



Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Stephen Ware – Executive Director

July 2011

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!**

SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT YOUR INDUSTRY!

**AB's Honey
Australian Queen Bee
Exporters
Australian Queen Bee
Breeders Association
Australian Honey Products
Barnes Apiaries Pty Ltd
Beechworth Honey Pty Ltd
Bees Neez Apiaries
Black, R G & MJ
Bowman Family
Brooks, Graham
Bush Honey
Capilano Honey Limited
Ciphery, C & R
Clifford, DA & JJ
Codde, T J
Cole, OF
Cotton, AJ & McDonald, MA
Craig, Athol
Daybreak Apiary
Dewar Corporation
Dunlop, PG & RD**

**FCAAA
P & M Ewington
Gell's Honey
Goode, TW & MA
Ipswich & West Moreton
Beekeepers Association
Honey Packers & Marketers
Association
Hooper, RF & AJ
Hoskinson, H L & H M
Howard, OD
L'Estrange, Tony
MacFarlane, R H
Marchant, R & S
Marti, Rod T/A Gagarra
Honey
McLaren, Jane
Morgan, Trevor
Mullen, Peter & Sylvia
Nitschke, CJ
Papworth, F & E
Park, William F
Pollination Association of WA**

**Pobke, Barry
Rasmussen, Ivan
Roberts, IJ & JH
Saxonbee Enterprises
Smith, C & B
Spring Gully Foods Pty Ltd
Stephens, R
Stevens, Graeme
Stevens, Howard
Tasmanian Beekeepers
Association - NW Branch
Tasmanian Crop Pollination
Association
Tasmanian Honey Company
Thompson, N
Weatherhead, T & M
True Blue Honey
Valkenburg, Simeon
Warral Apiaries Pty Ltd
Weerona Apiaries
Wescobee Limited
Wilson, Col
Zadow Apiaries**

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

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The following provides an update of recent activities of AHBIC naturally if you should seek any further clarification please do not hesitate to contact the AHBIC office.

AHBIC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of AHBIC was held on Friday 8 July in Adelaide. Congratulations go to the South Australian Apiarists' Association for hosting the Conference.

THANK YOU

A special thank you goes to our two retiring Executive Members, Ian Stephens & Trevor Weatherhead for their input over the past years.

AHBIC EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

We welcome new executive members, Rod Pavy and Ian Zadow to the AHBIC Board.

The incoming AHBIC Executive for the coming year are:

Chairman	Mr Lindsay Bourke 11/11 High Street, LAUNCESTON TAS 7250 Ph: 03 6331 0888 Fax: 03 6331 3224 Mob: 0418 131 256 Email: lb@ozhoney.com.au
Deputy Chairman	Mr Ed Planken Wescobee Limited PO Box 105 BAYSWATER WA 6053 Ph: 08 9271 8133 Fax: 08 9271 1025 Mob: 0412 916 824 Email: eduard.planken@wescobee.com
Executive	Mr Ken Gell 48 Dundas Road, MARYBOROUGH VIC 3550 Ph: 03 5461 4326 Mob: 0428 506 752 Email: gells_honey@hotmail.com
Executive	Mr Ian Zadow PO Box 339, TINTINARA SA 5266 Ph: 08 8757 2435 Fax: 08 8757 2264 Mob: 0429 433 125 Email: immjzad@bigpond.com
Executive	Mr Rod Pavy Saxonbee Enterprises 1037 Reen Road, GIDGEGANNUP WA 6083 Ph/Fax: 08 9574 7186 Mob: 0428 747 186 Email: saxonbee@activ8.net.au
Capilano Honey	Mr Trevor Morgan Capilano Honey Limited PO Box 52, STREAKY BAY SA 5680 Ph: 08 8626 1355 Mob: 0427 884 462 Email: tpmorg@obigpond.net.au

FUTURE AHBIC EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

The following dates have been set for AHBIC Executive meetings for the next year:

- Monday 31 October 2011
- Monday 27 February 2012
- Monday 7 May 2012

2012 AHBIC AGM

That the year 2012 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council will be held in Launceston, Tasmania.

