

THE NEW ZEALAND  
**beekeeper**



SEPTEMBER 1981

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**EDITORIAL****1981 conference - calm before the storm?**

PERHAPS IT WAS the grandeur and beauty of the surrounding countryside, but the 1981 NBA conference was notable for being a particularly harmonious affair.

The casual outside observer could have been excused for believing that the waters surrounding the New Zealand honey industry were smooth and that divisions - if they had ever existed - were no longer a factor.

It was at this conference that the government's drive for free enterprise and the deregulation of the industry was accepted, finally, without any noticeable dissention. Agriculture under-secretary Rob Talbot, who no doubt prides himself as an advocate for Milton Friedman's theories, must have left the conference feeling that he had just successfully struck another blow against socialist controls. The logic apparently being that by definition, all controls create inefficiencies and that all fetters on free enterprise are a bad thing.

Perhaps these views are more than just viewpoints. They could well be objective facts. But this is an election year and one can be sure that the policies of 1981 will not be the policies of 1984.

It is an unfortunate fact of life for small industry groups like beekeepers, pig farmers, citrus growers and so on that their size makes them vulnerable to demonstrations of government strengths. In contrast, the primary industry giants have a size which has a braking effect on the speed at which governments can impose their wishes.

Colin Moyle was unable in his three years as minister of agriculture to impose income smoothing on sheep and cattle farmers and it was left to Duncan MacIntyre to finish the

job. The concept was trendy when Moyle started his work and inevitable by the time MacIntyre had finished it. These days, income smoothing is virtually never discussed, except by those who ponder how it would work if it was in fact ever applied as originally intended.

In this context it is reassuring that while the free enterprisers have the upper hand, that the NBA executive at its post-conference meeting decided to ask the minister of agriculture not to revoke the Sale of Honey (Export Control) Regulations. Instead, Mr MacIntyre has been asked to give blanket approval for exports for the next 12 months so that unfettered free enterprise can be given a trial.

For those with longer memories, there is something poignant about this decision. It was, after all, an up and coming young National Party politician who originally set up the legislative structure which saw the establishment of industry regulatory bodies such as the Honey Marketing Authority.

While a now wiser Keith Holyoake would probably agree that the regulatory powers he gave these bodies were too stringent and tended to stifle rather than foster the industries they sought to protect, he would probably be reluctant to see a return to the open slather cut throat marketing practices which were the original reason for the establishment of these bodies.

It is an economic fact that the many individual operators which characterise primary industry have no economic power in a weak market. They are price takers. Collectively, however, they can be strong.

I guess it will eventually get down to being a case of how collective we want to be.

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single insertions of a minimum of \$5. (This does  
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### Subscriptions

The N.Z. Beekeeper is distributed free to all bee-  
keepers owning more than 49 hives who, after paying  
their compulsory hive levy, automatically become  
members of the National Beekeepers' Association of  
New Zealand (Inc).

Beekeepers owning less than 50 hives, will pay an  
annual subscription of \$10.00 which includes the cost  
of a subscription to the N.Z. Beekeeper.



## PRIVATE ENTERPRISE SPEAKS

Dear Sir,

Obviously there is a similarity between Mt Everest and the Honey Marketing Authority, both have proved difficult to surmount. Mt Everest because of its great height, the H.M.A. because of its bureaucratic protection.

It is significant that both have been overcome by the beekeeping fraternity. An era has passed which has kept the industry on a perpetual war footing.

The great battles surrounding the Honey Marketing Authority in recent times and the I.M.D. etc. of earlier years, provided a perfect base for continual dissention. It is almost as though we have lost something tangible in our national conferences. Most of the great fighters in our industry have almost dissolved into history.

The battles over the honey levy and the rights of the individual as opposed to the collective, should be recorded to ensure we have learned the lessons of the past, otherwise history will surely repeat itself.

The challenges facing the industry should be regarded as exciting. The new opportunities ahead, bring with them new responsibilities and I trust those of us with special interests whether it be production, packing or exporting will work together in close liaison as we all have a common interest in the industry we belong to.

The proposed co-operative will not be a panacea for automatic success. It should have the potential to offer an alternative to those who wish not to pack or supply private packers.

For the producer who wishes to retain his full independence and keep his selling options open, joining a co-operative would no doubt prove unacceptable.

In conclusion we do however all have a common interest, maximum prosperity for the industry as a whole. Let us use our National Beekeepers Association to promote co-operation between producers, packers and exporters to assist in a sensible approach to opportunities ahead.

Yours,  
**Robin Jansen**  
Taupo Honey Centre

## THANKS EVERYONE

Sir,

I would like to thank all the beekeepers who cast their votes in the NBA election to enable me to serve another two year term on the executive. Much has been achieved in the last few years in providing a better financial return to New Zealand beekeepers' and I will be doing what I can to see this progress continues.

It is, I believe, very important to all beekeepers that the proposed co-op lives up to Mr Kay's belief of being a viable proposition. A lot will depend on the attitude of the management chosen to run the co-op.

If they concentrate their energies on paying out the maximum possible price to their suppliers and co-operates with other producer packers on both the export and local markets in regard to pricing and supplies, then I foresee a bright and prosperous future for the co-op. If, however, there is a carryover of the old HMA attitude which appeared to some of us to concentrate more on eliminating possible competition regardless of cost, rather than making the best possible payout to its suppliers; then it will be doomed to failure as their suppliers will sell their honey for higher prices elsewhere.

Mr Talbot gave us a very clear statement at conference that the government accepts the findings of the Committee of Enquiry and, if we all put into practice the findings of the Kay report as conference voted unanimously to do, the future looks bright for beekeeping in New Zealand.

Yours,  
**Ian Berry**

## HAPPY RETIREMENT DOUG

Sir,

I had known of advisory officer Doug Briscoe for a long time before I finally met him, and it is now since I have met and visited him, I have realised the loss that the industry and MAF will suffer on his retirement in a couple of months time.

It would be true to say that the Bay of Plenty has pioneered kiwifruit pollination in New Zealand, but this comment alone would not be complete without mentioning during the last season 8000 hives were shifted in and out of the kiwifruit orchards with zero damage by insecticide.

Surely this must be worthy of entry in the 'Guinness Book of Records'! What an achievement in co-operation and I'll bet, due in no small way to Doug's guidance, perseverance and experience.

Yet this is only a small part of Doug's responsibilities. He has to monitor the toxic honey area and administer the 'Apiaries Act' through an area which takes in Gisborne and nearly to Taupo.

I know that there are many things that Doug would have liked to have done but this is the fate of anyone who faces his job with dedication and enthusiasm. There is always the new project starting before the previous one is finished.

I am sure that the whole industry would join me in wishing Doug and Margaret a happy retirement. Retirement from the MAF does not mean that Doug is completely divorcing himself from the bee world. I understand that he intends to run a few hives so that he does not lose touch with the industry that has occupied over 30 years of his life.

A gentleman beekeeper with a centrally heated workshop and lino on the floor. You don't believe me? Then visit Doug in his retirement and tell him I sent you. He might want to take it out on me, or send me the account for his tea bill.

Yours,  
**Don Gibbons**

## BEEKEEPING HOLIDAY

Sir,

My wife and I are tentatively planning a trip to your country next fall (your spring-summer), and while there would like to visit and/or work with some beekeepers to learn and exchange ideas, techniques, general bee lore, and the love we share for those creatures.

I have kept bees for several seasons working with larger commercial beekeepers, and have built up my own sideline business with about 100 colonies.

Of particular interest to me is commercial queen rearing, preferably in the South Island.

My wife and I have no children and we would be very willing to exchange bee work for room and board to experience some of the flavour of your country.

Could any beekeepers who we could visit please contact us at the address below. Visiting and/or working conditions are very negotiable.

Yours,  
**Lawrence Small,**  
283 Haven Road,  
Jacksonville,  
Oregon, 97530,  
U.S.A.



# KING BEE

(WHERE THE NBA HAS ITS STING)

### New NBA president.

Tony Clissold has replaced Paul Marshall as the president of the NBA. Following Mr Marshall's announcement that he would not be seeking re-election, Mr Clissold was elected president at the NBA conference in Queenstown, despite a challenge from Michael Stuckey. Mr Stuckey was then elected vice-president.

### Don Hayman to be thanked

Delegate Fred Bartrum suggested at the Queenstown NBA conference that the industry should write to Don Hayman and thank him for the work he had done while government member of the HMA.

The executive secretary of the NBA will be extending the industry's best wishes to Mr Hayman for his future position with the Department of Trade and Industries.

### Thanks, authority workers

Mr Ivan Dickinson, chairman of the HMA, asked the Queenstown conference to extend a vote of thanks to the staff of the authority for their efforts for the industry.

He said that the authority had an industry role, and it was fitting that the work of the staff should be recognised. The vote was carried enthusiastically by appreciative beekeepers.

### Packhouse workers should belong to the union

The NBA has informed all hive levy payers that all employees involved in the manufacture, processing, preparation for sale, bottling, packaging, labelling, wrapping or tinning or handling of raw materials including handling of a number of food and chemical products in which honey is named, must belong to the Chemical Workers and Food Processors Union. The

current union fee is \$1.58 a week.

The circular stresses that whether or not employees become members of the union does not affect the employer's obligation to pay the appropriate award to do so, could result in employers having to pay back pay extending back over several years. Beekeepers who employ staff for processing and packing honey would be wise to obtain a copy of the award from the nearest Department of Labour office.

As a result of an anomaly in the award, honey packhouse workers in Southland and Otago do not have to belong to the union. (At the moment).

### High registration fee

The NBA is looking into a complaint from Gavin's Apiaries in which they express concern at the high registration fee they had to pay under the Food Hygiene Regulations for their extraction shed and packing facilities. The fee quote was \$60.



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to phone and make an appointment

Name .....

Position in company .....

Business address .....

.....Phone .....

FMW 80/1

# Regional co-operation beats spray damage

The Bay of Plenty kiwifruit boom has also been a pollination boom. Few can be unaware of the service that beekeepers are offering the fruit industry in the Bay of Plenty.

Last season 7 000 hives were moved into kiwifruit orchards, for this purpose. Over the years a lot of work has been put into kiwifruit pollination and those involved feel that they have arrived at a point where no bee mortality will occur as a result of insecticide spray materials being used in accordance with instructions.

This past year no bee mortality occurred in the Te Puke region . . . a milestone for this type and magnitude of operation.

Doug Briscoe, Tauranga apicultural advisory officer, feels that many other areas of beekeeping and horticulture could learn from what has been achieved in this district.



MAN HAS known for centuries that honey bees play a vital role in the pollination of certain crops.

Honey bees are by nature, especially adapted and suited for this work. They have no interest in lining the pockets of growers with dollars as they carry out the function of transferring pollen grains from stamen to stigma, or from flower to flower. They do it simply because of their sole desire to survive.

It is for the ultimate perpetuation of the species that they search out sources of nectar and pollen, and in the course of so doing, the act of pollination is unwittingly completed. Factors that can complicate the pollination of crops (other than climatic conditions of course) are that nature in some cases has provided flowers with both nectar and pollen, whilst others produce either one or the other – and some even produce a pollen that is sterile.

In the case of kiwifruit (Chinese gooseberry) the plants are essentially dioecious – the sexes are carried on different plants. On male vines the flowers have a vestigial ovary which is surrounded by numerous stamens. On fruiting, in the female vines also, the ovary is surrounded by numerous stamens, but in New Zealand no viable pollen has been found to develop from the stamens.

This means the pollen produced by the stamens of the male flower on one vine must be transferred to the stigma of the female flower on a different vine. This is carried out by the honey bee.

To make it complicated however, the female flower is considered unattractive by the honey bee because it produces no nectar.

Research has shown, because of this that it is necessary to “super-saturate” a kiwifruit block with honey bees when

there are both male and female flowers, to effect a good pollination. Other factors must be favourable though for example adverse climatic conditions at the critical flowering period could contribute to poor pollination resulting in a small crop or irregular fruit size.

Because of the “third” factor affecting pollination, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has recommended eight hives of bees per ha for adequate kiwifruit coverage. The ministry also recommends that because the female kiwifruit flower is less attractive to bees, the hives be brought into the orchard at between 10-15 per cent flowering of the crop.

By doing so, the bees are encouraged to work flowers in close proximity to their hives before being given time to orientate to more attractive nectar and pollen sources. To further encourage bees to stay with kiwifruit it is necessary to mow the orchard at regular intervals and before the bees are brought in, to prevent the cover crop (especially clover) from flowering. If this is not done the bees could be attracted away from the kiwifruit vines.

## Spray programmes

Because of the very high standards set for quality control – especially for export, the spray programme for kiwifruit is intensive and close to the pre and post flowering periods.

Insecticide sprays should be applied no less than seven days before the bees are brought into the orchard.

The demand for hives of bees for pollination in the Bay of Plenty is increasing at the rate of almost 1 000 every year and last year over 7 000 hives were moved into orchards (mainly kiwifruit) for this purpose.

Over many years the need for under-

standing and co-operation between orchardists and beekeepers has been recognised as essential for a project of this magnitude to be successful. Numerous meetings have been held with growers’ organisations and an annual liaison meeting between beekeepers and orchardists is called by the MAF to allow problems to be aired and difficulties discussed.

In the early years of the venture bee mortality was experienced by some beekeepers. In fact at one stage, many beekeepers were on the point of abandoning the project completely. Good liaison was necessary and fruit-growers were made aware of the position should the beekeepers decide to pull out.

Most kiwifruit growers were very cooperative but there remained a small minority who were causing problems. In some cases bee mortality was being caused by orchardists with crops, other than kiwifruit. They were spraying in the area where bees had been provided, for kiwifruit pollination.

There was difficulty determining that the bee mortality was being caused by the spray Azinphos-methyl. Wallaceville Research Section staff, after exhaustive work, found that the chemical Azinphos-methyl (Gusathion) broke down with the body of the bee in a matter of hours, to such an extent that it left no trace of the original poison.

In other cases mortality had been caused by neighbours spraying while bees were in the orchards next door. One of the main problems to be overcome was to know when it was safe to spray and how to know for certain there were no bees in close proximity.

After many months of soul searching, a centralised scheme was invented. It called for the plotting of all hives on

orchard properties within the district, so, a large district map was prepared (based on the Cadastral series by the Lands and Survey Department showing all surveyed properties on their orchard properties and their boundaries).

The names of the growers were printed on their orchard properties. A clear plastic circular disc was prepared with a 2 km radius from the central point, thus when the disc was placed with the central point on a given property it became a simple matter to read off properties that came within the 2 km distance from the orchard concerned.

The map had to be located at a central point, the Fruitgrowers Federation Office at Te Puke was offered and accepted as the chosen place. Here, details of the scheme were readily available by telephone and the map was available for personal sighting.

The plan called for the co-operation of the beekeeper. Immediately bees were placed on orchard properties he would phone the information to the Fruitgrowers Federation Office Manager, who would in turn place a coloured pin on the map indicating the properties concerned.

A "diary" was completed at the Fruitgrowers Federation office where the beekeeper's name, details of orchard properties concerned, the hive numbers involved and the time and date of recording, were entered. Each individual beekeeper was identified by a different coloured pin. At a glance, the district could be visually surveyed and each beekeeper and property owner immediately identified.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries issues removal permits (under the Apiaries Act) for the beekeepers that were engaged in moving hives of bees. This provides a spot check monitoring programme whilst the hives are in the orchard. When the time came for the bees to be removed from the orchards the same procedure was carried out but in reverse.

The beekeeper would immediately notify the Fruitgrowers Federation office that the bees had been removed from certain properties – consequently this information was recorded in the "diary" and the respective pins removed from the map.

Before any fruitgrower could apply an insecticide spray he needed a "clearance" from the federation office. This was arrived at by placing the central point of the plastic disc (mentioned earlier) on the said property on the map. Properties within this 2 km radius which still had bees, were taken note of and the orchardist wanting to spray was not given a clearance to do so.

Only when all pins (representing hives) were removed from the area (2 km)

was the OK given to proceed with the spray programme. It was at this point that maximum co-operation of the fruitgrowers was essential. It was also vitally necessary for the beekeeper to notify the federation immediately any hive movements were made (either in or out of properties). A slip up on the part of either the beekeeper or the orchardist could mean trouble.

It didn't happen that way, and 7 000 hives were moved into and out of orchards in the Te Puke region without loss caused by spray material. A simple method, and effective – but only on the basis of co-operation and understanding.

In fringe areas of the Bay of Plenty where the system is at present not functioning, some isolated mortality was recorded, but with the system pioneered in the Te Puke region, growers in other areas will be encouraged to employ a similar system. Already moves are underway for this to be done.

To arrive at this point has involved long hours of work, frustration beyond measure, but dedication by a few who believed that by a spirit of co-operation and understanding the problems faced by the two industries could be resolved to the satisfaction of both parties.

I would like to thank the industries concerned for the understanding of each other's problems and the over-

coming of these, and the orchardists, other than kiwifruit growers, who have shown a spirit of co-operation and understanding of the problem and who delayed or altered their spray programmes to fit in with the pollination programme.

There are also those within the fruit industry who have worked tremendously hard on behalf of their members and none more so than Bill Baldwin, to whom I extend my thanks. Thanks also to Nelson Drummond of the Fruitgrowers Federation who by making his office and facilities available contributed to this success story.

I am satisfied that a problem only remains as long as two parties will not get together to talk about it. With the spirit of understanding that presently exists, the two industries must go from strength to strength.

We now look to the new generation of grower for this same spirit of understanding, co-operation and in some cases, patience. To service this increasing industry with bees for pollination, we look to the beekeeping industry and expect from them strong hives, a prompt and efficient service and also an understanding of the problems of the fruit growing industry.

Surely with this continuing attitude, the success story of last season will be often repeated and hopefully adopted in other fruitgrowing areas.

## Good reason for 3/4 depth supers

APICULTURAL ADVISORY officer Kerry Simpson, sent the report below into the NZ Beekeeper saying "this is another sound reason for 3/4 depth supers.

"At present there are no legal weight limits for employees but 3/4 depth full honey supers at 25-28 kg are rather more reasonable (or less unreasonable) on the back than full-depth full honey supers at 35-40 kg."

**Extract from an information sheet published by the International Occupational Safety and Health Information Centre, International Labour Office, Geneva.**

### Reasonable Weight Limits for Men and Women at Different Ages:

Lifting technique is an essential factor in determining what weight can be lifted without danger to health.

Unfortunately, the best technique has so far been correctly used by only a few specialists, such as weightlifters and workers handling heavy loads, and most workers are still unfamiliar with it. The weight limits listed below should, therefore, be taken as applying to

loads lifted by any method, and take account of the relationship between efficiency and age.

### Reasonable weight limits for occasional lifting by any method

Age (years)	Men kg	Women kg
14 to 16	15	10
16 to 18	19	12
18 to 20	23	14
20 to 23	25	15
35 to 50	21	13
Over 50	16	10

These figures are based mainly on the disc-stress factor and are thus valid for occasional lifting. In frequent lifting, account must be taken of the fatigue factor, and the figures should be reduced by 25 per cent.

Workers lifting heavier loads than those indicated in the table should be specially selected and correctly trained. The figures quoted should not be considered as mathematically exact, but they give an idea of reasonable weight limits under various conditions.



# Better marketing for honey needed

by Bronwyn Falconer

GLUMPH, GLUMPH, glumph, Greg the beekeeper's gumboots trudge up the honey house steps. Just back from gathering the flow, he puts down the oozing frames and begins the process of extracting, to send his honey off to the waiting public.

Mixing the rata and manuka together (after all it goes to the same place eventually), he puts the honey into white containers with pale yellow lettering and a scary bee diagram emblazoned on the front, (just to show the housewife what sort of thing to expect inside the container.)

With a flick of the wrist the plastic lids are wedged on the containers and then it's onto the back of the old Bedford off to dazzle the local and overseas buyers. And that's the way it's done!

So much for the marketing strategy.

A touch of humour or a touch of truth? Either way, it's a fact that between a profitable business and one that is just rolling along, lies in a basic knowledge of the needs of the market being catered for and a successful container and label.

This was the message from Chris Gorton of the Department of Trade and Industry who threw a little light on the best ways of labelling and packaging honey. He told the 1981 Queens-town seminar, the image of New Zealand honey needs to be changed if it is going to be successful in overseas markets.

Beekeepers at the conference were shown a display of all the latest modes of packaging and labelling honey, along with photos of overseas honey gift packs and rooms full of innovative honey products designed to get the consumer to part with his/her dollar.

The predominant feature of this "up market" honey was that it was geared for a retail market, mainly clarified honey packed in glass jars with metal lids, and bright catchy labelling, a trend which Chris Gorton said was slow to catch on in New Zealand.

He said the New Zealand product was generally not "up market". In a survey he had carried out with trade commissioners in selected posts overseas, he had found that New Zealand honey is still sold in bulk 200 litre containers and is treated as a commodity rather than as a luxury good.

Also, our retail honey packs sold overseas were not as attractively presented as the majority of competing products and because of this the return obtained from their sale was relatively poor.

He suggested time may be ripe for New Zealand honey producers to take

a good look at their present export strategies especially to do with exporting bulk honey. World markets are becoming subject to increased competition, especially from China. Substantial tonnages of honey from China have been landed in the UK and Europe with the result that prices in these markets are beginning to fall. Competition will hit sales of bulk honey hardest, because it is on the commodity market where price is paramount.

With the packaged retail product, the impact of competition from other sources can be cushioned because there is a greater range of points of entry into the distribution system unlike bulk honey, which essentially enters at the bottom.

To get a foothold in this world market, New Zealand will have to follow the trends from overseas. In general, this means presenting honey in glass jars with metal lids and a good label that will do justice to the product.

By and large clarified honey is preferred, although there are outlets for creamed and comb honey. There are also variations, such as a jar of clear honey with a piece of comb in the liquid. It would be also possible to market honey under distinctive flavours such as manuka and rata.

