

## **Dealing with aggressive bees.**

- Try a sugar water misting spray instead of smoking the hive. Misted bees are busy cleaning and grooming instead of harassing you. Try this first on a normal hive and you might decide to get rid of your smoker.
- Remember bees can be aggressive if they have lost their queen or during certain weather conditions.
- If they are aggressive on every inspection then it is best to re-queen.

## **Finding the Queen in a Repeatedly Aggressive Colony.**

### **Action Summary:**

- You will need 1 or 2 cover cloths depending on the number of brood boxes.
- Take off any supers & move to one side, leaving the crown board in position.
- If you operate with 2 brood boxes, smoke from the top to drive the queen into the bottom box.
- Separate the two brood boxes, putting covers over each box.
- Take the bottom brood box some way away, to allow the flying bees to return to the existing site.
- Reassemble the hive in the existing position with the just the top brood box + supers.
- Allowing about an hour should be enough time for the old queen to be left with just the nurse bees. Most of these bees will not be mature enough to be able to sting and will allow you to find the old queen in comfort. She can then be disposed of.
- After 3 days check for queen cells and destroy them as these will be progeny of this queen.
- Then select a frame with day old eggs from the selected breeder colony and place it in the middle of brood box on the existing site for the workers to draw out some new emergency queen cells.
- Just having a new queen can calm a hive down because it refocuses the hive on survival rather than defence.
- The brood + nurse bees should then be returned to the old site.

*John Farrow July 2012*