2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SECTOR CONFERENCES

FCAAA	New South Wales Apiarists' Association	24/25 May 2012
	Tasmanian Beekeepers' Association	5/6 July 2012
	Victorian Apiarists' Association	20/21 June 2012
	WA Farmers Federation- Beekeeping Section	15 June 2012
	Queensland Beekeepers' Association	14/15 June 2012
	South Australian Apiarists' Association	28/29 June 2012
Honey Packers' and Marketers' Association		June 2012
National Council of Crop Pollination Associations		4/5 July 2012
Australian Queen Bee Breeders' Association		TBA
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council		6 July 2012
Federal Council of Australian Apiarists' Associations		TBA

AHBIC RESOLUTIONS

Set out below are the resolutions passed at the 2011 AGM other than those of a procedural nature:

- 11.05 That all groups currently represented in the Constitution, as affiliated associations only have one vote.
- 11.08 That the subscription fee for member bodies be \$20 plus GST.
- 11.09 That AHBIC supports an amendment to the Constitution of the Goodacre Award to allow a member of the organising committee to be a recipient of such an award.
- 11.12 That this Association (CPA) requests AHBIC to make a firm commitment to support the Honeybee & Pollination Security CRC, both in principle and financially, to the greatest degree its resources will allow.
- 11.14 That the minutes of AHBIC Executive Meetings be sent to member body secretaries.
- 11.15 That AHBIC continue to support the containment and surveillance of Asian Honeybees with the view of achieving again the possibility of eradication.
- 11.18 That the South Australian Apiarists Association (SAAA) supports the vote of confidence in AHBIC, as the peak industry body.
- 11.19 That AHBIC investigate the food security enquiry and seek industry involvement.
- 11.22 That the AHBIC Secretariat provide a letter to Queensland Beekeepers responding to all the issues relating to AHBIC.
- 11.23 That a fighting fund be set up to obtain donations from the public to fight the invasion of *Apis cerana*.
- 11.24 That the year 2012 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council be held in Launceston, Tasmania.
- 11.26 That the Secretary would make available to member organisations data on exports and imports as it becomes available.

APIS CERANA UPDATE

Advice 98 -24 June 2011

Detections since Advice 97 are:

IP409 was a swarm at Manunda

IP410 was a nest at Machans Beach

IP411 was a swarm at Woree

IP412 was a nest at Parramatta Park

IP413 was a swarm at Woree

IP414 was a nest in Cairns

The NMG Co-ordination Group met last week. The plan was discussed and the amended version is due out for final confirmation. The official line is that the Asian bee is still not eradicable but this can be revisited if enough data is gathered and a scientific panel agrees that the data shows eradication is still possible.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for both AHBIC and the volunteers has now been resolved satisfactorily. AHBIC has signed the document. Each volunteer needs to sign the individual MOU and thus gain insurance coverage under the Queensland Government scheme. Each volunteer is also required to sign a form for AHBIC. The MOU's have taken a while but it was in the best interest of our industry and the volunteers that we did not sign it until we had received advice from our lawyers that they were satisfied with it. We needed to exhibit due diligence in this process. Thanks to Neil O'Brien from the Queensland Government Department who kept working on the documents and came up with a satisfactory outcome.

The volunteers are already in Cairns having arrived there on Wednesday. There are 11 and they had their induction today. This took 4 hours but it is a necessary part of being a volunteer. Bill Weiss is organising rosters and will book accommodation if required. Please contact Bill on: 02 6732 1263 or 0428 669 578 or email to beeweiss@gmail.com if you wish to volunteer. Bill is looking at a two week period but I am sure would discuss any other arrangements you may need.

The Senate report was tabled in the Senate yesterday. The report can be found at:
http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/rat_ctte/bees_2011/report/report.pdf

The two speeches made when the report was tabled can be found at:
<http://www.aph.gov.au/hansard/senate/dailys/ds230611.pdf>

Advice 99– 16 July 2011

Detections since Advice 98, which was three (3) weeks ago, are:

IP415 was a nest at Portsmith

IP416 was a nest at Kuranda

IP417 was a nest at Kewarra Beach

IP418 was a nest at Mareeba

IP419 was a swarm at Edmonton

IP420 was a nest at Cairns

IP421 was a nest at Cairns

IP422 was a nest at Cairns

IP423 was a nest at Cairns

IP424 was a nest at Earlville
IP425 was a nest at Trinity Beach
IP426 was a nest at Gordonvale
IP427 was a swarm at Innisfail
IP428 was a nest at Moorabool
IP429 was a swarm at Gordonvale
IP430 was a nest at North Cairns
IP431 was a swarm at Bentley Park
IP432 was a nest at Gordonvale
IP433 was a swarm at Deeral
IP434 was a nest at Portsmouth
IP435 was a nest at Edmonton

The volunteers have been performing their duties in Cairns. There were 11 in the first group and 12 currently in Cairns. There has been a good reaction and I believe the volunteers have come away with a better understanding of how things work in the north. The volunteers have also been impressed by the skill of the staff in Cairns. Even though I have been telling industry of this high skill level for several years now, it is good for people to see it firsthand.



