

waikato bee notes



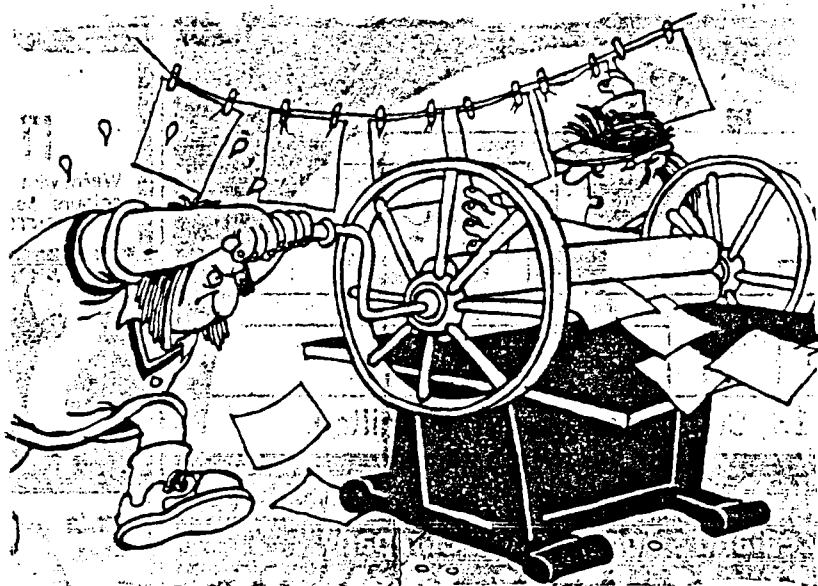
Ministry of
Agriculture
& Fisheries

NO. 25

18/2/85

August 1985

- * MAF charging for services
- * Dr Dennis Anderson
- * ACC
- * NZKA research scholarships
- * Jetaway powerwasher
- * CNG/LPG
- * Trade table: feeders, radio repairs, overflow alarm, lids for sale, 2 in 1 extractor and spinner, honey pricker, plastic wholesalers, sugar
- * Honey - uses of
- * Hot Foot - bird repellent
- * Feeding Sugar - calculation table
- * Thuricide - warning
- * Handy hints
- * Analab Laboratories
- * Hive strappers
- * Spanish Heath
- * Feeding fumagillin
- * Marking pen for hives
- * Cost to build hive



SIGN OF THE TIMES!

Recent months have seen changes in Government policies towards Government departments and, in particular, MAF. The biggest change we face is that of our funding.

MAF's operating vote has been reduced by \$1 million this year and will be reduced by \$5 million next year and \$10 million the following year. MAF is expected to recover costs wherever possible.

In Advisory Services Division (ASD) we haven't had a "budget cut" this year as such, but we are expected to pay for a lot more things out of our budget, so the end result is a reduction. For instance, we now have to pay for government printing, we've had to absorb salary increases (over 80% of our allocation goes in salaries) and general inflation in transport, accommodation, plant and equipment etc etc.

My personal yearly allocation is \$4,000. To the end of July with 41% of the financial year gone I have spent 51% of my allocation. My budget must pay for half phone rental, toll calls, travelling allowance for hotels and meals at \$48 per day, vehicle running at 35¢ per km, air fares and any incidentals. So you can see one trip to Tauranga to help run a course, which involves car expenses and one night away and I've sent half of my monthly allocation of \$333.

At this stage ASD is not looking to charge for advisory visits but we have been directed to charge for honey inspection for export certification. This charge will be one third of costs this year, and two thirds in the 1986/87 year. The charge-out rate for this work will probably be in the order of \$35.37 an hour which includes travelling.

Money available for part-time inspection work has also been reduced. So, I will be asking more of you to help me with this work on a voluntary basis. I should be able to pay your vehicle running but not wages.

And the last thing, and it's bad news too I'm afraid. This is the last FREE newsletter you are going to get. I have included a subscription form with this newsletter, which you should complete and return with a cheque made out to MAF as soon as possible. I want to co-ordinate the subscription year with the financial year so a \$5.00 cheque will buy you the next two issues ie December and February. You'll receive another subscription form with the February issue for \$10.00 which will then go for a full year ie four issues.

Now, to confuse everyone properly, I will continue to send complimentary issues to MAF staff, secretaries of other NBA branches, libraries etc. If you haven't got a subscription form included with this newsletter you are one of the lucky ones!

