

**waikato
bee
notes**

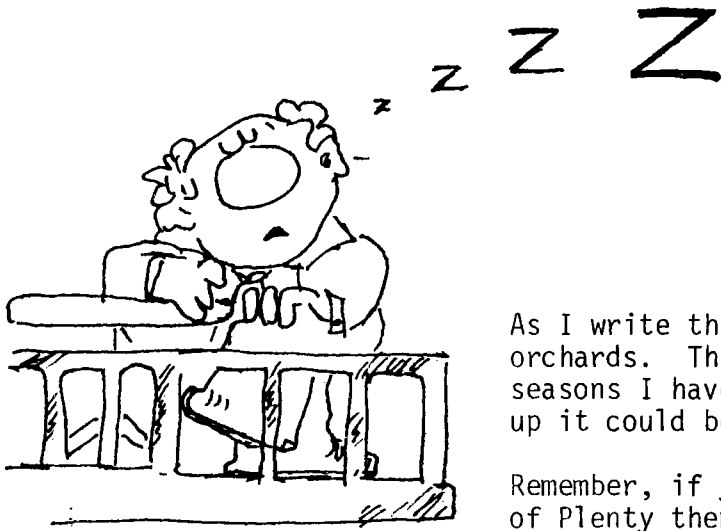
NO. 17

DECEMBER 1982

- * *Honey Soap Recipe*
- * *Chainsaw Accidents*
- * *Saving Diesel*
- * *Honey Statistics*
- * *Fire Safety*
- * *Superwinch*
- * *Stencils*
- * *Aglinks*
- * *Water Wizzard Pump*
- * *Soil Cement Roads*
- * *Road User Charges*
- * *Api-electric Packer and Pump*
- * *Cost Honey Analysis*



Ministry of
Agriculture
& Fisheries



As I write this hives are going into the kiwifruit orchards. This is one of the earliest pollination seasons I have known and if the fine weather keeps up it could be one of the shortest seasons too.

Remember, if you are taking hives over to the Bay of Plenty then you MUST register the sites with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in Tauranga.

If you are going into the Tauranga or Te Puke area use the map system and let the Fruit Growers Federation know when the bees go in and when they come out. Your contacts are Bev Wagstaff, Tauranga, 80-799 (bus.), 480-507 (a/hr) or Te Puke 37-907.

Dr Cameron Jay and family from Winnipeg, have settled at Tauranga and Cam is busy getting his trial orchards and equipment sorted out. Cam will be looking at bee dispersal from scattered hives and from hives in groups. He will also look at bee activity on the flowers and within the rows to gauge their effectiveness as pollinators. Speaking of pollination, the proceedings from the kiwifruit pollination seminar at Ruakura are at the printers and hopefully will be in your mail box before Christmas.

An early estimate of the number of hives in kiwifruit orchards in the Bay of Plenty this year is around 12,000 hives.

MOAN TIME

The deadline to have your apiary returns in will have passed by the time you read this and there are still large gaps in my files. December 7 was the due date. So sit down tonight and fill them in. All your hives will have been inspected by now. They haven't! Well, they jolly well should have been. I gave you a general tune up about this in my December newsletter last year, and so far I have found at least one semi-commercial beekeeper who was making his first round very late in November. To make matters worse he had a foulbrood hive knocked over and robbed out and lost at least five hives through disease plus he caused infection to spread to another beekeepers apiary.





2

HONEY SOAP RECIPE

I haven't tried this one but it sounds interesting. You need:

- * 1 cup diced scraps of old soap
- * 1 cup of water
- * 1 tablespoon of glycerine
- * 2/3 cup of rolled oats

Soak all these ingredients overnight then add one teaspoon of honey and simmer until the soap melts stirring with a wooden spoon. Pour into moulds and leave to set. The longer you can leave the soap drying the better it will be. Australian Bee Journal 1982 63(a):2.

CHAIN SAW INJURIES

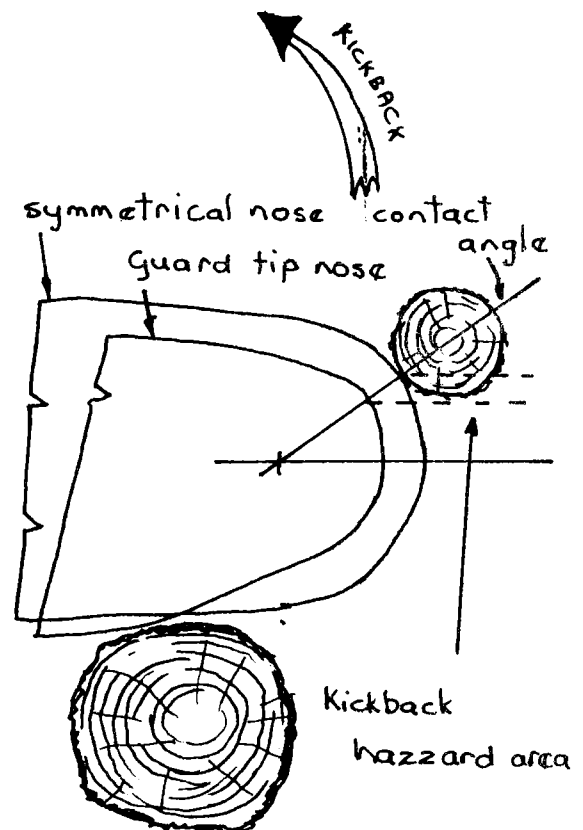
Did you know that the Accident Compensation Commission paid out over \$370,000 to 764 chainsaw victims in 1980/81, and not all the accounts were in even then.

Kickback causes four out of five chainsaw injuries, 75% of the 764 chainsaw injuries resulted in lacerations.

The Accident Compensation Commission have an excellent tape-slide series and large display boards that I have seen at a garden nursery and at the Mystery Creek Fieldays.

The injury photographs were horrific but apparently the effect on people only lasts three months, then it's back to sloppy habits.

I am as guilty as the next person, but even forestry workers, who use chainsaws all the time can become complacent it seems. However, that is no excuse.



Do you, for example:

- * *drop start a chainsaw?*
- * *cut above your head?*
- * *use a saw without wearing ear muffs? Eighty minutes without ear muffs will lead to permanent hearing loss. A chainsaw generates 120 decibels. The "normal" level at which hearing can be impaired is 85 decibels and a shotgun by comparison is 140.*
- * *use your saw without heavy footwear? Japanese "safety boots" (jandels, thongs) are not good enough.*

Obviously full protective clothing would be best.

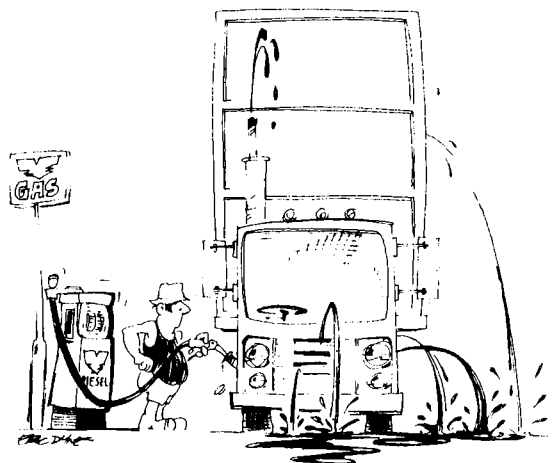
Saeco-ADI Ltd, 91 Huia Road, Otahuhu, Auckland PO Box 22-256 market a guard tip for Oregon chainsaw bars. It is called the "Guard Tip TM" and is basically an asymmetrical tip. It seems that a symmetrical tip, as supplied on most chainsaw bars will readily kick back when the chain strikes an object as in the diagram.

An alternative is a plastic tip available from stockists of Homelite chainsaws.

Chainsaw injuries are bad enough but horse related injuries are much worse, 1267 injuries (6 deaths) in 1980/81 cost the Accident Compensation Commission \$826,000 in compensation. New Zealand Farm July 1981.

TRUCKERS GUIDE TO SAVING DIESEL

This is the title of a very useful little booklet put out by the Ministry of Energy Private Bag, Wellington. Ask for No. 11 or 11a "Farmers Guide to Saving Diesel".



The booklet says:

- * you can save 10% fuel by improving driving habits.
- * you can save up to 20% by modifying your vehicle so it requires less power.
- * if you have to stop or idle for more than 20 seconds it pays to switch off. The fuel used to start up is equivalent to 15 seconds idling. Put another way idling uses 20-30% as much as at a constant speed of 50 km/hr.

And there are many more useful tips as well.

Rose's First Law of Investments

"Never invest your money in anything that eats or needs repainting".

Billy Rose

I suppose we should add to that "or drinks diesel".

HONEY FIGURES

Local producers and exporters have been talking a lot recently about honey statistics, both production and export. You may be interested in the tables below.

TABLE I : ANNUAL HONEYCROP ASSESSMENT (AS AT 31 MAY)

Year	North Island	South Island	New Zealand	Yield/Hive (kg)
1970	3196	2574	5770	-
1971	2931	2727	5658	28.1
1972	3333	2360	5693	27.9
1973	2793	2548	5341	25.7
1974	2862	2400	5262	25.5
1975	3466	3945	7411	36.3
1976	1739	3176	5915	23.9
1977	3109	2969	6078	29.3
1978	4536	3743	8279	39.2
1979	3255	3219	6474	28.5
1980	2889	4600	7489	32.0
1981	3251	3680	6931	29.1
1982	4215	2280	6495	25.6

Source Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

TABLE II : HONEY EXPORTS : YEAR TO DATE MAY 1982

Packaging	Quantity (kg)	FOB New Zealand\$ average/kg
Bulk	206,585	\$1.65
Retail packs	205,400	\$2.23
Comb	346,287	\$4.46
Honeydew	190,881	\$1.46



FIRE SAFETY IN RURAL AREAS

I have talked about fire safety before and advised you to wash benzaldehyde boards regularly, to have the electrical wiring in your honey house checked at least once every five years, to check your hot room thermostat controls and to be careful of smokers when putting your truck in the shed for the night.

What other precautions can you take? Well, the list is endless but think about these:

- * *water needs to go on a fire within five minutes of it starting. This is why most rural fires are totally destructive.*
- * *fire fighters need at least 20,000 litres of water. If you have water tanks can a fire engine get to them, is your pond kept free of weeds or obstructions?*
- * *Does the local fire brigade know your place? Have you got a name clearly marked on your gate? (It would probably help your apicultural advisory officer too!) Remember no one can find your place from an RD number.*

- * Having found your place can a fire engine get through your gates, all of them, or across your bridges, safely?
- * If you have a swimming pool, great. You have water to fight the fire but can you use it. 99% of farmers with pools have no standby submersible pump. Perhaps you could rig up your sugar syrup pumps to do in an emergency or the spray pump on the tractor. But what if you are not there? Can your wife or family work these units? Go and have a practice run at fire fighting before Christmas.
- * If you are planning to erect new buildings keep them 20 metres away from existing buildings.
- * How many extinguishers do you have in the house, honey house and workshop? When were they last checked?

The Fire Safety Division of the New Zealand Fire Service has prepared an excellent little booklet called "Fire Safety in Rural Areas". I would like you to get a copy from your local fire station, read it and act on it.

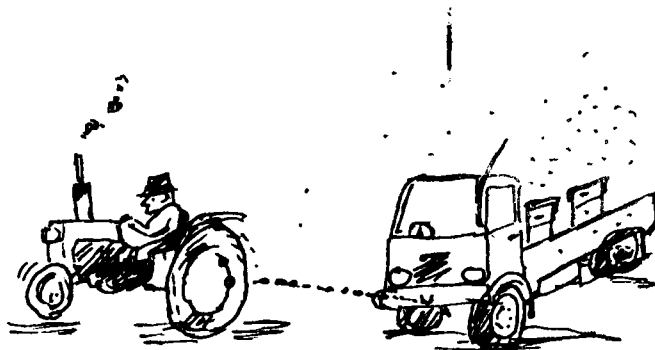
Don't be complacent. Fires do happen to beekeepers; regularly. And they can happen to you!

Buzz says "learn from others" mistakes. Life is too short to make them all yourself!!!

ooooo

STUCK AGAIN -

A very familiar experience for many of us. What is the remedy? Well, some beekeepers buy or make a set of chains, others have a limited slip-differential fitted and these seem to be OK, while others invest in expensive four wheel drive vehicles. Another possible remedy is the Superwinch, "yes folks, the Superwinch from the Superwinch Company of America", where else?



Anyway, this little winch (Model XI) weighs in at 7.2 kilograms, has a working load of 680 kilograms, a stall capacity of 1134 kilograms, and would appear to be ideal for any two wheel drive, utility, or van.

The Superwinch can be mounted on the front bumper but it can also be fitted to a plate which hitches over the rear tow ball. Thus, it can be carried to wherever it is required. All you need is a solid hitching point and a 12v battery, and you are in business.

The Superwinch also boasts a power reverse, a self-locking gearbox, dynamic brake stops and an emergency crank handle.

The New Zealand agents for the Superwinch are New Zealand Motor Corporation. Go to the parts and accessories department. Our branch is in Alexandra Street, Hamilton, telephone 80-179. And the cost? Only \$360 which includes sales tax. It will seem like small bickies next time you are bogged down, it's raining and the nearest farm house is ...???

I read once that a large beekeeping company in Scotland traded all their Landrovers as they were too expensive to run and purchased VW's instead. They fitted electric winches to the front and a boat anchor. So it was an "easy" exercise to pull themselves across a paddock or out of a gateway, if they had to. I wish I had a spare \$360!

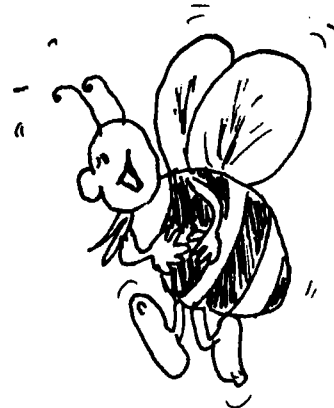
STORY FOR THE MONTH

Farmer Brown had a small flock of chooks which was presided over by an old rooster whom we shall call Randy. Now, Farmer Brown thought Randy was getting a bit past it so he purchased a young rooster. Randy was showing the new fella the ropes. "There's a hundred and one chooks here," he says, "so there's 50 for you and 50 for me and one left over. To see who gets the last one we'll have a race across the farmyard and back. Since I'm getting on a bit, you'll have to give me a head start." So, they lined up with Randy taking a couple of yards start. "Ready, GO!" shouted Randy, and they were off.

Randy's running flat out for the far fence. The young rooster is not far behind and gaining. Randy turns first but the young fella's now right on his tail, and he's in much better shape.

Meanwhile, over on the porch, Farmer Brown is talking with his nieghbour, Farmer Smith. Seeing the roosters running across the yard, Farmer Brown picks up his shotgun, aims quickly and fires. BANG! The young rooster is dropped in his tracks. Farmer Brown turns to Farmer Smith and says, "Y'know, that's the fourth QUEER rooster I've had this month!"

ooo0ooo



STENCILS

If you need a special stencil for your export containers, such as Cyrillic (Russian), Greek, Hebrew or special characters in say, French, German, Spanish, Polish etc. then contact R L Button and Co Ltd, PO Box 1704, Auckland, telephone 663-517. They are agents for the Marsh range of stencil cutting machines, ink pads, ink rollers and so on.

They can cut stencils in an oiled cardboard for about \$7 per line with letter sizes of 25 mm. Seventy-five millimetre letters will cost around \$9.50 and 100 mm \$11 per line. They can also make the stencils in brass but you are looking at \$3.45 per each letter for 100 mm, \$2.50 for 75 mm and \$1.05 for 25 mm letters.

A South Island packer nets \$520 per tonne of packed honey. The bulk honey was valued at \$1.30 kg and no allowance was made for lost opportunity. Labour was costed at \$10 per hour. July Conference at Waitangi.

AGLINKS

Aglinks are the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries main avenue for handing out information and are available on a host of topics. Aglinks dealing with beekeeping are:

- FPP 124 American Brood Disease : In Honeybees*
- FPP 128 Honey bees Overseas : Diseases and Pests*
- FPP 196 German Wasp Nest Eradication*
- FPP 534 Beekeeping : Beeswax production and Processing*
- FPP 536 Beekeeping : wax moths life history and control*
- FPP 372 Establishment and Management : an introduction*
- FPP 392 Swarms and Feral Colonies : Eradication*
- HPP 233 Kiwifruit pollination*



- HPP 170 *Shelter : Recommended Species*
 (for horticultural crops in northern north island districts)
- FPP 529 *Beekeeping : Nectar and Pollen Sources*
 (summer/autumn/early winter)
- FPP 530 *Beekeeping : Nectar and Pollen Sources*
 (winter/spring/early summer)

Others are available on business administration, cash records, wills and so on. Aglinks are free, provided you don't want a whole handful. Just call in at the Hamilton Office sometime. Actually 1-4 copies are free, five copies \$1.00, six and over \$1.25 plus 25 cents each copy over six. Special bulk purchase rates can be negotiated on particular Aglinks. Or you may like to take out a subscription. This costs \$25 per year and for that you get the index with the right to order one copy of every Aglink in stock. In the Farm Production and Practice series (FPP) we have about 650 titles, in the Horticulture series (HPP) about 300 titles and around 70 in the General Agriculture series. New Aglinks are being produced or revised at the rate of 15 every 2-3 weeks.

"Most ignorance is vincible ignorance : we don't know because we don't want to".

Aldous Huxley

VIVA LA DIFFERANCE

or something! It seems some of my southern colleagues have come under the influence of the SI separtist movement. I sent them this cartoon which they identified with. I wonder why? I'm still paying 6.904 c/unit for domestic power and 4.374 c/unit for hot water which I believe is one of the highest rates in New Zealand! There's also a \$4.80 supply charge levied every two months.



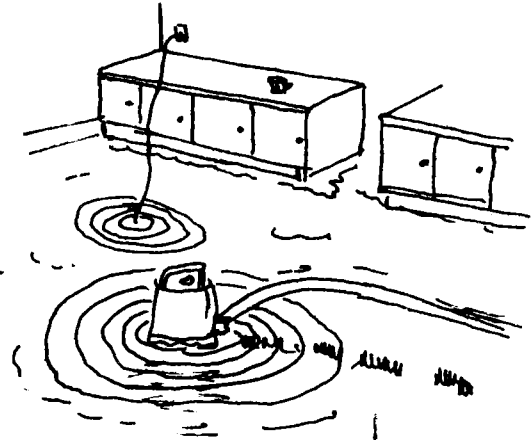
PUMPS

Thinking about pumps and fire fighting or pumping sugar syrup, then the Water Wizzard made by the Little Giant Pump Company of America could be the one for you.

You just drop it in the water, plug it in and it will pump away at the rate of 70 litre/minute to 1500 mm or 30 litres/minute to 6 metres.

You could also use it to empty out a flooded basement, a truck bay, a swimming pool, power a fountain etc.

Talk to Bruce Williamson at Industrial and Electrical 121 Rostrevor Street, telephone 393-843. And the price? The Water Wizzard is currently \$184.10 which includes sales tax.



0000000

SOIL CEMENT ROADS

Do you want to make an all-weather road down to the back of your property, but can't afford the gravel? Well, here's an idea that is suitable for granular sandy soils but it's not recommended for heavy clay or peat.

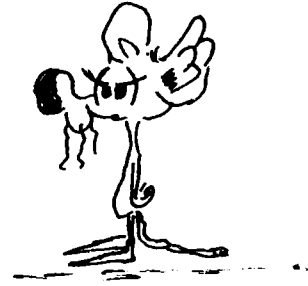
The idea is to strip off the top soil and grade the base to provide a 65-75 mm crossfall on a suggested road width of 2.7 metres.

Then you attack the "road" with a cultivator and work it up to a fine tilth to a depth of 150 mm. Next you mix cement in, sprinkle lightly with water, and heavy roll. Leave the "road" to cure for seven days.

It is not really suitable for frequent heavy traffic or stock either.

Source: Farm News from Britain, No. 10 1981

The throwaway culture: In the USA in 1920 the per capita production of waste was about 1.3 kg per day; in 1970 about 2.5 kg and in 1980 about 4 kg per day. Consumers' Union News Digest (USA) Nov 1981.



MORE GRAFFITI

"And the meek shall inherit the earth - if that's all right with the rest of you".

ROAD USER CHARGES

These licences are the nub of real confusion - especially relating to the unused distance of road user licences when a vehicle is to be sold. The main points for the seller to remember are that road user licences actually belong to the vehicle and not to you as the owner or the purchaser of the vehicle. So licences should be sold with the vehicle and can't be transferred from one registered vehicle to another - you can't transfer just because some mileage hasn't been taken up - or for any other reason either.

A seller must be reimbursed by the purchaser of the vehicle for the unexpired portion of the licence. And one suggestion is to add the value of the mileage to the price of the vehicle... Now as a buyer if you end up with a vehicle and an expired licence you are liable for the value of the unlicensed mileage. So you should check the licence on the windscreen - that's where it should be - so that you don't become liable for the distance travelled since the previous owner's licence expired. (The reimbursement of an unexpired licence is considered by the department to be a private deal and not within its jurisdiction. Which means it will not intervene if a vehicle seller is uncooperative over the discovery of an expired licence. So watch it.)

TRADE TABLE

- * Bob (Sonny) Swetman has a Hansen wax press for sale. Asking price \$500 telephone 298 669 Hamilton.
- * Stephon Mahon of Ceracell Ltd, PO Box 204, Warkworth, telephone 7032 has some nice centrifuges (about \$3,600) and extractors from "Thomas" in France. Stephon is also bringing in a pricker for manuka honey. This is a great machine that I saw demonstrated at the congress in Athens. The frames are taken on a worm-drive down (and back up) through two rows of blunt-tipped spring loaded needles. The process is quiet, quick and best of it it doesn't damage combs.

Another bumper sticker "Don't complain about farmers with your mouth full".

API-ELECTRIC HONEY PACKER

I was looking through my card index system a couple of months ago when I came across a reference to a honey packer come pump in the February issue of the American Bee Journal for 1980. I'd forgotten about this but on re-reading the advert I made some inquiries that you may be interested in. The machine is made in France and Stephon Mahon now has some on order. They should cost around \$2,800 with another \$400 duty unless you can find a way to avoid that.

Anyway the packer is a real beauty. It is all stainless steel, it's self-priming and very easy to dismantle and clean and comes complete with an electronic control box. It is simply strapped onto a tank for packing and by turning a dial you can pack any weight from 35 gm to several kilos. The pump is operated by a foot pedal but there is a fingertip control for "topping".

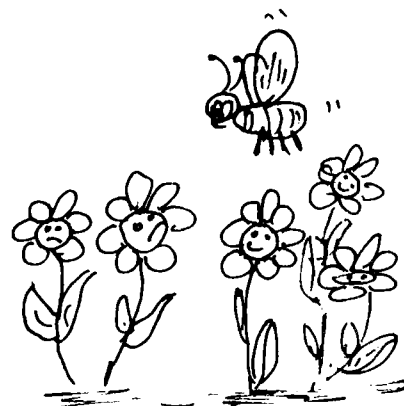
It has two nozzles, one for creamed honey and one for liquid. The motor runs at 140 rpm and can pump 500 kg per hour at steady running. If you want to use it as a pump (sugar syrup or liquid honey) simply unhook the unit from the tank and you are in business. It can work either vertically or horizontally.

0000000

HONEY ANALYSIS

If you need to have a sample of honey analysed for export then T J Sprott and Associates, 98 Carlton Gore Road, Auckland 1 will do the job for you. It is not a cheap exercise. Here is a cost breakdown for a recent analysis of one sample:

Water	\$ 10.00
Acid	\$ 15.00
pH	\$ 10.00
Glucose/Fructose	\$ 20.00
Sucrose	\$ 30.00
HMF	\$ 40.00
	<hr/>
	\$125.00
	<hr/>



" IF IT WASN'T FOR ME YOU
GUYS WOULD BE EXTINCT! "

THOSE AUSSIES DO IT AGAIN!

Remember the kangaroo for beef scandal a while ago. Well, it seems some Australian exporters are trying it on again. But, this time it's honey adulterated with 30% glucose. Honey is frequently sold in Australia with added glucose although the label clearly states this fact. But what do you do when sales of your honey and glucose blend fall off on the local market? Easy, you export it!

Scientists at a Government analytical lab have recently developed a new technique called "flow programmed high performance liquid chromatography" which can detect low levels of glucose. On a recent test of 31 export samples, 10 have been adulterated with glucose syrup.

Apart from the obvious effects on export markets these recent findings will slow down the Australian honey industries attempts to remove any export checks and the export inspection levy. American Bee Journal Dec. 1982.

Another daffynition : "A pessimist - is the guy that puts prunes on his all-bran!"

QUEEN BEE COURSE : FLOCK HOUSE 1983

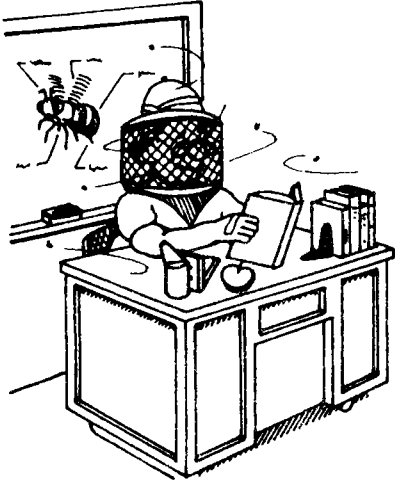
There will be a course on raising your own queen bees next February 7-11. The course is designed for semi-commercial to commercial beekeepers who are thinking about producing queen bees for a living or who want to increase or improve their own stock.

Accommodation at Flock House (about 14 km west of Bulls) costs \$19/day including all meals and married couples can be catered for too. Tuition fees are around \$25. Write to the "Queen Bee Production Course", Flock House, Farm Training Institute, Private Bag, Bulls to register or for more information.

Trevor Bryant (MAF, Tauranga) and Andrew Matheson (MAF, Nelson) will be doing most of the tutoring with "guest" appearances by myself and Dr Cam Jay.

DISCLAIMER

Mention of any proprietary product does not imply endorsement by MAF or recommendation over similar products not mentioned.



BEEKEEPING TUTOR TAURANGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A one year position has been created at the Tauranga College to develop and prepare all the lecture and demonstration material for a course on beekeeping. Some tutoring may be involved. The position will be advertised in the morning papers in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin sometime before Christmas also in the January issue of the *Apiarist*. If you know anyone suitable for this job, (salary \$15,000-\$25,000) you could refer them to me or Barry Mead at the College. The position could become a permanent one - but there is no guarantees.

ooo0ooo

Have a restful and enjoyable Christmas and while you're reflecting on 1982 and anticipating 1983 - I'll leave you with this thought...

BEE ALERT

-

YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS LERTS!

CHEERS!

Murray

G M Reid
Apicultural Advisory Officer