



Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Stephen Ware – Executive Director

OCTOBER 2012

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 QUEENBEE SUPPLIER'S NAME APPEAR ON THIS LIST? IF NOT, THEN ASK 'WHY NOT?' AHBIC WORKS FOR YOU!

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2012-2013 GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

ABS Honey	Edmonds, John	Lockley, Beverley	Siacci, Colin
Ashby, KP & MA	Ewington, P & M	McAlister, Ross	Smith, RD & WW
Ashelfor Pure Aussie Honey	Federal Council of Aust Apiarists	McDonald, M A	Spencer Family
Auckett, John	Fountain, Peter	McDonald, RG	Sutherland, Karen
Barson, Jillian	Geelong Honey Pty Ltd	McGlew, GC	Tasmanian Beekeepers Association
Baumholzer, RK	Gillies, Hugh	Merrett, Anthony J	Thompson, G
Beechworth Honey P/L	Grosso, Joe	Milne, HL & PA	Triantafillopoulos, Stavros
Billington, Steven	Hartje, MM	Nairn, Mal	Trigg, Margaret
Blake, Barry	Hobday, David	Niacol Pty Ltd	Vaile, Graham
Bole, Peter	Hoskinson, H L & H M	Norcic, John	Van derWoode, Lowie
Brennan, John	Ipswich/West	Ophion Pty Ltd	Van Essen, K
Brooks, Graham	Moreton Beekeepers Association	Pluschke, Doug	Watson, James
Buntine, Robert	Kee, Michael	Pobke, Barry	Weatherhead, T & M
Buzzies Bee Juice	Kelly, AV	Proebstl, Investments	Wescobee Limited
Capilano Honey Ltd	Kennett, JL & KA	Ringin, Bill	Williams JW & MA
Cotton, A J &	Kininmonth, Ian	Roberts, Glenn	Wisken, Ian
D'Amico, John	Lagoutatzis, Nikolaos	Roberts, I J & J H	Zadow Apiaries
Den Hollander, JE	Langan, Marg	Rose, Doug	Zuchowski, Janusz
Dewar Apiaries		Saxonbee Enterprises-	
Droutsas, Bill		Rod Pavy	
		Schard, Peter	

The above list recognises contributions received since 1 May 2012

Thank you to all our beekeeper contributors some of whom have asked to remain anonymous. AHBIC appreciates your ongoing support.

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.

The following provides a brief outline of AHBIC activities over the past month and matters of interest to industry, naturally if you should seek any further clarification please do not hesitate to contact the AHBIC office.

UPDATE AHBIC ACTIVITIES

The following is a brief summary of outcomes and initiatives taken in the last month. The AHBIC Executive met Monday 17 September 2012. A Summary of the outcomes is below:

Anti Microbial Honey: Discussions took place with Mr John Rawcliffe in respect of issues relating to Anti Microbial Honey and the background of where the New Zealand Industry had got to in terms of its development. Mr John Rawcliffe also indicated that he would be sending through a proposal to the Executive Director which would be considered by the AHBIC Executive at its next meeting.

Honey Bee Imports: The Board noted the paper that had been prepared by Michael Clarke in relation to a risk assessment of what Australia should do in relation to gaining further market access arrangements. It was noted that he had also done a risk assessment and an estimated cost of undertaking this work. It was agreed that this matter would lie on the table until the next meeting.

Green Food Paper Plan: The meeting noted the draft Green Food Paper Plan had been released by the Government for comment. It was agreed that AHBIC would respond to the plan in a submission to DAFF. This has subsequently been done.

Honey Week: It was noted in the Business Plan that the Industry should look at a Honey Week and considerable discussion occurred as to how this can occur. It was noted that it was not purely possible for the Industry to mount a four week campaign of events and this would more likely be in the form of a press release. Discussion occurred as to whether it should be a state based thing or led from the National Office. It was felt that however, that some direction should be given by AHBIC and communication should be made with the State Branches to see whether or not they were interested in participation and if so how? It was also agreed that rather than Honey Week the day should be National Honeybee Day and it was also felt to give guidance to the State Associations that the day be chosen as Sunday 12th May 2013. Subsequently it was noted that 12 May 2013 was Mother's Day and the date has been changed to Sunday 5th May 2013. Details have now been sent to AHBIC Delegates and State Delegates requesting input.

Transition to Management: It was noted that correspondence had been sent by the Queensland Beekeepers to the Queensland Minister requesting that a review of the decision not to eradicate Asian Honeybees. It was further noted that in June next year there would be no further actions by the Federal Government and the question should be raised of what we should be asking the Government to do. Discussion also occurred in relation to the literature review that had been done and it was noted that this was below standard. Following further discussion it was resolved that:-

“AHBIC's representatives in the Transition to Management program work to ensure that the literature survey that had been undertaken not be published as it was not of satisfactory high standard, secondly, the issue of what could happen next would also be on the agenda for the next meeting.”

Finally it was agreed that the next AHBIC Executive Committee will be held in Brisbane on Monday 26 November 2012.

APIS CERANA UPDATE

Advice 115

In my last Advice, 114, I reported on Asian bees being found at Port Douglas. I have been advised that cerana have now been found south east of Mossman on 17 October, 2012, IP 785. This is about 6.5km further away from the previous finds at Port Douglas.

There was also a find at Arriga, west of Walkamin IP784. This is about 9 km west of the previous known area of infestation.

A literature review was commissioned for *Apis cerana* Java genotype which was put out for comment. Within the SAG group meeting I raised objections to the review in that it went well beyond the scope that was asked for. However others did not agree with me. See the minutes at <http://asianhoneybee.net.au/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/AHB-SAG-Meeting-7-Minutes-.pdf>

You will also see reference to the remote nest treatment. I am informed that SAG has been asked to meet to consider the future of this program.

So all in all there is no joy for industry in any of these areas. The experiments that have been commissioned are progressing but so far no progress reports.

If anyone wants any other information, feel free to contact me at any time.

Trevor Weatherhead

17 October, 2012

SIGNIFICANT DETECTIONS OF AHB OUTSIDE THE KNOWN INFESTED AREA

Significant detections of AHB outside the Known Infested Area (KIA) around Cairns have been discovered. Please note also that the Bonnie Doon detection is outside the declared Restricted Area (RA).

Extension of KIA and Outside of RA

IP 785 – Following a public report, a swarm was detected and destroyed on a guide post on the side of Bonnie Doon Rd, Bonnie Doon east south east of Mossman on 17 October. The swarm is the northern most detection of AHB and about 6.5km north north east from the previous edge of the KIA. The swarm destruction was performed with Mossman based Cairns Regional Council staff present as a demonstration of our techniques. Foraging AHB were detected on 18 October in Cooyar Beach east of Mossman and beelining has commenced to locate the nest.

Extension of KIA

IP 784 – Foragers were detected at Arriga, near Atherton on 24 September. Beelining to find the nest commenced immediately. The nest was detected by beelining 40m high in a tree in Arriga and was subsequently destroyed on 17 October by an arbour contractor. This nest was beelined with the assistance of volunteer beekeepers. The nest is the western most detection of AHB and was located about 9km west of the previous edge of KIA.

Mike Ashton

Director, Plant Biosecurity and Product Integrity

Biosecurity Queensland, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

GETTING THE BEST OUTCOME WHEN POLLINATING CROPS

There's increasing recognition amongst food producers of the benefits of paying a beekeeper for pollination services, driven partly by the threat of pests and diseases to the huge population of escaped European honey bees which currently provide Australia with those services for free.

Studies have shown that yield and quality can be increased for a number of fruit, vegetable and pasture crops through the use of managed hives, and a resource has been launched today to help with the proper preparation of both bees and crops.

Gerald Martin, Chairman of the Pollination R&D Advisory Committee, says the new manual will ensure the best outcomes are achieved, increasing profits for producers and increasing their ability to pay for pollination services.

“With the threat of Varroa hanging over our heads, as well as many other bee pests and diseases, it's important for those growing pollination-reliant crops to develop a relationship now with a beekeeper.

“If it arrives, Varroa will virtually wipe out our wild bees and we'll lose the free service they currently provide. It will also dramatically cut the number of managed hives available, especially at peak times like spring. We're facing a potential shortage of more than half a million beehives needed for the pollination of our food supply,” Mr Martin said

Australia has one of the largest populations of escaped European honeybees and we rely heavily on them for an estimated 65 per cent of agricultural production which depends on pollination. Australia is also one of the last countries in the world still free of the Varroa mite.

Pollination of Crops in Australia and New Zealand provides practical information on specific issues related to the pollination of more than 30 crops, aimed at improving food production and maintaining healthy bees.

The manual was prepared under the Pollination Program, a research and development strategy jointly funded by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC), Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL) and the Australian Government.

It was written by the NZ Institute for Plant and Food Research Ltd by pollination researcher Dr Mark Goodwin. It is available on the RIRDC website at www.rirdc.gov.au.

BEEES AND PESTICIDES GUIDE

As many agricultural chemicals are toxic to honeybees, it's important for chemical users to consider what treatment options are available when planning pest control programs to avoid bee deaths.

Honeybee Pesticide Poisoning: A risk management tool for Australian farmers and beekeepers is a new booklet developed to assist beekeepers and farmers identify pesticides that are toxic and honeybees and help them manage the risk of honeybee poisoning.

The guide lists 349 broad acre and horticultural pesticides known to be toxic to honeybees and outlines good practices for farmers and beekeepers to adopt that will improve the well being of bees.

Farmers, chemical use advisors and beekeepers are encouraged to download a free copy from the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) at www.rirdc.gov.au/pollination

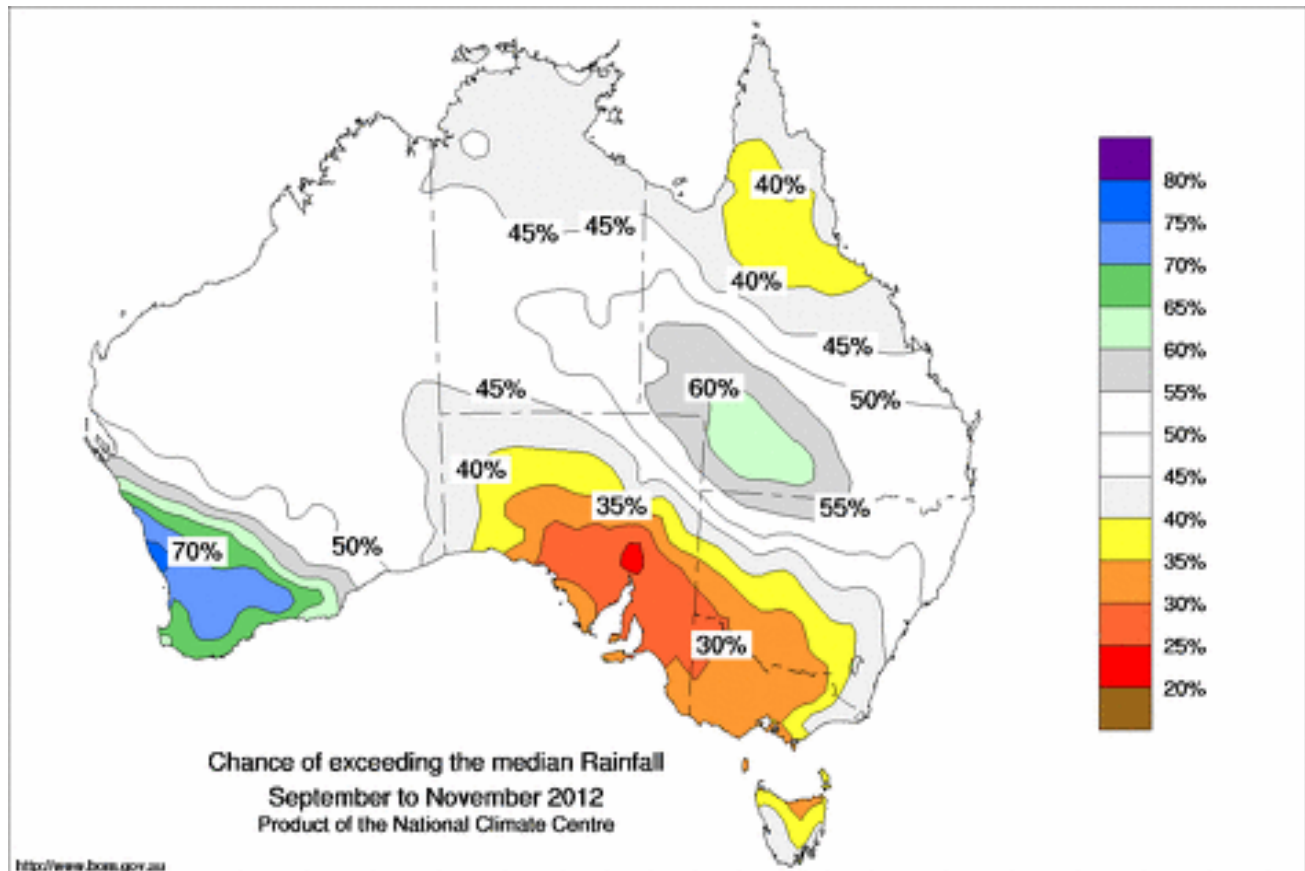
NATIONAL SEASONAL RAINFALL OUTLOOK: PROBABILITIES FOR SPRING 2012

Mixed spring rainfall outlook for Australia

The national outlook for spring (September to November) indicates that:

- a drier than normal season is likely for large parts of southeast and northeast Australia
- a wetter than normal season is likely for southwest WA and southwest Queensland

This outlook is a result of emerging warmer than normal waters in the tropical Pacific Ocean and persistent warmer than normal waters in the Indian Ocean.



The chances of receiving above median rainfall during spring are higher than 60% over most of the Southwest Land Division in WA and parts of southwest Queensland. Probabilities exceed 70% over a large part of the Southwest Land Division (see map above). Such odds mean that for every ten years with similar ocean patterns to those currently observed, about six to seven years would be expected to be wetter than average over these areas, while about three to four years would be drier.

In contrast, the chances of receiving above normal rainfall are between 25 and 40% over most of southern SA, southern NSW, Victoria, northern and eastern Tasmania, and northern Queensland. In other words the chances of *below* normal rainfall are between 60 and 75%.

Over the rest of the country, the chances of a drier or wetter spring are roughly equal.

An expanded set of seasonal rainfall outlook maps and tables, including the probabilities of seasonal rainfall exceeding given totals (e.g. chance of receiving at least 200 mm), is available on the "Water and the Land" (WATL) part of the Bureau's website.

Outlook confidence is related to how consistently the Pacific and Indian Oceans affect Australian rainfall. During spring, history shows the effect to be moderately consistent over the northern Kimberley in WA, the NT, Queensland, most of eastern SA, NSW, Victoria and northern Tasmania. The effect over southwest WA, western SA and northeast NSW is weakly to moderately consistent, with the remainder of the country only weakly to very weakly consistent (see background information). Users should exercise caution when using this outlook in areas of low skill.

Climate indicators remain close to El Niño thresholds. Although El Niño development stalled during the second half of July, over the first half of August several indicators, such as the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) and trade wind strength, have shown renewed trends that are consistent with the early stages of El Niño. Climate models surveyed by the Bureau of Meteorology continue to show further warming across the tropical Pacific Ocean is likely, with temperatures likely to exceed El Niño thresholds before the end of September.

**SYMPOSIA OF IUSSI
(INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL INSECTS) OF 2014.**

Invitation

The Australian Section of the IUSSI invites you to join us at the Union’s XVII Congress in Cairns, Australia. Cairns is a medium-sized, tropical city adjacent to the World Heritage listed Queensland Wet Tropics and Great Barrier Reef. The surrounding area is a naturalist’s paradise, replete with social insects of all kinds. Cairns enjoys direct air routes to Australian, New Zealand and Asian hubs, with onward connections to all parts of the world.

The conference will be held in the magnificent Cairns Convention Centre during the period 13-18 July 2014. The Convention Centre is conveniently located in the heart of the city, in easy walking distance to 3-5 star hotels and apartments, backpacker hostels and restaurants to suit all tastes and budgets. The facility itself is state of the art and has won numerous awards. July weather is optimal in Cairns; not too hot, not too cold, and no possibility of cyclones.

The organizing committee comprises Prof. Ben Oldroyd (President), A/Prof Madeleine Beekman, A/Prof Simon Robson and Dr. Judith Reinhard.

A variety of pre and post congress tours will be arranged including the Barrier Reef, Daintree Tropical Rainforest, Canopy crane, Atherton Tableland and outback Queensland. Adventurous delegates can easily rent vehicles of all kinds to make their own tours.

The Australian section hosted the highly successful IUSSI congress in Adelaide in 1994. We look forward to welcoming you back in 2014!

Ben Oldroyd
President of IUSSI

DATES FOR 2013 ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCES

New South Wales Apiarists’ Association	22/23/24 May 2013
Tasmanian Beekeepers’ Association	31 May/1 June 2013
Victorian Apiarists’ Association	5/6 June 2013
Queensland Beekeepers’ Association	13/14 June 2013
South Australian Apiarists’ Association	20/21 June 2013
WA Farmers Federation – Beekeeping Section	4 July 2013
AHBIC Annual General Meeting	5 July 2013

The Western Australian Farmers Federation will host the 2013 AHBIC Annual General Meeting in Perth on 4 July 2013.

SPRING CROP & STOCK REPORT



NEW SOUTH WALES

NORTHERN NSW

Canola crops throughout the north have produced good spring breeding with some surplus honey. Some areas of white box with canola in flying distance produced well.

Pilliga scrub.

Wattle with other ground flora produced good bees with better hives getting box of honey.

Most bees that went to almonds returned in condition.

Some bud on early grey ironbark with prospects of good honey production.

Clover and other ground flora along with short term buders (silver leaf, coolabah, brush box) will need substantial rain to bud

Casey Cooper

QUEENSLAND

Queensland has been experiencing a prolonged dry period that has caused some honey producers to downgrade their crop forecast for 2012/2013.

The Channel Country yielded some useful surplus honey with hives coming back to Macadamia Nut pollination and honey production. The Macadamia Nut Honey crop is expected to be about average i.e. 2 or 3 supers for good hives.

A close watch on Grey ironbark and Brush Box may still see these sources produce an average crop. There are no stand out crops on the horizon. It appears that Queensland beekeepers stayed away from Canola. Reports from NSW indicate the Canola crop in that state was disappointing.

The South East has bees filling and breeding well but again not major honey crops are occurring.

With the onset of the summer storms production prospects may turn around. There will be a lot of attention given to quick budding species after December. The water table remains high and this augers well for potential crops.

Very little honey is being stored by honey producers. The norm is to produce the honey and deliver it to packers.

Bill Winner

VICTORIA

Late autumn and winter rains were very low, with the North West and Northern Victoria and Lower Riverina of NSW missing out on good rains until late June. After reasonable rains (though below average) in July/August, September has seen a return to the dry weather.

This weather pattern resulted in most of the early sown Canola either not germinating altogether, or being slow to emerge. The Mallee crops finished early and, although many Northern Plains crops are at their peak. The drier weather puts a question mark on how long these crops will last.

Tea Tree (*leptospermum*) has been yielding in the North West Mallee, but the dry, hot weather is shortening flowering time.

The hot weather has suited Citrus and it is yielding surplus honey.

The hope of early flowering Canola for July breeding conditions before Almond pollination disappeared with the dry weather, and surviving and late sown Canola not coming into flower until late August.

As bees were moved out of Almonds, Canola was the obvious choice.

There were some good crops in the Mallee, Northern Victoria and Southern Riverina of NSW, most just coming into flowering during August.

Paterson' Curse in the Southern Riverina of NSW , although initially a good strike in many places, has been effected by the lack of rain during the winter and, at this stage doesn't show a great deal of promise for the spring.

In the Northern Mallee are Tea Tree well budded and flowering in the Hattah-Kulkyne area, accompanied by Giant Angular Mallee (*Euc. incrassata* var. *costata*).

White Mallee (*Euc. gracilis*), although carrying a reasonable crop of buds on trees along roads and in the open, has flowered heavily during the winter and is not expected to last long into the spring. Further south and west, only odd Yellow Gum (*Euc. leucoxylon*) trees are carrying any buds and, for the first time in several years, Yellow Gum will not be a prospect.

Future - Summer

Yellow Box (*Euc. melliodora*) is mostly off, with only a few isolated pockets.

Red Gum (*Euc. camaldulensis*) budding across the State is very patchy. Well budded trees could yield honey, but there appears to be more trees not budded than well budded.

The best budding for summer honey is Little Red Mallee (*Euc. leptophylla*). This tree is carrying the heaviest crop of buds I have seen for many years, and when budded like this, can usually yield well. The tree usually starts to flower in mid January and has a flowering span of 4-6 weeks. However, working in the North West Mallee at this time of the year can present challenges of heat stress on bees.

Elsewhere, there is a reasonable budding on Red Stringy Bark (*Euc. macrorhyncha*) over a fairly large area of the North East for late summer/early autumn flowering.

New growth has appeared on Grey Box (*Euc. microcarpa*) trees that did not set bud and flower last autumn.

Summary:

If Victoria is going to produce a worthwhile crop of honey this season, it will be bound up with the late summer/autumn period.

With normal rains during spring, breeding conditions should be good.

This period should be taken to breed up the strength of hives and hive numbers to take full advantage of any surplus honey opportunities as they occur.

Bob McDonald

VALE JAMES (Tim) CARLYLE SMITH MBE

On the 19th September 2012 the Australian beekeeping community lost one of its most influential members when Tim Smith passed away at 95 years of age.

Honoured by the industry for his service with a Goodacre Memorial Award and also an MBE, Tim was a most fitting recipient of these accolades due to his endeavours in the honey packing sector and also through his involvement with the Australian Honey Board.

Tim returned from war service in Canada where he trained pilots for the RAAF, to taking up commercial beekeeping with his brother Bert in the late 1940's. His drive, enthusiasm and willingness to make changes and take on new ideas saw the brothers become leading honey producers. Tim was quick to realise the value of queen bee excluders, central extracting plants and he was amongst the first in Australia to under super hives with "stickies". He quickly adjusted to the American technique of open entrance shifting, pioneered during the Second World War to avoid chemical spraying of crops. Tim found the technique suited Australian conditions.

He soon tired of selling honey into the packing houses of the time and by the end of the 1950's was developing his own packing business, in 1953 he and Bert established Capilano on its present Richlands site in Brisbane. He had some interesting philosophies regarding international marketing of honey. He did not like the Luton Floor set up predominantly by PDS, believing instead that when you sell honey in an overseas country, use that countries expertise to sell the honey. i.e. have a German sell Australian honey in Germany, a Japanese in Japan and an Englishman in England. The Luton Floor did not succeed. It did leave some animosity towards the Australian honey exporters. Luckily Tim formed a lasting friendship with Kimpton Bros. Tim stated in his "History of Capilano" that he came close to entering Civil Engineering (A career he had always thought he would have enjoyed), such was the stress created.

Thankfully he and Bert persevered with their packing enterprise and expanded to a beekeeper based co-operative that revolutionised the Australian beekeeping scene.

Tim influenced many of Australia's most influential beekeepers to join the company, giving it a heart and soul based on good beekeeping and excellent beekeepers.

Tim was a generous man; he assisted many beekeepers over the years to develop their businesses, not only through the company but also personally. He absorbed knowledge and readily passed it on to others.

His Beekeeping Advisory Notes published supplied to suppliers proved very popular and beneficial to those who read them. They reflected the ever changing face of beekeeping in Australia in a positive light and also his keen appreciation of beekeeping and beekeepers.

His assessment of people was legendary, family was all important. I was only newly married when he invited himself to dinner to meet my wife. He was keen to meet Emma as he wanted to assess what influence she would have on me staying with the ABK. He was impressed and so was she. Tim never forgot Emma's name, nor the opportunity to be remembered to her when we spoke or we met at Conferences. That story has relevance here, because Tim treated all of his beekeeping friends and associates in the same way, he knew their names, he knew their families and he treasured their knowledge and the shared belief in the honey industry.

Throughout his career Tim was totally supported by his wife Jill, she too became part of the “Capilano Family”. This was only fitting given the romance behind her Canadian heritage and their meeting Capilano, Vancouver, Canada. Jill was and always will be Tim’s “Capilano Honey” to quote his brother Bert.

The industry is indebted to the life and memory of Tim Smith, to Jill, daughter Wendy and sons Cliff and Lloyd and their families we extend our sincere and deepest sympathy at your loss and join you in mourning the passing of a larger than life character who changed the Australian beekeeping industry forever and leaves a legacy that we will never forget.



Tim and Jill Smith

by
Bill Winner

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2012-2013 GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL

PO Box R838, Royal Exchange NSW 1225 ABN 63 939 614 424
Phone (02) 9221 0911 Fax: (02) 9221 0922 Email: ahbic@honeybee.org.au

TAX INVOICE/RECEIPT

Yes I wish to support my industry and attach:

- Up to 50 hives = \$50.00 51 and over hives = \$1.00 per hive

PAYMENT OPTIONS

CHEQUE \$

DIRECT DEPOSIT:

Account: Australian Honey Bee Industry Council
Bank: Commonwealth Bank, Maroubra Junction, NSW.
BSB: 062 198
Account No. 1022 2090

*** Please quote company/name as reference on statement ***

I would like to receive the AHBIC Annual Report

Name:

Email:

Address: