



FEBRUARY 2009

# Taranaki Beekeeping Club



## What's happening in Taranaki

### Greetings

Wow! What a summer we are having! Auckland with record temperatures and the Dairy farmers with lots of silage and hay in the barn. We beekeepers have had a good spell too, with showers keeping the soil moist enough to keep the nectaries of the flowers working most of the time. Most hives will have a good quantity of capped honey on board. If you are a hobbyist and don't have another super to put on the hive and the top super is filling rapidly, then phone up to book the Club extractor, extract the capped frames and you could return them the same day (in the evening of course) to the hive before the bees realised that they were missing.

When you are taking off honey, it will upset the bees of course, so do it when most of them are not there. - about early afternoon would be ideal, when most will be in the field gathering nectar and the neighbours are having their afternoon siesta. Don't try to do it without smoke and a good bee suit. Be as quick as you can to prevent robbing from other hives or from wasps that are always looking for a free meal. Don't leave comb honey uncovered for any length of time for the same reason so put each super in the car as it is freed of bees.

Honey extracts most readily when it is fresh and warm so get it extracted as soon as you can after removal. It will filter most easily when running from the extractor and there will only be a bit of scum (small air bubbles) on the container the following day which can easily be skimmed off for appearances sake.

If you are going to keep it as is, you will have to store it in a vessel with a tight fitting lid to exclude the air and moisture. If you want it like the Supermarket honey (creamed style), then you will have to add about 10% of a fine grained honey to your extracted honey when it is cool. If you can keep it in single degree figures it will crystallise rapidly but put it in its final container after you have mixed in the starter as there are many beekeepers who annually have problems with honey crystallising in the wrong places - like in transit pipes and honey pumps. Sometimes it sets rock hard if it is subjected to low temperatures and I have bent and broken many metal objects trying to chip solid honey from bulk containers.

I mentioned wasps earlier. As a consequence of the dry summer last year followed by a mild winter there are lots around at the moment and they have destroyed a few of my hives. They have stolen all the stores and they started on the eggs, larvae and pupae. There is not a great deal you can do to stop them when they are attacking the hive except close down the entrance to about an inch and hope the guard bees can frighten them off. Prevention is the best course of action and we will be discussing this at the next meeting on Monday 16th. February in the Plunket Rooms (opposite the Warehouse) at 6.30pm. as well as solving all your problems! Adrian.

### Next club meeting

**16th FEBRUARY 2009**

**In the PLUNKET ROOMS**

**6.30pm**

Next to New World Supermarket

**Third Monday of every month**

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL  
Bylaw 2008 Part 2: Animals

The purpose of this part of the bylaw is to control the keeping of animals (including pigs, poultry, bees, livestock and cats) within the district to ensure they do not create a nuisance or endanger health; and regulate the slaughtering of animals within view of people nearby as many people can find this offensive.

### **11. Beekeeping**

11.1 No person shall keep or continue to keep bees if, in the opinion of an authorised officer, the keeping of such bees is, or is likely to become dangerous, injurious to health or a nuisance to any person.

11.2 The council may by resolution prescribe conditions relating to the location and number of hives able to be kept on any premises or place in an urban area.

11.3 In prescribing any conditions under clause 11.2 the council must consider:

- a) The nature and extent of the perceived problem to be addressed;
- b) Whether the problem can be addressed by other means;
- c) Any advice received from the National Bee Keepers Association;
- d) Any advice received from the Taranaki Regional Council; and
- e) Any advice received from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

## A Review of Treatment Options For Control of Varroa Mite in New Zealand

Table 2 Information summary – varroa control products

Trade Names	Active Ingredient	Control Efficacy	Treatment Period	Adverse Effects	Residue Problems	MRL's (ppm)		LD50 (oral) mg/kg	Operator Safety	Resistance	Cost	
						Honey	Wax				Materials	Visits
Apiguard; generic	Thymol	54-98%	2x2 weeks	Few, if any	Honey taste	0.8	None	980	Skin irritant	None	\$8.11	3; 2-4
ApilifeVAR	Thymol Eucalyptol, Menthol, camphor	70-90%	2x3-4 weeks	Over-wintering problems	Honey taste	0.8	None	980 2480 3300 2000	None	None	\$6.43	3
Apistan	Fluvalinate	95-99%	42 days	Drones, queens	Honey, wax, propolis	0.01-0.05	6	261-281	Low risk, toxic to fish	Common	\$7.20	2
Apitol	Cymiazole	83-98%	2x1 week	Brood food glands	None	0.01-1	None	725	Low risk	None	\$7.02	2
Apivar	Amitrax	90-99%	6 weeks	Larvae and adult mortality	None	0.01-1	None	523-800	Low risk	Cross-resistance	\$8.10-14.95	2
Bayvarol	Flumethrin	95-99%	6 weeks	None	Propolis	0.005-0.01	None	258	Low risk	Cross-resistance	\$7.00	2
Checkmite+; Perizin	Coumaphos	85-99%	6 weeks; 2x1 week	Some bee death	Honey, wax	0.01-0.05	100	13-41	Low risk	Reported	\$7.60; \$7.91	2; 2
Folbex	Bromopropylate	55-90%	4x4 days	None	Honey, wax	0.01-1	None	2784-3880	Skin rashes	In lab	\$1.43 (Asia)	4
Generic; various	Formic acid	61-98%	Various	Drones, brood, adults	Honey taste	150-160	None	1100	Corrosive; combustible	None	\$0.16-14.54	2-6
Generic	Lactic acid	41-99%	2-4/year	Possible egg loss	Honey taste	800-1600	None	3750	Skin irritation	None	\$0.15	2-4
Generic	Oxalic acid	82-99%	At autumn	Reduced brood in spring	Honey taste	400-900	None	375	Corrosive	None	\$0.02-0.15	1-2

### Club Contacts

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