The New Zealand BeeKeeper

1985 Autumn

The New Zealand BeeKeeper

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED

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To Members of The National Beekeepers' Association of NZ Inc who own more than 50 hives each and so are legally subject to the annual hive levy. THESE HIVE LEVY PAYERS OWN APPROXIMATELY 87% OF ALL BEEHIVES IN NEW ZEALAND.
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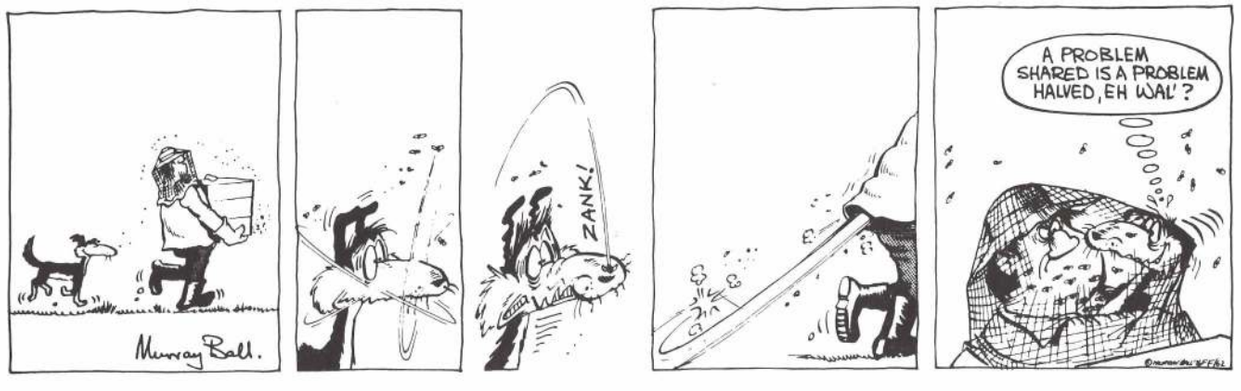

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DON QUIXOTE

When you buy you tend to buy, where possible, from someone you know and like. If two dairies lie down the road and the owner of one belongs to your school committee or lodge, guess who gets your business? A nation is merely an extension of the individual, and likes and dislikes between nations must affect trade between them.

For example, a fervent member of HART will hardly seek out South African wine nor will the staunch right-winger buy a Skoda or Lada motor car, irrespective of the merits of those products.

However, when we like a nation we may seek out and buy its products for no better reason than we favour that nation.

It may be fair comment to say that "hard-headed" businessmen are not affected by these emotional likes and dislikes; but they are affected by the emotions of the man-in-the-street who buys pots of honey, and if our "hard-headed" friends don't consider these emotions then they don't remain hard-headed for long.

A classic example of an action that can favourably affect trade was that of the New Zealand government during the Falklands conflict. The British saw that conflict as a patriotic war, and the fact that New Zealand alone among the Commonwealth nations broke off diplomatic relations with Argentina and offered naval assistance gave our products a huge boost with the British man in the street.

It also gave us a boost at government level at a time when we needed all the help we could get to press our case with the EEC in the face of strong French and Irish opposition.

This PR exercise cost New Zealand little to gain much. Our frigate that joined the British squadron in the Indian Ocean would have been at sea somewhere anyway, and no doubt its crew gained valuable experience exercising with another navy. Certainly we lost some trade with Argentina, but our trade with that nation has never been great and our losses there were more than compensated for by our gains with the British.

The action of our present government is also a classic example, unfortunately though likely to have exactly the opposite effect to the one given earlier. In fact, it appears more like Don Quixote tilting at a windmill.

If New Zealand could influence the nuclear issue even slightly there must be merit in our government's actions. No one in his right mind can favour nuclear weapons — or come to that any weapons — and if we could in any way restrict their proliferation, even to a minute degree, then the stand of the Labour Government would be justified.

Unfortunately we can do nothing because internationally we carry no clout and our relationship with the United States is far more valuable to us than it is to the Americans. We must face the fact that as a tiny nation on the fringe of the world what we do or say will have no bearing on the machinations of the major powers.

However, through Labour's actions we do run the grave risk of alienating our three best friends: Australia, America and Britain. The three best friends that could become our biggest enemies: Australia because it is a direct competitor, America because it can dump its surpluses at a discount on our markets, and Britain because it doesn't really need to do anything for us.

Sure there are other markets, but they are very much "here today and gone tomorrow" and the nations concerned are not what we may consider friends.

In the final analysis we must remember that markets consist of people and people tend to be patriotic. The fact that we are banning their warships will hardly influence the Americans to buy our queens, nor will it influence the British to buy our honey. Remember, Britain is also a nuclear power.

Idealism is a wonderful thing but you don't kick a customer in the face because of his beliefs when you can neither affect those beliefs nor do without his business.

Michael Burgess,
Editor.

* * *

To the Editor

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your mention of the loss by fire recently of my home and all my belongings.

Almost nothing was salvaged, but once when disappointed at loss by some pilfering I wrote the following which might interest you:

Carelessly caused flames, carelessly consume the accumulation of rubbish and treasures, gathered together over the years, well regarded, treasured.

A new start from nothing but pyjamas, worn in in escape. Neighbours rallying in help, re-establishment, inflation costs, fees.

One's mind cleansed, except for rumination, useless, and a handicap. Ashes sorted over for remnants by some the birds of song, cuckoos in a nest, both in human form.

Over many years on visits to the National Beekeepers' Ex., I called regularly at McKenna's antique depot near Parliament Buildings. One could buy lovely things for very little, just a few pounds. I had quite a few things in my home so acquired, unobtainable now or at great cost. That was my chief disappointment in the loss of my home and contents, apart from the fact that the insurance company, which had increased the insurance automatically over the years, deducted $5,200 from their payment because I did not rebuild on the same site, saying that was the valuation at the time of the fire. Two assessors came immediately, but apart from measuring the ashes had absolutely nothing to go on. But they called it "Replacement Policy" when the replacement cost of the home, a large old one, they admitted was $66,000 at today's cost. I mention this aspect as it might help some see to an adjustment of their policies accordingly.

J. R. Barber.

Dear Sir,

I have enjoyed the beekeeper magazine these past two years. The problems seem to be the same in New Zealand as well as here in the States. Mine is a hobby rather than commercial but the same problems crop up only on a smaller scale.

Our winter is about to set in and it looks as if we may get some rains soon. I have my hives ready for the winter's weather and with enough honey left to carry over until spring. The bees we have are more for the pollination of the avocado orchard rather than for the honey itself. Ten hives on nine and a half acres. Any swarms I have in the spring I take to my brother-in-law's Delicious Apple orchard to help him with his pollination problems.

The bees also give me more closeness with my grandchildren. I have two of my younger ones assisting me. Elizabeth, eight years old and Adam, eleven years old. They have learned the beauty of seeing a queen and her escort pass over the top of a frame and disappear between two frames. They have also helped me hive swarms and have lost that first fear of being stung. To hear my granddaughter talk to the bees and see them mind her, is worth more than gold.

Please renew my subscription for another two years, and the best of luck in your endeavours for the coming years.

David Lawrence,
Watsonville, California.

Dear Sir,

Increased honey consumption means increased sales for the beekeepers. As part of a honey promotion programme, I am asking for your help. Please send recipes using honey and/or pollen-propolis-beeswax that have won prizes, ribbons, or recognition for you. Your favourite family recipe is also welcome.

Large quantity honey-using recipes suitable for school lunches, senior citizen kitchen programmes, etc, are also being requested. Recipes for hand lotions, furniture polish, Grandpa's sore throat remedy, etc, may also be included.

Please list ingredients, preparation procedures, serving (or use) suggestions and any honours that recipe has won for you. Comments like "Grandma brought this recipe from —" are also welcome and would add interest.

Indicate whether or not your recipe may be used in printed pamphlets, journal articles, or book publications and whether the recipe is an original or from some other source and to whom credit should be given.

Thank you for your assistance. I am looking forward to receiving your recipes!

Joann Manes Olstrom,
3164 Maple Court,
Reedsport,
Oregon 97467
USA.

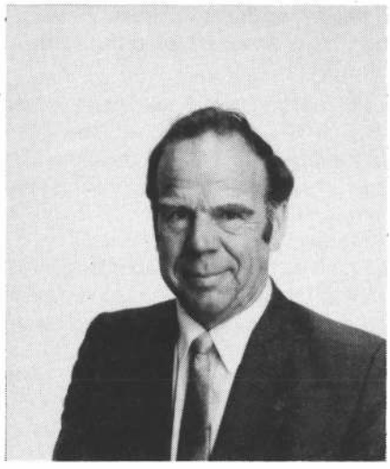
Dear Sir,

Mr Lindsay's Comment (Summer issue, 1984) illustrates clearly the tittle-tattle that invariably comes with people being categorised into those convenient, neat and unfortunately all too often negativity-inducing slots: commercialism and hobbyism. These terms I would prefer to see used to define one's overall commitment to the interest, not to indicate expertise, knowledge, and production.

As the Association enjoys this vibrant, and if you'll excuse the neologism, 'new age awareness', a membership willing to work together for the future is required. For Hoffman's sake, we are all keepers of bees, whatever our commitment. Our successes and losses should enhance and support those of others. This is the beekeeping that will lead to better beekeeping (for us all) not one gummed up with petty, non-constructive competitiveness and generalized reputations based on the individual's hive-number rating.

Victoria Whittle.

The President's Report



President Ian Berry NBA

Executive Meeting 11-12 December 1984

A full muster of the executive plus our executive secretary had an interesting and constructive meeting at Dalmuir House.

A highlight was the visit by Mr David Butcher, Parliamentary Under Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture with the responsibility of the Beekeeping Industry. He spent about 1½ hours with us while we had lunch and an informal discussion covering a wide range of beekeeping-related subjects. We were glad to have the opportunity of getting to know the man looking after our affairs at Government level and I am sure he left us with an increased knowledge of our industry and that he appreciated the opportunity to meet us. David has accepted our invitation to open our Annual Conference at Greymouth in July which will give others a chance to meet him.

Another visitor to our meeting was Mr Julian Brown, Director of Agricultural Quarantine Services. As there has been considerable concern among beekeepers at the possibility of exotic bee diseases entering New Zealand through illegal imports of honey, bees, or used bee equipment, we welcomed the chance to learn more of the problems of agricultural quarantine, and to see how we can best assist quarantine officers carry out their duties. Our discussion was so fruitful that we decided to hold our March Executive Meeting in Auckland to coincide with a meeting of quarantine officers. We have arranged a full day's programme on quarantine matters. We expect to see quarantine procedures at the Airport, the Post Office, and the Port of Auckland in the morning, and meet officers in the afternoon.

Murray Reid made another of his valuable contributions to our meeting with a report covering 10 subjects. Included were the details of a four-day operation carried out to destroy a considerable number of hives infected by, or exposed to, American Foulbrood in the Bay of Plenty. Fortunately these operations are very rare in New Zealand, but I have recently had several reports from beekeepers elsewhere concerned about the incidence of AFB in their areas. It seems unlikely we will ever eliminate AFB from New Zealand but we can keep it at a very low level by following two courses of action:

1. Ensure that all beekeepers can recognise the disease. MAF and the NBA have between them taken steps during the past few months to do this.
2. See that beekeepers never remove anything from hives without checking the brood for disease. I still meet the odd beekeeper who admits to removing honey from hives without checking the brood. Any beekeeper who follows this policy has only himself to blame when disaster strikes. Time taken checking the brood is a very small price to pay. Check and you will have perhaps one or two deseased hives to destroy. Do not check and over a period of years

many hives can become infected by honey removed from diseased hives and put through an extracting plant or used for feeding back to the hives in the spring.

