



JUNE 2011

Taranaki Beekeeping Club



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19th JUNE 2011

At # 619 Frankley Road

2.00pm

Annual General Meeting

Greetings to you all. Yes its that time of the year again when all Club members can heave a sigh of relief and get rid of the Club Executive and elect some people who can run the Club as it should be run!

It is time for the AGM! It always comes round as a surprise to me but time travels at an astonishing pace when you get older.

The Secretary has decided to give up beekeeping for a while and will be returning to Scotland, which will be news to you all, I'm sure! This means that we will have a change from our usual venue so it will be held at my honey house instead. Needless to say it is not as mechanised as the Black's Honey house but it works!

We have had a lot of rain recently and will probably have a lot more to come so check your hives to ensure that they are dry inside. In general, bees can tolerate cold conditions but they are not very good at handling dampness in the hive. Make sure that the floorboards are sloping slightly to the entrance rather than level. This allows any water or rain to run out of the hive rather than accumulate at the back forming a nasty smelly mess with all the dirty droppings of the last few months.

Don't open your hives unless you have to in the early winter as the bees have sealed themselves into their winter quarters eliminating many cracks with propolis. Removing supers and frames disturbs their security so if you have left them a good quantity of winter stores – at least a box full of sealed honey - they will be all right for the next few weeks.

Keep an eye on the hive to make sure that the lid has not been blown or knocked off and that it is still upright and not fallen over or been knocked over. The colony will survive in exposed conditions for only a few days, so the sooner you put things right, the stronger they will remain.

Make sure the entrance has been reduced to about an inch wide, to deter mice, wasps and other predators from entering the bee's cosy well provided supermarket.

Practise your 'hefting' technique by putting one hand under the back of the hive and judging the weight inside the hive by lifting it off the ground slightly. This will give you a rough idea how much honey is present in the hive without disturbing the bees too much. You don't even have to get dressed up to do so!

So, please come to the AGM at 619, Frankley Road on Sunday the 19th June at 2pm. to make sure the Club continues to adequately service your needs. Adrian.

Bring a sample of your honey to the meeting for the competition. There will be just two classes in the competition: Liquid Honey and Crystallized Honey. Remember that Honey looks better in glass jars!