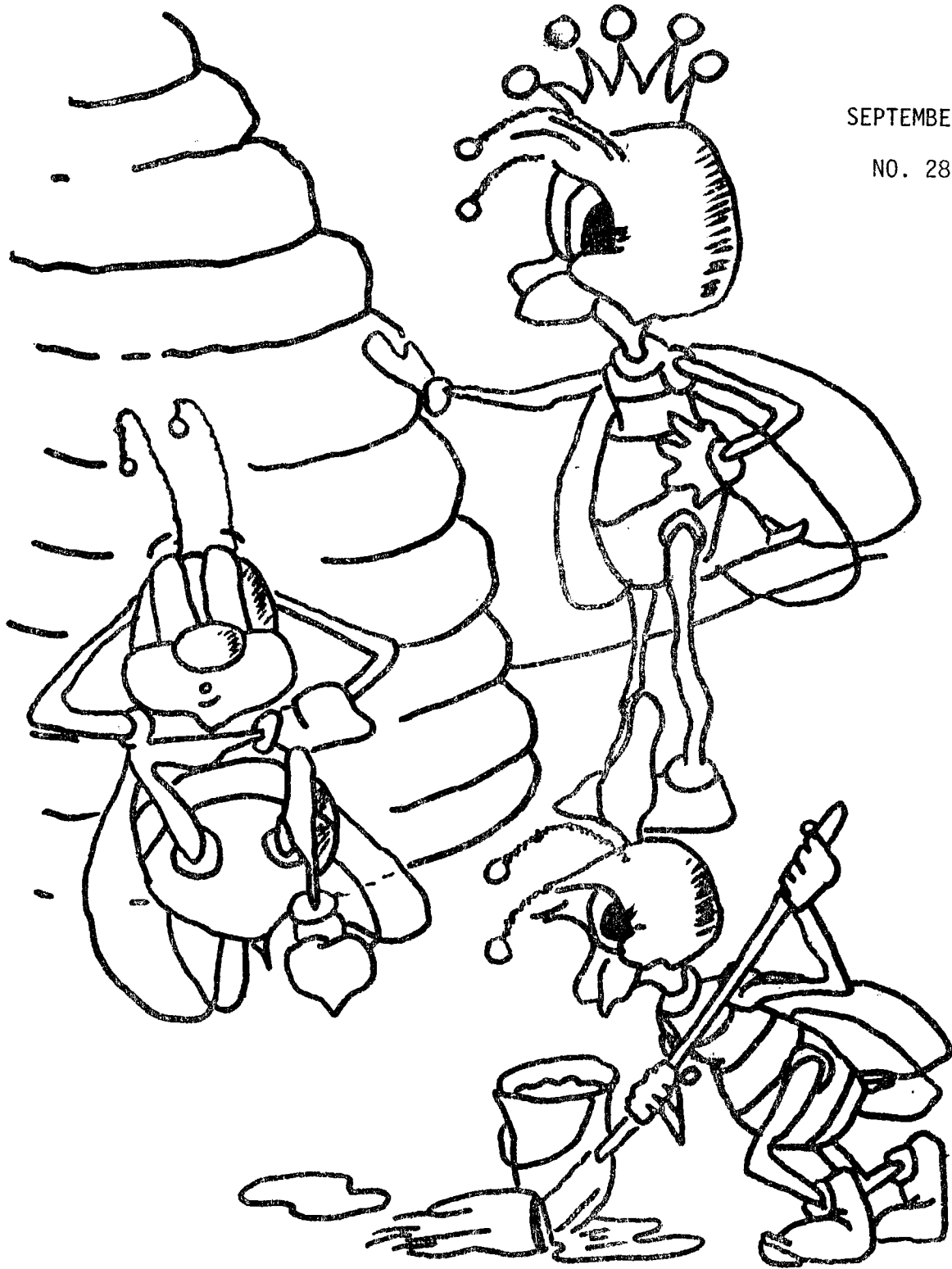


YOUR NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1983

NO. 28



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Apicultural Advisory Officer

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The essence of beekeeping is very simple, in practice, beekeepers make it very difficult not only for themselves but also for the animal which has to climb all the hurdles beekeepers put before it.