Chris Gorton envisages three main considerations when contemplating setting up a retail product outlet: These are, control over the product to ensure that your reputation as a consistent quality supplier is maintained, deciding co-operative pricing policies to ensure that price cutting does not occur and being able to supply a specified amount on a regular basis.

The Department of Trade and Industry offers assistance with sample packaging materials by submitting labels to the appropriate authorities overseas for their approval and if it is necessary they can obtain the opinion of potential buyers on the attractiveness of the labels as a commercial proposition.

New labelling and packaging will not boost honey sales alone, however. Better marketing methods both domestically and overseas will mean that the industry will have to get out and promote itself, advisory officer Trevor Bryant recommended.

He said many overseas consumers do not know where New Zealand is, let alone the quality of our honey. "One way of promotion would be to put honey samples in the tourist hotels of New Zealand's major resorts so they are displayed on the kitchen table along with everyday tea and coffee," he said.

When thinking of redirecting your marketing strategy, Mr Bryant said it was necessary to consider the different kinds of consumers that the up-to-date marketer would cater for. These were the bulk purchaser - worried about value for money; the roadside stall or back door buyer, the supermarket impulse buyer, the health food addict and the tourist and gift buyer.

The first two classes the New Zealand honey producer seems to cater for well. Supermarket impulse buyers, to whom a lot of New Zealand's honey is aimed, know they can receive a consistent quality honey. They are not particularly interested in packaging; more value for money.

This does not mean neglecting this sector of the marketplace. To the contrary, an independent Canadian survey showed that the housewife had distinct preferences for packaging and display when honey was offered at the same price. Three different packs were used for the survey, one with a more traditional design illustrating a bee, one with a stylised bee and flowers and the third with only brightly coloured flowers.

Eighty per cent of consumers chose the design with just flowers, no implication of bees. It was shown further on in the survey, that the average housewife consumer did not like insects, hence the preference. The health food and gift buyer was found to prefer an attractively presented article - preferably with autumn tonings, rural scenes, a named source and a higher price, invariably believing in value for money. New Zealand honey producers do not cater well for this market segment.

But what of cost? This of course is the major argument against producing new and better jars and labels. The cost of packaging in New Zealand is expensive, maybe too expensive for a small independent packager, but it may be suitable for a co-operative body, Chris Gorton says.

"There are costs involved in doing this and I believe that to do it effectively a co-operative approach is most logical. The demise of the Honey Marketing Authority is therefore an appropriate time to review this sort of approach," he said. "While use of improved packaging materials would increase the price of the product, the retail price obtainable can be significantly increased, with the result that the producer can obtain a higher nett return in the end."

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# Alternatives to honey production

by Bronwyn Falconer

HONEY PRODUCTION is the way most New Zealand beekeepers make their living, but if they were to apply some initiative and "know how" to their operations they could harness some of the potential markets for new bee products both domestically and overseas.

This was the message loud and clear at the Queenstown conference where advisory officer Trevor Bryant, with the tang of prairie honey still on his mind, outlined the potential for our prime genetic breeding stock overseas, and Christchurch officer John Smith delved deep into his "muck and mystery" file to find a few alternatives to a mass honey production operation.

Mr Bryant told the conference of the potential for producing commercial queens and quality breeding stock with known genetic backgrounds for overseas markets. He said the potential markets for New Zealand stock were extensive and the United States market would be particularly lucrative because of the threat of varroa and acarine being carried into the country by the spread of the African bee. The American market would suit New Zealand breeders as they could accept our queens from February to March.

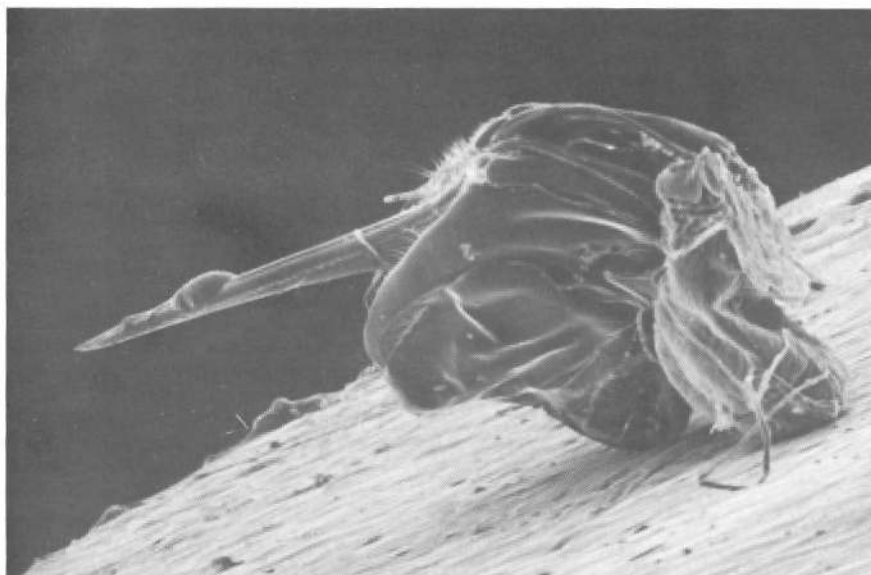
Canada recently closed its door to Australian queens, because of the disease situation in that country. It is thought that other countries will follow suit narrowing down the competition that New Zealand would have to face.

Before these markets can be tapped however, there will need to be an education programme in our potential marketplaces and at our own backdoorstep.

New Zealand is a relatively unknown quantity in major overseas queen bee markets and we need to convince, in particular the American authorities, that we do not have undesirable genetic material here, nor the mites varroa and acarine, nor brood diseases and chalk brood. New Zealand will have to be seen as having good controls and legislation to keep these unwanted pests out.

At our own backdoor, if we are to take advantage of the situation, we must know what desirable traits we have, how to utilise the available gene-pool and advertise this along with the disease-free conditions New Zealand offers. Records will have to be kept to prove production performance.

If New Zealand can adopt performance-proven breeding stock, there would also be markets in the United Kingdom and Israel.



*A microscopic view of the bee sting and poison sac. According to advisory officer John Smith it may be a big export earner in the future.*

Making beekeepers aware of the alternatives to honey production was the main essence of Christchurch officer John Smith's address.

In the middle ages the main hive product was wax to make candles for light with the honey being just a by-product only fit to be made into mead. Beekeepers aren't so naive about the use of honey today, but are they taking a good look in the hive today to see what else is offering?

Mr Smith said the product most likely to cause a stir in the near future is bee venom.

"English researchers have collected 1 kg of pure venom and isolated the pharmacological part which is active against arthritis. It has been patented in the United Kingdom as "Peptide 101" and is reported to be 10 times more effective than cortisone in the treatment of some kinds of arthritis."

On the New Zealand scene, Auckland Medical School is presently researching bee venom. There are still many things to learn about quality and collection methods, but Mr Smith says that if the results with the venom are as good as hoped, it could end up as being more important than honey.

Propolis seemed to be a fly-by-nighter he commented. "It is only now as the market goes down that researchers are beginning to prove that there is something to it."

Although there is apparent scepticism in the western world about the real value of propolis, the Russians have been quick to reap the rewards of using propolis in the dental clinic. Since

1968 they have been using it as an anaesthetic for tooth extraction as it was found to be more efficient than procaine, its substitute drug for this purpose.

Propolis has also been tested in treatment of sores and as a growth inhibitor for seeds and plants.

Should the demand for propolis rise in the future, the quality for the market place according to Mr Smith, will have to be clean, pure, fresh and it will probably have to be hand picked and sorted.

Royal jelly was also another field to be looked into, as the New Zealand royal jelly lover would at present pay \$22.50 for an imported variety on the local market. Markets do exist for New Zealand royal jelly, but not at prices which producers hope to get at present.

Mr Smith suggested that with a little thought, ways could be found to lower production cost and hence the sale price of the product. He said we could never hope to compete with China for a cheap royal jelly, but that we must be able to compete with France for a quality product.

Should future markets decide that New Zealand ever gets into large scale production of royal jelly, then there will be a lot of queen bee larvae to sell. The French producers use the juice of queen bee larvae as a filler for their royal jelly. "Some inventive New Zealand beekeeper may be able to find a market for freeze dried larvae as a delicacy like caviar, which after all is only fish eggs," Mr Smith said whimsically.

New Zealand's biggest potential al-

ternative market Mr Smith feels is in pollen, though the market is being ruined because of the poor quality of some of the pollen that is at present being offered.

Two students at his recommendation recently looked into the New Zealand pollen market. They discovered there is a market for 2.5 tonnes throughout the country without any kind of sales effort at all. People in the pollen selling trade, estimated sales of at least 20 tonnes could be made without a lot of effort. After this, it will have to be sold.

A quality pollen product will have to be offered by producers. Because if

you compare the number of pollen traps to be used in the coming season with the known market of 2.5 tonnes there is a danger of oversupply. Unless time is taken to ensure that only good pollen is offered for sale, there will be little room for expansion in production.

Mr Smith envisages the ideal pollen product to be clean, unfermented and with a wholesome taste: "That is, no bees wings, or wax moth larvae to give added taste . . ."

This would be obtained by emptying pollen traps every other day and then deep freezing the pollen for 24 hours to kill off any living matter that may

have found its way into the trap.

The pollen then should be dried to under 10 per cent moisture or freeze dried.

"If you do freeze dry pollen", said Mr Smith, "tell the public that your product is 'freeze dried' on that colourful leaflet you will be handing out with your product, to back up that poster you have placed in all the health food stores."

So, according to the two apiary officers, the room for diversification within the industry is there, it just requires producer determination and a willingness to work out which markets best suit your operation.

## Potential for New Zealand beekeeper in Nuie

THE NUIE ISLAND Development Board has taken steps to ensure that the honey industry on Nuie Island can be developed to its full potential. They have expressed an open invitation to New Zealand individuals and companies to enquire about purchasing the island's honey factory and its assets.

The honey industry on Nuie Island is the only industry there that makes a regular profit, but Willis Burns MAF aid co-ordinator, on an eight day visit, discovered that there is plenty of scope for expansion and restructuring on the island to make the industry even more profitable.

Mr Burns reported aspects of the industry needed to be changed, but the potential to produce honey – revising or replacing equipment and management techniques – was good. There was also scope to increase the number of hives and production of the existing hives, in a relatively disease-free environment.

Mr Burns suggested that the reason the industry had not developed to full potential in the past was because most members of the Nuie Development Board lacked knowledge of the workings of the honey industry, and felt it was not necessary to intervene in an apparently successful industry.

He also found the employment situation difficult. The only skilled worker had reached the highest bracket of income for his type of work, and there was no financial incentive for him to work any harder. This worker, Foster Ikamau, was offered the Nuie beekeeping business for a nominal sum, but he preferred to carry on drawing a wage from the government.

The two co-workers employed to do most of the "fetch and carry" work

must be under constant supervision. Ikamau asserts that he can't get good labour, the men he has cannot be relied on to carry out hive manipulations without supervision. Thus, all three go into the field at any one time to do the work one man would do on his own in New Zealand. It takes three men two days to extract about 1 tonne of honey. Many New Zealand beekeepers could handle this amount on their own in one day.

Nuie Island presently supports 900 hives but the numbers could be increased to 2000 if the apiaries were correctly spaced apart. Production on the island, has decreased since the death of J. Mackisack who was responsible for introducing and developing the beekeeping industry there, the Burns report says.

The quality of Nuie Island honey in the past has been abysmal, according to manager of the Honey Marketing Authority at the time the report was written. The honey was poorly strained, had a high moisture content, and no attempt had been made to keep the light and dark lines separate. The average grade points worked out at 77 out of 100. Prices for the current 1980 crop are only about 83c/kg.

The honey is extensively heated upon arrival in New Zealand and then only used for industrial purposes because of restrictions imposed by MAF.

The honey house and extracting equipment were found to be adequate, though the tinned steel honey tanks needed replacing or repairing. The workers did not use the electrically heated oven provided to melt wax cappings, and there was a poorly maintained boiler adjacent to the honey house that belched black fumes inside

the room when used. Dry rot was prevalent in hives and frames.

Bee diseases on the island are all present in New Zealand. No exotic bee diseases were found but this did not mean that the strains of the diseases on the island were the same as in New Zealand. Adult bee samples had been sent to Wallaceville to be analysed so a conclusive statement about bee health on the island could be made.

Mr Burns said the honey industry could become more profitable by applying better management practices to the existing colonies. Many hives appeared to be undersupplied and it was evident that requeening the hives would increase yields by 2 – 6 tonnes. He suggested some attempts could be made to produce creamed honey which was imported from New Zealand for the European population on Nuie.

Mr Burns reported on the abundance of black coloured propolis found in the hives. He suggested there may be a market for it. The source of propolis is unknown but could be the coconut palm. Samples could be analysed to see if it would be suitable to use in cosmetics and pharmaceuticals.

Mr Burns gave a detailed account in his report of ways to decrease the operating costs without going to considerable expense. The retraining of staff was recommended and it was suggested that the honey factory manager be brought to New Zealand for a condensed period of training.

Persons or companies interested in investigating the possibility of purchasing the honey factory and its assets should enquire to the Acting General Manager, P.O. Box 74, Nuie.

Copies of the Burns report are available from the Nuie Consular office, P.O. Box 6481, Newton, Auckland.

# Emergency grids for traps assist pollination research

by P.G. Clinch, Wallaceville Animal Research Centre, Upper Hutt.

DURING POLLINATION research, it is often desirable to determine the major pollen sources of honey bee colonies, in the crop being studied. This can be done by watching the hive entrance, recording the number of returning pollen gatherers and the colour of their pollen.

Some bees must also be collected so that pollen may be removed for identification. However, this is time-consuming and necessitates a large staff if records from several colonies are required simultaneously.

Pollen traps that remove pollen from the baskets of returning foragers, provide a simple method whereby a minimum of staff can continuously monitor colonies to determine their pollen sources. However, pollen traps slow the passage of bees in and out of the hive, and usually remove pollen from 20-40 per cent of foragers. It is therefore not surprising that in some circumstances continual use of some of these high-efficiency traps can have a deleterious effect on colonies.

Often, in pollination research, sufficient information can be obtained by sampling less than five per cent of foragers. Tests were therefore carried out to devise grids that would remove this small quantity of pollen, and have minimal effect on colonies.

## Test Grids

Test grids were fitted vertically in the entrance tunnels of pollen traps which were basically similar to the Ontario Agricultural College design and of the bottom-fitting type, placed below the brood nest. The main horizontal grids were removed before the tests commenced. Only wire gauze was tested, as this is generally less restrictive of air movement than is perforated sheet.

Initial tests indicated that four mesh per inch 18 swg gauze was ineffective in removing pollen. Further tests were made with five mesh per inch 22 swg (Fig. 1a), but this was found to be too efficient, removing 10-15 per cent. As no intermediate mesh gauze was available in New Zealand, vertical wires were removed, first as in Fig. 1b, to reduce the efficiency to about five per cent, and then as in Fig. 1c, to give an efficiency of about one per cent which was acceptable for our requirements.

Unfortunately the gaps between the wires are too small to allow the easy

passage of drones. Therefore, as is usual with pollen traps, escapes are required for this caste, and since 1978, Porter bee escapes have been used for this purpose.

## Performance

The grids described here remove pollen from only about one per cent of foragers, and because the gaps between the wires are relatively large, do not greatly slow the passage of workers. They appear to have minimal effect on colonies.

The weight of pollen collected by these grids varies with colony, time of year and weather conditions. It has reached a maximum of 8.1 g per colony, but in summer is usually between 0.5 and 4.0 g per colony. As the quantity of pollen collected is quite small, it can be sorted into different colour groups quickly, and without the sub-sampling

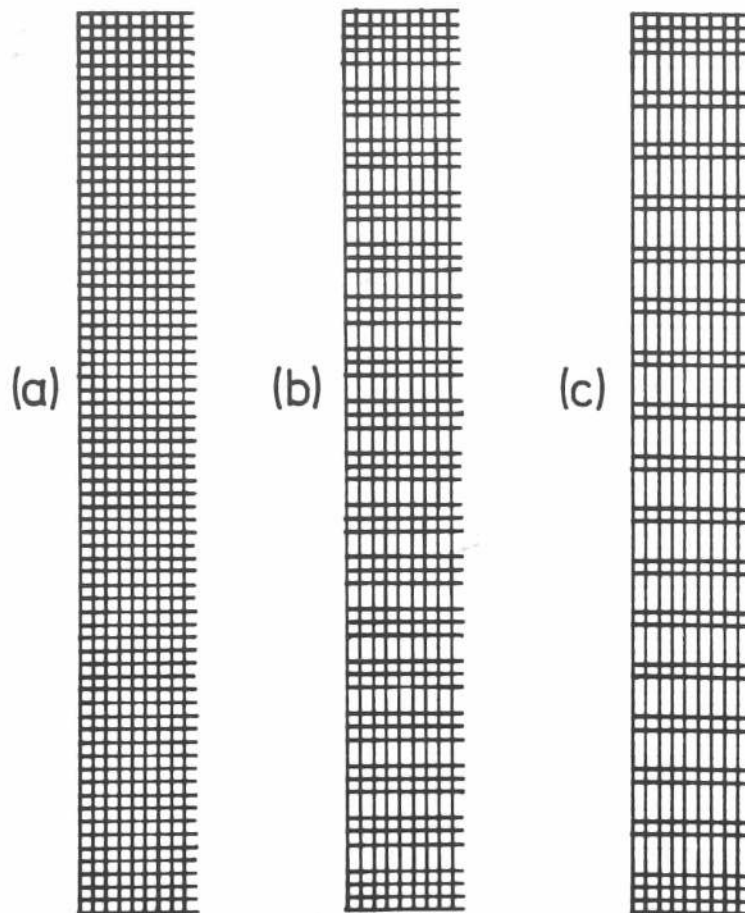
required with large samples.

Attached to bottom or front-fitting traps, these grids have for two seasons enabled a staff of two, to simultaneously monitor the pollen collection of 40 colonies during pollination research on kiwifruit. Kiwifruit flowers produce pollen but no nectar, and consequently are not very attractive to honey bees which prefer to visit flowers such as white clover, that yield both pollen and nectar.

The grids have enabled us to compare the efficiency of colonies in several plantations, the quantities of kiwifruit and other pollens collected, being used to indicate the levels of visitation to different pollen sources.

The technique should lend itself to those undertaking pollination research, and to hobbyists keen to determine the pollen sources of their colonies.

Fig.1 Grid designs



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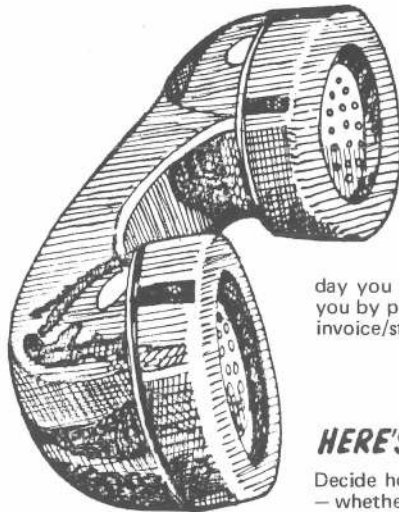
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1-10	\$35	\$40	\$45
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All nucleus are on new drawn foundation with young quality queens. Freight paid to North Island destinations - delivery from 20th October.

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1-5	\$20.00
5-30	\$18.75
31-up	\$18.50

Plus freight at cost

Contains 1 kg of bees and a young quality queen. Place this swarm in your own equipment and build to a full hive in 10 weeks.

Deliveries from 1st October

Hiving instructions sent on receipt of orders.



## BURRCOMB

from the editor

### Southland reunion planned

Murray Ballantyne of the Southland branch of the National Beekeepers Association has been in contact with us regarding a planned celebration in Southland. The occasion is the 75th jubilee birthday of the branch.

Murray said that past beekeepers, present beekeepers and well wishers will be welcome at the celebrations. These will include a display of ancient and modern beekeeping equipment in practice, followed by a banquet at night.

Anyone who is interested in taking part in the planned jubilee should write to Murray at Box 7, Woodlands, Southland.

### IYD medal



The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations has issued a medal to commemorate the International Year of the Disabled.

The medal was designed by a handicapped Italian artist and a noted medalist, who chose the honey bee as the subject for the medal, because of the similarities between the bees organised community structure and that of human society.

One side of the medal features a beekeeper tending hives, the other side bears the inscription "full participation and equality", emphasising that although different, all people have a role to play in society.

The partial integration of the disabled is also shown on this side of the medal, by the single bee shown in profile, whose cell is detached from the rest of the honeycomb.

The medals are available in silver, gold and bronze and all proceeds from their sale will go to finance FAO projects in developing countries.

Further information on purchasing the medals is available by writing to the editor.

### Executive committee election results

The 1981 executive committee election for three vacancies, resulted in the two North Island positions being filled by Mr Ian Berry (805 votes) and Mr M.G. Stuckey (691 votes), despite a challenge from Mr A.D. Lorimer (504 votes).

The South Island position was filled by Mr S.J. Lyttle who was the only nominee for the South Island vacancy, and thus was elected.

### Hive aircraft

Beekeepers with numerous apiaries may be able to visit them in a new low cost airplane called the Weedhopper. This ultralight plane cruises at 30 to 40 miles per hour and can be flown without a pilot's license. A complete kit to build the plane costs about \$3000 from Weedhopper of Utah, Box 2253R, Ogden, UT 84404.

—"Bees and Honey"

### Bees, books and balance sheets

Commercial beekeepers and intending commercial beekeepers gathered together recently for a MAF course titled "Business Management for Bee Farmers" at the Telford Farm Training Institute.

The course went for four days where the beekeepers listened to visiting speakers and MAF advisers and shared their own experiences.

During the duration of the course, they discussed keeping of records — both production and cash, their use in forward planning, and dealing with accountants and the tax department.

The beekeepers took a break from the classroom sessions to visit Ivan Dickinson's Cloverland Apiaries at Milton, where he outlined the business management systems he has developed

over his many years beekeeping. Then it was back to the classroom to discuss insurance and estate planning, sources of finance, marketing and exporting.

At the end of the course, tutors and course participants agreed that the week had been time well spent.

### Killer pollen

Drs. L.E. Mansfield and H.B. Goldstein recently reported to the American College of Allergists that patients who took bee pollen for relief of respiratory allergies had serious reactions that could have killed them without hospital care. The doctors acknowledged that many people can eat spoonfuls of pollen without harm — for others, it may be lethal.

—"Bees and Honey"

### COLOUR COVERS?

WHATS HAPPENED to the beautiful colour cover this month, you may well ask.

Our apologies, but it's not in our hands.

This month, because of a lack of colour advertisers, it would have been extremely uneconomic to go to the extra cost of producing a cover like the one you were treated to last issue.

If you browse quickly through last issue you will notice two full page colour advertisements, one in red and one in yellow, enough to justify the brilliant cover photo from the McGraw-Hill education series. This month, the only colour advertisement we have is yellow, so to keep costs down we are back to the old geometric design.

Gore advisory officer Trevor Bryant has a wealth of colour slides and photos at his disposal and whether they make the magazine could be in your hands. If you are in contact with a supplier and could influence him into the extra impact of "going colour", our advertising manager Helen Tague would be most interested in discussing it.

It may result in one of Trevor Bryant's pictures being placed on the cover of the next issue.

## BEEKEEPERS TECHNICAL LIBRARY

Mr Norman Ward, formerly of Kaitangata, now of Australia, donated the following books:

**Teach Yourself Beekeeping** by Norman Schofield 1958, 151 p. (Elementary guide, English conditions.)

**The Lore of the Honey Bee** by Tickner Edwards 1946, 192 p. (Poetic history of British beekeeping from the early days to more modern times. Description of beekeeping practices in the United Kingdom.)

**City of the Bees** by Frank S. Stewart 1953, 183 p. (Well known "bee novel".)

These three books are already listed in the catalogue.

**Chemical Methods of Weed Control** by L.L. Mathews 1960 - MAF bulletin 329. (About chemical weed killers and their use on plants regarded as weeds though useful bee plants. As it is 20 years old, it has probably been superceded.)

**Plant Protection in New Zealand** by DSIR Plant Diseases Division staff, 699 p. (A comprehensive handbook on plant diseases and pests, and control measures.)

**The Trees of New Zealand** by L. Cockayne and E. Philips-Turner 1967, 182 p (A well-known book describing our indigenous forest trees.)

**New Zealand Plants and their Story** by L. Cockayne 1967, 269 p. (Standard work on New Zealand flora.)

**Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand** by A.L. Poole and Nancy M. Adams 1964, 249 p. (A good reference book about New Zealand flora, not only for the student but for the gardener, tramper and beekeeper.)

Mr Ernest New from Invercargill kindly donated \$50 to the library for purchasing books of value to the industry.

Five books have been purchased:

**Some Important Operations in Bee Management** by T.S.K. and M.P. Johansson 1978, 145 p. (A collection of articles first published in Bee World. Rich information on subjects of practical value. Very thorough references as to sources of information.)

**Beekeeping in New Zealand** by T.S. Winter 1980, 155 p. (An up-to-date edition, as other copies are becoming ancient).

**Pollen and its Harvesting** IBRA reprint M86, 10 p. (About the composition of pollen, harvesting, traps and uses.)

**Honey Bee Pests, Predators and Diseases** by Roger A. Morse 1978, 430 p. (Includes 70 pages of references and index. A comprehensive handbook giving thorough information on virus, fungi, nematodes, bears, mites, toads, skunks, poisoning and treatments. A very valuable book - money wise over \$50. These books were brought through A. Ecroyd & Son Ltd. at special discounted prices. Our thanks to them.)

**Beekeeping for Fun** by Ray Chapman Taylor and Ivo Davey. A new New Zealand published book written by New Zealand beekeepers. It is aimed at those who are planning to keep or already keep hives for their fun. It is a good book but perhaps not as simple or straight forward as a real beginner could wish for. It is quite impressive, a lot of work has gone into its 222 p. The clear drawings and diagrams will be very helpful. Congratulations gentlemen on a big job, well done.

Remember to bring your book list up to date.

**John Heineman, Beekeepers Technical Library, P.O. Box 112, Milton.**

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## OBITUARY

HAVELOCK NORTH mayor and noted beekeeper Bill Ashcroft died on July 5 this year at the age of 75. He had just been made a branch life member in recognition of his 54 years of service to the Hawkes Bay branch.

He came to Havelock North in the early 1920's and, because of ill health, he took doctors' advice to take up an outdoor job rather than pursue a career in architecture.

Mr Ashcroft established a honey business in 1926, having been attracted into beekeeping by two hives which were on the property he was renting.

The initial two beehives were increased to 12 when Mr Ashcroft began selling honey from his door. In 1935, the honey house was moved to Te Mata Road and was producing about 10 tonnes of honey for sale each year.

During the 1930's, Mr Ashcroft supplemented his income with part-time orchard work and in 1937 extended the honey house into a full-time business.

Mr Ashcroft and his wife Sybell married in 1939 and the resulting new business partnership led to the firm diversifying into other products such as beeswax polish.

Ill health prevented Mr Ashcroft from serving overseas during the Second World War but the government took over 70 per cent of the firm's honey output which was sent to troopships.

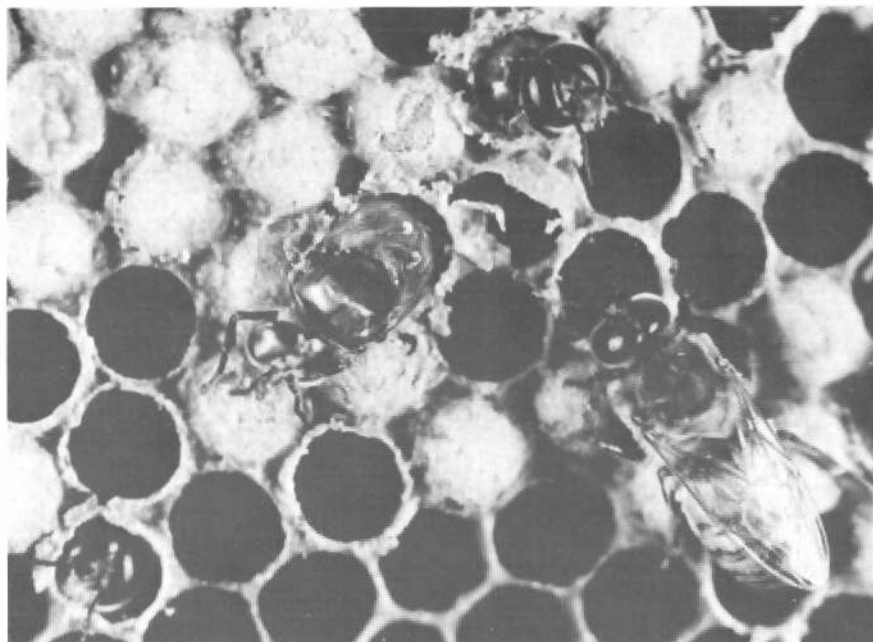
Mr Ashcroft's son Paul and his wife Jacky took over the family business in 1975 and later were joined by another son, Hugh. In January this year, Ashcroft Honey House Ltd moved into new premises on the corner of Karanema Drive and Martin Place.

Mr Ashcroft stood down from the mayoralty in 1974 at the age of 68. A quietly-spoken man, Mr Ashcroft earned a reputation as a lively debater at borough council meetings.

He was awarded the MBE for his services to the community.

The Mayor of Havelock North, Mr Jeff Whittaker, today said the borough had lost one of its true gentlemen and one of its identities.

"Bill Ashcroft was the sort of man who made his own mind up on an issue but was always aware of the other point of view. He will be sadly missed," said Mr Whittaker.



## Have you heard of drone assembly?

by E.R. Jaycox, "Bees and Honey", University of Illinois

THAT IS THE title of an attractive little leaflet published by the British Isles Bee Breeders' Association. One half of the publication, which was written by B.A. Cooper, deals with the history and present ideas about drone assembly or congregation areas. The rest of the leaflet is a large form for reporting personal observations on the locations of drone assembly places.

Drone assembly or congregation areas are locations in which drones from surrounding colonies gather and to which queens are attracted for mating. Because the drones fly very high on calm days, they may be heard rather than seen - hence the title of the leaflet.

Although reports of hearing assembled drones in England appeared at least as early as the late 1700s, a noted English bee researcher claimed for many years that congregations did not exist in the British Isles. At least in part for this reason, the British Isles Bee Breeders' Association held their 1973 conference at Port Erin on the Isle of Man. There, above the highest green on the golf course, drones regularly congregate and will chase pebbles thrown high in the air in their direction. The publication by Cooper is part of an effort to learn more about congregation areas for the benefit of queen breeders and beekeepers.

In the leaflet, Cooper says that there are two forms of mating behaviour in honey bees:

- Local Assembly Mating, which

favors inbreeding and

- Distant Assembly Mating, which favours outcrossing. Both occur in the British Isles. Local assembly is important during overcast and rainy periods, and early and late in the season when nights are cool and there is less solar radiation during the day. Local assembly decreases and then disappears as the weather improves and distant congregations are set up.

The dark-bodied, native honey bees of the British Isles seem to mate more rapidly than bees from other continents (including the yellow-bodied bees), which wait for good weather and the formation of distant assemblies, according to Cooper. The dark body colour of the native bees allows them to fly and mate at lower temperatures, apparently at local assembly places near the apiary.

Cooper also says that queens are likely to mate only with black drones if the air temperature is much below the 67 deg. F (19 deg. C) at which distant assemblies seem to form. In the summer sunshine, black queens can mate locally at air temperatures as low as 50 deg. F (10 deg. C), according to Cooper.

These theories about the mating of honey bees are of great interest because they help to explain how we still have black-bodied strains of bees, in the United States and elsewhere, that retain their racial characteristics after hundreds of years of contact with yellow-bodied strains.

# Do it yourself cappings spinners on the West Coast

More and more beekeepers are replacing cappings processing systems with spinners. This is happening because they are increasingly aware of the damage that heat can cause to honey, and because increased honey production and honey house throughput demand more efficient machinery.

The trend is noticeable right through the country, but the way the idea has caught on in the West Coast makes an interesting story. This article by Andrew Matheson, apicultural advisory officer, Nelson describes that development, while an article by Murray Reid gives a more detailed description of a home-made spinner in the Waikato.

THE FIRST spinners to be built on the coast were at Paroa, in a honey house then used by Rod Buchanan and Sandy Richardson. After returning from Canada, Sandy put into practice some of the ideas he had seen in beekeeping there.

First experiments in spinning cappings were carried out with a basket mounted in an extractor, counter-balanced with blocks of rendered wax. Eureka! was the resulting cry, so Sandy and Rod started to make two spinners.

Stainless steel dairy vats, the beekeeper's friend, were found – two 240 gallon models. A centre shaft was fitted with six spokes radiating outwards, and a framework built on these to support three removable baskets. The baskets fitted together to make a complete circle, but are removable so that the cappings can be taken away and emptied into a rendering device.

The baskets are of a four inch mesh wire and have been plastic-coated. Two sets were made for each extractor to give more rapid handling if needed. There is a 25 mm lip to prevent dry cappings creeping up and over the edge.

Electric motors of 750 W (1 hp) were available and so these are used, although that size is not necessary. Conventional

drive mechanisms from extractors were used. A speed of 240 rpm was found to be too high, and so the spinners are now run at 200 rpm. This gives a centrifugal force of 27g (27 times the force of gravity) at the rim.

When Sandy Richardson built his own honey house, he also constructed another spinner to use in it. It is similar to the ones at Rod's, except for two differences:

First, the sides of the vat were cut down to 400 mm. This allows the spinner to sit directly under the uncapping machine, unlike those of Rod's, which are located in recesses in the floor on each side of the uncapper. The lip at the top of the baskets was increased to 75 mm.

Second, to allow for this the spinner has a bottom-drive mechanism.

Sandy's spinner also has removable baskets but these are not used as such – scraping the cappings into a tin and dumping them in a drum is only a few minutes work.

This is usually done daily – extracting finishes at 5 pm and the spinner is switched off at 8 pm. Cappings from up to 200 boxes of honey can be loaded into the spinner before it needs emptying.

Other West Coast beekeepers have observed these experiments in spinner design, and have decided to make their own as well. John Glasson of Blackball also used a dairy tank for the outer bowl – a large one 1500 mm across but cut down to make a fairly shallow spinner.

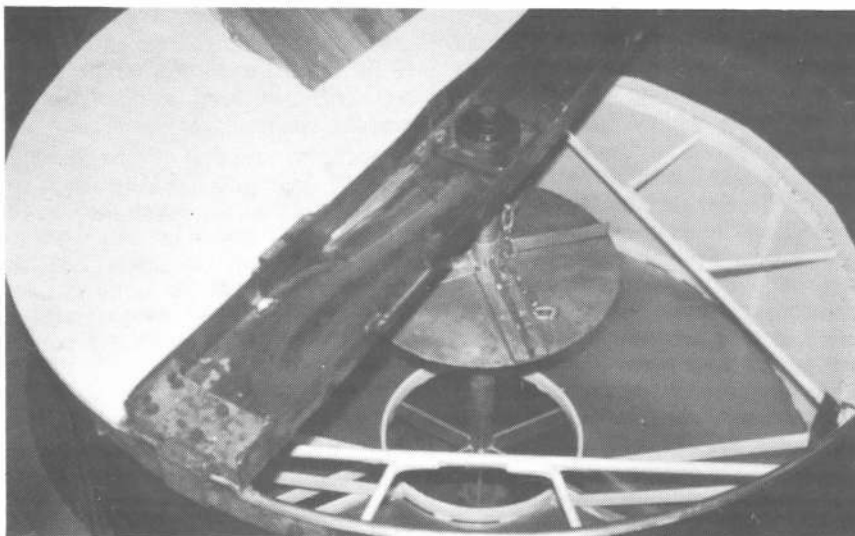
It differs from earlier models in that the removable baskets have been replaced by one fixed circular basket made of perforated stainless steel. It also has a bottom drive mechanism.

The inner basket is 1350 mm across and spins at 140 rpm, giving a centrifugal force of 15 g at the rim. The perforated steel has 3 mm holes and has the most holes per unit area of the range of types available.

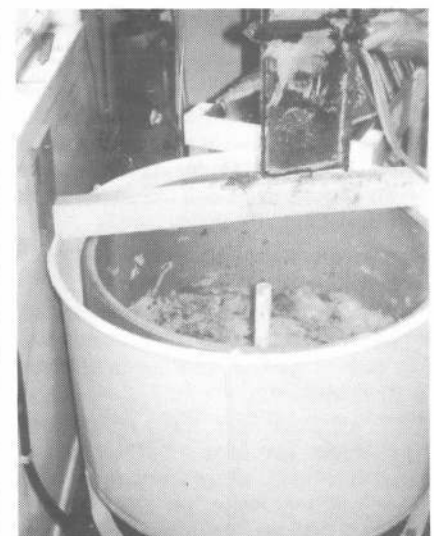
Keith Detlaff of Ross also built a spinner from one of the ubiquitous dairy tanks, this time a 240 gallon one which he cut down by 200-225 mm. It is 1200 mm in diameter. The shaft is also driven from below – a 750 W (1 hp) motor working through a series of pulleys to give a shaft speed of 240 rpm.

The bearing in the bottom of the tank is a self-aligning flange thrust bearing, as of course the tank is sloping at this point. From the shaft radiate six spokes, and a 300 mm upright is attached to each. Steel bands running right around the circumference at the top and bottom of these uprights support a sheet of perforated stainless steel.

An important point is that the bottom supporting band (and the bottom of the steel sheet) project below the floor of the rotating basket. If the band projected above it, then the honey would tend to become trapped in the corner by the lack of free holes at the base of



*Buchanan/Richardson spinner. One cover has been removed to show the baskets in position.*



*Finlay spinner. Note the absence of top support for the shaft.*

the perforated sheet.

Keith's spinner sits on three legs, and the uncapping machine is actually mounted on it. This leaves the floor area free and easier to clean.

The first season's use has proved this spinner to be a success. It greatly reduces time spent handling cappings, and totally removes the need for waiting for hot tops to warm up. It also has eliminated the heartbreak that Keith felt when comparing white rata honey from the extractor and not-so-white honey from out of the hot top.

What is the future of spinners on the coast? The next problem is that of rendering the cappings. In a rata season a lot of granulated honey can end up incorporated with them, and this is not removed by a spinner. Rendering devices must be able to separate honey without damaging it unduly, as it can represent quite an amount of money in some years.

And the next step? There's one project that's under consideration at the moment. As the cappings in a spinner become dry they creep up the wall of the basket. By the time they reach the top they are very dry. A long thin chute inserted into the spinner at this point would remove the dry cappings. The end of the chute is as close to the basket wall as possible, and the momentum of the cappings pushes them up the chute, if it is held at a shallow angle. With such an arrangement the spinner would have to be emptied only once, at the end of the season.

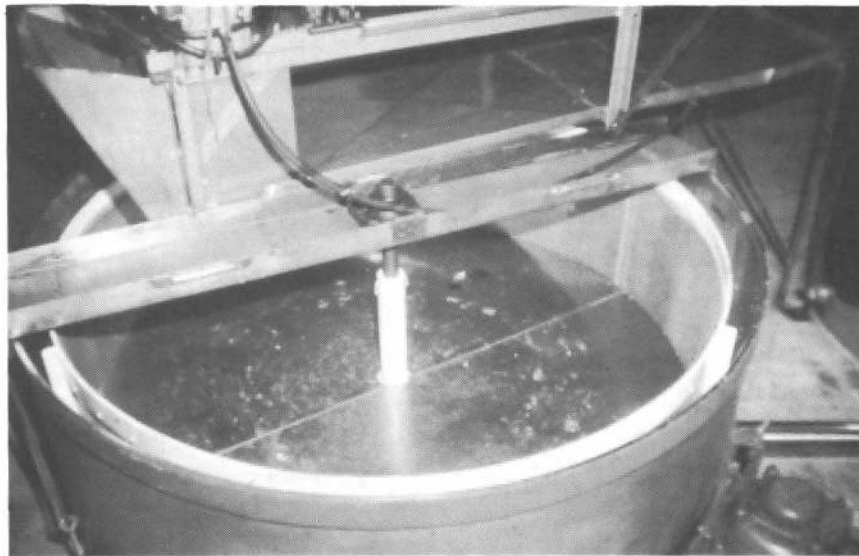
This has already been tried by one beekeeper, and the next step of having the

cappings dumped straight into a rendering oven is not far away!

All the coast beekeepers who've made their own spinners are very pleased with them. Already others are being made or planned. Calculating the cost is difficult, as most of the work was carried out by the beekeeper concerned. Most have worked out at not more than \$1000 for materials and incidentals including the tank. The development of spinners on the coast has also been a good example of beekeeper co-operation and communication.

**Footnote:** *Spinning cappings is really an accelerated form of draining. The*

*Detlaff spinner. An uncapping machine is mounted on the far side, and the near side cover has been removed.*



*force of gravity (1 g) used in draining is replaced by centrifugal force in a spinner, which acts in a horizontal direction.*

*To compare different spinners it is not sufficient to calculate the rim speed in metres or feet per second. The force acting at the outside of the spinning basket (the relative centrifugal force) can be calculated with the following formula:*

$$RCF = \frac{r N^2}{900\ 000}$$

*where r is the radius (i.e. half the diameter) of the rotating basket, N<sup>2</sup> is the speed in rpm squared (i.e. multiplied by itself).*

## A Waikato Spinner

Murray Reid, apicultural advisory officer gives a detailed description of a home-made spinner

NORMAN FINLAY is a producer-packer who operates around 500 hives in the central Waikato. About this time last year Norm decided to replace his old ineffective drip-dry system of handling cappings with a spinner. Norm chose a spinner because it fitted in with his system of melting the "dry" cappings, because spinners don't use much electricity, don't heat the honey and they don't take up a lot of room.

But there was one small problem. Norm leases his honey house and all the plant and equipment, and is also closer to retiring than he is to beginning a career. He didn't want to outlay too much money on new equipment, so since he was a self-taught engineer and welder Norm decided to have a go at making a spinner himself.

The first part to obtain was the outer bowl which was going to be in stainless steel. The search was fruitless so Norm settled for an old tinned steel honey

tank (1016 mm diameter) with sound sides and a rolled lip top. The bottom was rusted out but as the tank was too tall anyway this was no problem. He had a plumber put a new sloping base in the tank, to provide about 100 mm of fall to the honey-gate. Sand blasting and a coat of Oregon Pitan followed by Evodine chlorinated rubber paint gave a nice finish to the inside.

Norm now had a tank with a self-draining bottom which was great, but the sloping base meant it wouldn't stand upright any more. That was no problem though, as Norm simply built a steel stand to compensate. The gap under the tank would also house the bottom bearings and drive pulley. The tank was held on to the base by three metal tie-down rods.

The bottom and top plates of the stand were made from 50 x 10 mm steel rolled in the flat into a circle. Cross mem-

bers of 60 x 6 mm steel were welded inside the rolled steel bands to provide bracing. Vertical steel lugs of varying heights were now welded between the steel rings so that when the honey tank was in position it stood upright once more.

The tank was now upright but its base was still sloping, so a self-aligning bearing was needed where the 35 mm diameter steel shaft passed through the tank. This bearing was bolted to a plate welded to the steel base. Another bearing was required at the base of the drive shaft. This time a Timkin taper bearing was used.

The inner spinning basket was made from perforated stainless steel with 5 mm holes. The basket was 900 mm in diameter and 450 mm high. A 25 mm rolled stainless steel loop was fixed around the basket as a "lip" to stop the cappings creeping up the wall of

the spinner and over the sides. However, at present operating speeds the cappings haven't reached the top of the basket but the lip still gives extra strength to the baskets.

Five 25 x 5 mm braces are attached to the underside of the basket, spreading out from the shaft just like spokes of a wheel. In addition, extra bracing of the stainless steel basket is provided by a circular sheet of 5 mm stainless steel spot-welded to its base.

The bottom drive self-tightening pulley is 400 mm in diameter, while the motor pulley is 63.5 mm. The motor itself is only ¼ hp but it is a variable speed motor. This arrangement gives a maximum shaft speed of 226 rpm.

How does Norm use his unit? He has located a wooden batten across the top of the spinner which serves to hold the frames while they are being uncapped. The basket is spinning all the time, usually at a maximum speed. A Contec Electris Module (type EM 2000) is connected to the variable speed motor, which gives Norm infinite control over the speed of the spinner at the turn of a dial. The motor can also be converted into direct drive but this

puts an extra strain on the motor when first starting it up.

The spinner holds cappings from 30 to 40 full-depth boxes before it needs emptying. This chore is normally done at lunch time and at the end of the day. Norm does not usually use a hot-room to pre-warm his boxes before uncapping and extracting.

What does Norm think of the spinner after one season's operation? It is nearly twice as efficient as the old draining system. There are no holdups now, and Norm estimates that the amount of honey going into the cappings melter has been decreased by two-thirds. Much of this honey used to be damaged somewhat by the heat of the melter.

Would he change anything? Like all pieces of machinery owned by beekeepers there is always room for fine tuning or modification. Norm plans to change the motor pulley from a 63.5 mm one to a 72 mm one. This should increase the shaft speed to 256 rpm and increase the relative centrifugal force from 25 g to about 33 g. Hopefully the cappings will be a little "drier" after spinning at this speed.

Norm also plans to fit short knife

blades to the shaft to break up the cappings further before they hit the wall of the spinning basket.

The following summary gives a breakdown of what the spinner cost to build. Norm's labour and vehicle running costs involved in the project are not included. The Contec control box is a very sophisticated piece of electronic machinery that would be prohibitive to buy new. Norm's not saying how much he paid for his unit or where he got it from. However, I'm assured it didn't fall off a truck and it's not "hot" but needless to say, the price was right!

#### Breakdown of costs

Plumber, sand blasting and painting	195.00
Stainless steel	373.00
Rolled steel bases	32.00
Electric motor	15.00
Bearing collar	2.00
Pulleys	47.00
V belt	5.00
Self-aligning bearing	14.00
Welding	12.00
	<hr/>
	\$695.00

## Regional Development Councils can help

BEEKEEPERS WANTING to expand their businesses were told of the advantages of applying for regional development loans, at the NBA conference.

Mr K. Robinson, from the Otago Regional Development Council, spoke to beekeepers about the different types of incentives available through the Regional Development Councils and outlined the finance that would be available to successful applicants under four of the schemes.

The loans are available to any beekeeping enterprise with an element of expansion to it, preferably with the aim of increasing employment. To apply for the grants though, the operation must be located in one of the priority regions — anywhere in New Zealand except Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Nelson and North Canterbury areas.

The programme is aimed at seeding and encouraging private enterprise in regions where economic growth has been slow. To date 11 beekeeping projects had received loans under the incentives scheme, Mr Robinson said.

A beekeeping venture or project will be acceptable for a loan where at least 50 per cent of income is derived from the sale of honey processed by the business.

Some of the different types of incentives schemes available were outlined

by Mr Robinson as below:

**Small projects grant:** A grant of up to 50 per cent of the plant or equipment cost, with total cost not exceeding \$30 000. The maximum grant available is \$15 000 and is applicable only to businesses whose annual sales do not exceed \$150 000.

**Regional Development Suspensory Loan:** An interest free loan of 30 per cent of the cost of an eligible plant, or 30 per cent the cost of eligible buildings, or 20 per cent the cost of buildings and plant combined.

**Investigation and Establishment Grant:** Primarily a loan for someone introducing completely new activity in the region. The loan covers up to 50 per cent of costs with a maximum of \$10 000. This involves a range of studies into technology, production and marketing, with the development perhaps of prototype machinery and trial runs.

Through receiving this grant and if the project is successful, the applicant could be eligible for the final incentive — a **Pioneer Status Grant**.

These loans are given for completely new ventures which will lead the way in new development for a region encouraging others to follow that development. The loan is for up to 10 per cent of the cost of buildings or plant in the project with a maximum loan of \$50 000. It can be held

at the same time as a Regional Development Suspensory Loan provided the total of the incentives does not exceed 50 per cent of the capital cost of the project.

"The finance for these incentives does not come from the Regional Development Councils", Mr Robinson said. "Their role is to monitor applications, looking at aspects like employment and use of regional resources. The funding for the scheme is administered by Rural Bank and the Development Finance Corporation, so any applicant must be able to meet the normal Rural Bank lending criteria if they want to be successful with their application."

Mr Robinson stressed the importance of letting the Regional Development Council know of your plans before beginning any building, in case the application is ruled as retrospective and turned down. He suggested it was advisable to keep your advisory officer well informed as Regional Development Councils liaise closely with them.

The applications take approximately three months to be approved or rejected, depending on the complexity of the proposed project. Mr Robinson says however, he feels the end result of an interest free loan of taxpayers money, which is written off in full after five years, is well worth the effort.



# The way we used to bee....

Piano wires and honey marketing

THIS ARTICLE and others to follow have been written with two purposes in mind. They will be partly nostalgic, recalling people, places and practices of beekeeping in years gone by. In addition, they will give beekeepers an idea of the wealth of information available to them from the past that may be usable today, either as it is or as inspiration for something new.

Much of the equipment used in past years might seem antiquated and unsuitable in our age of stainless steel and plastic, but I am continually amazed by the number of gadgets and methods that still have some relevance. So many of our recent "innovations" have been previously described, and often the thoroughness of these past beekeepers, yields valid information on topics that we think of as "modern".

For example, several years ago when Murray Reid and John Smith of MAF were looking at the introduction of protected queen cells, it came as an entirely new concept to most beekeepers. Only by looking back to "the way we used to bee", does it turn out that protected cells were being used many years ago, and the work then takes its rightful place as an extension rather than a totally new idea.

David Penrose tells another story to illustrate the point. After examining a problem and arriving at what he considered a completely original type of manually fed uncapping machine, he was shown an article from an Australian bee magazine in 1896. Though some of the details differed due to the technology available to Mr Penrose, the basic idea was there — arrived at 60 years ago by another beekeeper.

So it is toward these two ends, to pleasantly jog the memories of some of you "old timers" and to provide some thought provoking ideas for all you "innovators" to work on, I am undertaking this writing. Obviously, I

can't write this column alone, I need some response.

I would also like some early photographs of beekeeping. I'm sure that there are lots of photos tucked away in your attics. If you would go to the trouble to dig them out and send them to me to make copies of, I promise to care for them and return them promptly. I hope you'll all help out in this effort to share some of our industry's history with each other. Share your thoughts with me and I'll put them into the column for the rest to enjoy and learn from. Above all, don't make the mistake of thinking that what you have to say can't be of value to others — I believe that it is only by piecing together these stories of our past that a true picture of the way we were will emerge.

To make a start on these articles, what connection can you think of between piano wire and the marketing of honey?

Not a quick answer from many of you, judging by the response when I talked with a few beekeeper friends at the recent Queenstown conference. But suddenly there would be recognition and memories, if Harry Cloake was one to judge by.

Harry's father was one of South-Canterbury's early beekeepers, and he developed a machine that used piano wires to cut a sixty pound block of granulated honey into one pound blocks. The blocks were wrapped in paper and looked like a block of butter would today. The process was not difficult — liquid clover honey with only a little added starter would be put into the white pine mould. After it set up ("hard as a rock ..." according to Harry) the sides of the mould were tapped off, leaving the big block of honey. This block was put into the cutting machine, where it was forced through a grid of piano wires, and then another wire used to cut at right angles

to the grid, cutting the proper sized pieces.

These small blocks were picked up with paddles and put on a lining paper and then wrapped with the label paper.

Jasper Bray remembers their family using only the outer paper, and it was quite heavy, not like the greaseproof paper of today.

The Cloake process was sought after, as many of the other attempts at systematically packing honey in this form, were very crude.

Jack Glyn remembers coming over to a field day in Geraldine during this period when the machine was still something of a secret and Harry can recall packing tons of honey in this manner, its sales being limited to the winter months before the blocks got soft and oozy.

Apparently honey was often sold in the groceries in a granulated block. Percy Berry and Jack Glyn both remember stores with the block of honey on the counter, and a wire to cut it much the same way a wedge is cut from a block of cheese.

Perhaps this method of marketing would be difficult in today's centrally heated houses but an interesting concept it is. How many of you had forgotten about honey being sold in this way, and how many of you younger beekeepers had never even thought of such a form of marketing?

Here are some topics for future columns: "Petrol box hives" — surely you all have something you can tell me to help me with this one and "Families of beekeepers" — how many families of three and even four generations in beekeeping do we have?

As I said before, I can only write these articles with your help. Please write me a letter or send some photos to include in the future.

Nick Wallingford,  
Box 2067,  
Rotorua.

## Setting up for the new hobby

This is the first in a new series of articles for those about to take up hobbyist beekeeping. In this series, David Williams hopes to assist hobbyists to make a success of their hobby in terms of good management and enjoyment.

THESE ARTICLES will present nothing that is not already known from books and experience, to allow a beginner beekeeper to operate without pain and to understand both the bees and himself.

Please remember that only a limited segment can be covered in each issue because of space limitations and that there are only four issues each year. Do write in with any queries even ahead of the articles and I will be happy to answer.

### What must be bought

Before anything else the beginner will need a minimum of personal equipment. These are;

- Smoker
- Hive tool
- Gloves
- Helmet
- Veil

Some authorities also recommend overalls and there is a lot to be said for

keeping one set of clothes exclusively for beekeeping.

The other essential is T.S. Winter's "Beekeeping in New Zealand", obtainable from government bookshops or the address below. I will be dealing with books in a later article but this is the first.

### Where to buy equipment

The major supplier in New Zealand is A. Ecroyd & Son Ltd, 25 Sawyers Arms Road, Papanui, Christchurch.

Write and ask for their catalogue and the name of the nearest stockist.

### The bees

Having the equipment, bees can be obtained from following up advertisements in this journal, by advertising in newspapers, by passing the word round amongst friends or by contacting a local beekeeper or beekeeping club, address obtainable from the nearest MAF office, to ask about sales or the possibility of a hive being subdivided in early September.

The three usual sources of bees are: Established beekeepers from whom a hive may be bought; established beekeepers from whom a nucleus may be bought; or swarms captured around the neighbourhood in early or late spring.

### Buying a hive

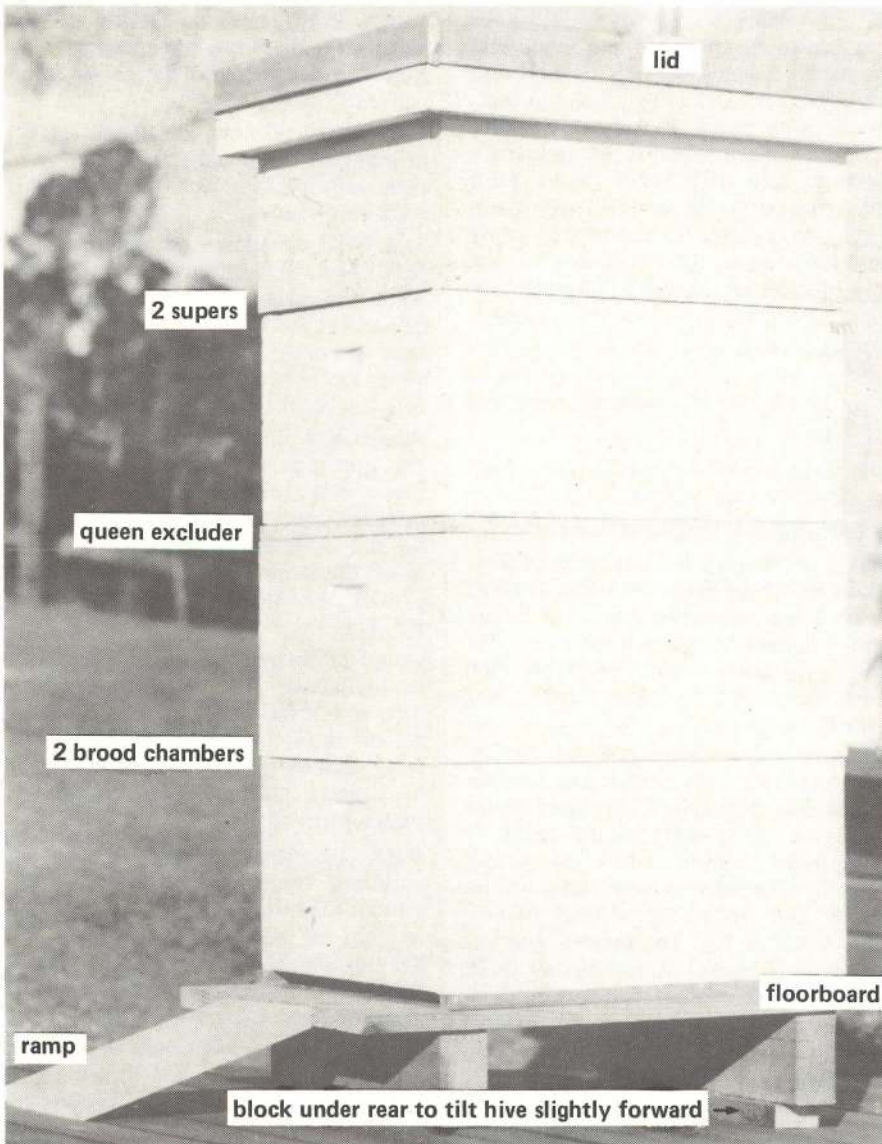
When buying a hive it is best to have an expert check it over before buying.

There are several features that should be checked before any offer is made – the condition of the hive itself – is it standard, is it sound, has it been well maintained and just how much extra do you get with it?

This may include other beekeeping equipment – get all these details clearly settled – nothing is more embarrassing than to go to pick up the extra supers and to be told they weren't included.

Carry out thorough examination of the interior of the hive, both frames and bees – are the frames in good condition, have they been culled properly, no gross amounts of drone comb, fully drawn out and fastened to the bottom bar.

Are the bees good tempered during the examination, are there plenty of them, is the queen young and healthy, is the



This is what the hive should look like in mid-season, say round about Christmas. Queen and brood are in the bottom two boxes, pure honey above.

laying pattern good, is there any suspicion of disease, are the drones even-coloured and golden, are there many dead bees at the entrance.

Lastly what is the stores position, is there ample sealed pollen and nectar or will they need frequent, heavy feeding.

Note that some of these are dependent on time of year and on locality, and that few of them are totally exclusive (except a total ban on disease), but that the buyer should be aware of all factors is the only satisfactory basis for buying.

The beginner will not have sufficient experience to be sure on all these points. Get someone from MAF to examine for you where possible, or ask them to recommend some local beekeeper who will be happy to accompany you, even if only in an advisory rather than an active capacity. The beginners' best friend is a fellow-beekeeper.

Do not settle for inferior equipment or inferior bees. It is better to wait another year than risk disappointment and disillusionment when starting out.

Settle who is to deliver the hive, when and to where. Remember that the vendor must have a permit from the MAF to move bees to your site.

### Nucs

You will read of "nucs" in beekeeping literature. Generally speaking this term, short for nucleus, signifies one or two full-sized frames of bees, either in a full-sized hive or one just large enough to hold two frames and no more. When it has five or six combs of bees and brood it is usually called a weak colony.

To me, a nuc is a small, non-productive colony that is continually at risk — from the stresses inherent in being small, things that a large, bustling colony will take in its stride.

The only excuse for operating with a nuc is if you are an absolute beginner who has been given one by the kindness of an established beekeeper who is willing to "hive-off" a couple of frames to get you established.

If this is the case there are certain minor advantages to beginning this way: The beginner now has to deal with hundreds rather than thousands of bees, everything may be seen without major examination or rearrangement, there will be no problems with swarming and nucs are less demanding, requiring only protection and feeding.

If you have any choice in the matter make the split not later than mid-spring. Also make the nuc as large as you can, ensure it is headed by a young, vigorous queen, keep feeding it right through until December and keep in a full Langstroth brood chamber.



*Examine, or have examined, before buying. Bruce Stanley showing how it is done and what to look for.*

If this is done, a well-established, well-tended nuc will build up into a nice self-sustaining little unit by the end of the honeyflow and will then be a fully fledged hive.

### Buying a nucleus

Make sure of the definition of a nucleus. My own definition would be "at least two frames of brood and two frames of honey, all completely covered with bees, and a young queen." These are brought and placed in your prepared hive.

The notes on buying a hive apply to buying a nucleus where appropriate. Is it a good strain of bee, is the queen at least of the current season, are there ample nurse bees with the brood, is there ample stores or will it need feeding, is it guaranteed?

Again, insist on specification, quantity, quality, and that it be delivered and placed in your hive by the vendor under your supervision.

You will need a hive. For this, order: five full size brood chambers, 40 Hoffman frames plus 40 sheets of medium brood foundation, one spool wire, floorboard, lid, inner cover (although

I use hive mats), queen excluder, plastic frame feeder, and assemble as detailed in "Beekeeping In New Zealand", with a beekeeper to demonstrate where possible.

Get these at least a month before the nuc to give ample time for assembly, painting and correcting of any mistakes.

### A Swarm

Personally I have no interest in swarms. I do not allow them from my own hives and, while I reluctantly collect them when called upon, I put them in a plastic bag, spray with insecticide, put in the rubbish bag and allow the refuse collectors to dispose of.

Nevertheless a beginner may start with a swarm if he wants to take the risks of disease, unknown strain, unknown queen and general uncertainty. Certainly the swarm is free, it is unwanted where it is, and available for the taking.

Naturally one cannot order for any set date, but with an estimated thirty thousand swarms a year floating around Auckland and lesser numbers throughout the rest of the country, the possibility of obtaining one is always there.

To take a swarm, wear all protective gear, hold an open cardboard box underneath the swarm, give the branch on which the swarm is hanging a sharp knock and most of the swarm will fall into the box. Close the flaps over, cover the whole thing with a sheet and cart home.

Have your assembled hive ready, two boxes high, lean a sheet of softboard or similar up to the landing board, well supported. Remove the sheet from

the box, grasp the box firmly, and fling the swarm down onto the landing board/ramp. If all goes well, and it usually does, the bees will solemnly troop into the hive.

It is best to have a sugar syrup frame feeder in the bottom box to entice the bees to stay and encourage them to start working.

If the swarm is not conveniently placed on a branch it is possible, but not so easy, to smoke them up or brush them

into the box with a clean 100mm paint brush.

### Where to keep bees

Any flat sunny site will do. Keep hives as much out of sight as possible, away from roads, paths, vegetable gardens and clotheslines. Make sure there are no low branches to knock a veil off just when you need it most. Ask the neighbours if they object to bees. Register your bees with the MAF.

## BOOK REVIEW

*BEEKEEPING FOR FUN: A Handbook For Amateurs* by Ray Chapman-Taylor and Ivo Davey

By David Williams

This is the first general purpose textbook of this kind in New Zealand.

The genesis of the present work was Ray Chapman-Taylor and Tom Dixon's "Beekeeping In Auckland" published in 1978. There are those who will miss the space and the numerous sketches

of the earlier work while agreeing that something with wider appeal was needed.

To have undertaken the expensive and time-consuming task of producing a privately-printed book of this nature is praiseworthy indeed.

## READERS QUERIES

David Williams, our resident hobbyist adviser, is willing to answer reader's queries about problems they have with their hives. "My articles are designed to be both practical and provocative," he says. "There may be many points amateurs would wish to raise and would do so if told to write in. I would be happy to provide answers to the best of my limited ability and can always call on the literature or the experts for the really tricky ones."

Mail you questions to: "A Fresh Start", 26 Otonga Road, Rotorua. They will be answered by Mr Williams personally and suitable ones submitted for publication.

Dear Mr Williams,

During 1979 I bought 30 hives and although they were in good condition, they have a large number of dark combs in them.

What I would like to know is, how I can get the wax out of the old comb? I know there is a fair bit of wax in them but I've tried solar, oven, water and pressing without much success. I don't want to pay too much as beekeeping is only a hobby.

My most successful attempt is with solar heat. However, this blackens the wax if it melts, but it does not fall out of the comb.

Is there any way to extract the wax from the old comb? Or is it best just to burn them.

Yours,  
Graeme Snedden,  
Maungaturoto.

Thank you for your enquiry. The first point I would like to make is that my bees prefer nice thick dark aromatic

*combs and I only reject these when the proportion of drone comb becomes excessive, and this usually goes back to a time before they became dark - the bees very seldom break down these old combs to reform them.*

*The second point is that the return of wax from these old combs is seldom worth the effort of attempting to render them down. That is my experience and the literature bears me out. It is better just to dispose of them where the bees and the moth cannot get at them. Your suggestion of burning is excellent. Here, I must confess that I simply cut them out of the frame into the paper rubbish bags Rotorua uses and they go off to the dump and are buried there.*

*I am sorry I cannot give you a more encouraging reply, but the bees have so enriched these combs with extractives and cocoons and other alternative materials that the wax is bound into the matrix and stays there.*

Yours,  
David Williams.

The book is written in good, simple, non-technical language, and the cheerful enthusiasm of the authors for their hobby comes through clearly.

There is a welcome emphasis on the basics, including the importance of precise timing, of working with the best strain of bee, of annual requeening, of strong hives, of swarm control, of joining a club and seeking advice. They are also careful to point out that their recommendations should be adapted to individual circumstances and that the chapters and sections here should merely form the foundation for individual management.

They point out that amateurs have neither the training nor the resources to carry out statistically valid beekeeping experiments and that what we have are opinions based on limited observations in restricted circumstances. The book itself is well laid out on a system of numbered paragraphs that makes for easy cross-referencing where necessary.

Naturally there are some points that will alarm any conscientious reviewer. The first is that this is still a book for beginners, not for amateurs as claimed. The second is that the colour photograph on the cover shows some terrible beekeeping.

The section on extracting is totally inadequate, their claim that the multiple entrance board is "an exceptionally useful piece of equipment" is wrong, their statement that "not to have one or two (nucs) is to miss half the fun of beekeeping" is ridiculous while "we can now accept that the one-story, ten-frame, full depth Langstroth box is the norm" is nonsense.

There are many other points I would take issue with them on but that would be to over-emphasise the bad at the expense of the good. I will say that the book appears an uneasy mixture of generally accepted principles and personal, often idiosyncratic preferences, and I would be happier if I believed the authors actually carry out the complicated management practices they detail here.

Certainly I would recommend you buy this book but, as with other beekeeping books, do not buy only this book.



# Presidential Address

By Paul Marshall, president National Beekeepers' Association.

IT WAS QUITE clear at the end of last year's Tauranga conference that many members within the industry were not happy at giving a section of members' funds at concessional rates of interest to establish a Co-operative Marketing Organisation. Such an organisation was planned to take over the functions of the Honey Marketing Authority, whose ownership was also being questioned. A move to reduce tension on this point was made with the passing of a resolution calling for the matter to go to arbitration.

Industry history will show the indecision following conference, with pressure being applied to phase out the authority, and let the co-operative commence operation. The moves initiated looked very much like a straight forward takeover bid, which basically meant a change of name over the authority's doorway.

Stabilisation of the situation took effect following the court injunction actioned by Arataki Honey Ltd of Havelock North, on the decision of the authority's board to allow their assets to be taken over by the proposed co-operative. This form of action ran against the grain for many, but as time passed and with the arbitrator's report to hand, I think we must all agree that it not only gave the industry time to reflect, but gave the arbitrator, Mr David Kay, a better climate in which to bring down his recommendations.

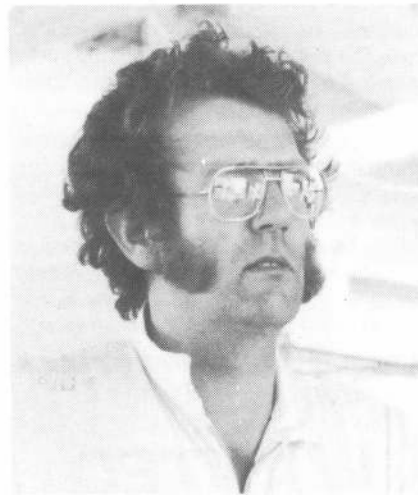
Prior to Mr Kay's appointment, and the terms of reference being formulated, I agreed on behalf of the executive to accept the arbitrator's findings as being appropriate guidelines to follow in the event of the dissolution of the Honey Marketing Authority. This in turn was the agreement reached by other parties, namely the authority and the proposers of the co-operative. My prime reason for agreeing was to protect what I considered to be an industry asset that belonged to the beekeepers of New Zealand.

The report is now to hand and although not to everyone's liking in all aspects, I am of the opinion that it is a good outline for the industry to follow now or in the future. In broad terms Mr Kay found that –

- H.M.A. assets must be attributed to the whole of the honey industry including packers and producers.

- He recommended that the funds resulting from the re-organisation should be vested in a trust, or statutory fund administered by the National Beekeepers' Association.
- On the dissolution of the authority, the transfer of the proceeds of the winding-up to an industry fund, subject to an independent feasibility study establishing the economic viability of a co-operative at concessional interest rates, examples of which he laid down in his report, paragraph 3.04.

However, the supportive arguments to this reasoning can be found in Mr Kay's



Paul Marshall.

report and must be read in conjunction with his letter to the minister.

I've drawn out the following which I quote direct from Mr Kay's report as some of those points that will come up for our immediate consideration, but stress that it should be read in full to appreciate its true worth.

Quoting directly from Section 2.04, paragraph 9: "It must be accepted that, given a continuation of the authority's activities in their present form, reliance on Reserve Bank funding will increase at a rate dependent on the rate of inflation."

From Section 2.05 paragraph 5, he states: "I would suggest that if the authority is to continue as a packaging and marketing organisation, having discontinued its operation of a stabilisation scheme, it is open to question whether the continued use of an expanding quantum of Reserve Bank overdraft at concessional interest rates

for an indefinite period can be justified."

Further to the above paragraphs, Mr Kay also stipulated that he did not presume in his conclusions, to dictate the course that re-organisation or dissolution of the authority should take, but endeavoured to indicate how the best interests of the industry would be served.

Quoting from his conclusions in Section 3.01: "I conclude that the total demise of the authority is inevitable" and, "A major responsibility of the industry is to ensure that the transition from authority operation should be achieved with as little disruption as possible".

While with restructuring, he continues in paragraph 3.02, "I see the dissolution of the authority as a major restructuring of the honey industry and one that will involve cost. Consideration must be given to the position of suppliers to the authority and also to the future of the authority's staff in any plan that is adopted. The authority has established export markets and has knowledge of the health and other regulations involved and some regard should be given to retaining this and any other expertise that has been acquired."

In Section 3.03 he said: "I consider it desirable that the financial structure of any co-operative – or alternative organisation – should be such that its fixed assets would be financed by capital contributions plus funds borrowed from traditional lending institutions.

"Its borrowings from an industry fund should be restricted to working capital – in particular funds required for the purchase of honey – and related to the value of stocks held."

Mr Kay stated under the heading of "Transition" with reference to Section 3.05: "I find it impossible to consider the ownership and application of the authority's funds in isolation.

"Attention must be given simultaneously to: (a) the dissolution of the authority, (b) the establishment of a co-operative, and (c) the orderly transition of the authority's marketing function to the co-operative. The transition will obviously be a sensitive period and care will be required to retain the confidence and support of the suppliers and customers."

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A smooth transition period is needed and I ask all to keep an open mind to the problems ahead. Not the least the executive who could be, if dissolution takes place, handling a fund whose income could be in the order of \$100 000 per annum. It will be important to lay out the terms of a Trust Deed to determine the uses to which the interest or indeed the fund itself could be applied (Section 1.07). However, we need feed back from branches, hence the note mentioned in the remits for conference.

In turn I would ask the proposers of the co-operative to give all beekeepers the opportunity to become members if they so wish, also to make allowance for those who want to join, but feel they cannot do so due to lack of available cash following a poor honey season.

Tolerance is needed by all parties as the industry moves into a free enterprise marketing situation. Many will probably not be aware of any difference other than the need to purchase shares in this new enterprise, which of course hits at the bank balance. But let us hope that this is offset by increased returns per kilogram for your honey crop.

Needless to say, arbitration has occupied the executive's attention for a major part of the year and it is no secret that members hold differing points of view. However, when the in-

terests of all beekeepers came to the fore, these were laid aside, especially with the formulation of submissions to the arbitrator on behalf of the association.

As your president, I also presented myself to the Land and Agriculture Select Committee to put our case forward in regard to the changes to the Apiaries Act. Unfortunately I was unable to have European Foul Brood disease placed in Schedule 1 of the Apiaries Act.

This has been slightly offset with the association's move into insurance with the help of the South British Insurance Company which will cover, amongst your other assets, hives for this disease. Having arranged some form of financial protection, we hope the problem never reaches New Zealand.

My other duties include being the beekeepers' nominee to the Agricultural Chemicals Board, where at the moment with the help of Mr Ian Berry, representations have been made to improve labelling in regard to bee protection. Once the new Pesticides Act comes into being, what is written on the label for bee protection is the law.

It was pleasing to note that Tauranga, which has had heavy bee losses in the past, did, with the co-operation between kiwifruit grower and beekeeper, reduce bee loss to nearly a nil situation last pollination season. Unfortunately the same cannot be said for my home district of Hawkes Bay. There is still

plenty of work to be done in this area, which also means beekeepers putting their case forward at district level.

In all, it has been a very interesting year, which has been saddened by the realisation that all was not in order in my own outfit, which resulted in coming to the decision to sell my bees. Not an easy decision, but one that all my financial advisors suggested was the appropriate action to follow.

Once this became known to others, I found I had more friends throughout the country than I at first realised. I thank you all for your support, but the decision had to be made and made by me alone. As a result, I reaffirm my decision made at the last executive meeting not to seek nomination to the position of president at this conference.

Mr Talbot, two years ago after the Christchurch conference, I approached you for assistance with the germ of an idea to pull the industry out of what looked like a stalemate situation. This you readily agreed to, and I hope that although we have had our moments, so to speak, progress is now being made towards a more acceptable marketing policy which at the time seemed to be the major irritant.

Thank you, sir, and indeed thank you all, especially the members of the executive, our secretary Mr David Dobson, and his able assistant Mrs James. Last and by no means least, my wife, Alison.

# WANTED POLLEN GRANULES

We require Pollen Granules which must be clean, free from moth eggs, larvae and insect fragments.

The moisture content should be 8 to 10 per cent, but may not exceed 10 per cent and the heat used in drying must not exceed 120 deg F (49 deg C). The dried product must be stored in poly lined 20 litre lever lid tins, or double poly lined corrugated cartons, and sealed so as to exclude air, light and the possibility of moisture uptake.

Our Contract Price for the 1981 Season will be:

Lowest Quality \$11.00 per kg  
Best Quality \$12.00 per kg

*(all prices into our store Auckland or rail Penrose)*

Please forward samples to Mr B. Lees of Healtheries of New Zealand Ltd,  
P.O. Box 11-201, Ellerslie, Auckland, Phone: 593 179 Auckland.

# Marketing address

presented by Ivan Dickinson, chairman Honey Marketing Authority

TO OPEN my address I give you a quotation given to the 1953 National Beekeepers Association conference by Mr A.C. Bridle the then chairman of the Honey Marketing Committee. "Since last conference much has happened that will have a pronounced effect on the future of your industry and your industry marketing organisation."

Here some twenty seven years later we can say the same thing as yet another marketing organisation is being wound up.

I note that at the 1955 conference the chairman of the new Honey Marketing Authority Mr E.A. Field said "With the handing back of control of the honey industry to a producer board, the curtain goes up once more on another scene in the industry's chequered career. For some 35 years the Honey Producers Association, The Honey Control Board, New Zealand Honey Ltd., the Internal Marketing Department and the Marketing Division have tried to find a solution to the complex problem of honey marketing within New Zealand and overseas."

There are some of us who will remember some of these attempts to find the solution. As I see it, we are now about to start the round again and one may well say that there is a lot of truth in the saying history has a habit of repeating itself.

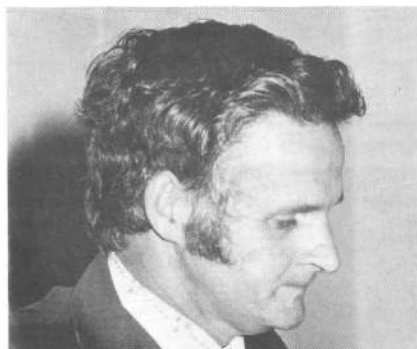
In the past twelve months we as an industry have resolved certain issues only through an independent investigation, with the promise from all parties in the industry that they will abide by the decision of that investigation. At the time that these assurances were being given, the threat of legal action was made very clear and subsequently, following decisions of the Honey Marketing Authority Board to sell its trading operations to a proposed co-op, an injunction was taken out against the board to prevent the selling of its assets or operations.

To me and a majority of the board the decision to sell to the co-op was made with due regard to the wishes of the industry at conference last year and the co-op would be required to fall in line with whatever the investigating committee decided and this was accepted by both parties.

Through the injunction proceedings it was evident to me, that those who took this action had no trust in the

assurances of the industry groups who said they would abide by the investigating committee's report.

To me accepting technicalities or legal jargon was an unwarranted attack on my position and integrity. I do not accept that the action was necessary because any sale made prior to the investigation would weigh it in the suppliers favour. The commitment to accept was made prior to the committee being set up.



Chairman, Ivan Dickinson

The injunction proceedings have done nothing to enhance good communications and understanding in the industry, and the sooner it is removed the better for all.

Since the release of the investigating committee's report, the board has met on two occasions. The first was to consider the Kay report. Following this the board invited the co-op steering committee to make fresh submissions and proposals based on the findings of the report, and also indicated to them the prices that the board had placed on certain buildings and plant.

The Hornby and Pleasant Point plant and buildings were offered to them, but they were advised that the Auckland building will be sold to the strongest buyer either at auction or private sale.

The board also asked Mr Kay to carry out a viability assessment of the co-op steering committee's new proposals and report back. The co-op agreed to these proposals and have acted upon them. At the board meeting last week we had before us the viability assessment report submitted by the co-op and we have made decisions which are all subject to the injunction being lifted.

These decisions are in brief, that the authority will sell the buildings and plant of Pleasant Point and Hornby to

the co-op at realisable values, as agreed. The co-op will be allowed first option on any Auckland plant and will be sold all the trade names and market information of the authority.

Honey stocks at take over date September 1 1981, will be negotiated on a formula yet to be decided.

The board has yet to decide how it will dispose of the Auckland property and the plant not purchased by the co-op. The co-op have been advised of these decisions and it is anticipated that the authority will meet with them to finalise details sometime in the near future.

At our meeting last week we were advised that Mr Don Hayman the government representative on the board has taken up a new position with Tourist and Publicity in Wellington, and because of this has tendered his resignation from the board as of July 30. I am sure that the industry will join with me in extending to Don our thanks for the work he has done over the past seven years, and wish him well in his new position. Mr Hayman's proxy at our meeting was Mike Gould, assistant director of the economics division in Wellington and it is possible that he may be Mr Hayman's successor.

It is appropriate that I mention the board election which would under normal circumstances be in progress. The board requested the minister to have a one month delay in the election, and as this has run out we have asked for a postponement until the future is more clear and if there is a need for another election.

Over the years the authority has employed a number of staff, some of which have a substantial number of years service. Over the past eighteen months I have felt concerned for the future of their employment as it has been in doubt for such a long time. In the main, these people have served the suppliers to the authority, but as the authority has also had an industry role I think it appropriate that this industry express their gratitude to these people by way of resolution.

I have requested that the South Island plant managers be present and that they and Mr Wicht, representing the Auckland plant and office staff, receive our grateful thanks for their service and loyalty to the industry.

In particular, I would like to mention Vince Leonard of the Auckland staff

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## 1981 ANNUAL HONEY TONNAGES

	1981	last year
North Island	110.89 tonnes	110.758mt
Christchurch	188.769 "	326.166
Timaru	683.479 "	806.352
Dunedin	196.817 "	279.291
Invercargill	217.163 "	272.638
	1400.	1795.

who has served the authority for all its 27 years and for a time with the former marketing division.

As soon as the injunction is lifted and a firm sale to the co-op established, it is imperative that the authority enter into discussion with the unions concerned about redundancy.

With the anticipated sale of the authority's trading operations, the board has indicated to the minister of agriculture that it would no longer be appropriate for the authority to exercise control on exports. However, this does not mean that there will be no control on exports, as the Honey Export Control Regulations clearly indicate that any person wishing to export must have the consent of the minister.

Up to the present time he has delegated this power, now it will revert back to him. This raises the question of does the industry need controls, and if so, who or what will carry out this function.

This also brings to the industry's attention the other functions that the authority has carried out that most of us have taken for granted, such as the up to date knowledge and requirements of the export market, prices, procedures and shipping.

For years the authority has given the industry an indication of price increases they have operated and this has acted as a guiding factor to most other local market traders. The authority has been responsible for the main price movements and stability of the market, and it will be very necessary for some form of stability be maintained on the local scene.

The authority has indicated to the government that it will, providing certain things happen, sell its marketing operations but it has not sought to be dissolved. It could be that the industry may find another function for the authority, however this is only conjecture.

Export control does concern me and I think the board could be divided on the issue. I have had from time to time reports, that in the comb honey and honey dew marketing fields there have been cases where markets have been lost to a lower price.

Although I can accept that some of these sales may have been to satisfy a cashflow situation, it does leave me rather concerned as to the possible outcome in a situation of no controls on price and quality.

Who or what shall administer the funds created by the sale of the authority's assets, will require careful consideration. The board was informed last week by Mr Kay, that in all probability a trust or the National Beekeepers Association could be required to pay taxation on such funds. It does appear however, that the authority, should it

continue in some other form, may well continue to be exempt from this requirement.

The market situation creates some cause for concern as indications from U.K., Europe, Japan, Australia and to a lesser extent USA, have expressed concern at China's influence on the world honey market. The concern is timely and should be recognised, even though New Zealand has not been directly affected yet. Australia is very concerned at China's flooding of their traditional market places with low price honey, albeit their concern is somewhat influenced by a record crop last year and a low price of 40 per kilogram being offered this year.

Mexico and Argentina's problem is inflation. Brazil's crop has been affected by varroa which has reportedly cut production back 20 per cent. Canada report fair to good crop prospects, and like South American countries, is reasonably happy with the USA economy which continues to improve creating a strong buying market for honey. New Zealand is somewhat disadvantaged into this market, with a freight cost rising to over \$300 per tonne.

Japan's imports are up 20 per cent to date but the change in supply is significant. Argentina previously the biggest supplier, has dropped to 11.3 per cent while China is now supplying 73.9 per cent of total imports. Middle East countries, which are perhaps our best prospects, are still politically unstable, and orders for some of the OPEC countries can be executed because of the inability to land goods, or the reluctance of the shipping companies to call at these ports. Nevertheless the authority has been able to

supply, sell and export all the honey we have available.

The New Zealand local market is low on supplies and most retailers have an unsatisfied demand. Price cutting is not a problem and is no greater than the cash flow crisis that from time to time occurs with most honey packers.

The authority's intake for the year appears to be about 1400 tonnes made up as follows;

Until the end of June we have packed some 932 tonnes as compared with 823 last year, the increase going mainly on the export market.

In the next few months the industry will have to make some difficult decisions regarding its future now the authority is almost completely without function.

If one studies the history of the industry and the marketing organisations it has had, it becomes apparent that if there is a change from a buyers to a sellers market, or the reverse, there is an agitation for a change of marketing organisation. There is evidence here in new Zealand that horticulture organisations are at present endeavouring to set up what we have near enough done away with. There is also strong interest by overseas countries in the authority set-up and a disbelief by many that we are doing away with it.

Mr chairman, I sincerely hope that we think wisely and well at this conference and the months that follow. As I mentioned earlier, we have started on the second lap as far as marketing organisations go.

I thank you again for the opportunity to address conference and hope that your deliberations are fruitful.

## Aussies extend welcoming hand to fellow beekeepers from New Zealand

Closer trans-Tasman beekeeping ties are being forged with annual study tours between New Zealand and Australia.

Last year and again earlier this year, two study groups from Australia visited their counterparts in New Zealand. MAF apiculture advisory officers, Murray Reid and Andrew Matheson escorted the tours through New Zealand and found there was considerable interest for a reciprocal tour to Australia. Furthermore, the Australians were anxious to assure local

beekeepers the welcome mat would be out when they crossed the Tasman.

A good sightseeing content is included and social evenings are planned with beekeepers en route. Special visits range from the National Apicultural Research Centre and the Australian Honey Bee Stock Centre to an excellent cross section of commercial beekeepers with varying sizes of plant.

A brochure can be obtained from LandMark Travel, Special Interest Tours Division, P.O. Box 6786, Auckland.

# Government Address

presented by Mr R.G. Talbot, parliamentary under-secretary to the minister of agriculture.

I UNDERSTAND that this year is the 75th anniversary of the Southland branch of the National Beekeepers' Association which was formed on February 25, 1906, the first commercial beekeepers association formed around the country at that time.

The prime mover of the Southland association was Isaac Hopkins who did much for the establishment and development of beekeeping in New Zealand.

Isaac Hopkin's efforts in 1906, to obtain broad beekeeper support for the first bee disease control legislation to be introduced to New Zealand, lead to the formation of the Southland association, which was followed with associations in Waikato, Hawkes Bay, Canterbury and Poverty Bay.

The Southland Beekeepers' Association preceded the establishment of the National Beekeepers' Association by four years, and became a founder branch member of the national association at that time.

The first president of the Southland association, James Allen, went on to become one of your association's first national presidents and the first Southland association secretary, Mr R. Gibb was appointed in 1908 as the first Northland apiary inspector, at the same time that Mr W.B. Bray was appointed apiary inspector for the South Island.

In 1878 Thomas Brickel established the Alliance Box Company in Dunedin. This company from its earliest days had associations with beekeeping and still trades today as the Alliance Bee Supplies Company, based at Christchurch.

So to modern times. Otago and Southland are major honey producing provinces. A quarter of New Zealand's 7000 tonne honey crop is produced in the region and most of this is exported; either as traditional bulk and packed lines of clover honey, or as comb honey.

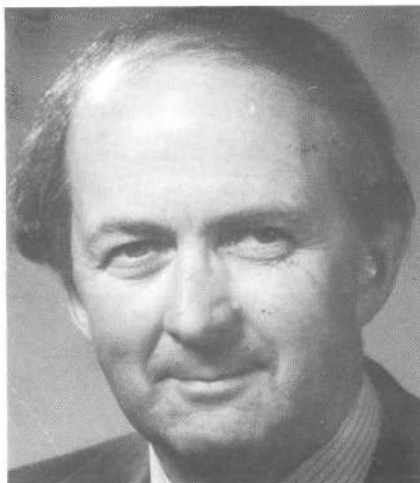
The distinctively flavoured thyme honey from Central Otago is now finding a place as a high-priced speciality honey on the breakfast tables of Europe.

The Otago and Southland regions offer considerable scope for beekeeping expansion, especially in the high country. Government has in recent years directly encouraged farmers to invest in increased production through the livestock

incentive scheme and the land development encouragement loan scheme.

These schemes have had considerable success. This has had a direct benefit to your industry.

Bees, as effective pollinators of clovers, continue to play their part in New Zealand's agricultural development. This contributory role is particularly important in high country pasture land development.



Rob Talbot.

I am aware that ministry advisory staff are working hard to encourage apicultural development in newly oversown areas, bringing to the attention of farmers the value derived from bee pollination, and bringing to the attention of beekeepers the opportunities which exist for honey production.

Since I last spoke to your annual conference two years ago, a tremendous number of events have taken place in the honey industry, and a lot of water has flowed under the bridge.

The guaranteed base price and price stabilisation schemes have gone; proposals for a producer co-operative were drawn up, agreed to and then tossed out. Disputes and divisions over the use of the HMA's funds broke out; an arbitration on the issues has taken place; the Kay report has come out, and we have a revised proposal for the establishment of a producer co-operative to take over certain functions of the HMA.

Last year parliament considered and passed the Apiaries Amendment Act 1980. This amendment made a number of small but significant changes to the Apiaries Act 1969 and designed to

improve and update that act. Amongst other changes under the new act, beekeepers now have a four month period, August to November, to examine all hives for the presence of serious brood diseases and to furnish an annual statement of hive inspection.

This change will also assist the ministry to adopt a procedure which will allow the annual update of apiary registrations, which is important if we are to confine and control the spread of serious bee diseases.

Your association's request to increase the penalties under the Apiaries Act to a more realistic level has been accepted. The maximum fine is now \$2000.

There is also an additional penalty of \$1000 for the introduction, or attempted introduction, of queen bees without a permit. This latter penalty is a clear indication of how serious government regards the dangers associated with illegal importations of bees.

Of the recommendations put forward by your association, there was only one which was not accepted. This was the request that European Brood Disease be included in the first schedule of the Apiaries Act, thereby qualifying for government compensation for any losses as a result of control measures which may be applied.

There are many serious diseases and pests which could gain entry to New Zealand and which could cause economic loss to the agricultural sector. Government has reserved compensation to those diseases, pests and noxious plants which pose an intolerable economic threat to production and marketing; and to those diseases where an eradication programme is practicable and enforceable.

European Brood Disease is a serious disease of bees and is recognised as such in its present classification in the second schedule of the Apiaries Act. However, judging from overseas experience, European Brood Disease cannot be regarded as being a more serious disease than American Brood Disease, which is itself included in the second schedule.

Last year's Apiaries Amendment Act also served to pave the way for the introduction of the Honey Export Certification Regulations 1980.

These new regulations replace the outdated 1950 Honey Export Regulations and provide the basis for the ministry's

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export certification of honey recognising the requirements of importing countries. The new approach to honey export certification has received favourable national and international acceptance.

The industry has come through some difficult times, and the government has been strongly criticised over some of the events that have occurred. I believe this criticism is unjustified and fortunately, this is all behind us now. I must say the atmosphere at this conference is most encouraging.

At the 1979 conference I stressed the point that it is your industry. You are the people who have the greatest financial stake in the industry, and who want to do what is best for the future of the honey industry both in the short and long terms.

This is the foundation on which my speech today is based upon – a philosophy which I have preached to the many primary industry groups I have had the pleasure to speak to in the last few years.

I am pleased to note that agreement on many of the outstanding issues has been reached, and the basis for future action, in the form of the Kay report, has been accepted, by most, if not all concerned.

The government's role has been to try and encourage the establishment of some private enterprise structure, in the form of a co-op, to take over from the Honey Marketing Authority.

It has endeavoured to achieve a fair result in both the short term and long term as far as the uses of the authority's funds are concerned; and to see if the HMA as a statutory board could be dissolved and the regulations revoked. The government's objectives and role appear at times to have been misunderstood, and I am disappointed that such misunderstandings have arisen.

I would like to state quite clearly so there is no misunderstanding, that the government accepts the findings of the commission of enquiry, and will do whatever it can to facilitate a smooth transition from the operations of the Honey Marketing Authority to the proposed co-operative. We are all working on the same track now and I am pleased to see that the co-op proposal is about to get underway.

Some issues still remain to be resolved and I strongly urge you to reach a consensus on them. One of these is the future of the HMA's funds.

The Kay report has pointed out some potential uses for the fund, including the making of advance payments, or the purchase of honey in seasons of over-supply – somewhat akin to the roles played by the producer boards responsible for meat and wool. The report does not draw definitive conclusions however, and it is over to the

industry to determine these matters.

Clearly, the most immediate need is to see that the co-op begins successfully in business and this seems to be an obvious first use for the funds of the HMA.

I would point out that stabilisation, the making of advance payments, and the operation of a buffer fund or buyer in time of surplus, and some control over exports, were in fact the functions and role of the authority up until about two years ago.

It is of some concern that if the HMA is to be dissolved, all honey producers will be fully exposed to the vagaries of the weather and its impact both on the domestic and international markets in terms of production levels, prices and your incomes from honey production. I do not expect that large variations in honey production both in New Zealand and overseas, will disappear in the future. Nor do I expect that the consequent variation in prices would be any smaller than in the past.

The question arises then, as to what action, if any, might be undertaken to help you to cope with these ups and downs from which in some years you may benefit and in some years you may suffer.

This is a matter to which I suggest you give earnest consideration right now and not leave it until a bad year strikes.

A related series of questions which I believe should also be addressed, is whether anybody representative of the industry, should have any powers to control exports of honey products in any way, to licence exporters, to set minimum quality standards, or to promote the orderly marketing of honey products in your common interest.

I am deliberately avoiding passing any opinion on these issues. I am raising them as what I believe are important questions for your consideration. The government is not inclined to impose any such policy measures on the industry.

It looks to the industry for its views and will be ready to give consideration to any well supported proposals which might be forthcoming. Some of you no doubt are fully aware that I am a firm advocate of free market – market oriented farming – and have taken the opportunity to promote this philosophy with many individual sectors in recent months, which has generally been very well received.

The honey producers are one more sector which is moving positively to giving a new vitality to its development and growth. This can best be achieved by having government out of the way – with a minimum of controls and regulations standing in the way of your day to day development.

On the other hand you are assured of government's continuing support and

consideration for any proposals which will assist your industry in the future, particularly if those proposals have the solid backing of the industry.

Mr Chairman before concluding my address I would like to place on record my personal appreciation, together with that of government's of the outstanding part you have played as president of the National Beekeepers' Association, in guiding the many structural changes which have taken place in the industry.

You have ensured that all points of view have been heard in a rational and responsible manner and I am sure you that your leadership will be missed in the industry when you stand down.

It has not been an easy period for you but as you stand down, you do so in the knowledge that much progress has been made. We also wish you all the best in any endeavour in which you become involved.

When a new president is elected, my door will be open to him, as it has been to Paul in the exciting challenging times in which we find ourselves.

## QUESTIONS ARISING FROM MR TALBOT'S ADDRESS

### How free an enterprise?

*Q: Mr Jansen expressed his pleasure at Mr Talbot's statement of government attitude on the free market economy, but was concerned that government would consider bringing back controls should the industry require them. He said in the past a majority of smaller beekeepers, be it hobbyists or part-timers, had and still could control the voting processes and this is a risk to those who have committed their whole future to the industry.*

*"Even if the industry decided to move counter to government policy, would that government in fact grant their wishes?"*

*A: Mr Talbot replied that believing in a basic philosophy of deregulation, there would have to be very strong support from all sectors of the industry before the government would consider any changes.*

*He said the government is at present involved with sectors of the agricultural and horticultural industries who have asked for compulsory levies. Their requests have been endorsed by the national associations of these groups but through contacts in the caucus agricultural committee, Mr Talbot discovered that a lot of producers did not want these controls.*

*He assured Mr Jansen that before the government would consider any kind of agricultural control, they would go back to "grass roots" of the industry involved and get the feelings at each level of the industry's structure.*

# MAF advisory report

By Grahame Walton, chief advisory officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

## ORGANISATION AND STAFFING

Arising from the new Honey Export Certification Regulations 1980, which came into force on January 1 1981, the ministry now provides a regionally based export certification service. There are at least two officers trained within each region to carry out duties related to the examination and certification of honey for export.

Mr C G Rope, who formerly held national responsibilities for the grading of honey under the now revoked Honey Export Regulations of 1950, has been assigned a district apicultural advisory role, based at Auckland. This in effect has increased the number of apiary districts from eight to nine.

As mentioned in last year's report, Mr T G Bryant was selected as the division's candidate in an advisory exchange scheme maintained with Canada Agriculture. He has now returned to Gore after a year stationed in Alberta. During Mr Bryant's absence the ministry employed Mr C Van Eaton as an apiary instructor at Gore for a period of six months.

The division employs approximately 30 field officers and livestock officers to assist with the check inspection of hives; mainly for short periods during the spring months. In addition the division continues to employ beekeepers as part-time inspectors.

## BEEKEEPING STATISTICS

### Beekeepers, apiaries and hives:

As at May 31 1981 there were 5578 New Zealand beekeepers, maintaining 20 159 registered apiaries and owning 238 097 hives.

The number of registered beekeepers continues to increase, but at a slower annual growth rate this year (six per cent) than in the previous four years (an average of 12 per cent per annum). There has been an overall growth rate of 50 per cent since 1977; most of this percentage increase occurring in the 1-50 and 51-500 hive-holding categories.

### The honeycrop:

The surplus honeycrop for the 1980/81 honey season was assessed at 6931 tonnes; 3251 tonnes in the North Island, 3680 tonnes in the South Island. This represents an average crop.

### American Brood Disease:

The level of American Brood Disease (*Bacillus larvae*) continues to decline slightly from the peak reached in the 1978/79 season. During 1980/81 698 apiaries (3.5 per cent) and 1543 hives (0.65 per cent) were found to be infected with American Brood Disease.

The prime responsibility for disease control resides with the beekeeping industry. Beekeepers reported 554 apiaries, involving 1139 hives infected with American Brood Disease. In its disease monitoring role the ministry inspected 2056 apiaries, 14871 hives, detecting 144 diseased apiaries, 404 diseased hives.

## ADVISORY ACTIVITIES

Beekeeper education continues to be encouraged by advisory visits, discussion groups, newsletters, AgLinks, other publications, and the provision of specialist courses at the ministry's two farm training institutes, at Telford and Flock House.

Apicultural advisers have also worked closely with other advisers in matters related to pastoral management, horticultural development, agricultural engineering, and stock improvement.

Under New Zealand's bilateral aid programme with Papua New Guinea, assistance has been given to the training of beekeeping officers with the PNG Department of Primary Industries. Two officers visited New Zealand last year and a further three officers will arrive within the next month.

## OTHER ASPECTS

### Apiaries Amendment Act 1980:

An amendment to the Apiaries Act 1969 was passed last year and became law on January 1 this year. The amendment made a number of small changes to the Apiaries Act; an act which is seen by your industry, and by the ministry, to be sound and effective. Last year's changes to the Apiaries Act have been well publicised.

### Honey Export Certification Regulations 1980:

One of the major reasons for the passing of the Apiaries Act amendment was to facilitate the introduction of updated honey export certification regulations. Changes in the act were required to the definition of honey, provisions to appoint "honey certifying officers", and powers to make regulations for bee products.

Before these regulations were promulgated late last year, considerable discussion took place with representative groups of the beekeeping industry. The Honey Export Certification Regulations 1980 provide the basis of ministry export certification, and are sufficiently flexible to adjust and adapt to changing requirements of importing countries.

A full account of the new regulations was published in the March issue of "The New Zealand Beekeeper". It should be repeated that ministry export certification is not a compulsory requirement. An exporter, if he so

## BEEKEEPERS, APIARIES AND HIVES

Beekeeper category	Beekeepers	Apiaries	Hives
owning 1 to 50 hives	5124	7197	28173
owning 51 to 500 hives	323	3968	53569
owning 500+ hives	131	8994	156355
Totals	5578	20159	238097

## NUMBER OF REGISTERED BEEKEEPERS PER HIVE-HOLDING CATEGORY:

Category	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1975	1973
1 to 50 hives	5124	4792	4212	3737	3372	2957	3167
51 to 500 hives	323	301	274	232	217	209	267
500+ hives	131	124	121	123	120	114	125
Totals	5578	5217	4607	4092	3709	3280	3559

## 1981 NBA CONFERENCE

## AMERICAN BROOD DISEASE LEVELS IN APIARY DISTRICTS 1980:

Apiary District	No. of diseased apiaries	Percentage diseased apiaries	No. of diseased hives	Percentage diseased hives
Auckland	108	3.1	238	0.96
Hamilton	83	3.1	149	0.37
Tauranga	80	4.2	159	0.61
Palmerston Nth	89	2.8	186	0.53
Nelson	119	8.3	199	1.34
Christchurch	60	2.2	199	0.55
Oamaru	77	2.9	201	0.59
Gore	82	4.1	212	0.77
Total	698	3.5	1543	0.65

chooses, may export honey without government certification. The ministry sees it as the responsibility of the beekeeping industry, and exporters, to ensure that the honey meets the quality standards required by importers and importing countries. The ministry will endeavour to assist exporters meet the certification requirements of importing countries, upon request, by examining and certifying the honey in terms of the Honey Export Certification Regulations.

### Protecting bees from pesticides:

At the present time, the Apiaries Act 1969 provides beekeepers with a degree of protection against the spraying and dusting of materials toxic to bees. Although this legislation appears to be an advance on that existing in many other countries, there are some deficiencies with the present provisions. For instance, damage to bees is limited to

specific crops, and to particular methods of application. Also the effects of drift of toxic sprays is not covered.

To provide improved protection to bees it is proposed that new Pesticides Regulations will contain the following statement: "Where a pesticide label accepted by the (Pesticides) Board contains the words "toxic to bees", every person who uses the pesticide contrary to the directions following these words on the label commits an offence unless used in accordance with a permit issued by the director-general."

A recent meeting, involving members of your national executive, staff of the Agricultural Chemicals Board and the Ministry of Agriculture, reviewed all 270 chemicals registered by the board and considered their uses and effects on bees.

This meeting made a number of label recommendations regarding bee toxic

city and these will be considered further with a view to adoption.

### Apiary Registration:

Apiary registration procedures have been reviewed. An accurate record of the location of apiaries is important if we (the beekeeping industry and the ministry) are to confine and control serious bee diseases; for instance such diseases as varroa, acarine and EBD, if they are discovered in this country.

A new system of issuing the annual statement of hive inspections incorporating a list of registered apiary locations has been adopted in some districts in recent years and will be extended to all New Zealand districts this year. A beekeeper need now only check the accuracy of the apiary registration and provide details of serious brood diseases if these are present.

### Questions arising from Mr Walton's speech.

*Q: Is there a blanket prohibition on imports from countries with EBD?*

A: Mr Walton reminded Mr Bartrum that imports are not prohibited. The MAF imposes a policy of restriction, honey can be imported as long as it meets the import requirements.

He said MAF regards EBD as a serious disease threat and would not import honey from any country with this disease. Honey imports are allowed into New Zealand on a permit basis from Tasmania, Western Australia and Nuie.

"Last year MAF looked into the continued importation of Nuie Island honey. The situation in Nuie was looked over by a New Zealand advisory officer because Nuie was importing bees from an island with an unknown disease history.

"Tonga belongs to the 'doubtful class', but it has recently been looked into and industrial grade honey can be imported so long as it is heated in New Zealand under MAF supervision."

### Fewer MAF newsletters?

*Q: Is it true that MAF is to prune its regional beekeeping newsletters?*

A: Mr Walton said that there was undue concern about this and explained the rumours started because the industry was offered a new "Agmag" which, after consultation with advisors, he decided was unnecessary, as the industry was already well serviced.

He said the situation with this national magazine would be reviewed, and that as long as the districts and regions had sufficient funds to pay for their newsletters they would continue.

### Advisory placements

*Q: How does MAF go about placing their advisory officers?*

A: Mr Walton explained that this was based very much on tradition and he would like to review it in the future with help from the industry.

## Life membership for Bob

MR HARRY CLOAKE, on behalf of the South Canterbury branch, moved that Mr Robert Davidson senior be elected as a life member of the association.

"Bob Davidson first became interested in beekeeping while he was instructing in engineering at Timaru Technical College. Typical of Bob, who never does things half way, he set about learning beekeeping as thoroughly as possible from the knowledge of Bill Jennings, James Foster, Len Robbins and my late father," Mr Cloake said.

"In the early 1940's Bob ventured into his own commercial beekeeping business, with 400 hives in the Fairlie district. Bob became the leader in beekeeping in South Canterbury where his influence is still evident today. He was always free with his knowledge and would impart it to anyone who asked for it.

"Bob's service to the industry was mainly through the South Canterbury branch where he served as secretary for many years, holding the branch together in its early days. He served a

term on the Honey Marketing Authority too."

Mr Cloake said he felt sure that Bob wouldn't mind being mentioned as being difficult at times, "This benefited us in the long run because it made us take a good look at what we were doing," he said. "Bob is one of those people born with an analytical mind, he worked out what was right and what was wrong and by jove you toed the line!" He also said that though a lot of beekeepers crossed swords with Bob he never carried a personal grudge.

Mr Cloake finished the motion by saying that normally such memberships are awarded on retirement, but as Bob is now in his 80th year and hasn't retired yet it was time to do something about it.

Robin Jansen and Keith Herron also spoke in favour of the motion. President Paul Marshall said he was pleased to announce the awarding of Bob Davidson's life membership, which was accepted by a branch member on Mr Davidson's behalf.



# REMITTS CONSIDERED BY THE 1981 CONFERENCE

## NBA PAY HALL HIRE

**Remit 1** **South Canterbury**  
*That this conference recommends hall hire during the conference and Annual General Meeting be paid from NBA funds, not out of the conference registration fees.*

Note: The registration fee should only cover morning and afternoon tea and other sundry items.

Lyttle/Cropp.

Mr Lyttle said that since association members had free access to all meetings the hall hire should be paid from the association.

In seconding the motion, Mr Ian Berry said hall hire did not come out of pockets of individuals at club level, therefore, "Why pay at national level?"

The remit was carried 13 to 1.

## HMA FUNDS RELIEVE HIVE LEVY

**Remit 2** **Otago**  
*That the executive committee investigate what is to happen to the Hive Levy if the Honey Marketing Authority is disbanded.*

McCaw/Smoothy

Mr McCaw moved that the words "what is to happen to" be changed to "the future and necessity of". The conference agreed to this.

He then spoke for the remit saying the arbitrator had stated in his report, that in the event of the HMA's dissolution, after all the costs had been deducted, the remaining funds belonged to the whole industry. What better way was there to benefit the whole industry than by relieving the hive levy, he asked. He said increasing administration costs had been responsible for levy increases and this was a fair way that all beekeepers could benefit.

The remit was carried 13 to 0.

## NBA ADOPT ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

**Remit 3** **Far North**  
*That the NBA adopt an associate membership forthwith.*

Note: The concept that the branch has its own associate membership is unacceptable.

Haines/Gavin

The conference agreed to leave this remit on the table until remit 4 had been discussed.

## SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP FOR BEEKEEPING CLUBS

**Remit 4** **Otago**  
*That it be considered to make available a special membership of the association to beekeeping clubs.*

Note: Beekeeping clubs have become popular with many beginners and hobbyists and are definitely doing a good job. Many of these people are apparently not ready to join the NBA directly and become involved in the necessary business meetings and unavoidable politics. A special membership could probably be acceptable to them, and in due course, perhaps create a larger membership for the association when interest grows. The club concerned would need to appoint one representative to act on its behalf. Other club members could be made welcome at branch meetings, field days etc, but only the nominated person would be

able to cast the vote on behalf of the club. One copy of the "NZ Beekeeper" would be mailed to the club if it paid the normal membership fee. Library material could be borrowed through the nominated club member who would be personally responsible, but each reader to pay normal fee.

Mr McCaw said he agrees that facility already exists for what this remit was suggesting. The remit was withdrawn.

## NBA ADOPT ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

**Remit 3** **Far North**  
*Remit 3 was then discussed by the conference.*

Mr Haines spoke for the remit, saying that an associate membership would cater for the smaller member with under 50 hives. He recommended lowering the cost of subscriptions for associate members as some beekeepers feel they didn't require the journal which is the major cost of subscription.

Mr Lyttle spoke strongly against the remit saying the idea of the journal was to keep members informed of the industry's goings on and that it was already subsidised. He said that most people could afford the present subscription of \$10 and that it was ludicrous this remit ever got to the sheet. Mr R. Berry also spoke against the remit.

The remit was determined by a poll, which resulted in it being defeated 175:721.

## JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP OF NBA

**Remit 5** **Otago**  
*That a junior membership be made available.*

Note: A growing number of young people seem to be becoming interested in beekeeping. They enquire about reading material and membership but think twice when they learn about the amount involved. For the small number involved it would not hurt to make a junior membership available at say half price to high school students and other young persons in the age group of 15 — 17 years and for a maximum length of two years.

McCaw/Smoothy

Mr I. Berry suggested that subsidised copies of the "NZ Beekeeper" be sent into high schools around the country.

Mr Penrose agreed with subsidising the journal and said that we are dealing with the industry's future and they should be encouraged from an early age.

Mr McCaw said he felt providing access to the NBA library would fulfill a stronger need for young people interested in beekeeping, than supplying just the journal. Mr Stanley said that the library material was too valuable to loan to a broad market, but agreed with the idea of sending the journal into high schools.

NBA librarian John Heineman replied that books from the library have been lent to schools before and although some of the books are very valuable, they are there for educational purposes.

Mr Haines aligned this remit to remit 3 about associate membership. He said that under remit 3, a beekeeping club could become a member of the NBA, where young people could go to further an interest in beekeeping. Mr Mervyn Cloake was concerned with voting rights should a junior membership be offered and suggested that the junior membership should be investigated.

Mr Heineman moved an amendment that the words "made available" be changed to "investigated by executive", which was passed. Mr McCaw spoke on the amendment saying that the remit had no suggestion of voting rights and that

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he felt the executive should decide the level of membership. The remit was carried 13 to 1.

## O.K. KAY REPORT FINDINGS

### Remit 6

### Hawkes Bay

*That conference approve of the findings of the Kay report and also approve of the subsequent relevant resolution of the Honey Marketing Authority on the meeting of April 27-28, 1981.*

For members this information is:

“That the steering committee of the proposed co-operative be invited to submit revised proposals for the purchase of the Honey Marketing Authority’s trading operations, in accordance with the investigating committee’s findings, and that the land and buildings be offered to them at the following prices:

Timaru — Horton St \$30 000; Saleyards Rd \$17 000; Christchurch — Hornby \$75 000. Auckland property to be sold on the open market. That plant and equipment be offered at values to be negotiated.

P. Berry/I. Berry

Mr Percy Berry spoke for the remit saying that since it had been put to be discussed at conference a lot had been achieved. He said the remit had “aged” and everyone seems happy with the set-up.

Mr Stanley enquired whether the valuations in the report are up-to-date and asked for the time of valuation to be clarified, to which Mr Dickinson replied that the valuation was 12-15 months old and Mr Curtis Wicht said it was taken by independent valuers, who informed him just before conference that any change in values since then would not be as great as their fee.

Mr Bartrum asked, “If and when the money is lifted, would honey stocks be paid for at today’s value?” Mr Dickinson replied that was a matter between the association and the co-operative.

Mr Berry exercised his right of reply and said the valuations checked out in the Kay report and in his opinion it was reasonable to assume they were up-to-date.

The remit was passed 14 to 0.

## WORK WITHIN KAY REPORT

### Remit 7

### Hawkes Bay

*That conference is of the opinion that the whole industry would be wise to work within the guidelines of the Kay report.*

P. Berry/I. Berry

Mr Penrose drew the conference’s attention to the Kay report recommendation, for smooth transition from the HMA. He asked Mr Berry when the injunction imposed by Arataki would be lifted, so that the smooth transition could take place.

Mr Percy Berry replied that there was no time that Arataki was not willing to aid in the transition and this had been indicated before the Kay report. He further added that there was nothing to hold up the injunction being removed when these last two remits had been put through.

Mr Stanley said he lacked information on how the co-operative would benefit his branch. President Paul Marshall requested the organisers of the co-operative to tell the conference if all hive levy payers would be invited to join.

Mr Steve Lyttle said they would. More information would be posted to all hive levy payers in the next few weeks, offering membership.

The remit was carried 14 to 0.

At this stage of the conference Mr Percy Berry left to ask his solicitor to lift the injunction imposed by Arataki.

## DISCUSS FUTURE OF HMA

### Remit 8

### North Otago

*That this conference would like a full discussion on the arbitrator’s report, especially on the future of the HMA.*

Note: The North Otago branch considers that now that the HMA has met a lot of the requirements of the industry it would only be a short step for it to be restructured along the lines of what the industry requires.

The conference agreed to let the remit lie. It was later withdrawn on a split vote 12:2.

## INDUSTRY FUNDS USED FOR HONEY PROMOTION?

### Remit 9

West Coast

*In the event of the arbitrator's report being implemented in relation to the setting up of a trust fund that a proportion of the revenue earned be used in all aspects of general honey promotion.*

Note: Increased per capita consumption can only benefit the whole industry. The remit indicates the support of this branch for the essence of the arbitrator's report and for the attitude of the national executive and the HMA board as indicated by the minutes of the executive meeting of May 5 under the heading "Arbitrator's Report".

Braid/Glasson

Mr Penrose said he knew of the promotion the pork industry had begun recently and wondered what the measured effect on pork sales was, from the promotion.

Secretary David Dobson, who was involved with the Pork Industry Council's promotion said that it was very difficult to measure the success of a promotion. He told the conference of the bacon campaign that had cost \$150 000 in advertising, but had boosted bacon sales by 28 per cent.

He finished by saying, however, that the bacon consumption dropped back to its original level once the advertising campaign had finished.

Mr Ian Berry spoke against the remit saying it was too early to decide if this was the way to use the funds and promotion was expensive for the amount of honey they had to sell.

Mr Robin Jansen enquired whether the advertising funds would be put into a separate trust which could be used for this purpose.

Mr Stuckey explained that trusts have rules and the he considered this was beating the gun. He said that executive would come up with the best possible deal and that no decisions like this should be made at this time.

The remit was lost 5 to 8.

## FUTURE EXPORT CONTROLS

### Remit 10

South Canterbury

*That this conference set aside time to discuss future export controls.*

Withdrawn.

## EXPORT ADVISORY BODY ESTABLISHED?

### Remit 11

North Canterbury

*That in the event of the Honey Marketing Authority being disbanded, consideration be given to an export advisory body being established to act in an advisory capacity with regard to export marketing and pricing.*

Note: At present the minister has vested in the authority the power to control the export of honey, and should the authority be dissolved it is considered advisable that this power be retained more in the form of an advisory body to assist exporters in obtaining the maximum prices available. It could also act as an agent for the exporter and prepare the necessary documentation etc.

Bray/Hunt

Mr Bray said the new co-operative would be competing on the same markets as private individuals, but this was not a real worry because the local market could take care of itself. However, he said the export market was a different matter and that it was vital for all honey producers that the best possible prices were received for New Zealand honey overseas.

Referring to an address given the day before, Mr Bray said that the Department of Trade and Industry had made it quite clear that there was a need for some protection for the co-operative and private exporters selling on world markets. "I don't necessarily believe that the advisory body that we are suggesting will be the ultimate in meeting our requirements," said Mr Bray. "But we need something to take over from the present system when the HMA goes out of operation in a few months."

Mr Bray said that the honey export control regulations had gone a long way to stabilise prices that New Zealand exporters were getting on world markets. He said it was vital that private packers and the co-operatives did not undercut each other overseas. He said there was no worry about export controls on a rising market, but his recent experience where demand for honeydew was falling showed that buyers could rapidly encourage a price cutting situation on a falling market.

Mr Jansen told the meeting that he strongly objected to the word "control" in the remit. He suggested that the mover and seconder might be willing to change the words "export control board" to "export advisory body" — a suggestion which was not acceptable, the movers feeling that it was a matter for the whole conference to decide. Mr Jansen then moved an amendment that the words "export control board" be replaced by "export advisory body" his amendment was seconded by Ian Berry.

Mr Penrose spoke strongly against the amendment he said there was no point in having a body or a board or a person without teeth to enforce his recommendations. "We are not going back to the HMA but we are going forward to a new organised marketing system.

"Even those of you who favour private enterprise would doubtless like protection from fly-by-nighters who have the potential to ruin a market that you have worked hard to develop. I maintain anybody set up must have the power to control in the interests of all beekeepers. Honeydew has been a good example — we have seen several local producers being forced to sell on weak markets and the buyers overseas have been working one seller against another."

Mr Ian Berry said his branch was against control. The industry had seen controls on exports and seen they hadn't worked, he said. "If in the future we see a need for these controls we can come back to conference and change the rules again."

Mr Stuckey said that it was not possible to have controls on the export markets and not on the local market, because if prices are controlled on the overseas market, there will be an automatic tendency for people needing cash to sell their produce at the best possible price locally. In this way, he said, beekeepers would find the price for the 80 per cent of their produce sold on the local market dropping below the fall while an artificially boosted exported price was maintained for the 20 per cent which goes overseas.

The amendment was then put to the vote and carried 6 votes to 5 with 3 abstentions.

"That in the event of the honey marketing authority being disbanded, consideration be given to an export advisory body being established to act in an advisory capacity with regard to export marketing and pricing."

Mr Bartrum spoke strongly against the amended remit saying that a new organisation was being created, just as another older organisation was being closed.

Mr Jansen said he was against the amended remit even though he was in a co-operative mood. "I believe in the spirit of freedom but I want to co-operate with the co-operative on pricing policy in complete freedom. We don't need another arbitrary body," he said.

Mr Lorimer said that his branch felt that the NBA could handle the matter and there was no need to set up another body.

Mr Dickinson, the chairman of the Honey Marketing Authority, said that the authority had advised the minister that it was selling its trade operation but it had not requested that the authority be disbanded. That was for the industry to decide.

Mr Harry Cloake said that the HMA was not in a position to be disbanded and that it would be very unwise to disband before the industry settled down. There was then considerable discussion about the disbanding of the authority especially the timing of it.

Mr R. Cloake said that before the HMA became the baby which was tossed out of the bath with the bath water, the industry should look at the HMA and see what it had to offer. He suggested that use could be made of this body, established by an act of parliament, for the benefit of private enterprise. The president, Paul Marshall then reminded the meeting of the Kay Report recommendations,

Mr Mike Gould of MAF then explained to the conference that the control of exports was not vested in the HMA but in the control of honey exporting regulations. He also explained that there was some problem with disbanding of the HMA as its empowering act made no provision for disbanding.

Mr Marshall explained that the HMA was currently being used as a vehicle for the Honey Marketing Controls which the regulations vested in the ministry. After August 31 this authority would go back to the ministry who he said didn't really want this power.

Mike Stuckey informed the meeting that the HMA had advised the ministry that it no longer wished to control exports from September 1.

Mr Gould added that the regulation stated that "no person may export honey without the minister's authority". He said it was probably best under the circumstances that the regulation be revoked as the minister doesn't want to do it and neither does the ministry of agriculture.

The amended remit was then put to the vote and carried 9 votes to 5.

## HIVE INSPECTION DECLARATION EXTENDED

### Remit 12

### Far North

*That the notice No 4 on the order paper of the 1977 annual conference which was passed unanimously (That the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries be asked to amend the requirements of the annual declaration form of hive inspection to cover the number of colonies with disease and in which apiaries, the total number of colonies owned and any new sites not already registered), be implemented immediately.*

Haines/Gavin

Mr Haines said that this system has not been adopted in his district yet, though they have asked for it three times. This time they want to be sure that it gets into action.

Mr Russell Berry drew the conference's attention to Graham Walton's advisory report where it stated that a new system of issuing the annual statement of hive inspections would be extended to all districts this year and moved that the remit be withdrawn.

The motion was carried 10 to 0.

## ADVISORY OFFICER BE APPOINTED IN BILL'S PLACE

### Remit 13

### South Western Districts

*That this conference requests that the MAF appoints a new advisory officer to Palmerston North on the retirement of Bill Rodie.*

Rowe/I. Berry

Mr Rowe spoke of his concern at the reduction of advisory officers and wanted assurance that a new advisory officer will be appointed for the Palmerston North district on the retirement of present advisory officer Bill Rodie.

President Paul Marshall drew Mr Rowe's attention to Graham Walton's report where the staffing situation was explained.

Mr Rowe added further, that the present officer covers a wide area and they want it continued.

The remit was carried 14 to 0.

## APICULTURAL STAFFING SURVEY

### Remit 14

### Bay of Plenty

*That the apicultural staffing survey as recently agreed upon by the NBA executive and MAF be urgently implemented.*

Note: There had been an obvious decrease of supervisory staff during a period of national hive number increase and strongly increasing beekeeping activities, e.g. pollination, exportable by-products.

We recommend that such a survey embrace all those engaged in beekeeping i.e. commercials and hobbyists and research. Stanley/Rowe

This remit was initiated by Mr Stanley, but president Paul Marshall said that there was no such agreement to carry out

such a survey and that Mr Stanley probably had confused this with a course that the executive ran at Flock House that was open to invited industry leaders.

Mr Stanley replied that the executive minutes had stated the basis of this remit, though he did not have the reference with him. The remit was then left to lie on the table until the matter was clarified.

The following day David Dobson told the conference that he had found the reference in the executive minutes referred to by Mr Stanley.

The chairman then put the motion and it was carried 12 to 0.

## MAF COMMENDED

### Remit 15

### Southland

*That MAF be commended for employing an apiary advisory officer to fulfill the vacancy created by the selection of an apiary officer on overseas exchange and that these exchanges be extended to allow further exchange by researchers and advisors from overseas countries.*

Booth/Lyttle

Mr Booth said overseas advisory officers like Cliff van Eaton are ready and willing to fill vacancies in New Zealand if there were opportunities. Mr Trevor Bryant replied that there was marvellous opportunities for beekeeping advisory officers from New Zealand and overseas to come and go.

Mr Hunt asked about the cost to the exchangee and Mr Bryant said the MAF pays the advisors salary and locational allowances. He said the cost to the individual can be quite high, but it needn't be - "You cannot put cost against experience and enrichment," he commented.

The remit was carried 14 to 0.

## EBD MOVED TO SCHEDULE ONE?

### Remit 16

### Bay of Plenty

*That EBD be placed in Schedule 1 of the Apiaries Act.*

Note: Schedule 1 offers the MAF a "foot and mouth" type eradication operation. The dangers of a less positive approach may be judged by the recent Australian experience, where EBD is now an additional major disease problem.

Apart from the increased management problems posed by another bacterial disease in New Zealand bees, we in the Bay of Plenty area see a real threat to the nation's important kiwifruit pollination service.

Executive Committee Note: On behalf of the industry, this matter was taken up by the president, when he met the Land and Agriculture Select Committee last year. The matter was fully explained to the committee, however they were not prepared to change the schedule.

Mr Stanley outlined extensively his opinion on what an EBD epidemic would do to New Zealand and reasons for having the disease moved to Schedule 1.

He feels EBD would have a more serious economic threat than AFB and once established in New Zealand it may have a continuing effect on all our export products.

He cited examples of the seriousness of the disease from the recent Australian outbreak and the difficulty there was in detecting it. It would have a serious effect on pollination services for horticulture.

In conclusion he said that in his opinion there would only be one occasion when EBD could be eliminated. "That is when it is first located," he explained. "There will be a need for a foot and mouth type operation and Schedule 1 offers the best co-operation, early identification and eradication."

Mr Harry Cloake spoke against the "foot and mouth" type operation, saying he had experienced the strict quarantines of this type of operation with the Temuka scare. "How would you like your island placed in quarantine in the peak honey season when your hives are unaffected?" he said.

Mr Bartrum enquired what would happen should EBD be located.

Mr Walton replied that Schedule 2 of the Apiaries Act also has the power to carry out a "foot and mouth" type operation, but there is no way they would "burn an industry to stop a disease". At present, control of the disease would involve confining and controlling it, which would depend on co-operation of beekeepers. He said he had plans to discuss the problem with executive.

Mr Bartrum asked about compensation under Schedule 2 of the Apiaries Act.

Mr Walton replied that they would carry out a microscopic analysis of the disease and he would hate to see the disease spread through money squabbles.

Mr Jansen enquired as to what would happen under Schedule 1, if an epidemic shut down the kiwifruit industry prior to pollination. Mr Walton replied that the disease could not wipe out the industry immediately and beekeepers would receive some kind of compensation if it shut down a multi-million dollar industry. He drew the conference's attention to Section 16 of the Apiaries Act which states that a restricted area situation applies to all three schedules of the Act.

Mr O'Neal asked would the apicultural division have enough manpower to control an outbreak. Mr Walton replied that if the disease was discovered there would be a quick reaction. The ministry could move staff, and there was a good back-up of field and livestock officers to draw upon, plus the added assistance of the beekeeping industry.

Mr McCaw stated that all attempts to get EBD on Schedule 1 appeared to be a matter of compensation. He said that the executive was at present looking into insurance for the disease (which was mentioned in the president's report).

Mr Stanley exercised his right of reply saying he envisaged a "foot and mouth" type operation would not necessarily close down other agricultural processors. The Australian policy is one of control, rather than total eradication, and unless the disease is placed on Schedule 1 he doesn't see it being stopped immediately.

Mr Stanley called for a poll and the remit was carried 583:279.

### IMPORTED ROYAL JELLY JEOPARDY

#### Remit 17

#### South Canterbury

*That this conference reaffirm the present policy of not importing bees and bee products in a form which places the industry at risk.*

Note: Importation of bee products could easily jeopardise export of bees and honey.  
Lyttle/H. Cloake

Mr Cloake used for his argument the example of some imported jelly with larvae juice that was used as a sample in one of the conference exhibits. He said that the likelihood of this sort of product spreading disease was high as the pulped up bodies of bees at an immature stage would be good for disease spread. "What authority decides that these products are safe?"

He said there should be a limit to the amount of "bee" contained in imported goods and severe restrictions on the importation of almost total "bee" products. He envisaged only overseas products with minute quantities of "bee" would be safe to import and these would have to be carefully scanned.

Mr Bartrum said the remit did not go far enough and that he would like to see a total ban on the importation of bees and bee products except bee venom in medical form. He drew attention to the Australian honey imports that were allowed into New Zealand.

Mr Jansen replied that he sold a lot of imported bee products in his retail shop and didn't think you could close the market from all bee imports. "Where do you draw the line?" he asked.

Mr Harry Cloake said that it was a matter of starting to draw the line somewhere, and that the conference should deal in principles not details. Mr John Smith, speaking as a private individual, said that it was the right of the individual to have imported bee products unless there was compelling evidence that they were actually harmful. Mr Wallingford said that we should trust MAF to make the decisions on importation without having to state exactly what the guidelines should be.

Mr Walton outlined the present policy of admitting bee products into New Zealand saying all imports are considered on their merit. The line must be drawn somewhere, but there are "grey" areas and if a product falls into this area its admission to New Zealand depends on the nature of the goods.

He concluded by saying, "If the industry can show the ministry that the products are bad to the New Zealand

beekeeping industry, we will do something about it." Mr Stanley suggested that the executive look into the "grey" areas.

The motion was carried 14 to 0.

### NO ISLAND HONEY IMPORTS

#### Remit 18

#### Bay of Plenty

*That no Niue Island or Tongan honey be sold or processed in New Zealand.*

Note: We are proud of the favourable beekeeping disease situation we have in New Zealand. This situation is a direct result of strict, long term non-importation policy.

As long as New Zealand imports honey for sale it runs the risk of introducing additional bee disease. The decision to import honey effectively places the responsibility for New Zealand bee disease control outside of New Zealand.

Stanley/Bartrum

Mr Stanley enquired whether controls in Niue and in other countries were as effective as in New Zealand or else importing their products would place New Zealand at risk.

Mr Walton pointed out that although the majority of Niue's honey comes to New Zealand they can sell on the world market. New Zealand imports the honey for industrial purposes if it is certified.

Mr Jansen explained that it may be possible to destroy an industry in a dependent country and we should be aware of our responsibilities to Niue. He said he was satisfied with the present authorisation.

Mr Ian Berry also spoke against the remit, stating, "We have imported Niue honey for the past 14 years and as long as the honey is heated on arrival in New Zealand, the present good situation should continue." Of Tongan honey, he said Mr Dudley Ward had examined the situation in Tonga and was rearing queen bees to sell to Canada. Mr Berry said the MAF would stop the imports if there was any danger, to which Mr Stuckey agreed, saying the imports should be left up to our own exports and there shouldn't be a total ban.

Mr Kevin Ecroyd said accepting Niue honey was opening the door to diseases, as Niue had no import restrictions on the importation of bee products. Niue needed to adopt the same type of "barrier" policy as New Zealand since they are an isolated area.

The final result was decided by a poll, where the remit was carried 475:345.

### BEEHIVES TO SECURE RURAL BANK LOANS

#### Remit 19

#### South Western Districts

*That this conference urges the Rural Bank to give further consideration to the use of beehives to secure loans when no other security is available.*

Rowe/Lyttle

Mr Rowe spoke of the lack of finance available to get into beekeeping. His views were supported by Mr Ian Berry and Mr Percy Berry.

Mr Tweedale said that at present there is rapid expansion and encouragement in the horticultural industry, of which beekeeping plays an integral part.

He said that a step up to commercial beekeeping was impossible without financial aid and that means of finance would need to be made available if the beekeeping industry was to service the rapidly-growing horticultural industry.

The remit was carried unanimously.

### RURAL A AND D LAND FOR HONEY HOUSES

#### Remit 22

#### Waikato

*That the Dominion Executive meet the Counties Association asking them to adopt a universal policy for beekeepers in relation to land classified as Rural A and D, granting them a predominant use entitlement.*

Note: It appears that beekeepers in many counties have been subjected to delay and considerable expense in lawyers fees as a result of the lack of any uniform policy over the right to establish a honey house on Rural A or D land.

The remit seeks to provide for a predominant use entitlement for beekeepers in the same manner as that enjoyed by a farmer wishing to erect a milking shed, hay barn etc.

A staff member of the Waikato County is in the process of drafting a scheme covering such matters as distance from boundaries, bee-proofing and the types of activity, i.e.

1. The extraction and packing of honey;
2. As above with the addition of extraction for other beekeepers;
3. A packing house solely for the packaging of honey to be specifically excluded from this entitlement.

Lorimer/Rowe

Mr Lorimer explained the problems he had with the county on applying to put a honey house on rural land. He said he applied last year and received no positive response, consequently he had been involved in a law suit. He said most county councils don't incorporate beekeeping in their rural zoning.

Mr Ian Berry asked president Paul Marshall what were the disadvantages of having a honey house in an industrial area, to which Mr Marshall replied, there were probably more assets than disadvantages.

Mr Bryant said the best step to take would be to approach the counties.

At this point Mr David Dobson said pig producers had a similar problem and that they had had unsatisfactory progress dealing through the Counties Association. He said that it would be best to deal with each county individually and that Federated Farmers have two full-time legal people who spend their time dealing with counties who would also have some good advice.

The conference was also told that the Small Farmers' Association also had dealings with the counties and could offer advice.

The remit was carried unanimously.

## FINANCE FOR SHELTER BELTS

Remit 20

Southland

*That NBA approach the Rural Banking Corporation to promote more widely its policy on finance to farmers for shelter belts.*

Note: In general farmers do not know that finance would be available as it is not stated in their lending policy.

Booth/Haines

Mr I. Berry asked what type of trees would be in the shelter belt, commenting that they would not be of great use if they were pine trees, to which advisory officer Kerry Simpson replied that farm advisors were promoting nectar and pollen bearing shelter belt trees.

Mr Jansen spoke against the remit saying we shouldn't expect government departments like Rural Bank to do everything. He said the government was trying to restrict its spending, and here was something the industry could look into itself.

Mr Steve Lyttle advised beekeepers interested in growing shelter belts to approach their Farm Forestry Association.

The remit was carried 14 to 0.

## WE WANT OVERSEAS SKILLED PERSONNEL

Remit 21

Southland

*The NBA executive ask the secretary of labour, Labour Department Immigration Division, to add beekeepers and queen breeders to the list of skilled personnel which are required by New Zealand employers.*

Note: As there is no training programme for the beekeeping industry in New Zealand, it is considered that New Zealand apiarists should be able to employ beekeepers from overseas without undue delay which may be involved if beekeepers are not included on the list of skilled personnel. Other industries are able to employ workers from overseas to work in New Zealand where there is a shortage of skilled workers in this country.

Herron/I. Berry

Mr Herron said there were experienced overseas beekeepers that were without jobs in the winter, (our honey season) and they would be available to come to New Zealand for queen rearing or to provide other assistance, should they be allowed in the country.

He envisaged a smooth operation that allows our beekeepers and those overseas, to move from country to country to impart their experience. Mr Stanley said he has many

enquiries from non-skilled beekeepers and maybe they could be trained to use their energies in this field.

Mr Braid said he felt there was sufficient labour and experience in New Zealand to fill in these specialised positions — was it necessary to go overseas? Mr Smoothy replied to this that most employers in New Zealand want trained people but no-one was prepared to train the unskilled.

Mr Bray spoke on his knowledge of the regulations governing bringing in an overseas beekeeper. He said you have to establish you have a need for overseas labour and advertise locally to see if anyone local could fill the position. He felt the industry needed people with more advanced skills than the young untrained people mentioned by Mr Braid.

Mr Jansen said in New Zealand most qualified beekeepers end up with their own business so there is a shortage of the right kind of expertise. He said that by bringing skilled people into New Zealand, it would eventually create more jobs.

Mr Harry Cloake replied there would be enough skilled workers in New Zealand if the experienced beekeepers were prepared to train them and Mr John Smith outlined the schemes of government subsidies available for training young unemployed persons.

Mr Haines then spoke for the remit saying that there is a need for a "foreman" type beekeeper in New Zealand, one that is just below management level.

The remit was carried 11 to 2.

## RELIEF FROM FUEL COSTS

Remit 23

Otago

*That executive confer with the minister of agriculture to ask for some relief in fuel costs in the form of a rebate per litre, for the beekeeper who provides pollination services for farmers in new pasture development areas, where pasture improvement would be impossible without the beekeepers expertise.*

Note: It is considered a pity that because of high fuel costs (petrol being the beekeeper's biggest expense) that as new farmland is being developed in back country that is becoming further and further away from the beekeeper's base, that the expense of pasture improvement by the farmer is all wasted if the clovers are not pollinated. It would also be an added expense to the farmer if the beekeeper was forced to charge a pollination fee to bring bees into these areas.

McCaw/Smoothy

Mr Russell Berry spoke against the remit suggesting Otago finds out if the high country needs a pollination service, and if they do, the farmers should be paying for it — is there no end to hand-outs?

Mr Steve Lyttle spoke in support of Mr Berry, saying that it was not for the NBA to ask for this relief, it should be the farmers if they feel they require the help.

The remit was lost 1 to 13.

## QUEEN BEES UNDER TAX INCENTIVE

Remit 24

Canterbury

*That queen bees be included in the schedule of those products which are subject to export tax incentive.*

Note: It is recognised among queen breeders that a vast potential exists for the export of queens to Canada, Britain and the Middle East.

Hantz/Hunt

Mr Russell Berry said he felt each individual beekeeper should find out about the export tax incentive, rather than the association on behalf of all beekeepers.

Mr Hunt replied that he felt the NBA was the appropriate body, as then all beekeepers could reap the benefits.

Mr Stuckey agreed with Mr Berry, emphasising that the association had done a survey in the industry about the export incentive tax before and found it was impossible because queen breeders had not provided the necessary information when requested to do so. He said that beekeepers should find out about the tax incentive themselves, but ask for the NBA's support.

Mr Hunt said he was forced to accept the argument, though he felt the NBA was the best organisation to handle it — rather than forming another splinter group from the NBA.

The motion was carried 13 to 1.

## IMPROVE "NZ BEEKEEPER"

### Remit 25

Nelson

*This conference request that the NBA executive approach the editor of "The Apiarist" to provide suitable articles on commercial beekeeping and ideas on improving the "New Zealand Beekeeper" magazine.*

Cropp/Boskett

Mr Cropp said the remit was something of an embarrassment — that it had been moved by his branch when many commercial beekeepers were not present. He suggested that the movers at the branch remit meeting had meant it as a joke of sorts.

At this stage Mr Steve Lyttle interjected and suggested that a conference was not a place for jokes. He then moved an amendment that all words in the remit after "This" should be deleted, to the delight of the conference. This amendment was rejected by the chair.

Mr Cropp went on to say that although he thought the magazine was reasonably good there was always room for improvement. Areas of improvement were the print could be smaller, more apicultural research articles and articles written by commercial beekeepers on management. He said however, he liked the full colour cover that was on the last issue.

Mr Wallingford said he found the wording of the remit very unfortunate and in his opinion the New Zealand journal was very good compared with other beekeeping magazines. He suggested more money be provided to the magazine or beekeepers should write the articles themselves.

Mr Haines said the timing of the magazines are wrong as they are put out too late for the different seasons.

The editor of the "NZ Beekeeper", Trevor Walton, then spoke to the meeting. He said that he thought it important that the editor should speak at each conference so that any queries about the journal — the largest item of expenditure on the NBA's budget — could be effectively discussed.

Mr Walton said that his job was to "edit" the magazine. He was not given a budget to write a large number of articles, but relied heavily on contributions from beekeepers, MAF advisors and others in the industry. He said he would welcome contributions from any readers who felt they had something of news value or general interest.

"You don't have to be a brilliant writer or anything. We have some skilled staff who can knock it into shape for you," he commented. Mr Walton said that obtaining research articles or stories on bee management from overseas was not easy as there was little written in overseas journals which was applicable to the New Zealand situation.

The remit was defeated 12 to 1.

## GOOD ON YOU PAUL!

### Remit 26

Nelson

*This conference fully endorses Paul Marshall's efforts as a representative on the Agricultural Chemicals Board in his endeavours to tighten controls on poisonous sprays.*

Cropp/Boskett

Mr Lyttle mentioned the amount of time Paul Marshall had spent on agricultural chemical business and that he had spent more time dealing with this than most beekeepers realised.

The remit was carried by acclamation.

## NOTICES OF MOTION

### No. 1

#### SUN TAN LOTION FOR NEXT YEAR

*That the 1982 conference and annual meeting be held in the Far North.*

Gavin/Haines

Mr Gavin cordially invited everybody to the north of the North Island next year for the annual conference. He said that Whangarei will probably be the best venue for the conference, but there have been requests for it to be held in the Bay of Islands, which the branch will decide.

The motion was carried 14 votes to nil.

### No. 2

#### WHEN THE HMA ENDS . . .

*That this conference recommends to the executive that in the event of the HMA ceasing its present activities all neces-*

*sary steps be taken to ensure that the HMA be reconstituted to: 1) Oversee, advise on and regulate the orderly marketing of honey, especially for the overseas markets. 2) Administer the funds arising from the disposal of the present assets of the HMA for the benefit of the whole of the New Zealand beekeeping industry.*

Note: As the HMA is a statutory body it would probably be the simplest solution to keep it in existence to carry out the above named tasks after it has been reorganised thus avoiding the setting up of another or other bodies.

Administration should be considerably less than at present and could likely be handled by the general secretary's office at Wellington.

Membership should be reviewed. A good solution could be only one elected member for the North Island and one elected member for the South Island, and one appointed member being expert in both legal matters and matters of finance and an appointed member having expertise in marketing. The appointments could be made by the executive of the NBA. If necessary other persons can be co-opted, e.g. someone from Trade and Industry or other department. Meetings to be kept to a minimum and centralised at Wellington. Criteria to be laid down for the issue of export permits to safeguard quality, price and general interest of the industry. Probable benefits from a tax angle.

General secretary David Dobson advised the conference that the executive decided that he would be writing to the minister of agriculture to say that at present the NBA wouldn't like the Honey Marketing Regulations revoked, until after a 12 month trial period. The industry could then determine if there was a need for control. Mr Dobson said it was best to go about changing the regulations slowly, without throwing them away. Once dispensed with, it would be hard to get them reintroduced.

Mr McCaw asked about the trust fund. President Paul Marshall replied that the funds would be entrusted to the NBA, but the most suitable format for the trust was still to be decided. It was necessary for it to be set up to avoid paying tax on its income.

Mr Russell Berry spoke against the motion because he said it opposed the Kay report, which had been already passed by the conference.

Mr Ian Berry asked whether the HMA was going to be carried on indefinitely as some form of tax dodge.

Mr Cloake advised that the decision would be best left in the hands of the executive at the moment and Mr Stuckey advised that the proposals that have been put to the conference are not the only options the industry can take.

The remit was lost 4 to 9.

### No. 3

Waikato

#### WHO WILL HANDLE THE FUNDS?

*That the fund be administered by the NBA and that a special committee be formed to administer the fund and that this committee should be elected by North Island members of the NBA executive committee electing one member to the committee and South Island members of the NBA executive committee electing one member to the committee and that there be a public accountant or some other impartial person approved by the NBA executive to make up the third person.*

R. Berry/Stuckey

Mr Russell Berry said that this motion was within the guidelines of the Kay report.

There was discussion regarding the best system of appointing trustees to the board where Mr Harry Cloake replied that it should be a straight out appointment to the committee, rather than each island being represented — "the trusteeship must be autonomous".

Mr Clissold said that the north/south division exists and agreed with the appointment of a delegate from each island, however, he said that the whole executive must decide on each delegate.

Mr McCaw said that the motion was too narrow to vote on and that it was too early to make a commitment.

Mr R. Berry said that in his opinion three men were a good number to make a decision, especially if one of these was an independent. He suggested the "island segregation" because of a conflict of interest which has sometimes arisen.

The motion was carried 10 to 0.

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## FROM THE COLONIES

### BAY OF PLENTY

Beekeepers in our region are highly optimistic about the forthcoming season. Already there are several indicators of a potential early and productive season.

Although we have had almost continuous rain or overcast days in July, the temperatures have been a lot higher than normal and hives have benefitted accordingly. In some areas the bees have made large inroads of the stores but hive strengths have been maintained.

At the time of writing, colonies in bush regions are getting their first boost from five finger and heath.

Although our region is not noted for large surpluses of honey it is surprising to note the diversity of commercial beekeeping interest. Pollen collection, cut comb, queen rearing, packaged nucs and pollination can individually form significant parts of our livelihood.

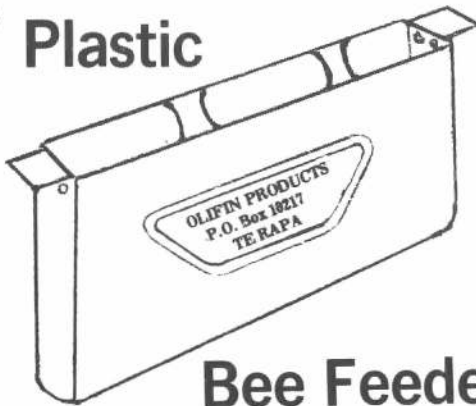
Our apiary advisory officer, Doug Briscoe, retires from the M.A.F. in November. A social evening and presentation is to be held that month. Doug has had his share of abuse and successes over the years, mainly related to the toxic honey and kiwifruit spray damage problems.

It is well recognised by our branch that it was mainly through Doug's continued interest and guidance that we now have workable beekeeping conditions for these two major interests.

We wish Doug well in his retirement interests of golf and beekeeping or is it beekeeping and golf?

Bruce Stanley  
Whakatane.

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### FAR NORTH

Our winter had been the same as in former years until the last three weeks, when we had considerable wind, very cool temperatures and hailstorms. There have been reports of loss of bees during this bad patch, although up to then, the bees were well ahead for the time of year.

Our apiary instructor, Brian Milnes, paid us a visit in July, bringing a film, "Honey, Nature's Liquid Gold" which several members had been keen to see. A very lively discussion with Brian followed the film, covering topics such as disease in hives, the requirement by law to register hives, and our need here in the Far North for new nectar and pollen sources to replace the clearing of red ti-tree and gorse. Brian has promised to try and get more information on this last-mentioned topic and to make it available to beekeepers in the North.

Interchange of questions, answers and ideas at the meeting was particularly lively and it was a pity that this was suddenly cut short by a power failure following thunder, lightning and torrential rain! We are certainly grateful for the visit, thank you Brian.

We have drawn up a programme of field days at the club hives for the coming season and have had printed a card setting out these details. We look forward to the first of the field days on 29 August and hope that it marks the beginning of a happy beekeeping season.

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at the R.S.A. Library in Kaitaia.

Wendy Macpherson  
Kaitaia



## POVERTY BAY

Hives in the district came through a poor season and in some cases have gone into winter with inadequate stores resulting in losses. Wasps have contributed to these losses as well. However with feeding and early flowers, hives should begin to pick up.

At present five finger is blooming in the high country and wattle is throughout the district. They will be followed by willow.

Our AGM was held in May. Bill Whitlock and Ivan Pace stepped down, to be replaced by Brian Smith (president) Michael Vette (secretary).

We endeavour to add items of special interest such as guest speakers and films to our monthly meetings. In this respect we have seen a locally produced film called 'Bees for Fun' produced by Stan Vincent. The film is an excellent production, quite humorous and won the nature award for the best film awarded by the photographic Society of America. At our July meeting Mr Lauri Gallagher, a local horticulturalist, spoke on plants and trees suitable for bees, and their propagation.

Early spring work should begin this month and here's hoping for the better weather and an early flow.

Barry Foster  
Gisborne

## HAWKES BAY

Regretfully I have to report the death of Bill Ashcroft on July 5.

The branch gave a life membership to Bill at its May meeting Paul Marshall made the presentation and Bill replied about the days when beekeeping was only a cottage industry and 500 hives was a big business. He was very pleased with the presentation, beekeeping has lost a man of integrity and dedication to his craft.

Our community college is now running a beginners' course for hobbyists. An initial registration of 14 turned out to be 30 on the first night, which shows the interest in beekeeping for hobbyists.

We are now looking forward to spring with the first signs of growth coming from the pussy willow and the days warming up.

Keith Leadley  
Hastings

## NORTHLAND

The past honey season has been very poor with no particular cause being obvious. Sources other than manuka and kanuka just did not yield.

This winter the weather has been average with no major floods, except for the serious one in the Kerikeri basin in April when over 300mm of rain fell in about four hours. Our condolences go to those people who suffered serious property damage in this storm.

The branch has held two successful meetings recently, with a welcome increase in attendance. We are planning a spring field day held at a very impressive new honey house in our district which should attract a large attendance.

A sub-committee to liaise with local fruitgrowers, regarding the co-ordination of pollination services, has been set up and will be of great assistance to beekeepers and growers alike.

Northland will be hoping for a kindly spring period without wind to aid queen rearing programmes and assist colonies to build up for the coming season.

Graham Richards  
Whangarei.

# Spring Queens 1981

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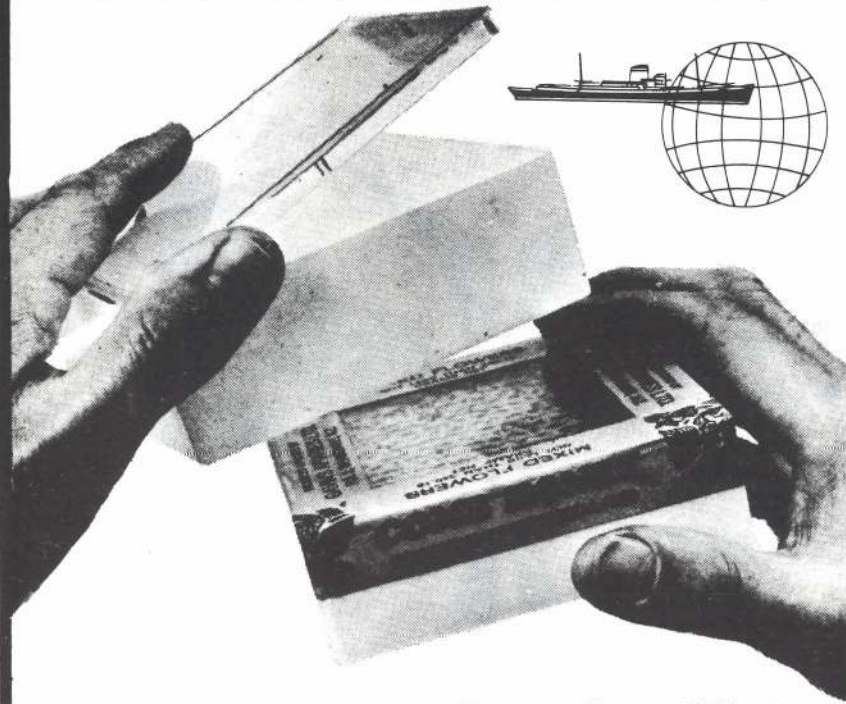
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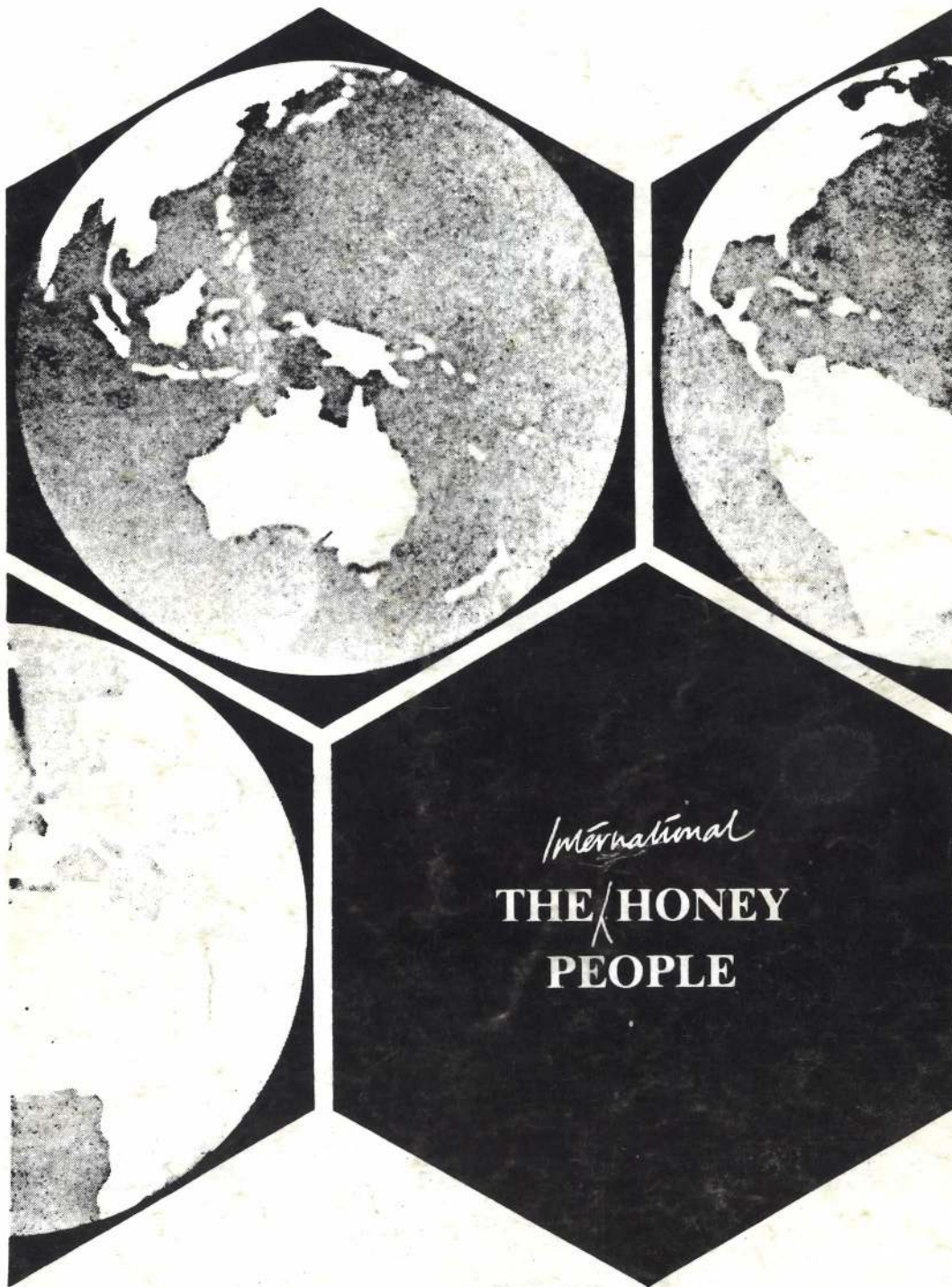
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