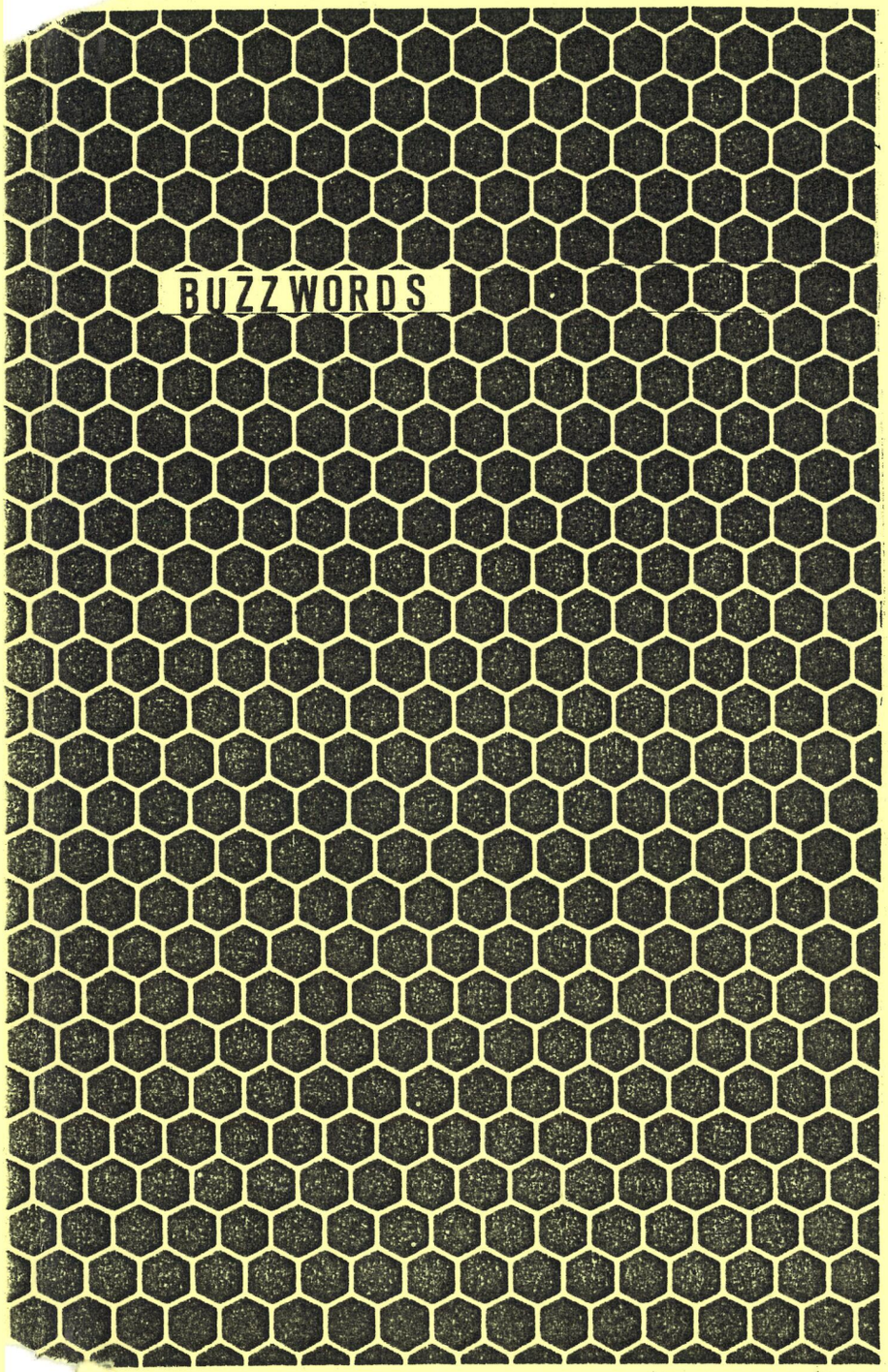
- MAF -



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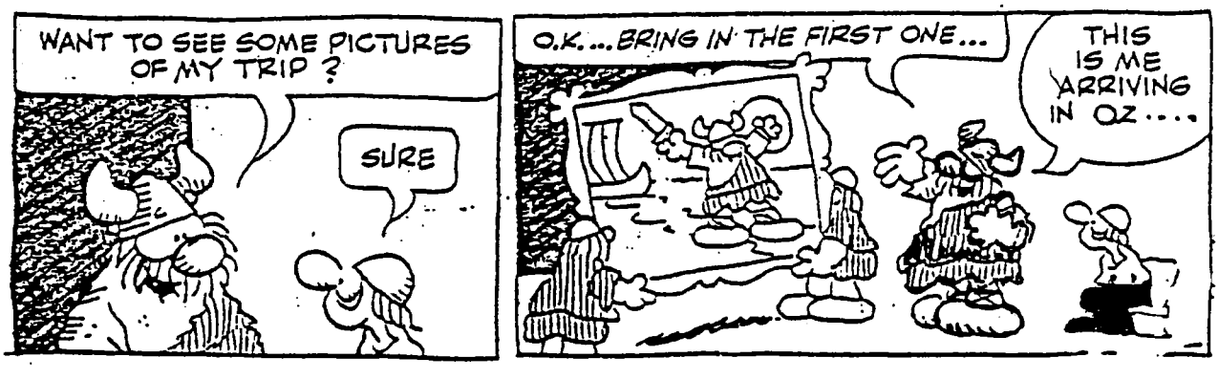
No. 3

May 1986

Mark Schrader

Apicultural Advisory Officer

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries



As some of you know, I was in NSW for a week in March with most of the other AAO's. We spent most of our time in and around Sydney making scheduled visits to:-

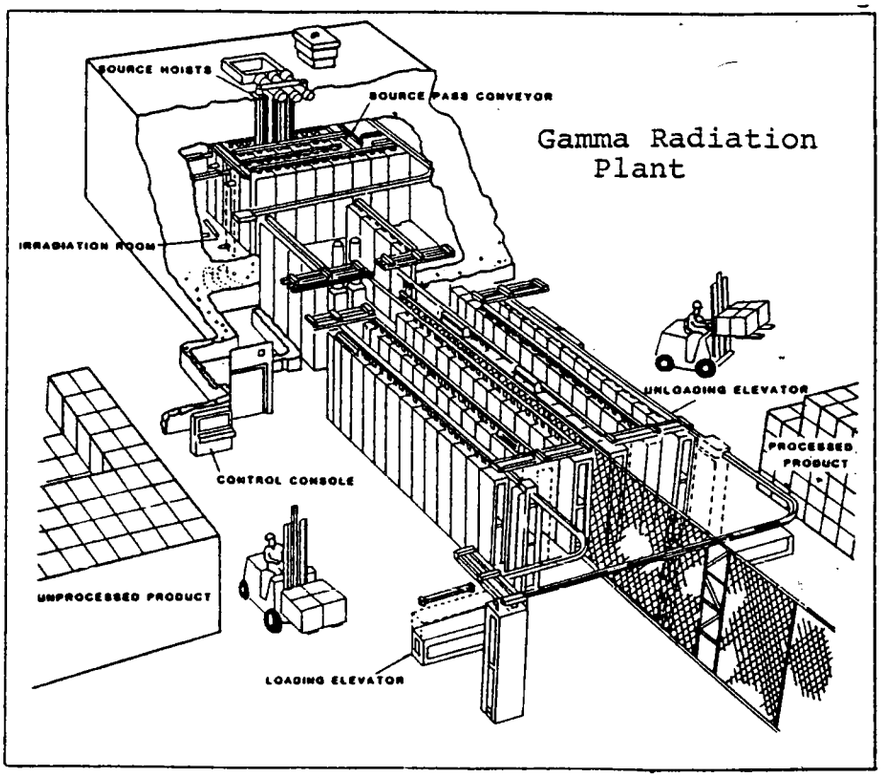
* the honey bee importation and quarantine facility at Wallgrove
* a gamma radiation plant where equipment infected with AFB and EFB can be sterilised
* the Honey Corporation of Australia's packing plant at St. Mary's
* Hawkesbury Agricultural College to see their queen breeding and stock maintenance projects
* Wheen's queen breeding operation at Richmond
* Penders Beekeeping Supplies factory at Maitland
* Dr Hornitsky's lab at the Veterinary Research Station at Glenfield
* examine European foulbrood in the field

Clive Vardy and myself will be talking about the study tour at the Otago/Southland Convention (see programme) and I'm also planning to talk to local branches about what we learnt. A full report should be ready shortly, and will probably be available through the NBA to local beekeepers if you're interested.

I thought there were several highlights to the trip, such as:-

* seeing the gamma radiation plant in operation and being allowed into the heart of the radiation chamber to view the cobalt core. Naturally the core was "deactivated", by being lowered into a deep pool of water where it glowed with a most attractive and somewhat eerie blue colour. Beekeepers with a lot of foulbrood hives can bring the equipment to the plant in covered trucks and get them sterilised. It costs about $7.00 a 3 decker including the empty frames. One side benefit has been the increased production from radiated hives. The cobalt rays kill all other lurking bacteria and nosema etc at the same time.

  As an aside, some scientists in Russia found between 60 and 82 micro-organisms per 100 cm^2 of hive surface. Many of these were bacteria, which along with viruses, probably sit around as inapparent infections just waiting for the right conditions to cause problems (Apiacta 1982 17 [3/4] 100-104).



A large-volume irradiator with overhead carriers.

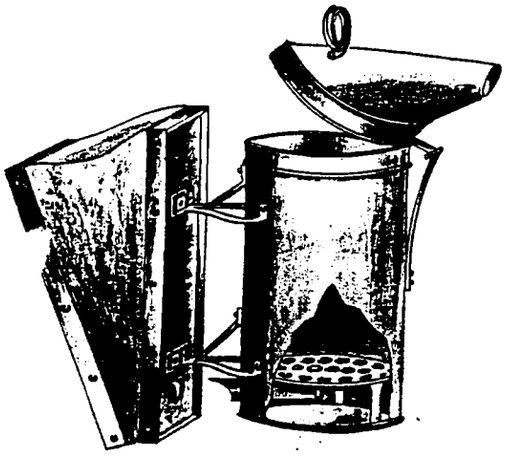
* spending a day with Dr Michael Hornitsky looking at EFB, making slides of EFB and AFB in his lab and having a general discussion on the disease and how to treat it. I'll say a bit more about EFB and Half Moon Disorder later on.

* the Honey Corporation's packing plant was a most efficient operation with eight filling lines, for liquid honey only. I saw two operations there that caught my eye. One was the way they stacked cartons on pallets. They used to pack the cartons tight together on a pallet and cover with shrink wrapping. This was expensive at around $4-$5 a pallet and involved another operation. Now the cartons receive a squirt of hot non-tacky glue on their tops and are open-stacked on the pallet. The glue provides a non-slip surface so the cartons stay put and the gaps allow circulating air to cool the honey down much quicker. The price is right too, at about 50¢ a pallet.

  The other feature that intrigued me was "bag-in-the-box honey". Yes, it was just like an overgrown wine cask. They had a collapsible wooden and steel case built on a pallet. The honey was put into a thick plastic bag liner and a honey gate was supplied that when screwed into place pierced the bag. These containers were sold mostly to the bakery trade.

* The visit to Penders was reminiscent of some of the good old Kiwi ingenuity used here to keep so called obsolescent machinery away from retirement.

  One particular machine was close to celebrating a century of working life and was "busy" producing polypropylene queen excluders at a reliable, but fairly slow, rate of one every six minutes. It took a "blank" sheet of the polypropylene and removed oval segments of the plastic, the holes being large enough to allow workers through but not the queens, and then it would move one notch across and remove another. That's it, one at a time until it had finished and you were left with a rather natty plastic excluder. The plastic excluders are about a third of the price of conventional steel excluders and work pretty well for the Aussie beekeepers. Using the excluders here might be restricted because of the higher levels of propolis present in parts of N.Z. (i.e. they might get gummed-up and restrict honey crops).



Another procedure which helped me to understand why we've got to pay through the nose for smokers, is that each smoker undergoes no less than 62 different processes from go to wo ... or was it wo to go?

It was also fascinating to see how they set the wires into beeswax foundation, unfortunately it's a process akin to getting the caramel into Caramello; you have to find out for yourself.

At the end of the trip I stayed on for awhile to use up some annual leave and have a bit of a looksky.

Unlike most of the Kiwis at Bondhi, I managed, reasonably well to keep myself out of mischief - I only saw the insides of three Police Stations!

(Ref - Waikato Bee Notes - M. Reid)

Honey - As per Sample

Over the last few years, you've provided quite a few honey samples for researchers somewhere off the Mainland and it's now pleasing to see some results from their studies beginning to filter back.

* Antibiotics in Honey

The Egyptians were using honey for treating burns and wounds well before researchers found honey to have antibiotic properties. The reason honey acts this way is due to both its hydroscopic nature (absorbs water) and to the chemicals within it which act as antibiotics (e.g. - hydrogen peroxide)

Seng To Tan, the researcher investigating N.Z. honey has found that kanuka and manuka honeys especially, contain a number of chemicals which individually have a weak antibiotic action but collectively, have a very high activity.

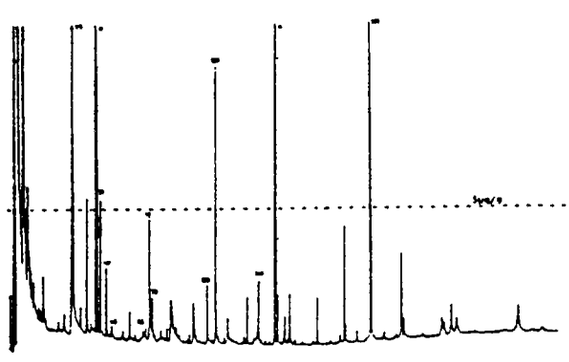
If you're interested to learn a bit more about this work you can contact me and I will see if I can purloin a copy of his studies to send to you.

* Finger-Printing Honey

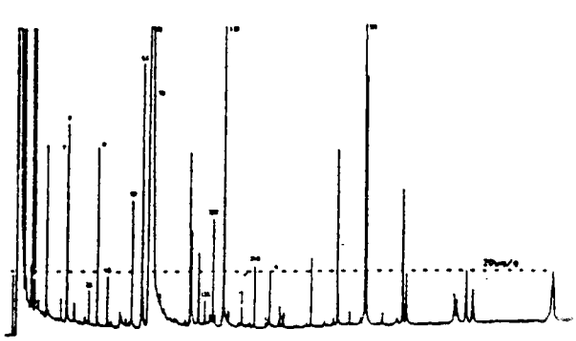
Another part of Mr Seng's work involved a potentially pioneering method of honey source identification. Currently, producers and exporters must rely on pollen content analysis of a new honey to determine its floral source. That procedure is fraught with error since some species are represented by more or less pollen than the actual nectar produced.

Seng's method is to look at the different chemical constitutents of honey using gas chromatography/ mass spectrometry. Every floral source has its own unique level of these chemicals (like a fingerprint!), so the analysis method should be quite reliable. Two such fingerprints are shown in the illustration.

If you look carefully, you'll see the two graphs are quite different; the peaks rise to different heights and are also set at different distances from the margin. It is these differences between honeys which researchers are hoping to "cash in on" when identifying samples for export.



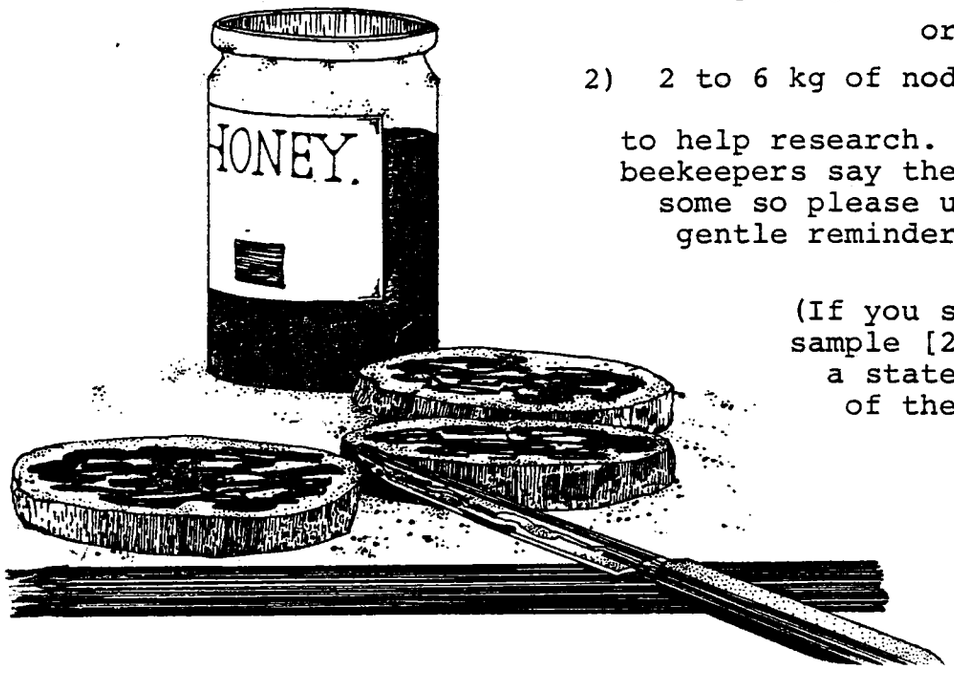
(c) Rewarewa Honey



(d) Manuka Honey

* Further Samples

Hopefully, I've whetted your appetite for supplying more samples and you can find:-



1) 100g of a single floral source honey (e.g. clover)

or

2) 2 to 6 kg of nodding thistle

to help research. I had a few beekeepers say they would send me some so please use this as your gentle reminder - thanks.

(If you send the bigger sample [2 to 6 kg] enclose a statement for the cost of the honey).

(Ref - Northland Beekeeping No. 3 - Cliff van Eaton)

Bee Sting First Aid

Here's an interesting development for people with bee venom hypersensitivity - asthma treatment inhalers. People at risk from stings normally carry Ana-kits, an antihistamine tablet together with adrenaline in a hypodermic syringe. But a shot in the arm can be difficult to administer, particularly if you're by yourself. As well, an injection doesn't get the adrenaline directly to the throat tissues, the most life-threatening area in sting reactions.

Inhalers, on the other hand, administer adrenaline-like compounds directly to the tissues concerned. They're easier to administer (aim the nozzle and press the cap) and cheaper, too.

Sounds great. The hitch, though, is that inhalers are only available on prescription, so see your doctor first. The brand to use is called Medi-haler EPI by Riker.

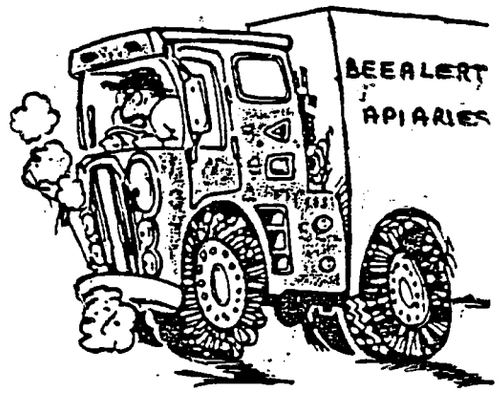
New Code for Truckers

From 1 February this year the MOT is enforcing a new loading code for truck drivers. The maximum fine is $2000. If you want to read the full code, send

$9.95 + $1.05 p & P to:

Mail Orders
Government Printing Office
Private Bag
WELLINGTON

and ask for "Truck Loading Code".



EFB vs HMD (Halfmoon Disorder)

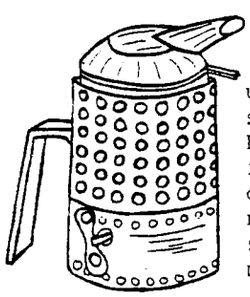
Having been introduced to EFB while in Australia, I now feel more competent to tell the difference between the two in the field. Dr Michael Hornitsky from Sydney, visited Dennis Anderson's lab at Mt Albert in March. When he saw our HMD he was so certain it was EFB, that wagers were made. I understand Dennis is still drinking the "proceeds". Anyway, I'll summarise my impressions of the field symptoms for you for these two problems.

Description	EFB	HMD
Appearance of brood	Patchy, shot-gun pattern	
Age larvae die	Die at about four days when coiled in base of cell	
Colour larvae	Yellow-brown colour turning brown as dry into loose scales.	Scales can be removed
Air tubes or trachaea	Trachae stand out as network of white threads	
Position of scale	In base of cell or twisted up cell wall, may be around lip of cell	In base of cell, also forms flattened halfmoon scale round cell wall and especially lip of cell
Smell	Pungent and sour	No particularly offensive odour
Other symptoms	Greater proportion of unsealed to sealed brood than expected; otherwise normal	Queens become drone layers and queen cells are produced. Can be cured by requeening

As you can see EFB and HMD share many of the same symptoms. In HMD more flattened scale lie around the cell wall and especially near the lip of the cell and the colony eventually becomes a drone layer. In EFB there is a very distinctive pungent smell given off by young larvae affected by the disease. If you're in doubt about any sample, give me a call.

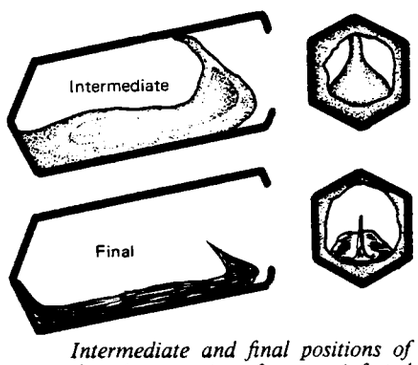
(From - Waikato Bee Notes No. 27 - M. Reid)

Clockwork smoker



Every foreigner smiles when we tell him that we use Clockwork smokers in Holland Just wind it and switch it on whenever you need a puff of smoke. Heavy duty made. No gimick!

Dr Dennis Anderson, DSIR, Private Bag, Mt Albert, Auckland is looking for live queens from hives showing symptoms of HMD. If you find any please send the queen and some escorts in a queen cage (with candy) to Dennis.



Intermediate and final positions of decaying remains of a pupa infected with American foulbrood.

Foulbrood AND all that. One of our members found a "foulbrood" hive recently by the not to be recommended method of olfactory detection. He lifted the lid, took a whiff and closed it up again to wait for my visit a few days later. Well, I lifted the lid and smelt a smell too, but it wasn't foulbrood. The odour was coming from a dead mouse on top of the inner-cover! Blush, blush, red face, embarrassment ... and another lesson learnt.

Bits and Pieces from the NBA Exec

* Massey and Victoria Universities and Lincoln College are undertaking some market research on honey for our industry.

* Executive and the honey packers are trying to establish a market reporting scheme that would be made available to branches.

* Promotional material is being retailed in the North Island by Ashcrofts Honey House Ltd in Havelock North. A full list of what's available will be published in the autumn N.Z. Beekeeper.

The Case of the Honey Pot ...

The ad that I've reproduced in Buzzwords is part of an advertising campaign to make tourists and New Zealanders aware of the risks of bringing unauthorised plant or animal material into our country.

The ad was taken from Air New Zealand's "Pacific Way", their in-flight magazine issued on international flights and is in full colour making is very impressive. I noticed, as much as I could from my pokey seat in the middle of the aisle, quite a few older American tourists on my flight stopping and reading through the little saga of Mr and Mrs Hislop - so it is eyecatching.

This attempt at creating an awareness amongst the public is a terrific example of how the NBA executive and MAF can co-operate to try and maintain our high bee health status.

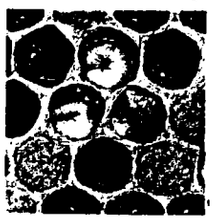
The case of the honey pot that nearly spread disaster through our kiwi fruit crops.

Honey was Mrs Hilda Hislop's favourite food. She was so crazy about it the rumour went that she'd actually married her bee keeping husband Bill for his honey.

After 40 happy years of marriage Bill and Hilda were returning home from their once in a lifetime trip overseas.

They'd had a ball. Bill had clinched deals all over Europe to sell his prized queen bees. Hilda had religiously collected pots of honey.

She hadn't bothered to tell Bill about this. She would surprise him when they got home. Anyway he'd probably just drone on and on about taking coals to Newcastle.



European Brood Disease initially infects the honey bee larvae.

What had not occurred to her was that Bill would have been absolutely aghast.

You see Hilda had never taken any notice of his night-time mutterings about European Brood Disease. The bacteria that affects honey bee larvae and is carried in products such as honey, royal jelly and pollen extracts.

The disease that's common in most parts of the world . . . except New Zealand.

Hilda had no idea that she carried within her bags bacteria that could wipe their bees right out.

Honey bee's pollination of fruit trees and clover is worth millions of dollars to our economy.

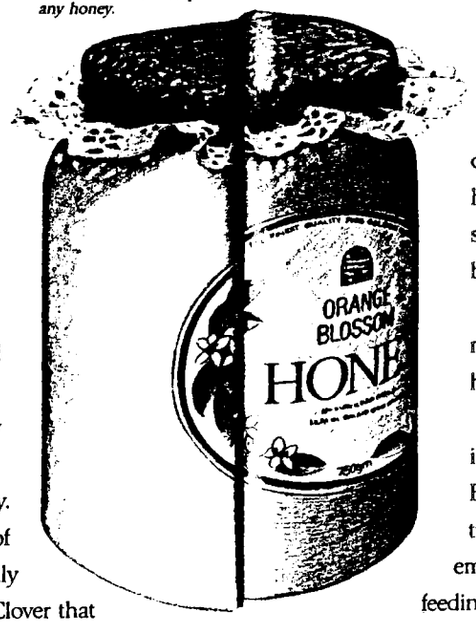
Bacteria that could quickly spread through the beehives of New Zealand. A disease that would significantly reduce our annual honey output of up to 10,000 tonnes. And would affect virtually all our other agricultural production.

Because, as we all know, when it comes to pollinating flowers bees are the best. They also "set" kiwi fruit, and apples and pears and peaches, so the fruit grows luscious and big.

Hilda of course should have known about all these things. The things everyone should know about, but don't.

It never occurred to her that the dear MAF man would worry about a little old lady and a few pots of honey. No way did she think of all those vital bees busily pollinating our clover. Clover that produces nitrogen so essential to grass crops.

New Zealand honey is exported overseas, yet to avoid the bringing in of diseases, we don't import any honey.



Nitrogen that, in fact, has been estimated to be worth over 3,000 million dollars annually.

Because if any of these things had occurred to her she would have ticked a very firm 'yes' to the question on the MAF form about importing food products.

Fortunately, in this case, Bill spotted his wife's booty the minute they got home.

Appalled by the implications of what could happen, he sent the honey straight off to the MAF people.

But what if Hilda hadn't married a beekeeper? What if she had enthusiastically eaten all her honey, or had given some of it away?

Likely as not the discarded pots would have been systematically scavenged by roaming bees.

Because no-one, not even Hilda, loves honey more than bees.

Those bees, now infected with European Brood Disease, would in turn infect their newly emerged larvae during feeding and cleaning.

The bees in that hive would be killed by the bacteria en mass. Then the infected hive would be raided by other bees who in turn would infect their own hives. Thousands of hives would have to be burnt to the ground.

An outbreak of European Brood Disease would jeopardise New Zealand's lucrative kiwifruit exports — worth over $126,000,000 last year.

And if the disease wasn't halted immediately, it would quickly spread throughout the country.

Right now our honey bees are healthier than any others in the world.

And like many of our vital agricultural industries we've an excellent record for low incidence of disease. It's vital for all of us that it stays that way.

So when you return from overseas, please read your declaration form carefully. And if you're in any way unsure about it, do declare it.

And Now ... The Card

Another good example of the co-operative work of the NBA executive and MAF is the production of the Mark II "Dear Traveller" card.

MAF's quarantine staff hand these - mostly yellow and black cards to travellers who've had honey or bee products confiscated when arriving at any of our ports. I've reproduced a "shrunk" version here for you to read.

New Bee Virus Discovered

Some of you may have seen a recent wire service report announcing the discovery of a new bee virus, which the reporter suggested was "akin to herpes in humans". Well, the virus is Kashmir bee virus, and as normal, the reporter got it wrong.

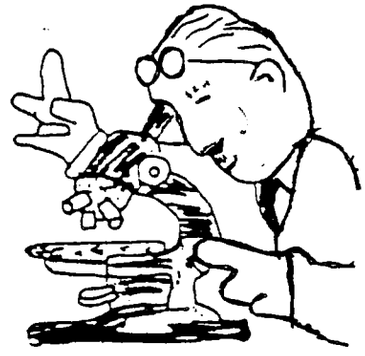
The virus was found by Dr Dennis Anderson, our bee pathologist at DSIR Mt Albert. It appears to be widespread in New Zealand, but as Dennis says, there's no need to worry. The virus has no recognisable field symptoms and doesn't even affect bees unless another disease is present as well. In larvae the virus is being found in association with American foulbrood (Bacillus larvae).

Still the discovery did cause a worry. The virus had only been found previously in Australia and India (hence the name Kashmir) and there was concern the finding might affect queen bee exports. But after the collection of dead bee samples from around the world (under strict quarantine!) the virus has already been detected in Canada as well. This one's a different strain which would tend to indicate it didn't originate from our queens.

Dennis feels he will find the virus in other countries before he's through (a case of "you don't know you have it unless you look for it") and is even suggesting a change in name to "K" virus since it's becoming obvious that it didn't just originate in exotic Kashmir.

(Ref - Northland Beekeeping No. 3 - Cliff van Eaton)

Honey Bee Survey



You're all aware Denis is also working on a 3 year national honey bee disease survey. About a dozen beekeepers in this district contribute a frame, live bees, dead bees and anything out of the ordinary, up to him at 3 monthly intervals. At present, he's pretty well swamped with all the samples having a greater than fair share of freezer storage space for the frames etc at DSIR Auckland.

Dennis is a good keen man so he shouldn't have too much bother getting through a freezer full of samples, if his speed at moving through a fridge full of Fosters is anything to go by. However, I'll ask those of you waiting for your report back from Denis to be patient and to please continue sending in your samples as required.

Stirling Moss's Logbook

I have a brother-in-law with an old truck, green in colour, which he's affectionately named Stirling Moss. Stirling is used for the business only and therefore his running costs are tax deductible and no logbook is required. However, Skoda the Skids, the farm car, has a choice between an automatic 25% deduction on running costs or actual running costs (as long as a record of these business miles are kept in a logbook).

The log should specify:-

1) Total distance travelled in financial year
2) Business travel for each journey
3) Description and purpose of each journey

So if your running costs for the business miles exceed 25%, keep the logbook and if they don't - you needn't bother.

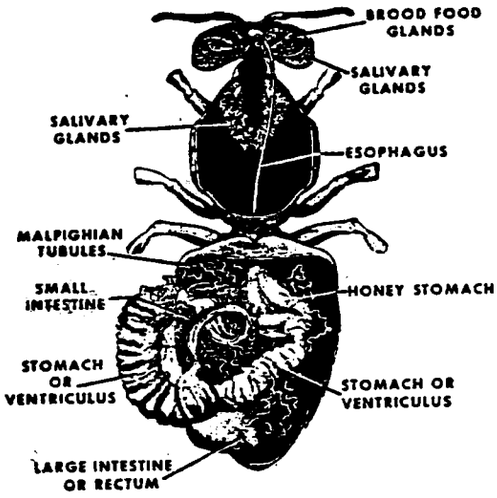
Bee Diagnostic Service - Nosema and Mites

An exclusive service for exporters is all go. The service offers to examine any bees going for export for nosema and mites and all for the princely sum of zilch (but probably not for too much longer). Samples should be sent to:-

O.I.C.
Plant Protection Centre
MAF
PO Box 41
AUCKLAND

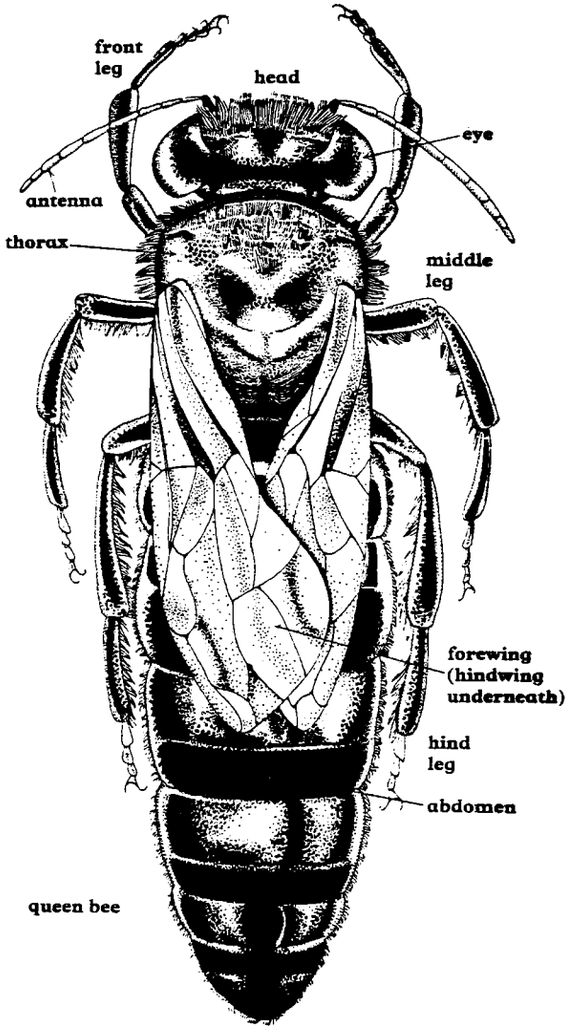
This service will be extended come 1 September to include all beekeepers and will cover the diagnosis of all honey bee pests and diseases.

Oh yes, one point, this service will be chargeable. Details to follow.



From USDA

1985 New Zealand Queen Quality Survey



About the time most of us were regretting our last spoonful of Christmas pudding, Cliff van Eaton, up in Whangarei, was busy putting a selection of New Zealand queens through their paces with a series of quality tests.

What did he find?

Weight

A queen's weight is often used as a reliable guide to how well she'll perform, heavy queens performing better than light ones. When Cliff was weighing the sample queens he had to borrow a set of expensive digital scales as his bathroom ones just wouldn't give the accuracy (surprise, surprise!). He found that when the N.Z. queens were compared to a similar survey performed in the USA the Kiwis came out on top by about 4 mg (2% approx) although the N.Z. queens were not held for as long. (Queens held in captivity lose weight).

Ovarioles

The number of ovarioles the queen has determines her daily egg laying rate which will decide the number of bees in the hive, and therefore greatly influence the hive's ability to produce a honey crop. Our queens rated about average when compared to overseas producers.

Sperm Amount

Your imagination might be able to determine how Cliff figured this one out - mine can't!

From the tests, he discovered that our queens far exceeded the 3 million sperm requirement two USA researchers suggested as being a minimum requirement for a queen heading a commercial honey producing colony.

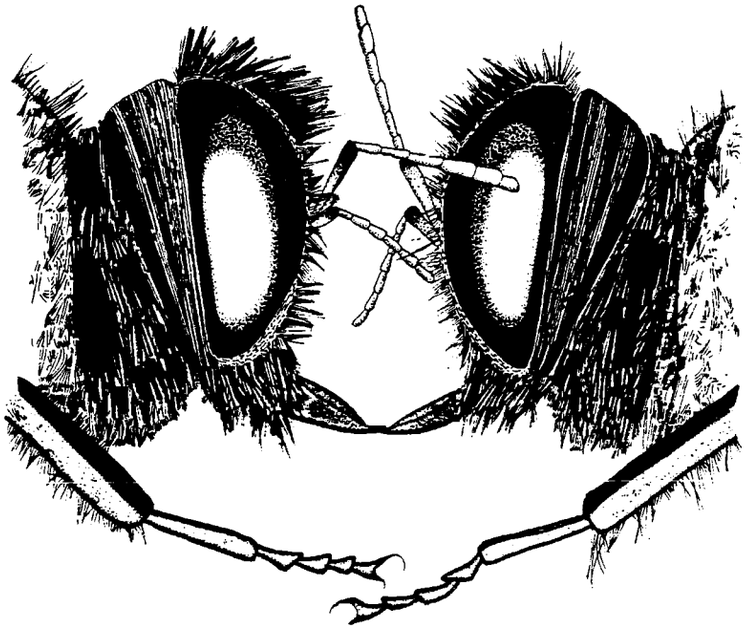
All the results of these tests plus a few others have been passed onto the queen bee producers who took part in the survey and they're already busy working on ways to improve their product for the up and coming season.

*** NZQBPA Questionnaire ***

Here's an opportunity, and its worth taking. The queen producers have got together and thrashed out a list of questions to help you, the beekeeper let them know what you want.

So before going any further, go and scrummage through the magazine rack and grab the latest Apiarist, yes the one that tells Alliance is selling up, and fill in the questionnaire. They want to know your opinions.

If you can't find the original, use the back cover of this issue.



"To err is human - to find someone else to blame is genius"

Canadians Raise the Drawbridge

In March, the Canadians closed the US/Canadian border to bee movements, for eastern Canada only. The order signed by the Federal Minister of Agriculture prevents the importation of US bees to eastern Canada, that is east of the Ontario/Manitoba border.

This has been done at the request of the beekeeping industries in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes, which predominantly winter their bees and are prepared to become completely self-sufficient.

It is likely that packages and queens from New Zealand will be sold in eastern Canada. However, it is not yet clear whether Canadian produced queens in western Canada will be allowed to enter into eastern Canada, since packages and queens will be allowed entry from the U.S.A. to western Canada for 1986 under certification from the U.S.D.A.

- Sasakatchewan Beelines, April 1986.

Other reports for Canada indicate more concern about the honey bee tracheal mite ("Acarine"). The feeling is that present US sampling techniques would not detect low levels of mite infestation.

> Package bee imports to Canada from the US declined 22% in one year - from 318 000 in 1984 to 249 000 in 1985. A further drop in 1986 is expected, with more wintering of colonies.

Live and Learn

This is a tale about a beekeeper cum orchardist's experience with his bees honey supers and Vapona (dichlorvos). In short, he discovered to his dislike, a large quantity of bees in his ready to extract honey supers. This wasn't on, so he sprinkled some Vapona crystals onto the concrete floor and "poof" just like magic, all the bees "hit the deck".

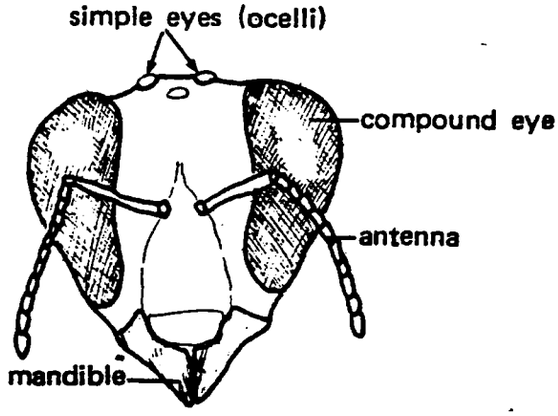
So far so good, however disaster struck when the supers went back onto the hives and the Vapona carried on its deadly mission. Out of 30 or so hives, 6 died, 10 on the almost dead list and the result - it will be good luck if they make it through winter as nucs.

To make sure you're not caught out, remember than the only safe chemicals to use on honey combs are pure methyl bromide (no chloropicrin added) ethylene oxide, cyanagas or PDB crystals. The first three of these are highly toxic to humans so don't use them unless you have the relevant licence or experience.

(Source - Waikato Bee Notes - M. Reid)

The Nose Knows

Dr Mark Winston
Source: British Columbia Honey Producer's Newsletter

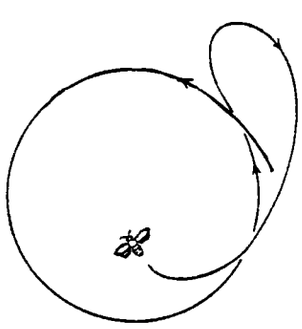


Sometimes some of the old research turns out to be the most interesting. I recently came across some work by Forel, von Frisch, and their students which answered a seemingly simple question : How do bees smell? The antennae were thought to be the noses of bees, but this was not confirmed until the early 1900's when von Frisch showed that workers could be trained to visit dishes which contained odours of natural flowers. When the last eight segments of the antennae were surgically removed, this sense of smell was eliminated. Subsequent experiments showed that the olfactory activity of bees is approximately equal to man, although workers are 1/10 - 1/100 more sensitive to odours of wax, flowers and other biologically significant smells.

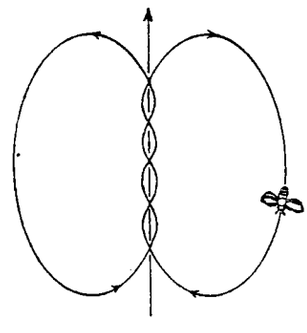
However, bees have one aspect of their sense of smell which is even more sensitive, the ability to localise where an odour came from. Bees can use their paired antennae to accurately detect the location of an odour by comparing the intensity of odours perceived by each antennae. This sense was demonstrated by experiments in which food rewards were used to train worker bees to odours in a Y-shaped tube. When the antennae of trained bees were glued in a crossed position, the workers would choose the wrong direction at the fork, indication that the antennae were providing information concerning odourant location.

The antennae are also involved in numerous other functions, such as temperature, carbon dioxide, and humidity perception. The sense organs on the antennae which are involved in these functions are still not known, but differences of 1% in carbon dioxide concentration and 1° C temperature can easily be detected by worker antennae. Such acute sensitivity is important for maintaining the brood next within the precise and narrow range optimal for brood rearing. Without their antennal "noses", bees would have little idea about what goes on around them!

(Northland Beekeeping No. 3 - Cliff van Eaton)



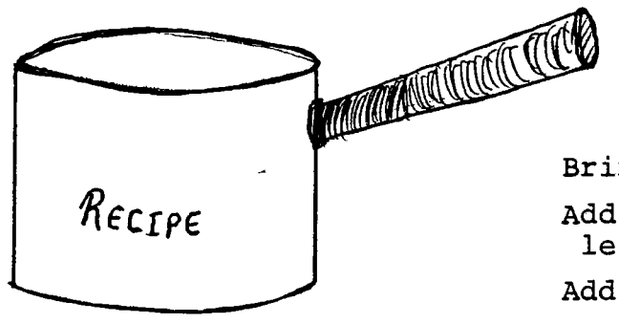
The "round dance" tells other bees that there is food within 10 metres (30 feet)—but gives no direction.



In the "waggle-tail dance" the bee waggles its abdomen during the straight run. The dotted ar indicates the d of the food. The speed of circling indicates distance—if the bee moves quickly it means food is near by; if it moves more slowly it means food is further away.

These two main "bee dances" were discovered by an Austrian scientist, Karl von Frisch. Other dances vary between these two extremes.

If you're sick of having the guts boiled out of your beans, then read on ...



Crunchy Vegetables

Bring water to boil

Add 1 tspn or so of honey and let dissolve

Add vegetables

Allow to reboil and then drain

If you want to make this a honey double banger, then mix in some melted honey, butter and ginger with the vegetables.
- Tastes pretty good.

Otago/Southland Beekeepers Convention

Where - Invermay Research Centre
Puddle Alley Road - Mosgiel

When - Tuesday, 3 June 1986

Time - 1 p.m. afternoon
7 p.m. evening

Afternoon Programme:

1.00 pm A. McCaw - NBA report. Hear up to date report on Industry Plan

1.30 pm A.C.C. - speaker on back injuries and prevention of these

2.00 pm I.R.D. - speaker on GST

3.00 pm Afternoon tea

3.15 pm Tour of Invermay Complex

Tea Break - Tea available at Invermay - $10.00
Bookings to be in to:-

N. Walker by 30 May
2 R D
Milton or phone 4015 or 4614

7.00 pm "The Overseas Experience"

Kerry Simpson - Tuvalu
Paul Marshall - Niue
Clive Vardy) - MAF study tour to Australia
Mark Schrader)

Supper to follow - Cover charge $2.00

N. Walker
Secretary
Otago Branch NBA

Brief Notes

* Yes or No in the Cashflow:

Don't forget to include your insurance and rates on your cashflows. I recently read of a dairy farmer who left these costs out and much to his shock, discovered these were worth as much as the equivalent income from his best month for milkfat.

* A Winter Job Worth Doing:

In Victoria, Australia, it's compulsory. In N.S.W. it's going that way. What is it? It's branding your hives with your registration number - a nice inside job for those not-so-hot days.

* Increase Your Crop by 10 - 15%!

How? You may remember a Canadian scientist, Dr Cam Jay, who visited N.Z. a few years ago. He's up with the play on bee drift and has shown that a 10 - 15% increase in yield can be yours for the taking if you:-

1) arrange your apiaries in anti-drift patterns (e.g. U-shapes or esses)
2) colour the hive entrances (different colours!)

If you'd like more info, contact your MAF office and ask for Aglink FPP 535 - Beekeeping, Apiary Sites : How to prevent drifting

(Take 50¢ with you)

Ref: Speedy Bee : Vol 18, No. 4

* Surplus Honey:

I've got a couple of buyers sniffing for lightish honey, so if you've some to spare at $2 or more per kg, contact AAO, Oamaru.

* The Rolls Royce of Pumps:

I think it would have to be with a price tag of $4000. What is it? It's the Granco 1½" rotary ball industrial pump which, as implied, has a circulating ball revolving around inside to move the honey or whatever, from one side of the pump to the other.

This model is bronze, although a cast iron model of about half the cost is also available. Options, presumably with bigger price tags, include 2 inlet/2 outlet and a built in safety valve.

Enquiries - David Tennyson, Cable Price, Christchurch

* A Prize for the Taking:

The American Bee Journal (ABJ) is offering a free year's sub to anyone providing info on a gismo or gadget worthy of print in their mag. So, if you feel you'd like a free sub, just send the idea to me and I'll send it away. So you think you smell a worm?

* Trees for the Bees:

The Timaru YMCA nursery has quite a few CHEAP trees for bees available to beekeepers at a snip price. If you could distribute a few, maybe even convince a farmer or two to plant some, then contact:- Dave Gresham
YMCA - Trees for Bees
Timaru Tel: 83-682 Timaru

* GST Again:

This is getting hauntingly close, so get yourself into gear and start studying it up. The IRD have speakers willing to talk to interested groups so see if you can get them, and yourself along to one in your own area.

* What's the Drill?

The Labour Department have a number of schemes to help young people gain work experience. They are searching for employers willing to train young people, and can offer very attractive incentives. If you're interested, contact your local Labour Department office.

* Second Australia and International Bee Congress:

Open your diaries and mark down 21 - 26 July 1988, venue - Brisbane.

The proposed programme includes:-

- living with Varroa and tropical mites
- pollination
- trade display
- competitions
- and lots more

The registration may be a bit steep at A$200, but you do get your own name badge?

* An Interesting Pollination Statistic!

Hives going into pollinate kiwifruit last year returned 0.2 cents per bee

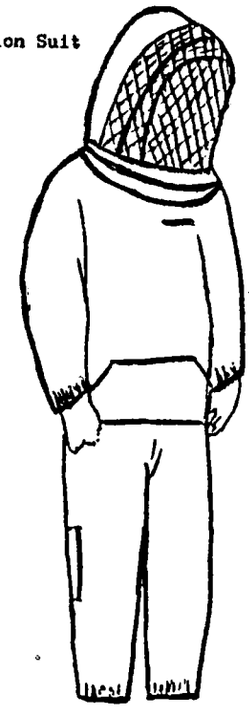
(figures used = 30000 bees per hive, 50565 hives, cost $3,444,940)

BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES

Protective Gear for Beekeepers

Bee Accessories, Auckland - have "new protection wear for beekeepers".

Pollination Suit



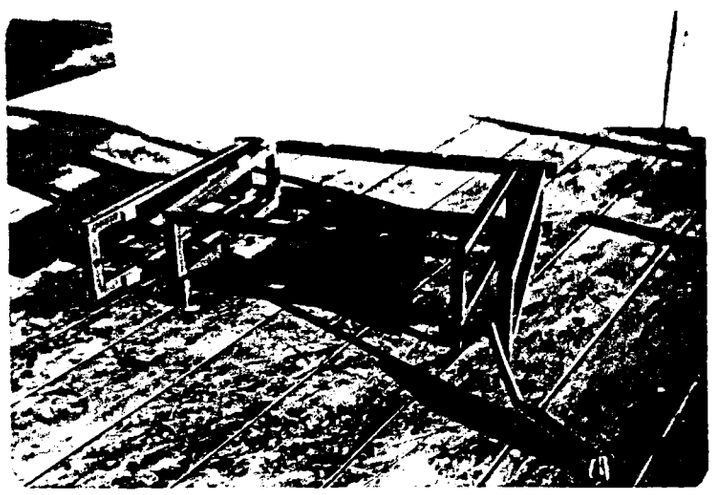
Protecta Top.

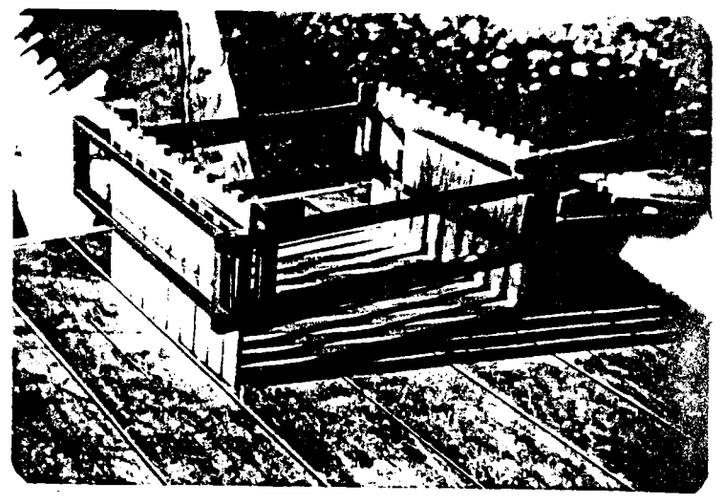
Features

* cotton dacron material
* two colours; white and green
* no hat required
* handy large front pocket
* 3 sizes
* ah yes ... beeproof

Frame Jig

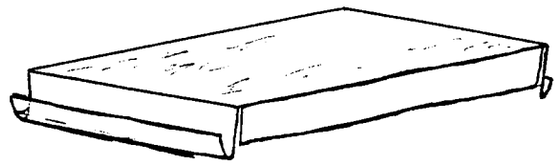
Pictures speak a thousand words.
Enquiries for frame jig to:- Steve Lyttle
Orari, RD 2, Geraldine
Tel: (056) 39-080





Galvanised Lids - 18 gauge

Steve Lyttle is also the co-ordinator for a large order of galvanised steeel rooves. Some beekeepers swear by their use so much so that they've thrown away their metric rocks. Contact Steve (see over). The bigger the order, the cheaper the price.



Hive Brander

L.W. Jesson & Co. Ltd, have sent me a current price list:-

Burn Brander Prices

Stainless Steel Brand Heads (Std)	$115.25
Hose Handle & Filter	80.25
S/S Handpiece with ON/OFF Valve	60.50
L.P.G. Jet & Burner	19.75
Air-Acetylene Jet & Burner	24.00
Spare Jet	3.75
10 lb L.P.G. Gas Bottle	85.00
7 lb L.P.G. Gas Bottle	57.00
Hose to Bottle Adaptor	7.30
Plus Postage	
Sales Tax 10%	

Any Single Item of Brander Available

DELIVERY 14 DAYS

Contact - P.O. Box 6051, Upper Riccarton, Christchurch

Inexpensive Hive Brand

Graham Cammell, 133 Walmsley Road, Mangere, AUCKLAND (ph: 09-667 938) is producing a brand head to order (your initial or registration number) for only $52.00. They're 25mm in size, so they can be used for top bars as well as boxes, etc.

Preservit

Creosote is back in a product called Preservit. It's being marketed in five colourfast colours by Carr Pountney & Co. Ltd
30 - 34 Fort Street, PO Box 232, Auckland 1
Phone (09) 39-276 or 390-276

Dalgety's also stock it. However, it's not advisable to use it on bee boxes as the smell can taint honey. If using creosote for floor boards leave them to weather for three to six weeks. Preservit comes in 10 litre tins only at $61.95 per tin.

Queen Cages - Reusable

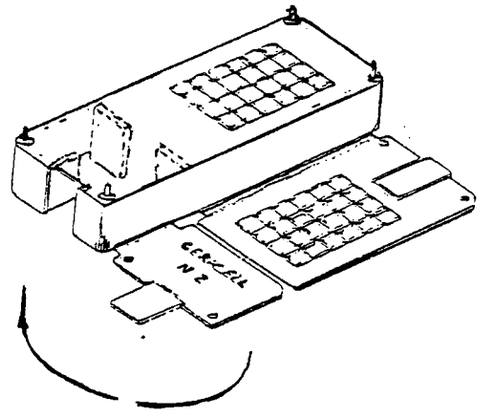
Ceracell Bee Supplies are now making a new one-piece queen introduction cage. It's made from polypropylene, a boilable and tough plastic. That's a plus if you want to re-use cages.

The cage has separate trap doors for the candy area and the bee holding area.

Price:

1 - 999 $0.22 each
1000+ $0.20 each

Ceracell Bee Supplies
P.O. Box 58114
AUCKLAND



Buy, Sell and Swap

Complete honey house equipment; extractor, scales (2), hot top, steam equipment etc, etc,

Contact - George Winslade
51 Eden Street
OAMARU Tel (0297) 45-270

Beehives - up to 800 with sites - contact AAO

If you've got this far, its either time for bed or to get out there and do some work; so get to it!

Mark

Mark Schrader
Apicultural Advisory Officer

NEW ZEALAND QUEEN BEE PRODUCERS' QUEEN BUYERS QUESTIONNAIRE

The N.Z.Q.P.A. is interested in what YOU, the beekeeper, think about commercial queen rear in New Zealand. Take time out NOW to complete the following questionnaire. The informati you provide will be used to help improve service and quality in the queens you buy.

[✓] Tick box unless indicated otherwise

A. How many hives do you own?
[] 1-5 [] 6-10 [] 11-50 [] 51-250 [] 251-500 [] 501-1000 [] more than 1000

B. How long have you been beekeeping?
[] 1 year or less [] 2 to 5 years [] 5-10 years [] 10-20 years [] over 20 year

C. Where do you keep your hives?
North Island
[] Northland [] Auckland [] Waikato [] Bay of Plenty/Coromandel [] Tongari
[] East Cape [] Hawkes Bay [] Taranaki [] Wanganui [] Manawatu [] Horowhen
[] Wairarapa [] Wellington
South Island
[] Marlborough [] Nelson Bays [] West Coast [] Canterbury [] Central Otag
[] Coastal/North Otago [] Southland

D. What type of beekeeping are you involved in?
[] extracted honey [] cut comb [] honey dew [] paid pollination

E. What percentage of hives do you requeen each year?
[] 100% [] 75% [] 50% [] 25% [] Don't requeen

F. What percentage of queens used are purchased queens?
[] 100% [] 75% [] 50% [] 25% [] None

G. What percentage of queens used are raised yourself?
[] 100% [] 75% [] 50% [] 25% [] None

H. If you raise your own queens, why do you do so?
[] cost [] problem of supply [] quality [] personal interest [] other_____

I. What method do you use for queen introduction?
[] mailing cage [] push-in cage [] paper bag [] direct introduction
[] paper-on nuc/split [] other _____

J. Following introduction, what is your typical rate of queen failure/supercedure?
[] 50% or more [] 40% [] 30% [] 20% [] 10% [] 5% [] less than 5%

K. If you have plans for expansion within the next five years, what is your expected hive increase?
[] none [] 1-5 [] 6-10 [] 11-50 [] 51-250 [] 251-500 [] 501-1000 [] over

L. What % of this increase will require commercially produced queens?
[] 100% [] 75% [] 50% [] 25% [] None

M. In general, has your service in the past from commercial queen producers been
[] excellent [] good [] fair [] poor [] N/A

N. Has poor service ever been a reason for changing queen producers?
[] yes [] no

O. To fit with your management programme, when do you want to receive queens?

Month	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M
Quantity	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____

P. In the past, when have you received your queen supplies?

Month	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M
Quantity	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____	____

Q. What type of queen cage do you prefer ?
[] plastic [] wood [] either

R. What type of queen cage candy do you prefer.
[] honey [] no honey [] either

S. Would you pay a premium for Early (September) or Late (March/April) queens?
[] yes [] no

T. Would you pay a premium for queens with specific characteristics (e.g. pollen hoarding, hygenic behaviour, stock improvement programme)
[] yes [] no

U. How did you choose your present queen supplier?
[] advertisement [] word-of-mouth [] reputation [] area [] other _____

V. Do you believe quarantined introduction of new genetic material (honey bee semen only is desirable to improve present stocks?
[] yes [] no

W. Rate in numerical order the five (5) most important characteristics you seek in a commercially produced queen

_____ Honey Production
_____ Gentleness
_____ Yellow colour
_____ Black colour
_____ Hybrid (yellow/black cross mating)
_____ Hygenic behaviour (re AFB, chalkbrood, sacbrood)
_____ Pollen hoarding
_____ Price
_____ Up-storer (preference to store honey in honey supers before brood supers)
_____ Down-storer (preference to store honey in brood supers before honey supers)
_____ Over-wintering (low stores consumption)
_____ Over-wintering (large population coming out of winter)
_____ Rapid spring build-up
_____ Quick autumn shut-down (brood rearing)

Please return completed questionnaire to the address below. An analysis of results will be reported in the July issue of the Apiarist magazine.

The Secretary
New Zealand Queen Bee Producers Assn
P.O. Box 284
KAITAIA

MAF Oamaru

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
2 Trent Street
P.O. Box 96
Oamaru, New Zealand
Telephone 49-990

Our Ref :
Your Ref :

TGD

Don't let Murray talk you into doing one of these unless you can get someone else to do p/copying, compiling, stapling, enveloping etc etc etc

and remember " Don't be there when he puts his foot down " ?

Regards

Mark Sclwood