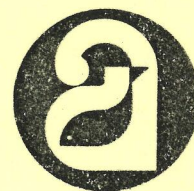
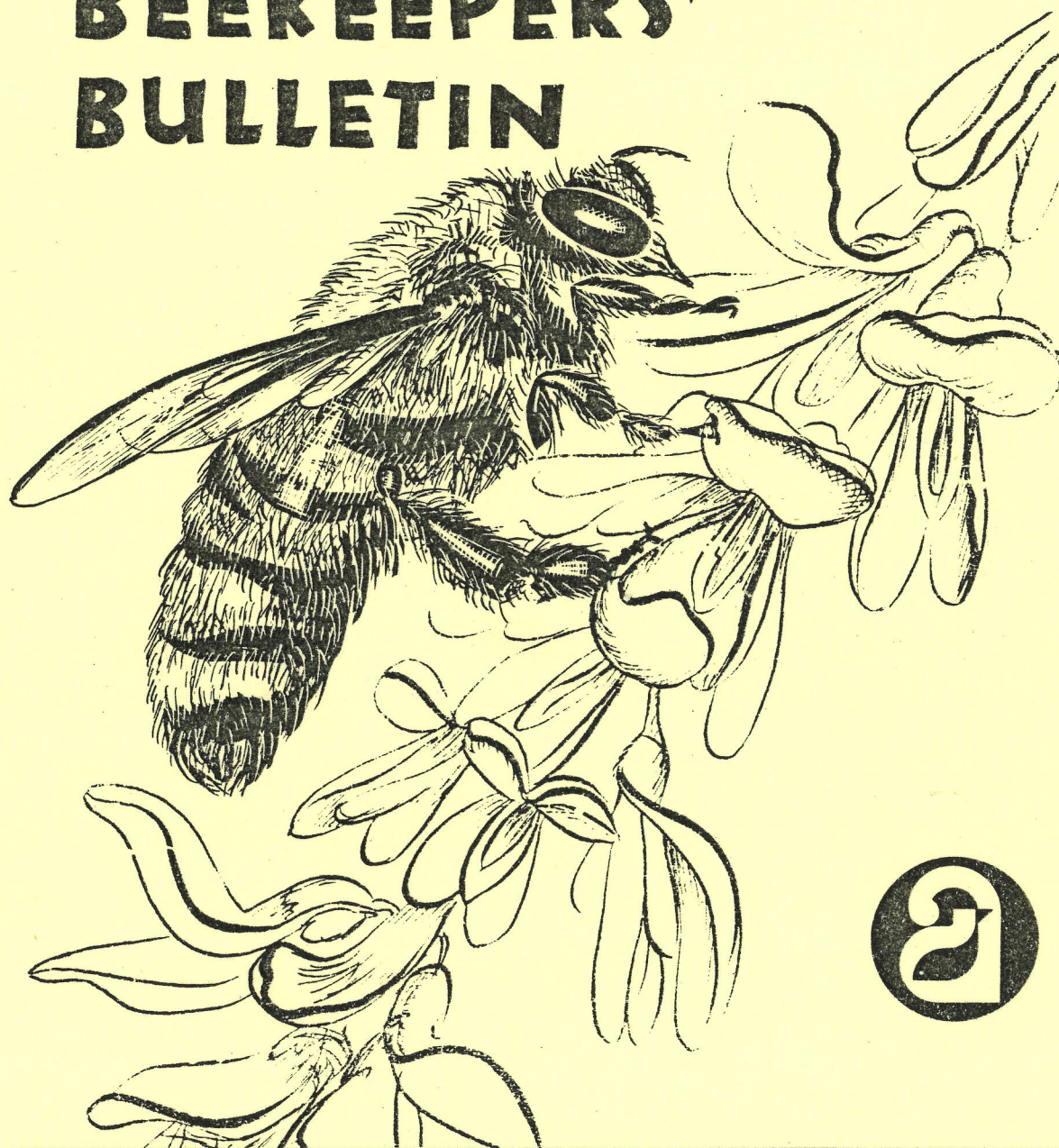


# THE BEEKEEPERS' BULLETIN



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A.G. Matheson  
Apicultural Advisory Officer  
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries  
Private Bag  
NELSON

Volume 5 number 2

November 1983

Telephone: 81 069 (Work)

After an early spring and bursting hives, many of us have had to put up with some pretty patchy weather. Pollination so far has been a catch-as-catch-can affair, with bees dashing out between squalls. It's this type of weather that makes adequate hive stocking rates essential in orchards.

This issue contains a real mixture of product news, research results, and news of happenings around the district. Read on .....



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#### REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

From time to time I've given details in this magazine of the benefits you may be eligible for under the regional development scheme. Alas, no more. As from 1 September, beekeeping is no longer eligible for assistance under this scheme. Putting up a new honey house is fine, but developing the hives to service it is a no-no.

Why I don't know - beekeeping is a rapidly growing industry, with considerable export potential. Under regional development beekeeping has been given a real boost in priority areas, which has been to the good of the industry and of those areas.



What I do know is that quite a few regional development councils around the country are upset at this decision, especially as it was made by someone in the Department of Trade and Industry without any consultation with regional councils, in direct contravention of an undertaking given to the regional council chairmen by the Minister.

Some of these chairmen are suggesting that beekeepers write to their MPs on the subject, especially to get across the fact that almost all new beekeepers are not eligible for Rural Bank finance, and so now development is made very difficult.

## NEW TYPE OF HEATING UNIT

A revolutionary type of heating unit is now being marketed in this country. Made in England, the Charlton energy unit electrical heating system operates with a "black box" energy unit connected to a heavy steel wire rope or a length of reinforcing steel.

The energy unit is a type of transformer, and the steel rope actually becomes part of the secondary winding of it. The steel rope or reinforcing steel runs at less than 25 volts, and is heated up to a pre-determined temperature.



In the UK the unit is used for heating public buildings, sports fields, glasshouses and the like.

Claimed advantages include:

- the heating cable is much more robust than conventional systems, and is virtually unbreakable.
- running costs are very low.
- the energy unit has only one moving part (the on-off switch), and so is practically maintenance free.

- the low voltage of the heating cable makes the system very safe.
- the heating "element" has a large surface area, and so heat is discharged more rapidly than with a small cable.

I haven't seen any of these units in action, because the New Zealand distributor only got the import licence for them last month. If you are needing a new heating system for a hot room, or for honey tanks or pipes, contact the NZ distributor:

Mr P Cronin  
 Royce Thermosystems  
 65b Brook Street  
 Nelson  
 Phone: 85 795

AND MORE ON STAYING WARM ...

Another revolutionary heating method is the range of Condec electrically conductive coatings. You paint the coating onto the surface needing heat, apply an electric current, and hey presto - heat.

Condec coatings are used on airport runways, pipelines, and walls and floors of buildings. The voltage used varies from 6-240 V, and the resistance of the coating (and thus the heat given off) depends on the number of coatings used. Possible beekeeping uses include hot rooms, tanks, pipes; etc.

The New Zealand distributors are:

P H Rothschild & Co Ltd  
 P O Box 30 170  
 Lower Hutt  
 Phone Wellington 663 581

... OR COOL

The gleaming white cool stores you see around the district are made from prefabricated panels, which are finding increasing use in the beekeeping world. I've seen cool rooms made of this material, and one Canterbury beekeeper has made an entire honey house from it, because of cost savings incurred by savings on framing.

A 3.6 m x 2.4 m x 2.4 m kitset hot/cool room sells for \$2 940. Contact:

Rudnev Construction Systems  
33 Brighton Road  
Green Island  
Dunedin.

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#### WHAT IS THE IBRA?

At the Nelson conference a motion was passed supporting a move for the NBA to become a member of the IBRA. So what is the IBRA, and why should we support it?

The initials stand for the International Bee Research Association, a 34-year old organisation which exists to

- increase systematic knowledge on bees and beekeeping, and to
- make the knowledge as widely available as possible.

The IBRA carries out this task in all sorts of ways; by publishing magazines and books, by organizing international conferences, and by distributing beekeeping literature published by other organisations.

The three journals published by IBRA are:

- Bee World, a general beekeeping magazine.
- Journal of Apicultural Research, a scientific publication.
- Apicultural Abstracts, which contain listings or summaries of virtually every book, article or report that is to do with beekeeping.

You can obtain full details of membership and the range of material available from IBRA by writing to the New Zealand representative:

Trevor Bryant  
Apicultural Advisory Officer  
Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries  
Private Bag  
Tauranga.

# BOOKS



## BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

Are you being asked to drop any hints for Christmas presents?

Well if the kids can't afford the new uncapping machine this year, how about a book?

- "The New Zealand farmer's guide to financial planning", by C R Latta. Soft cover, published by Whitcoulls, 1983 revision. A very easy-to-understand introduction to all aspects of your business; cash books, banking, income tax reductions deductions and fiddles, partnerships, loan applications, estate planning, etc. Available from most bookshops for \$12.95.
- "Beekeeping at Buckfast Abbey" by Brother Adam. The story of Brother Adam's 65 years of beekeeping. \$US 11.00 from the IBRA representative.
- "Langstroth on the hive and the honey bee". A 378 page facsimile of Langstroth's book, first published in 1853. \$US 15.50 from the IBRA representative.
- "A manual for New Zealand beekeepers" by W C Cotton. Facsimile of a book first published in 1848, 115 pages. \$US 9.00 from the IBRA representative.
- "Bees and mankind". A new book by Dr John Free, about bees and their relationship with man from prehistoric times. \$US 20.25 from the IBRA representative.

\$US 1.00 costs a bit less than \$NZ 1.50.

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FROM THE SO-YOU-THINK-YOU'VE-GOT-PROBLEMS DEPARTMENT

From a British beekeeping journal:

- \* queens £6.00 (\$14.40) - £10.00 (\$25.00)
- \* four-frame nucs £33.00 (\$79.20)
- \* two-box hives from £50.00 (\$120.00)
- \* light honey in 30 lb tins 75p/lb (\$4.50/kg)
- \* heather honey £1.00/lb (\$6.00/kg)
- \* Manley frames £40.00 (\$96.00) per hundred
- \* foundation (medium brood) £4.00 (\$9.60) per ten sheets.

# Honey Market News

The August issue of American Bee Journal contains a survey of bee product prices throughout the U.S. I've listed a selection of them below, and have converted the prices to New Zealand dollars per kilogram (except where otherwise stated).

<u>Product</u>	<u>Average price</u>	<u>Range of prices</u>
WHOLESALE HONEY		
white	\$1.91	\$1.68 - 2.31
amber	\$1.75	\$1.42 - 2.15
manufacturing	\$1.49	\$1.19 - 1.88
RETAIL HONEY		
500 g glass jar	\$2.38	\$1.65 - 3.12
BEESWAX		
light	\$4.06	\$3.30 - 5.28
dark	\$3.70	\$2.97 - 4.95
POLLEN		
wholesale	\$15.38	\$8.25 - 26.40
retail	\$32.74	\$19.80 - 46.20

## N.B.

The "average price" is not necessarily the going rate in any district, but is the average of the mean prices for each region. Bulk prices for honey are delivered into the buyer's warehouse, containers exchanged or furnished by the buyer, and cash on delivery.

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*Those who can't  
Manage those who can.*

HONEY PACKAGING

We've come a long way from the one-pound wax pottle and the five-pound tin of honey. New ideas in packaging are being developed all the time, and it is good to see honey being presented in a variety of imaginative ways.

This section of the Bulletin contains a summary of different packaging materials that I've recently seen being used for honey. Two of these are very new for honey, and bring an exciting new dimension to the product: the PET Polyjar, and the Tekpack "Safepak".

\* \* \* \* \*

CPI

CPI make a honey jar in a new kind of plastic called P.E.T. (not because it's a pet idea of mine, but if you really want to know it's a thermoplastic polyester called polyethylene terephthalate). This is the material used to make the disposable plastic soft-drink bottles that you see littering the countryside nowadays.





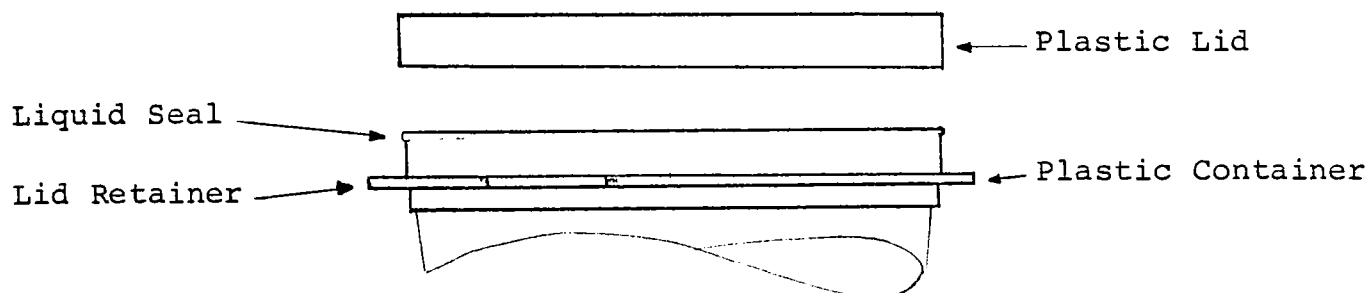


### Teckpak

Ever had the tops come off honey pots while they're being shipped? A new kind of pack will end those days for ever. It's called "Safe-a-pak", and the secret is a rim, or lid retainer, around the pack just below where the lid fits on. The rim prevents any upward force from flipping the lid off.

Fine, but do you need a knife to get in? No, the lid retainer is missing in one place, allowing a finger in to lift the lid off. The pack is being used for marinated mussels, so have a look at those in a shop to see what "Safe-a-pak" looks like. It would be especially suitable for liquid or soft honeys.

#### SAFE-A-PAK CONTAINER



Prices quoted are ex store Dunedin, in lots of 1 000 containers and 2 000 lids. Your own design can be printed on the pack if required. There is only one size produced at present - the 380 ml which holds 500 g of honey.

Quantity	Price per thousand		
	container	lid	printing
1 000 - 9 900	\$65	\$35	\$30
10 000 - 99 900	\$60	\$30	\$30
100 000 plus	\$55	\$25	\$30

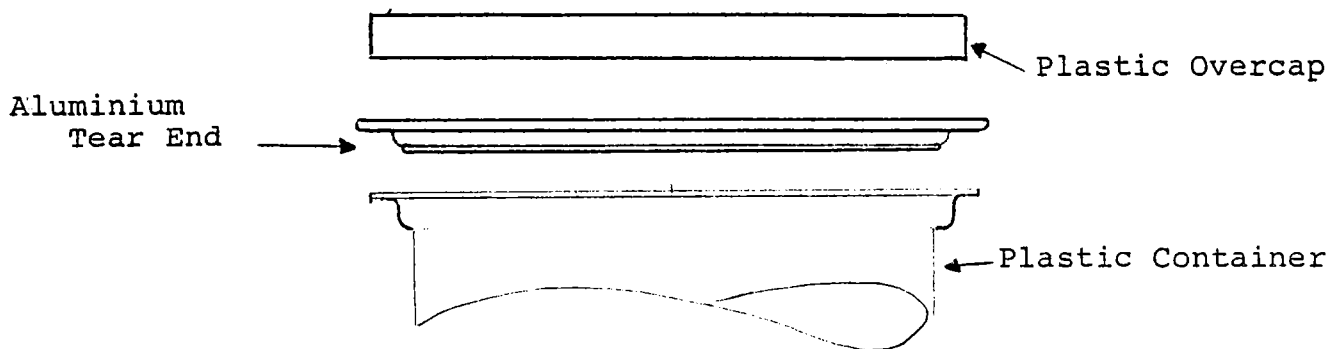
Teckpak Plastics Ltd  
544 Kaikorai Valley Road (or P O Box 713)  
Dunedin

Phone 30 691, after hours 44 826 or 883 359

Teckpak also produce sealed containers, with aluminium "tear top" ends. The container is plastic, which has an aluminium end sealed on after filling. There is a plastic overcap for later use.

This pack is called "Seal-pak", and comes in a 380 ml (500 g) size. The material used is polypropylene (clear, semi-opaque, or coloured) or K resin (crystal clear or coloured).

### SEAL-PAK CONTAINERS



Quantity	Price per thousand (ex Dunedin)			
	Polypropylene container overcap		K resin container overcap	
1 000 - 9 900	\$90	\$35	\$110	\$35
10 000 - 100 000	\$80	\$30	\$100	\$30
100 000 - 250 000	\$70	\$28	\$90	\$28

aluminium tear ends \$105 per thousand  
 printing \$30 per thousand  
 art work - by quotation.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Singleton

Singleton Signs of Invercargill make two plastic honey containers with snap-on lids. They are sold plain, stock printed, or printed to order. To print your own design on they normally require a minimum order of 5 000 containers, but smaller lots will be done subject to a \$100 printing charge.

code	size	cost per unit	
		plain	printed
MS3	500 g	14¢	16¢
MS4	900 g	26¢	28¢

The 900 g pot will contain 1 kg of honey if desired.

Singleton Signs  
128 Ettrick Street  
Invercargill

Phone 86 732

#### Auckland Tool and Gauge

This firm makes the familiar 2 kg plastic pot, and three other sizes in the same range. They are made of polypropylene, and are available in red, yellow, orange, blue, green, or white. All colours have white snap-on lids.

Costs vary with quantity, with a minimum order of one carton. Prices are f.o.b. or f.o.r. Auckland, with lids included.

size	number per carton	weight of carton	size of carton	price range per unit
500 g	500	14.75 kg	0.12 m <sup>3</sup>	22.1-20.5¢
650 g	450	17.25 kg	0.12 m <sup>3</sup>	27.0-24.8¢
1 250 g	300	19.0 kg	0.12 m <sup>3</sup>	31.3-29.1¢
2 000 g	200	18 kg	0.12 m <sup>3</sup>	38.8-36.7¢

Auckland Tool & Gauge Co Ltd  
P O Box 40 167  
Glenfield  
Auckland 10

Phone 478-9185

Telegrams "Sparkmold"

Lily Cups

The Lily Division of Winstone's make a number of packs that are suitable for honey.

- Wax pottles: the standard "pure NZ honey" red printing, or plain waxed which can be printed with your own design. 500 g or 900 g,
- Plastic pots: clear, translucent, or white. Plain sides or fluted sides, with snap-on lid. Various sizes, including 500 g and 900 g.

Prices vary a lot in the range that's available, depending on number ordered, printing, size etc. For further information contact the local sales representative

David Kennedy  
Frank M Winstone (Merchants) Ltd  
P O Box 16-266  
Christchurch Phone 69 418

or the head office

Lily Division  
Frank M Winstone (Merchants) Ltd  
P O Box 21-296  
Auckland 8 Phone 836-5069

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#### HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR CONCRETE LAYING SKILLS

Laying any concrete soon? You might find these two Aglinks useful:

FPP 750 describes the various components of concrete, a variety of mixes for different conditions, and some general pointers for concrete work on the farm.

FPP 751 explains how to mix and lay the concretes described.

Both are written by two members of the NZ Concrete Research Association. Ask for them at your nearest MAF office, or write to Information Services, MAF, Private Bag, Wellington.

## FIGHTING FOR POLLEN AND NECTAR SOURCES

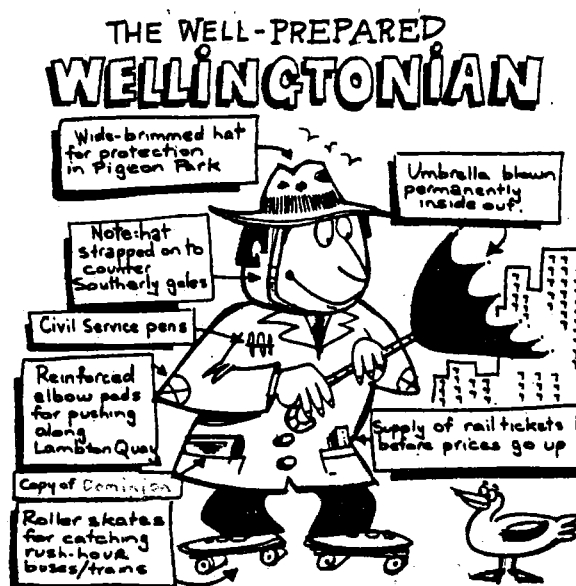
The Waipa County Council's willow-clearing programme came under fire from the Waikato NBA branch recently. But instead of just moaning about it, the branch sent a deputation to a council meeting to explain why willows are important to beekeepers. The council gave them a sympathetic hearing, and agreed to leave willows every 100 m or so along the rivers for immediate relief. A replanting programme using PEP labour is also being considered.

In Australia the beekeepers' legal case against the CSIRO has finally been decided. The beekeepers wanted to prevent the CSIRO (the Aussie equivalent of our DSIR) from releasing parasites onto Salvation Jane, on the grounds that the drawbacks of the plant to farmers are far outweighed by the benefits to the beekeeping industry.

The court issued an injunction against CSIRO to prevent parasite release while the case was being heard. The final decision has now been made, and it is that CSIRO cannot release any insects that will harm the plant. The CSIRO must also pay legal costs (about \$NZ 120 000) to the Salvation Jane Defence Committee that was set up by the beekeepers.

References: "Loss of pollen threat to beekeepers"  
New Zealand Herald 20/9/83

"Report to contributors to Salvation Jane  
legal aid" Australasian Beekeeper,  
July 1983, page 1.



## NEWS FROM OZ...

- \* Australia's new Federal Labour Government has promised to develop a national reforestation and tree regeneration programme. Beekeepers have recently been recognised for drought aid, so they may benefit from a new drought section promised for the DPI (their equivalent of MAF).
- \* The Victorian Apiarists' Association has negotiated with the government for a 50% subsidy on sugar for supplementary feeding of bees affected by the drought. The subsidy has come at a very appropriate time for beekeepers, with severe setbacks from drought recently and the prospect of more poor seasons.
- \* Post-devaluation minimum export prices for Australian honey (f.o.b. prices per tonne).

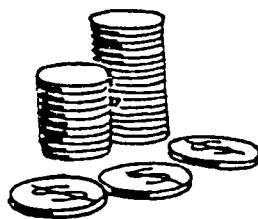
W	\$NZ 1 385
ELA	\$NZ 1 300
LA	\$NZ 1 274
MA	\$NZ 1 157
A	\$NZ 1 099
DA	\$NZ 1 072

Source - Australian Bee Journal April 1983.

- \* And some exciting news about beekeeping research over there. The Australian Honey Board has increased its research grants by 70% to \$A 101 600 (\$NZ 132 000) for the 1982-83 year.

Research projects that are being assisted include studies of diseases, bee breeding, insecticide levels in bee-collected pollen, the nutritional state of bee colonies, and many other subjects. A grant was also made to help a department beekeeping officer make a study tour overseas.

Source - Australian Bee Journal February 1983.



## MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

With the bad crop in Southland this year (what crop? many beekeepers would ask), Cliff van Eaton has been doing an extra amount of financial monitoring work with individual beekeepers. He also took time out to summarise the results, and compare them with the pastoral farming survey done by the other farm advisers in the Gore office.

	Beekeeper	Farmer
Assumptions	-725 hives -ten-year average (3.6 tonnes/100)	-sheep and beef -all class average
Gross farm income	49 080	95 268
Cash expenditure (including interest)	26 150	71 438
Cash surplus	22 930	23 830 *(see note below)
Less drawings, taxation, and principal repayments	13 531	22 632
Surplus for ploughback	9 399	1 198

\* this becomes  
16 491 if SMP  
payments aren't  
included.

So the comparison is: a farmer earns a lot more than a beekeeper, but spends a lot more too, and ends up with almost exactly the same cash surplus. Of course there is one difference; 31% of the farmer's cash surplus is not real, it comes from you and me in the form of SMPs.



What happens in a bad year? Assuming a 17% crop reduction, to 3 tonnes/100, this is what happens to the beekeeper:

	3 tonne year	average (3.6 tonne) year
Gross income	40 896	49 080
Cash expenditure (including interest)	25 523	26 150
Cash surplus	15 373	22 930
Less drawings, taxation, and principal repayments	13 531	13 531
Surplus for ploughback	1 842	9 399

His cash income drops significantly, but his expenses drop very little. It costs about the same to service an apiary in a bad year as it does in a good.

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#### COMB HONEY STANDARDS

Once again this season will see the appearance in shops of repulsive little portions of wax and honey wrapped up in flimsy cellophane. These objects don't sell very well (surprise, surprise), so they sit on the shelf and become even more objectionable. Retailers won't restock a product until it has moved, which holds back sales for responsible producers.

If you are prepared to do the industry a disservice by not packing your product properly, then perhaps you shouldn't bother retailing at all. Your saving a few dollars in packaging costs will cost the beekeeping industry a lot in bad public relations.

The law requires that comb honey is packaged with

- the name of the product, e.g. "comb honey", "comb honey with pollen", etc;
- the net weight (which may be expressed as a minimum);
- your name and address.

It's not against the law, but it is a bad idea to sell honey with thumb marks in the comb, or cracked and weeping surfaces.

## NEWS FOR VID-KIDS

The high point (or low point) of video games has been reached with the release of "Warning ... Killer Bees".

The advertising for the game is full of such junk as "The human race has met its match! The Killer Bees have invaded! Where do we run? Where do we hide? Saving the earth is in your hands!" Etc, etc.

Even more reason for beekeepers to intensify their public education effort, to show that

- beekeeping is a normal part of farming,
- bees are not "killers".

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## DR FREE NOT FREE TO COME

Dr John Free of Rothamstead, England, is now not coming to New Zealand. Dr Free is a world authority on various aspects of foraging behaviour and pollination, and was going to visit this country in 1984. Unfortunately health problems have ruled this out.

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## THERE ARE HIVES AND HIVES

I've always maintained that we are very fortunate in New Zealand to have one standard hive type. We have Isaac Hopkins to thank for promoting the Langstroth so vigorously a hundred years ago.

Of course it's quite different in England - there is a large number of different designs, each promoted by its enthusiasts as the best or the only hive to use.

I was recently looking through some 15 year old British beekeeping magazines, as they passed over my desk on their way to the rubbish bin. Apparently a Captain Tredwell had written an article saying that

- Britain should standardize on one hive type, and
- to keep in step with the rest of the world, that type should be the Langstroth.