CHEAPER SUGAR

Sales to beekeepers of industrial raw sugar through the NBA are already approaching 100 tonnes: satisfactory considering the late start in the spring. We think the scheme should be reviewed at the 1985 Conference so any amendments can be made in good time for next spring.

PROMOTION

The Promotion Committee had obtained quotes for bumper stickers and small stickers suitable for envelopes etc. As the lowest quote for bumper stickers was higher than the $1,000 allocated at our previous meeting we decided to wait until money is available from the Trust Funds. However, we decided to order 50,000 of the small stickers for $382, plus postage. When available samples will be sent to branches.

THE HONEY CROP

About the middle of January it seemed we were heading for a well-above average crop of honey. At a telephone conference of the Packers' Association, producer-packers from most areas hoped for a four-tonne-per 100 hives crop which would have given us around 10,000 tonnes. However the latter part of the season didn't come up to expectations and, although at the time of writing, it is still too early to make an accurate forecast, it seem that at best this year's crop is very patchy but overall should be above last year's.

HONEY PRICES

Most packers are buying honey at the same price as last year. There have been some small increases in retail prices but not enought to cover the increased costs of the last few months. While most beekeepers feel there should be a price increase it is difficult to see where from unless the export market improves. It is pleasing to report that some exports are being made at reasonable prices, no doubt helped by our 20% devaluation.

GOOD NEWS FROM DSIR MT ALBERT

Dr Paul Scotty advises that Denis Anderson from Australia will commence duties as a bee pathologist on 1 May 1985. Under the heading Tertiary Education, Denis's qualifications read as follows: 1976-1979 BSc Australian National University, ACT. Majors in invertebrate biology and microbiology. 1980 BSc (Honours 2A) Australian National University. Honours topic — Aspects of the Ecology of Honeybee Viruses. 1981-1984 PhD Australian National University. Topic — Viruses of the honeybee, *Apis mellifera*.

To have such a man working with the present staff and facilities at DSIR, Mt Albert, on matters related to bee diseases in New Zealand is I believe a tremendous step forward for our industry.

Ian Berry

CANADIAN JOINS MAF APICULTURAL STAFF

Last October Clive Vardy from Vancouver, Canada, joined the MAF as an Apicultural Advisor. Presently working in Tauranga with fellow advisor, Trevor Bryant, Clive will assume a permanent posting in Southland next April, replacing the Apicultural Advisor, Gore, Cliff van Eaton. Cliff is destined for an advisor's position in the Northland.

Clive brings commercial beekeeping experience from Northern British Columbia and Alberta. His beekeeping background includes a stint with Agriculture Canada, under Dr Tibor Szabo, as a research technician. He graduated in 1980 from the University of British Columbia majoring in cell biology and molecular genetics.

Clive and his wife, Alison, are no strangers to Southland, having spent five weeks there during a seven-month bicycle tour of New Zealand. Both are avid cyclists and trampers and look forward to settling in Southland.

Clive views his immigration from overseas as a homecoming, his mother is the former Helen Hodgkiss from Dunedin. That makes him a "Caniwi". The couple expect a little "Caniwi" next May.

* * * *

MY THOUGHTS COMMENT

John Smith, Apicultural Advisery Officer, Christchurch

When the Editor telephoned to say that Gordon Morrison, one of MAF's directors, had suggested that I be given the freedom of the "Comment" Page, to question or praise where ever I pleased, my mind ran riot.

What could I write about: should I write about the MAF and the paper war, or should I wonder why, at this time of increased hive numbers, more and more scientists and students in our ivory towers seem to be working on little known insects or obscure bees? What somebody once called the "Teddy Bears" of the insect world.

Is it because it is easier to impress people with the mysterious rather than hold your own amongst hard-bitten beekeepers?

What about the beekeeper who worries over one hive of American Foulbrood when his other hives have a Nosema count of over 10 million spores per bee and cost him more per year than the loss of one hive! Are our priorities right: is American Foulbrood the most important disease in New Zealand or should we take more notice of Nosema which costs us hundreds of tonnes of honey a year? More, with a good culling of old black combs Nosema can be contained.

Or should I write about the guy who, wearing two pairs of gloves and at least three pairs of overalls, hid behind a tree while I removed boxes and boxes of old honey to inspect his hives and then told me that my methods were far too rough and I had little understanding of bees?

Another target might be some lending institutes who will not lend money on hives for production, but will lend to just about anybody for a packing plant to sell and undercut on an already oversupplied local market?

And, while talking of marketing, how about the chap with a business card, a smooth suit, but no office, who calls without an appointment, wants to get into the export business for honey, or royal jelly, or pollen, or something, and would MAF tell him where he can buy his produce, who can he sell it to, what certificates will he need, and where can he borrow the money to start?

Then I suppose I could question the experts, happily not seen often in this country, who write books and suggest methods of beekeeping and manipulations guaranteed to suffocate a truck load of bees.

Who else can I question on my "Comment" page? Well, how about the Labour Department which, when faced with a very successful unemployment trust with a good record of placing so-called "Unemployables" in the beekeeping industry, suddenly freezes off the supply of people because, in their words: the schemes is to train not to create work".

But if I question anyone, I really should question myself as the only person I know who has seen evidence of lack of pollination and the effect there would be if honeybees disappeared from New Zealand, yet I had neither foresight, sense, nor brains to record that evidence in a way that would satisfy scientists, and the scientific world, that it was fact, not a dream.

I talk about what I saw some 10 years ago in the Chatham Islands, when it was common practice to pollinate most garden plants by hand. Clover disappeared from paddocks a mere 200 metres from the lone hive on the island! I question myself because had I at that time approached the lack of pollination in a more scientific manner, or had I hired a helicopter and taken photographs, we wouldn't have to argue the case for bees.

Would it not at this moment be easier to persuade farmers that the removal of gorse hedges by mechanical or biological methods is not in their, or New Zealand's, best interests?

But if I must plead guilty then most beekeepers in New Zealand must so plead alongside me. If beekeeping as we know it is under threat then we must fight back. The war this time will be fought with references much loved in the world today. Unless we can prove a hive is worth X number of dollars, that the removal of yet another "weed" could spell the death of the industry. Then not only I will have to learn a new trade.

Are we too ashamed of our craft to stand up and tell the world that nodding thistle is not a weed but an export earner, and gorse is not the scourge of New Zealand? Come beekeepers why must I take on the farmers alone; at least load the guns for me.

Impressions of beekeeping in Kenya

by Andrew Matheson, Apicultural Advisory Officer, MAF, Nelson

When people first discovered I was visiting Africa they expressed envy for the hot weather they thought I would enjoy. But Nairobi in November is not like that. While only 130km from the equator it's about 1,700m above sea level (over a mile high), which takes the edge off the tropical heat. With some cloudy, drizzly days and quite cool evenings, it was often like a New Zealand autumn.

I made a private trip to Kenya to attend a conference on tropical beekeeping: the third conference on that subject organised by the International Bee Research Association (IBRA) of the UK. It was an invaluable chance to talk with scientists, extension workers, and beekeepers from all round the world who have an interest in tropical beekeeping. For five days we met for lectures, discussions, and field trips concerning apiculture in tropical climates.

The proceedings of the conference will soon be available for purchase from IBRA.

During and after the conference I looked at beekeeping in Kenya, and a few of my impressions are recounted here.

Discussion of beekeeping in Africa is often dominated by the notoriety attached to "the African bee." There is no one typical "African bee", any more than one human tribe can be said to represent the "typical African."

Modern study has shown that a number of district races or subspecies of honey bee exist in Africa, and Kenya is generally thought to host four of them:

1. *Apis mellifera scutellata:* this is the bee of the vast East African savannah: grass plains dotted with *Acacia* trees. This bee, taken to Brazil in 1956, gave rise to the Africanized bee, which is often (wrongly) referred to as *Apis mellifera adansonii.*
2. *Apis mellifera monticola* is a large, black bee which lives in cool, tropical rain forests in East Africa. I have seen this working at over 9,000ft (2,800m) on Mt Kilimanjaro in Tanzania: in these areas flowering is sparse but spread throughout the year, and freezing temperatures are common.
3. *Apis mellifera littorea* is a small, yellow honey bee found in coastal areas up to 500m (1,600ft) above sea level.
4. Another bee lives in northern Kenya, which is separated by desert from the rest of the country. It is probably the same bee found in Chad and the Sudan.

What are these honey bees like? Most people immediately associate aggressiveness (which is really the bees' defensiveness) with African bees. In fact, my provisional title for this article was something like: "I worked with African bees — and lived!"

It was difficult to gain an accurate impression from a few visits to apiaries, because I saw a whole range of behaviour. In one yard we worked hives with no gear on, virtually at dusk. There are quite a few New Zealand hives I wouldn't touch under those conditions! On the other hand, the bees were extremely "defensive" at another time and place, making photography virtually impossible and beekeeping quite unpleasant.

Another behaviour characteristic of *Apis mellifera scutellata* is its tendency to abscond. At times an entire colony will leave its hive as a swarm and migrate to a new area. This may be in response to environmental changes such as droughts, overheating, shortages of food, or even predator attack. However, while these absconding swarms do supply beekeepers with new colonies when they are lured into catcher hives, absconding by bees is an impediment to organised beekeeping. Little is known of its causes and cures.

Kenya has a long history of beekeeping, using fixed-comb hives of various designs. These are usually made of hollowed-out logs or from tree bark formed into a cylinder. The standard of workmanship is high: hollowed-out logs are fitted with circular end plates (removable), provided with flight holes, and hung in trees to escape predators and prevent over-heating.

Traditional beekeepers don't own much protective clothing, so honey harvesting takes place at night when bees are clustering and cannot see very well. A bundle of twigs or dry tree bark acts as a torch and a smoker, pushing the bees to one end of the hive so combs can be scraped out. These are placed in a honey container, usually made of animal skins. The resulting honey often contains brood, pollen and bees, and improving the quality of the honey is one of the challenges of developing beekeeping in Kenya.

One of the biggest advances made in Kenyan beekeeping has been the development of the Kenya top bar hive (KTBH). This is an "intermediate technology" hive, which gives the advantages of movable combs without incurring the cost and sophistication of a movable-frame hive (such as a Langstroth).

The KTBH uses the same principle as the Greek basket hive: bees do not readily attach combs to inwardly-sloping walls. The KTBH is a box 920mm long and 300mm deep: the long sides are sloping, so that the hive is 480mm wide at the top and 230mm wide at the bottom. It uses no frames, only top bars. These are 32mm wide, which is the honey bee's natural comb spacing, and the bees build one comb per bar. Because it is a long, trough-like box, the colony expands sideways into honey-storage areas, rather than upwards into supers.

