

NO. 22

December 1984

# waikato bee notes

- \* Registering Pollination Hives
- \* High Performance Fume Board
- \* Liability for Fires
- \* Honey Free Queen Candy Recipe
- \* CNG Installations
- \* Smokeless Boilers
- \* New Label Requirements for Queensland
- \* Safety with Paraffin Waxers
- \* Acarine Update
- \* Market News
- \* Treatment for Bee Stings
- \* Export Promoters - USA, Tahiti, Singapore



Ministry of  
Agriculture  
& Fisheries



### KIWIFRUIT POLLINATION

This season has proved a difficult one again. We've had a "full house" from frost damage in Katikati, spread flowering, hives too strong, hives too weak, plus competition from clover and buttercup. It will be interesting to see how the fruit set is affected. I want to comment on a few things now the pollinating season is nearly over and have a moan as well.

- \* Trevor Bryant, Apicultural Advisory Officer in Tauranga and his helpers carried out an extensive survey of all the major suppliers of hives in the Bay of Plenty. They recorded population numbers, stores and brood area. His report will not make happy reading and many beekeepers should be ashamed of the condition of some of the colonies they supplied.

I am happy to say that the Waikato beekeepers supplied very good colonies. You will benefit in the long run by being professional and honest and will pick up contracts from dissatisfied growers. This is already happening.

- \* I am still hearing of Waikato beekeepers who are taking hives over to the Bay of Plenty without getting a permit from me to do so or registering them with MAF, Tauranga. Trevor Bryant and I have agreed to waive the issuing of permits but you beekeepers must do your bit and register the sites with MAF, Private Bag, Tauranga, phone 82069 before you shift your hives.

- \* Some of you are not using the pesticide protection map scheme run by the Fruit Federation. If you suffer spray damage you only have yourselves to blame. The Bay of Plenty contacts have been published in the newspapers and in a newsletter sent to beekeepers registered with Tauranga. Here they are again:

Te Puke 37907 (Otamarakau to Reid Road, Welcome Bay)  
Tauranga 80199 (Kairau Road to Wainui Stream, Aongatete)  
Katikati 491316 (Wainui Stream to Athenree Gorge)  
Henderson, Auckland 8368099  
Drury, South Auckland 2948033

- \* Please help MAF to help you!

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"Laws too gentle are seldom observed; too severe and they're seldom executed."

Benjamin Franklin

Breakdown - If you need a tow over the Kaimai Ranges contact Rowe Motors, 1022 Cameron Road, Tauranga, phone 88405. After hours W B McCreedy 88356 or R M McCreedy 441163. Be prepared for a pretty scary tow on a fixed frame coupling. They do a good job and come highly recommended by beekeepers who know!

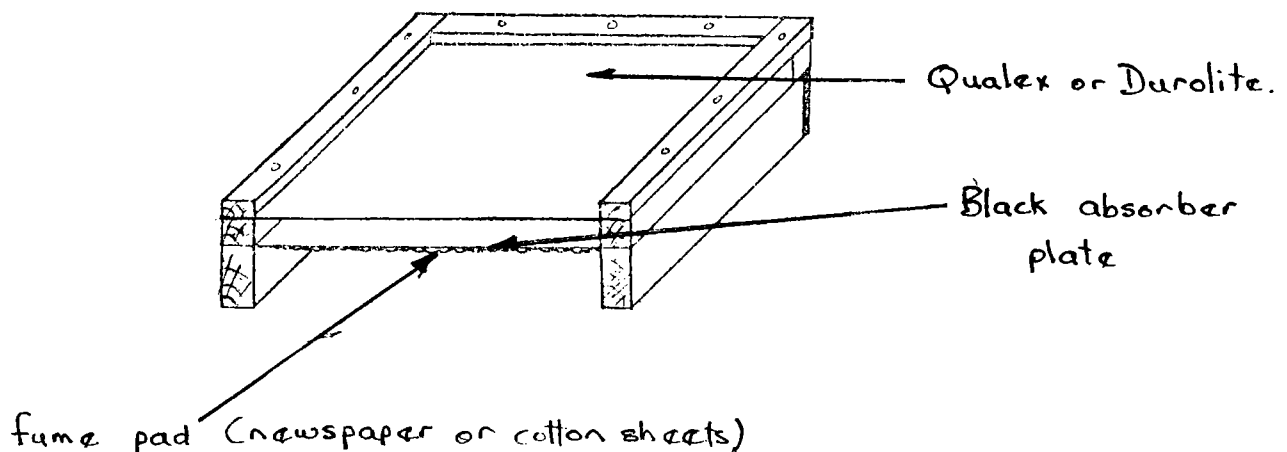
### HIGH PERFORMANCE FUME BOARD

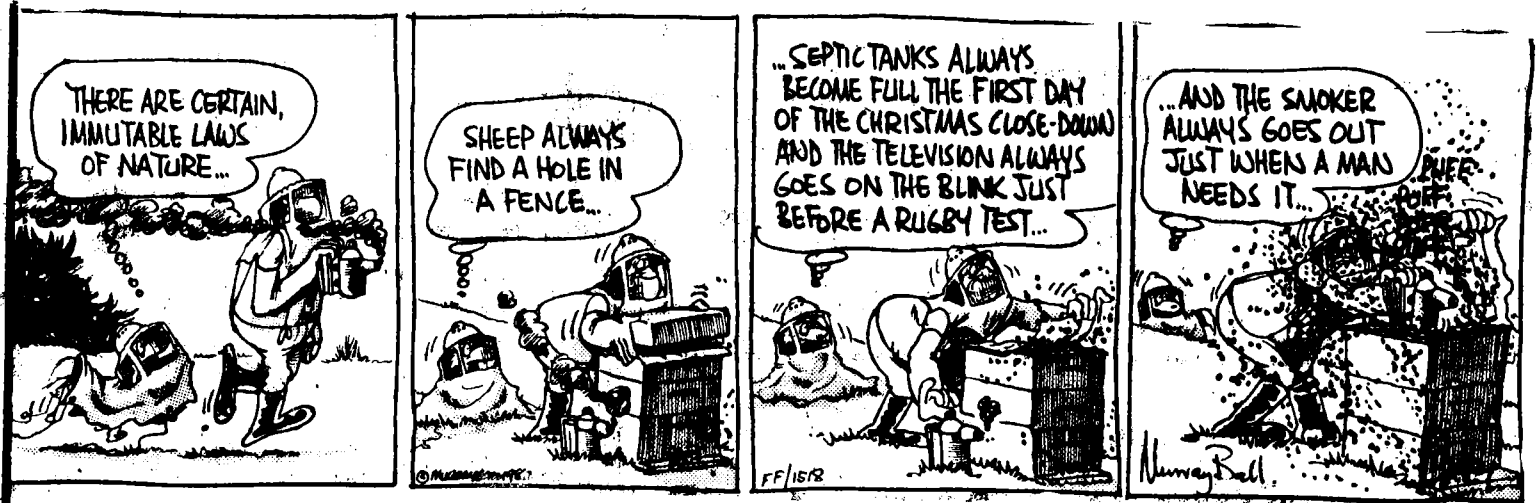
Benzaldehyde boards are used by some beekeepers with mixed results. The problems can be summarised as follows:

- \* Too much chemical stupifies the bees. A teaspoon full sprinkled evenly over the board should do three to six hives or even more.
- \* The temperatures are too cool to vaporise the benzaldehyde properly.
- \* There is uncapped honey or brood in the honey boxes. Brushing or shaking is required here.

The Canadians have come up with a new design to overcome the temperature problems as explained in the sketch. I haven't tried one of these as yet but the idea sounds fine. I'd suggest the clear top plate should be of polycarbonate (eg Qualex) or fibreglass reinforced polyester (eg Duro-lite) for safety and durability. The Canadians recommend that the metal plate be copper with an electroplated coating of black chrome although aluminium sheeting painted black should work nearly as well.

Source: "Beelines"  
December 1983 : 7-8





FIRES AND WHO PAYS

I talked about fire safety in Bee Notes, number 17 but a new anomaly in the law has recently been reported. If you have a permit to carry out a "controlled burn" and the fire gets out of control you are held liable for fire fighting expenses. However, if you are negligent and don't have a permit you are covered by public liability.

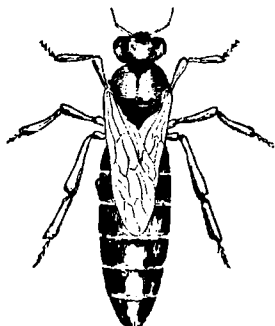
The government is supposed to be setting up a rural fire fighting fund for controlled burns with a permit. This will pay all expenses over \$2500.