I'm often appalled at lack of foresight and thought shown by beekeepers to the basic fundamentals of successful beekeeping, e.g. apiaries sited on southern side of tall trees or hedges; no hive ventilation and poor site air drainage; hive placement aggravating drift by bees; overgrown apiary sites, poor access to apiaries and hives.

The problems associated with these all too common practices are further compounded by non observance of the principles of 'bee space', inadequate nutrition, irregular requeening, and the poor selection of breeding stock, particularly selection for resistance to Sac brood and Paralysis.

The cumulative effect of all these factors on per hive/apiary performance is then blamed on the weather or the season, never on the management practices of the beekeeper.



Think about it, if bees are to perform to their maximum efficiency, then as beekeepers we have to tailor our management to their needs, not the other way round, and every hive must perform, not a small percentage, it costs just as much to carry passengers as those that produce a crop.

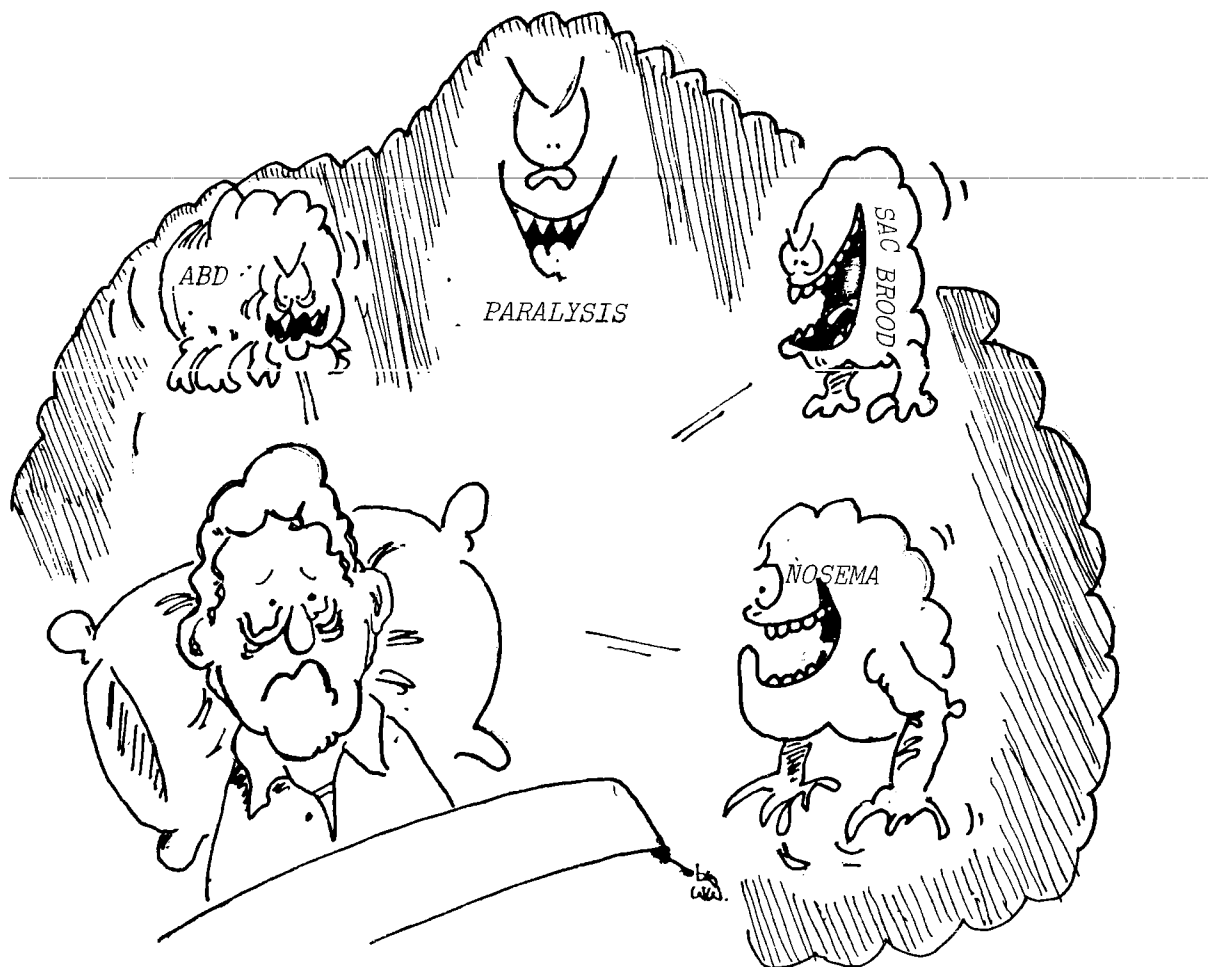
With ever diminishing resources as a result of increasing hive numbers beekeepers must not only be more efficient themselves, but consideration must be given to their most valuable resource, the worker honey bee.

