

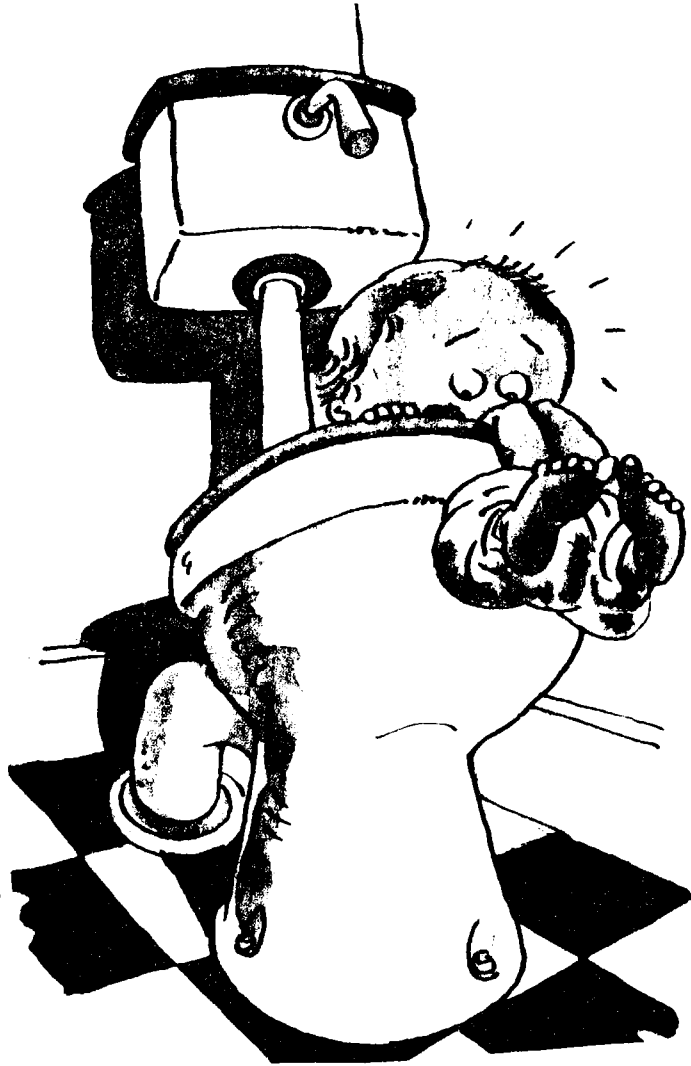
NO. 13

December 1981

**waikato
bee
notes**



Ministry of
Agriculture
& Fisheries



I wonder if those of you who attended the NBA conference at Hastings can remember a talk on accidents and safety. The speakers basic message was to be careful and try to avoid accidents by anticipating them. With a honey crop just around the corner, and all your fellow beekeepers busy as one thing, you can't afford to be laid up with a strained back or broken arms or legs.

The work place and highways are full of dangers for the careless. Think of those who are dependent on your good health, and those who you would inconvenience if help was needed.

I know you are aware of the 'weak link' in your backs. I know you are also conscious

of road safety but what about the little things nearer home: Here are some suggestions!

- * Don't tip your smoker fuel onto the ground, I've been in apiaries where all the grass was burnt out from careless use of a smoker! The hives survived ... just.
- * Keep your smoker in a tin or old ammunition box. You wouldn't be the first beekeeper to burn the tray off his truck.
- * Don't stand on old bee boxes to reach something. They have a habit of collapsing.
- * Do cover the belts on your extractors. I worked with a beekeeper once who tore his fingers in an extractor pulley. He was a passenger for most of the season.
- * Do be extra careful with circular saws or chain saws.
- * Do watch uneven ground in apiaries, or unfilled post holes. All have claimed their share of sprained ankles.
- * Do check the thermostats and electrical fittings in your hot room. Faulty wiring or thermostats gummed up with honey crystals, are the main causes of honey house fires or 'melt-downs'.
- * Do be careful with chemicals; petrol cyanogas, methyl bromide, benzaldehyde, carbolic acid, herbicides, carbaryl and so on. Keep them locked away when not in use.

