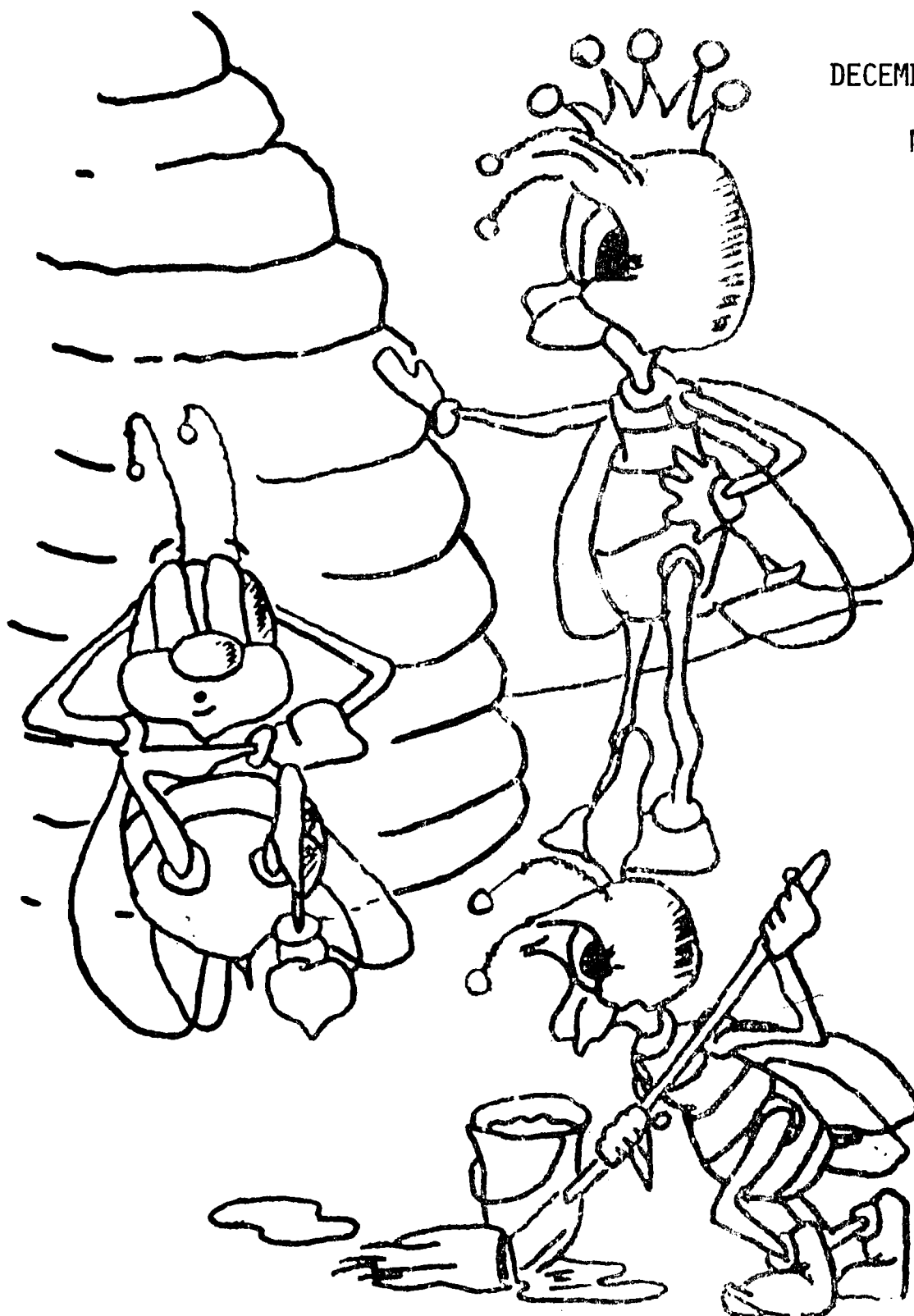


# YOUR

# NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1983

NO. 29

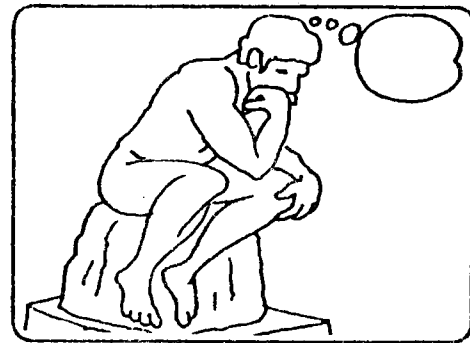


Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries  
Private Bag  
Tauranga  
Telephone: 82 069

*T G Bryant*  
*Apicultural Advisory Officer*

Telephone: 65 962 Private

The excellent spring weather until mid October caught most beekeepers off guard this year. Early build up was good, then came the crunch - hives were short of honey and pollen and never before has so much sugar feeding occurred prior and during pollination. Further inland hives were still being fed in December, with the prospects of a clover flow being late. Those beekeepers without access to bush sites will really have their work cut out keeping bees alive. But be kept alive they must if a honey crop is to be gathered; remember your numbers game, it's not hives that count, it's the numbers of bees in the hive; eg a hive with 40-50,000 bees will produce three times as much honey compared to a hive with 25,000 bees.



