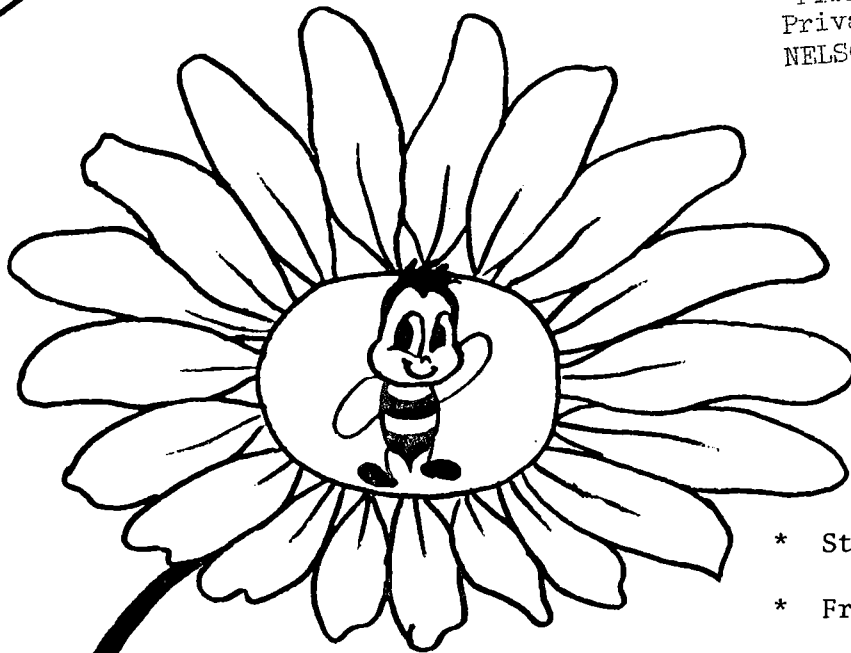


Apicultural Advisory Office  
Ministry of Agriculture and  
Fisheries  
Private Bag  
NELSON



NO. 15

MAY 1982

- \* Stop Thief Tow Bars
- \* Frosting of Honey
- \* CER and Overseas Honey Prices
- \* Price List of Bee Boxes
- \* "Government Equipment News"
- \* Export Institute of NZ
- \* Tail Gate Loaders
- \* ACC Levy and Road User Charges Amendment Bill
- \* Inflation
- \* Nodding Thistle Survey
- \* Woodlife II Timber Preservative

# waikato bee notes



Ministry of  
Agriculture  
& Fisheries

Hands up those who didn't get to our  
beekeeper's fielday last March?  
Well, that was your loss if you didn't  
make it. We had a very good day with  
lots to see and do.

Thank you Brian and Babara, and  
"your team" for the great behind the  
scene effort you put into hosting us.

One of the speakers at our fielday  
was Geoff Miller, the Regional Advisory  
Officer from the MAF. During his talk  
Geoff told you about my "recent  
promotion" to Team Leader, with  
responsibilities for the  
Horticultural and Poultry Advisory  
Officers.

Since then many of you have asked me  
about my new job and expressed concern  
that my apicultural advisory work will be reduced. They say, "if you want anything  
done give it to a busy man", so at this stage I can't envisage any problems in my  
advisory program. I'm spending about 1½ days a week on my "new" duties at the  
moment. If anything has to go it will be some of my field inspection work. I  
would expect to employ some more part time inspectors to make up any gaps.