THINK SAFETY: THINK SAFETY:

WHAT'S ON IN THE WAIKATO

* For those who like playing with figures!

Our statistics look something like this as at May 31 1981.

1-50 Hives			50 Plus Hives			Total		
Beekeepers	Apiaries	Hives	Beekeepers	Apiaries	Hives	Beekeepers	Apiaries	Hives
544	725	3 099	60	1 980	36 807	604	2 705	39 906

* American foulbrood is still with us and we can't afford to let up on this. There are too many commercial beekeepers not getting around their colonies early enough for a disease check. In fact some still haven't looked at every hive. In at least three of these situations my inspectors have found dead and robbed out diseased hives and in each case 2-3 neighbouring beekeepers' apiaries have also been infected. Now this is just not good enough.

I've only had 41 cases of foulbrood reported to me since last March and have found another 26.

* We had a very good turn out to the queen rearing field day at Roger Peake's property last September. Thanks Roger for having us there. I know it was a busy time of the year for most of you but those who really should be doing something about their queens were conspicuous by their absence.

* Aussie beekeeper's tour:

The tour has attracted a lot of interest but only a few have paid deposits. I have tour itineraries and brochures if you want additional information. The more deposits that are made the easier it will be to hold tour costs.

* Hives are going into the kiwifruit right now. Current pollination rates are \$48 a hive. Katikati and Te Puke growers are now on the hive notification system whereby orchardists inform the Fruit Growers Federation when hives are brought in and taken out of their orchards. They must also check with the Fruit Federation before applying post-blossom sprays to ensure all hives are out of neighbouring orchards too.

I know some of you have advertized for pollination contracts without much luck. These things seem to require a personal contact; friend of a friend sort of thing. So once you've got your first contract others will follow.

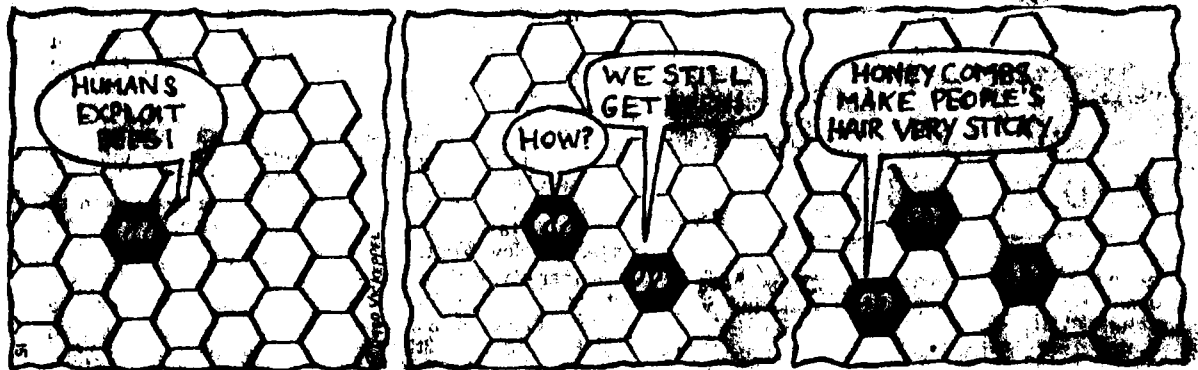
And how do you get your first contract? I can only suggest driving over to the new looking areas and doing some door knocking. If not for this year then perhaps next year, or the year after!

* * * * *

Buzz doesn't know what to make of the election results but this quote from J F Kennedy is particularly apt:

"Any system of government will work when everything is going well. It is the system that functions in the pinches that survives."

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WHO'S DOING WHAT ... WITH THE CROP?

Or to phrase it the way it's usually put to me: "Where can I sell my honey this year?" In short, I don't know. Some packers are holding good stocks, others are trying to buy honey right now. The local market seems to have stabilized after a flurry of selling by the HMA but packers are still reported to be competing vigorously for available sales.