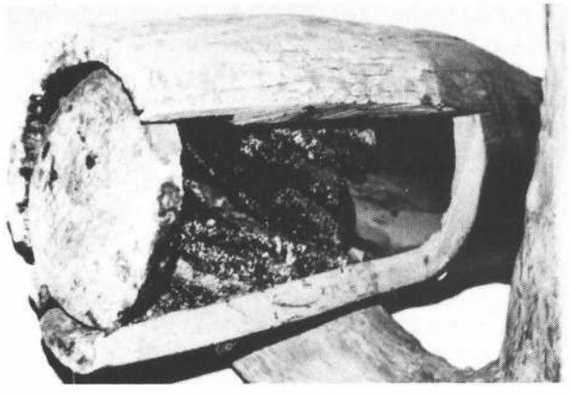
The KTBH enables manipulation of colonies, and removal of honey without excessive disturbance. The honey harvested is of much better quality than that from traditional hives, as brood and pollen can be left behind. Also important in a country where wood is a precious resource is the fact that a KTBH uses only one-third of the wood needed to make a traditional hive, because of the wastage of wood in hollowing out logs.

What of the future for beekeeping in Kenya? Building on a long history of traditional beekeeping, perhaps some thousands of years, Kenya has started to develop a modern beekeeping industry. A beekeeping section was formed in the Ministry of Agriculture in 1971 with funding from the Canadian and Kenyan governments. Since 1983 all operations have been funded by the government of Kenya.

Since 1971 beekeeping has developed from a purely hobby or small-scale level to a commercially-orientated industry, particularly with the introduction of the KTBH and modern, co-operative honey-processing centres. Kenyans justifiably have pride in their progressive and well-organised country, and things augur well for the continuation of this beekeeping development.

The KTBH is an excellent design for a country where people cannot afford to buy frames, foundation, honey extractors, and other pieces of complex equipment.

Diseases of honey bees are few in Kenya: no AFB seems to be present, which is fortunate considering the abundance of fixed-comb hives. One of the main pests is the honey badger, a clever and destructive animal which opens hives for honey and brood. Badgers are said to collect bees from hives by thumping the entrance with their tails. When a lot of bees cling to their tails they walk away and deposit them elsewhere. They then return to the unguarded hive. Hanging the hives a metre above the ground like a hammock prevents this, and also protects the hive against ants, termites and predatory beetles.



Cutaway of a traditional wooden hive in Kenya.

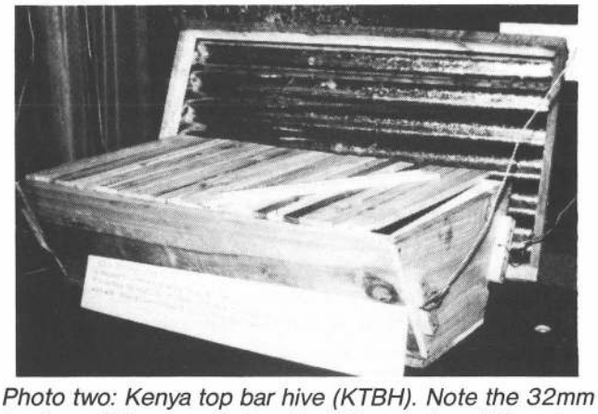


Photo two: Kenya top bar hive (KTBH). Note the 32mm top bars fitting snugly together, the roof, and the wires for suspending the hive.

EQUAL, RIGHT?

Feminists and pushy women libbers make me cringe. Butchy types have me tugging at my near-waist length hair to assure myself that it still hangs long and not cut to some short, back and sides style. Their rolled shoulders and contorted hips splayed in their wide-legged stance only add to my convictions that for as long as I live, I shall darn well enjoy the encumbrances of femininity, even if they are the death of me.

Conversation with these people I avoid like the plague. Don't get me wrong, their idealism does not necessarily belie their level of intelligence and eloquence. For a chronic word-jumbler and stutterer under pressure to say so would be unfair. What finishes me off is the neolithic dialect of their exclamations in sisterhood approval when they learn my interest is beekeeping. This knowledge sends them off in search of a banner for me, while I bolt for the nearest exit to the sound of fast fading phrases of both encouragement and derogation towards all those male born.

While the hives' act of drone-ditching come winter and the equality of adjustment made by the biceps in response to shifting the eighty-pound box, appeals to their hard-nosed philosophies, their unhearing ears fail to hear the arguments that there is nothing pioneer spiriting about the 1980's woman beekeeper or the fact that women have been contributing to the interest since long before the conception of any sexist theories.

It would be a situation worthy of mild humour if not for the fact that beekeeping is hard work. Often painfully hard: perhaps a good reason why so many are only too happy to chorus you on but would never do it themselves. If my involvement in a predominantly male-orientated interest should mean I run the risk of losing my socially-acceptable right to sit down for a good cry when the going gets tough, then I giggle in nervous trepidation of knowing the real and full meaning of equality and so-called women's liberation.

A sissy I am, but one not lacking motivation for achieving the goal, shared by all beekeepers, of gaining an income through the production and marketing of highly consumable bee products. If I am wrong in my failure to see such a goal as a platform from which to launch any role cataclysms, then I eat my veil.

Victoria Whittle

FROM THE COLONIES

WESTERN DISTRICTS

It has finally arrived — that elusive average-to-better-than-average crop for a large part of our district.

Stretching from New Plymouth to Wellington, the coastal lands have been a carpet of clover. Ideal beach-holiday weather has also suited the workforce of field bees among this clover. Few strong, drying winds, plenty of sun and warmth, and rain just at the right time extended the harvest through into February.

Sometimes the rain has been more than enough, as in Central Taranakai, halting the nectar flow with bees having to shelter behind sodden hay bales on their way home.

Close to Wellington, where tree sources predominate, yields have been excellent with three honey supers filled per hive not uncommon.

Problems we've not had for the past two years have arisen — for example, a shortage of honey supers. For some people extraction began in the first half of January to enable supering up. Those boxes have been refilled.

There should be honey available for export, also to build-up carry-over supplies into next year. These strategies should help keep bulk and retail prices stable and reasonable.

Stewart Tweedale, a long-time apiariest at Taihape, hosted a field day in mid-February.

John Brandon.

WESTLAND

A few unseasonably hot, fine days at the end of October, saw a flurry of beekeepers hurrying about those last-minute jobs of shifting hives, supering up in readiness for the flow, just beginning. A good crop promised judging by the heavy flowering of Westland Quintinnia. But alas, as is usual, in Westland when your rainfall average is below normal then that short fall must be made up. In November and December, when we wanted settled weather for the Kamahi flowering, we received very unsettled, showery, northerly weather with some heavy falls. Yes, we made up our rainfall average. Rain is our heritage, you know. So crops are considerably below average this year on the Coast.

The Branch held a very successful Field Day on January 26th, at Keith Detlaf's Honey House at Ross. Fine weather prompted a good turn-out of locals and visitors. Our Apiary Advisory Officer, Andrew Matheson, recently returned from Africa, gave an interesting talk and showed slides of his trip. Gavin White, NBA representative, spoke on honey promotion. Keith Detlaf and Gavin White spoke on queen rearing. Mark Schroder, Advisory Officer, Oamaru, spoke on bee feeding: sugar or honey? The Bostitch Agent gave a display of his nailing and stapling equipment and accessories. Two contests were held. Mrs Margaret Glasson won the baking contest and Kevin Ecroyd guessed the weight of a super of honey. Keith had honey to extract and so his plant served as a demonstration unit. An enjoyable day in enjoyable surroundings.

That threatening wasp problem? Well, our wet December and January sure knocked them about. Very few wasps around so far this year. Quite a change!

Sandy Richardson.

NORTHLAND

In our last report prospects looked good, but rain came and spoilt most of the Manuka crop. Since early New Year, conditions have improved and pasture honeys have flowed when the sun shone (which hasn't been every day either). Perhaps the odd drop of rain has helped as the Clover and Lotus Major are still flowering heavily.

Preparations for the branch "Field Weekend" in the Bay of Islands are well under way and provided the weather holds we will have our cruise on the "Tiger Lily" after all.

Pat Gavin.

OTAGO

Early February and we can safely say that once again the season is pretty well behind us but for the extracting. Yes, we have something worthwhile to extract this time. After a great spring, when everything which could produce flowers did so, few colonies suffered from pollen shortage. Clover and Manuka appeared early. This made a difference in the sugar bill. Many hives had a half box or more filled by Christmas. Then the weather packed up till after New Year. January has been a mixed bag with a lot of overcast weather, but night temperatures were above average. Rainfall in many districts has been low. Overall the crop is somewhat below earlier expectations but a lot better than in the past few years. A few of us round here will say a heartfelt "thanks" because the previous seasons took them near the point of desperation. After all, one can borrow up to the point where it becomes obvious that interest and principal repayments will create too big a burden. So even if we did not gather a record crop it will at least keep things going for when that real boomer comes along (next year?). All the same, some blokes in the areas where Viper's Bugloss is abundant, seem to have done very well indeed.

Some of us attended the Southland Branch field day held at Owaka (South Otago). A real animated beekeepers' gathering where we enjoyed ourselves and of course learned something too.

John Heineman

HAWKES BAY

The Hawkes Bay crop is very patchy again, as it was last year. November temperatures were higher than average giving a good manuka flow all over Hawkes Bay, but unfortunately the rainfall was way down again and the lower levels of the area dried off by December. Kiwi fruit pollination came and went again with more hives involved than last year. ➡

We had some poisoning and our branch will meet the Fruit Growers' Federation during winter to discuss this problem.

Our annual branch field day was in February at the Community College. This year's theme was for the hobbyist because our branch has a large number. The day included removal of honey and extracting on a two-frame hand-extractor, autumn queen rearing, a smoker-lighting competition, and a "guess the weight of honey supers" competition.

The day closed with a B.Y.O. BBQ and a great time was had by all.

John Walker.

NORTH OTAGO

The news from North Otago is not that good and unless a miracle happens it seems we can expect a below-average crop. At the time of writing (the end of January) we've had a very dry month, but even a few days of good rain could alter things considerably. We hope for all concerned that the rain does come and that other areas are having a better season than we are.

George Winslade.

AUCKLAND

This summer has been the best we've had for a long time.

Auckland had a good start to the honey season. Some very heavy crops have been taken off Manuka: a near record perhaps. The Clover has given a good flow to date, and if the temperature stays up Auckland could end with a better crop than it's had for two or three years. I hear some very useful orders have been gained by those who export cut comb.

It appears that bees shifted in and out of kiwifruit orchards have not done as well as those that stayed put. And speaking of kiwifruit, some farmers in the area are concerned about beehives that just arrive on their farms without prior permission. Some of these hives have real foreign numbers on them for this part of the country!

Well, most of us beekeepers will be extracting by now and should know how much of that overdraft will be wiped out.

Dave Young.

SOUTH CANTERBURY

At the time of writing the honey-gathering season is practically over and local beekeepers are looking back at what has been a most frustrating season.

After a very good spring which allowed beekeepers to get their hives into good condition we found ourselves in a severe drought which made prospects look very dim. However the rain came in time to ease the situation and by mid-December things looked much better; the prospects were by then for a normal season. Then the nor-wester began to blow, down-country pasture dried at an alarming rate, and with a couple of days of gale-force winds and

temperatures in the thirties that was it: no honey and so it remained.

However in all this a bright spot emerged. With the nor'-west winds came rain to the high country, torrents of it, in fact, according to Ministry of Works officials. The Ohau river had the one flood in a thousand years and the high country was literally awash. With the tremendous amount of oversowing done in recent years and the amount of rain the Clover flowering was something to be seen. Those beekeepers who were fortunate in having bees in this country have had the honey crop of the century but it was not easily obtained. To work this country is hard on man and his vehicles, access is difficult, and there is always the chance of frosts, high winds, washouts and slips on farm tracks and so the profits may not be as great as expected.

In recent months many hives of bees have changed ownership at what appears excessive prices. Many of these hives have been sold to new beekeepers, such as farmers, etc. No doubt the present high price of honey could be the reason for this movement but if past experience is any indication many of these hives will finish up neglected when their new owners find beekeeping is not just a matter of owning hives and watching the money roll in, but that beekeeping is an exacting skill.

Harry Cloake.

NELSON

When talking to one's fellow apiarists the topic of conversation inevitably gravitates to the season and the honey crop. Briefly spring kicked off well. A good early flow put the colonies in good shape. Wet spells from mid-December onwards suggested a promising season. Reports to date however, suggest a patchy pattern though certainly an improvement on last year.

Our Christmas dinner attracted a hearty crowd. A touch of humour, Keith Heron-style, added flavour from the guest-speaker's platform. His articulate descriptions of hive-moving ventures to the High Country of the Deep South created what one might call a desirable impact on all ears. It was obviously "Heron Country" and he could have it. A code of ethics didn't enter into it.

The meeting also provided the opportunity for the branch president to present certificates of life membership to two worthy stalwarts: Jack Varley and Ron Stratford. To us in Nelson their mark is indelible.

At kiwiblossom time Jasper Bray, acting on behalf of the Kiwifruit Growers Association, dropped in to evaluate colony condition and strength. Plantations were visited at random while the concerned pollinators stood by. The bees were quite excited to meet new faces, the growers nodded approvingly, and the motorcade drove by. Now who can think of a better way to spend the day?

Fred Galea.

MARLBOROUGH

Well, a good season! It seems that Marlborough beekeepers are being given a chance to get ahead despite the new Minister of Finance!

A very dry November and early December had just about dried every bit of vegetation off the hills and it had us beekeepers looking very glum. Then mid-December it started to rain and rain and rain. One-third of our yearly total in January alone! So at the moment the valleys are either coloured white (clover) or blue (borage).

A season like this is making everyone think twice about pollination. There have been numerous incidents of spray damage to hives this year with just about everyone losing some hives. As the orchards move out further into the Wairau Plain traditional apiary sites are now being affected by spray. I think that extracting honey is easier than moving hives around in the middle of the night so I will be pulling out of the orchards anyway.

On January 19-20 we had our annual combined meeting with the Wellington and Nelson branches. This year's theme was pollination and we had excellent speakers from the DSIR, MAF, the Bay of Plenty, plus several individual beekeepers discussing the pros and cons, to make a very rewarding weekend with much to learn. A pity that more did not attend but then it is a busy time of the year. This autumn will be busy with requeening and extracting all the honey. As our MAF adviser said the other day: "It will be good to get back to a normal season and normal beekeeping and not have to waste so much time over an extractor."

Craig Deans.

POVERTY BAY

All indications are that most local beekeepers will reap a fairly good crop of honey this year: a welcome change after two poor seasons. We've had a good balance of rain and sun, with most nectar sources yielding well. Manuka and Pohutukawa both flowered heavily this season, and even now at the end of January as I write, the Clover is still flowering and Penny Royal is just starting.

Spring nucleus hives have gone forward and most hives' broodnests are packed solid with honey and pollen, so wintering should not present too many problems this year.

Kiwifruit pollination went well this year. Because of the work of the local pollination association, aided by extensive media coverage, not one hive was lost from spray damage. The public and horticulturists are becoming aware of, and perhaps are beginning to respect, the beekeeper and recognise his importance to both agriculture and horticulture.

All beekeepers involved in pollination here have had their hives surveyed by the MAF and we now await the results of this survey.

Well, best clean the cobwebs off the extracting gear and get the cogs turning.

Peter Lamb.

BAY OF PLENTY

With these notes the most active part of the season draws to a close again. In the Bay of Plenty, beekeepers could for the most part be described as happy with the results of their work for the year, but until all the honey is in the vats it's hard to get them to commit themselves.

Pollination of kiwifruit went smoothly. Numbers of hives actually used appears to be slightly down on the estimates prior to the season, but very close considering how the beekeeper has to estimate possible orders that may change up to the last minute. It looks like something near 25,000 hives went into the orchards. These went into about 1,500 ➡

orchards, an average of almost 16 hives per orchard.

Hives were provided by over 160 beekeepers, 45 of whom supplied more than 100 hives each. Fifty-three of the beekeepers were also orchardists.

A survey was conducted by Trevor Bryant and Clive Vardy, MAF, of the hives in the orchards. A main reason for inspecting the hives — disease — showed that all the hives provided were healthy. Other details on colony strength, location in the orchard, liaison with the orchardist and equipment-quality were also recorded. Beekeepers inspected have been invited to a meeting to discuss the results. The findings as they relate to individual beekeepers will remain private, of course.

One bright spot emerging from this season was the use of Thuricide during the flowering period. This bacterial pesticide is non-toxic to bees, though it should only be applied at night. This is because any kind of spray applied to bees working flowers will tend to kill them, even if the chemical involved is non-toxic. Thuricide is also affected by ultra-violet light, so application at night makes good sense.

Though it is fairly selective in the insect pests in controls, Thuricide can be used while the bees are still in the orchards. As it becomes more commonly used, it should help to reduce the losses of the past, generally related to gusathion, which requires at least seven days to break down before bees can be brought in.

Reports on the honey crop are up and down. Most beekeepers I have spoken to reported reasonable bush flows, even though the weather did not seem particularly favourable. We have had enough rain, often in deluge form, to keep things flowering nicely. The late flows, such as thistle, seem to be ready for a good one.

It has been good to see the discussion resulting from the Code of Ethics relating to siting of hives. In areas with crowding of hives, it is especially important that beekeepers learn to get along with each other.

Nick Wallingford.

SOUTHLAND

At the time of writing Southland beekeepers are harvesting the year's crop which seems to vary from average to better than average. Swarming appears to be prevalent.

A successful field day at Owaka was well attended by local and visiting beekeepers and their families. The weather was not particularly kind, but the demonstration, displays, competitions and speakers provided an enjoyable day, especially the auctioning of the honey-baking entries after judging. Our thanks to Finlay and Mrs Abernethy for making their facilities available.

Les Foster.

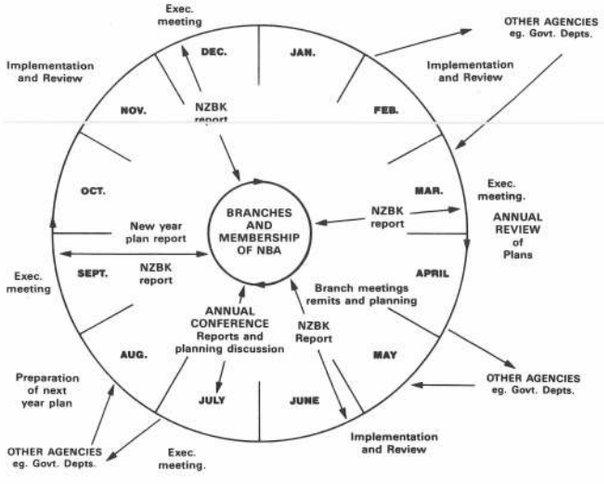
WAIKATO

It is with pleasure that I can report this season that most hives had more honey in them before Christmas than they had for the whole of last season. The bumper crop hoped

(Cont. page 20)

Industry Planning Report

The previous Planning Report in the Summer issue mentioned a diagram of the anticipated NBA Planning Cycle, which shows how the various stages of the planning process fit into the calendar year for the Association. Unfortunately, time and space did not allow the inclusion of the diagram, and so this is now presented below. In this report, I should like to discuss this cycle briefly, and outline some of the progress already made.



The N.B.A Planning Cycle Diagram

Let me emphasise that, like the Industry Plan itself, this cycle is also reviewable, with changes to be made wherever improvement suggests. At this stage, we are well through the first cycle, and have reached the point of Annual Review of the Plans. This is on the agenda for the March meeting of Executive, and should also be included by branches when pre-conference remit meetings are held.

The opportunity exists here for branches and individual members to review their participation in the planning process, and to ensure important matters are included in next year's plan. This can be done by presenting an appropriate remit to Conference, or a recommendation in a branch report. Bear in mind that remits passed at Conference are recommendations to Executive and if these can be readily adopted into the Industry Plan, then definite action will follow under the broad Goals of the Association.

The Executive looks to members for clear guidelines on which action to take, and it is not by accident that branches and membership of the NBA appear at the hub of the planning cycle. The inclusion of planning 'discussion' sessions at Conference will also serve as an opportunity for members to present their views and ideas towards the Objectives and Action Plans. It is also hoped to include special reports from various interest groups within the industry, such as queen breeders, pollination groups, honey packers, etc. These should also provide a vehicle for ideas to be shared.

At this stage, I would like to review a few of the Actions we have followed from this year's Plan, as examples of the implementation stage of the Cycle. Obviously, the selected actions for each Objective have to take place as and when most appropriate, and are ongoing until a satisfactory result is achieved.

One such action (under Goal A to increase Industry Profitability, Objective 1) to have more than half of NBA branches actively involved in the Trees for Bees programme by Spring 1985, has resulted in nearly three-quarters of the branches taking up the offer of tags for trees and posters for distribution to nurseries. Further follow-up to this will be for each branch to organise a Trees for Bees field day, and some branches have already done considerable work in this area.

Another important area of action is under the Goal B: to Improve Beekeeper Education and Training. Both the major training schemes for beekeepers are well under way, with Telford commencing their second year of cadet training, and the Bay of Plenty Community College Certificate Course under way this year.

In the area of liaison with government agencies (Goal E) we are to see the establishment of a bee pathologist at Mt Albert DSIR this year, with funding from the NBA: a major step in improving our prospects for export of bee stocks and products, as well as improving our domestic stocks and management methods.

In addition, we have established worthwhile contact with the Agricultural Quarántine Service. Its Director, Mr Julian Brown was at our last Executive meeting. As a result, the Executive are meeting in Auckland in March, to see the service in action, and present our case for protection from illegal imports of bee-related materials.

A start has been made on the complex matter of promotion of bee products, with the allocation of some funds for promotional material. Here we need considerable input from NBA members so we may develop the best possible promotional material from the resources we have.

These are but a few of the actions already taken under the Planning process, and although not all have been completed, results so far have been encouraging. As we move towards completion of the first cycle, we are also nearing the completion of an Objective regarded by some as being the most important of all. That is, Goal F, Objective 1: "Develop an on-going Industry Planning Strategy by June 1985." Indications are that we should be able to reach that goal with time to spare!

Allen McCaw.

February 1985

BEGINNERS' NOTES

Starting with Bees *by SKEP*

To start this Notes for Beginners column is not easy. As a new writer for the column, I have not only to establish a style of my own that will be both informative and enjoyable to you the reader, but I am forced to look back on the history of such notes.

Obviously, my first thoughts go out to David Williams of Rotorua who was the last writer of the column. Many of you will have learned most of your beginners beekeeping from David, and readers of this magazine owe him a large debt of gratitude.

He has consistently produced material to keep the beginner challenged and up-to-date, as well as answering reader's queries. Other items have kept beekeeping in perspective, such as his listings of references to bees and beekeeping in literature.

It is not an easy job to turn out the volume of writings that David has over the last nine years or so, and he is to be heartily congratulated for his fine efforts.

But even further back in time, the pages of the New Zealand Beekeeper have been favoured by extremely high class Beginner's Notes. Many of you will remember the columns written by Chris Dawson of Timaru.

As near as I can tell, Chris began his beginner's notes in 1957. He carried on his writings for about 20 years, and there must be many hobbyists still out there who owe their beginnings to him.

It doesn't even end there; I have read back through other back issues of the magazine, and it seems there has always been some part of the magazine dedicated to the outright beginner and the keen enthusiast. For my contributions, then, I will choose to remain anonymous, and take on the name of "Skep" for the time I write these notes.

That name of Skep has quite a heritage, both in the NZ Beekeeper and other magazines, being often a pseudonym for contributors. I choose it as a reminder of columns that appeared in this magazine starting back in 1944. The notes from Skep in those days were both practical and thought provoking; I hope mine can be as well. After 13 years of these columns, the magazine listed the various contributors who used the "Skep" name in writing the column. Names such as W. J. Lennon. L. I. Box, J. R. Barber, P. A. Hillary (Sir Edmund's father), T. E. Pearson and T. H. Pearson may not mean much to beginners now, but older beekeepers will recognise them. ➡

I take pleasure in resurrecting the name of Skep to head these notes. I only hope that I can provide half the information and entertainment that Beginners Notes have given me over the years.

So now into the subject of the column itself — Starting with Bees. In this first introductory column, I'm going to give those of you thinking about taking up beekeeping some thoughts on why you might or might not choose to do it. For those of you already with hives, I feel it is always worth reappraising why you took up bees in the first place and why you keep at it. The two reasons might not always be the same, and you can learn a lot about yourself by examining your attitudes to your hobby.

The statistics of beekeeping in New Zealand lend themselves nicely to breaking beekeepers into three groups: Hobbyists, Sideliners, and Commercial beekeepers. The lines are far from fixed, but hive holdings would probably be along the lines of:

Hobbyists: 1-20 hives
Sideliners: 20-500 hives
Commercial: More than 500 hives.

Of course, you could argue with the breakdown. By the time you have nearly 20 hives, you are probably doing it for more than the pure hobbyist pleasure of keeping bees; you are hoping to make some money out of it as well, so you might consider yourself a sideliner.

It would be difficult in most areas of the country to be a full-time commercial beekeeper with only 500 hives; some might say the bottom line for commerical beekeeping should be nearer 1,000 hives.

Whatever the numbers used, there is one very important thing to remember. The hobbyist beekeepers are by far the largest category of beekeepers in the country. At present, out of about 6,500 beekeepers, nearly 6,000 could be considered hobbyists.

In hive holdings, though, the sideline and commercial categories put the hobbyists into the shade. Nearly 90% of the hives are held by these beekeepers. It is for this reason that so much of the information in magazines such as this is oriented toward commercial beekeeping.

Most of these commercial beekeepers are (or should be, anyway) in the business for one reason: it should be profitable. That is the bottom line that the hobbyist does not have to consider very often, at least in monetary terms.

Commercial beekeepers enter the industry for a variety of reasons. The variety of the work may appeal to them. They may have come from a beekeeping family (we have several operations that involve three generations of beekeepers!). They may have entered commercial beekeeping because it is a way of setting up a business, agriculturally based, that requires relatively little capital. I stress the word relative, because it still takes quite a sum to go commercial beekeeping, but not when compared with other types of farming or orcharding.

But you, the hobbyist or prospective hobbyist, should have entirely different motivations.

From my experiences as a hobbyist and from speaking to others, I think most people take up beekeeping through a variation of three basic drives:

For the honey (or money . . .)
For their pollination value
Through the fascination of bees as insects.

Of course the lure of unlimited supplies of honey appeals to most of us. Combine this with the idea that it will be your own honey, produced by your own bees, and it is easy to see why the hobby attracts people.

Producing honey as a type of self-sufficiency appeals to people as well. Honey from your own hives is a unique product, and it has strong barter possibilities. At a time when you couldn't give away your extra cabbages because every other neighbour has you too many as well, a small jar of honey can be used effectively to exchange for something else. Perhaps even more importantly, it makes an excellent "thank you" gift that never fails to please.

With a surplus of your own honey, the thoughts of selling for profit cannot help but enter the picture. Beekeeping, even as a hobby, can be profitable, one of the few hobbies that can be. Always be careful, though, because you will find if this becomes your main motivation in keeping bees, you may well lose the pleasures of the hobby that you began with.

Many people take up hobby beekeeping in order to have one or two hives in the garden to aid in pollination of garden crops or fruit trees. Though this can be a legitimate consideration, too often this motivation can lead to neglect of the hives. Because you can still see bees coming and going from the entrances, you assume the hive is doing what you got it for — pollinating flowers.

Be careful if the only reason you want hives is to provide pollination. Not only would you be wrong in the pollination value of a neglected colony, but you are doing both the colony and other beekeepers a disservice. Neglected bees are a nuisance and a threat of disease — enough said.

The actual enjoyment of bees as insects should really, then, be at the bottom of much of your interest in beekeeping as a hobby.

They are consistently absorbing creatures to watch and to learn about. Their perception, their behaviour and their social structure can be an ongoing education to you.

It is for this reason that many of my notes in columns to come will keep bringing up subjects that you may not consider at first to really be "hobby" beekeeping topics. It is my feeling that only through learning about bees themselves and why a hive does what it does can you as a hobbyist beekeeper really get the most reward out of keeping bees.

* * * * *

PHOTOS: WHAT WE CAN USE AND WHAT WE CAN'T

I understand from the Executive that there is some confusion about my request for black and white photos for publication in the Beekeeper. The situation is simply that we are a black and white magazine and ideally we need black and white photos. However, some colour shots will reproduce quite well in black and white. Probably the best rule of thumb is to decide whether or not the colour photo relies heavily on its colour to determine its subject. If it does, it probably won't reproduce well in black and white. If it does not rely heavily on colour then it might reproduce reasonably well in black and white.

Editor.

TELFORD FARM TRAINING INSTITUTE

By Paul Marshall, Manager, Bee Unit

The Telford Farm Training Institute, six kilometres from Balclutha, was established in 1963 on a 630-hectare property given to the nation by the estate of William Telford. Initially it was controlled by a Board of Management which, with considerable support from the people of Otago and Southland, built hostel and educational facilities. The first intake of 11 students arrived in May 1965. In 1984 the intake was 51 students.

In 1974, in line with government policy, the hostel and educational functions became the responsibility of MAF and were administered by its Advisory Services Division. The Board of Management continues to be responsible for practical instruction funded from farm income, and advises in the planning and management of the Institute.

Agricultural training has been expanded from sheep, cattle, and cropping to include prime lamb and beef production, deer farming, and beekeeping. Students are also taught such specialist skills as horticulture, forestry, fencing, carpentry, metal work and mechanics.

Although MAF uses Telford for a wide variety of short courses ranging from fitch farming through sheep selection to beekeeping, the mainstay of the Institute is the one-year student. A one-year certificate course provides both practical and theoretical farming instruction.

With deer farming, beekeeping is the latest course at Telford. In Spring 1983 the Institute bought 200 hives, has now doubled that number, and plans for 700. Although it received strong support from local beekeepers, the unit was established with a loan from the Rural Banking and Finance Corporation which used the farm to cover the cost of the unit's establishment and its running expenses. As with the establishment of any beekeeping enterprise costs are high and initial rewards are low. With the downturn in farming returns along with bad weather Telford is finding the going heavy.

In February 1984 three students enrolled for the first one-year course in beekeeping. They joined 48 agriculture students, and while they did not gain full farm experience, the course provided instruction in a wide range of skills common to both farming and beekeeping. To support this a criterion-referenced instruction programme has been developed. It allows the student to study and develop at his own pace.

The certificate for both agriculture and beekeepinng is not a qualification, rather it is a certificate of attendance.

TELFORD FARM TRAINING INSTITUTE (CONT.)

Workshop training with Beekeeping Manager, Paul Marshall. From left: Paul Marshall with Gary Glasson, Bruce Wardle, and Tim Hansen, 1984 beekeeping students.

Students between 16 and 18 years old are accepted at Telford whatever their individual academic abilities. A keen interest, a wish to make beekeeping a vocation, are two of the criteria for entry to Telford. Only half those applying are accepted as there is keen competition for the limited number of vacancies.

At the end of the year students leave with a working knowledge of bees. Three students in beekeeping may not seem many, but in proportion to agriculture as a whole beekeeping is well-represented. The training concept is an exciting one and in the long term will prove a valuable asset to the industry. Telford Farm Training Institute is not yet 20 years old, but it has proved itself an innovator by introducing beekeeping as a course of training.

The Institute's prize list for beekeeping 1984 is as follows:

Tim G. Hanson, "Happy Bee Apiaries", Orini-National Beekeepers' Association Bursary 1984.

Bruce Wardle, 26 White Street, Rangiora — A. Ecroyd & Son Ltd's Prize for Most Improved Beekeeping Student.

Gary Glasson, Blackball, West Coast-Telford Farm Training Institute's Prize for Best Nectar and Pollen-plant Collection.

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MAF phone operators get some "interesting" callers at times. They had one the other day from a lady beekeeper whose surname contained a double "b".

Trying to get the correct spelling the intrepid operator asked, "is that one b or two, madam?" Back came the reply, "no, there's only one hive"!

(From Waikato Bee Notes)

From the Colonies (Cont.)

for did not eventuate, but the region has been average to good (a 3.5 to 4 tonne crop). A few pocket areas have produced an excellent crop. Manuka honey is showing up on the combs more this year.

Packers are facing operation and packing increases and at present are not buying much honey, leaving smaller producers with their crop unsold. We have again had thefts from apiary sites this season but branded hives have been left.

The branch had a dinner-social again this year and seven senior state advisory officers from Australia joined us, Mr Linton Briggs, F.C.A.A.A., among them. We dragged a talk on beekeeping in Western Australia from them and it helped make an interesting evening.

The branch held a combined field day with the BOP branch at Mr G. Ernest's honey house at Tirau.

Tony Lorimer.

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Beekeeper Education at Fairview College

An air of excitement surrounds the beekeeping programme at Fairview.

The college, already recognized as an important centre of education and training by the Canadian and international beekeeping industry, is in the midst of a major programme and facility expansion.

To accommodate increased demand, the Beekeeper-Technician programme has been extended to 11 months. This extension has allowed beekeeping students to receive more in-depth instruction in apiculture theory, the principles of honey production, and the management aspects of commercial beekeeping.

An extended field trip has also been incorporated. For the third consecutive year, beekeeper-technician students visited the queen-rearing and package-bee production area of California where they billeted with local beekeepers.

A 300-colony apiary has been developed on the Fairview campus and construction of a new building exclusively for the beekeeping programme begins this northern spring. The facility will house a complete honey processing unit, woodworking shop, an apiculture laboratory, classrooms, and an indoor overwintering area.

With the addition of the apiary and beekeeper training building, Fairview College will be entering into a variety of research projects. Beekeeping staff will be working with Dr Tibor Szabo of Agriculture Canada's Beaverlodge Research Station on the development of The Alberta Bee. "The Alberta Bee" is a new strain of honeybee developed to better withstand northern climatic conditions.

Queen-rearing and overwintering research projects will aslo be conducted.

Denis McKenna, Coordinator of the Beekeeper-Technician programme, is understandably enthusiastic.

"We're really starting to see the results of several years hard work. We're going to be able to serve the beekeeping industry in a way we hardly thought possible when we started six years ago", he said.

During those six years Fairview College has graduated 100 beekeeper-technicians. Many of these graduates are working as commercial beekeepers and as extension officers both with Canadian provincial and federal governments, and abroad.

The Beekeeper-Technician programme has received extensive international recognition. Every year students from outside Canada have enrolled. The 1983/84 class included students from Austria, Switzerland, Denmark and

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England. Previous students have come from South Africa, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and Trinidad.

Fairview College is also engaged in a beekeeping development project with the government of Tanzania. Ten Tanzanians, all with previous experience as beekeeping extension officers, are currently in Fairview taking a special year-long Beekeeper-Technician course.

"This is an excellent development project", said McKenna. "We will be helping Tanzania develop the skills required to satisfy its growing demand for honey products".

Preliminary discussions aimed at setting up similar projects are underway with other countries.

To manage these expanded operations, the college has hired three new employees, raising the Beekeeping Department staff complement to five. More information on the Fairview College beekeeping programme can be obtained by contacting either Denis McKenna or the Registrar at Box 3000, Fairview, Alberta, Canada, TOH 1LO or by phone at (403) 835-2213.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS PART III
The Telephone

by Michael Burgess

A telephone is like a nuclear device: simple enough for a three-year-old to operate but if not handled properly about as lethal as an ICBM to your business.

Many businesses recognise the simplicity, but not the lethality, of the telephone and give the job of answering it to the office dumbo. After all, why pay a large salary for such a simple job? In fact, the telephone operator should be one of the brightest and best paid of basic staff.

Much business today is conducted over the telephone. The person who answers it is the firm's "shop window". Initially a firm will be judged on the courtesy, helpfulness, intelligence, and clarity of voice of whoever answers its phone.

When you call a company the least you want is information and the odds are you might buy something. The telephone operator should announce the name of the firm clearly. Frequently "General Ruler and Leather" comes across as "Gerrumpleswith". That means at least you must ask if indeed you have General Ruler and Leather. If you want the sales manager (or one of the variety of euphonisms such people hide behind today), you can manage without "Dontaveone" followed by a stony silence which leaves you wondering if you've been cut off. You should be told that the firm does not have a sales manager as such, but that Mr (or John) Jones is the Chief Marketing Coordinating Officer, and that she will put you through to him. She should stay on the line until she has established that Mr Jones' phone has been answered. Nothing is worse than being left hanging on a dead phone.

If Mr Jones' phone is not answered the operator should explain that Mr Jones does not appear to be in his office, ask if anyone else can help (she may suggest someone), or ask if she may take your number and have Mr Jones call you as soon as he returns. Never should she ask you to call back. If that happens hang up and call a competitor who might be more on the ball.

Another "no-no" is: "Mr Jones is busy". We are all busy. The only answer to that one is: "So am I, dear, so stop messing me about and put me through". Nor should she ask who is speaking. It is nothing to do with her who is speaking. However, she can get the same result by the more polite: "May I tell Mr Jones who is calling?" And to say that "Mr Jones is unavailable" suggests that he is there but doesn't want to talk to anyone. Much better to say he is out of the office at the moment.

Side conversations are another danger with a telephone. Telephones are temperamental. At time you can hardly hear the person at the other end, while at others the instrument seems to channel every sound and voice from half a mile around into your ear.

Nothing is more damaging for a business than for you to hear the following conversation: "Some fellow called Bloggs wants to talk to you — What's he want? — Don't know — Then ask him". The operator (or secretary) then interrogates you. You hear her tell the Great Man the object of your call, and the reply: "Oh tell him I'm not here and take his number".

I know of some executives who can be reached (after much persistence on your part) only through a regiment of "guards" who seem to think you're trying to break into Fort Knox. On the other hand the top men of some of New Zealand's biggest concerns are reached easily and without interrogation by "guards". They are also among the most helpful and courteous. Somewhere here is a moral.

If you should leave your number you have a God-given right to receive a call back. If you don't you have been warned so try another company. After all, you've had one example of the first one's service.

After hours' numbers and the combined office/home numbers of some small businesses can come up with some interesting ways of answering the phone. For example:

(1) "Are you there?" (The only answer to this is "No!" and see what happens).
(2) "Yer!" (It must be the bloke who empties the dunny every week).
(3) "Grumpletwitch urgleclank". (Blasted kids again! Send them a sack, a brick, and directions to the nearest deep creek).
(4) "Hullo!" (Friendly, but it still leaves you with the problem of finding out that you have a wrong number).
(5) "123456". Eight out of ten because you know at least that you have the right number.
(6) Bloggs Apiaries, Bloggs speaking". (Buy this one and collect $200 as you pass go).

One final point. Unless you know the person on the other end well don't try humour. On the phone you can't convey the twinkle of eye or twitch of mouth which visually confirms humour, and you can drop an awful clanger. I must plead guilty to having fallen into that one.

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AMERICAN FOUL BROOD
(Bacillus Larvae)

By Colin Rope

The first honey bees to be introduced to New Zealand were black, brought from England in the ship "James" by the sister of a missionary, Miss Bumby. They were landed at Mangunga, near the Hokianga Harbour, on 13 March 1839. More black bees were brought from England in 1842 and from New South Wales the same year.

Black bees are prolific swarmers, and because of the abundance of native flora in Northland at that time there was a honey bee population explosion. Soon many people were keeping bees. Honey became a readily available and staple foodstuff for early settlers. Thousands of box hives were kept in the northern gumfields. Pure strains of the original "common" bee can still be found in the Puketi forest behind Hokianga Harbour, and they also remain on such places as Great Barrier island and other forested parts of the north. The pure strain is a beautiful gentle bee: NOT so, their hybrids.

The first Italian bees did not arrive until 41 years after the English common bees were released. In 1880 Mr J. H. Harrison of Coromandel imported Italian bees from California, and later that year Isaac Hopkins of Auckland did likewise. Hopkins embarked on an importation spree in 1883 and he imported Italians from Italy, Swiss Alpine from Switzerland, Syrians from Syria, Holylanders from Palestine, Cyprians from Cyprus, and Carniolans from Jugoslavia. These were all successfully established in Auckland. It was soon learnt that Italian bees imported from Italy were superior in every respect for New Zealand conditions.

The Cyprians were outrageously vicious. It was impossible to handle them without being tortured by stings. Smoke, the usual quietener, only made them more vicious! Queens from the vicious strains were distributed throughout New Zealand before it was generally agreed they should be eliminated. That decision, taken after two years, was probably too late and I have found a few hives whose aggressive behaviour answered the Cyprian description and had to be gassed. The so-called "Italian" bee of New Zealand in 1984 is probably well removed, after 100 years of hybridisation from its random-mated progenitors. Undesirable traits are becoming noticeable among even the yellowist of bees, not the least being lack of resistance to minor diseases, eg sac brood.

No doubt American Foul Brood arrived in Auckland with the 1880-1883 Importations.

It is here to stay.

By its very nature it cannot be eliminated.

But it can be controlled by burning.

Political lobbying.

In 1888 a Member of Parliament for Auckland, Mr F. Lawrey, introduced a Bill called "Foul Brood and Disease in Bees Prevention". He failed to get it on the statute books.

By 1901 "quite a number of complaints of foul brood, the dread of beekeepers, and other diseases of bees had reached this Auckland Office." The government officer strongly urged "that legislation was necessary to protect beekeepers from loss through careless neighbours and protect the developing export trade in honey. The desirability of appointing a Bee Expert is another matter which requires attention in the near future," he said. (Extract from Ninth Annual Report of N.Z. Dept of Agriculture).

Apiaries Act

In 1907 the original Apiaries Act was enacted.

It took 19 years of political lobbying before protective legislation came into being. By that time, some 85% of apiaries in New Zealand were infected with AFB, as the disease became commonly called.

Mr Isaac Hopkins was the first government beekeeping expert. He set up a model apiary at Ruakura near Hamilton and became known as "The Father of Beekeeping in N.Z." He gave short courses in apiculture. Some of his early pupils became prominent commercial beekeepers and foundation members of National Beekeepers Association of N.Z. (Inc.).

One of the first inspectors appointed under the Act was Mr W. B. Bray. He was given a free pass to travel on New Zealand railways and a government issue push bike. His inspectorate was the entire South Island!

CAUSE

"American Foul Brood is caused by a microscopic spore-forming vegetable organism known as *Bacillus larvae*. Spores from some previously existing source of infection, such as contaminated honey robbed from another colony already weakened by the disease, become mixed with the brood food fed to the young larva by the nurse bees. The spores germinate within the body of the larva and multiply at a great rate, feeding at the expense of the tissues of the larva itself. Soon after the larva has been sealed over in its cell it collapses and dies. When this happens the food supply of the bacteria is no longer maintained and their growth and multiplication ceases. Each bacterium then forms a spore. The numerous spores remain dormant until distributed throughout the hive by house-cleaning bees attempting to clean out the cell containing the dead remains of the larva. They complete their life-cycle by being mixed with the brood food of another larva. The whole process then starts again and is repeated indefinitely. More and more larvae become infected, the proportion of the brood which emerges gradually becomes less and less, and sooner or later the colony dies out from sheer lack of enough bees to keep it going." (Extract from Bulletin No. 100 of MAF, Great Britain).

Disease Strikes

American Foul Brood is *incurable* and highly *infectious*. It solely affects honey bees. The spores are extremely hardy; they will withstand freezing and will survive after boiling in water for 15 minutes. They can withstand the effects of carbolic acid, formalin, and other powerful disinfectants such as Dettol and Camfosa. Antibiotics have no effect on AFB spores (although the vegetative phase is inhibited). It is illegal in New Zealand to treat AFB disease with antibiotics. In some overseas countries where antibiotics are fed, virtually every colony is now infected with AFB spores and it would seem all the colonies in those countries will need to be drugged several times every year, because spores are known to remain viable for over 35 years, due to encapsulation with bees-wax.

Trials I conducted at the MAF Fumigation Station in Auckland, where concentrated methyl bromide gas was applied under great pressure, demonstrated this powerful gas had no effect on the viability of AFB spores.

Destruction of AFB

Every part of a diseased hive interior is heavily infected. There are only two practical ways to destroy AFB and make one's first loss one's last:

1. Burn all infected material, or
2. Sterilise boxes and lids with intense heat by boiling them in paraffin wax for several minutes. It is the latent heat of the wax (dangerous and at flash point when a white vapour is being driven off) that does the job. The wax must be heated to 150-160°C and the equipment should be immersed in the wax for at least 10 minutes.

All-wire queen excluders can be sterilised by boiling for at least 30 minutes in a strong caustic soda solution (500g caustic soda to 45 litres water). The caustic soda does *not* kill AFB spores but it saponifies beeswax and propolis, and exposes the disease

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spores to destruction by direct heat.

It is no longer MAF policy to permit scorching with intense heat from a blowlamp. Constant enquiries are being received about this matter which needs to be clarified. MAF found that many beekeepers are lax in the thoroughness of their methods and the disease was being propagated by careless owners who tried to salvage diseased equipment by this method.

Spread of AFB

The field bees from healthy hives enter and remove the diseased honey from a weakened or dead colony and take it with them to their own hives. In this way, AFB is perpetuated. The main culprits, however, in the spread of disease, are the careless, ill-informed, and unwise beekeepers who shift hive parts from place to place without first taking the trouble to check their hives for disease.

How to Identify AFB

Firstly learn how to identify *healthy* brood. Notice it has a pearly white glistening appearance. Note the normal position each larva or pupa occupies in the cell. Note the unpunctured, slightly dome-shaped cappings. Probe some larvae with a matchstick and observe their white, milky appearance.

In contrast with healthy brood, one cell of AFB is first noticed as a collapsed hulk on the lower side wall of its cell. It is slightly "off-white" at first, not very sticky — like milky coffee in colour. As it ages, the coffee colour becomes more intense, then brown, then very dark brown. By the coffee colour stage the dead larva sticks to its cell wall and can *not* be removed in one piece. It is drying out by then and becomes sticky, like chewing gum. It can be stretched out in a continuous thread across the comb, sometimes for up to 50mm. At this stage every bit will stretch like that, even when it is subdivided repeatedly.

The corpse gradually dehydrates into a dry, non-sticky scale that is virtually impossible to remove from its cell wall. AFB scales are difficult to see with an untrained eye. An "empty" comb should be held at reading distance and the light coming from over one's shoulder should fall on to the lower cell-walls. Then the scales can be easily seen. Sometimes if the combs have become damp, a mould develops on the scales and makes them prominent (see photograph).

The brood combs in colonies where the disease has become established, often look patchy. This is due to dead brood in its different stages of collapse, from open cells with early symptoms in young larvae, to capped cells with dark, sunken, or perforated cappings containing sticky larvae, to open cells whose cappings have been chewed away completely by the bees and containing dry scales.

As few as 10 spores will prove fatal when consumed by a day old larva. When older brood dies in the early pupal stage, their tongues may remain upstanding and these tongues are classic symptoms of the disease. Unsealed brood and sealed cells with normal cappings (containing brood which has escaped infection) continue to be seen for some time, but because the queen does not lay in the cells containing scales, the patches of healthy brood gradually become constricted to small groups of cells scattered irregularly over the face of the comb.

All dead brood should be examined to establish the cause of death

Every dead thing smells, and AFB is no exception. It has a unique characteristic odour easily recognised by trained and experienced people. An apiary inspector in USA has trained a dog to "sniff" out the disease; the dog has a 99% accuracy. The dog is capable of smelling as few as five cells of AFB in one hive. It "sniffs' 46 hives per hour and took two years to train.

Burn Diseased Hives Properly

Diseased hives should be burned over a pit dug in the ground to capture unburnt honey. Honey doesn't burn readily and it must be buried after the fire. The size of the pit depends on the amount of equipment to be burned but it need not be more than one spade depth in *uncultivated* land. Place some heavy timber or metal across the pit to allow air to intensify the fire. A fierce fire develops once the beeswax ignites, so select a safe place away from peat lands, trees, buildings, and overhead wires.

A colony can be killed by pouring one cupful of petrol inside, after the entrance has been blocked to prevent the bees escaping. They soon die. The fumes from petrol kill. Convey the dead hive to the pit, taking care not to spill dead bees, honey, or debris on the ground. Remove the lid and bottom board and stand the boxes on solid supports above the pit. Make sure the boxes are level and upright so they won't slide off during the fire. Stand back before the fire is lit in case there may be a flash from the petrol.

AMERICAN FOUL BROOD (Cont.)

Any boxes containing much honey should be set aside until last because honey may put out the fire. Once everything is reduced to red hot ashes the pit can be loosely covered with soil, in the style of a Maori oven.

It takes at least two hours to burn one hive.

1. **AFB can be controlled**
2. **Never let an AFB hive die out**
3. **Never expose infected hives, honey or equipment to robber bees**
4. **Make your first cost your last**
5. **Identify and destroy AFB before it destroys your business!**

AMERICAN FOUL BROOD DISEASE REPORTED SEASON 1983/84

APIARY	Diseased Apiaries		Diseased Colonies	
DISTRICT	Number	%	Number	%
Auckland	106	2.5	*307	0.9
Hamilton	86	3.3	140	0.3
Tauranga	110	4.1	283	0.8
Palmerston Nth	64	2.0	152	0.5
Nelson	92	3.4	167	0.8
Christchurch	30	0.8	150	0.4
Oamaru	69	2.4	144	0.4
Gore	72	3.8	102	0.3
TOTAL	629	2.8	1,445	0.5
	**(758)	(3.5)	(1,475)	(0.6)

** 1982/83 figures in brackets. MAF Statistics.
* Most of these were reported in Auckland City and environs.

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BOOK REVIEW

PRACTICAL BEEKEEPING IN NEW ZEALAND
By Andrew Matheson

When I was approached by Andrew at the New Plymouth Conference with a request to review his soon-to-be-published book, I was happy to agree even though I had not done a book review before. I had come to know something of Andrew's abilities during our planning exercise at Flock House or at Conference and had read several of his Nelson Beekeeping Bulletins, so I felt confident he would write a good book. When an autographed copy of his book arrived, I had seen the impressive cover and had a quick glance at the inside I could see my confidence had been justified.

For a number of years there has been a need for a book to replace the MAF Bulletin "Beekeeping in New Zealand" by Tom Winter. This popular book was originally published in 1948 and has been the standard reference book on New Zealand Beekeeping for many years; but times have changed and even the best reference books tend to become outdated after 36 years.

No book of 185 pages can hope to cover in depth all aspects of beekeeping in New Zealand but Andrew's book does give a good insight into many different aspects ranging from "Some History" and "Industry Organisations" to "Starting with Bees" and "Harvesting Honey" as well as "Queen Bees" to "Further Sources of Information". It is well written in an easy-to-read style and there are many excellent photographs and drawings which will do much to assist readers to grasp the points made in the text. The well-laid-out Glossary will also assist those who are not familiar with the language as spoken by beekeepers.

It is important that the facts given in this type of book are accurate and I believe Andrew has done very well in this respect. There are only two points which I feel obliged to make and they are:

1. While the payment of the hive levy is required by law, membership of the NBA is not.
2. The number of hives recommended per hectare for pollination of apples, pears, and plums is, I believe, far too low.

Because the standard of the book is so high I wasn't able to pick out any part as being better than the rest. However, there was no doubt in my mind as to what feature I liked the least. The photo showing the four sections of comb honey. This photo won't do much for the image of NZ comb honey, and when I remember the hundreds of tonnes of beautiful top quality sections that have been exported from New Zealand in years gone by, I feel we must provide Andrew with a better photo before the second edition of his book is printed.

To conclude this review, I would have no hesitation in recommending that anyone who wants to know more about beekeeping in New Zealand should buy this book. Not only because the NBA has bought 200 copies for resale to branches but because I believe anyone who buys one will consider they have received good value for their money.

Ian Berry

THE BEE'S THE THING

BY: BILL CLARK

To bee, or not to bee: that was the question!

In Thailand, the farmers decided to bee—or more precisely to keep bees in apiaries. And thus they launched the sweetest revolution in their country's agricultural history.

It started back in 1980 when a team of Israeli beekeeping experts flew in from the Land of Milk and Honey to make a survey of Thailand. The Israeli apiarists determined that there was tremendous potental in that south-east Asian country, so they invited a group of Thais to participate in a beekeeping course offered by the Israeli International Cooperation Programme.

Using their new beekeeping skills, the Thais produced 28 tons of honey in 1981. A team of Israelis then returned to Thailand for some on-site assistance, teaching different techniques for expanding bee ranching around the country. And in 1982, the Thais measured 510 tons of that sweet, sticky amber fluid flow into the marketplace. In fact, it flooded the domestic market, ending Thailand's dependence on imported honey, and producing a surplus for export.

With a few more fine adjustments to the system, Thailand's 1983 production brimmed over the 1,000-ton mark. Success was so sweet that neighbouring Burma, Nepal, and the Philippines ushered groups of their own students off to the Israeli classrooms.

Israeli apiary expertise goes back more than thirty centuries and there are numerous biblical references to the culinary delights which are the fruit of beekeeping: "My son, eat thou honey because it is good; and the honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste" (Proverbs 24:13).

But it wasn't until 1960 that Israeli honey making took on an international flavour. In that year, explains Itzhak Abt, the director of Israel's Centre for International Agricultural Development Cooperation (CINADCO), Israeli apiarists trained a group of Senegalese farmers in this delicate art. Ever since, beekeeping has proved a popular course for agriculturists from many third world countries.

Mr Abt noted that beekeeping is very popular for many reasons. It requires very little investment—an important consideration for developing countries—and it requires very little space. Beekeeping produces a cash crop which is both popular and nutritious. Indeed, fresh, home-produced honey is rich in protein, vitamins, and minerals, much of which can be lost because of the time required to import it from abroad.

"Also, the honey bee is an important agent of pollination, especially in alfalfa and fruit plantations," Mr Abt said. Thus beekeeping is entirely compatible with other types of agriculture, and helps improve yields in other areas. "Today, our course emphasizes the use of honey both in the home and in industry." Beyond the honey itself, there is the royal jelly which is used in apitherapy, bee wax for the

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manufacture of cosmetics, and even bee venom which is now an important ingredient in preparations for the treatment of rheumatic diseases.

Other areas of exploiting the apiary are being investigated in Israel and incorporated into the beekeeping programmes there. A three-man team—including Professor Y. Lensky, Yeshayahu Stern, and Chaim Efrat—coordinate the effort and integrate it into Israel's international agricultural cooperation programme.

The programme itself dates back to 1958. Since theme, 8,000 Israeli experts have worked on hundreds of long and short-term agricultural projects around the world. They've provided technical training for 18,000 people from 80 countries.

"We have seen the practical benefit of sharing our knowledge," says Mr Abt. "For example, we did a lot of work in Africa during the past couple of decades, helping many African nations to develop their agriculture. Now, we've noticed a substantial increase in trade with these same countries. The Israeli experts who have served there have become very familiar with their needs, and thus our industry is better able to provide precisely what they require. So we have a competitive edge."

Because of the insight into the agriculture of developing countries gained by Israeli experts working abroad, Israel today exports more than $300 million in farm machinery, fertilizers, seeds, irrigation equipment and other agricultural exports each year. "And if we didn't teach people the proper techniques of irrigation," Mr Abt said, "we wouldn't be able to sell our irrigation equipment to them."

"There is also a political benefit. There is no better way to bring understanding between nations than by a dialogue between their farmers. There are instances in which Israel has no diplomatic relations with certain countries, but the relations are very good. And it's not just a sympathetic understanding. We are working on areas of food production and rural development, vital areas which can make or break a developing nation. Agricultural cooperation is good for us, and good for them too".

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Avraham Goldstein, a director at Israel's Centre for International Agricultural Development Cooperation, explains the construction of a beehive to a Liberian.

The collection has grown again. We have bought some books and others have been donated. So get out your catalogues and put them in the right place. (Have you a catalogue? Well worth having for $2.40 including postage. Ask the Librarian).

POLLEN IDENTIFICATION FOR BEEKEEPERS by Rex Sawyer, 1981, 111p., UK. plus a set of punched key index cards.

Mr Sawyer, a British authority on pollen in honey, has compiled this book and takes one into the fascinating world of pollen. Anyone seriously interested in the field of identifying pollen will find this book with its diagrams, b/w photos, and simplified terminology very valuable. The use of a microscope with this work is clearly described. The book is based on UK flora so it does not cover certain of our natives, but then we have many non-NZ plants.

THE BEEKEEPERS HANDBOOK by Diana Simmatora and Alphonso Avitabile, 1981, 131 p., US.

A book basically for beginners, very explicit and written by people with a real love for bees. One of the best. Those who have started with a few colonies or are intending to join the beekeeping fraternity will certainly benefit from reading it and derive a good deal of enjoyment while doing so. And they who think that they know it all could do worse than have a look at it.

TREES FOR THE NEW ZEALAND COUNTRYSIDE, A PLANTER'S GUIDE by John and Bunny Mortimer, 1984, 272 p., NZ.

What a magnificent book this is. Full of the most useful and practical information for the farmer, landscaper, forester, and anyone else who loves trees and beauty, including beekeepers. A short chapter on honey and pollen for bees and another on berries and seeds for birds. Full of colour photos. Also drawings on planting designs by Diana Lucas. Mr Mortimer is president of the Farm Forestry Association and he and his wife are to be congratulated on this top-notch work. It is a real contribution to New Zealand's future.

Donated by Trevor Bryant:

DEVELOPMENT OF CHALK BROOD IN A HONEY BEE COLONY, by L. A. F. Heath IBRA Reprint M 110, 1982, 17 p., UK.

Already on our list but a second copy is timely after last year's experience.

Donated by Jack Glynn the following books which we already have:

BEEKEEPING TECHNIQUES, A. S. C. Deans
HONEY GETTING, E. L. Sechrist
MONEY IN BEES, Tarlton Rayment
BEEKEEPING, E. F. Philips
BEES IN THEIR BONNETS, W. J. Lennon

And then one we did not have on the shelves:

HOW TO KEEP BEES FOR PROFIT by D. Everett Lyon, 1913, 327 p., US.

Written by a practical well-educated beekeeper of a few generations ago. Makes interesting reading. A chapter on wax rendering and refining using sulphuric acid is very informative.

Papers and Pamphlets:

THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF WEEDS TO THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR OF THE NZ ECONOMY by Monsanto NZ Ltd, 1983, 15p.

And something new to the Library and probably very welcome:

Film:

LURING BEES, 4.07 min., English language.

Video:

BROOD DISEASES OF HONEY BEES, 8 min.

Many thanks to Trevor and Jack for their donations.

John Heineman
Hon. Librarian.

WE THANK HIM FOR MUCH

Andrew Matheson gives us a glimpse of beekeeping history in his new book. And rightly so for the basis of our modern NZ beekeeping industry was laid about a century ago. The name that stands out as ISAAC HOPKINS.

In front of me is the **third** edition of THE ILLUSTRATED AUSTRALASIAN BEE MANUAL, published by the Author and printed in Auckland in MDCCCLXXXVI, which means if I am correct, 1886.

Reading through this old book one is impressed by the many sound ideas in hive management, queen raising, quality control, select breeding, etc, which Mr Hopkins puts forward. Much of what he advocated is used today, yet we take it all for granted.

Langstroth hive, comb foundation, Italian bees, disease control legislation, adoption of minimum standard for ripe honey (1-420 specific gravity), bee-research, and industry organisation. A fair list for anyone to be credited with.

I Quote from the forword of the sixth edition of this book:

"It is pleasing to note that the Cornell University of the New York State College of Agriculture is devoting a session in discussing 'the lives and work of men who have done much to make modern beekeeping', include Isaac Hopkins as one of the seven leaders whose beekeeping biographies have been published by the University. The other six are Francois Huber, L. L. Langstroth, Moses Quinby, Charles Dadant, Dr C. C. Miller, and A. I. Root".

Not bad to be counted amongst that lot!

He surely was a devoted Kiwi Beekeeper!

John Heineman.

Calendar of events for the Otago branch 1985

April 19—Trees for Bees Field Day
May 3—General Meeting
June 4—Otago/Southland Convention
July 5—General Meeting
September 6—General Meeting (Conference Report)
September 28—Field Day
December 6—End of Year Meeting.

John Foote
Secretary
Otago Branch

Classified Advertisements

Available only to registered beekeepers selling used hives, used plant, and other apiary equipment, and those seeking work in the industry; $5.00 a column cm. No discounts apply. No production charges. Maximum size: 1/6 page.

FOR SALE

BEEKEEPING BUSINESS

Located at Dargaville approx. 200km north of Auckland on the west coast. 1,000 hives and 300 nucs, seven-tonne Bedford truck, Toyota Land Cruiser flat-top, 4,000sq ft factory on ⅓ acre section. Extracting plant includes Penrose uncapper, 8 frame extractor spin dry, etc, 18 Kw steam boiler. Woodworking equipment includes radial chain saw, thicknesser. Spindle moulder, compresser, air guns and stand, etc. 1,500 cut comb boxes and cutting equipment for same. For further details contact Mike Gauthern, Phone Mamaranui 893.

For sale 700 hives bees plus equipment, land and buildings at Rotomanu, West Coast. Phone 504 Rotomanu.

80 beehives, $115 each: four storey, top condition. 200 boxes $17.50 each: nine good combs per box.
Denis Minton, phone Warkworth 7272 or 7157.

Bedford truck 1980, KDCL 3 model, 25,000km, complete with boom loader. Pollen plant, includes 200 traps, chest freezer, incubator drier, and cleaner. One Dadant blee blower (hardly used).
For further information write Dowland Apiaries, 1 RD, Alexandra or phone 7183.

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On site anywhere in Canterbury, Marlborough or, Otago. Any number considered. Please phone 7306 Rangiora.

REMINDER

The Association has for sale copies of "Story of Bees and Honey" at the ridiculous price of 20 cents each. "Nectar and Pollen Sources" by R. J. Walsh is also available at $2.50 per copy ($2.00 to members), AND don't forget the association has stocks of Andrew Matheson's "Practical Beekeeping in New Zealand". Be in.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

INTERNATIONAL BEE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Regularly publishing new information on bees, beekeeping and hive products, for beekeepers and scientists all over the world. IBRA Representative for New Zealand: T. G. Bryant, Apicultural Advisory Officer, Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, Private Bag, Tauranga. Catalogues of publications and details of journals and membership $0.55; specimen copy of journals: **Bee World** $1.10. **Journal of Apicultural Research** $1.10. **Apicultural Abstracts** $1.55. INTERNATIONAL BEE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION, Hill House, Gerrards Cross, Bucks, SL9 ONR, England.

GLEANINGS IN BEE CULTURE

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BOOKS

Bees and Honey

An excellent booklet, originally produced for schools and other educational purposes by the NZ Honey Marketing Authority.

Minimum order, 5 copies: $1. Additional copies 20c each.

Write:

Bees and Honey
P.O. Box 4048, Wellington

Nectar and Pollen Sources of New Zealand

A guide to bee forage plants. An updated version of a text first prepared by R. S. Walsh in 1967.

This 1978 edition lists source plants in chapters according to the seasons in which they bear nectar or pollen. Additional chapters are also included on the flight range of bees, the function of the flower and district planting notes (originally prepared by the NBA).

$2.50 a copy, from:

Nectar and Pollen Sources
P.O. Box 4048, Wellington

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

THE APIARIST

A New Zealand Beekeeping Journal. Published every two months. Contains informative and interesting articles on beekeeping in New Zealand and overseas.

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Write to: The Editor, "The Apiarist", P.O. Box 5056, Papanui, Christchurch.

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THE SCOTTISH BEEKEEPER

Magazine of the Scottish Beekeepers' Association, International in appeal, Scottish in character. Memberships terms from: D. B. N. Blair, 44 Dalhousie Road, Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire PA10 2AT, Scotland. Sample copy on request. Cost 30p or equivalent.

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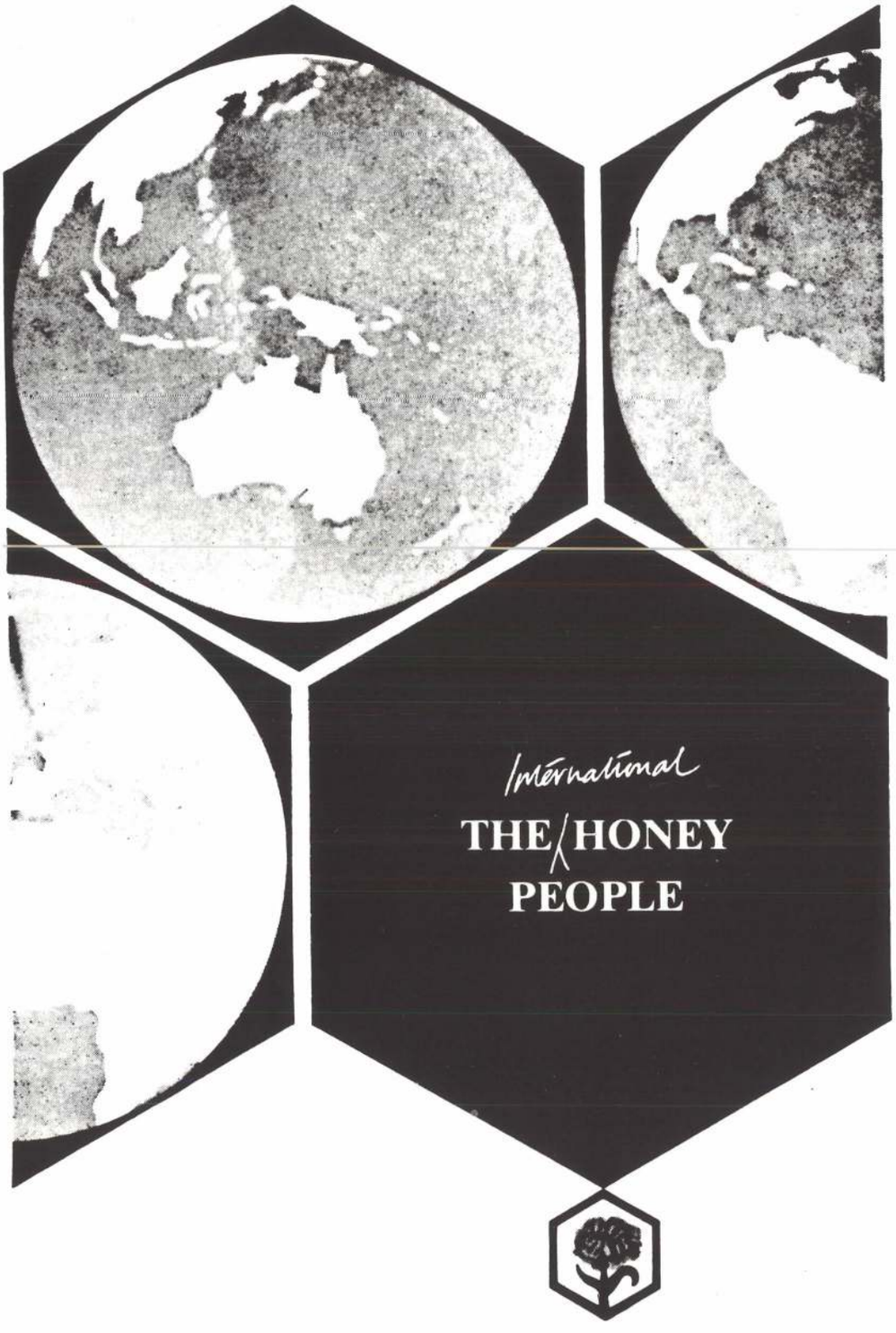

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