitat: tends to frequent office space in government or local body buildings. It can often be seen scurrying about with pieces of paper in its appendages, or it may be found lurking behind desks, potted plants or telephones.



Identification: the species can be easily identified by its familiar cry that sounds like "you can't do that", often punctuated by a plaintive "I don't know" call.

Control measures: This is a difficult species to control because of its effective camouflage. Bribery and subtlety don't seem to work in this country. However, verbal abuse or strongly worded letters can be effective under certain circumstances.

Hunting season: there is an open season on this species and no permit is required.

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EAST-WEST RIDDLE

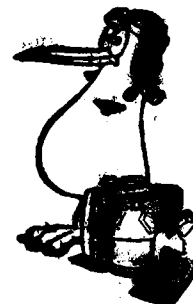
Buzz saw this in the New York times "If the Russians are our friends, why are we arming ourselves to the teeth? If the Russians are our enemies, why are we selling them 25 million tons of grain?"

\* \* \* \* \*

BEEKEEPERS STUDY TOURS

Apimondia

Kevin Ecroyd is taking a tour group to Apimondia which is in Acapulco (Mexico) this year. There is also a tour group of Aussies going from Sydney. I have a copy of their itinerary if anyone is interested. They are looking at more beekeeping operations than the New Zealand tour. For example, they're going to the Sioux honey plant in Los Angeles, a 15,000 hive operation in Anaheim, and the Powers-Weavers queen operation on the island of Hawaii as well as beekeeping operations in Mexico. The tour leaves Sydney on October 8 and returns November 6 1981.



Australia

Landmark Travel, who brought the two groups of Aussie beekeepers to New Zealand last March and March 1980, is planning on taking a group of New Zealand beekeepers to Australia in March or April next year. The tour will probably be for about 17 days and will be mostly confined to NSW. It is possible that either Andrew Matheson or myself would be tour leader. The Australian end will be looked after by Bruce White, who came over with the first group from Australia.

So, if you can't make Apimondia this year, save your pennies for Aussie next March-April. Any early indication of support for such a study tour would help with the initial planning.

\* \* \* \* \*



Buzz heard about the Quantas first officer who came on the air to announce: "The Captain has just dropped his gear and is making his final approach". Those Aussies!

\* \* \* \* \*

HONEY CONTAINERS

The new 500 gm Lily cartons being used by some beekeepers are proving just the goods. They are much stronger than the old waxed carton, they're cheaper, and they can be printed to your design. The art work for the containers will cost about \$240 for 2 colours and then the plate is yours to keep. Unfortunately, you have to take a minimum of 10,000 cartons in the printed line but the plain ones can be bought in lots of 1,000 for about \$54 - \$58 per 1,000. The following prices are from March this year:

10,000 white containers (non-gloss)	two colours	\$64.65/1,000
10,000 white containers (gloss)	two colours	\$66.27/1,000
10,000 white rimlock lids	two colours	\$27.13/1,000

Delivery time is usually 8 weeks ex factory once the art work has been completed and the cartons are railed free to Hamilton.

Winstones, who own Lily cups, are investigating the possibility of making a 1 kg carton.

\* \* \* \* \*

Another bumper sticker:

"Honey - it's a matter of good taste"

There are about 4½ million beekeepers in the world owning 50 million hives. The world's production of honey is around 600,000 tonnes per year.  
Span 1980 23(1) : 27



SELLERS TRADERS TABLE

- \* Darryl Carey (Rotongaro 743) writes that he has some pieces of beekeepers equipment for sale, namely a Bates packing machine, a honey pump, 2 pump reduction drives, a small steam boiler for uncapping knives, a set of metric scales, a Paterson creamer, a tubular honey heater, a Dadant bee blower, and some tinned steel honey tanks.
- \* NZ Beehive Components Ltd, Box 460, Taupo are presently building a factory and installing some pretty hefty machinery to



FROM THE SCIENTIFIC FRONT:

\* Dr Ruth Beutler working in Munich found that honey bees flew a maximum distance of 2.65 km to her feeding dishes, but most flew no further than 0.5 km. One bee visited a feeding place 205 times and flew more than 678 km over an 8 day period. This is a very impressive 65 km average per day. On one day this amazing bee flew 176 km (Alberta Beekeepers Association Newsletter).