I don't know any more about the Middle East situation than you do. Springbok tours, Sinai peace keeping missions and "insulting remarks" made by the PM about Iran's financial situation don't exactly inspire confidence in prospects for that region.

The December issue of the American Bee Journal says China has increased her hive numbers from 3 million in 1976 to 5.3 million in 1980. She is also expected to have a good crop in 1981; about 115 000 tonnes. No doubt a lot of this will be exported.

Turners and Growers are reported to be making cash offers for light honeys. The prices are well down on what packers have offered, or may offer, but money in the bank is worth quite a few extra cents a kilogram. If you are contemplating selling at a lower price for cash get your accountant to work out for you the advantage, if any, over accepting a high price and maybe waiting months for your money.

And while I'm on the subject of selling, I never cease to be amazed at the "trusting" nature of beekeepers. They seem quite happy to "sell" honey here there and everywhere without a contract. There's no written agreement on the price, the method of payment, penalties for slow payments etc. In some cases the beekeepers don't even have a delivery receipt to say how much honey was taken and when.

-ooOoo-

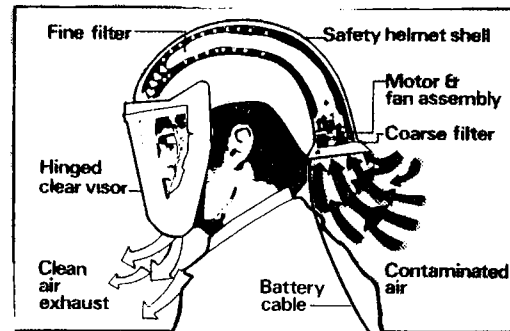
Buzz saw this one in a guitar shop. "Let us do your fretting for you."

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AIRSTREAM ANTI-DUST HELMETS

These helmets are the latest thing for people working in dusty atmospheres. They might also have a use for beekeepers who suffer from hayfever or allergies to pollen mites.

The helmet is made from tough ABS plastic with a safety plastic visor. Dust or pollen laden air is drawn in through a coarse filter at the back of the helmet by a small fan which passes it through a fine filter in the crown of the helmet. Cool clean air then passes over the face.



The fan is powered by a small rechargeable battery carried in a pocket or clipped to your belt. Batteries usually last 10 hours with continuous use and are recharged overnight.

The units are stocked by Wormald Safety at 26 King Street, Hamilton, Ph: 75-606. They cost \$383.90 each and the battery charger is another \$51.70.

NEW SOURCE OF INCOME FOR BEEKEEPERS?

You've heard of grass grubs and how they cost our economy many millions of dollars in lost production. But I wonder if you've heard of predatory nematodes.

These are one of the latest weapons being developed by scientists at Lincoln in the war against grass grubs. It seems about 500 million nematodes per hectare will control grass grubs, but the problem is how to rear the little beasties in the first place.



Easy! You give them a feed of nice fat wax moth larvae and they multiply in their millions. I've got some pretty good strains of wax moths. I wonder if Lincoln college could be persuaded to buy some?

The greatest number of stings sustained by any surviving human was 2 443 by Johannes Relleke in Rhodesia in 1962.

American Bee Journal November 1980

TRADE TABLE

* Stephen Mahon is now importing a full range of beekeepers supplies to compliment his foundation wax. He is currently stocking:-

100 mm SS Smokers with wire shield and insert	\$32.15
Hive tools - chubby (Kelley type) 200 mm long 40 mm blade	\$4.00
Hats - Hard top	\$7.50
Veils - soft - collapsable - clear view	\$6.50
Veils - wire mesh type square foldable (black wire)	\$6.50
Gloves (price will go up a little when this lot sold)	\$13.95
Bee escapes - new type - plastic "HERZOG"	\$1.56
P.D.B. wax moth crystals (Bulk excl. container \$3.50/kg)	\$4.35/kg
Frame wire 2.27 kg (big reel)	\$13.95
Honey gates 1½" nylon	\$10.65
Honey gates 2" gun metal-threaded (Molasses taps)	\$29.80

