



TAR ANAKI BEEKEEPERS CLUB

**January
2008**

Newsletter

New Years Greetings to all! Here is the special January version of our Newsletter. Special because there usually is no Newsletter in January!

I have spoken to Lester and we are planning a Club Hive Inspection on the Sunday before we usually meet on the third Monday of each month. That means that if you assemble at 1.30pm. at the Club Hives at 150 Egmont Road on Sunday the 20th of Jan. you will be able to see what state they are in and how much honey they have collected.

The last time I inspected the smallest hive It was queenless and there were no larvae there so I transferred some eggs from the adjacent hive and left them to sort themselves out. It will be interesting to see if they now have a queen: whether she is laying, still a virgin or has decided that the accommodation was not to her liking and has sought better pastures. The hive of course may have decided to go on strike and have not produced and queen cell at all. All will be revealed on Sunday.

Some of you were unsure about when to take off honey and how to deal with it when you have taken it away from the hive so we will hopefully have the Club extractor on hand and will have a quick demonstration of what to do and what not to do.

In general the area has been very good at producing nectar flows recently with the soil moisture levels ideal and hot sunny days. The biggest hassle is trying to stay cool and focused when you are hot and sweltering in far too much clothing. For those in the country there is a good flow from the clover at the moment and be warned that the bees can fill a super very rapidly as a consequence. The biggest problem is getting the moisture out of it so that it is ripe enough to cap.

Wasps do not seem to be a problem at the moment but they usually attack later in the season so be watching as you may need to reduce the entrance width to assist the guards to repel the invaders.

So, with everyone wishing you a happy new year recently – it seems to have worked!! At least as far as the bees are concerned.

I am working on a visit to a queen breeder for next month as a field day so stay in touch and hopefully we will see you on Sunday, 1.30pm. at 150 Egmont Road, with your protective gear. (It will be cancelled if it is very wet.)