



NOVEMBER 2010

Taranaki Beekeeping Club



WHAT'S ON IN TARANAKI

Greetings,

This time next month will be Christmas week! How time flies! At least the weather has been warm during the day and we have had some sunny calm days that have kept the hive busy collecting nectar. Many of you will by now, I expect, have nearly a full box of honey. Now is the time to get those new foundation frames drawn into comb. The bees will do a good job and it will be even and all 'worker' drawn to the edges. It is always a pleasure at this time of the year to open the hive and see the white new comb glistening proud of the top bars.

Don't stop checking your hives for swarm cells as the urge is still with them. There have been many big swarms collected over the last few weeks and one of mine has already produced a box of honey! The rain we have had over the last two days and more to come next week, will continue the nectar flow as the pasture plants come into season. If you have Bush in the vicinity, then the Kamahi and Rewa Rewa are starting to flower now so there should be a good nectar flow due to the moist soil beneath.

I hear the Kiwifruit orchardists are worried that the bees in the orchards for pollination may spread the newly discovered PSA disease, which is a bit of a worry. They were not very happy about the bees in the orchards last year and some beekeepers are reluctant to supply bees for pollination as the bees do not like travelling very much and going on holiday disturbs their routine and they take some time to settle down. Just when they have settled down, they are pulled out of the orchards and put to work elsewhere, usually in clover country or into the hills for the Manuka flow.

Earlier in the week, I was called into the Okato Police Station as someone had dumped a lot of Bee Gear in the Blue Rata Reserve. On inspection, I found several complete hives and contents with brood and honey tipped over the side of a bank. Inspection of the brood confirmed that AFB was present and the beekeeper had solved his problem by potentially spreading it to all the beekeepers around Okato! If you have hives in that area be especially vigilant when opening your hives. Look at each frame of brood in the hive and be as quick as possible to minimise robbing. This is a terrible tragedy we could well have done without. If the person is caught he should face at least two criminal charges: Dumping hazardous and infectious waste in a reserve and failing to dispose of diseased material in the proper manner.

Next meeting on Mon 15th Nov at 6.30 at the Plunket Rooms opposite the warehouse, we will be talking about the nectar flows to come, when to remove your Varroa treatment strips, when to 'super up', how to maximise your honey harvest, how to go through your hive with the minimum annoyance to the bees and your neighbours and set a date for the Field day at the Club Hives. See you there!

Next club meeting

15th November 2010

In the PLUNKET ROOMS

6.30pm

Next to New World Supermarket

Third Monday of every month

BEE CLUB MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE YOU OVERDUE!!!

**There appear to be not too many
paid up members of the club.**



**A friendly reminder
email will be sent
to those who have
not renewed their
membership.**

Feeding to Stimulate Colony Growth

To stimulate a colony to grow more bees, it is best to feed continuously over several weeks. The feed does not need to be consumed very quickly. The syrup can be a 2:1 ratio of water to dry sugar.

The ratio of water to dry sugar does not need to be exact. However, syrup ferments faster when it contains a lot of water, and when the weather is hot.

Granulated Sugar

Granulated sugar is another good way to feed bees without overly-stimulating brood-rearing. Bees will eat the granulated

sugar only if they don't have enough honey. Sugar crystals can be poured on an inner cover or onto a thin board between supers above the bees. If granulated sugar is poured inside the hive, sometimes the bees will carry it out of the hive and throw it away.