As the fire season approaches check you insurance policies just in case ...

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*"An old beekeeper went to conference and registered at a hotel for the first time in his life. The clerk asked him if he wanted a room with running water? "Heck, no!" the beekeeper replied, "What do you think I am, a trout?"*

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QUEEN CAGE CANDY (NO HONEY)

Ingredients

- Granulated sugar - 2.3 kg
- Water - 1 litre
- Tartaric acid - 1 pinch (enough to fit on one cent piece)
- Piping sugar\*
- Glycerine

Bring to a boil granulated sugar, water and tartaric acid. Simmer very slowly for 30 minutes.

Mix this syrup warm with piping sugar (one part syrup to five parts piping sugar). Add three or four drops of glycerine.

Knead result with extra piping sugar to achieve soft consistency. Final candy should be somewhat softer than equivalent honey candy.

Store in airtight plastic bags in refrigerator until needed.

\* Piping sugar is a non-starch icing sugar available from most bakers or:

Henry Berry Food Limited  
525 Ellerslie-Panmure Highway  
Auckland

Phone 578189

This recipe was kindly given to me by Terry Gavin. If you are exporting queen bees to Canada or Australia then you must use honey free candy. This recipe will make a lot of candy so reduce the quantities if your requirements are more modest.

Did you know that a bacterial disease which kills grass grubs is called "honey disease"? The bacteria are being studied by scientists at Lincoln.



#### CNG INSTALLATIONS

A significant number of beekeepers are switching to CNG or LPG and report excellent savings. If you have access to a CNG pipeline then it may be worth considering the installation of a Sulzer Burchhardt C4N compressor. This small compressor can economically fuel as few as ten vehicles a day or up to 20.

CNG installations can also be shared by groups as the industry is not licensed.

Government grants were available (as at August) which included a direct grant of 25% of the cost of installing a station, low interest loans from DFC and the writing off of 65% of the cost of installation through tax over five years. In addition the cost of purchasing CNG is about half that of a public filling station.

TYPICAL FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR CONVERTING A 20 VEHICLE FLEET AND INSTALLING A SULZER BURCKHARDT CNG STATION - AUGUST 1984

Total Tendered Price of Installation	\$47,000
Less Items Not Eligible for Grant	\$1,000
Less 25% Ministry of Energy Grant	\$46,000
DFC Loan to Operator (5 years at 10%)	\$11,500
	\$34,500

Year	DFC Loan Payments (Interest Only in First Year)	Twenty Vehicle Conversions \$1,200	CNG Cost per Year (Includes Maintenance)	Total Cost per Year	Equivalent Petrol Cost	Savings Over Petrol	Equivalent Public CNG Station	Savings Over Public Station
ONE	\$3,450	\$24,000	\$11,890	\$39,430	\$46,800	\$7,370	\$47,400	\$7,970
TWO	\$12,075	-	\$11,890	\$24,055	\$46,800	\$22,745	\$23,400	(\$655)
THREE	\$11,212	-	\$11,980	\$23,192	\$46,800	\$23,608	\$23,400	\$208
FOUR	\$10,350	-	\$11,980	\$22,330	\$46,800	\$24,470	\$23,400	\$1,080
FIVE	\$9,487	-	\$11,980	\$21,467	\$46,800	\$25,333	\$23,400	\$1,933
TOTAL	\$46,574	\$24,000	\$59,900	\$130,474	\$234,000	\$103,526	\$141,000	\$10,526
Subsequent Years	-	-	\$11,980	\$11,980	\$46,800	\$34,820 per annum	\$23,400	\$11,420 per annum

BY YEAR TEN (In 1984 Dollars)	Total Cost (Installation, Conversions, CNG)	\$190,374
	Equivalent Petrol Cost	\$468,000
	Equivalent Public CNG Station Cost	\$258,000
	Savings Over Petrol	\$277,626
	Savings Over Public CNG Station	\$67,626

NOTE: Projections assume a static price for fuels. While price rises are inevitable over a five year period, it is impossible to forecast their extent, but as the cost of CNG is fixed to the price of petrol, the figures are accurate relative'y.

The above tables do not include sales to the public, which increase the profitability of a fleet CNG station.

YOU KNOW IT'S GOING TO BE ONE OF THOSE DAYS WHEN ...!

