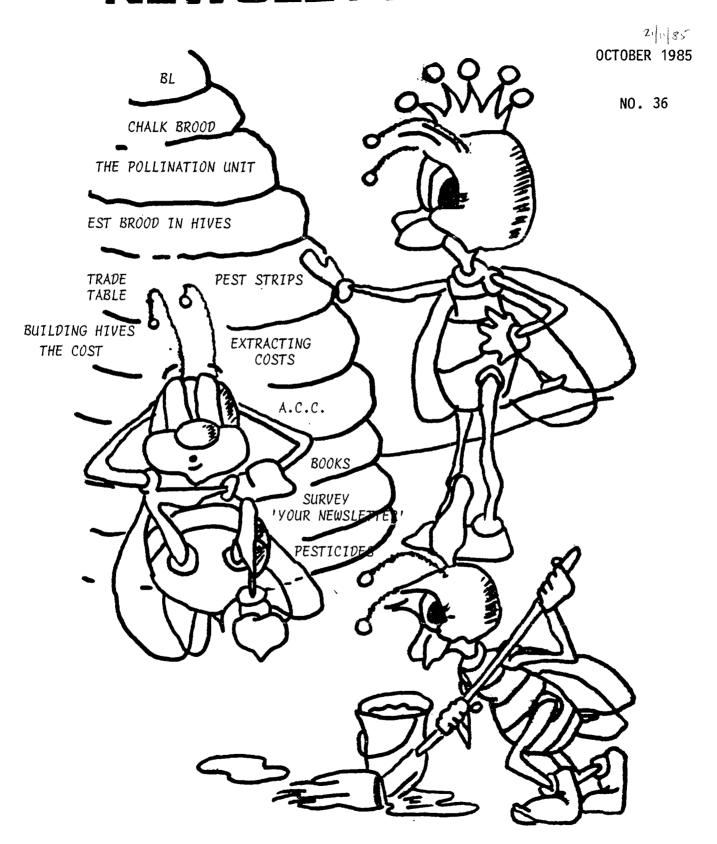
# YOUR NEWSLETTER



Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries Private Bag Tauranga

Telephone: 82 069

T G Bryant Apicultural Advisory Officer

Telephone: 65 962 Private

## YOUR NEWSLETTER

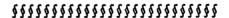
OCTOBER 1985

NO 35

Your response to the questionnaire attached to the previous newsletter was good considering we forgot to put in the reply envelope. A breakdown is a few pages further on.

What of the future! After a great deal of thought and reasoning as to why, for whom and need for such a newsletter keeping in mind, the cost , the difficulty in servicing the region, it has been resolved that —

- 1) Beekeepers with more than 50 hives will continue to receive the newsletter.
- 2) Non beekeeping institutions will pay a subscription of \$10 per annum.
- 3) Beekeepers with less than 50 hives will pay a subscription of \$10 per annum.
- 4) NBA Branches will pay a subscription of \$10 per annum.
- 5) Those beekeepers who reside in other regions and operate in the region on a seasonal basis, pollination or honey production, and who would receive a newsletter from their resident adviser, will pay a subscription of \$10 per annum.
- 6) Three newsletters will be printed per annum, Autumn, Winter, Spring. These moves should enable the newsletter to continue in much the same format and provide you, the commercial beekeeper, with information to help you become more efficient producers.



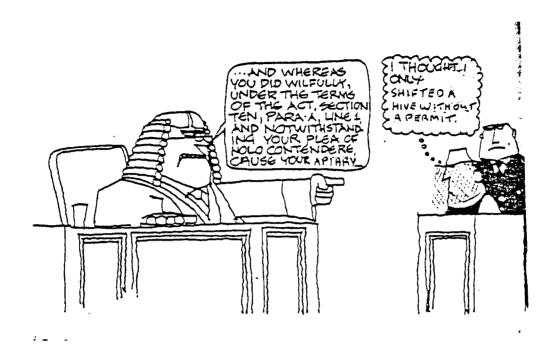
### THE DISEASE (BL) SITUATION

There have been a number of outbreaks reported this spring. Of concern are those reports in outfits not previously affected, namely beehives built up from scratch in new equipment.

Areas where whole apiaries have been infected are, Atiamuri, Broadlands, Kinloch (Taupo) and Te Kaha. Other reports indicate trouble spots in the region of the Old Kaimai Road; Springs Rd, Katikati; Waikino; Cambridge Road Tauranga; Otumoetai, Tauranga.

In all, around 200 hives have been reported to MAF by beekeepers and found by MAF inspectors.

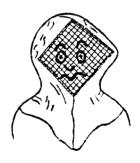




## CHALK BROOD (CB)

A number of beekeepers have reported CB to the MAF, in many cases no link can be established between the infections and bees or queens from North of Auckland.

There is very little beekeepers can do to eradicate this disease once it is established. To brush up on CB and find some of the answers to help reduce its impact, refer to your Newsletter 1984 (32) 1,3-9





#### REMINDER!

Beekeepers are reminded that while CB is not a notifiable disease under the Apiaries Act (being 3rd Schedule), Section 19 of the Act gives the MAF the power to take (or direct the beekeeper) any action deemed necessary to eradicate the disease or remove the infection, ie, can be treated same as BL.

To prevent a repeat of the Northland outbreak, all beekeepers should not

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use any hives or hives from apiaries where CB is present for pollination. If CB infected hives were to be moved into orchards the spread of the disease could not be prevented.

You are further reminded that many countries require health certificates issued by MAF certifying that the honey is from disease free apiaries (including CB). Should CB become widespread in the BOP district, considerable difficulty would be experienced in providing the necessary certificates for the export of honey.

If you have CB take the necessary steps  $\underline{\text{NOW}}$  to eradicate the disease. This may mean destroying the infected colonies, at the very least isolating them well away from other healthy apiaries.

Already some beekeepers have expressed concern over the possible influx of diseased colonies into kiwifruit orchards, one beekeeper has taken the drastic action of staying away. The MAF will take a hard line should diseased hives be found in orchards, it may be a third schedule disease, but it can be treated under the Act as a second schedule disease, the hives guarantined or even destroyed.

It is in the interests of all beekeepers to act responsibly for the sake of the whole industry and those industries which rely on bees for the pollination of their crops.

Get the Apiaries Act 1969 (and its amendments) out of the closet and swat up the relevant sections on your obligations as a beekeeper and take the necessary steps to keep CB out of the Bay.

### THE POLLINATION UNIT

Apiary advisors have been boning up on the subject of the pollination unit for some time now. After reviewing all the literature, especially the work of Pat Clinch, Wallaceville, the experiences of commercial beekeepers and our own observations, experiences and results of 3 years trial, here in Tauranga, we recommend that the ideal pollination unit is/has

- \* A young vigorous queen
- \* More than 30,000 bees
- \* Four full, full depth frames of brood (7100  $cm^2$ ) or equivalent
- \* Three five frames of honey
- \* Some pollen stores
- \* Be an expanding colony
- \* Be disease free

### PLUS

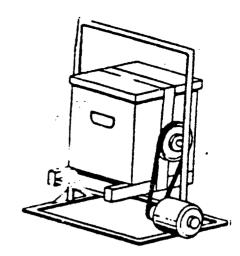
- \* All brood in bottom brood box (or as much as possible)
- \* Be well sited
- \* Moved on to the target crop at the right time.

## TO ACHIEVE THE ABOVE REQUIRES PLANNING IN ADVANCE

As mentioned earlier, Andrew Matheson has done a comprehensive literature review on the subject, Pat Clinch had independently gone through a similar exercise and I had also.

The above recipe is a synopsis of that review with one slight variation.

The overseas literature (research) showed that maximum pollen collection was achieved when total sealed and unsealed brood reached an area of about 5200 cm² or approximately 3.3 full-size frames. However, the results of Pat's research shows that colonies with 4 frames of brood (7100 cm²) collected significantly more kiwifruit pollen than those with 3 frames of brood. His data agrees with the results we have in Taurance of



"World's First Motorized Beehive?"

data agrees with the results we here in Tauranga found after 3 years trial work. Hence the recommendation given:

- 1) Bryant T G, 1985, Kiwifruit pollination by honey bees, the pollination unit, unpublished.
- 2) Clinch P G, 1984, Honey bee management for kiwifruit pollination, to be published.
- 3) Matheson A G, Factors determining the pollinating ability of Honey bee colonies, August 85, unpublished.

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## ESTABLISHING COLONY SUITABILITY FOR POLLINATION

With good winter and spring conditions there should be no problems providing suitable colonies for pollination this year. Of major concern to most beekeepers is keeping colonies in the right condition.

Don't worry too much about colony population - the 30,000 bees is a minimum, of real importance is the amount of brood, its placement in the hive and that the hive be expanding.

An analysis of data from the survey in 1984 gave the following results:

HIVE POPULATION	BROOD AREA (cm²)	No. FRAMES BROOD (AV.)
8 - 10000	1125 - 5000	4 - 6
10 - 15000	4250 - 5250	6
15 - 20000	4250 - 6500	7 - 9
20 - 25000	4400 - 8250	7 -10
25 - 30000	4975 - 6425	7 -10
30 - 35000	6200 -10675	7 -11
35 - 40000	8275 - 9675	7 -11

The average frame of brood =  $778 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ or } 44\%$  of comb area. Those colonies with more than  $10000 \text{ cm}^2$  brood or  $1060 \text{ cm}^2$  or 60% of comb area.



MY GOSH .. BREAK DAHONG!

Since 1984 it has been found not only by myself but by other advisers that beekeepers, regardless of how experienced they are, consistently over estimate the actual amount of brood in a beehive.

This is not a criticism of the commercial industry and its practitioners, rather a statement of fact. Visual assessments can be extremely misleading and all those put to the test have consistently over-estimated the actual (real) amount of brood in hives.

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## PEST STRIPS

You have been warned before,  $\underline{\text{DO NOT}}$  use these killers anywhere where bees, queens, combs,  $\underline{\text{boxes}}$  of combs, wax, honey are to be stored or are stored.

The chemical given off by the strips (Dichlorvos) is  $\frac{\text{highly}}{\text{bees}}$ , and can be absorbed by wax etc. Combs exposed to pest strips cannot be used on hives, nor can they be melted out for recyling.

Despite repeated warnings in numerous publications, a pest strip was found in a beekeeper's shed where he had combs and feed honey combs stored.

It certainly took care of the wax moth problem but it also rendered everything else useless.

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".



## COST OF EXTRACTING THE HONEY CROP

(Revised figures published NZ Beekeeper Dec 1978)

One man unit, 59 supers/day

Ext cost \$1.27 super, 0.08c/kg

Two man unit, 12 supers/hr.

Ext cost \$1.57 super, 0.11c/kg

When fixed costs are added, ie, annual cost of buildings and plant (interest, depreciation, repairs and maintenance)

Extraction Cost/tonne (35 t crop)

One man unit \$462/tonne; 0.46c/kg
Two man unit \$492/tonne; 0.49c kg

My appraisal of these figures would lead me to question the economics of extracting one's own crop, particularly where there is a plant handy to do the job for you.

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

## JETAWAY POWER WASHER

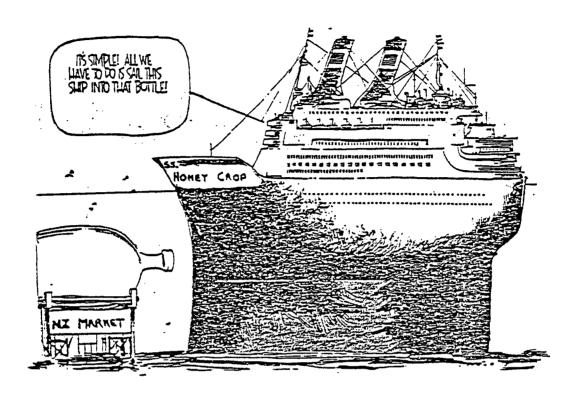
The Pacific Jetaway Gun is a hand gun attachment that hooks up to a standard air compressor of 1 hp or greater (needs 80 psi minimum) and a water tap. It uses 12.5 litres of water per minute at 680 km per hour and weighs just over a kilogram.

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.

## HALF MOON DISORDER OR SYNDROME, THE ANSWER!!

Dr Shimanuki has tentatively identified the causative agent as <u>Bacillus</u> coagulans. <u>B.coagulans</u> is found in many countries where bees are kept commercially.



## A.C.C. COMPENSATION SCHEMES

With the number of accidents occurring within the beekeeping fraternity, it is pertinent to look at schemes available.

In the past, self employed people have felt "left out" as the Corporation always took business book profit (not personal drawings) as your relevant earnings. This has caused problems for all primary producers but more especially beekeepers, because profits can fluctuate widely due to climatic reasons, and are often set artificially low for tax purposes. The problem is that when you minimise taxable income you minimise compensation too.

The A.C.C. has two schemes designed to solve this.

- 1) Minimum Relevant Earnings Scheme, a scheme which sets a wage at \$100 per week for the full time self employed (over 30 hrs/week). In the event of temporary incapacity, 80% (\$80.00) of that wage is paid.
- 2) Optional Scheme, you have the option of choosing to join a scheme where compensation is paid at a figure determined each year by the A.C.C. This figure is based on the average weekly wage currently set at \$14768/year or \$284.00/week. Should you elect to join this scheme (the best in my view, Ed.) you are levied on the basis of this amount (\$113.98/yr) but if you are incapacitated compensation will be based on \$284/week, not your taxable income.

To join the scheme you must

- \* apply annually to stay in the scheme no later than March 7 regardless of your balance date.
- \* the application is incorporated in your IR3 tax return form which your accountant should complete for you.
- \* the scheme is <u>not</u> open to those of you who trade through a company you are deemed to be an employee of that company and the company should be paying the normal levy rate on your earnings.

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

### BEE BOOKS

A recent addition in my library is Queen Rearing, Ed. Prof. F Ruttner, available from IBRA, N.Z. rep T Bryant, Tauranga, A Matheson, Nelson.

This book is a must for those beekeepers wanting to raise their own queen bees. It is technical, certainly, but always practical and will provide many of the answers to those questions which often bug you. Current prices \$64.00.



## NEWSLETTER SURVEY - SOME SELECTED RESULTS

return 33%

Question 1. Where do you get most of your information about beekeeping (This means information, not scandals or gossip) (1 being most important)

RESULT (%)	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL
Newsletter	31	27	20	8	6	92
Apiarist	1	11	21	9	14	56
NZ Beekeeper	15	14	13	16	15	74

RESULT \$	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL
THE 50+ HIVE BEEKEEPERS:						
Newsletter	21	27	27	11	7	93
Apiarist	5	6	15	11	17	54
NZ Beekeeper	19	14	7	18	21	79
DID NOT RATE:	News	sletter		7		
	Apiarist			46		
	NZ E	3eekeepe	∍r	21		

It is worth noting that all those who failed to give the Newsletter a rating, all claimed economic benefits from receiving it. Also some beekeepers obviously did not read the question - 20% of those who rated the N.Z. Beekeeper No 1 answer question two, why they used their first choice - the majority said "it is the official industry magazine."

## Question 3. I READ EVERY ARTICLE CAREFULLY 57%

I SKIM EVERY ARTICLE AND READ SOME CAREFULLY 38%

## Question 8. How useful has the Newsletter been?

EXTREMELY	54%
MODERATELY	33%
SLIGHTLY	5%
VERY	1%
NOT AT ALL	

## Question 9. Can you remember information in any of the Newsletter articles which resulted in economic benefits.

YES	51%
NO	21%

## 50 PLUS BEEKEEPERS

YES	71%
NO	16%

The overall results have been very encouraging and supportive, gave me a lot of ideas for future issues, particularly stories of beekeepers, their successes/failures, and so hopefully we start some of these success stories and why they are successful in the next issue.

The number of suggestions are too numerous to list here, but have been noted.

To the gentleman who said I had no sense of humour but liked the funnies, I can only suggest, if I had no sense of humour there would be no funnies. I might add, my sense of humour could be classified a 'Black' and I enjoy satire, those of you who appreciate this type of humour would read and chuckle over some of my remarks in past Newsletters.

Need I remind you once again as Beekeepers, to have your Apiary Registration Numbers visible in all apiary sites, I find it amusing that those who complain the most are the worst offenders, when it comes to doing their bit to help MAF and responsible beekeepers to eradicate disease.

## 5577777777777777777

## HIVE BRANDS

Graham Cammell, 133 Walmsley Road, Mangere, Auckland Phone 667938 will make hive brands to order. Brand size 25 mm so can be used on top bars as well as supers. Brand head only \$52.00.

## WANTED TO BUY

1/2 DEPTH SUPERS

write to: J McElroy

9 Murphy Road Wainui Beach GISBORNE

## HONEY DRUMS - RECYCLED

Mr Thomas of A1 Drum Co advises us that he would appreciate an early indication from beekeepers of what drums you need for the approaching season.

They have another order they cannot fill, but are prepared to keep some drums back for beekeepers.

Price is around \$24 until the New Year when it will rise to about \$25.50. The drums are epoxy lined.

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#### PLEASE NOTE

IN EACH OF YOUR STATEMENTS OF INSPECTION WAS INCLUDED A REPORTING FORM FOR WHEN/IF YOU FOUND B.L. PLEASE USE THEM TO REPORT DISEASE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

NOTE ALSO THE APIARIES HIGHLIGHTED FOR POSSIBLE QUARANTINE SITES, READ THE PREAMBLE, IF HAPPY WITH THE CHOICE OR IF YOU WISH TO CHANGE THESE THEN PLEASE SAY SO. ONCE THEY HAVE BEEN PROGRAMMED INTO THE COMPUTER A GREAT DEAL OF UNNECESSARY WORK WILL BE REQUIRED TO ALTER THINGS.

PLEASE GET THOSE RETURNS IN BY DECEMBER 7 1985, NOT 1986 AS SO MANY OF YOU ARE PRONE TO DO.

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

## John Gustafson



## **POLLINATION**

REMEMBER to advise MAF Tauranga of your pollination sites and have numbers prior to bees being put in orchards — and please be a good beekeeper and advise Fruitfed in Tauranga, Ph. 80199, Te Puke Ph 37907, Whakatane Ph. 87348, Katikati Ph 491316 and Gisborne Ph 79379 and have all your contracts identified on the Bee Protection maps as they go into the orchards.

The system is there for your protection, so use it. Make sure you are prompt when hives are removed to advise Fruitfed as most of our problems occur during the post pollination period.

## PESTICIDE DAMAGE

If you have hives damaged by pesticide poisoning and wish to get a sample analysed there will be a charge of \$50.00 a sample.

No longer can we justify monitoring the situation, if you want to pursue a case, then get the facts right, do your investigation/homework thoroughly and if you have a suspect, send in full details and samples of plant tissue along with bees.



In past years it has proven difficult to pin point where the problem has come from and who has actually applied toxic material. We can no longer guess, but it is important that pesticide damage be reported promptly if there is to be any chance of apprehending the offender.

COSTS TO BUILD 100 4-BOX HIVES		
400 star 0 67 05 seek	2 140 00	(Change from '83)
400 storeys @ \$7.85 each 100 lids with iron @ \$11.94 each	3,140.00 1,194.00	(.38) (.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	33.61 103.45	(.35) (.35)
28.6 kg super nails @ \$90.43 per 25 kg 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	1 422	( 06)
sheets of foundation at 79¢ per kg	1,422	(.06)
	17,434.66	(.27)
		V 4 = 4 /

(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."

## TTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTT

ALL THE VERY BEST FOR THE 1985/86 SEASON

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TO:	ADVISORY SERVICES DIVISION ADMINISTRATION SUPPOR MAF PRIVATE BAG TAURANGA	Т
*	Please enrol me as a subscriber to	
	"Your Newsletter" for 1986	
*	I have enclosed the amount indicated; cheque payable to MAF (Advisory Services Division)	
Payment	t for 1986 by January 31st	
My namo	e and address :-	
	signed	Date