*Marxist law of the distribution of wealth .
"Shortages will be divided equally among
the peasants."*

John Gustafson



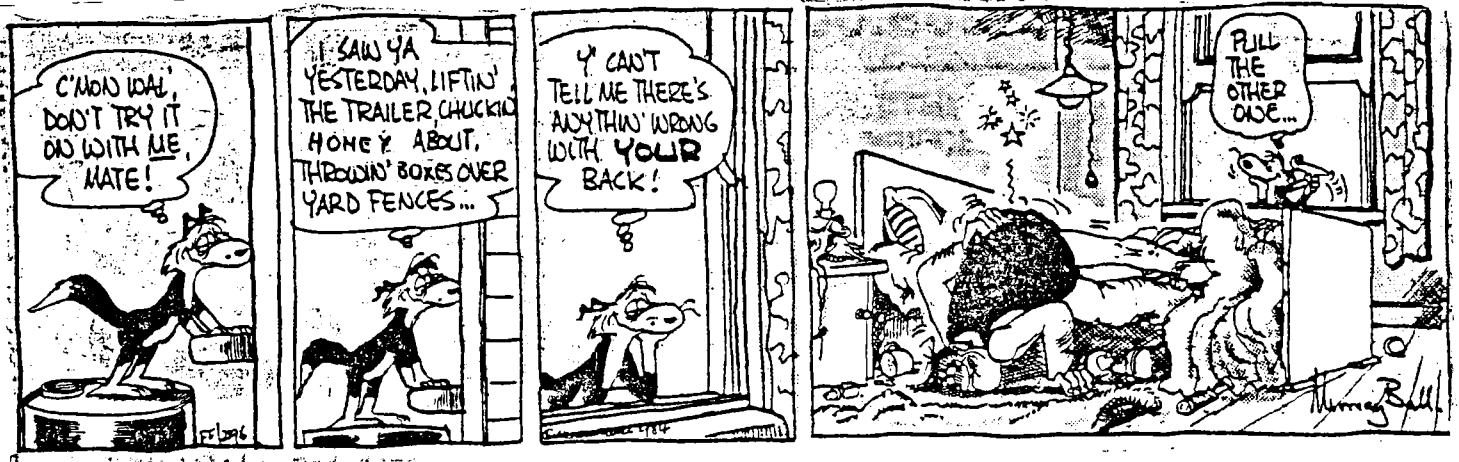
BEE PATHOLOGIST APPOINTED

Dr Dennis Anderson is now safely installed at DSIR Mt Albert in Auckland. Dennis, and his wife Margaret, came from Canberra and are almost over the culture shock of setting up home in a new country.

I'm proud of the way you have welcomed Dennis to our industry and so far he seems to be enjoying your company too! By the time you receive this a lot more of you will have met Dennis at our bee disease workshop.

Dennis is a world expert on bee viruses and we'll be hearing a lot more about these over the next few months. They probably cause more economic harm than we realise.

Other projects Dennis is, or will be working on, include a New Zealand wide survey of honey bee diseases, developing bioassay techniques to field diagnose Nosema EFB and AFB, chalkbrood, halfmoon disorder and so on. DSIR are funding Dennis' programme for this year and the industries trust funds are paying for 1986/87.



ACC NEWS

We had an interesting talk from Jim Mitchell and Brian Martin of the ACC at our last NBA branch meeting. Here are some points I noted from their talks.

- * ACC's area of priority is safety then rehabilitation and lastly compensation.
- * ACC pay \$1,200 towards funeral expenses if death is caused by accident, \$4,000 to your widow and \$2,000 to each child. The latter may go into a trust fund.
- * Inguinal hernias in males are covered by ACC as they are deemed to be work related.
- * You are covered for diseases or allergies if work related.
- * You receive ACC while on overseas trips provided the prime reason for the trip was business. Evidence that Inland Revenue accepted your trip as business is sufficient.
- * There are on average 600 road fatalities in New Zealand each year plus 250-370 fatal accidents in the home. The home is more dangerous than we think!.
- * Industry accounts for 70-80 fatalities while 30-50 occur on farms. The number of farm fatalities is very high relative to the number of people working or living on farms.
- * 30-40 farm related accidents a week cause people to be admitted to hospital. No-one knows the number of patients treated at out-patients or doctors' surgeries.

Jim Mitchell, the ACC Safety Officer, demonstrated with a wooden model the reason why a bad lifting posture leads to so many back problems. He stressed the need to keep the back straight, keep the head up just before you lift (which straightens the back) and use the legs to do most of the lifting.

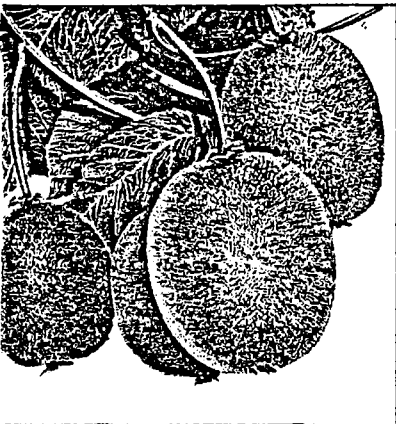
ACC receives 17 000-20 000 claims for back injuries each year!



FRUITFED ADVERT



**WE'RE WITH YOU EVERY
STEP OF THE WAY.**



I spotted this advertisement in the July issue of the Kiwifruit Authority Newsletter. It's nice to see honey bees get due recognition for the vital work they do.

While I'm on the subject of kiwifruit the New Zealand Kiwifruit Association is offering 3 Phd scholarships. Applications should be with the authority by September 2 1985. The major priorities that the NZKA has identified are:

- * variety improvement, new varieties
- * bud rot
- * pollination: bee activity, supplementary artificial methods
- * ways of hastening maturity for earlier markets
- * integrated pest management

The authority has another 22 or so extra priorities, but again it is pleasing to see that pollination research is deemed to be important.

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Some choice grafitti seen recently on the notice board at Waikato Technical Institute.

*"Anything a women does she has to do
twice as well as a man to be considered
half as good"*

*Some wag (presumably female) had written
underneath*

"Fortunately that's not too difficult".

JETAWAY POWER WASHER

The Pacific Jetaway Gun is a hand gun attachment that hooks up to a standard air compressor of 1 hp or greater (needs 80 psi minimum) and a water tap. It uses 12.5 litres of water per minute at 680 km per hour and weighs just over a kilogram.

It can squirt cold water or hot water up to 60°C. It can be used as an air jet or with detergents, herbicides, disinfectants, degreasers and so on.

The unit costs \$330.00 nett sales tax included. Contact Roger Malcolm, Sales Manager, Pacific Pump Co, 78 Kerwyn Avenue, East Tamaki Auckland, Box 58105, phone 274-5772.

POLLINATION SURVEY IN WAIKATO

Of the 76 questionnaires I sent out only 11 of you replied. Adding in another 12 that I know of I guesstimated that in 1974 you put 770 colonies of bees into orchards in the Waikato and expect that to increase to 1 053 this year.

Over 35 Waikato beekeepers put hives into kiwifruit orchards either in the Waikato, Bay of Plenty or South Auckland area.

Siegers Law: "You will always have the same amount of money left at the end of the month, no matter how many honey sales, windfalls or bonuses occur during the month".

ooo0ooo



THERE'S NO FUEL LIKE AND OLD FUEL - or something!

Anyway, I'm confused about alternative fuels, like a lot of others. For example some experts will tell you:

- * not to expect more than 80 000-90 000 km from an engine on CNG
- * to run your vehicle occasionally on petrol as CNG/LPG are dry fuels and increase wear and tear on cylinders, valves etc.
- * to fit a dual curve ignition system
- * to change your oil every 20 000 km
- * to start on petrol then switch to gas

Now Keith Jones, from Auckland University, reports on his two year study of 65 CNG vehicles, that cold starts on petrol washes the oil off the cylinder walls and causes the wear. This does not occur with CNG.

Jones says that all the starting problems with the CNG test vehicles were related to the ignition system rather than the CNG system. He also found that if kits were correctly installed and the engine properly tuned then power losses should be no more than 20% on CNG.

The university study found ignition timing modifiers (dual curve ignition) did not significantly increase power output in a majority of the vehicles under test. The minimum service period for CNG kits appeared to be about 10 000 km.

A reply to a letter in the AA magazine suggested that the vehicle be run occasionally on petrol to lubricate the accelerator pump in the carburettor. Petrol will also prevent drying and shrinkage of float bowl gaskets if the vehicle is left with petrol in the line overnight.

So; if any of you can resolve some of these problems through your experiences on alternative fuels I would love to hear about it.

One last thought. I was speaking to a friend a month ago about putting a turbo boost unit on his Mitsubishi diesel ute. Apparently his ute is designed to take a booster which he was importing for about \$700.00. He was going to fit it himself and reckoned on uping the vehicle's performance to that of a sporty 2 litre and achieving 7-8 litre/100 km in the process.

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Cafeteria Notice Board "Shoes are required to eat in cafe" and underneath "Socks can eat wherever they like".

Notes from an Inland Revenue speaker at a recent BOP course.

- * 100% truck/van/ute charges can be claimed
- * if private car does over 2 000 km then a log should be kept of business kilometres. Previously farmers could claim 50% as of right. Under the new perks tax this "perk" is being questioned by some inspectors.

TRADE TABLE

- * Sugar feeders - Les Gera has stocks of his feeders on hand. Both 4 and 7 litre sizes are the same price ie \$1.20 each and Les may be relocating his premises soon so I suggest you buy now to avoid any delays in delivery. Phone Les at Hamilton 51667.
- * Need radio, CB, video or TV repairs? Then I can recommend Television Apparatus Ltd, 3 Jolly Street Frankton Hamilton 78179. Ask for Barry Wing.
- * Overflow alarm: This unit is made by "Cricklegrass" woodside Road, Oxford phone Oxford 24388. The unit can clamp to a set of scales such as Avery 3205 or 3901 and works off the balance arm to tell you when your drum is full. Or you can fit a float attachment for tanks. It is battery powered and costs around \$60.00.

* For sale: telescopic hive lids. Contact Dave Warr, Tauranga 25678, Norm Dean ph Tauranga 442226 or John Brown ph Tauranga 490810. Prices about \$2.00 - \$3.00 each.

* 2-in-one honey extractor and capping spinner. This unit holds 90-100 frames and can extract cold honey in 3-5 minutes. It holds cappings from 200 frames, and takes about three minutes to fill (using a mono pump) and 4-5 minutes to spin dry.

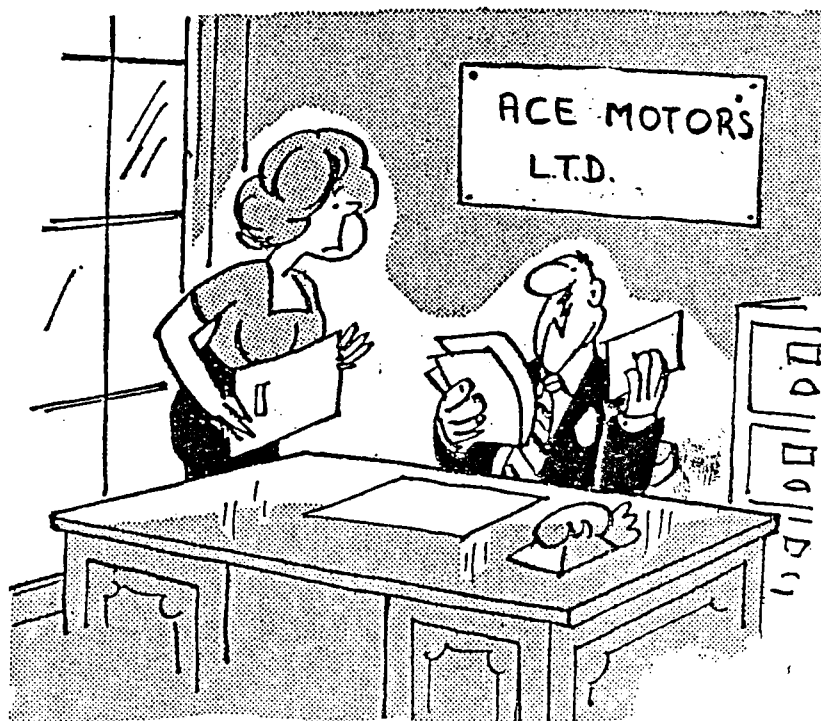
In tests on the efficiency of this unit cappings from one tonne of clover honey and more viscous honeydew yielded 2.2 kg of honey and 3.4 kg of honeydew after melting down in a Penrose oven.

The unit is powered by a variable speed, single phase, 3/4 hp motor with direct shaft drive and a 1-30 minute time switch. Contact John Symes Staverley No 1 RD Ashburton ph Springburn 874. And the price: \$9 985 delivered. That may sound a lot but remember it is a 2-in-1 machine.

* Norwegian Manuka honey pricker. This is an excellent machine for handling thixotropic honeys. The fibre-glass needles are spring loaded so do not damage frames. The machine can be hand or air operated. Dudley Ward ph Dannevirke 8301 has the NZ agency for this machine. The hand operated model is around \$2,100 and the air operated automatic version \$3,500.

* Plastic Wholesalers 414 Te Rapa Road, ph 496 849 stock all sorts of things made from plastic including honey containers. Your contact is John McCracken.

* Cheap Sugar: Perhaps I should say "cheaper". Anyway your contact to order industrial raw sugar through the NBA bulk purchasing scheme is John Mentjox ph Putaruru 8135. The price is around \$24 per bag. Cliff van Eaton had an article on feeding this sugar in the 1985 winter edition of the NZ Beekeeper Page 22.



"No, Miss Applebee, A fjord is not a Norwegian car".

HONEY MARKET NEWS

Well, it's no secret that we produced a lot of honey last year. The MAF estimate for the whole country was 10 314 tonnes; the first time we have gone over 10 000 tonnes. However, our hive numbers reached a new record of 309 428 as well. So on a per hive basis of 33 kg per hive this is the third best crop ever. I estimated the Waikato crop at 1 697 tonnes (36 kg per hive) compared with 731 last year and 720 the year before.

The number of beekeepers in our region also grew. We now have 739 beekeepers operating 45 466 hives on 3 013 apiaries.

Overseas the US government continues to buy honey while cheaper imports flood in from Mexico and Argentina at around NZ\$1.40 per kg. Canadian white honey is trading at an average of NZ\$1.69 per kg. Australian white honey is selling (FOB) at around NZ\$1,360 to \$1,476 tonne while light amber is realising NZ\$1,288 tonne.

You might be interested to note that Andersons Honey (a large Australian packer) has been taken over by IXL, which is owned by Goodman NZ. If we got EFB in our country, that is one brand we could expect to see on our shop shelves!

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STORY OF THE MONTH

An apiary officer's son was asked to fill in a form at school giving details of his father's occupation. Not being a good speller he wrote "Apriest" instead of Apiarist. Lord knows what the teacher thought.

Australian Beekeeper July 1985.

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"HONEY ANTIDOTE TO KILLER DISEASE"

This was the heading given to an article in the Waikato Times 20 August 1985. Honey may be the best antidote for malnourished babies who have severe diarrhoea. A study from South Africa, published in the British Medical Journal, has shown that honey is better than sugar in the nutrient solutions usually given to affected children to prevent body dehydration.

Honey, besides being antibacterial also contains potassium and sodium, essential minerals in keeping babies alive.

SORE THROAT REMEDY

From the August 1985 issue of the Speedy Bee comes an explanation of why a hot drink of lemon or cider vinegar and honey soothes sore throats. According to Dr Henkin, at the Georgetown University Medical Centre, sweet foods may stimulate brain chemicals that dull our perception of pain.

New research suggests that this reaction is very fast so your throat feels better the minute you swallow the hot drink.

Henkin also points out that the drink tastes pleasant to cold-dulled taste buds (sweet and salt are the two taste qualities least likely to be affected by illness), while honey can stimulate saliva production which soothes dry scratchy throats. And finally, the hot water helps loosen the secretions that plug up your nose and head during a cold.

I wonder what adding whiskey or rum is supposed to do. Never mind that tastes nice too!

Fumagillin: Ceracell are considering bringing in bulk supplies of fumagillin for members of the queen breeders association. The more people that put orders in the cheaper the product should be. Contact Stephen Mahon Auckland 274-7236 if you think you might want any fumagillin this spring.

*"Then there was the nuclear physicist who
ate some uranium and got atomic ache!"*

HOT FOOT



This is not a tribe of American Indians, but rather a new product from Western Farmers Ltd, PO Box 188, Fielding, NZ, phone 39 146.

Hot Foot is a bird repellent for use in buildings or trees or wherever roosting birds are a nuisance. The product comes in 300 g tubes (for use with a caulking gun) or in 5 litre cans of liquid for large flat areas.

Hot Foot is approved by the Health Department SPCA, Pesticides Board and Wildlife Service and is safe for man and beast and birds too for that matter. Despite the products

name it doesn't give birds hot feet - but they don't like landing on the stuff for all that. It will last for five years.

And the cost? A 300 g tube is \$16.60 and a 5 litre container \$164.00. Freight is \$1.00 per tube or \$1.25 for two or three tubes. Carton lots are freight free (20 x 300 g tubes or 4 x 5 litre cans). Contact the Managing Director S E Madden for any further inquiries.

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Overheard at a beekeepers meeting "I got a beehive for my wife," said one beekeeper. "Gee I wish I could make a trade like that," replied his mate.

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FEEDING SUGAR TO HONEY BEES

Here are some interesting figures based on a German article translated by E R Jaycox of New Mexico.

Table I: Kilograms of sugar to produce a given volume of syrup and the weight of stored food produced.

Sugar added kg	Sugar-to-water ratio 1:1			Sugar-to-water ratio 1:1		
	Water added, litres	Syrup volume, litres	Stored food, kg	Water added, litres	Syrup volume, litres	Stored food, kg
1	1	1.6	1	0.5	1.1	1.2
2	2	3.2	2	1.0	2.2	2.4
3	3	4.8	3	1.5	3.3	3.6
4	4	6.4	4	2.0	4.4	4.8
5	5	8.0	5	2.5	5.5	6.0
6	6		6	3.0	6.6	7.2
7	7	11.2	7	3.5	7.7	8.4
8	8	12.8	8	4.0	8.8	9.6
9	9	14.4	9	4.5	9.9	10.8
10	10	16.0	10	5.0	11.0	12.0

I feel the converted stores figures are a little on the generous side but here's a rough rule of thumb to use when trying to estimate the amount of dry sugar in a 2:1 solution.

Take the dry weight of sugar as being equal to the volume of syrup and this in turn will be nearly equal to the quantity of honey stored in combs.

For example a feed of 4.4 litres of syrup will contain 4 kg of sugar and result in 4.8 kg of "syrup honey" in the comb.

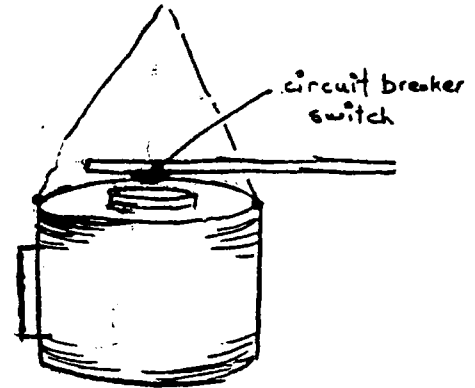
Warning: A recent report in the Review of Applied Entomology A72(10): 1984 tells the story of a young farm labourer who was using Bacillus thuringiensis (Thuricide) spray. Some of this splashed in his eye causing a corneal ulcer. This preparation was thought to be harmless to man. A number of kiwifruit and raspberry growers will be using Thuricide this year during flowering to control leaf roller. So, be careful if you are in orchards during or just after this chemical has been applied.

Another Daffynition: "Perpetual Motion - a bee eating its own honey!"

HANDY HINTS

Hands up all you beekeepers who have burnt out an element in your steam generators. Yes, I thought so, lots of you.

Well, here's a neat and simple idea to prevent that. Suspend your boiler from the ceiling or a shelf and mount a circuit breaker above. As the weight decreases the boiler rises and touches the circuit breaker so turning off the power.



NEED SOME HONEY ANALYSED?

Beekeepers used to deal with Sprotts Laboratories in Auckland. Sprotts have now been taken over by Analab unit 4, 98 Carlton Gore Road, Auckland ph 549061 or 657 Great South Road, Penrose ph 597 265.

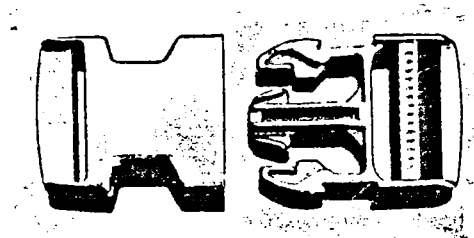
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HEARD AT CONFERENCE

- * The Mayoress of Greymouth turned out to be a male dog called Morgan. So the Mayor had "great pleasure" in accepting the beekeepers' donation of a tree on Morgan's behalf!"
- * Don Gibbons claimed to be a "Kiwicized Pom". He wanted to know if he had to leave for Australia would he become an "Ostracized Pom". Nice double pun there Don.
- * Nick Wallingford was reporting on a meeting in Wellington where there were members of the "NBA, MAF, ASD, RNZIH, ATC, HTC, AAVA, BOPCC, Ed Dept, TCI, LGTB, NZTCB and Telford."
- * "Might a mite have other mites on it?"
- * Someone asked, "Why doesn't DSIR release the gorse mites on an isolated island?" "Yeah, the North Island," came the quick reply.
- * If biological control reduced gorse to a level that it was removed from the noxious weeds plant list - could we plant gorse?" Now that's a good question.

STRAPPING UP HIVES

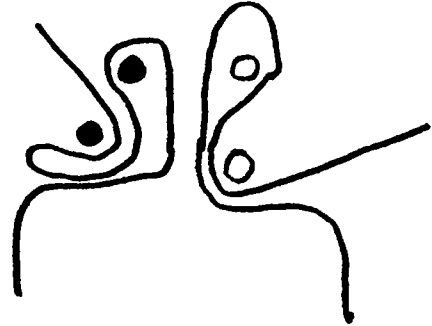
I'm a great advocate of strapping individual hives as well as roping each row onto the truck. I know it's more work but it's good insurance in case of an accident.



Expanded Side Release Buckle

Here's a way of tying plastic or nylon strapping around those metal holders so that you can undo them again - easily.

I personally like the plastic Fastex side release buckles with nylon webbing (you can also use plastic strapping). The buckles are made by ITW NZ Ltd 39 Lansford Crescent, Avondale Auckland ph 887-015. They will sell direct but you need a minimum order of \$50.00. The SR 25 mm buckles are around 44¢ each while the SR 19 mm are 25¢ each wholesale. I think these prices were per 1 000.



Davids Emporium in Hood Street, Hamilton has some buckles plus boxes of nylon webbing in all sorts of colours and widths.

I've used these Fastex buckles for other things beside bee hives eg refurbished some old lifejackets, school bags, trailer straps, roof rack ties and so on.

FEELING THE PINCH?

Beekeepers are feeling the economic squeeze right now; high interest rates, slow honey sales, increased costs, and so on. It reminds me of the story of the 'coon hunters who accidentally freed a mountain lion. One good ol' boy climbed up the tree to shake out the 'coon and got more than he bargained for. Finally he pleaded with his buddies on the ground to "shoot up here amongst us; one of us is gotta have some relief."

"Spanish Heath Poses Problems on Pastures". The Noxious Plants Council has been asked by several counties to declare Spanish heath a noxious weed or to fund special control projects. They have commissioned a Ms Louise Mather from Botany Division DSIR to examine the distribution of the plant, how significant it is as a weed, its potential to spread and to give recommendations for its control. The report is being considered by the council, but I bet no mention of heath's value as a honey plant was made.

Farmer 20 August 1985: 6-7

FEEDING FUMAGILLIN FOR NOSEMA CONTROL

Fumagillin is the active ingredient in Fumidol-B or Nosem-x. Beware of other products such as Nosemack or Humatin which are not effective against Nosema. Here is a list of dos and don'ts for using fumagillin products:

- * Do use the dose as stated on the label. I know the product is expensive but you're better off not feeding it at all rather than diluting the product down.

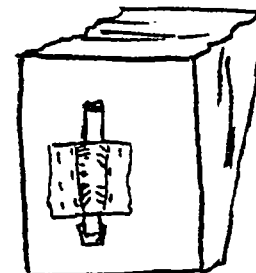
- * Do keep the jars of powder in the fridge or a cool place where it will last 2-3 years. Don't ever place in the sun.
- * Do feed fumagillin in sugar syrup. It is not effective in patties or with dry icing sugar.
- * Fumagillin will last 3½ years in sugar syrup provided it is kept in a cool room (4°C). At room temperature (20-32°C) it will retain its activity for a month.
- * Fumagillin will remain active in a hive for up to 8 months.
- * Do feed medicated syrup in the autumn and again in the spring for best control.
- * Do have an active comb replacement programme as well.

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MARKING HIVES

The best marker I have found for bee hives is the Alflex ear tag marker pen. This is a felt tip pen with a spring loaded tip which you can push up and down to release the amount of ink you want. I've had marks on hives for two years now and they haven't faded.

How about stapling a piece of leather or vinyl to the back of your smoker - as in the diagram. Then you have the pen with you whenever you need it. One word of warning - don't carry these pens in your pocket. The caps can come off but the marks do not come off your clothes or overalls!

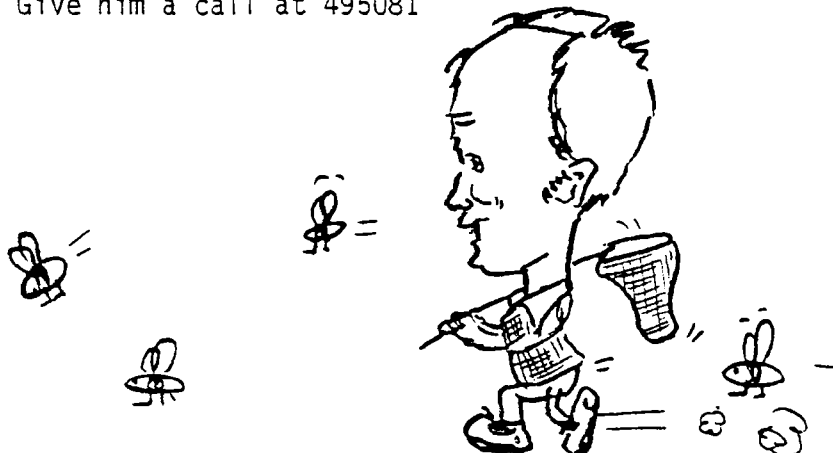


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Disclaimer: mention of any particular brand name does not infer MAF endorsement of this product nor is criticism intended of products or sources not mentioned in this publication.

SOURCE OF QUEEN BEES AND QUEEN CELLS

John Thompson, 18 Sunnyside Road, will be producing queen cells and some queen bees this season. Give him a call at 495081 Hamilton that is.



COSTS TO BUILD 100 4-BOX HIVES

		(Change from '83)
400 storeys @ \$7.85 each	3,140.00	(.38)
100 lids with iron @ \$11.94 each	1,194.00	(.21)
100 queen excluders @ \$8.35 each	835.00	(.33)
100 bases @ \$586.95 per 1000	692.00	(.27)
3 600 frames @ \$586.95 per 1 000	2,13.02	(.35)
206 kg foundation @ \$11.04 per kg	2,274.24	(.35)
3.6 reels frame wire @ \$20.65 per reel	74.34	(.38)
8.3 kg frame nails @ \$4.05 per kg	33.61	(.35)
28.6 kg super nails @ \$90.43 per 25 kg	103.45	(.35)
Preservative at 40¢ per unit (600 units)	240.00	(.31)
Waxing at 8¢ per unit (600 units)	48.00	(-)
Paint at 53¢ per unit (500 units)	265.00	(.51)

11,012.66 (.31)

Labour

8 hours per hive @ \$6.25 per hour 5,000 (.25)

Sugar

16,012.66 (.30)

1 800 kg sugar to draw 3 600 standard sheets of foundation at 79¢ per kg 1,422 (.06)

17,434.66 (.27)

(List compiled by Cliff van Eaton AAO Whangarei)

* * * * *

Heard at a conference: "Do you want an extension of speaking time?" "Oh yes, I could go on for a long time yet!"

Well, I could too but, I must close here and here's hoping the spring treats us all kindly. And remember:

"Work is the greatest thing in the world, you should always save some for tomorrow."

Cheers

Murray.

G M Reid
Apicultural Advisory Officer

PS: Don't forget to send back your enclosed subscription form with a signed cheque for \$5.00, if you want to continue receiving the Waikato Bee Notes.

PPS: You'll be receiving your statement of inspection forms soon. Please get these back to me by December 7 this year. Thanks. By the way we have a new Registrar. Her name is Sandy Hickford. Sandy has replaced Gillian who is helping her husband on the farm.