Nothing is impossible to the man  
who doesn't have to do it.  
Proverb

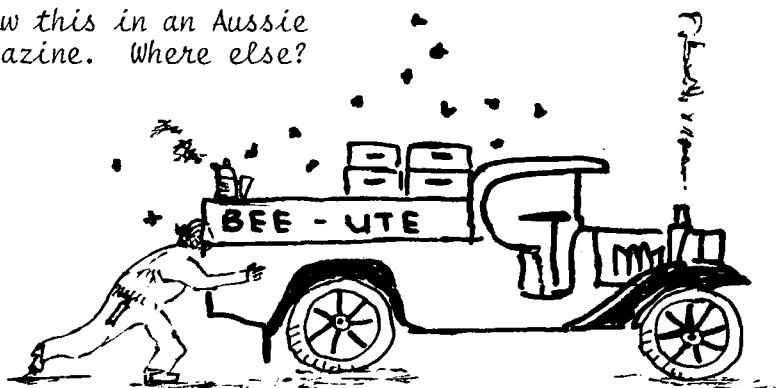
### STOP - THIEF TOW BAR

RepcO Engineering Ltd, PO Box 14143, Auckland, are making a tow  
bar with a T handle that folds down and locks when towing. A  
tongue slides forward into the tow ball housing to lock the trailer  
when it is not in use. The mounting bolts can't be undone either  
when the locking T handle is down.

-oOo-

### BEAUT - UTE

Buzz saw this in an Aussie  
bee magazine. Where else?



### FROSTING OF HONEY

Nothing looks worse than badly frosted honey especially, in glass jars. It happens at this time of the year, every year, and yet few packers do anything about stopping it. I can only presume they don't know what causes it.

Well, in case you don't want to show your ignorance lets look at a bit of honey chemistry, or is it physics? Whatever, honey for creaming should be cooled down to around 15-18°C before adding the starter or seed honey. The packing tank should be maintained at 14°C, or thereabouts, while the primary stages of granulation occur, and this should take 1-3 days at this time of year.

After packing, the honey should be held at 10-14°C in a cool room. Below 10° the formation of sugar crystals (especially dextrose crystals) slows down and below 4°C it almost stops. In fact honey can be kept in a freezer to stop it granulating.

Now, while the honey is granulating it is contracting. This contraction is greatest at the surface and sides of the honey but will also eventually occur throughout the mass. Contraction of the honey begins almost immediately after the starter is added and is most rapid up to 21 days, after which the rate of contraction levels off.

This contraction creates air spaces and it is the growth of very small dextrose (or glucose) crystals, which are white in colour, in these air spaces that causes frosting.

Tiny air bubbles in honey are also associated with frosting. They create larger air spaces once the honey begins contracting and they also provide "centres" on which the dextrose crystals can grow.

So, now we know the cause, what's the cure? It's all to do with time and temperature. Never leave packed honey in the cool room (10-14°C) longer than five days. Once you've taken it out of the cool room then you must keep it at 18-21°C. This is where so many packers slip up. They take honey out of the cool room after 4-5 days then stack it in an unheated room, or warehouse, when the temperatures will fall below 18°C.

Presenting a consistent fine grained honey pack summer and winter is an art and a science. It is all to do with the type of honey, with temperatures, the amount of starter honey added, stirring, and the moisture content of the honey. Most packers in my area seem to know about and understand these finer points. Now if you can just do something about frosting ...!

Perhaps I'll review the finer points of preparing liquid honey in my next newsletter.

The Dairy Board borrowed \$1,000 million dollars  
at 1% to finance its operations.

The Main Agriculture Report  
March 1982



A certain beekeeper went on holiday to Australia. But before going he left his paid gopher with a list of things to do. On his return he went over to the honey house only to find most of the jobs on the list hadn't been done. Going out into the yard he saw his man stomping up and down on the ground with great vigor. "What's up, what are you doing?", asked the boss.

"I'm stomping on this snail", said the gopher, "I got sick of it following me around all day!"

\* \* \* \* \*

*CLOSER ECONOMIC RELATIONS (CER): OR OZ AND US*

CER has been in the news a lot lately. At the moment it probably doesn't have any direct implication for New Zealand beekeepers as long as it is very difficult to import honey from Australia.

However, if we ever discover European foulbrood in New Zealand then there could be pressure to import cheaper honeys from across the Tasman. I heard that one large South Island packer wanted to import Australian honey this year!

My Aussie contacts tell me that it is not difficult to buy 500 gm jars for A65¢ (about NZ90¢) and 1.5 kg buckets for \$A1.99 (\$NZ2.76). Bulk prices seem to range from about NZ60¢/kg to \$NZ1.04/kg. Everybody is blaming everybody else for the poor prices; beekeepers for being weak (cash) sellers, beekeepers for hoarding, packers, supermarkets, the Honey Board, and other exporting countries.

Here are some current minimum export prices obtained for Aussie honey in the UK/W. Germany and Austria as at March 9 1982.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Minimum Export Price</u> <u>\$NZ (Approx)</u>	<u>Market Price</u> <u>\$NZ (Approx)</u>
White	\$1,079	..\$1,144/1,157
Extra LA	\$1,007	\$1,020/1,072
LA	\$975	\$1,014/968
Dark	\$780	

Meanwhile, in the US the 1982 price support has been set at NZ\$1.78/kg for white honeys down to NZ\$1.55 for dark with an average of \$1.72/kg.

The government has disposed of 227 tonnes and is contemplating disposing of another 2500 tonnes. How this honey is to be sold is worrying the commercial beekeepers.

Equally worrying is the domination of the wholesale trade by cheap imported honeys especially from \*Mexico (\$1.08), China (1.10), Canada (1.54), Australia (94¢) and Argentina (1.19). Beekeepers are lobbying senators to pass Bill 2124 which would put a 28¢/kg - 57¢/kg tariff on imported honeys!

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\* Average prices \$NZ/kg f.o.b. of shipments as at March 1982.

And speaking of Argentina the May issue of the American Bee Journal says Argentina has a good crop of around 30 000 tonnes, much of it white and exportable. There is, or was a good demand for this honey from Europe (NZ\$1,316 tonne C & F Rott/Hmbg/Bremen), Japan (NZ\$1,445 C & F) and USA (NZ\$1,428 C & F).

It remains to be seen whether the Falklands war will assist our exports or not. One report I heard recently suggests that the Apple and Pear Marketing Board could sell another \$10-12 million dollars worth of apples to the EEC if Argentina isn't allowed to sell theirs.

*Present production of high fructose corn syrup in the USA is 3.7 million tonnes (wet basis). The industry expects to produce another 1.8 million tonnes by next year. A good honey season in the US is 11 000 tonnes!*

American Bee Journal - December 1981



#### TRADE TABLE:

- \* Able Staples (NZ) Ltd now have their own sales and service centre at 469 Anglesea Street, Hamilton (opposite the Hamilton Hire Centre).

Peter Peattie is the technical rep and you can phone him at 393-013 after hours 492-656.

- \* Bee boxes. Andrew Cory (HN 63-634) and Bryan Evans (HN 66-523) are both making bee boxes. Prices are rebated and with handholds.

- \* Robin Jansen, PO Box 460, Taupo, phone: 86-788, has a new price list for his hive equipment. FD supers are \$5.70, 3/4-depth \$4.95, 1/2-depth \$5.55 (50 or more). FD frames \$430/1 000, \$2,000/5 000; 3/4-depth \$400/1 000; 1/2-depth \$380 (1 000).

Robin plans to hold an opening day for his factory (Poihipi Road) on July 3. It will be a gala occasion with specials on hive equipment. This date has to be confirmed yet. Check with myself or Robin nearer the day.

	CORY ENTERPRISES	B EVANS
Full-Depth	\$5 (min 10)	4.30 each
3/4-Depth	\$4.50 (min 10)	3.80 each
Cut Comb		3.40 each
1/2-Depth		3.40 each
Ross rounds	\$4.25 (min 10)	
Roofs (no iron)	\$4.50 (min 5)	
Floors	\$4.50 (min 5)	

Bryan Evans will assemble boxes (staple) paraffin wax and paint for another \$1 box (approx).

Cory Enterprises will also sell kiln dried timber dressed to 242 x 20 mm ex Cambridge at \$1.65 metre in 5 cubic metre lots. This is enough for 400 boxes. A cube of rough sawn 250 x 25 mm timber usually contains 160 m of timber, when dressed, enough to make 80 full-depth boxes.

