



Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Stephen Ware – Executive Director

October 2010 Update

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
Bees Neez Apiaries
Bowman Family
Brooks, Graham
Capilano Honey Limited
Craig, Athol
Dewar Apiaries
Dunlop, PG & RD
FCAAA
Gell's Honey
Ipswich & West Moreton Beekeepers Association
Honey Packers & Marketers Association
Hoskinson, H L & H M
MacFarlane, R H
Marchant, R & S
Marti, Rod T/A Gagarra Honey
Midgley, John
Morgan, Trevor

Nitschke, CJ
Papworth, F & E
Park, William F
Pollination Association of WA
Pobke, Barry
Roberts, IJ & JH
Saxonbee Enterprises
Spring Gully Foods Pty Ltd
Stephens, R
Stevens, Graeme
Stevens, Howard
Tasmanian Beekeepers Association - NW Branch
Tasmanian Crop Pollination Association
Tasmanian Honey Company
Weatherhead, T & M
True Blue Honey
Warral Apiaries Pty Ltd
Weerona Apiaries
Wescobee Limited
Wilson, Col

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UPDATE - AHBIC ACTIVITIES

The following provides a brief outline of activities undertaken in the past month by your Association.

AHBIC has established a “Varroa Treatment & Preparedness Committee.

The brief is: To examine and potentially register treatments that can be used by the Australian Industry for treatment of Varroa should it be introduced despite our precautions.

Treatments would need to be approved by Australian Pharmaceutical Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) in addition to registrations already taking place at the moment namely:

Apistan (fluvalinate) Apivar (amitraz) Bayvarol (flumethrin).

It is envisaged that a physical meeting of the Committee will take place at the time of the AHBIC 2011 Annual General Meeting in South Australia. Prior to this a telephone hook-up would take place to identify potential treatments. HAL has kindly made available a consultant to assist in preparing applications to APVMA.

The committee would also remain a standing committee to evaluate any proposal which would come from industry which we would advertise and encourage. This is in addition to the production of a strategic plan and other projects currently being worked on by industry and Government.

The AHBIC Executive is planning to meet in Canberra on Wednesday 27 October 2010. Key issues to be discussed include:

- Residue Contamination
- The Eastern Creek Quarantine Station
- RIRDC funding and future research projects
- *Apis cerana* incursion and cost sharing arrangements
- The future of the Sentinel Hive Program

A Consultative Committee for Emergency Plant Pests (CCEPP) full-day meeting will be convened on Friday 29 October 2010 in Canberra to discuss the Asian Honey Bee - Queensland program and its future management. From this meeting recommendations will go to National Management Group (NMG) and on to Ministerial Council for their November meeting. It is expected that CCEPP members will be accompanied by their bee expert so that decisions can be made at this meeting.

Correspondence has been sent to the new Minister for Agriculture, the Hon Joe Ludwig MP seeking a meeting. AHBIC has also raised the following points with him:

- Sentinel Hive Program
- *Apis cerana* Incursion Queensland
- Re-opening Eastern Creek Quarantine Station

The Productivity Commission has released its Draft Report in respect of Rural Research and Development Corporations. Unfortunately in its current form the Report calls for all statutory

levies to be reduced from 0.50 per cent to 0.25 per cent of an industry's gross value of production (GVP). This reduction should be phased in over ten years, with the cap reducing by 0.025 per cent of GVP each year during this period. This is but one of the recommendations which has enormous implications for R & D Funding through RIRDC. AHBIC is continuing to analyse the report as it contains a wide number of recommendations which will potentially have an enormous impact on industry.

On the subject of research, industry is supporting the establishment of a Cooperative Research Centre and we have been attempting to rally industry support for the funding of this initiative.

The issue of residue contamination has again raised its ugly head and attempts have been made by overseas competitors to degenerate the good name of Australian Honey. AHBIC continues to support Government and private industry initiatives to counteract these rumours and un-truths. It is the responsibility of all industry to rally against outrageous claims and support the good name of Australian honey in both international and domestic markets

We have been notified of a shipment of handpicked queens and escorts which entered the Northern Territory on 7/10/2010; had a single a Small Hive Beetle Adult detected. As this poses a threat to the Northern Territory clean status, the Northern Territory requests that all cages for queens and escorts, meet their import requirements.

Those members of industry shipping bees to the Northern Territory are asked ensure compliance by contacting:

Vicki Simlesa
Crocodile Technical Officer & Apiary Officer
Dept of Resources
GPO Box 3000
Darwin NT 0801
Phone: 08 8999 2036
Fax: 08 8999 2146
Mobile: 0401 115 853
Email: vickisimlesa@nt.gov.au

On the subjects of imports we continually hear rumours that the United States are attempting to prevent the import of queens and live bees on the basis of the Apis cerana incursion in Cairns. AHBIC continues to work with the Australian Government to continue this important export market and refute domestic claims that Australian imports pose a risk to the United States industry.

