



TARANAKI BEEKEEPERS CLUB

April
2008

Newsletter

Well the drought has finally come to an end and the current rain will freshen up the pastures and woodlands, put some long awaited moisture into the soil and start a burst of Autumn growth before the onset of the cooler days and nights. With these cooler days and nights the bees will abandon the upper parts of the hive so it will be easier to take the honey off but more difficult to extract as it will be cooler and thicker and a little more will cling to the sides of the cells after extraction.

If you have more than one hive in the apiary don't put the 'wet' extracted super back onto the hive until near dusk as you may start a robbing session in that hive which is difficult to control. If you put the wets onto the same hive from which they were removed you will reduce the cross infection of any disease that may be on the frames' After two or three days the supers can be removed 'dry' but if there are too many bees still in the super you can leave it on the hive or stand it on its end behind the hive until dusk by which time the bees should have abandoned the comb for the centrally heated hive.

Inspect the dry combs and remove the old and damaged ones and store the remainder in a cool dry place where the mice can't attack them. Remember it takes about 7kg of honey to produce one kg of beeswax so take care of your combs.. It is a good idea to separate each super of comb in the stack by a sheet of newspaper, which will deter invaders from attacking the whole stack if they do gain entry.

Have you got your Varroa treatment underway – the sooner the better! Is it working?

Next meeting at the Plunket rooms next Monday, 21st April at 6.30pm. we will be talking about "Wintering down Beehives." How much honey you should leave on the hive for their Winter stores and if you need to do something about the handful of bees that appear at the hive entrance before the local hungry hedgehog scoffs the lot..

I have noticed that the Wasps are raiding hives now and it is very hard to stop this practice when once started. If you see wasps entering the hives – close down the entrance to a width of two to three centimeters to give the guard bees a better chance of preventing entry and see if you can detect the wasp nest in the vicinity. It is hard to see where they are coming from and going to but in the evenings the light glistens more on their wings and makes it a little easier.

Bring your best friend and problems with you on Monday.