



# Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Stephen Ware – Executive Director

SEPTEMBER 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!**

AB's Honey	Cugley, Kirsten	Langan, Margaret	Saxonbee Enterprises
Argus, Andrew	Damokas, B	L'Estrange, Tony	Slattery, Anna
Australian Queen Bee Exporters	Daybreak Apiary	Lever, Robert	Smith, C & B
Australian Queen Bee Breeders	Davey, Helen	Locker, Judy	Smith, RD & WW
Australian Honey Products	Davis, Ernest	MacFarlane, R H	Squire, Gary
Barnes Apiaries P/L	Deane, A J & C M	Marchant, R & S	Stanley, J & L
Bates, Tiffane	Den Hollander, Jeroen	Marti, Rod T/A	Stephens, R
Beacham, V G	Dewar Corporation	- Gagarra Honey	Stevens, Graeme
Bee My Honey Apiaries	Dunlop, P G & R D	McGurk, M L &	Stevens, Howard
Beechworth Honey P/L	Ewington, P & M	Lockley, B A	Stirling, Graeme
Bees Neez Apiaries	Faithfull, Mark	McLaren, Jane	Stokes, Peter
Bell, Graham	Federal Council of Australian Apiarists	McInerney, Neville	Strout, Graham
Billington, Steven	Fruet, F P	Meimetis, Steve	Tasmanian Beekeepers - NW Branch
Black, R G & M J	Gell's Honey	Milne, Howard	Tasmanian Crop Pollination Association
Bowman Family	Georgiou, Athena	Morgan, Trevor	Tasmanian Honey Company
Bredenkamp, Don	Giles, G R & P M	Morris, Wendy	Thompson, N
Bresland, Ian	Glenister, Susan	Mullen, Peter & Sylvia	True Blue Honey
Brock, Margaret	Goode, T W & M A	Myers, Terry	Upton, Ralph
Brooks, Graham	Griffiths, Milton	Naisbitt, A L	Valkenburg, Simeon
Bucktin, Brian	Griffin, Brian	Nevin, Denis	Van Dongen, A J
Buntine, Robert	Hadfield, Simon	Nitschke, C J	Vermeer, Peter
Bush Honey - Rosalie Waters	Honey Packers & Marketers Association	Norcic, John	Wallace, P
Buzz Honey	Hooper, B A	Papworth, F & E	Warral Apiaries P/L
Capilano Honey Ltd	Hooper, R F & A J	Park, William F	Watson, James
Ciphery, C & R	Hooten, Keith	Paull, D M & G A	Weatherhead, T & M
Clifford, D A & J J	Hoskinson, H L & H M	Phillips, Rupert	Weerona Apiaries
Codde, T J	Howard, O D	Pluschke, D & MS	Wescobee Limited
Cole, O F	Howell, T & S	Pobke, Barry	Wilson, Col
Coleman, R J	Howie, G D	Pollard, Nigel	Wishart, Ron
Cotton, A J & McDonald, M A	Hughston & Sons P/L	Pollination Assoc of WA	Zadow Apiaries
Craig, Athol	Ipswich/West Moreton Beekeepers Association	Rasmussen, Ivan	Zadow, Paul
Crop Pollination Association	Jones, C H	Ravi, David	
	Jones, Daniel	Roberts, I J & J H	
	Kap J & E A	Roberts, Glenn	
	Land, K R	Robinson, Barry	
		Roden, Helen	
		Rose, Doug	
		Ruiter, J H	

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 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:

- Submissions have now been made to parliamentary enquiry in NSW on Public Land Use. Apart from the submission AHBIC has also offered to appear before the enquiry.
- AHBIC among others has continually requested Government to look at the impact of neonicotinoids on bees and at last APVMA have announced they will review the issue.
- A number of meeting are/have been scheduled/continued this month and include:
  - Animal Health Australia
  - Food Safety and Residue Committee
  - B-Qual Australia
  - AHBIC Executive
- Submissions have also been made on the following subject areas:
  - The Chinese Honey Standard
  - GMO's
  - Australian Honey Standards

## **CHANGES TO AUSTRALIAN PESTICIDES & VETERINARY MEDICINES AUTHORITY (APVMA) CORPORATE STRUCTURE**

From Monday 3 September 2012, Mr Neville Matthews (currently General Manager, Better Regulation Taskforce) will be returning to his substantive position as Program Manager, Regulatory Strategy and Compliance Program. Dr Simon Cubit (currently Acting Program Manager, Regulatory Strategy and Compliance Program) will return to his substantive position as Manager, Public Affairs.

## **APVMA TO REVIEW SCIENCE ON PESTICIDES AND BEE HEALTH**

Concerns in Europe and the USA about the potential for insecticides to impact on the [health of honey bees and other insect pollinators](#) have created some anxiety among Australian beekeepers who have noted that many of the neonicotinoids used overseas are also used here. Of particular interest is whether a particular class of insecticides, the neonicotinoids, might have sub-lethal effects on bees, which may reduce their ability to pollinate plants and produce honey.

Accordingly, the APVMA has commenced an investigation of the scientific literature to determine whether:

- use of neonicotinoids in Australia presents any more of a risk to honey bee health than other pesticides that have been in use for many years
- current APVMA data requirements for testing of insecticides are adequate to address any potential effects of neonicotinoids on bees.

The outcomes of our investigation will be published by early 2013.

*Importantly Canadian authorities have likewise agreed to investigate and we reproduce the following article from Hive of the Canadian Honey Council.*

## **CANADA - SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS TO HONEY BEE POISONING!**

After devastating hive loss due to acute poisoning symptoms, Ontario bee keepers were relieved to hear of Health Canada's decision to re-evaluate neonicotinoid insecticides.

Given the high number of reports of acute poisoning, and with lab results indicating the presence of Clothianidin, Ontario Beekeepers are pleased with Health Canada's initiative to re-evaluate nitro-guanidine neonicotinoid insecticides and associated products.

Over the last six weeks, reports have been received throughout Southwestern Ontario of honey bee poisoning. Symptoms ranged from unusually high numbers of dead or dying honeybees in front of hives to complete beeyards being depopulated.

With these numerous reports being received the Ontario Beekeepers Association (OBA) executive contacted various government agencies and chemical companies to ensure their awareness and involvement. Professional testing and research is being provided on the poisoning. The OBA-Technology Transfer Program is working with these agencies to ensure all pertinent data and samples are available. Beekeepers are searching for answers.

Nitro-guanidine neonicotinoid is widely used in agriculture, including soil applications, seed treatments, as well as foliar and greenhouse uses. OBA recognises that nitro-guanidine neonicotinoid are widely used by agriculture neighbours. As stated by OBA President, Mr John Van Alten, " we want a workable solution for all our partners in agriculture, but not at the expense of pollinators. We need to ensure that non target insects are not negatively affected by the use of these chemicals."

The Ontario's Beekeepers Association, established in 1881, is one of the oldest established farm organisations in Ontario. It is incorporated under the Agricultural and Horticultural Organisations Act (1987). The OBA's mission is to ensure a thriving and sustainable beekeeping industry in Ontario.

### **NEW GRAZING LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION BIOSECURITY MANUAL**

A new National Farm Biosecurity Reference Manual for Grazing Livestock Production has been produced by Animal Health Australia (AHA). It is the latest in a series of industry biosecurity manuals published by the AHA in conjunction with its industry members. Livestock industries covered by this latest manual include all grazing species such as sheep, beef, alpacas and goats.

The biosecurity principals outlined are equally applicable whether the business is producing meat, milk or fibre. The manual clearly describes voluntary on-farm biosecurity measures which are simple and inexpensive to implement and help protect the animals from infectious diseases.

### **HONEYBEE R&D NEWS**

- **Honeybee Advisory Committee (HAC)**

The process to appoint two members to the Honeybee Advisory Committee (HAC) has been completed. Ben Hooper and Ben Oldroyd were the successful applicants. Ben Hooper is a commercial beekeeper from South Australia, a Nuffield scholar with experience in studying pest and disease management of honeybees and member of the South Australian Apiarists' Association's executive. Ben Oldroyd has been reappointed to the HAC. Ben is a Professor at Sydney University and leads a research group focusing on honeybee biology. I welcome both Bens to the Committee.

This also marks the retirement of Bruce White from the Committee, after 6 years as a valued Committee member. Bruce was recently awarded an OAM for his services to the Australian beekeeping industry, recognition by the wider community of the dedicated service Bruce has given over a long period of time.

- **Asian honeybee**

Five Asian honeybee related projects are to be funded by industry as voluntary contributions outside the levy as part of the Asian Honeybee Transition 2 Management Program. These are:

- Inter-specific matings between *A cerana* and *A mellifera*? – Ben Oldroyd
- Development of an attractant specific to *A cerana* Java - David Guez
- Establishing the disease status of *A cerana* Java strain in the Cairns region - John Roberts
- A strategy to address concerns of countries that import Australian honeybees - Michael Clarke
- Risk assessment of ports for bee pests and pest bees - Simon Barry

- **Preparing for Varroa – Preparing for Varroa – How susceptible are Australian honey bee stocks? Project summary**

**Free (2 pages)**

**Code:** 12-054 **Author(s):** Ben Oldroyd

**Published:** 25 Jun 2012

One of the greatest threats to Australian honeybees is the exotic mite *Varroa destructor*.

The mite infests the brood cells of bees, weakening the pupae and making it susceptible to viral diseases. Varroa is present in all beekeeping countries worldwide, with the single exception of Australia.

Where Varroa is present, it devastates hives, and requires intensive treatment with miticides to manage mite populations. What level of resistance do Australian bees have to Varroa?

As part of this project, seven lines of Australian and three lines of American honeybees were evaluated for their resistance to the parasitic mite Varroa destructor. The evaluation shows that Australian stocks lack resistance to Varroa, and that an incursion of Varroa would have catastrophic effects.