- \* Your wife says, "Good morning Bill", but your name's Wally.
- \* You spend five minutes looking for your glasses and they're on your face.
- \* You spend 30 minutes in the supermarket looking for instant coffee.
- \* You look at your income tax return and realise it's going to take more brains to fill out the form that it did to make the money.
- \* Your brain stops working the moment you get to the office.

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HANDY HINTS

From one of our members; those hockey stick or weed sticks that use Round-Up herbicide are great for around beehives. When you're finished with the applicator stand it wick side uppermost otherwise you'll have expensive herbicide all over your truck, shed, garden etc.

And from the "seen in a beekeeper's wax room" department:

Those old three pot Speedway drip boilers are still in use in many wax rooms. If your neighbours are complaining about the smoke from these things you could try using power kerosene or pre-heating the fuel oil.

One of our members wrapped the fuel line two to three times around the chimney to preheat the fuel and also fitted an inlet nozzle into the base of the flue. An old vacuum cleaner provided the air blast which increases the chimney draught. Lighting the boiler is real easy and once warmed up it runs almost smokeless.

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SOME MORE "DAFY-NITIONS"

- \* Slush fund - "petty cash disbursement account".
- \* Unemployed - "not work-ready".
- \* I told you so - "negative prediction defier".
- \* Dust - "fugitive emission particles".

SOLVING THE WORLD'S ECONOMIC WOES!

John Cherrington, writing in the New Zealand Farmer, July 1984 was bemoaning the huge European food surpluses. He said the trouble was all the economists were trained on theories based on scarce resources. He would apply the Stalin technique which goes something like this:

*"Take 100 notable world economists and isolate them in luxurious surroundings and tell them to solve the world's problems. They must find a workable solution within three years or ten will be chosen by lot and shot. This will be repeated every two years ..."*





FOOD LABELS IN AUSTRALIA

Queensland now requires:

- \* Full name and street address of the manufacturer.
  
- \* Full name and street address of the Australian importer.

This may mean having two labels for New Zealand and Australia as well as causing further congestion on any small labels. This new regulation is based on a model prepared by the Federal Government. Queensland is the first state to adopt it and others can be expected to follow shortly.

Source: "The Exporter"

Queensland requires an import permit with all shipments of honey - even personally accompanied gift packs. Other states (with the possible exception of Western Australia) don't require certificates at this stage.

SADDER BUT WISER

Paraffin waxers are pretty dangerous things and we are all guilty of being a bit careless with them. Here are a couple of suggestions learnt from experience:

- \* Wear safety glasses or sun-glasses when loading a melter. I was with a beekeeper last year who splashed hot wax into his eyes. The wax burnt his eyes and proved very difficult to get out. It meant a trip to a doctor.
  
- \* Keep a supply of damp sacks to smother any wax fires in the melter itself. Extinguishers are useless.
  
- \* Keep grass away from the base and sides of the melter; better still stand the melter on gravel.
  
- \* Check the can under the overflow drain tap and empty the water out before you light the fire. I tipped a can of molten wax back into a melter one day that turned out to have a lot of water in it. It's rather frightening to see a whole melter of wax froth up and run all over the ground with fires everywhere. In this case water was the most effective agent for dousing the grass fires. It took 1½ packets of wax to refill the melter!

A committee is a group of people who individually can do nothing,  
but collectively meet and decide that nothing can be done.

Anon

### STORIES FROM OZ

Those of you who didn't make the beekeepers' Christmas function missed a good evening. The senior apiary officers from the Australian states joined us and Alan Kessels from Western Australia gave a very entertaining slide talk. They tell me that the dip-stick operating the slide projector also provided some light relief! Anyway some interesting points from Alan's talk:

- \* Honey prices are really depressed in Australia at the moment, ranging from \$NZ0.70-1.20/kg.
- \* In Western Australia there are 55 000 colonies and 43 packers!
- \* You can buy 3 kg pots of honey for \$NZ2.99.
- \* AFB in Western Australia has risen from 0.3% of colonies in recent years (our figures range from 0.3-0.5%) to 10.8% last year.  
Their compensation fund used to cost 0.8c/colony, now costs 0.65c/colony and because of big pay-outs recently is expected to go to \$NZ2.50/colony.
- \* Export prices were \$A890 for white honeys down to \$A830 for medium amber.
- \* Beekeepers need to average 100-150 kg/hive to make any headway.
- \* EFB is a real problem but can be controlled by correct drug feeding. However, if a beekeeper lets AFB get established in his colonies he doesn't get a licence to feed drugs so the EFB can come back with a vengeance.

PS: The Aussies enjoyed our summer weather and were even heard to complain about the heat!

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CHEAP CHIP

Some more "jokes" going around Oz:

"What's the definition of a well balanced New Zealander?" "A Kiwi with a chip on each shoulder!"

"What's the capital of New Zealand?" "About five dollars!"

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**Acarine Disease Update:** This mite has now been found in seven US states, namely Texas (original discovery), North and South Dakota, New York, Florida, Louisiana and Nebraska. The USDA is not "depopulating" any more colonies for the present until more surveys are carried out. I expect that each state will be left to formulate their own control and certification systems.

It now looks like Acarapis can't be eradicated. The Canadians are monitoring the situation very closely and 25% more colonies are being overwintered in Canada as a precaution in case the authorities close the border with the USA.

More information on the acarine mite and other exotic diseases is in Aglink FPP 428.

STORY OF THE MONTH

The Department of Agriculture in Victoria, Australia wrote an Aglink predicting a mice plague. The Aglinks were stored waiting to be given out at the Melbourne National Show. "And guess what? Yes, you're right, mice ate the Aglinks and they had to be dumped!"

Source: Director-General's Update, number 31 1984

SOME MARKET NEWS

- \* Canada has had a record crop (average production 70 kg/hive) but a lot of beekeepers are starting to pack their own honey leading to fierce competition. The Canadian Honey Marketing Co-operative is considering opening a European based packing plant for Canadian honey only.
- \* Mexican beekeepers are faced with a 75% inflation rate and only a 30% devaluation for 1984. European buyers are forcing prices down because of "the strong US dollar, high storage costs and high interest rates".

- \* Argentina produced 33 000 tonnes this year up 3000 tonnes on last year. Beekeepers are charged a 16% export tax.
- \* Japan imported 25 700 tonnes to September 1984 mostly from China, USSR and Argentina.
- \* Eastern European countries, especially Hungary, are marketing aggressively in Western Europe.
- \* The Sioux Honey Company in the United States has got a toe hold on the Japanese market for packed honey. They're selling \$NZ1 million worth of honey at \$NZ2 per 500 g jar.
- \* The 1984 world crop was estimated at 940 000 tonnes.

Source: "American Bee Journal"  
November-December 1984

Honey bees save New Zealand farmers nearly \$3000 million each year. This is what it would cost farmers to replace free nitrogen, fixed by pasture legumes, with chemicals such as urea.

SOME QUOTABLE QUOTES (FOR THE WORKSHOP WALL, TOILET DOOR OR WHEREVER!)



- \* "The door to success is labelled PUSH."
- \* "Nothing succeeds like a canary without teeth."
- \* "The boss isn't always right, but he's the boss."
- \* "Man is made of clay, but it takes a woman to make a mug out of him."

### FIRST AID TREATMENT FOR BEE OR WASP STINGS

The Bay of Plenty branch of the NBA and the Community College put out an excellent awareness sheet on treatment for stings.

1. Minor Reaction - swelling around the sting site and pain.

Apply disprin or aspirin tablet - moisten and rub over the sting site and surrounding skin. This may help to reduce pain and prevent further swelling.

Apply cold packs (cold water, ice blocks in plastic bag or cloth) over the sting site for as long as necessary to relieve pain and prevent further swelling.

2. Moderate Reaction - or person with known previous bee sting reaction.

Oral antihistamine preparation if available taken immediately and repeated in half an hour. This together with above measures for local treatment to the sting site.

Antihistamine preparations: (trade names) Zadine  
Fabahistin  
Polaramine  
Phenergan  
Avil  
Chlortrimeton  
plus others

All are equally effective when used in recommended doses, but vary in extent of their sedative side effects. Zadine and Fabahistin are possibly less sedating than others.

A "Medi-Haler EPI" may be used if available or carried. This provides adrenaline by inhalation which can be effective for those having a moderate reaction and where there is some swelling of tongue and/or throat.

3. Severe Reaction - may follow sting to face or neck, or occur in a person with a known severe bee sting sensitivity.

Signs: Severe, rapid swelling around the sting site, but extending to other areas (eg around eyes, lips and general puffiness of face).

Breathing difficulty, wheezing may be audible.

Collapse and loss of consciousness.

Generalised rash.

If possible administer oral antihistamines and use local measures around sting site. Summon medical help (doctor or ambulance - stress urgency).

If person collapses turn on to side with head down and nurse in "semi-prone" first aid position until help arrives.

Medical treatment for a severe reaction may include injection of adrenaline, antihistamine, steroid (cortisone type drug), intravenous fluids and oxygen, depending on the severity of the reaction.

Fortunately though, minor reactions are common, moderate and severe reactions are rare and fatal reactions very rare.

### Preventive Treatment

Persons with a known severe sting sensitivity can have preventive desensitisation injections, the aim being to reduce the severity of a sting reaction.

A preliminary test (RAST test) is carried out to determine the likelihood of a future reaction and whether or not desensitisation would be worthwhile; a series of injections (usually given at weekly intervals) with a purified bee venom extract is then given. A booster dose at regular intervals is required.

If you have had a previous bee sting reaction consult your doctor for advice regarding first aid treatment, supplies of antihistamine preparations (these may be purchased from a chemist) or a discussion regarding the pros and cons of carrying a "Medi-Haler", or undergoing desensitisation.

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## EXPORT PROMOTERS

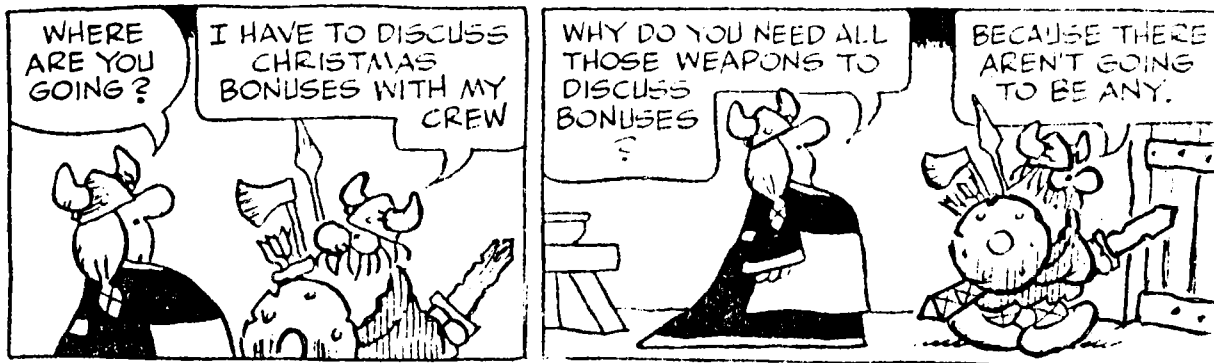
- \* Sunquest Management Services is managed by John Robertson (a New Zealander), 16321 Ashworth Avenue, North Seattle 98133, United States of America.

John will carry out research or reviews on the United States market.

- \* A similar service is offered for Tahiti by Bob Withers, BP 1064, Papeete, Tahiti, French Polynesia.

Source: "New Zealand Exporter"  
July 1983

- \* Singapore - A New Zealand Business Council has been operating in Singapore for over 12 months. It is open to New Zealand or Singapore members. Further information is available from the Industrial Development Section of the Department of Trade and Industry.



## WILL IT BEE OR WON'T IT ...?

If you've read this far waiting for my usual seasonal crop prediction you're going to be disappointed. I've heard beekeepers say, "The Walker Cell will still be around so we can't have a good year"; others have said, "I can feel a good season in my bones", but then they said that last year too and the cabbage trees are flowering as heavily as ever!

According to a leading New Zealand meteorologist we are headed for a prolonged dry spell in the mid 1980s. The year so far has been most unusual; spring in August, frosts in September and October, January temperatures in November. What's next?

Well, whatever happens from now on we've got about as much honey on the hives as at the end of last year.

If you're feeling good about the season, don't worry; Murphy says, "You'll get over it".

Have a restful Christmas.

Bye for now

*Murray.*

G M Reid  
Apicultural Advisory Officer

PS: Your hive statement of inspection forms were due on 7 December.  
Please get them back to me as soon as possible - like right now!



"WHY, YES, I AM A HONEY GROP FORECASTER.  
HOW DID YOU GUESS?"