The issue of residue testing of imports has been raised with Food Standards Australia and further discussions are envisaged at shoring up the potential residue contamination with imported honey. It is only reasonable that imports meet the same standards expected of Australian Primary Producers to produce honey of the highest quality.

We welcome all our new contributors and recipients of the AHBIC Newsletter.

APIS CERANA UPDATE

Advice 79 - 1 October 2010

Finds, all within the RA, for the past fortnight up to Friday 1 October are:

IP217 was a nest at North Cairns
IP 218 was a nest at Gordonvale
IP219 was a nest at Goldsborough
IP220 was a swarm at Aeroglen
IP221 was a nest at Deeral
IP222 was a nest at Gordonvale
IP223 was a nest at Gordonvale
IP224 was a nest at Mooroolbool
IP225 was a nest at Mount Sheridan
IP226 was a nest at Bentley Park
IP227 was a swarm at Bentley Park (in a letterbox)
IP228 was a nest at Aloomba
IP229 was a nest at Bentley Park
IP230 was a nest at Smithfield
IP231 was a nest at Gordonvale
IP232 was a nest at Gordonvale

The finds show that the improved techniques for finding bees are working along with the extra staff. Currently there is targeted checking of areas within the RA.

The dog handler, who has been recently employed, is on her way from Melbourne to Cairns. It is expected that she will start work by 14 October. This will give an added tool to the detection of Asian bees.

An Epidemiologist has been gathering information on the program in Cairns and has spent time in Cairns. One of his jobs will be to check the feasibility of eradication of the Asian bees.

The Queensland Department had offered to hold a workshop in Cairns for anyone from interstate Departments interested in seeing the eradication and surveillance program first hand. There was only interest expressed from one person in Canberra and one from the Northern Territory. Because of the lack of numbers, the Workshop has been cancelled.

Advice 81-16 October 2010

Finds, all within the RA, for the past fortnight up to Friday 15 October are:

IP233 was a nest at White Rock
IP234 was a nest at Bentley Park
IP236 was a swarm at Portsmith
IP237 was a nest at Brinsmead
IP238 was a nest at Gordonvale
IP239 was a nest at Edmonton
IP240 was a swarm at Edmonton

IP241 was a nest at Yarrabah
IP242 was a nest at Bentley Park
IP243 was a nest at Yorkeys Knob
IP244 was a nest at Gordonvale
IP245 was a swarm at Gordonvale
IP246 was a nest at Gordonvale
IP247 was a nest at Redlynch
IP248 was a nest at Cairns central
IP 249 was a nest at Bentley Park
IP250 was a nest at Trinity Beach
IP251 was a nest at Bentley Park
IP252 was a nest at Mount Sheridan

There are several sites at which there is beelining activity taking place.

Bruce Christie, the Chief Vet from New South Wales, was in Cairns on holidays and took the opportunity to go out with the staff. He was impressed with the skills of the staff.

The dog is due in Cairns by the end of the month. The recently employed dog handler is gaining experience in the field.

There is a meeting scheduled in Canberra on 29 October to look at the program and have recommendations for NMG. Funding is only assured till the end of December. At this stage, from my point of view, we need to keep the program in place. There are many finds but I believe this is as a result of the increase in staff numbers and the increase in their skills. It would not be wise to stop at this stage having put in place these staff who are doing an excellent job.

We have a once only opportunity to eradicate the Asian bee from mainland Australia. If we were to pull the pin, then I believe in years to come many would question why we acted so hastily. If cerana became established it would be compared to cane toads and rabbits. The cost of eradication will pale into insignificance when compared with control costs in the future.

Beekeepers will not collect cerana swarms as they are of no use. So the public will bear the cost of destruction of hives and swarms. Look at Terry Ryan's paper. Local Government will also come in for its share of costs.

We have had about four (4) swarms in letter boxes. Look out posties. We had a budgerigars nest invaded and the young killed. We have a record of a native ant nest being robbed out plus a Trigona nest in a log that had been harvested for firewood. So the environmental costs will be great. With all the talk about our environment, it is surprising that the "greenies" are not out there warning of the cost to the environment if the Asian bee is allowed to get away.

I now step down off the soapbox.

The next phone hook-up is scheduled for Friday 29 October but, as this clashes with other proposed meetings, will most likely be changed to Friday 5 November.

