



Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Trevor Weatherhead – Executive Director

MAY 2013

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	Den Hollander, JE	Lees IP & LD	Smith, RD & WW
Adams, Richard	Dewar Apiaries	Lockley, Beverley	Spencer Family
Ashby, KP & MA	Dinh Vu, Long	McAlister, Ross	Stokes, Peter
Ashelfor Pure Aussie Honey	Doncaster Bee Club	McDonald, M A	Sutherland, Karen
Auckett, John	Doyle, Anthony	McDonald P & M	Tasmanian Beekeepers Association
Barson, Jillian	Droutsas, Bill	McDonald, RG	Thompson, G
Baumholzer, RK	Edmonds, John	McDonald, R & M	Triantafillopoulos, Stavros
Beechworth Honey P/L	Ellis, Declan	McGlew, GC	Trigg, Margaret
Beswick Bees	Enslin, Darren	McLaren, Jane	Ulek Honey
Billington, Steven	Ewington, P & M	Merrett, Anthony J	Vu, Long & Kim
Blair-Hickman, R & R	Faithfull, Mark	Miller, Clem	Vaile, Graham
Blake, Barry	FCAAA	Milne, HL & PA	Van der Woode, Lowie
Bliss, Stephen	Fountain, Peter	Morgan, Trevor	Van Essen, K
Bole, Peter	Geelong Honey Pty Ltd	Nairn, Mal	Watson, James
Bourke, Lindsay	Geelong Beekeepers Club	Niacol Pty Ltd	Watson, Maurice
Brennan, John	Gells Honey	Norcic, John	Weatherhead, T & M
Brooks, Graham	Gillies, Hugh	Ophion Pty Ltd	Weerona Apiaries
Buntine, Robert	Glasby, Garry	Pluschke, Doug	Wescobee Limited
Bush Honey - (Midgley Family)	Green, Lionel	Pobke, Barry	Williams JW & MA
Buzzies Bee Juice	Grosso, Joe	Pritchett, Bruce	Wisken, Ian
Camelite Monastery	Hartje, MM	Proebstl, Investments	Wythe, EC & HS
Camilleri, Michael	Hobday, David	R. Stephens	Zadow Apiaries
Capilano Honey Ltd	Hoskinson, HL & HM	Richter, Phil	Zuchowski, Janusz
Clarke, Zoe	Howard, LP & PJ	Ringin, Bill	
Clifford, Ray	Ipswich/West Moreton Beekeepers Association	Roberts, Glenn	
Constantelos, Stan	Jeremenko, Steve	Roberts, I J & J H	
Cotton, A J &	Kee, Michael	Rose, Doug	
Crabb, David	Kelly, AV	Saxonbee Enterprises- Rod Pavy	
Cutts, Neville	Kennett, JL & KA	Schard, Peter	
D'Amico, John	Kininmonth, Ian	Siacci, Colin	
Dawes, Chris John	Lagoutatzis, Nikolaos	Sinclair, Dr Nigel	
Davey, RE	Langan, Marg	Smit, J & C	

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.**

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CONFERENCE DATES - 2013

Tasmanian Apiarists Association	31 May – 1 June (Hobart)
Victorian Apiarists Association	5-6 June (Bendigo)
Queensland Beekeepers Association	13-14 June (Warwick)
South Australian Apiarists Association	20-21 June (Renmark)
WA Farmers Federation – Beekeeping Section	5 July (Perth)
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association	TBA
Honey Packers and Marketers Association	June
National Council of Crop Pollination Associations	TBA
Federal Council of Australian Apiarists' Associations	6 July (Perth)
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	6 July (Perth)

AGM

The annual general meeting is being held in Perth on 6 July. The venue is:-

Country Comfort Intercity Hotel & Apartments
249-263 Great Eastern Highway
Belmont WA 6014
Phone 1300 272 132 for reservations

<http://www.countrycomforthotels.com.au/perth/country-comfort-inter-city-hotel-perth-conference-venue/>

The Western Australian Farmers Federation Beekeepers Section is holding their conference the day before, 5 July, to which we would encourage all AHBIC delegates to attend. A joint dinner will be held that night. Registration for the two days is on separate forms. Please fill out the forms and return them to the relevant address. Pre registration is important for catering purposes. Registration forms are at the end of this newsletter.

LIVE BEE EXPORTS

This continues to be a frustrating exercise.

AHBIC is still talking with the Commonwealth and Queensland Departments of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on continued access to Canada and what we need to have the US market re-opened. Dr. Jeff Pettis reported to the NSW Apiarists Association conference at Merimbula that the US will review the situation when the pathogen survey is complete and that we also need to have some control area in place for the Asian bees.

NATIONAL HONEY BEE DAY

Successful days were held in Perth, Melbourne and Brisbane. Due to the length of this newsletter, I have held over reports and photos till the next newsletter.

GOODACRE AWARD

Dr John Rhodes

The Goodacre Memorial Award was created to perpetuate the memory of the late Bill Goodacre. Bill provided 35 years of meritorious service to the beekeeping industry during his employ with the NSW Department of Agriculture. The award has historically been recognised as the peak national award bestowed upon individuals who have equally provided significant service to the Australian beekeeping industry.

Dr John Rhodes is a well deserving recipient of the Goodacre Memorial Award.

John has been in the beekeeping industry for all of his working life, including forty years of service in the Queensland and New South Wales Department of Primary Industries (DPI). In 1962 John, who already had some years of beekeeping experience, was employed by Qld DPI as a 'cadet' apiary officer. By 1976 John had risen through the ranks to become the Senior Apicultural Officer. He held this position in the Qld DPI up until 1991 when he took a redundancy.

During his time in Queensland John travelled extensively for the beekeeping industry. This included study trips to the United States of America, United Kingdom, Austria, Germany, New Zealand, Thailand and Papua New Guinea. He also travelled extensively within Australia particularly into Northern Queensland and the Torres Strait Islands.

Some of John's achievements while working for Qld DPI include;

- Rewriting the Queensland Apiaries Act and Regulations in 1979.
- Instrumental in forming the Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association in 1985.
- Part of the organising committee of the second Australian International Bee Congress held on the Gold Coast in 1988.
- Developed a monitoring program for exotic bee diseases in 1986.
- Involved in updating Qld DPI publication on Honey Flora in 1987.
- Appointed convener of the Australian Horticultural Corporation working party to develop the Exotic Disease in Honey Bee Bill and contingency manuals for the control of seven exotic honey bee diseases in 1987.
- Writing the first Ausvet Plan for honey bees.
- Developed the Green Paper on the Apiaries Act for Qld in 1990



John then headed out to try commercial queen breeding. This venture did not work out due to a number of reasons including a series of poor seasons but anyone who knows John would recognise he is no sales man or self promoter. Prior to joining NSW Agriculture, John was still involved with studies for the good of the industry, including a project for the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) in conjunction with the Qld DPI on the Floral Resources of Value to the Queensland Beekeeping Industry.

John joined the NSW DPI on the 1st of April 1997 where he took up the position of Apiary Officer at Tamworth. John remained a Queenslanders throughout his employment with NSW DPI travelling between Tamworth and his family in Queensland on the Sunshine Coast on a regular basis. John lost no time in successfully applying for and involving himself in a number of major research projects that eventually created quite significant international interest. John remained working at Tamworth until his retirement at the beginning of July 2008.

One of the most significant and notable of John's projects was his investigation into what influenced the quality of commercially produced queen bees. This is an issue that is of major concern to commercial beekeepers. Some of this research was conducted to a back ground of sceptics on the value of such work. Factors such as the age of the queen at introduction to a production hive and her early performance success, the period for which the queen is receptive to mating, the effect of disease levels on queen survival, the impact of the drone fertility and factors affecting drone fertility including age, genetics, nutrition and sperm number, volume and

viability were examined. This work was ground breaking creating significant international interest and has resulted in positive changes to the industry.

His study on the age of the queen at introduction to a production hive and their survival was published in *Apidologie* in 2004. It was also published by RIRDC "*Successful introduction and performance of queen bees in a commercial apiary*". Some commercial queen bee breeders now advertise that queen bees are sold at an older age reflecting the finding of John's work.

Other work John was heavily involved with while with NSW DPI included:

- The management of AFB disease
- Development of competency standards for the bee industry on queen bee rearing and artificial insemination
- Quality assurance standards for the Australian bee industry.

Over the 1999-2000 season John conducted a research project that demonstrated honey bee pollination was responsible for a 16% increase in cotton yields which at the time equated to an increase of \$500 per hectare to the cotton grower. Flowering cotton crops are considered a threat to honey bees due to the use of harsh insecticides. However with the reduction in the use of insecticides, integrated pest management systems and the positive impact of the presence of honey bees demonstrated by John's research, it is feasible that cotton growers will hire bee hives to pollinate cotton crops in the not too distant future. As a result of John's research finding the University of Western Sydney took on a PhD student to investigate this field of study further.

His research with cotton led John to initiate meetings between the cotton industry and beekeepers to find pathways for both parties to work together. A web page was developed with the Cotton Research Corporation to allow cotton growers to become better informed about insecticide use to minimise any harm to honey bees in the area.

Two Primefacts of immense value to both the beekeeping industry and farmers on the impact of pesticides on honey bees were researched over quite a considerable time by John. They are available on the NSW DPI website with the titles "*Pesticides a guide to their effects on honey bees*" and "*Pesticides – reducing damage to honey bees*". John became very interested in the management of small hive beetles and worked tirelessly on the approval for diatomaceous earth to be used to help control this major pest.

On top of all this John was involved with all the activities that one participates in as an extension officer for NSW DPI. Some of these included co-authoring the NSW DPI Agskills book on Beekeeping; the writing of information sheets on a range of topics (Primefacts); presentations at numerous field days, meetings and conferences; co-presenting departmental short courses in beekeeping; plus answering a multitude of mixed and varied enquiries over his 11 years while working in NSW not to mention his previous years in Qld.

In addition to John's always meticulous approach to each project that he undertook, the hallmark of John's work throughout his career has been his outstanding ability to convey to his audience, through the written word, the results of his research and other work. His command of descriptive language reveals the keen, analytical mind of a competent investigator, some what at odds with his quiet, intelligent demeanour.

Throughout John's career his academic achievements are notable graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Entomology from the University of Queensland in 1969. Always keen to further his knowledge and skills regarding bees he completed a Master of Science in Entomology at the same university in 1982 and when most are ready to relax and retire John's quest for knowledge continued completing his PhD in 2011, well after he had officially retired. The title of his thesis *Quality of commercially reared queen and drone honey bees in Eastern Australia*, summed up John's particular passion and dedication for this notable area of study.

Many of John's major achievements have been mentioned but this was only part of John's contribution to the Australian beekeeping industry. John was a very humble and quiet man who was never about selling himself or his achievements even though these were well worth publicising. Because he was so quiet he was affectionately nick named Rowdy by many beekeepers in the Tamworth region.

SEASONAL REPORT

South Australia – Keith Gibbs

The West Coast Stoney Mallee (*Eucalyptus diversifolia*) is doing very well. Bees have bred well and are getting surplus honey. The Mid-North, Riverland, South East are fairly dismal – bees are going backwards fast.

The Fleurieu Peninsula has built bees on Stringy Bark (*Eucalyptus baxteri*) and may produce some honey on Cup Gum (*Eucalyptus cosmophylla*) if it stays warm. We've had a very dry and unseasonably warm Autumn (28°C and sunny as we are writing this – 7th May).

Next major move will be Almonds for most – let's hope the bees hold up for suitable for almond pollination.

Prospects for next year are very patchy. Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon*) is budded in small pockets but not generally.

The bugs have beaten us with Salvation Jane and it looks like this won't produce any more in the near future as the bugs are eating from the roots to the flowers and everything in between (a win for biological control but no such good news for the bees).

Queensland - May 2013 – Bill Winner

Gum Topped Box yielded reasonably well with just a little Red Ash in support and little tainting from the Ash.

Spotted Gum is mainly being looked at for breeding conditions with no reports of a honey crop as yet. Yapunyah in the Channel Country is yielding well on very dry conditions. Protein supplements are being tried in attempt to maintain colony strength. More rain is needed to stimulate ground flora, if it occurs areas of the Channel Country will produce good yields of honey. A lot of hives have been moved to the West.

Narrow Leaved Ironbark is a strong possibility for late winter and spring.

The South Eastern area of Queensland has had some good summer/autumn rainfall and as a result prospects for the coming spring and summer are good. Gums in particular are carrying bud.

Colonies are going into winter in good condition.

Some larger suppliers have limited stock on hand that should be delivered to packers by the end of the financial year.

Victoria May 2013 - Bob McDonald.

Autumn weather has remained very dry with no useful rain falling anywhere in the State until mid May. The rains, although general across the State, were lighter than hoped for i.e. 5 to 10mm through the North West Mallee, 10 to 20mm through the Wimmera and Northern Plains. The South West, South, North East and Gippsland all enjoyed higher levels, with a couple of these latter areas receiving substantial rains.

Farmers are sowing crops, including Canola, so good follow-up rains are urgently needed to establish these and early spring flowering weeds.

Grey Box (*Euc. microcarpa*) has ceased flowering. Generally, beekeepers have got bee hives with sufficient stores for winter with Grey Box in the Eastern part of the Box-Iron Bark belt of forest yielding better than elsewhere with, in some cases, excess honey being extracted.

Pollen has also been in short supply during Grey Box flowering and beekeepers have resorted to feeding more pollen supplement than usual.

More Yellow Gum (*Euc. leucoxylon*) has started flowering during April than I expected and has helped bee hives to top up with winter stores.

Mugga Iron Bark (*Euc. sideroxylon*) has started flowering in the North East and is yielding, but the nectar is very thin and beekeepers are hoping for a few frosts to thicken-up the nectar.

Black Box (*Euc. largiflorens*) flowering along the Anna-Branch of the Darling River seems to have settled down and bee hives moved in later have not had any losses of field bees, as had happened before. Production of surplus honey has improved. Pollen has also been in short supply from the Black Box.

Future: Until we get some good continuing rains to set spring flowering ground flora growing, the spring prospects are a little vague.

Yellow Gum, although many trees are flowering, will carry into the spring. The best budding is on large trees in the open, along roads etc. with not a lot of buds evident in within the forest system. White Mallee (*Euc. gracilis*) in the North West is also well budded and flowering early.

Hill Gum (*Euc. blakelyi*) in the North East is well budded for spring flowering and usually provides good breeding conditions, and can provide surplus honey under favourable conditions.

Summer: Red Gum (*Euc. camaldulensis*) is well budded along some of the river systems. Murrumbidgee River and many of the smaller rivers that flow across the Riverina Plains (NSW) are heavily budded. Budding along the Murray River is good from about Robinvale downstream. The bud appears to be very patchy upstream from Robinvale, with no budding in places. This is the same across Regional Victoria.

Yellow Box (*Euc. melliodora*) is well budded in places.

Annual crop report 2013 Tasmania – Lindsay Bourke

Honey production up

What a year this has been! Tasmania's 2013 honey production is up from the last two years and almost back to an average year, thanks to the good Manuka and stringy bark harvests, the latter in the south of the state.

The cupboards were bare of leatherwood after last year and this almost average year will help our packers refill their honey houses.

Honey prices holding

Honey prices are holding, well above mainland prices and sales are soaring especially in Asia and our crop pollination opportunities are enormous. Tasmania as a bee-keeping state is very fortunate. After two very poor seasons, we are now back in clover.

Active honey group

Tasmania continues to produce good crops of active Manuka honey but some of our leatherwood is also active. We need to promote this more because we could put our active leatherwood on an even higher pedestal and get an even better return.

GM-free and PAs

All Tasmanian politicians support a GM-free State as almost anything associated with GM is detrimental to sales. Tasmanian honey is also fortunate in that it does not contain Pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PAs) that exist in plants like Salvation Jane. The European Union has put low limits on PAs in honey. Our non-GM status and our continuing non-PA readings mean that we are a most fortunate State as we can continue to get higher prices for our honey throughout the world.

Northern NSW Crop Report – Casey Cooper

Limited rain during the last few months has seen the north of the State return to dry conditions once again.

Beekeepers that worked autumn stringy bark have bees in fair condition for winter honey flows.

Small patches of white box budded well with warmer weather has produce some honey though bees will need a good pollen source in early spring.

Yellow box budded well for next year with the dry and warm autumn considerable amount of trees are flowering now.

Channel country reported to be give good honey with fair rain in last week should promote pollen plants for the spring .

Planting of canola has been limited due to the lack of autumn rain.

Central NSW Crop Report – Mal Porter

I was elected onto the state executive at the 2013 conference, and one job in this role was for me to do a crop report.

As I have been on a six week holiday overseas and down to Merimbula for our state conference I haven't been available to look at many conditions. All I can say is that since the new year the conditions around the area that I work in has been less favourable than liked. The red stringy which was looking to possible build bees for coming Autumn and Winter months was a big letdown where it was budded, as it only had a light budding in some areas.

Yellow Box which was looking to be a reasonable budding for this new honey season is flowering now in most places.

I have been talking to the farmer I go to for canola and he didn't start sewing canola until the 8-5-13 which is late.

Most of us would have got our bees ready now to go to the almonds at the end of July. With some more rain over the winter months any trees that are carrying bud now may be beneficial in the warmer months. It may even be a weed year, so until I get out and about and see what the prospects are this will have to do for now.

AGM ELECTIONS

Lindsay Bourke has indicated he will be stepping down at this upcoming AGM so we will need to appoint a new Chairman.

Eddy Planken resigned as Deputy Chairman. There will need to be a new Deputy Chairman appointed.

The two year term of Ian Zadow and Rod Pavy as Executive members has expired. They are eligible for re-election. If Trevor Weatherhead is appointed as Executive Director, he will need to resign from the Executive and there will be a one year term to complete by an elected person.

Please consider accepting nomination to one of these positions.

CONDOLENCES

Linda Manning reported:- "I am sorry to report that Alan Kessell passed away last night (25 May) while he was watching his favourite show, Heatbeat, on TV with Margaret. He suffered no pain. A family member told me that they expect his funeral will be Friday or Saturday - it will be announced in The West Australian.

Alan was the state's Senior Apiculturist for many years until 1989 when he retired. He then stayed in contact with the industry through WA Beekeepers' Association. He resigned as secretary of WABA two days before he died."

I would also report that Heather Rice, wife of Norm, passed away on 28 May. Many will remember Norm as one who pioneered the use of AI in queen breeding, pioneered the export of packages and did a lot of good work for the Queensland Beekeepers Association.

Heather had not enjoyed the best of health in recent years and had been confined to a nursing home where Norm visited her almost every day.

I am sure all beekeepers Australia wide would join in passing on condolences to the families of Alan Kessell and Heather Rice.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2012-2013 GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC (AHBIC)

ABN: 63 939 614 424

PO Box 4253
Raceview Qld 4305

Phone: (07) 5467 2265
Email: ahbic@honeybee.org.au

TAX INVOICE/RECEIPT

Yes I wish to support my industry

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

Name:

Address:

.....

Email:

Phone: Date:

Please circle

yes / no

Please publicise my name on the front of the AHBIC Newsletter

yes / no

I would like to receive the AHBIC Annual Report

yes / no

Please acknowledge this voluntary contribution with a receipt (*email preferred*)

Your contribution can be paid by **CHEQUE** (or Money Order) or **DIRECT DEPOSIT**

CHEQUE \$ Please include this form with your Cheque or Money Order.

DIRECT DEPOSIT:

Account Name: Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc

Bank: Commonwealth Bank, Maroubra Junction, NSW.

BSB: 062 198

Account No: 1022 2090

When paying by Direct Deposit

please * **quote your Company / Name as the Reference**
and * **email your details** (as above) to: ahbic@honeybee.org.au

*Thank you for supporting AHBIC to continue supporting your industry at a national level.
It is gratefully appreciated.*

Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc

ABN 63 939 614 424



P.O. Box 4253
Raceview Qld 4305

Phone: 07 5457 2265
Email: ahbic@honeybee.org.au

2013 Annual General Meeting

Saturday 6th July 2013

Country Comfort Intercity Hotel & Apartments,
249 -263 Great Eastern Highway, Belmont WA 6014

Registration Form

(for Saturday 6th July ONLY)

Registration includes - Morning & Afternoon Tea and Lunch

yes / no **AHBIC Delegate** Cost: Free

yes / no **Non Delegate** Cost: \$60.00 (*includes GST*)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone No: _____ Email: _____

Please have Registration and Payment to AHBIC
by 24th June 2013

Payment by Cheque

(please include this form)

*Please make cheque payable
to AHBIC and post to:*

**P.O. Box 4253
Raceview Qld 4305**

Payment by Direct Deposit

(please post OR email this form to AHBIC)

Bank: Commonwealth Bank

Account Name: AHBIC

BSB No: 062 198

Account No: 1022 2090

Please use your NAME as REFERENCE

Registration & Payment:

- **WAFarmers Beekeepers AGM and Industry Dinner** (at above venue) on Friday 5th July requires registration & payment to:
WAFarmers – Phone: 08 9486 2100 Email: reception@wafarmers.org.au
- **AHBIC Meeting** on Saturday 6th July, requires registration & payment to AHBIC



REGISTRATION

Beekeepers Annual General Meeting

Friday 5 July 2013

Country Comfort Inter City Perth

249 – 263 Great Eastern Highway, Belmont WA 6104

ABN: 75 877 985 228



PLEASE REGISTER BY 25 JUNE 2013 to:

Mrs Melanie Tolich, WAFarmers Federation, PO BOX 6291 East Perth, WA 6892

E: melanietolich@wafarmers.org.au P: 08 9486 2100 F: 08 9361 3544

Please retain a copy for tax purposes

Name: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

WAFarmers Conference Friday 5 July 2013 Number attending Amount

Member	\$40	_____	_____
Non Member	\$50	_____	_____
Industry Dinner	\$80	_____	_____
Payment at the door (\$10 extra)	\$10	_____	_____
Total Payment (Inc. GST)			_____

Names of Persons attending:

Conference: _____

Dinner: _____

Special Dietary Requirements: _____

Please tick the appropriate payment option:

A cheque written out to 'WA Farmers Federation' is enclosed for \$ _____

Please charge my Bankcard/Visa/Master card ____/____/____/____/

Expiry ____/____ Name on Card _____

Signature _____

Accommodation Available at venue (Please contact the hotel direct) Country Comfort Inter City Hotel and Apartments, 249 – 263 Eastern Highway, Belmont, WA; Phone: 08 9478 0888 (speak to Ms Rina and quote "WAFarmers Beekeepers Conference"; Reservations:

Reservations.intercityperth@countrycomforthotels.com; Prices:Deluxe \$189 Q or K; Studio - \$214 Q or K; Townhouse - \$356 3 bed, 2 bath, laundry, kitchen, lounge/dining, carport, separate entry.