



Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Trevor Weatherhead – Executive Director

October 2014

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS to AHBIC are GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

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 or QUEENBEE SUPPLIER appear on this list?
If not, then ask “Why not?” AHBIC WORKS FOR YOU!**

The following list recognises contributions received since 1 November 2013

There are a few other contributors – some wishing to remain anonymous and some not indicating their wishes

AB'S Honey
Australian Organic Honey Company
Australian Queen Bee Exporters
Barnes Apiaries
Bayside Beekeepers Association Inc
Beechworth Honey
Bees Neez Apiaries
Beswick Bees
Bliss, Stephen
Bourke, Lindsay
Bush Honey - (Midgley Family)
Capilano Honey Ltd
Dr Nicholas Chantler AM
Clifford, Ray
Cotton, A J & McDonald, MA
Davey, Bob
Dewar Apiaries
Enslin, Darren
Ewington, Peter and Maxine
Faithfull, Mark
Gells Honey

Glasby, Garry
Hooper, Ben
Hoskinson, HL & HM
Ipswich/West Moreton
Beekeepers Assoc
Jones, Daniel
Kennett, JL & KA
Klingner, Craig
Lagoutatzis, Nikolaos
Lees IP & LD
MacGibbon, Kevin
McDonald, RG
Masters, N & S
Morgan, Trevor
Naicol Pty Ltd
Nairn, Mal
Heritage Honey
Panda Honey – honey buyers
Papworth, F & E
Pobke, Barry
Pure Bendigo Gold Honey

R. Stephens
Ringin, Bill
Roberts, Glenn
Roberts, I J & J H
Rotary Club of Caulfield Inc
Ruge, RJ & VA
Saxonbee Enterprises - Rod Pavy
Squire, Gary
Stokes, Peter
Superbee Honey Factory
Triantafillopoulos, Stavros
Trigg, M
Watson, James
Weatherhead, T & M
Weerona Apiaries
Williams JW & MA
Zadow Apiaries

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LATEST ON HONEY LEVY REFORM AND INCREASE

Meetings were held in Melbourne on 28 and 29 October to further progress the National Biosecurity Plan and the National Code of Practice.

On 28 October, delegates from the AHBIC member bodies met and went through the draft Plan and Code of Practice. Suggested changes were taken on board and a further draft will be compiled and released to member bodies by the end of November. The drafts will be put on the AHBIC website.

When the drafts come out, member bodies are encouraged to take it back to their members for further consideration and a final meeting is planned for March next year to carry out the final scrutiny of the Plan and the Code of Practice before these documents are adopted.

The meeting on 29 October of the State Government and the Commonwealth Government representatives was very positive.

SENATE INQUIRY INTO LEVY THE SYSTEM

AHBIC has asked for and been granted an extension to 3 November 2014 to lodge our submission.

AHBIC is also part of a submission that will be lodged on behalf of the Across Agriculture Group.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN FOOD LABELLING INQUIRY

A report titled "A Clearer Message for Consumers" was released by the Committee on 27 October, 2014. This can be found at

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Agriculture_and_Industry/Food_Labelling/Report

GREEN PAPER ON AGRICULTURAL COMPETITIVENESS

Minister Joyce has released the Green paper on Agricultural Competitiveness. It can be found at https://agriculturalcompetitiveness.dpmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/green_paper.pdf For anyone wishing to make a submission the date it needs to be in by is 12 December, 2014.

AHBIC will be preparing a submission.

INQUIRY INTO THE BEEKEEPING AND POLLINATION INDUSTRIES

With the Inquiry report having been tabled on 16 July, 2014, AHBIC is awaiting the Government response to the report. AHBIC has been advised by the Secretariat that it is supposed to be within 3 months but that it can take longer. It is now over 3 months since the report was tabled.

AHBIC has written to the Committee expressing our disappointment at the lack of recommendations on some aspects of the Inquiry. We now await the response and then look forward to working with the Committee to have their recommendations enacted.