This spring proved once again how risky it is to count on spring splits/queens for an increase or requeening.

Plan now for next year to make any increases and do all requeening while you have plenty of bees, some honey, plenty of pollen, lots of drones, settled weather and time - do it in the autumn. Preferably in February, particularly if making an increase, you want to give the colony time to produce bees which will go through the winter; ie winter bees with the necessary body food reserves put down to feed the brood when the queen commences to lay in the late winter/spring.



The most common mistake made by beekeepers is splitting colonies well into March, having these fail in July/August, blaming the failure on the winter, then giving autumn requeening/splitting up as a bad job.

Did you get another bee in your veil, Harv?

### THE DISEASE SITUATION

This spring MAF has inspected in excess of 3000 hives throughout the district and detected 100 plus diseased hives, and beekeepers have reported 100 plus a few hives of disease. I'm anticipating that total diseased hives will exceed 200, or approximately 0.5% of hives in the region, which represents an increase of 0.07%.

### A REMINDER:

*As at December 7 a number of you still had not returned the Annual Statement of Inspection, in spite of many gentle reminders. Please post it in as soon as possible, preferably yesterday.*

### A WORD ABOUT PERMITS -

You are required to obtain from MAF a permit to:

- *sell any hives or nucs; or*
- *shift hives to another apiary district; or*
- *move hives into orchards for pollination.*

Because of the paper work involved in issuing permits for pollination all you are required to do is send a comprehensive list of your clients and number of hives to MAF - you will then receive an acknowledgement. But please do so, this year less than 20% of you had supplied us with a list at the time bees were being moved into orchards.

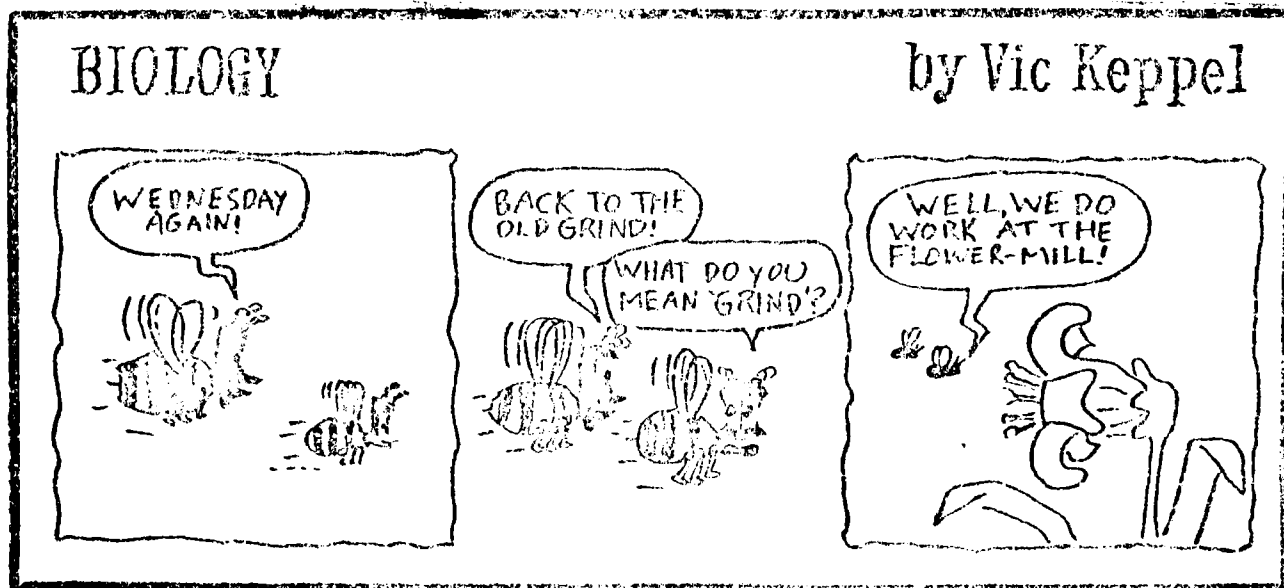
The lists are confidential but from the information supplied we are able to collate figures on what is happening, which is more than useful in gauging trends etc and negating criticism re lack of bees or the inability of the industry to cope - help us to help the industry.

LAST, BUT NOT LEAST - *get those registered numbers out and displayed in every apiary site.*

### POLLINATION

There should be few complaints this year about poor bee activity and pollination. Generally the condition of hives going into the orchards was good although one or two beekeepers' hives were short on bees, a direct result of the bad weather in October.

The response of orchardists to developments re siting of bees etc in orchards has been good, but there are however a number of orchardists who failed to listen to their beekeepers and insisted on siting hives under vines/ pergolas, in singles and in shaded locations. There is still a lot of work to be done by all concerned to keep orchardist clients up to date with current research and practices.



### SPRAYS & BEES

At the time of writing only two reports of chemical damage to bees had been received, one in Gisborne and the other in Katikati.

### AN APOLOGY

In the September issue, No 28, on page 5 reference was made of a remit to Conference re *Privit*.

The remit referred to the spring flowering variety *Ligustrum vulgare*, not *L. chinense* - my humble apologies to the Waikato beekeepers.

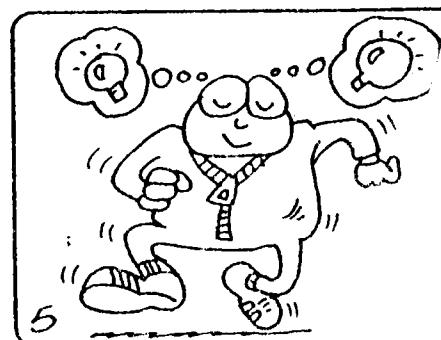
I do not however retract my statement re this species and firmly believe that our shores should be totally rid of its presence, along with Old Mans Beard, *Clematis vitalba*, Woolly Nightshade or Flannel/Tobacco Weed, *Solanum mauritianum*, and any other weed species which pose a very real threat to our native forests and reserves.

### NEW PRODUCTS

#### LOADER - Palfinger Compact Hydraulic Crane

AGENTS:  
The Hydraulic Machinery Co NZ Ltd  
PO Box 225  
Matamata

A compact version of Hyab type cranes, much lighter and cheaper. Ideal for those beekeepers wishing to palletise and not wanting to put front end fork lifts on ancillary vehicles.



APPLYING HEAT -

A revolutionary heating method is the range of Condec electrically conductive coatings. The coating is painted onto the surface needing heat, an electric current is applied and hey presto - HEAT.

Can be used for walls, floors, pipelines and so on. The voltage used varies from 6 - 240V and the resistance of the coating (thus heat is given off), depends on the number of coatings used. Possible uses for beekeeping include hot rooms, tanks, pipes. Cam Jay and Don Dixon of Manitoba were using this material with some success to melt honey out of 300 litre drums - a coating was applied to a flexible sheet which was then wrapped around a drum of honey - it worked well, apparently.

The New Zealand distributors are: *P H Rothschild & Co Ltd*  
*PO Box 30 170*  
*Lower Hutt*  
*Phone: 663 581 Wellington*

RESEARCH

Whole sheets of foundation or strips - many beekeepers still debate this issue. A paper has shown that using whole sheets achieves a greater weight gain (surplus honey), significantly less drone cell area, and twice as much comb is produced.

Reference: Szabo, T I, 1983 : Effect of Various Combs on the Development and Weight Gain of Honey Bee Colonies; *J of Api Res* 22(1) : 45-48.

OVERSEAS VISITORS

In November, two Canadian couples visited the region - Mr & Mrs J Gurba and Mr & Mrs C Ciphery, both from Alberta.

Mr H Shimanuki - we are privileged to have Shim visit here for two to three months. The visit is now confirmed and funding approved and he will probably be based at the Mt Albert Entomological Research Centre Auckland. Primarily he is here to look at our current disease situation, set up a diagnostic clinic and will have a look at 'Half disease/Disorder' in an attempt to ascertain just what it is. He is also a nutritionalist and we are planning to have him visit the region during his stay here in February-March 1984.

BITS & PIECES

- \* The Country Calendar Team (TV) has completed a programme on pollination to be screened in April 1984 - watch for it.
- \* Tawari is in full bloom, prospects are good if weather holds. A giant question mark hangs over prospects of clover but thistle looks good, as does Pohutukawa.
- \* A precautionary note - it is not advisable to keep Tawari or Pohutukawa honey for bee feed, better to extract it as soon as possible after storage, ripening and sealing in the comb by bees. Tawari is inclined to ferment unless dried and Pohutukawa granulates rapidly and bees have difficulty utilising it.
- \* A trial shipment of 2000 queens has been organised for Canada (BC), the forerunner of many thousands, should all go well.



- \* Aussie beekeepers have won their case to have biological control of Salvation Jane stopped.
- \* The MAF Budgeting and Cash Flow computer programme is now available. If you cannot come into Tauranga, then arrangements can be made to get you on the programme in any of the offices which have a Micro.
- \* A belated Merry Xmas and Prosperous New Year.

Trevor,

Trevor.

P.S.

TELEPHONES

I do not mind you ringing me after hours at home, but please if I am not available give your name and phone number so your call can be returned. The same applies when you ring me at the office. Besides, it is good manners to give your name at the start of a conversation - something my wife and MAF telephonists appreciate.

