



Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Trevor Weatherhead – Executive Director

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

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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FAREWELL KEITH MCILVRIDE

Keith McIlvride passed away on Saturday 5 January, 2013 after a long battle with prostate cancer. His funeral was held on Wednesday 9 January in Sydney.

Keith will be long remembered for his contribution to the beekeeping industry in Australia, particularly New South Wales being President there for many years. On the national front, Keith was involved in several areas.

He was President of the Federal Council of Australian Apiarists' Associations (FCAAA).

As one of the participants on the trip to Russia to bring back some breeding stock of Caucasian bees, they took the opportunity to visit Professor Rutter at Oberusal on the trip back. Whilst the stock was quite gentle in Russia, for some unknown reason, it was not as gentle when reproduced here in Australia.

Keith was a member and later Chairman of the Honey Bee Research and Development Committee (HBRDC) of the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC).

Keith was on the Organising Committee for the 2007 Apimondia in Melbourne. Keith was in charge of scientific programming and the smooth running of those sessions was a tribute to Keith's work.

Keith was also on the Executive of the Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association (AQBBA). Keith carried out Artificial Insemination (AI) of queen bees and supplied breeding stock to many in the industry.



Keith receiving his AHBIC Award of Excellence from Chairman Lindsay

NEW YEARS GREETING

On behalf of AHBIC, I would wish you all the best for 2013. The past year has not been without its challenges. However the New Year should be looked on as an opportunity to take our industry forward.

This year shapes up with some significant changes possible in our industry. To mention a few we have the AFB workshop in March which is looking at finding a solution to an ever increasing problem. We have the Transition to Management Plan for the Asian bee due to end on 30 June. The weather in some States is not what we would wish for and there have been bushfires in many States.

If you have issues that you feel need addressing please bring them forward so that they can be considered.

Lindsay Bourke
Chairman

NEW AHBIC CONTACT DETAILS

Trevor Weatherhead has taken over the role of Executive Director. The new contact details are:-

P.O. Box 4253
Raceview Q 4305

Phone 07 5467 2265

Email remains the same ahbic@honeybee.org.au

There is a redirection order on the PO Box in Sydney and the old phone number has a message on it.

AFB WORKSHOP

A workshop on AFB is being held in Canberra on 14 & 15 March, 2013. This is in response to the motion passed at the last AHBIC AGM setting up a Committee, under the Chairmanship of Craig Klingner, to look at a national approach to AFB. This is the first step in seeing what can be done.

An issues paper has been prepared by Michael Clarke and has been circulated to all participants from all States, both industry and Government.

Industry is fortunate to have the involvement and support of Plant Health Australia (PHA) and the Honey Advisory Committee (HAC) of the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC).

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Over the past few months AHBIC has received many voluntary contributions. We would like to thank those who have contributed and also encourage others to contribute to help the work of AHBIC.

Many contributions have come by way of a direct debit into the AHBIC bank account. Unfortunately in many cases we do not know who has made that contribution as there was no name. If doing a direct debit please include your name so we know who it is.

2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2013 Annual General Meeting is to be held in Perth. The original dates set for the meeting were 4 & 5 July. This has now been changed to the 5 & 6 July. The Beekeepers Section of WAFF will hold their meeting on the 5th. The combined dinner will be held that night. AHBIC will meet on the 6th.

The venue is:-

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

I will advise of the booking procedures in the next newsletter and also by way of advice to member organisations and delegates.

REGISTRATION OF COPPER NAPHTHANATE

AHBIC has been successful in having copper naphthanate registered by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) for use in treating beekeeping equipment. The permit number is 13026 and is effective until 30 June 2022.

Unfortunately the 5% concentration was not able to be registered as it was not registered with APVMA as an Agvet chemical. An alternative 2% concentration was able to be registered. Full details are available on the APVMA website at <http://permits.apvma.gov.au/PER13026.PDF>

National Advice 3 – 14 January, 2013

Interception of Asian bees (*Apis cerana*) in Townsville

On Wednesday 9 January, some Asian bees (*Apis cerana*) were found flying at the port in Townsville around some containers that had been unloaded from a ship that had arrived from Dili. A swarm of almost 4,000 bees was found on Thursday and destroyed.

The bees were sent to Brisbane and the queen was found. No varroa or tracheal mites were found.

No live Asian bees have been seen in Townsville since the swarm was destroyed. Surveillance will be ongoing for the next few days.

The ship had gone from Port Moresby to Darwin to Dili and then Townsville. To me it is most likely that the swarm would have been loaded or came on board the ship in Dili. However, as a precaution, surveillance was also carried out in Darwin.

After leaving Townsville the ship headed back to south east Asia.

No containers that had been unloaded had left the port prior to the finding of the Asian bees. All containers were thoroughly examined but no more Asian bees were found.

Another good find. The wharfies are certainly one of our best defences.

If anyone wants any other information, feel free to contact me at any time.

Trevor Weatherhead
14 January, 2013

EXECUTIVE MEETING

The AHBIC Executive met in Brisbane on 26 November, 2012. Over the two (2) days meetings of B-Qual and the Food Safety and Residue Prevention Committee were held thus saving some travelling time for some members.

Some of the issues covered were:-

- The industry submission to the Green Food Paper Plan
- The upcoming AFB workshop
- Live honey bee exports
- Transition to Management Plan for the Asian bee
- National Honey Bee day
- National Surveillance program
- Biosecurity Manual
- Categorisation of various exotic pests

The next Executive meeting is scheduled for 13 March, the day before the AFB workshop in Canberra.

AHBIC SEASONAL REPORT

Victoria - from Bob McDonald. January 2013.

December weather has been normal with generally hot weather interspersed with cooler days and a little rain in some places.

Clover growing in the irrigation areas of Northern and South Western Victoria and Gippsland will continue flowering during summer and, to a limited extent in high rainfall dry-land areas of South Gippsland and South West Victoria.

All other flowering trees and shrubs etc. have ceased, with probably Citrus yielding the best, followed by Canola in some of the better areas.

Currently – At the moment everyone is marking time with very little prospect offering, and pressure being applied to keep bees holding strength until prospects improve.

Some beekeepers are resorting to sugar feeding, usually an unheard of practice at this time of the year.

Prospects – The patchy budding on River Red Gum (*Euc. Camaldulensis*) has deteriorated. Red Gum, along with several other Eucalypt species, exploded into new growth during the last two weeks of November. Although heavily budded trees are still holding well with odd trees in flower, many of the lighter budded trees have also shot into new growth. It appears that these trees have shed a large proportion of their mature buds.

The flowering on the Red Gum has resulted in bees only gathering pollen up to date, with only one report from South West Victoria of bees gaining some honey surplus.

Yellow Box beetle has been prevalent in blossom since early December, though not a heavy infestation.

Elsewhere, in the Mallee, there are a few Christmas Mallee (*Euc. Socialis*) trees flowering and providing a little pollen.

Little Red Mallee (*Euc. Leptophylla*) trees have started to flower during late December. Although heavily budded the continued hot, dry weather is putting a question mark over its ability to yield much surplus honey.

Summer flowering Mallee trees often yield nectar more freely after heavy rain. Although long-range forecasts are indicating a dry summer, heavy thunder storms can occur quite often during hot weather.

Also, working bees in the Mallee over the summer can place severe stress on bee hives. With the high day temperatures during November indicating that the coming summer could be hotter than usual, there needs to be a great deal of care taken in where we place our bee hives e.g. sunny/shady positions, how we provide water for them, and how we physically work the bees.

Elsewhere – Blackberries – where abundant – are helping to sustain bee hives in the higher rainfall country.

Also White Clover, in the irrigated pasture, but White Clover is not as abundant as it used to be a few years ago.

There is a fair acreage of Seed Lucerne being grown in the South West of the State this season and early reports are that bees are gaining honey.

Summer flowering Iron bark (*Euc. Tricarpa*) is carrying a reasonable crop of buds for late January flowering, where not affected by leaf defoliation.

Some Grey Box (*Euc. acrocarpa*) trees are setting buds, but it is not clear as yet as to how good this bud set is.

The budding on the Red Stringy Bark (*Euc. Macrorhyncha*) in the North East is now questionable as many trees are now carrying heavy growth.

There is very little potential to produce any quantity of honey anywhere in Victoria in the short term, with only some very minor prospects in some localised areas and, as these are very limited, it is best to leave these to the locals.

Quite a few of the Eucalypts are showing good new growth with the anticipation of possible bud set for 2013/14 season.

Western Australia - from Rod Pavy

Spring build up was good last year and most beekeepers had a reasonable crop especially in coastal areas.

Jarrah flowered from end of spring and produced quite well in most areas.

A good crop was taken from the Goldfields area by the few who travelled the distance.

Marri (Western Australian Redgum) is well budded and should produce a good crop to make an average to good season for most producers.

The Jarrah produced good Pollen and the Marri should do the same for the few who are trapping.

South Australia - from Keith Gibbs

At the end of almonds, the bees were middling to good and the crop prospects were plentiful.

Canola, *E. gracilis*, *E. diversifolia*, *E. incrassata* and *E. leucoxydon* all yielded a little honey, but no major flow.... let's hope that this year improves.

Most bees have now gone to irrigated Lucerne which is yielding some honey. Most of the dryland Lucerne is now finished and yielded a very poor crop of honey.

Majority of bees are flat, desperately needing breeding conditions and some good honey.

Eucalyptus foecunda is the next potential yielder throughout most of the mallee. It is well budded and it is due to have a big crop after many years of disappointing yields. *Melaleuca lanceolata* (dryland teatree) has budded in places and there is still some hope for good breeding conditions and perhaps some honey.

We need rain desperately as most trees and the bush is healthy and growing but need the moisture to set buds. Without rain soon, next year could be looking a little dismal. Even though we've had two good years of summer rain in South Australia there has actually been little budding and even less honey yields.

Northern NSW - from Casey Cooper

With some storms and rain events, most of north NSW is somewhat green.

Ground flora has given small amount of honey and good pollen for bees to breed well.

Scattered bud on yellow box failed to produce any honey and went to growth early.

Spotted gum on eastern side of range has been reported to be giving good honey and pollen.

Hot weather on tablelands rough bark apple is producing well.

Most stringy barks have good bud for the coming months.

Blood wood in Piliga Scrub will need rain to make it worthwhile .

Slopes and plain black box and coolabah giving good honey but hot weather take toll on bees.

Queensland - from Bill Winner

Honey producers are wondering when the weather will settle down in QLD. Scorching temperatures, dry conditions and now the Monsoon's cutting in with heavy rains in the north may well spell a return to normal weather patterns, just a month late. Grey Ironbark yielded a small crop along with small yields of Brush Box. Bloodwood is well budded in many areas and has in places started to flower. Spotted Gum is budded and hopefully will provide build conditions and a honey yield prior to the exodus to the Channel Country for Yapunyah.

There is a lot of concern over potential fire risks and the need for rain.

There is some reluctance to travel south of the border in pursuit of southern honeyflows such as Bloodwood. Recent fires in NSW make that reluctance obvious.

There has been a heavy interest in re-queening hives where breeding conditions are suitable.

Small Hive Beetles have not been a major issue for most producers as yet, though the humidity has been down prior to the wet season.

The majority of honey producers are not holding stocks of honey; packers have been receiving good supplies for the most part as honey is being delivered soon after extraction.

Tasmania – from Lindsay Bourke

The spring build up was reasonable but not a lot of honey was produced from the usual sources of clover, prickly box and ground flora.

Flowering is late for the leatherwood and some, such as prickly box, are flowering late. The leatherwood is not looking good at the moment. The bush is dry and hard and needs rain. We are still hopeful of a crop from the leatherwood even though some trees are dropping the flowers early.

For those who went west early there was some manuka.

The next couple of weeks will tell if we get a crop of leatherwood.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2012-2013 GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL

**PO Box 4253 Raceview Q 4305 ABN 63 939 614 424
Phone (07) 5467 2265 Email: ahbic@honeybee.org.au**

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 \$

DIRECT DEPOSIT:

Account: Australian Honey Bee Industry Council
Bank: Commonwealth Bank, Maroubra Junction, NSW.
BSB: 062 198
Account No. 1022 2090

***** Please quote company/name as reference on direct deposit *****

I would like to receive the AHBIC Annual Report

Name:

Email:

Address: