



## **ROBBING THE HIVE**

**The following should be considered before robbing the hive:**

### **1. Time of Year**

- ❑ Are there sufficient plants flowering to maintain honey flow
- ❑ Is rain or winter approaching

### **2. Number capped frames**

- ❑ Rob a maximum of half the capped frames in the hive
- ❑ Do not take frames that have not been at least 90% capped. Uncapped honey is considered “Green” and will ferment once extracted, due to the high water content present.
- ❑ Remember to consider point 1 before taking any honey

**To remove fully capped frames from the hive:**

1. Open hive lid (using smoke and your hive tool)
2. Remove a frame
3. Brush the bees off the frame either onto the top of the frames or at the hive entrance
4. Place the removed frame into another box and keep covered so the bees won't return to it
5. For each frame taken, a replacement frame must be added
  - a. I choose to replace with foundation frames only
  - b. You may choose to use stickies for replacement
6. Push remaining frames into the centre of the box and add replacement frames on the outer sides (This is my method, others will replace to the position of the robbed frame)
7. Replace beetle trap and corflute/inner lid (if necessary)
8. Replace lid
9. Strap the hive

You will probably notice a lot more activity at the hive entrance after you have robbed. The bees will settle down again after an hour or two.