



AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL

Address: Suite 204, Level 2, 105 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000 Telephone: 02 9221 0911
Mailing Address: PO Box R838, Royal Exchange NSW 1225 Facsimile: 02 9221 0922
Email Address: ahbic@honeybee.org.au Website: www.honeybee.org.au
ABN 63 939 614 424

AUSTRALIAN HONEY INDUSTRY MONTHLY REVIEW

To: The Australian Honey Industry
From: Stephen Ware – Executive Director
Re: February 2010 Update

Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association
Australian Honey Products
Bees Neez Apiaries
Capilano Honey Limited
Dewar Apiaries
Gell's Honey
Honey Packers & Marketers Association
Hoskinson, H L & H M
Mills, I N & J E
Papworth, F & E
Pollination Association of WA
Pobke, B

Saxonbee Enterprises
Spring Gully Foods Pty Ltd
Stephens, R
Tasmanian Crop Pollination Association
Tasmanian Honey Company
Walkabout Apiaries
Weatherhead, T & M
True Blue Honey
Weerona Apiaries
Wescobee Limited
Wilson, C

AHBIC acknowledges the **beekeeper suppliers** who contribute via their packer/queen bee supplier to AHBIC. We urge beekeepers to support those packers/queen bee breeders who contribute to AHBIC.

**DOES YOUR HONEY BUYER'S OR QUEEN BEE SUPPLIER'S NAME APPEAR ON THIS LIST?
IF NOT, THEN ASK 'WHY NOT?'**

SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT YOUR INDUSTRY!

All rights reserved. This publication is copyright and may not be resold or reproduced in any manner (except excerpts for bona fide study purposes in accordance with the Copyright Act) without the prior consent of the Publisher. Every effort has been made to ensure that this newsletter is free from error or omissions. However, the Publisher, or its respective employees or agents, shall not accept responsibility for injuries, loss or damage occasioned to any person acting or referring from action as a result of the material in this newsletter whether or not such injury, loss or damage is in any way due to any negligent act or omission, breach of duty or default on the part of the Publisher, or its respective employees or agents.

2010 STATE AND SECTOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

FCAAA	New South Wales Apiarists' Association	20 - 21 May	Port Macquarie
	Victorian Apiarists' Association	2 - 3 June	Mildura
	Tasmanian Beekeepers Association	4 - 5 June	Launceston
	South Australian Apiarists' Association	10 - 11 June	Adelaide
	WA Farmers Federation- Beekeeping Section	11 June	Perth
	Queensland Beekeepers Association	17 - 18 June	Ipswich

Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association	19 May	Port Macquarie
Honey Packers and Marketers Association	26 May	Sydney
National Council of Crop Pollination Associations	17 June	Ipswich
Federal Council of Australian Apiarists' Associations	17 June	Ipswich
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	18 - 19 June	Ipswich

REPORT ON ACTIVITY IN QUEENSLAND

Earlier this month a beekeeper reported what he thought was *Braula coeca* tracks in some frames containing sealed honey. This beekeeper had told Biosecurity Queensland that he had seen Braula in South Africa so knew what he was looking at. Biosecurity Queensland carried out some inspections and also informed the Queensland Beekeepers Association, through me, of the possible occurrence of Braula.

Subsequent inspections have not found any Braula either in adult or larval form. There have been larvae found which have been identified as wax moth. Samples have been taken and incubated to see if any adults would hatch but none have been found to date.

So at this point in time, it is suspected that what is being seen is the early stage of wax moth larvae but as the larvae get bigger the bees find them and remove them.

Dr. Denis Anderson of CSIRO has been contacted and he has expressed the opinion that what we are looking at is most likely wax moth.

It has been agreed to keep up low level surveillance and ask beekeepers in the "affected area" to keep a lookout and submit samples if they see something that they think shows tracks in the sealed honey.

This report has been submitted to AHBIC for distribution to other member bodies so that they are aware of what is happening and will know the real situation if rumours start. If anyone has any questions, I am only too happy to answer them.

Trevor Weatherhead

President

Queensland Beekeepers' Association

27 January 2010

APIS CERANA UPDATE

Advice 63 - 5 February 2010

Last Monday 1 February, a swarm was reported from Westcourt, a suburb of Cairns. It turned out to be cerana and was destroyed. An estimate of the number of bees in the swarm is under 1,000. This was IP61.

Later that day, a nest of cerana was found at Goldsborough Valley by beelining. It was destroyed. This was nest under a branch in the open and contained maybe 400 to 500 bees of which 25 to 30 percent were drones. The comb had only sealed drone comb. It was estimated to be 3 to 4 months old. This is IP62.

On Wednesday a suspect nest was found at the Goldsborough Valley and was destroyed. It was in the chassis of an old truck so the nest could not be extracted for examination. This was IP63.

Staff are still beelining at Yarrabah looking for the nest of some foraging bees.

As a result of the swarm at Westcourt, surveillance at Manunda, the next door suburb, has resulted in finding foraging cerana. These are to be beelined.

There is still good public support with calls numbering between 17 and 20 each week.

The Community Engagement Officer continues to talk with various groups in the area so this means that there are more people out there aware of the presence of cerana and they are looking for them in their normal duties.

The QBA is paying for some genotyping work which is being carried out by the University of Sydney on the swarm found on the container at the port of Cairns and the Lake Eacham swarm. This is to find out if we are still dealing with the same swarms from the original incursion or a new incursion. My gut feeling is that it is still the same but gut feelings do not make for good science. We are grateful to the University of Sydney for carrying out this work. Results will be available shortly.

There is a meeting of the CCAHB this coming Wednesday 10 February.

Advice 64 – 21 February, 2010

There has been several finds of cerana since Advice 63. On 6 February there was the report of a swarm at Gordonvale. This was identified as cerana and became IP64.

On 8 February a nest of cerana was found at Manunda, a suburb of Cairns. This resulted from the find of foraging bees the previous week. This became IP65.

On 11 February a suspect nest reported at the Goldsborough Valley was identified as cerana and is IP66.

On 15 February at Westcourt, a suburb of Cairns next to Manunda, a suspect nest was found and it was later confirmed as cerana and became IP67.

On 17 February a swarm found at Edmonton turned out to be cerana and was IP68. All nests and swarms have been destroyed and the bees are to be examined.

Whilst some may think that the increase in detections is not good, I believe it is good and is as a result of the Department doubling the number of teams in the field doing surveillance as well as the public still playing an important role in reporting suspect bees.

There are still foraging bee being tracked at Yarrabah and Gordonvale.

Surveillance at Mareeba has not turned up any more cerana in that area which is good news.

The CCAHB phone hook-up on the cost sharing proposal took place on Wednesday 10 February. From this meeting, a recommendation is going forward to a meeting of the CEO's of the various State and Federal Departments in early March. If it gets a favourable response there it will go the Primary Industries Ministerial Council (PIMC) in early April for a final decision.

Currently there is a cost benefit analysis being carried out by the Queensland Department with assistance in input from various other sources. One of these is Terry Ryan, who beekeepers will remember as the Chairman of the Organising Committee for Apimondia in 2007. Terry is an Economist and is being funded by HBRDC to prepare some costings which will be forwarded to the Queensland Department.

I have just received, late yesterday, the results from the genotyping of the cerana samples sent down. Samples from IP56 and IP57 were from a swarm found at the port of Cairns and the find at Lake Eacham. I will communicate the findings in the next Advice.

The weather in Cairns is hot and humid with some rain and storms overnight. It has been reported that some prolonged wet weather is good for surveillance as the wet weather keeps the cerana in the nests and then on the first fine day they have a need for pollen and nectar so can often be found out foraging if they are in an area.

Trevor Weatherhead

VALE – RALPH HOOD

It is with much sadness that I have to inform you that Ralph Hood passed away 12 February 2010.

Since he was diagnosed with a particularly-aggressive form of cancer in 2007, Ralph showed the quiet courage, fighting spirit and stoicism that we greatly admired and respected.

As CEO of Animal Health Australia, Ralph made an invaluable contribution to Australia's livestock industries. In this position his thoughtful, constructive leadership and unobtrusive advocacy left a lasting legacy for this organisation. Before that, Ralph had a long and distinguished career with MLA, including several overseas postings where he again was able to work so effectively for our beef and sheep industries.

In his capacity as CEO of Animal Health Australia he also had considerable dealings with the Apiary Industry and was of great assistance in developing policies specific to our industry.

I know you will join with me in expressing to Trish and their family our deep sadness and condolences.

NEW ZEALAND CONTINUES BAN ON AUSTRALIAN HONEY

Radio New Zealand 8/2/10

The National Beekeepers Association (NBA) has come up with another argument for keeping Australian honey out of New Zealand: the practice of honey laundering.

The Ministry of Agriculture has extended a suspension on honey imports from Australia by up to two years while it continues a review of potential pest and disease risks, after a Government-appointed panel questioned aspects of an earlier decision to allow the imports.

The NBA wants the ban to remain indefinitely because of another threat it perceives from Australian honey. The association's joint chief executive, Gemma Collier, says there have been cases where Australian honey has been mixed with other honey and sold as Australian product. She says if any of that got in to New Zealand, it would threaten this country's exports, especially the growing trade to the United States. She says there is also a risk pure New Zealand honey would be blended with Australian honey and exported as a New Zealand product.

Ms Collier says New Zealand exported about \$4 million worth of honey to the US last year, almost double the previous year's trade.

DAVE ALDEN

Dave Alden has replaced David Dall at RIRDC

In January, Dave Alden was appointed Senior Research Manager at the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC). Dave is responsible for the Honeybee Program and Pollination (as well as Horses and Organic Systems).



“I’m very excited about working on these programs. In the Honeybee Program, we are working with industry and researchers to progress many worthwhile projects. Some of these include control of small hive beetle and *Nosema ceranae*, adding value to honey and pollen substitutes.

“THE Pollination Program is a joint venture between RIRDC and Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL). This aims to maintain pollination services for our horticultural and agricultural industries, as well as working to minimise the impact of pests and diseases on both the pollination and honeybee industries. The program will soon release a report: “Pollination Aware: Raising the profile of an undervalued service”. Dave said.

Dave worked previously at the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, managing fisheries research. He is a keen backyard beekeeper, and has two hives at his Canberra home, which provides enough honey for the family.

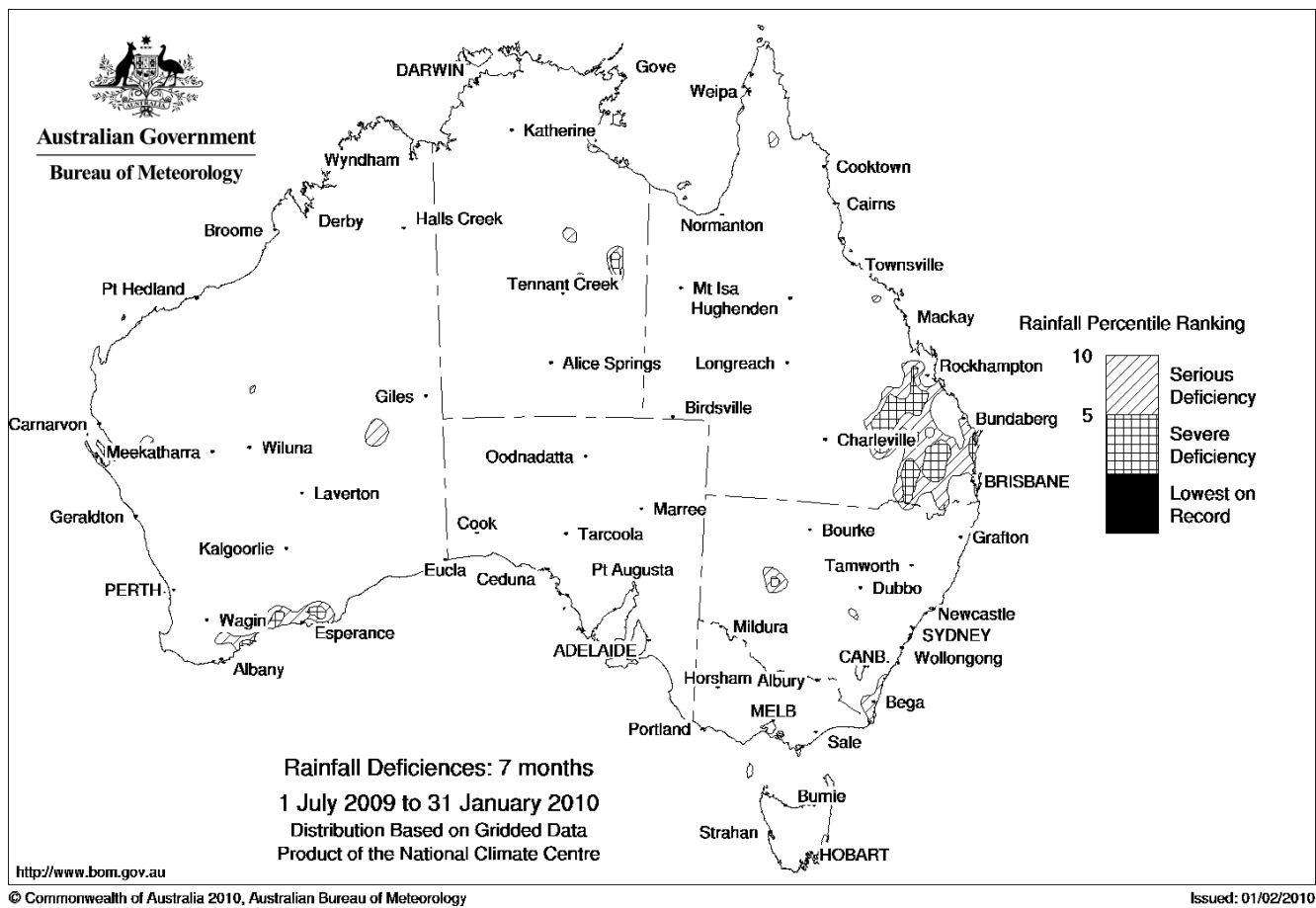
RESIGNATION OF DR PETER O'BRIEN

RIRDC's Managing Director, Dr Peter O'Brien, has advised the Board that he will be leaving the corporation from 3 May 2010.

Peter has made a significant contribution to the organisation over the last five years and his decision to leave is one that the Board accepts with regret. I know that RIRDC's staff and the many stakeholders he has worked closely with over the past five years, will join me in wishing Peter all the very best in his future endeavours.

The Board will commence action to recruit a new Managing Director shortly and I will keep you informed of progress.

RAINFALL ACROSS MUCH OF AUSTRALIA HAS EASED DROUGHT CONDITION



Widespread wet season rainfall during January across most of Queensland and the NT has removed rainfall deficits in central Australia and north-eastern Queensland. In contrast, a drier than normal January for the far south-east of Queensland and south-west WA has intensified existing rainfall deficits in these regions. Longer term deficits remain over the far south-east of the continent, along the south coast of NSW and the south-east coast of Victoria.

APIMONDIA - UKRAINE 2013

On behalf of thousands of Ukrainian beekeepers I'd like to express my sincere gratitude for your support.

When bidding to host the 2013 Apimondia Congress, Ukraine set very ambitious goals which reach much farther than simply winning the right to host this greatest international beekeeping forum:

- We want the voice of the world beekeeping community to be heard in the highest offices of the United Nations and the world's other leading organisations. For that purpose, we will organize a scientific conference *Beyond the Hive: Beekeeping and Global Challenges* where we will discuss the problems which challenge not only our industry but mankind in general.
- Our Congress may become the biggest in the history of Apimondia. Thanks to Kiev's economic affordability and strategic location in the heart of Eastern European beekeeping region we expect to receive 12 thousand participants at the very least
- We harmonize the World Honey Show standards. For the first time an elected international jury will work in Kiev. We are currently holding consultations concerning development of standards which will satisfy participants from different countries of the world.
- We propose a new scientific subsection: *Social and Cultural Aspects of Beekeeping* which for the first time will let chairmen of beekeepers' associations voice their opinion and exchange experience during the Apimondia scientific conference.
- We will further develop the Apimondia Open Public concept first proposed at the Montpellier Congress, and will make the place of the Congress the most desirable destination for Kievites and visitors to Ukraine's capital.
- For the first time in the history of Apimondia the President of the Congress will be head of state: Victor Yushchenko is perhaps the most famous beekeeper in the world.
- Finally, we will let the whole world discover our European Honeyland. An extensive program of technical, social, pre and post Congress tours will help our guests learn about the entire diversity of Ukrainian beekeeping and about unique natural beauty, diverse history and culture of our land.

Thank you for believing in us!

We promise to justify your expectations. The 43rd Apimondia Congress will become a bright page in the history of world beekeeping and will leave fond memories in all participants. Believe us, it will be a special Congress! More news to come soon.

See you at the Apimondia 2011 in Buenos Aires!

Sincerely yours

Tetyana Vasylykivska

President, XXXXIII Apimondia International Apicultural Congress Organizing Committee
Chairperson, Brother of Ukrainian Beekeepers NGO

B-QUAL

Industry Owned Quality Assurance



- Train at home
- Audit every two years
- Group accreditation
- Practical quality assurance designed by beekeepers for beekeepers
- Industry trained auditors
- Free assistance hotline
- Farmbis approved
- International recognition
- Packer premiums
- Conditions apply

For all enquiries call **1800 630 890**

or go to www.bqual.com.au