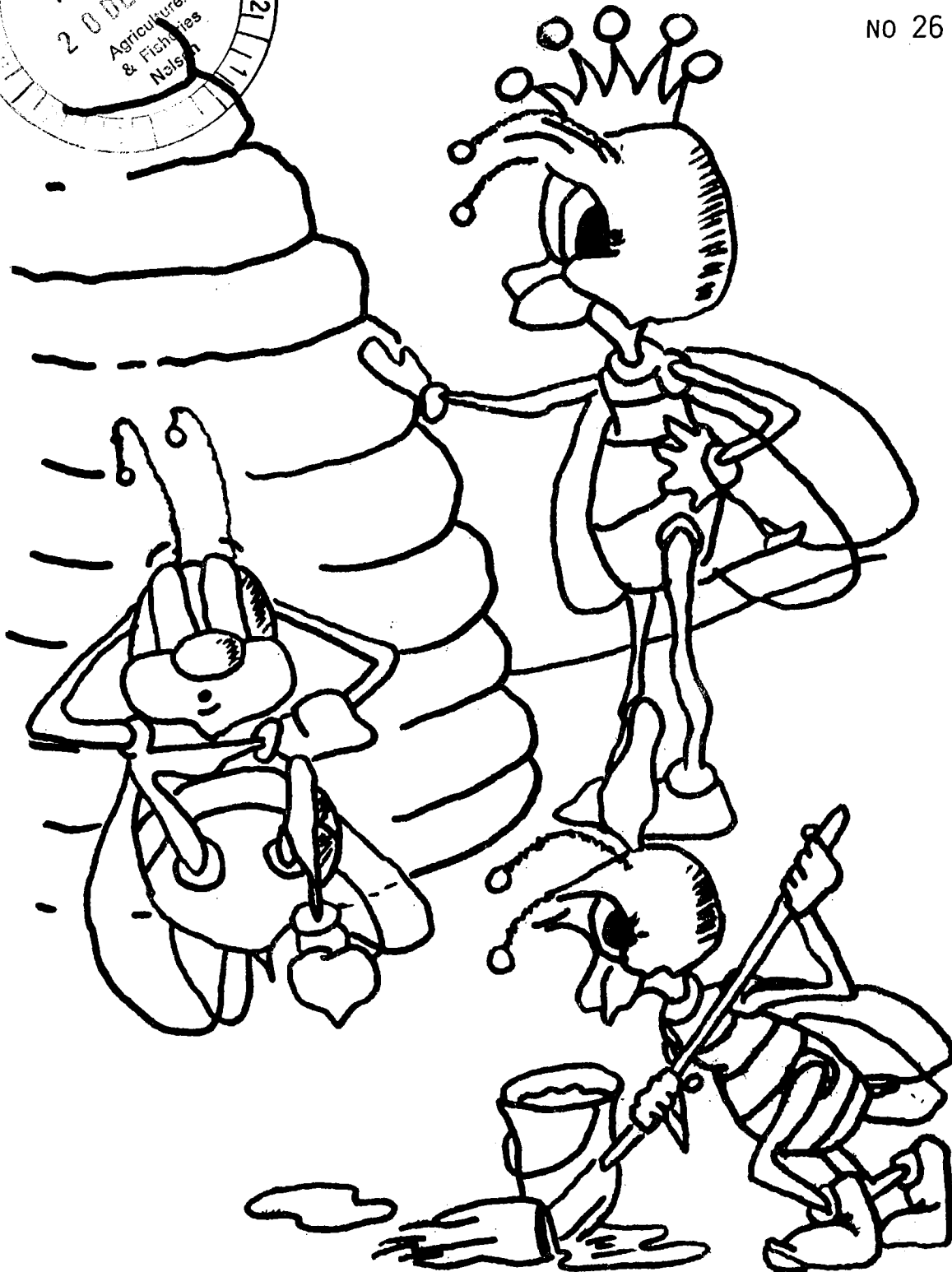
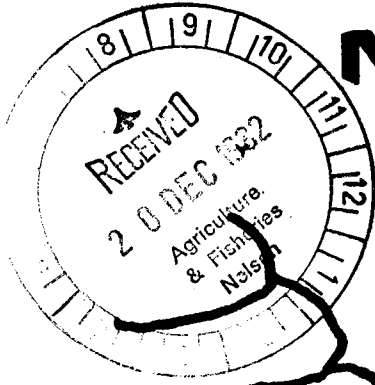


YOUR

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1982

No 26



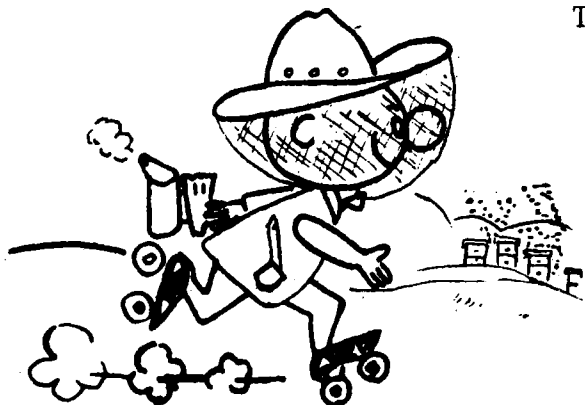
Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries
Private Bag
Tauranga

Telephone: 82 069

T G Bryant
Apicultural Advisory Officer

Telephone: 65 962 Private

As I sit down to write this newsletter, pollination time is upon us all and over the next few weeks most beekeepers and I will be very busy.



The first hives were moved into orchards during the week November 13-17 and all indications are pointing towards a very compressed season so here's hoping that everyone takes extreme care when burning the midnight oil.

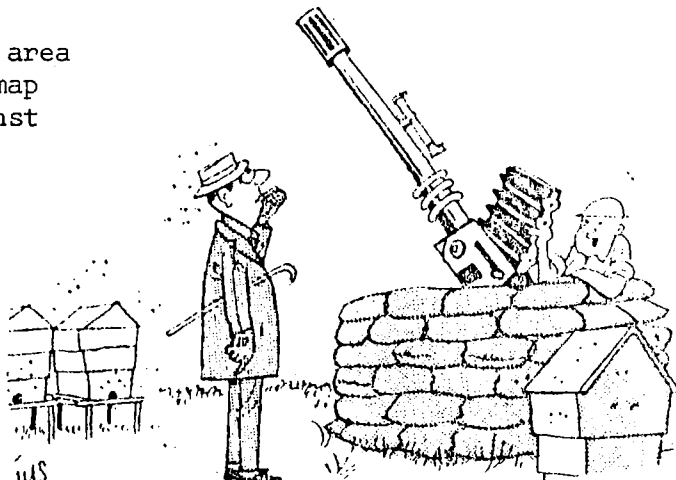
Accidents will happen but hopefully not a vehicle accident with a load of bees and a driver asleep at the wheel.

I'm estimating at this stage that approximately 12,000 hives will go into the orchards this season due to:

- (i) a heavy flowering
- (ii) growers trying to get into production (export) earlier
- (iii) more hives per hectare requested by growers.

This year it has become increasingly apparent that every beekeeper, whether he owns one hive or 1000 hives, is attempting to cash in on the situation and I only hope that those wishing to become involved:

- (i) Use strong colonies (30-40,000 bees) that are disease free and managed in such a way that they have a strong stimuli to forage for pollen; ie lots of brood, a young queen, some honey and pollen, or more simply, a strong developing colony.
- (ii) In the Tauranga and Te Puke area (in 1983 Katikati) use the map system to protect bees against possible spray damage and at the same time allow the grower to protect his crop. Beekeepers who have not co-operated and suffer losses as a result have only themselves to blame.



11/15
"Mind you, I've had no loss of bees from aerial crop spraying since."

- (iii) Have a reasonable understanding of plant physiology and understand basic principles of insect/plant relationship.

Remember, you cannot simply grab a colony of bees, place it in the orchard and expect it to pollinate the target crop. Just as the grower has a very direct influence on the end result, you, the beekeeper, also have a responsibility to the grower in assisting him to achieve the best possible crop.

THE DISEASE SITUATION

With less than one month to go at publication time, only 35% of you had returned your annual statement of inspection. This must be completed by December 7 and returned to MAF so let's help fight inflation by reducing Government expenditure - get those returns in, don't wait to be reminded as the cost of chasing you up is increasing and should not be necessary. All beekeepers are aware of the need for disease control, and your obligations under the Apiaries Act. It is part and parcel of beekeeping so do your bit towards helping us be more efficient.

It is of concern to me that this year 5% of notices sent out were returned 'Gone, no forwarding address'. If you move, sell or barter hives, MAF must be notified immediately, preferably before you have sold or moved. These beekeepers and their hives must be somewhere out there and are required by law to be registered. What is even more disturbing in view of the large numbers of hives being moved around the area, is the number of unregistered beekeepers we are unearthing - to date 21. If you sell hives or know of people who have caught swarms, or bought hives, then please alert them to the fact that they must register with MAF.

So far only 14 beekeepers have reported disease (ABD) to MAF which should indicate there is little to worry about. May I remind you that you must report American Brood Disease forthwith, not a week or month later or when you happen to send in your return.

MAF inspectors have this season inspected 1828 colonies (1249 in 1981) and we have yet to finish. All told we have detected 59 hives of disease belonging to 23 beekeepers in the following areas - Rotorua (Ohau Channel and Ngongotaha), Katikati, Tauranga, Welcome Bay, Paengaroa, Te Puke, Opotiki and Gisborne. (1981 - 17 hives detected)

We should not find any disease - you, the beekeepers are responsible for the detection and eradication of this scourge, just as we are not here to do the inspection for you.

Don't wait for us to inspect your hive(s) before sending in your return. Inspect them yourself. If you



World's best police force.

have a problem let us know about it and then fill in your return and send it to MAF Tauranga. With the ever increasing number of beekeepers and hives in the area some of you may not see an inspector for two or three years; others of you, every year.

To those beekeepers who rely on MAF to inspect and destroy diseased hives, a word of warning - persistent offenders who fail to take action to eradicate disease will find that after we do the job there will be a bill in the mail to cover our expenses; with labour at \$6.80+ per hour and mileage the cost could be rather high when added to loss of asset, production and replacement cost.



When disease is detected:

- *burn all honey, beeswax, bees, frames, boxes, lids, excluders, the lot. Don't mess about!*
- *dig a large hole as all material must be thoroughly buried. No honey must be left about for bees to rob or nails on the ground to puncture farmers' vehicles.*
- *boxes, lids, floors, excluders may be sterilised with the approval of MAF. The only recommended treatment is paraffin dipping for 10 minutes at 160°C.*
- *notify MAF promptly, if unsure of your diagnosis never hesitate to contact an inspector or competent beekeeper. There is a great deal of literature on this subject so there should be no excuse if you 'farm' disease.*
- *always practice good apiary hygiene. Don't leave honey exposed, wax lying about, or equipment about with no bees in it.*
- *personal hygiene is equally important. If disease is found, wash your hands or gloves thoroughly in a disinfectant and water; flame your hive tool well and clean in soil; wash your smoker bellows - all this before moving on to the next hive.*

Disease can be eradicated. Use your common sense. Vigilance and an early diagnosis is essential.

WHAT'S ON -

Successful discussion group days have been held in the Tauranga and Gisborne regions and it is intended to continue these meetings. In the New Year - yes, it's that time again - a group will be started up in the Rotorua area and to give you some idea of what it is all about, to date we have discussed in depth - queen rearing methods and techniques, pollination and hive management.

First up is a visit to Alan Murray's in February to look at autumn queen raising, wintering and autumn splits - these topics will also be covered at Peter Pegram's at Wairoa. The Rotorua venue is to be decided and members of each group will be informed in due course of meeting dates.

Queen Bee Production Course

Flock House February 7-11 1983
Telford March 21-24 1983

This is a course designed for honey producers (pollination operators) who wish to improve their queen bee breeding programmes and raise more or better queens for their own use.

Expanding into Commercial Beekeeping

Telford June 28-July 1 1983



To gather a pound of honey a bee flies a distance equal to more than three times around the world.

Accommodation at these venues is \$19.00/day, including meals. In addition, Flock House does cater for married couples. Tuition fee is \$25.00 for the course.

To gain a place write to:

Registrar
Flock House Farm Training Institute
Private Bag
Bulls

Registrar
Telford Farm Training Institute
Private Bag
Balclutha

Places at the courses are limited so be in early and don't be too disappointed if you miss out this round.



IN THE RESEARCH FIELD

Dr C S Jay has his programmes well underway; Pat Clinch is back in the district to continue his research; DSIR are working with other bees; eg native bees; Dr N Pomeroy is looking at bumble bees; Dr Hopping is into artificial pollination again and MAF advisors, HAOs, AAO and Field Officers are assisting where possible.

With so many people now looking at the whole question of pollination I'm hoping that this year we will get some useful, solid data of real value to beekeepers and growers.