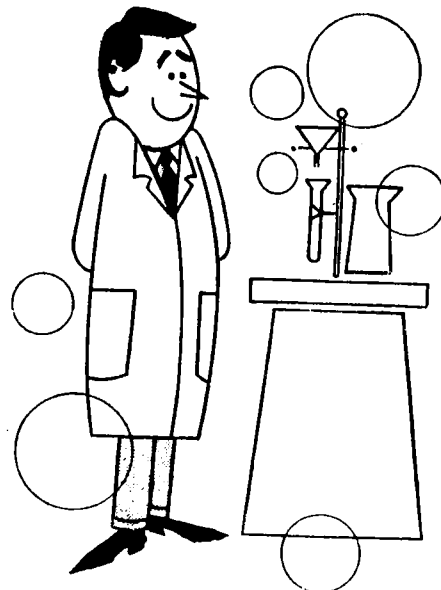
\* Some measurements of wax production from cappings suggest that there is no easy answer to this question. On several "runs" the cappings produced per full depth super averaged 0.3 kg. Honey boxes weren't very heavy this year and most only averaged 19.45 kg of honey per box. This produced an average of 17.1 kg of cappings wax per tonne of honey.

\* A number of Waikato beekeepers have invested in ethylene oxide equipment to fumigate combs for wax moth. This follows the excellent research work by Andrew Matheson and his article in the New Zealand Beekeeper of December 1980. However, Trevor Bryant, MAF's exchangee to Alberta, continues to caution against its use until the gas has been formerly approved in Canada. The States has approved its use to fumigate empty bee combs. The problem is that at very high dosage rates (800-1200 mg/litre for American foulbrood control as compared to 15-18 mg/litre for wax moth control) a product called 1-chloroethanol is formed and this may contaminate woodware and beeswax. This chloroethanol can cause cancer.

I'll keep you informed of developments on ethylene oxide but in the meantime it might pay to stick with methyl bromide to fumigate comb honey especially if it is likely to be exported to the USA or Canada.

\* Isle of Wight disease or Acarapis woodi has been found in escort bees brought back to Australia by a returning beekeeper. Fortunately, the beekeeper declared his purchases, but how easy it would have been to say nothing and introduce this potentially serious disease into Australia. Acarapis appears in Schedule I of our Apiaries Act and is regarded as a serious threat to our industry if it ever became established here (Australasian Beekeeper, August 1980).

\* Reports on EFB in Australia continue to come in. It has reached Queensland and the border between Queensland and NSW is now open to movement of bee hives. Both NSW and Queensland have found that interstate restrictions can't control the spread of the disease when beekeepers won't





co-operate. (The Australasian Beekeeper, March 1981).

- \* Biological control of gorse is the subject of a review in the Journal of Experimental Agriculture 8 (1980) 321-330. The authors say the DSIR is stepping up its investigations into biological control of this plant "pest". They're looking at a stem boring weevil and a leaf feeding moth. They don't expect to eradicate gorse, just make it less competitive. Not necessarily the best news for beekeepers.

China leads the world in honey production in 1980, relegating the USA to second place and the USSR to third. China is reported to have produced 100-105,000 tonnes and exported nearly 50,000 tonnes. Amer. Bee Journal Dec 1980

A diplomat is a person who can tell you to go to hell in such a way that you actually look forward to the trip.

Caskie Stinnet

\* \* \* \* \*

SADDER BUT WISER

One of our members, who is setting up to fumigate his supers for wax moth, found that the steel reinforced hose that comes with the ethylene oxide cylinder is around \$95 a metre! Our beekeeper had ordered 5 metres of the hose. If he can't persuade NZIG to take some of it back - does anyone else want to buy some ethylene oxide tube, as new, one only careful owner and velly cheep! Well, perhaps not so cheap.

Bye for now

*Murray*

Murray Reid  
Apicultural Advisory Officer



*"We've made both ends meet — now what about this gap in the middle?"*