And what a source of controversy that was! Everybody wrote in with their pet theories:

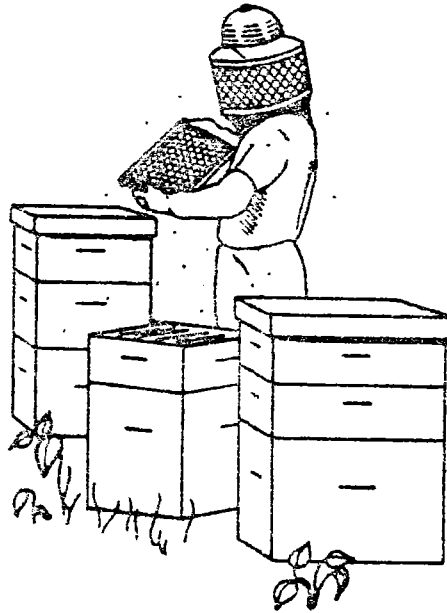
"I agree that we need a standard hive. But why Langstroth? May I suggest the British Commercial Frame."

"I commend beekeepers to the square hive of the National type."

"If Captain Tredwell would only use a dozen McGrane hives for a few years and then give us his impressions, I am sure he would change his mind."

They even held a two-day conference to "consider the Langstroth hive as the standard beehive for England and Wales", but it can't have been very successful, as the vast number of varieties still persists. As one wit concluded; "if Captain Tredwell succeeds in getting everyone to adopt his standardization idea half the correspondence will disappear from the Bee Press - whatever will we have to argue about?"

And do you know why the Langstroth box ended up roughly 16 x 20 x 10 inches? There is a good deal of evidence that this was the size of cases used to import French wine to the U.S.A. in the early days, and so with a few modifications these cases could be made into supers. (In New Zealand a very similar story applied to petrol boxes, by sheer coincidence.)





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#### SACRED DIMENSIONS

Mr Langstroth did nothing in vain;  
 And he drank such a lot of Champagne  
     That he had to contrive  
     That the size of his hive  
 Could be cut from the cases again.

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Important  
Message

#### A WORD FROM THE REGISTRAR

If you haven't already posted your inspection statement off, then you've nearly run out of time. The end of November is the deadline to have your inspection work done by, and 7 December the absolute limit for the forms to be in this office. So help us to help you, and please tow the line.

#### AND A WORD ABOUT PERMITS

Don't forget that you need a permit from this office in advance to:

- sell any hives or nucs, or
- shift hives to another apiary district (i.e. "over the hill").

I'm not going to insist that you ask for a permit before you establish any new apiary (which is what the book really requires), but I would ask your co-operation to help the system work. So please,

- register new apiaries within 14 days of putting them down, and
- make sure your number is clearly displayed in every yard.

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#### NOSEMA IN CAGED QUEENS

Queens in mating nucs and mailing cages can become infected with Nosema spores, and heavily infected queens are usually superseded after introduction. Ways of reducing Nosema infection in queens include feeding fumagillin (Fumidil-B) to mating nucs, and hives that are used to provide attendants.

But what about feeding fumagillin to the queen and attendants in cages? The answer is that feeding it in water is not very useful, as the bees don't readily take it up. But a solution of fumagillin in sugar syrup is very good at reducing Nosema levels in the cage.



To test this, USDA scientists fed queen bees with about 100 000 Nosema spores. After a week back in the hive the queens were caged with 6 attendants, and stored for a week in an incubator. Half of them were fed fumagillin in syrup, while the others were fed straight syrup.

The syrup was 50% by volume (or approximately 2:1 by weight), with fumagillin added at the rate of 100 mg/3.8 litres of syrup. That's a quarter of a small (0.5 g) bottle of Fumidil B per imperial gallon of syrup, or the whole bottle per 19 litres.

The results:

queens not fed fumagillin	average of 18 million spores per queen
queens fed fumagillin	no spores detectable

Remember, though, that if a queen is installed in a colony with infected bees, she can be reinfected fairly rapidly. Remember too, that infection in a colony that has been treated with drugs can recur once treatment has been stopped, because of the reservoir of spores in the hive.

Lehnert, T. 1977. Nosema control in queens in mailing cages. Journal of Apicultural Research 16 (3): 163-164.

#### BUT FIRST GET YOUR QUEENS

Queens have been in high demand this season, and I know that a lot of beekeepers have missed out. The solution?

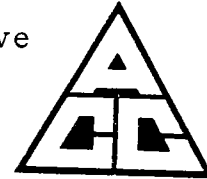
- raise your own,
- order spring queens well in advance, or
- requeen in autumn.

The last option has a lot going for it, and I'm sure it wouldn't hurt to get your autumn orders in now.

## NEW ACCIDENT COMPENSATION SCHEME

Self-employed people, especially farmers, often complain that they get a rough deal from the ACC. Compensation relates mainly to people with steady weekly earnings, and for the self-employed compensation is based on the net taxable income figure from the last financial year. Of course with people madly fiddling their books to minimise taxable income, any compensation is minimised too. (No I'm not talking about you, but the other bloke.)

The ACC has two schemes designed to give effective compensation to self-employed people.



### 1. Minimum relevant earnings scheme

- (a) Full time self-employed (over 30 hrs/week) are deemed to be earning \$100 per week, and are levied accordingly. In the event of temporary total incapacity, 80% of that (i.e. \$80 per week) is paid.
- (b) Other self-employed (less than 30 hrs/week, or full-timers before a full financial year has been completed). The relevant minimum earnings in this case are a whole \$20 a week, so compensation is worked out at \$16/week.

So, not much joy. What's new is the optional scheme.

### 2. Optional scheme

This gives full-time self-employed the option of choosing to join a scheme where compensation is paid at a figure determined each year by the ACC. This figure is based on the average weekly wage, and at the moment is \$13 832/year or \$266/week.

If you elect to join the scheme you are levied on the basis of this amount, but if you are incapacitated by an accident compensation will be based on the \$266/week, not your taxable profit.

You can't join the scheme at any time, but have to join by 7 March each year for the following financial year. The application form is incorporated in the IR3, and your accountant will have details.

If you trade through a company; sorry, but you're deemed to be an employee of that company as far as ACC is concerned, and neither of these schemes is open to you.

The optional scheme is effectively an accident insurance scheme run by the ACC. All full-time self-employed should be in this scheme or in a similar private scheme, to protect their business in case of incapacity.

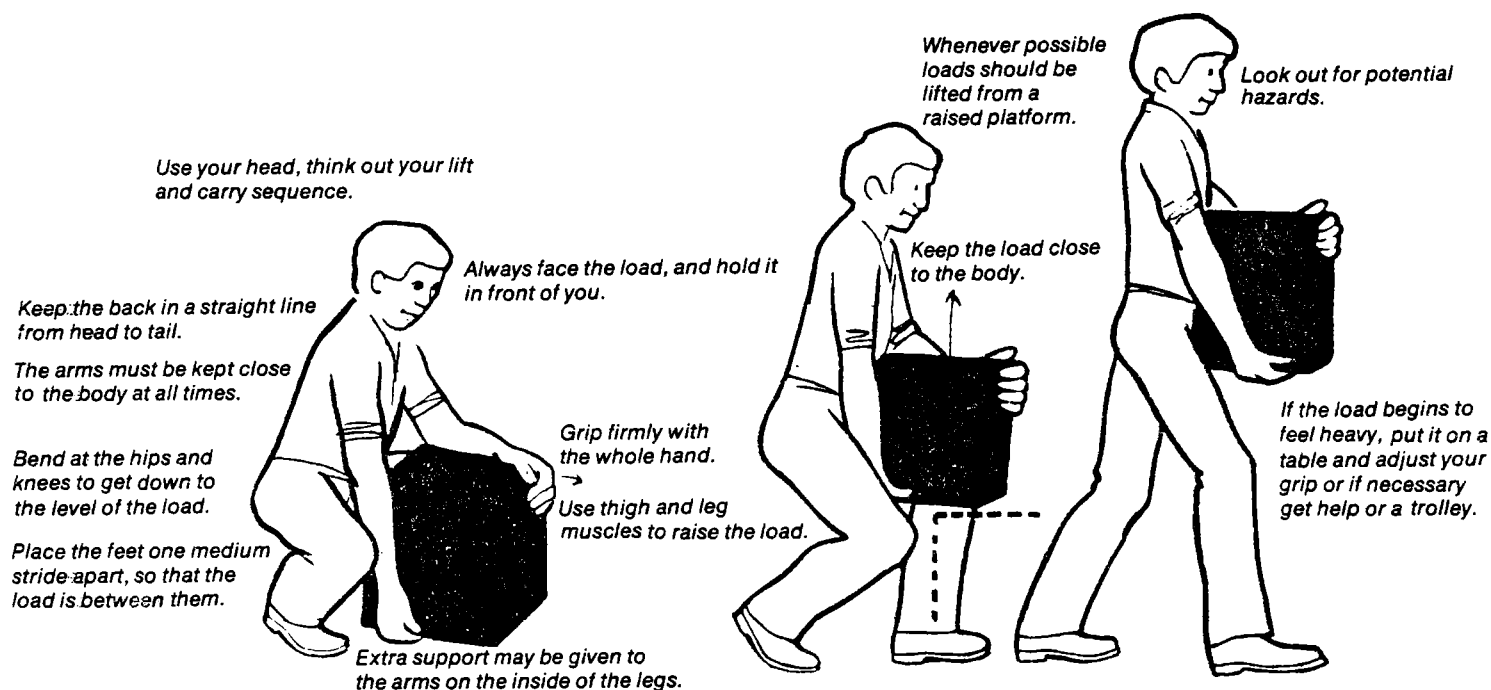
For further details pick up copies of this booklet from your local office of the ACC, or write to their Head Office at Private Bag, Wellington.

"Compensation for the self-employed" 1 April 1983, 19 pages.

If you employ staff, also get:

"Compensation at work - a guide to the employer's accident compensation liability" 1 April 1983, 24 pages.

There is also a MAF aglink on ACC for the farming community; ask for FPP 770 "Accident compensation; safety, rehabilitation, compensation; for farmers."



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## VISITORS TO NEW ZEALAND

- \* Early next year we will be fortunate to have with us one of the world's foremost authorities on honey bee diseases. Dr Hachiro Shimanuki is the head of the US Department of Agriculture bee research unit in Beltsville, Maryland.

The visit is now being finalised, and the money that MAF will be putting up to fund it has now been approved. "Shim" will probably be based at the Mt Albert entomological research centre in Auckland, but will be visiting as much of New Zealand as possible in his three months or so here.

- \* Kerry Simpson is working on a Ministry of Foreign Affairs aid project on Tuvalu, a small independent nation near the equator north of Fiji.

The project aims to set up a small beekeeping industry on one of the islands of Tuvalu, and the first hives were established there earlier this year.

As part of training for the locals, two Tuvaluans have come to New Zealand for five weeks. Apart from looking at beekeeping in general (there was no beekeeping on the island before), they will be looking at queen raising, and diagnosing disease and queen problems in a hive.

Some of you have assisted with similar training for the Papua New Guineans I have had here before, and I will be introducing these two visitors to West Coast and Nelson beekeeping during the week of the 21st November.

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DO YOU HAVE ANY FUNNY BUGS?

Q. What's the best way to get well?

A. Make an appointment with the doctor. The symptoms disappear the day before you actually go to see him/her.

Well it might be a bit like that with bee diseases too. While Dr Shimanuki is here he will be looking at our mysterious "half moon disorder" - to find out if it's a disease or not, and if so, what sort.

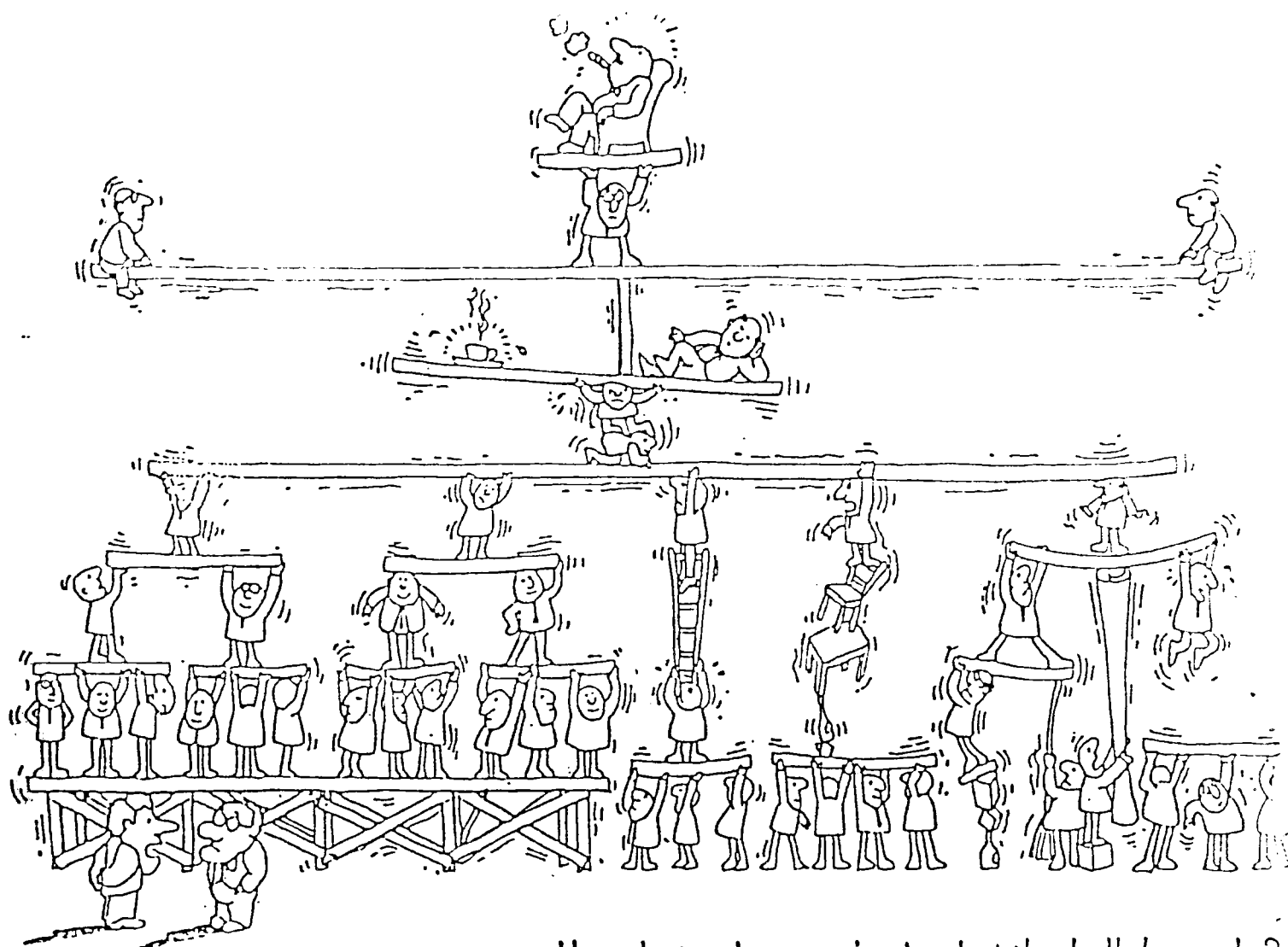
Now it seems that half moon is lying low, and there's not so much of it around. If you find any I'd like to hear about it, so that we can freeze some samples to show Dr Shimanuki. Please let me know if you come across any - symptoms are described in the Beekeepers' Bulletin for August 1981 (vol 3 no 1).



Our final thought-provoking message for this issue is below. Have a very merry Christmas, and may your honey supers run over!

Andrew Matheson

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Apicultural Advisory Officer



Now that we're organised...what the hell do we do?