EXPORTS OF HONEY TO JAPAN

With the implementation of the Japanese Free Trade Agreement, there is a quota of 80 tonnes of honey in the first yearly incrementally increasing to 160 tonnes over 10 years. At the same time the tariff will also incrementally decrease over those 10 years.

There have been discussions held with the Department of Agriculture to see how the quota system will be implemented.

Taking part in these discussion have been Jodie Goldsworthy, Chair of the Honey Packers and Marketers Association of Australia, Ben McKee, Managing Director of Capilano and Trevor Weatherhead, Executive Director of AHBIC.

At this point in time a final recommendation has not been made but needs to be advised to the Department by the end of November. Quota allocation could start as early as February next year.

BLOOD TESTS FOR BEES?

Came across this article recently.

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0108486>

Does this mean we will need to take our bees in for regular blood tests?

DRONE SEMEN IMPORTATION

The application to have the drone semen importation Import Risk Assessment reactivated is almost ready for submission to the Department of Agriculture.

NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS

62409

Macphersons Chlorpyrifos 500 Insecticide

Active constituent/s:

Applicant name:

Applicant ACN:

Summary of use

500 g/L chlorpyrifos (an anti-cholinesterase compound)

TGAC Australia Pty. Ltd.

134 570 700

For the control of certain insect pests of: cassava, cereals, forage crops, fruit, ginger, grapevines, hops, oilseed, pasture, pineapples, sugarcane, vegetable crops and other situations

29 August 2014

Date of registration/approval:

Product registration no.:

Label approval no.:

70062

62409

Application No:

Product Name:

Active Constituent/s:

Applicant Name:

Applicant ACN:

Summary of Variation:

60151

Nufarm Nuprid 350SC Insecticide

350 g/L imidacloprid

Nufarm Australia Limited

004 377 780

To extend the use to include control of various pests in bananas, melon aphid in cucurbits and additional cane grub species in sugarcane

28 August 2014

Date of Variation:

Product registration no.:

Label Approval No:

60587

60151

TURKISH HONEY

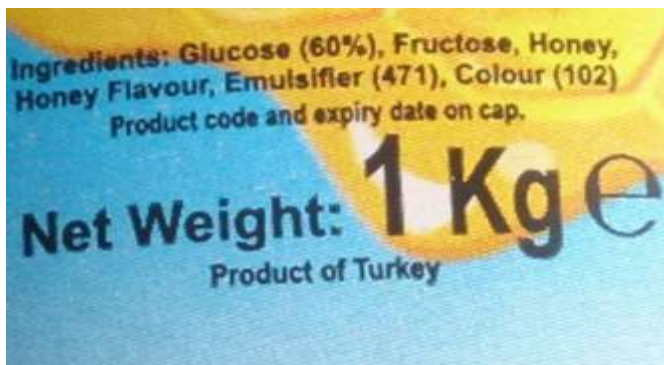
On 17 October, 2014 I was advised by the Department of Agriculture that:-

“From Monday we will be targeting imports of honey from Turkey at the rate of 100 per cent of consignments and analysing the honey for evidence of adulteration with other sugar syrups. We have just published an Imported Food Notice to advise of this new border testing which is available from our website at http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/import/food/notices/2014/ifn_10-14

This means consignments of food being described as honey from Turkey and declared to the Customs Integrated Cargo System from Monday will require inspection and testing under the Imported Food Inspection Scheme.

Should any honey fail our inspection processes due to evidence of mixing with other sugars, this will be published in our monthly failing food reports available from our website at <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/import/food/failing-food-reports>“

In regard to the Garden and Forrest Honey which was reported in the September newsletter, ACCC have advised they are contacting the importers concerned. So if you see any of these on the shelf please let me know immediately so it can be reported. Also keep your eyes open for any other brands.



Contents of the latest “honey” from Turkey.

Another brand, Apollo Honey, has been reported to AHBIC and a complaint lodged with the ACCC. Again this product, labelled honey, contains other products which are not honey.

I have just received a report from a member of the public that Garden Honey was seen in an IGA store in Sydney.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

AHBIC will be holding its AGM on Saturday 4 July 2015 at the Penrith Panthers Leagues Club at Penrith. This will follow the NSWAA conference. More details on the AHBIC AGM later. Annual conferences for 2015 as I have them are:-

Queensland Beekeepers Association	11 & 12 June - Cleveland
New South Wales Apiarists Association	2 & 3 July - Penrith
Tasmanian Beekeepers Association	29 & 30 May
WA Farmers Federation - Beekeeping Section	February
South Australian Apiarists Association	18 & 19 June
Victorian Apiarists Association	10 & 11 June -
Honey Packers and Marketers Association	TBA
National Council of Pollination Associations	TBA
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association	TBA
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	4 July - Penrith

CROP REPORTS

Western Australia – Rod Pavy

Most beekeepers have had a good spring build up on the coast after a dismal end to last season with the Banksia not producing as well as expected. A moderate crop of honey has been produced.

Wandoo has started producing in the areas east of Perth and the Jarrah crop is well budded and has started in the southern areas. The south coast produced well during late winter and into the spring.

Most are hopeful of a good season with prospects in the goldfields good for any willing to travel or not able to produce Jarrah.

SEASONAL NOTES AHBIC October/November 2014 From Bob McDonald.

After reasonable winter rains during June and July, August came in very dry with heavy early frosts. The dry weather pattern established during August has followed well into September and October, with only odd showers until towards the end of the month. Reasonably general rain fell over most of the State, with Western Victoria receiving only light falls; and some heavy falls in Northern Victoria, the Southern Mallee and Southern Riverina of NSW.

This rain has revived the spring prospects which were rapidly deteriorating with the severe frosts of early August and the extended dry weather. The rain was too late to revive Canola crops in the Mallee.

Tea Tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum* var. *minus*) yielded a little honey, but with the dry August/September, pollen from weeds and flowering Mallee shrubs is in very short supply, and very little surplus honey is being produced. Bee hives are having trouble maintaining their strength.

Citrus is yielding surplus honey in both the Mildura and Southern Riverina Regions. Elsewhere in Northern and North Central Victoria and the Southern Riverina of NSW some Canola crops are past their prime, but other crops have some time to go and with the good rains, will last through most of October.

Yellow Gum (*Euc. leucoxylon*) – there are still some good pockets of Yellow Gum that will flower for some time, both in North Central and Western Victoria. It is yielding honey freely during warmer days.

Red Box (*Euc. polyanthemus*) is starting to flower in the Box-Iron Bark belt and is yielding honey. Red Box is a shy yielder, but a dry spring suits it. It will flower well into November and could produce some surplus honey.

Giant Angular Mallee (*Euc. incrassata* var. *costata*) is starting to flower around the southern and eastern ends of the Big Desert. Beekeepers are starting to move in, but as much of this country is on white sand, it will be hard to work.

Short Budders – Iron Bark (*Euc. tricarpa*) & Grey Box (*Euc. microcarpa*) are showing new growth after the late September rains.

Cup Moth larvae (Stinging Joeys) have been active again this spring. Defoliation of trees has not been as extensive as has been in the previous two years. However, Grey Box trees have been extensively damaged in some areas. This is causing some concern with the hope that Grey Box will set bud for autumn flowering.

Future – There are areas of Red Gum (*Euc. camaldulensis*) well budded in some of the northern river country where some Murray River flood plains have been extensively artificially flooded during the last twelve months. Also some areas in Western Victoria are carrying a fair budding.

Messmate (*Euc. obliqua*) is well budded through the higher elevations of the Great Dividing Range for January flowering.

Also Mountain Blue Gum (*Euc. stjohnii*) in some areas is carrying a reasonable budding for summer flowering.

With the dry spring, honey production has been better than was anticipated. Canola has yielded the best for three years and everything else that is flowering is yielding some honey.

CROP REPORT – South Australia – Keith Gibbs

Winter conditions were excellent across most of the State. The Banksia yielded quite a bit of honey, early. Most bees went to almonds in very good condition. (*although 2 loads of AFB were burnt from an almond orchard*).

Conditions since almonds have been very good considering the weather. The wind and the cold have persisted until the end of September/early October, limiting bees' flying time.

Most plants have yielded well. Canola was consistent across the State. White mallee (*Euc. gracilis*) and Stoney mallee (*Euc. diversifolia*) have yielded well.

Big cup (*Euc. incrassata*) and Blue gum (*Euc. leucoxydon*) are starting to yield as the weather warms up. Let's hope they last longer than it appears they will so far. Oranges were the only disappointment to date.

We've had very little rain since July and this may affect conditions from here on. There are reports of Lucerne being fed off or cut for hay, lessening the chance of a good honey crop from now until the end of the year.

The Government has offered industry public land for use as temporary replacement sites after the major bushfires earlier this year. It is very disappointing to see the lack of interest from beekeepers when asked to advise GPS readings of sites of interest to them. Hopefully this means that most of our beekeepers have adequate sites for the coming season.

Crop Report Northern NSW – Casey Cooper

The north of NSW has seen very little rain over the spring with only some patchy storms in areas, but good rain is needed for any prospects in the future.

Canola produced good honey and bees but bees tending to swam as they are moved to other areas.

Some small areas of yellow box is producing but with the hot dry weather pollen could be a problem without rain.

Iron Bark in coastal areas is reported to be giving good honey. Mahogany reported to have good bud in areas. Black Butt is flowering with good pollen.

BEECONNECTED

With the new app now being out there, I have had some reports of beekeepers not being able to download the app. Some thought it may be because they didn't have the latest version. I checked with Matthew at CropLife Australia and he has advised as follows:-

“I have a phone with iOS 7 and a phone with iOS 8 that both run BeeConnected. I also deleted and reinstalled BeeConnected on both this morning to ensure that the version on the AppStore is working correctly.

We have had a couple of enquires from users who have had problems with the app, but have been able to resolve them very quickly. If people are having problems please feel free to ask them to direct their enquires to publicaffairs@croplife.org.au and I will address them promptly. They can also call the CropLife office if they'd prefer.”

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you to all those beekeepers, producer packers and honey packers who are making voluntary contributions to AHBIC. Without these, AHBIC would not be able to exist. There is a list of some on the front page of this newsletter but there are also some who have contributed but have asked their name not be put on the front page.

Occasionally a contribution is received by direct deposit to the bank account and there is no follow up form to know who has made the contribution. When you make a direct deposit, please let me know so that a receipt can be sent to you.

Over the years, the suggested voluntary contribution has changed. Currently the recommendations are:-

- beekeepers to pay \$1 per hive with a minimum of \$50
- producer packers to pay 1.5 cents per kilogram
- packers to pay 0.5 cents per kilogram

It is recognised that at the present time the industry is doing it hard and AHBIC does appreciate any contribution that you can make. It is important that in these hard times AHBIC's voice is out there to benefit the industry.

Some packers do have the ability to make a deduction from your honey payment and forward that to AHBIC. If you would like to contribute in this way please talk with your packer.

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC (AHBIC)

ABN: 63 939 614 424



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TAX INVOICE/RECEIPT

Name:

Address:

.....

Email: (Please PRINT clearly).....

Phone: Date:.....

Yes I wish to support my industry

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

Please indicate YES or NO

1. Please publicise my name (as a contributor) on the front of the AHBIC Newsletter

1. _____

2. I would like to receive the AHBIC Annual Report

2. _____

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

3. _____

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

CHEQUE \$

DIRECT DEPOSIT: \$.....

**Please return this form to AHBIC - by post or email
so your contribution can be recorded correctly**

When paying by Direct Deposit please -

- ◆ quote your *Name* as the Reference
- ◆ email your details (as above) to ahbic@honeybee.org.au

Account Name: Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc

Bank: Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633 000

Account No: 150 976 405



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