HIVE INSPECTIONS

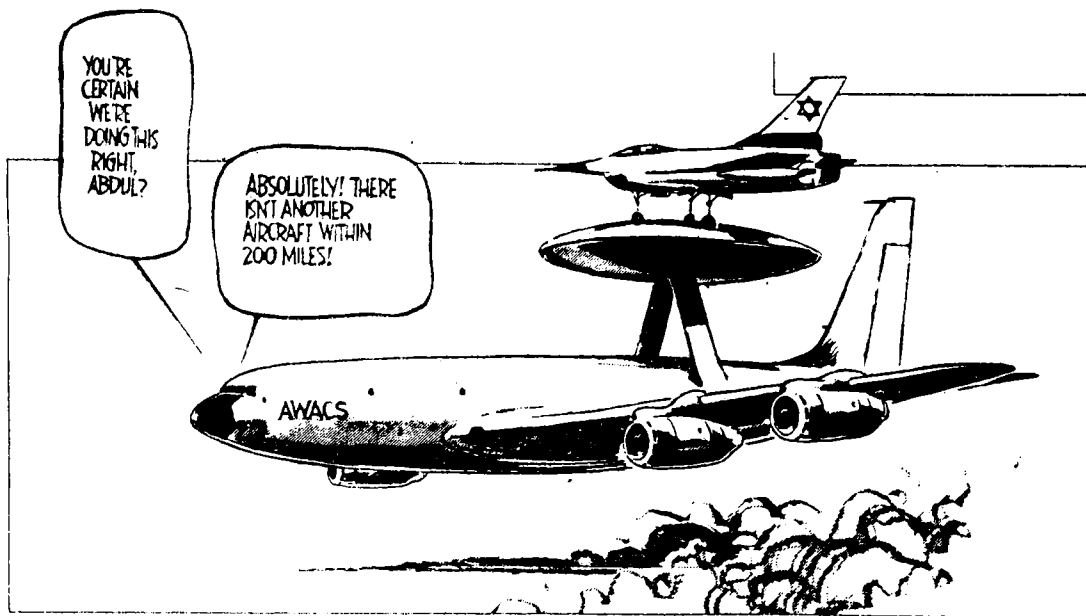
In August you all received the Annual Statement of Inspection and list of hive registrations, they are required to be back in the Tauranga Office by December 7, PLEASE don't renege on your obligations as responsible beekeepers, get those returns in as soon as possible.

Please ensure that all your apiaries are clearly identified with your registration number, you are required to do this by law, it is for your protection and definitely helps us to help you. I do not wish to slap notices of reminder on any beekeeper, but if necessary it will be done and followed up.

Report all disease to MAF forthwith, if not to me direct then contact Dave Sawden, MAF Tauranga, Ron Dunn, MAF Thames, Murray Thompson, MAF Gisborne, Rod Bell, MAF Whakatane or Opotiki, John Pollard, MAF Rotorua.



ANNUAL HIVE INSPECTIONS 1983



WHAT'S ON!

September 24 Field Day in Gisborne at Tairawhiti College

AM Hobbist beginning with bees
PM Advanced beekeeping.

All enquiries to Course Supervisor, Tairawhiti

October 14 & 15 - Cliff Van Eaton is visiting the region and a combined discussion group day is being organised with the Waikato (Murray Reid) so all those beekeepers interested in queen bee production and export can have the opportunity to speak with Cliff.

Saturday Oct 1 - B O P Beekeepers Field day to be held at John & Sue Brown's property, Main Road Katikati, starting at 11 am. Theme for the day, TREES FOR BEES, speakers include from NZ Forestry John Roper, MAF, N Z Tree Crops, Nurserymens Assn.

Competition - nailing and wiring frames - bring your frame jig, a nice prize for best and fastest. Bring your lunch and if day is fine, perhaps a BBQ at the Hot Springs in the late PM. All beekeepers welcome.

STOLEN HIVES

There has been a spate of beehive rustling in the region recently, hives have been lost on the Coromandel Peninsula and in Whakatane; keep a lookout for strange vehicles in apiaries and report anything suspicious to the Police. Just another very good reason for branding all equipment, there is no excuse as you have been warned repeatedly now for a number of years. Remember, if your equipment is to be identified it must be more substantial than just the way you put it together, positive identification is essential if any thief is brought before the courts. Personally, while I can sympathise with owners there is no excuse for failure to take reasonable precautions to protect your equipment, BRAND IT.

PROSPECTS

All indicators suggest that this season will be as dry as 1982, there is also out in the Pacific 'El Nino' or the Walker Cell which is having a major impact on global weather e.g. drought in Asia, Australia, Africa, Middle East, floods and storms in South America, North America and Europe.

In the Tauranga & Gisborne areas, rainfall is below half the average for this time of year, so where does that leave us as beekeepers?

The budding on Rewa rewa looks promising, old timers think it will be a good year for Tawari, thistle should be good, clover 'maybe', Manuka, well, there is a surprisingly good flowering now so your guess will probably be better than mine.

All this leads up to my next theme - Trees for bees.

A direct result of a paucity of spring nectar and pollen sources makes life very difficult for beekeeping in many areas and markedly increases the costs of maintaining hives and producing a crop of honey.

One thing we can all do is promote the planting of trees which will produce nectar and pollen. Right now with unemployment at an all time high, many local authorities are becoming active in this sphere, yet are they aware of beekeeping!! Some are, but we can do a lot more to promote our





concerns with these organisations e.g. Catchment Boards, Farm Forestry groups, N Z Tree Crops, N Z Forest Service, Local Bodies, Lands & Survey, N Z Road Boards (The beautification scheme) etc. etc.

An example of this is the retirement of large areas of land in the Ngakuru-Waikite Valley Areas by the Waikato Valley Authority, this same group is involved with the retirement of areas under L & S development around Taupo.

MAF has been liaising closely with the W.V.A. and amenity plantings incorporating trees for bees is going ahead.

Along many river banks and creeks willow, *Salix fragilis* is being removed by Catchment Boards, this is a valuable spring resource, surely it makes very good sense

for the industry to get alongside these people and promote the removal of these trees with the proviso that others are planted in their place. We cannot stop the removal of problem trees but rather than be negative, lets be positive and come up with acceptable alternatives to posts, wire and grass.

A classic example of negative thinking recently was the remit before conference on Privit *Ligustrum chinense* the species is a danger to our native forests, spreads rapidly, produces the worst honey I have ever tasted, it is poisonous to livestock, causes extreme discomfort to sufferers of hay fever and asthma, doesn't really contribute much to the hive as it flowers in December/January, yet it is suggested we should save it. One species, *L. vulgare*, flowers September, October, November.

As an ardent conservationist and environmentalist, I would gladly provide New Zealanders with an axe and chainsaw to rid our country of this species. Not all trees are good, so let's be rational, if something has to go let's put twice as much of what is good in its place.

If you want comprehensive lists of species suitable for amenity planting on farms and wasteland, then contact Murray Reid or myself.

EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES

The long term market for cut comb honey still looks bright, but if you are considering entering this field, do your homework, most of last year's crop is still in New Zealand. Could you maintain a cash flow if your crop has to sit for a year perhaps 2 years, as has been known to happen, the market would collapse if too many weak sellers abound.

There are existing prospects for queen bee exports to Canada, Middle East and U.K. Barry Hoskings came back full of enthusiasm but tempered by the knowledge that a marketing infra structure must be put in place if the full potential of that market is to be realised.



Well, our financial worries are over, We're out of money.

Essentials are quality control, organisers and agents, transportation, disease control (particularly Nosema) and all must be put in place before we all get carried away.

THE POLLINATION PRICE FREEZE EXEMPTION

This applies only to the Bay of Plenty and is subject to three conditions.

1. *The exemption applies specifically to the supply of pollination services to kiwifruit growers in the Bay of Plenty region.*
2. *Beekeepers are to negotiate any increase in service charges directly with the kiwifruit growers.*
3. *The Department of Trade and Industry is to be provided with details of proposed fees.*



Bill Pitzer
The Charleston Gazette

If you wish to be kept informed of all developments re pollination then join the Pollination Committee, Secretary N Wallingford, c/- B O P Community College, Private Bag, RD3, Tauranga. Subscription Fee \$10.

NEW PRODUCTS

60°C within 2 seconds of turning on the tap. The hot water supply continues as long or as short a time as the tap is turned on, power is consumed only when the tap is turned on and savings upwards of 40% have been shown in testing by Power Authorities. Designed for showers, handbasins and sinks, it connects directly to the cold water mains and would be ideal in honey houses, packing sheds, employee facilities etc.

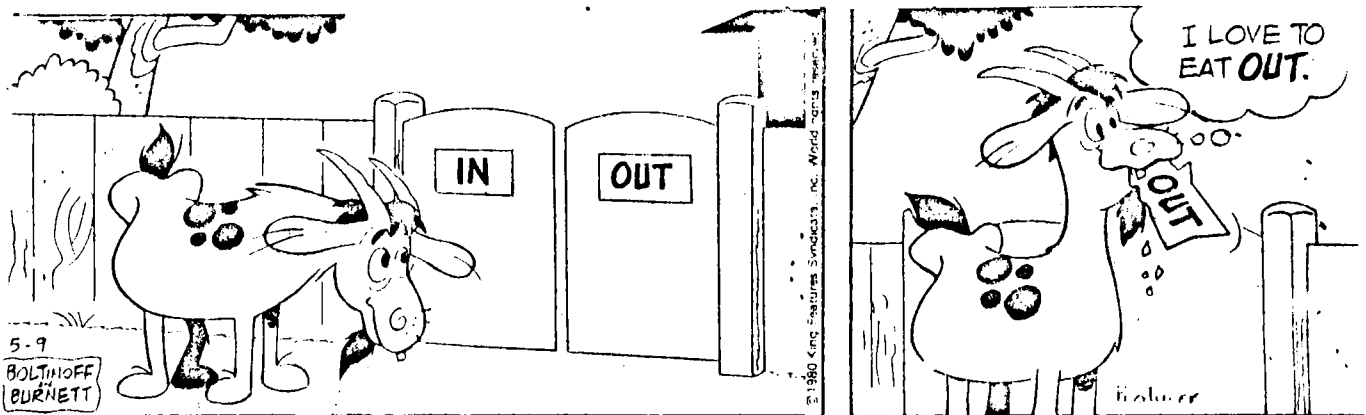
Renhardt Instant Water Heaters are available from Mitre 10 outlets and Plumbers Supplies, prices from \$218-243.

Drum Heater

A neat collar heater which fits snugly round a 44 gal drum has been used with considerable success by a Gisborne beekeeper. It fits between the two ridges around the drum, is electric and thermostatically controlled. For details write to B J Cocksedge & Co Ltd, P O Box 35094, Naenae.

Syrup Feeder

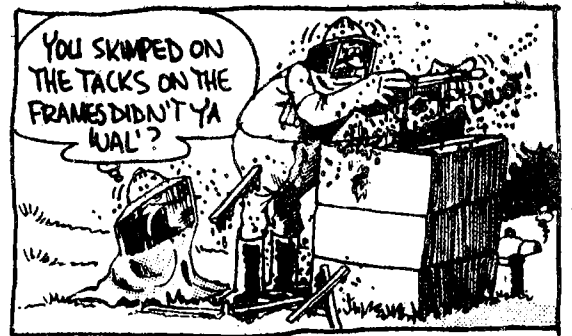
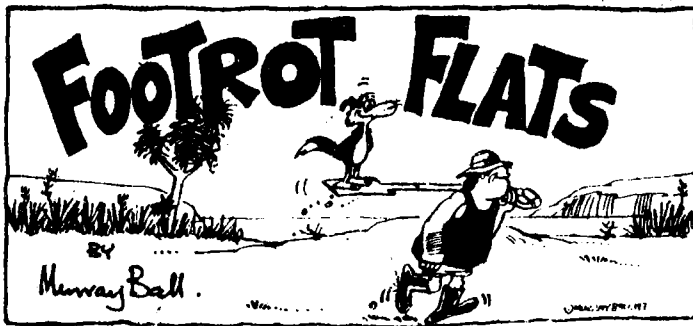
Alan Murray has designed and made a very useful feeder for his cell raisers, finishers and breeder queens. Using PVC piping, glue and a hole into the back of the hive eliminates robbing and is easily recharged.



BITS AND PIECES

- * Pollen Substitutes/supplements - Yeast.
Mauri D.Y.C. Foods, 54 Ponsonby Rd, Auckland,
have 10 kg bags roller dried yeast available
at \$29.00 bag. Suitable for bees.
- * Restricted Area Beekeepers, your permits
come up for renewal in December, don't forget.
- * A dry year is forecast - please be careful if
there is even a remote chance that your bees
may gather honey dew from hopper infested Tutu.
- * It's been a good winter but Nosema is a problem
for some beekeepers, too late to treat now but
you will need to consider management options to
control this disease in the autumn.
- * You have been told repeatedly, don't use any
wood treated with Tanalith for bee hive equipment.
Arsenic salts will leach out, regardless of what
you use to supposedly lock it in, yet beekeepers
will persist and their bees just as persistently
die. Please, just DON'T USE IT!

- * If you are contemplating getting involved in kiwifruit pollination, do your homework, know what it costs, what constitutes a pollinating unit and how to get the best out of your bees in the orchard. I'm convinced that if everything is right in the orchard and in the beehive we will be able to lower pollination costs to the kiwifruit industry despite higher pollination fees.
- * R Spong, Ohope, has 2 double skin 380 gal stainless steel tanks for sale \$500 o.n.o.
- * If you want frames constructed and wired or anything at all made up, then contact IHC Workshop in Whakatane. They are also looking for woodware work and have a good workshop, do a good turn and consult them if you can contract any of your needs out.
- * *Disclaimer: The mention of any proprietary product does not imply endorsement by MAF or recommendation over similar products not mentioned.*



All the very best for the approaching season.

Trevor

Trevor

HIVE
got warm feelings
for you!