## **DAFF - NOTIFICATION OF IMPORTATION OF QUEEN HONEY BEES: FINAL POLICY REVIEW**

DAFF had advised that Animal Biosecurity Branch have released the DAFF Biosecurity Advice 2012/19 ‘*Importation of queen honey bees: Final policy review*’.

The document is at the following web address:

<http://www.daff.gov.au/ba/reviews/final-animal/honeybees/ba2012-19-final-review-importation-queenhoneybees>

### **Overview:**

This review assessed the biosecurity risks to Australia of the importation of queen honey bees (*Apis mellifera*, the European or western honey bee). All disease agents, pests and species of concern were assessed, including those that have emerged since the original policy for the importation of honey bees was developed in the 1990s. It provides risk management options to reduce identified risks to a level consistent with Australia’s appropriate level of protection (ALOP).

A draft review of the import policy for queen honey bees was released on 29 February 2012 for 60 days stakeholder comment. This was extended to 14 May 2012 (at the request of stakeholders). The department has considered the submissions received from stakeholders and accepted a number of proposed amendments.

The final policy requires that importation be restricted, in the first instance, to countries that can provide a satisfactory level of assurance for certifying to Australia's biosecurity requirements for queen honey bees - Canada, the European Union, Japan, New Zealand and the United States.

The final policy also requires that upon arrival in Australia all imported honey bees undergo post-arrival quarantine in a government-approved quarantine facility where a colony derived from imported honey bees will be propagated. The larvae grafted from this colony will be the only genetic material released from quarantine. This will be at the existing Eastern Creek quarantine station until the new bee quarantine facility in Victoria is commissioned.

**Key Issues:**

DAFF recognises that there is demand for imported genetic material to improve the productive and disease resistance qualities of local honey bee colonies.

Australia remains free of some major honey bee pests and diseases including varroa mite and the so called "killer bee"— the Africanised honey bee, *Apis mellifera scutellata*, and its hybrids.

In February 2006, importation from the United States was suspended because of the inability to determine whether honey bees from that country contained genes from the Africanised honey bee.

Queen honey bee imports from all sources were suspended in August 2008 over concerns with honey bee colony losses in several countries attributed to the 'colony collapse disorder' syndrome. The review concluded that this syndrome is not of biosecurity concern.

**ILLEGAL SUPPLY OF PRODUCTS CONTAINING PARADICHLOROBENZENE (PDB, PCB)**

Supplying and using unregistered products containing Paradichlorobenzene (PDB, PCB) may lead to PDB residues in honey. Residue detections may compromise Australia's trade with other countries.

No products containing PDB are registered by the APVMA for supply in Australia for use in the honey bee industry.

Retailers selling products containing PDB for use in hives to control pests such as moths are supplying unregistered products and are in breach of the Agvet Code.

It is an offence under the Agvet Code to supply unregistered chemical products and monetary penalties apply.

The APVMA encourages public and industry members to submit information on any suspected breaches of the Agvet Code. Such reports will then be treated in accordance with the Compliance Program Operating Principals which can be found on the APVMA website [www.apvma.gov.au](http://www.apvma.gov.au).

**Background:**

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) is a national regulator of agricultural and veterinary chemical products. A product requires registration by the APVMA if it being supplied for a purpose that fits the definition of an agricultural chemical product in the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994 (Agvet Code).

By law you can only supply registered agricultural and veterinary chemical products in Australia.

## NATIVE TITLE DETERMINATION APPLICATION – NGEMBA, NGIYAMPAA, WANGAAYPUWAN AND WAYILWAN

**Federal Court Application Number – NSD415/2012 - Notification Date – 5 September 2012**

A native title claim group has asked the Federal Court to recognise their traditional rights and interests in the area described below:

The application area is located within central NSW and covers areas of crown land and water in the vicinity of the town of Cobar, extending from Walgett and Bourke in the north to Hilston and Ivanhoe in the south.

Not all land within the external boundary is claimed, for example, freehold land is excluded.

In accordance with s.66(3)(a) of the *Native Title Act 1993* the Native Title Registrar has given notice containing details of the application to the following persons or bodies:

- Any registered native title claimant in relation to any of the area covered by the application;
- Any registered native body title corporate in relation to any of the are covered by the application;
- Any representative Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander body for any of the area covered by the application;
- Subject to subsection (5), any person who, when the notice is given, holds a proprietary interest, in relation to any of the area covered by the application, that is registered in a public register of interests in relation to land or waters maintained by the Commonwealth, a State or Territory;
- The Commonwealth Minister;
- Any local government body for any of the area covered by the application; and
- If the registrar considers it appropriate in relation to the person - any person whose interests may be affected by a determination in relation to the application.

In addition the Native Title Registrar has notified the public in the determined way (s.66(3)(d)).

For general information about the native title you may wish to visit our website at [www.nntt.gov.au](http://www.nntt.gov.au). You can get specific information about this application by calling the case manager – Dianne Drake on freecall 1800 640 501 or (02) 9227 4007

### **DATES FOR 2013 ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCES**

#### ***PLEASE NOTE CHANGES TO DATES***

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
<b>South Australian Apiarists' Association</b>	<b>20/21 June 2013</b>
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.