



# CONFERENCE '84

## EXCERPTS FROM THE ADVISORY SERVICES' DIVISION REPORT

### **Some changes have taken place among apiary staff during the past year.**

Mr Bill Rodie, Apicultural Advisory Officer, Palmerston North, retired on 14 September after 35 years with the MAF. He will be replaced early in 1985 by Mr Cliff van Eaton, presently at Gore. The Gore post, and that at Oamaru, left vacant by Mr Kerry Simpson who has taken two years' leave without pay, will be filled by two new advisory officers early in 1985.

A new position for an apiary officer was also created in Whangarei. Brian Milnes, now resident in Auckland, will move to Whangarei as AI, North Auckland. Colin Rope, AAO, Auckland, will continue to serve Greater Auckland and the Hauraki Plains.

Some 30 field officers were engaged throughout the year to assist apiary staff with disease inspection, apiary registration, export certification, and general advisory programmes. Twenty of these officers hold full warrants under the Apiaries Act 1969 and have as much authority to administer the Act as do apiary staff. They are located in each region and may act in the absence of an apicultural advisory officer.

Some beekeepers were also engaged as part time inspectors. Their help is appreciated.

### **EDUCATION AND INFORMATION**

A number of short courses were held at Telford and at Nelson, Tauranga, and Gisborne community colleges. Most beekeeping "Aglinks" were revised and some new ones published. "Practical Beekeeping in New Zealand", a text book by Andrew Matheson should be available shortly. A valuable source of information, it will fill a gap in beekeeping literature.

### **HONEY STANDARDS**

Submissions were made to the Codex Committee to attempt to establish a world trading standard for honey. This is proving difficult because of differing interests between producer and exporter countries. Negotiations have been going on for four years and hopefully all problems will be resolved at the sub-committee stage before the crucial and final negotiations begin early in 1986.

### **QUEEN BEE EXPORTS TO THE USA**

As part of a long-term plan to gain access to the US market for queens, especially queens produced December to February, Advisory Services Division brought Dr H. Shimanuki to NZ. Dr Shimanuki is from the US Dept of Agriculture (USDA) Beltsville laboratory. He is a recognised expert on bee diseases and nutrition. He was shown our beekeeping systems, our strains of bees, and the MAF's extension and regulatory functions. He has carried out laboratory work on halfmoon disorder, but so

far has been unable to find the cause. The USDA is considering amending its "Honey Bee Import Regulations".

### **APIARY COMPUTER**

Mr John Smith, Apicultural Advisory officer, Christchurch, has been developing a computer programme for the apiary register. Most, if not all, regions should have their apiary records on computer this season. The annual state of inspection forms will also be prepared on the computer.

### **INDUSTRY PLANNING WORKSHOP**

The concept of strategic planning, or management by objectives, was introduced to NZBA industry leaders at a Flock House workshop last May.

### **RESEARCH**

Liaison was maintained with MAF, DSIR, and university scientists working on projects allied to beekeeping. Discussion is continuing between the Advisory Services Division, the Research Division, DSIR, and Wallaceville over the appointment of a scientist to work on diseases of bees in NZ both native and introduced.

The appointment has been accepted in principle, a scientist identified, and negotiations are underway to fund the appointment. The beekeeping industry will be asked for some financial assistance.

A PhD student from Dunedin began work on high-country legume pollination, and kiwifruit pollination studies continue at Massey University, MAF Ruakura, and at the Entomology Division, DSIR, Lincoln. Scientists from Auckland University and the Division of Horticulture and Processing (DSIR) have studied flower physiology and fruit development.

## **INTRODUCTION TO BEEKEEPING**

**at Massey University  
21-23 November 1984**

This annual course is available to people who are beginners to the industry.

**Write to:** Information Office,  
Massey University.

For brochure and enrolment form.  
(Closing date: 31 October 1984).