Arriving shortly:-

Galv. 100 mm Smokers as above but cheaper!
 Benzaldehyde
 Extractor 4 frame non rev. hand drive SS can
 Extractor 4 frame non rev. motor driven SS can
 Excluders HERZOG
 Frame wire 100 g 250 g 500 g
 Electric uncapping knives with thermostat - SS blade - plastic handle
 Plain uncapping knives
 Cappings scratcher (three types)
 Hand roller (Hedgehog) for thixotropic honey

I'm sure some of you will be interested in the cappings scratchers and hand rollers after listening to Trevor Bryant at our social evening the other week.

Stephen's address is - 15 View Road, Warkworth, Ph: 8447 Warkworth.

- * Beekeepers have been asking me which foundation is the best; that made by Stephen Mahon (Ceracell) or Lindsay Hansen. I usually reply that both are quite acceptable.
- * Andrew Cory of Cory Enterprises is still manufacturing woodware - supers only at this stage. Andrew has full-depths (\$4.75 kitset), 3/4-depth and supers for the Ross rounds.

Andrew's phone number is Hamilton 63-634.

- * Hives of bees are being sold and purchased on a regular basis. I'm invariably asked "What are hives worth?" And usually reply: "What you can get for them/ get them for." However, this is not very helpful so I usually supply a breakdown of prices that have been realized at recent transactions. For example, I might say four frame nuc's are selling for \$25 to \$35, single storey hives \$40-\$55 and so on. And this is all I ever say.

So I don't want people misquoting me, as has happened, and saying, "Murray Reid said to ask dollars for the hives, or Murray Reid said they were only worth so much."

-ooOoo-

Buzz was asked the other day - "What do you call a flea in a beekeepers ear?"

"A space invader!"

PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATES

No, these don't have anything to do with our little friend with the "unusual habit". Well, not directly anyway.

Rather they are certificates required by such countries as France (and French Territories), Italy, Cyprus and Australia. They demand a declaration that the honey in the export order was produced in colonies free of most bee diseases and also in areas with a disease free radius of 5-6 km.

I know that that is a pretty tall order but you can help if you think you might be exporting (or supplying an exporter) who may sell to these countries. I want you to keep a record of which apiaries produced which stack of boxes and keep a track of them through the honey house. This is not impossible although it may be difficult.



SMOKEGARD

I can think of three honey houses in the past five years that were totally or partially destroyed by fire. These usually occur at the busiest time of the season and can be traced to the obvious places; hot rooms, boilers, or smokers. Yet so few beekeepers ensure against such losses by installing heat detectors or smoke detectors.

The SmokeGard is a relatively cheap battery operated smoke detector that sounds an alarm at very low levels of smoke. It is in effect an early warning device.

The single 9 volt battery should last about 12 months and each unit has a button that should be pushed in every now and again to check that the battery and alarm systems are still working. The unit can distinguish between low level smoke situations caused by smoking, cooking and fireplaces and a "real" fire.

Most firms listed under Fire Protection in the Yellow Pages stock, or can get, the SmokeGard units. They should cost around \$26 each.

* * * * *

A FISHY TALE

Once upon a time there was a brilliant sturgeon on the staff of the Community Health Fishility. In fact he was one of its flounders. Wiser than salmon, a fin fellow, he would never shrimp from his responsibilities. In short, he was happy and successful and always whistled a happy tuna.

Then one day, a patient - a mere whipper snapper - told the sturgeon that his medical theories were full of abalone. He trouted all over town telling people that the sturgeon's treatments had made him more eel than before. Finally, he conched the sturgeon with a malpractice suit.

The sturgeon realised he was in a real pickerel. The board demanded his oyster and told him to leave the plaice. But because the case smelt to heaven, the judge finally denied the plaintiff's claim, whereupon the board tried to hire the sturgeon back. Alas, he had started hitting the bottlenose pretty hard which was a bit roughie on the system, and he ended up on squid roe.

Buoy! Isn't that a fine kettle of you know what?



"Look, Harold... I see an ear!"

67% of farmers using agricultural chemicals didn't lock them up.

Recent Agricultural Chemicals Survey

STRAINING HONEY

If you use strainers in your honey processing system and haven't heard about Nybolt then let me introduce you to this product. It has to be the strongest and best material for straining honey that I know of. There are other materials such as Stabiltex, Polymon, and Tetrex which are very good but Nybolt has the best resistance to abrasion. It is used in other industries for shifting (eg flour) for straining (paints) and for filtering.

The maximum temperature that Nybolt can withstand without losing any tensile strength is around 100°C. It's softening point is around 170°C and it may melt at a little over 200°C.

The manufacturers recommend not to leave Nybolt out in the sun for too long as uv light can affect the filaments.

The Swiss manufacturers have over 200 different types of Nybolt cloth and it is usual to refer to these types by mesh openings expressed in microns. The sizes most used by beekeepers are summarized below:

Grade Microns	Code No.	Mesh Count per Inch	% Open Area
250 Fine Strainer	66 GG-250	69	46
425 Medium Strainer	44 GG-425	37	38

Now, where to get this material. There are two places I know of:-

- * National Dairy Association
709 Te Rapa Road
HAMILTON Ph: 492-979

They sell Nybolt for \$13.40 per metre and the rolls are just over one metre wide.

- * Ure Pacific Traders Ltd
103 Lansford Crescent
Avondale
AUCKLAND Ph: 888-708

Your contact there is Mr Meyer. Ure Pacific have smaller ready made strainers used in the paint industry. These cost about \$3.05 each and measure 330 x 220 mm and come ready stitched with nylon thread and a tie cord.

Buzz likes this one from G B Shaw:

*"If you laid all the economists end to end,
they would reach no conclusion"*

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BEE BLOWERS

- * Mention in my last newsletter of the Rediline power converter has aroused a lot of interest.

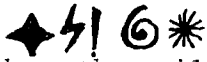
Alfa-Laval (Sandwich Road, Hamilton, Ph: 496-020) have a similar converter called the Epcon Power Converter. It boots your trucks 12 or 24 volts to 200 volts DC. It runs off the alternator so the more engine rev's, the more current is delivered. The unit will drive most power tools with a universal brush type motor such as electric drills, grinders, chainsaws, skilsaws, etc. It can't be used with appliances that have AC induction motors or transformers.

Current price for the Epcon Power Converter is \$179.50 including sales tax.

- * I have photocopies of an article from an American Bee Journal called Gleanings, which describes how one enterprising engineer made his own bee blower using a 3 hp four stroke engine. The plans are for the fan part of the blower.
- * I also have enlarged plans for the tiltable blower stand, first described in the December 1980 issue of the "NZ Beekeeper" if anyone wants those.

SADDER BUT WISER

One of our members asked me to tell you about his accident which could very easily have had serious consequences.

Our friend uses a bee veil with those  orange plastic tie cords. He had finished in the apiary and had undone the veil strings and left them hanging free while he drove his utility through a gateway. He hadn't shut the utility door and one of the cords was dragging on the ground.

Suddenly his head was almost pulled off as the trailing cord was caught under the rear wheel.

So please watch that one.

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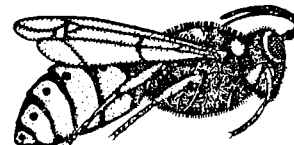
A little thought for the day

*"If your wife doesn't treat you as she should -
be thankful."*



MIREX FOR WASPS

It will soon be time to consider these pests again.



Mirex is an insecticide that has proved very good at controlling wasps once you get them to take the bait containing the insecticide. I'll talk more about baits for wasps in my next newsletter in February.

In the meantime, AFC in Hamilton Ph: 80-959 should have supplies of Mirex in shortly. It will be in the farmers bulk store; entrance off Anglesea Street.

Failing that the NZ Farmers Fertilizer Co, P O Box 13-083, Onehunga (ph: 591-089 Auckland) have stocks of Mirex.

Prices are 92¢ per 10 g sachets or \$17.25 per carton of 25 sachets.

* * * * *

METHYL BROMIDE

I mentioned in my very first newsletter that the use of methyl bromide by beekeepers might be controlled. It seems that in some areas beekeepers are being asked to become licensed operators under the Fumigation Act.

The situation locally, at least for the present, is that the local Health Inspectors still regard farmers and horticulturists as being exempt from the licensing requirements.

Up until now only a few beekeepers have been using methyl bromide to fumigate comb honey. Now, however, with a lot of semi-commercial beekeepers getting into the Ross Rounds, and with the possibilities of export orders for their honey the situation may soon get out of hand. These are the facts:

- * All comb honey contains wax moth eggs.
- * All export comb honey must be fumigated with methyl bromide.
- * It is recommended to fumigate comb honey for local sales too.
- * Wax moth eggs in comb honey can be killed by deep freezing for at least 48 hours as an alternative to methyl bromide.
- * It looks like it would be most unwise to use Fumigas 10 to fumigate combs.
- * METHYL BROMIDE IS AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS GAS : IT IS COLOURLESS, ODOURLESS AND TASTELESS

Only the pure gas should be used on honey. Read my last newsletter No.12, page 7 for warning about using methyl bromide with chloropicrin (tear gas) as a marker.

The thought of lots of semi-commercial beekeepers fumigating small stacks of honey all over the place gives me nightmares. What I want to see happen is for one of your number to get the necessary equipment and be responsible for all the fumigation. I'll have more to say about fumigating honey with methyl bromide in my February newsletter.

The Agriculture Quarantine Service in Hamilton do not have the facilities to accommodate comb honey, and Smiths Pest Control Services can only fumigate on their premises and claim it would cost a lot of money to set up to do the job.

In the meantime PURE methyl bromide is available from Rentokil, 2 Angle Street, Onehunga, ph: 660-079. There is a \$15 a bottle filling charge and the methyl bromide is worth \$4.17 kg. You supply your own cylinder. The Rentokil people weren't sure, and I haven't been able to find out yet just what type of cylinder is suitable. Obviously it must be heavy duty and with a completely sealable top. They told me cylinders used for LPG, or Rockgas should be OK, but it may pay to check with Rentokil before you make the trip to Auckland.

* * * * *

Buzz directs this to all those "in charge".

"A good boss takes a little more than his share of the blame and a little less than his share of the credit."

Anon.

ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT ... EXPORTING

So you know what C & F stands for, probably CIF and FOB as well. Right, they're commonly used shipping terms. But how about FAWG, FAS/FOB, CAND/CIF/FREE OUT/FREE IN, BOX RATE, FCL/LCL, BAF, CAF or CABAF. Hmmm thought so, no idea at all.



Well, all is explained in a superb book called "1981/82 NZ Exporters Handbook" available from Braynart Group Ltd, 96 Arawa Street, Rotorua, P O Box 1368, ph: 79-192, telex NZ 21968. Price about \$7.50.

The book is written by Roger Harvey and published for the Export Institute of New Zealand. It is very concise, cross referenced, indexed and full of all sorts of information. Here's just the main headings from the index:

Introduction, Preliminary Planning, Mechanics of Export, Freight Packing and Documentation, Finance and Insurance, Manufacturing Incentives, Tourism and Service Incentives, Appendices.

This book would be worth it just for the information in the appendices alone. I can't recommend it highly enough.

The EEC has announced a three year program to aid honey products - subsidies will be paid to recognized beekeeper institutions to assist with sugar feeding, or improvement of production, technology and marketing. The subsidy amounts to about \$1.13 per hive!

USDA Honey Market News May 1981

Well, that's all from me this time. Have an enjoyable Xmas and take care of yourselves. I'll leave you with this little ditty from an anonymous author.

*"He spent his health
to get his wealth
And then with might and main
He turned about
and spent his wealth
To get back his health again"*

Cheers

*Murray Reid
Apicultural Advisory Officer*