Trevor Weatherhead

AHBIC PROFILE – KEN GELL

Located 165kms North West of Melbourne, the historical goldfields town of Maryborough is home to AHBIC Executive Committee Member Ken Gell. A fourth generation Victorian apiarist, Ken is part of a strong family based beekeeping enterprise.

Ken's father, Alan, left school aged 13 or 14 trading textbooks for the real world to commence beekeeping in the family business. With a career in bees that has spanned 65 years, Alan has seen countless innovations during this time. The progression from hand loading hives to boom loaders, horse and carts to large trucks capable of moving a couple of hundred hives, from packing honey in 60 pound tins to 1000 litre IBCs and now extracting honey in a 190 frame extractor instead of a four framer has made life a lot easier for the Gells. Alan recalls that he started off with a tent and an old four frame extractor bolted to two sleepers on the ground!

The Gell family continues to buck the trend of an industry which is failing to attract young people as beekeepers. Ken's son, Steven, has been working in the 1200 hive family operation for the past two years and is in his final year of completing a Certificate III in Agriculture at Ballarat University as part of his beekeeping apprenticeship. The course focuses on beekeeping, first aid, forklift licensing, small machinery maintenance and chemical handling etc which has finetuned his skills within the family business.

Steven has also had a great opportunity to gain an international perspective of beekeeping by visiting Germany recently to work with a couple of apiarists over a nine week period.

However, with the commencement of the new season, the Gells are now busy moving bees onto Canola in the Riverina area of Deniliquin NSW. The move will rebuild hive strength after a winter of pollinating almonds in the Mildura region of North West Victoria. Ken also follows honey flows close to home around the Maryborough area of central Victoria although seasonal demands can see him travel to Port Fairy in south western Victoria and up towards the South Australian border. Each season brings new challenges for the Gells. Currently the locust threat is set to cause headaches for Victorian beekeepers with the likelihood of widespread chemical spraying.

While Ken's business keeps him very busy, he has also contributed much time and effort to industry issues over the years. Ken has served on the Victorian Apiarists' Association (VAA) executive for the past 21 years and was presented with a life membership at the VAA annual conference in June. Besides being a member of the AHBIC Executive, Ken is also President of the Central Victorian branch of the VAA and is a Board Member of B-Qual.

NEW FEDERAL MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE

The new Minister for Agriculture is Senator the Hon Joseph William Ludwig. He has been a member of the Australian Senate for the state of Queensland since July 1999.

Senator Ludwig was born in Longreach. He is married and lives in Brisbane with his wife and two daughters. His father, Bill Ludwig, is National President of the Australian Workers Union, one of Australia's largest trade unions, and is a powerful figure in the Queensland branch of the Labor Party. Senator Ludwig was educated at the University of Queensland, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts, the Queensland University of Technology, where he graduated with a

Bachelor of Laws, and the Australian National University, where he completed a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice.

Senator Ludwig began his career as an Industrial Inspector and Training Consultant, before moving to the Queensland Branch of the Australian Workers' Union. Prior to entering the Australian Senate, Senator Ludwig was a barrister and served with the Australian Army Reserve.

Senator Ludwig was a Deputy Opposition Whip in the Senate 2000–01, and was elected to the Opposition Shadow Ministry in October 2004 as Shadow Minister for Justice and Customs and Manager of Opposition Business in the Senate. He was promoted to Shadow Attorney-General and Manager of Opposition Business in March 2007 following the resignation of Kelvin Thomson. Senator Ludwig was appointed Minister for Human Services following the election of a Labor government in the November 2007 election. Senator Ludwig was promoted to Cabinet Secretary and Special Minister of State in June 2009.

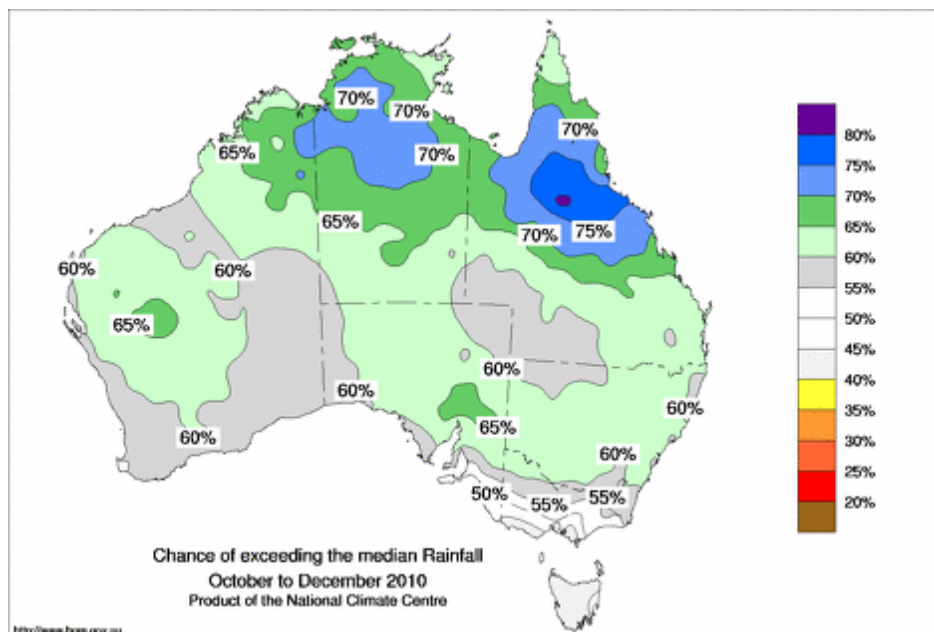
Following the ALP forming government after the 2010 election, Senator Ludwig was appointed as Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry by the Prime Minister, the Hon Julia Gillard MP.