*Shirin (Team Leader, Biosecurity Queensland) and Eric Whithy (Honeybee Industry volunteer)
(Photo courtesy of Corey Bell)*

We still need volunteers and a weekly roster will be worked on from Monday 8 August. Bill Weiss is organising rosters and will book accommodation if required. Please contact Bill on: 02 6732 1263 or 0428 669 578 or email to beeweiss@gmail.com if you wish to volunteer.

There was an article on the Queensland Country Hour re the volunteers. You can see it at:

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/qld/content/2011/07/s3267754.htm>

I have not yet received a copy of the final plan but I imagine it is being held up with the Hendra virus outbreak here in Queensland where the Head Office staff handling the Asian bee incursion are also heavily involved in the Hendra virus outbreak.

REPORT ON VOLUNTEERS TO CAIRNS

The first group of volunteers arrived in Cairns on 22 June. They were inducted by Qld Biosecurity staff and began work on 24 June. This group has since returned home yesterday and a second group of 12 arrived and will be inducted today. After a few days working with various on ground staff, of which there are 5, with one additional person expected to begin next week, it became evident that they were extremely dedicated and had developed skills associated with the Asian Bee. They indicated an interest in learning more about *Apis mellifera* after hearing conversations between beekeepers.

We intend to put together a short 3-4 day course during summer, so they can get a rudimentary understanding of *Apis mellifera*, because much of *Apis cerana*'s activities are similar.

We hope to be able to run the volunteer program up until the wet season begins, perhaps in October, realising, of course that most beekeepers will be busy. At present we have been working on a fortnight roster, with change over being mid week to coincide with the cheaper flights. There have been some comments that 2 weeks is too long to be away for many, so as we move away from the main tourist season in the north, flights should not vary so much between weekends and mid week and a weekly roster will be looked at.

Are we doing any good? I believe yes.

We, as concerned Industry people got to see the Asian Bee in the environment and perhaps try to assess its potential impact on our industry. We impart a lot of general bee information to staff and over time I believe the two groups can form a system whereby incursions such as this can be eradicated quickly and efficiently.

Volunteers helped staff bring in a *apis cerana* nest which had located in a 44 gallon drum. The drum was cut and a Perspex end put in, to form an observation hive. This hive is located in the QLD Biosecurity grounds near the wharf area of Cairns. Excluder holes were drilled in the bung of the drum so the queen was restricted from escaping. This hive should prove beneficial for research on attractants and foraging behaviour. Attractants are a very important component if we are going to be able to eradicate this pest as most people who have worked in this region believe "baiting" is the most efficient way of eradication.

There are methods of administering bait which can be very species specific and these are being investigated. Approval may be the biggest obstacle.

Can this pest be eliminated? I believe yes.

I realize that 2 weeks is not very long to be attempting to form an opinion, however, evidence of bee and hive numbers in feeding stations and observation of floral sources lead me to think that nest numbers are not high, both *cerana* and *mellifera*. Our perception of a warm tropical region, producing an abundance of flowers is a bit misguided. Many tropical species don't seem to attract honeybees as they flower intermittently. At present managed honeybees are not performing very well, requiring sugar feeding to allow brood expansion for spring. Of course this view may alter later in the year; given it is still their winter.

So please, if you feel you can spare some time, you, and the honeybee industry will benefit from your volunteering to go to Cairns to help.

Bill Weiss - Volunteer Coordinator

NATIONAL FOOD PLAN

Call for submissions - National Food Plan Issues Paper

The Australian Government is developing a national food plan to help integrate food policy from paddock to plate and protect Australia's food security.

The Government has released an *Issues paper to inform development of a national food plan* for consultation and to collect feedback on what a national food plan should cover and aim to achieve. The Government seeks your feedback to help it create a suite of ideas and options for a national food plan.

Submissions are being sought from interested individuals, businesses and organisations with an interest in food and food policy across the supply chain. Submissions must be:

- Accompanied by a submission cover sheet
- Lodged by 5pm Friday 5 August 2011

The Government also plans to hold a live webcast discussion on the issues paper as part of its consultation with stakeholders. You can register at www.daff.gov.au/nfp For further information on the development of the national food plan, the issues paper and how to make a submission, visit: www.daff.gov.au/nfp or email nationalfoodplan@daff.gov.au or write to:

National Food Plan Unit, DAFF, PO Box 858, Canberra City ACT 2601

2011 AHBIC AWARD OF EXCELLENCE GOES TO BRUCE WHITE OAM



Congratulations to Bruce White on receiving the 2011 AHBIC Award of Excellence presented at the AGM held in Adelaide on 8 July.

Bruce has spent a lifetime working for the Apiary Industry and is a very worthy recipient of the award.

**Congratulations Bruce –
Well Done**

Bruce receiving his award from Lindsay Bourke

- Bruce has spent his life providing services to the beekeeping industry as an employee of the NSW Department of Agriculture, a total of 43 years. In his retirement Bruce continues to be very generous with his time and knowledge, continuing with his dedication to passing on his extensive experience and enthusiasm for honey bees. In his retirement he is a committee member of the Honey Bee

Research Council, he has taken up a very active role in the Australian Queen Bee Breeding program and continues to attend various conferences, meetings and field days as an active participant.

- Bruce has been involved in a number of notable projects that have benefited beekeeping. These include the production of the endemic bee disease video, the exotic bee disease video; it's a buzz video and the package bee video. He has travelled as an official ambassador for the Department and the beekeeping industry to New Zealand, Russia, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, United Arab Emirates, Germany, England, Korea, Thailand and Norfolk Island.
- Bruce is the beekeeping teacher for the Open Training and Education Network of TAFE (OTEN) and also co-wrote educational packages for the Australian Honeybee Industry. He also tutors and lectures on B-QUAL the honeybee industry's quality assurance and biosecurity system.
- Bruce has been asked to talk at interstate conferences. His role in major international conferences started at Apimondia in Adelaide in 1977 when he was the secretary of the beekeeping economy segment. He was the chairman of a session at Apimondia in Slovenia. Bruce also played a very big part in the successful Australian Apimondia in 2007.
- In 2009 Bruce received the Goodacre Award, the Australian Honeybee Industry's peak recognition for excellence. To receive this award you must be nominated by 6 persons associated with the honeybee industry. The nomination is assessed by the Goodacre Award Committee, who makes a decision on whether the nomination is worthy. In Bruce's case the decision was not in question.
- One act of kindness which I feel very few in Industry are aware of is that Bruce on numerous occasions, where a beekeeper has passed away, he has unselfishly assisted in the management of the business and the bees whilst the family has come to grips with their relative's recent death and a way forward developed.
- Bruce was awarded the OAM for services to the Beekeeping Industry in the 2011 Queens's Birthday Honours List.

DELIGHTFUL DINNER SPEAKER

AHBIC and the South Australian Apiarists' Association were fortunate to have Mr Eric Webb as the guest speaker at the Conference Dinner held on Thursday 7 July in Adelaide.

Eric entertained the audience with his very interesting tales of the early days of Spring Gully Foods.



MORE HELP ON THE WAY FOR POLLINATION

MEDIA RELEASE - Wednesday, 20 July 2011

Bees and the pollination services they provide are under threat, and new research is being funded to defend our borders, update biosecurity plans and make sure we are as prepared as possible for if and when a significant bee pest is detected in Australia.

An estimated 65 per cent of agricultural production in Australia relies on honeybees for pollination, yet there is little awareness of their important role because of the incredible job done by wild European honeybees.

A new round of funding has been announced by the Pollination Program, a research partnership between the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) and Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL).

Projects beginning this month are as diverse as biosecurity, smarter use of pesticides and new methods of pest management that will all contribute to the ongoing effort to protect our bees and prepare the apiary and agricultural industries for a possible exotic pest incursion.

Gerald Martin, Chairman of the Pollination R&D Advisory Committee, says it's essential to continue encouraging and funding innovative and novel research.

"The impact of an exotic pest or disease incursion is considered to be a significant risk to the beekeeping industry – and therefore the industries reliant on pollination to produce fruit, vegetables and grain," Mr Martin said.

"One of the key threats to bees is the Varroa mite, and much of the Program's activity is focussed on this pest. If Varroa reaches Australian shores and become entrenched it's expected to cost \$72.3 million per year over 30 years [1].

"This is not just from lower honey production but the impact of the loss of pollination by both managed and wild European honeybees on a range of fruits, vegetables and pastures," Mr Martin said.

The objective of the Pollination Program is to secure the pollination of Australia's horticultural and agricultural crops into the future on a sustainable and profitable basis.

More details about the projects being funded by the program, and their results, can be found at www.rirdc.gov.au/pollination

The new projects being funded in 2011-12 include:

- Biosecurity implementation to strengthen Australia's honey bee and pollination responsive industries. The Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Plan will be updated and a Hive Biosecurity Manual developed along with a training module for bee keepers.
- Pesticide and Bees booklet -This involves developing a web based booklet that identifies crops, pesticides used on them, and pesticides harmful to bees, with the aim of ensuring primary producers, apiarists and those involved with the application of pesticides are aware of the management strategies they can implement to minimise the negative effects on bee populations.

- Remote sensing of beehives to improve surveillance. Existing electronic hive monitoring systems available in Australia will be evaluated, followed by the development of a proof-of-concept hive sensing system with wireless technology that will automatically detect when a swarm enters an empty 'bait' hive.

Screened bottom boards-This will investigate existing designs in Australia and New Zealand and compare over 12 months the performance of hives with screened bottom boards with hives with regular bottom boards.

TASMANIAN QUALITY ASSURED AUSTRALIA – IMPORTANT HONEYBEE PROJECT

Tasmanian Quality Assured (TQA) Australia has been engaged by Horticulture Australia Limited to undertake an important project for the honeybee industry. The project will result in the publication of a document that will help crop pollinators and primary producers to avoid pesticide related honeybee colony deaths. In particular, the publication will include the following:

- a) A list of the agricultural and horticultural crops grown in Australia that are responsive to honeybee pollination.
- b) A list of the pesticides (insecticides, fungicides, herbicides and wetting agents) that are used on those crops and are known to be harmful to honeybees.
- c) Best practice guidelines for crop pollinators and primary producers to follow.
- d) An overview of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority's process for pesticide assessment and registration.

It is envisaged that this document will be made available to the public as a PDF booklet that can be downloaded from the internet.

As a previous secretary of the Tasmanian Beekeepers' Association and part time manager of the Tasmanian Honey Company, I am very excited to be able to work on this project with the TQA Australia team.

I would be most grateful if you could circulate this information to your members and I would love to hear from anybody who is interested in knowing more about the project, or who has a contribution to make. If your organisation or any of its members have done any previous work that relates to this project, I would be grateful of the opportunity to review that work and to build on it, rather than "reinvent the wheel". The project is due for completion at the end of October and it is important that anybody wishing to contribute does so now.

I appreciate your assistance.

Kind regards,
Daryl Connelly
Project Manager - TQA Australia
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P: 0488 333 893 F: (03) 6423 6112
E: daryl@tqainc.com.au W: www.tqainc.com.au



APIMONDIA 2011 INVITATION

We have the pleasure of writing you with the best wishes and to take this opportunity to tell you the way that we're preparing the organization for the 42^o International Apicultural Congress APIMONDIA 2011, that it will carry out in Buenos Aires, Argentina, between the next September, 21-27.

We believe that it'll be one of the most important Congresses that ever been done during the last years, since the whole area of the API EXPO is about 29.100 ft² (2700m²). Up to now, about 90% of the stands of the commercial hall have been sold. With regards to scientific activity, it's been received more than 1000 research papers, most of them has already been accepted.

It is our intention that all the associations, member of APIMONDIA, were active characters of the Congress and for this reason we've planned a number of events where the agents of the different associations can take part.

For this purpose we need that confirm your participation in the APIMONDIA 2011 Congress and so you'll be able to take part in the following events:

- **Opening Ceremony Congress:** We want that the associations take part of this Ceremony, through a representative who can go on stage to welcome the others beekeepers of his own country. It would be very important that these representatives be present at the Ceremony wearing typical dresses of their native land.
- **Beekeeping all around the world:** All the beekeepers enjoy knowing how the colleagues work and how is the reality of the beekeeping in the different regions of the world. For this reason, apart from the three scientific halls, it will be another salon in the API EXPO, where we invite each APIMONDIA member Association to tell everybody the characteristics, management, marketing and the problems of the beekeeping in his country. When you have confirmed your assistance, we will send you a guide with the items that we believe are interesting to include.
- **APIMONDIA Assembly:** As a disposition of the Federation President, Ing. Gilles Ratia, the APIMONDIA Assembly, it'll carry out the first day of the Congress (22 September) during the afternoon (from 3 to 8 PM) where we'll have the opportunity to discuss all about the new statutes that are proposed, with the inclusion of five new commissions within the Executive Council, one for each Continent as well we'll discuss the situation of the Beekeeping all over the world.
- **Accreditations:** It is our intention, that the APIMONDIA delegates have credentials that will be different from ones of the others delegates. That's for we ask you that, when you confirm your assistance at the Congress, you indicate who will be the official representatives, so we will be able to generate their credentials.

Lastly, we are at your fully disposal for any assistance you may require, related to the Congress as well as to the arrival and your stay in Argentina. Therefore, mail us at social@apimodia2011.com, mentioning the date and hour of your arrival so we'll be able to control that all will work as we expect, that is, you make yourself at home.