- \* Mirex insecticide is available from AFC in Hamilton. Go to the farmers bulk purchase section off Anglesea Street.

You can also get Mirex direct from the NZ agents, now AgChem Distributors (1981) Ltd, PO Box 758, Nelson (formerly AgChem Distributors, PO Box 87, Nelson).

A carton of Mirex holds 23 x 50 gm containers.

- \* Wasp nests. The Waikato County Council will destroy nests within its county. Current (May) charge is \$20 per nest.

- \* Government Equipment News. This is an excellent journal published every two months by Cranwell Publishing Co Ltd, 419A Queen Street, Auckland - phone: 774-139 AK.

It costs \$10 year and is full of 'what's new' in the world of machinery, buildings, vehicles etc. There is a Reader Enquiry Card that you send off to the publisher on any item(s) you require more information on. They forward your enquiry onto the manufacturer concerned. This process seems to take 1-4 weeks.

-oo0oo-

#### DAFFY-NITIONS:

"A farmer is the only person who can buy retail, sell wholesale, and pay the freight both ways"

Anyone exporting, or thinking of doing so, should consider joining the Export Institute of New Zealand. It is really a mutual self-help club of fellow exporters who meet regularly and share their experiences

# EXPORT

in selling to various overseas markets. The Institute holds seminars and training days every now and then. For example they held a three day training course on 'Export Documentation and Office Procedures' in March 1981. This year they held a one day workshop on 'Food Marketing'.

As a member you get annual copies of the "Exporters Handbook" that I raved about in Bee Notes No.14. You get a monthly journal called "The Exporter", and access to Export Travel Club.

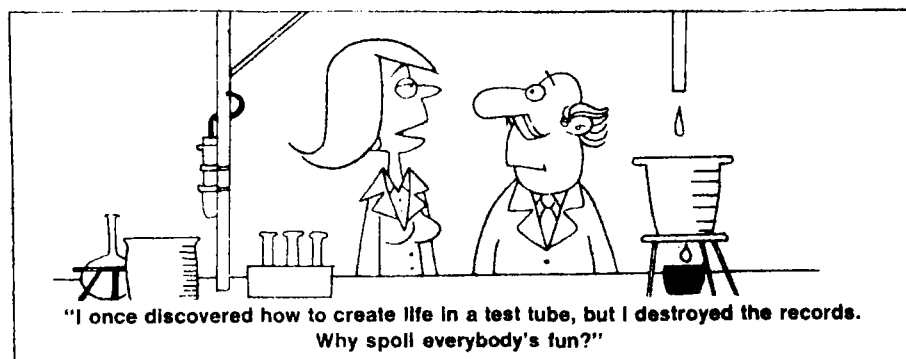
Now the crunch. The annual sub's commencing July 1 are \$148.00 per first member (individual) and \$70 per subsequent member (same company). The Institute has a permanent branch secretary in Hamilton. He is Mr C C Richardson Hogg, c/- Young, Cathie & Co, PO Box 518, Hamilton, Phone: 85-391.

If you just wanted copies of "The Exporter" magazine then send off \$10 to the Subscription Manager, PO Box 17-120, Auckland, 5.

While you're at it, take a note of another name, Paul Crack, who is the Export Liaison Officer for the Department of Trade and Industry. Paul is based in Auckland in the Government Life Building, 99 Queen Street, PO Box 4259, Auckland, Phone: 33-189, but he covers the Waikato as well.

Paul will also help you with any export problems you may have  
 \* "NZ Export Year Book". A new edition of this book is being prepared by Cranwell Publishing Co Ltd, 419A Queen Street, Auckland, Phone: 774-139. This book goes worldwide and is the traders "bible" used by all Trade and Industry representatives and other government departments, plus overseas importers.

It is a hard-covered fully indexed book and lists over 400 exporters. If you want to see what a copy looks like you can buy the 1981 issue for \$25.00.



### TEE-SHIRT GRAFFITI

Buzz became an avid-student of this form of "art" last summer. Spotted these somewhere near Whitianga.

*"Superwoman" (She was too!)  
and  
"The tin grin is in"*

### MT ST HELENS ERUPTION : WASHINGTON USA

About 8.30 am on Sunday, May 18 1980 Mt St Helens erupted with great devastation to the surrounding countryside. Beekeepers estimated they lost over 2 million dollars in damage to hives, loss of production, loss of wax that couldn't be salvaged and so on.

I was talking to a visitor from Washington a couple of months ago. It seems the volcanic ash, that had once been so destructive is still making its presence felt, but in quite a different way. The ash has proved very fertile and it is making lawns grow like crazy. So much so that some folks are cutting their lawns 2-3 times a week!

### TAIL-GATE LOADERS : ELECTRIC HYDRAULIC

Lindsay Hansen demonstrated his split-boom loader at the field day last March. Lindsay can arrange to have these manufactured for you if you are interested.

An alternative type of loader is a hydraulic tail-gate loader. Mesco-Riddell and Co Ltd, 29-31 Anzac Avenue, Auckland (or see Mason-Mesco, Hamilton) and Cullen Engineering Co Ltd, Te Aroha make tail gate loaders that will lift 400 kg up to 700 kg.

Both these units stand erect to become the tail-gate of the truck when not in use. This means the truck can't be unloaded when in a truck bay unless the tail-gate is left flush with the deck. This may present problems with existing truck bays that aren't long enough to accommodate truck plus tail-gate. Some beekeepers have overcome this problem by removing a portion of the truck deck, or extending the truck bay.





An alternative is another type of tail gate-loader that folds under the truck deck when not in use. This model is made by Chalmers Engineering Ltd, 46 Bay Road, Invercargill, phone: 57-021. They make three models:

*Size mm	Lifting Capacity kg	Weight Loader kg	Price	Truck Size
1200 x 550	300	87	\$1200	1 tonne ute
1200 x 700	500	135	\$1600	1-3 tonne
1800 x 900	750	336	\$2200	3-8 tonne

\* Width can be altered if desired.

This price was August 1981 and doesn't include fitting, although the firm does supply full fitting directions. Freight to Hamilton would be about \$50-60.

It doesn't pay to fit a loader to a new truck as you'll have to pay 20% sales tax; something about the loader being part of the truck. There's no sales tax if the truck is over six months old.

If you wish to place a firm order with Chalmers you'll need to supply the following information:

- (1) Make and model and year of your truck.
- (2) Depth of back cross member.
- (3) Total width of truck.
- (4) Distance from ground to deck level.
- (5) Outside width of chassis runners.
- (6) Depth of chassis runners.
- (7) Distance from top of deck to top of chassis runners.
- (8) Width of platform required. Provision must be made for tail lights on either side of the loader. The spare tyre may also need to be relocated.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### LEGAL EAGLES

There are a couple of new pieces of legislation that will affect us. The first is:

- \* *"Road User Charges Amendment Bill"* (\$1.05 Government bookshops). This doesn't eliminate the charges (unfortunately) but sets out the charges by referring to the vehicle type numbers rather than by licensing category as in the past.

- \* "The Accident Compensation Motor Vehicles Levies Order 1982" (35¢ copy Government bookshops). This becomes effective on July 1 and applies to tractors, farm trucks and self-propelled agriculture machines. These are all liable to a \$5 levy.

## I N F L A T I O N

We all know that inflation is biting and the New Zealand dollar is "shrinking". Not so obvious is the way it has declined against other currencies. The following table compares the percentage decline of our dollar from September 1973 to November 1981.

Currency	Decline (in %)
US dollar	44
UK sterling	28
Australian dollar	27
Japanese yen	53
W. German d. mark	48
Swiss franc	67
Canadian dollar	34



The weighted average is 35%.

(PSA Journal 69(1) 1982)

-oOo-

*People can be divided into three groups:*

*Those who make things happen,  
Those who watch things happen,  
And those who wonder what happened.*

*John Newbern*

\* \* \* \* \*

## TIMELY HINTS

A couple of hints from fellow beekeepers:

- \* Next time you see a shredded truck tyre on the roadside pick it up. Not only will you be a "Tidy Kiwi" but the rubber is a good accelerant when burning foulbrood hives especially if they have any quantity of honey in the combs. Get the rubber and any empty combs burning first before adding honey frames.

- \* If you're thinking of asking your local engineer to build a tilting blower stand, like the one that was demonstrated at our field day, then get a quote first.

One of our members overlooked this small detail and was rather shocked to receive a bill for \$400!!

## BUDGET NIGHT

I'm not sure what the PM will have in his forthcoming budget, but it won't be all good news that's for sure.

Thinking of budgets, parliamentarians, PTA committees, Head Office types or whatever, brings to mind one of Dennis Glover's very apt quotations:

"When all these darned old fools  
are dead; we'll have another lot  
instead."

## NODDING THISTLE SURVEY

Thanks to those who replied to my questionnaire. The Regional Advisory Officer said the information will be very useful at his meeting with the Noxious Plants Committee early in June.

From the figures you gave me it looks like honey from noddies was worth around \$500,000 (gate value) this past season.

In Australia the beekeepers set up a committee to raise money (currently NZ\$64,000) to take legal action to stop the CSIRO (Aussie version of our DSIR) from releasing leaf mining moths and other insects to control the Salvation Jane or Patterson's Curse.

The beekeepers were easily able to prove that the value of honey, pollen and wax far exceeded any increase in value to the farmer if Salvation Jane was removed, not to mention the cost of the exercise itself. At the moment the beekeepers have got a court order instructing the CSIRO to stop all release work and to trap any insects already released. A court hearing has been set for May 31 and 15 days have been allowed!

I wonder if our beekeeping industry should not have done something similar to protect "our" noddies. The DSIR released two species of weevil several years ago, at Whakatane and Matamata; plus sites in the South Island. One report I had from down south suggested the weevils have been so successful that local beekeepers don't rely on the thistles anymore.



## NEW TIMBER PRESERVATIVE : WOODLIFE II

This has just come onto the market so I haven't had time to evaluate its potential or any possible problems.

It is a white water borne preservative that really soaks into the wood and water proofs the cell linings of the timber. It is an internal coating unlike paraffin which has an envelope water proffing effect. So timber soaked in Woodlife II will in fact take up water.

The fungicide part of the formula is 3-iodo-2-propynyl butyl carbamate according to the brochure. Boxes are best soaked in the preservative for three minutes but it can be brushed on providing plenty is used. It is claimed to prevent warping, cracking, shrinking, grain raising and swelling and can be painted over once dry. Drying takes 4-8 hours.

Water soluble stains can be added to Woodlife II to give colour to new boxes and if this was followed by paraffin waxing that should give good protection.

Placemakers stock Woodlife II in Hamilton as do Odlines in Tauranga. The preservative comes in two forms, dilute ready to use, or in the 6-1 concentrate.

<u>Ready to Use</u>	<u>6-1 Concentrate</u>
1 li packed 12 to a carton	
5 li packed 4 to a carton	
20 li packed individual	20 li makes 140 li
	173 li makes 1211 li

Prices quoted are the same for all outlets including the manufacturers Roberts Co NZ Ltd, 124 Penrose Road, PO Box 12319, Auckland, 6; phone: 591-149.

	<u>Ready to Use</u>	<u>Concentrate</u>
1 li	\$5.35	
5 li	\$17.35	
20 li	\$52.80	\$242.70
173 li	\$398.00	\$2325.00

If you can't get Placemakers or Odlines interested in a discount for larger quantities talk to Dave Wilson of Roberts Co in Auckland. He was quite willing to "wheel and deal".

-ooOoo-

*That's all from me for now. The nights have been pretty cool lately so remember ...*

*"One good turn - gets most of the blanket"*

Cheers

*Murray.*

G M Reid  
Apicultural Advisory Officer