On the educational front, the Bay of Plenty Community College has been given the green light to initiate a full time programme for beekeepers. Telford Farm Training Institute is also setting up a beekeeping unit.

All this and more suddenly takes the beekeepers from an almost dearth situation to one of plenty and most would agree, not before time!

FIELD DAYS

If you are planning a holiday and would like to see a little of beekeeping in regions to be visited, contact the local NBA branch or MAF Apicultural Advisory Officer and check out dates of local events.

I note that Southland hold theirs on the last Saturday of January each year.

West Coast (SIs)	March
Canterbury	March
South Canterbury	February
Hawkes Bay	March
Waikato	March
Bay of Plenty	April ?
Otago	Queens Birthday (Tuesday) & November
Taranaki	November
Marlborough	March

NBA Conference - Nelson, July 27-28 1983

MAF Seminar - July 26 1983

NOTED FROM DISTRICT NEWSLETTERSNelson

- * Plans of top syrup feeder.
- * Beekeepers in Blenheim and Richmond are required to be licensed with annual fee of \$10.00.
- * This year an estimated 500 hives going into kiwifruit.

Andrew Matheson's motto:
*We, the willing
 Led by the unknowing
 Are doing the impossible
 For the ungrateful*

*We have done so much
 For so long, for so little
 We are now qualified
 To do anything with nothing*

* Revised Australian honey production figures, 3.7 t/100 hives.

* Drugs, Their Use in Control of ABD

"In 1981, 1154 hives infected with ABD were burnt in NSW compared to 254 in 1980."

"In Wiltshire, England, 249 cases ABD compared with an average of 25 per annum previously."

In both instances authors attributed increases to use of antibiotics for control of European Brood Disease.

Reference: *Hornitzky M, 1982. Bee Disease Research. Australasian Beekeeper 84 (1) : 7-10.*

* NB: Two very good reasons why the NZ Beekeeper should forget about this practice.

Waikato Bee Notes

* Honey heating cables - notes on Pyrotenax, Auto-trace Self Limiting Heating Cable.

A completely new product is Condec Electrically Conductive Coatings. Imagine a paint that will conduct an electric current using 6-240 volts depending on circuit and thickness/number of coats. Keep an eye on this one as it will be extremely useful for heating honey houses, hot rooms, drums, tanks, homes, even your boat hull.

* In addition to Redi-line generator there are two other products now available - Epcon Power Converter and Auto Arc.

* One or two minor bee thefts reported.

* Waikato sun spot graph predicts a shift to a series of dry or drier summers.

NB: Some years ago I gave Murray a chart of sun spot activity and how it related to water intake into the Southern lakes catchment. At the time it was being used by a number of people to plot dry and wet summers with some success. I gather Murray's predictions have been 'unreliable' ever since but if you try often enough you must come right, right!



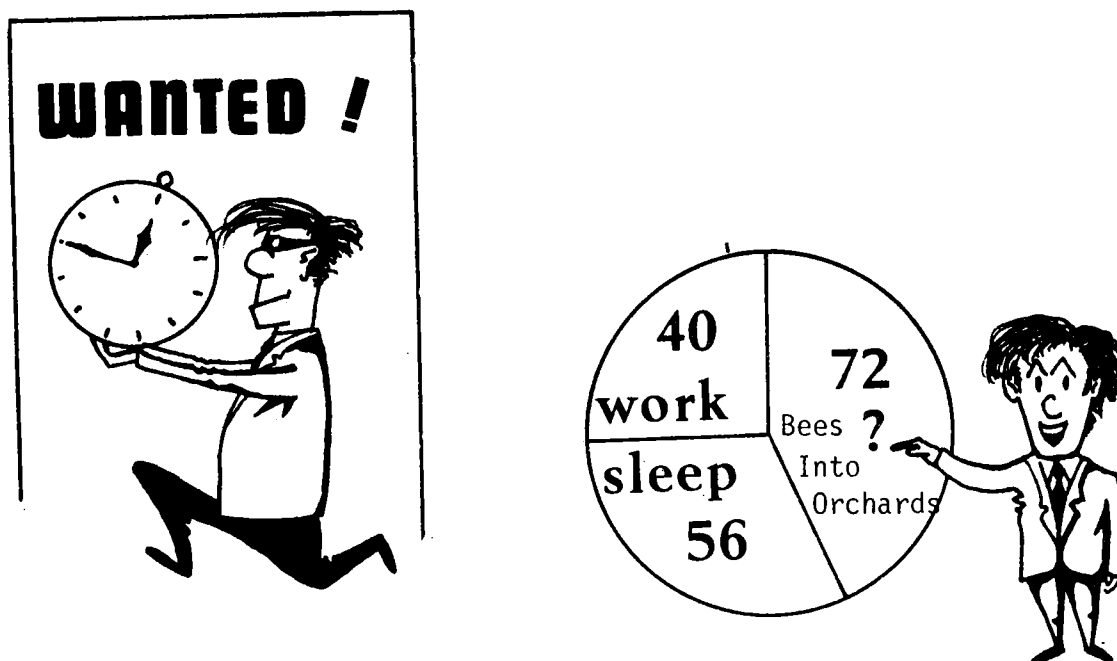
"It might be a temper tantrum; on the other hand, there could be a bee in his pants!"

QUOTE OF QUOTES - From an American visitor

"Six million hives used to pollinate almonds in California."

US Dept Ag figures give a total of 4.315 million hives in the entire USA and interestingly enough beekeeping has declined. In 1967 the total number exceeded 4.6 million hives; production per colony has also declined from a high of 27.2 kg to 18 kg, average production 24.3 kg. I always knew our American friends tended to exaggerate so I went a step further.

In California there are 163,900 ha (405,000 acres) of almonds which would require pollination. Now some growers would use the recommended number of colonies per hectare, 7-8, but most I understand use only 2-3/hectare, some relying on wind, other insects and spray pollination. At the very most 3.3 million would be used but there is good reason to believe the figure is in the vicinity of 600,000 - our visitor just added another zero.



CORRECTIONS

Tanalised Timber, Your Newsletter No 25, p 2.

Celcure Tricunol FC - the diluted product toxic to bees refers only to kerosene. If you use Tricunol and intend painting the timber it is recommended you use turps only.

Metalex - Note spelling naphthenate- not naphenate.

I have heard Metalex is no longer on the market and is very difficult to obtain. Tricunol is the logical alternative and enquiries can be directed to:

Rentokil, Wood Preservation Division, PO Box 90, Drury; or
Firth St, Drury.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Graham Walton is no longer CAO (Apiculture) having assumed a new role as CAO (Extension). Graham will however still have an association with the industry through the Apiaries Advisory Committee.

Murray Reid, Apicultural Advisory Officer, Hamilton is now the Chief Bee in MAF.

Cliff Van Eaton has been appointed Apicultural Advisory Officer, Gore and started there in October. Welcome aboard Cliff. Cliff's particular forte is queen rearing, or more specifically stock improvement programmes and artificial insemination expertise which will become keenly sought after in the future.

While on the subject of MAF personnel, there is only one Apiary Instructor left in New Zealand; that is Brian Milne, the rest of the apiary staff are all Apicultural Advisory Officers. Now I'm not snobbish, none of us can afford to be, but we do like to be introduced by our correct titles to any group, peer or otherwise.



BITS & PIECES

- * Light mortality to some early pollinating hives from late application of pre-blossom sprays.
- * The season has all the appearance of being a very dry one and so be very careful with matches, smokers etc.

Be sure to get that honey off early if you keep bees in the restricted zones. Dry conditions, tutu and passion vine hoppers are the equation for disaster when it relates to toxic honey. And please abide by the conditions of your permit.

- * The Forest Service has considered beekeeping in its Management Plan for the Kaimai State Forest. I have had some discussions with Mr Ross of NZFS and J Courtney, President of Bay of Plenty NBA went on a field trip to look over the proposed special interest areas.

The proposals look quite exciting and it is good to know the industry has not been forgotten and in fact has got in at the ground floor.

- * Over 650 people attended the three pollination seminars. Large numbers showed considerable interest in the display at the National Hort Field Days and I spoke on pollination to over 800 people at the MAF field days prior to the National, sharing a spot with Trevor Lupton, Horticultural Advisory Officer, Tauranga, since transferred to Gisborne. Trevor spoke on orchard layout and Pat Clinch's work.



Two is a crowd.

- * Don't get caught without queens next spring. Order your requirements now and requeen; make up nucs this summer and over winter them. You may need more feed but they pay handsome dividends.
- * To close this, the last Newsletter of 1982, I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

T G Bryant
Apicultural Advisory Officer