NATIONAL SEASONAL RAINFALL OUTLOOK: PROBABILITIES FOR OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2010

Bureau of Meteorology
www.bom.gov.au

The Australian rainfall outlook for the December quarter (October to December) favours wetter than average conditions over large parts of the continent, with strongest odds across northern Australia.

The October to December outlook is the result of warm conditions in the Indian Ocean and cool conditions in the equatorial Pacific Ocean, both of which are associated with the current La Niña event.



The chance of exceeding median rainfall for October to December are over 60% over most of Queensland, the Northern Territory, NSW and South Australia, as well as the Kimberley and western inland parts of WA. Odds increase to over 70% for northern parts of both the NT and Queensland. Such odds suggest that for every ten years with similar ocean conditions to those currently observed, about seven years would be expected to be wetter than average over these parts of the NT and Queensland, while about three years would be expected to be drier during the December quarter.

For the remainder of Australia, namely most of Victoria and Tasmania as well as the remainder of WA, the outlook is neutral with odds between 40 and 60%. This means that the chance of a wetter than average December quarter are about as likely as the chance of below average conditions in these areas.

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 the October to December period, history shows this effect to be moderately consistent over much of the country.

A La Niña event is now well established in the Pacific Ocean. Long-range models surveyed by the Bureau of Meteorology suggest the central Pacific will continue to exceed La Niña thresholds through spring, with the majority indicating the La Niña event will continue into at least early 2011. For routine updates and comprehensive discussion on any developments regarding El Niño and La Niña.



AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC

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ABN: 63 939 614 424

Dear Beekeeper

AHBIC is proud to be industry's peak representative organisation, a role it has played since it was formed in 1998 with many major initiatives achieved. Following the 2010 AHBIC Annual General Meeting it was recognised that AHBIC needs to increase its support and funding base to include all beekeepers and this is the purpose of this letter.

As we progress in the new millennium it is obvious that the beekeeping industry faces enormous challenges including:

- Potential disease and pest incursions (*Varroa*, *Apis cerana* etc.);
- The continuation of an effective quarantine station;
- Resource security;
- Market access for Australian bee products;
- Increased profitability for beekeepers generally;
- National Park access and many more issues.

To undertake the above activities industry needs resources to operate. The last year has seen enormous change both for the Association and for the Australian economy as a whole. As the rate of change increases it will be more important than ever to keep AHBIC's viability growing to ensure that it can represent you at the highest level. Otherwise we will simply have to respond to change as it is imposed on us, instead of our interests as a crucial industry to pollination being taken into consideration.

Industry, in the last 12 months and into the future, continues to deal with a myriad of issues including:

- The *Apis cerana* incursion in Queensland – if spread this bee will reduce honey production and increase pollination costs.
- Trade issues continue to be an ongoing area of concern and are being vigorously pursued.
- Contamination issues continue to be a major concern to our industry (PDBs, GMO's and PAs that are ever present threat).

I can assure you for a small organisation AHBIC is performing well above its weight on a large number of sensitive issues. These above issues have the potential to impact on every beekeeper and AHBIC is seeking to raise \$500,000 to protect your industry.

For your own beekeeping interest I would ask you to get behind your national association and fight together for this industry we all hold dear and consider sending a voluntary levy to your national body.

Yours sincerely



Lindsay Bourke
Chairman

✂

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL

PO Box R838, Royal Exchange NSW 1225 **ABN 63 939 614 424**

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 for \$ **Credit Card** MasterCard Visa

Card No - - - - / - - - - / - - - - / - - - - Expiry (mm/yy) - - / - -

Please charge above card: \$ _____

Cardholder name: _____

Signature: _____

I would like to receive the AHBIC Annual Report

Name:

Address:

.....

Email: