



Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Trevor Weatherhead – Executive Director

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

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.**

All rights reserved. This publication is copyright and may not be resold or reproduced in any manner (except excerpts for bona fide study purposes in accordance with the Copyright Act) without the prior consent of the Publisher. Every effort has been made to ensure that this newsletter is free from error or omissions. However, the Publisher, or its respective employees or agents, shall not accept responsibility for injuries, loss or damage occasioned to any person acting or referring from action as a result of the material in this newsletter whether or not such injury, loss or damage is in any way due to any negligent act or omission, breach of duty or default on the part of the Publisher, or its respective employees or agents.

National AFB Workshop Report

On the 14th and 15th March 2013 an AFB workshop was held at the ANU Canberra. This was an AHBIC initiative and was held with the assistance of RIRDC, PHA and AHBIC. The two days involved almost all industry and government players and was believed to be an outstanding success by all participants.

Day 1 was largely industry led, the first half we heard from industry leaders such as Ian Zadow, Trevor Weatherhead, Rob McDonald, Ben McKee, Trevor Monson and Craig Klingner. The overwhelming message on that morning was that industry does have a big problem with AFB and industry is willing and ready to help lead and pull together a joint industry/government national AFB program.

The second half of the day the attendees broke into small groups and workshopped the critical pros and cons of a national approach to AFB in Australia, then discussed maximising the benefits and managing any risks of a national approach.

By the end of the first day it was very evident that everyone recognised that AFB was a big problem and a better approach to dealing with it was desperately needed. Secondly there was a common notion that the national AFB control program needed to become a major focus of a much bigger National Biosecurity Plan.

The second day we largely heard from speakers from a more government/policy side. Speakers such as Sarah Hilton (DAFF), Greg Fraser and Rod Turner (PHA), Toney Britt (Vic DPI) and Paul Bolger (NZ Ministry of primary industries) among others. The first half of the day there were two key messages. Firstly being that all government departments were increasing backing away from all endemic pests and diseases and that it was up to industry to deal with.

The second was that despite governments withdrawing support for issues like AFB, they were all in favour of an industry led and run AFB control program and were very keen to help industry in establishing a program and assisting in areas such as policy, legislation and regulatory backup. The second half of Day 2 was around the funding options for the proposed national AFB control program. This area was the hardest for the workshop to deal with as there are so many problem areas. Involving the entire industry in all aspects of the proposed AFB control program was seen as a priority. Collecting funds from the entire industry showed to have the biggest issues. Cost of collection for individuals is not economically viable, central collection points are necessary similar to existing levy arrangements. The issue was largely left unresolved, however a considerable amount of work has been done on this issue in the last 3 weeks involving DAFF and the National Levy collection service and there are some clear ways forward.

Paul Bolger gave us an extremely good overview of the NZ AFB program, issues and pitfalls of setting the program up initially, to the continuation of the program and making it work better for the industry.

Both RIRDC and DAFF expressed willingness to assist in seed funding to kick off the program, those issues are being pursued at the moment.

The key points to come out of the workshop were:-

1. All government departments are/have walked away from AFB control and the issue will be left squarely with industry.

2. All industry delegates recognise AFB was a major problem for the industry and all were in favour of a National approach to AFB control, led, driven and funded by industry.
3. All government departments were in favour of an industry led, driven and funded AFB control program and committed in principle to assisting with policy, legislation and regulatory backup. Especially when the notion of a broader National Biosecurity plan with an AFB focus was brought up.
4. A small working party was put forward to push on with the National AFB Control Program and begin dialogue with all industry assistance and state/federal government departments being Ian Zadow (AHBIC), Sam Malfroy (Project Officer PHA) and Craig Klingner (Chairman AHBIC AFB Steering Committee).

In conclusion, I believe the workshop was an outstanding success; all delegates were frank and honest but also cooperative and fully supportive of a national approach to AFB. This exercise and every other one in the past will mean nothing if the issue is not grabbed by industry and made to work. The AFB working party intends to give presentations at all of the upcoming State AGMs, please ask as many questions as possible. At this stage we are looking for in principle support for a national AFB control program from all the states and keeping in mind it is potentially the first steps of a much broader National Biosecurity approach for the industry.

I urge everyone to get behind this cause. I strongly believe we have the right people in the right places to make this work for the benefit of the entire industry.

Craig Klingner
Chairman AHBIC AFB Steering Committee

CONFERENCE DATES - 2013

New South Wales	22-24 May (Merimbula)
Tasmanian Apiarists Association	31 May – 1 June (Hobart)
Victorian Apiarists Association	5-6 June (Bendigo)
Queensland Beekeepers Association	13-14 June (Warwick)
South Australian Apiarists Association	20-21 June (Renmark)
WA Farmers Federation – Beekeeping Section	5 July (Perth)
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association	TBA
Honey Packers and Marketers Association	June
National Council of Crop Pollination Associations	TBA
Federal Council of Australian Apiarists' Associations	6 July (Perth)
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	6 July (Perth)

Please note the WA conference has changed from 4 to 5 July and the AHBIC meeting from 5 to 6 July.

AGM

I have sent out circulars to member bodies of AHBIC re the AGM reporting and delegates. I have spoken with the Western Australians and this year there will be two (2) registration forms. One for the WAFF Beekeepers meeting and the dinner which are on Friday 5 July and another for the AHBIC AGM on Saturday 6 July. It is important that you register for both as the venue will need catering numbers.

I would encourage those AHBIC member body delegates to attend the WAFF Beekeepers meeting as it shows support for the WA people from their interstate counterparts and also you have every chance of learning something new.

LIVE BEE EXPORTS

I note that Dr. Jeff Pettis from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is a guest speaker at the NSW Apiarists Association Conference at Merimbula. He is due to speak on the program about "Banning of Australian bee imports into the US". No doubt we will get some insight here as to what we, as an industry, need to do.

The Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CDAFF) are in contact with Canada re their requirements to keep the live bee imports from Australia going after the Transition to Management Plan for the Asian bee finishes on 30 June, 2013. These talks will then be the basis for what we need the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (QDAFF) to put in place to keep the Canadian market open.

NATIONAL HONEY BEE DAY

Unfortunately Western Australia, Victoria and Queensland are the only ones participating in the National Honey Day so I suppose it cannot now be called a National Honey Day. For various reasons the other States are not able to participate but have expressed interest in participating next year.

BEE SCULPTURES

I received this via email and thought some may be interested.

I write in regards to my sculptural piece BEES which I thought you might be interested in?

BEES is a light sculpture that is presently under construction for the Vivid Sydney 2013. The piece is due to be suspended outside The Sydney Opera House from the 23rd May for two weeks.

In brief the piece is a 2.2m tall welded brass hive, illuminated from within. Surrounding the hive, suspended by small brass tubes, will be some 520 individual bees. Each bee is cast from polyurethane and has an LED light embedded within. Happy to send images of the piece concept but perhaps have a look at the construction progress to date on my twitter: vossarch

FROM TENDRILS 24 APRIL, 2013

Final meeting of the Varroa Continuity Strategy Management Committee

The fourth and final meeting of the Varroa Continuity Strategy Management Committee (VCSMC) was held on 11 April in Melbourne. Members of the VCSMC include PHA, Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), Horticulture Australia Limited, Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, CSIRO, state government representatives and honey bee scientists. Members of the Pollination Program and the Honey Bee Advisory Committee were also present. Sam Malfroy (Chair) and Brad Siebert attended on behalf of PHA.

The objective of the committee is to have arrangements in place that allow the honey bee industry and crop industries that are pollination-reliant to prepare for, and respond quickly and efficiently to the possible establishment of Varroa in Australia. The meeting discussed a range of issues, including registration of chemicals, control and management zones in the event of a Varroa incursion, and a national bee health website with a focus on Varroa.

This was the final meeting of the committee, with funding from DAFF to PHA ending on 30 June 2013. A report on the progress made over the last two years will be written for the National Biosecurity Committee.

Infopest

PHA industry member Growcom has released the [Infopest](#) agvet chemical database, which includes more than 11500 chemical products, permits and safety sheets. Changes to available products and information by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority are regularly updated, providing users with accurate, up-to-date information for the effective control of weeds, pests and diseases in a wide range of crops and livestock.

The agvet component features:

- advanced search capability for approved chemical products
- label and permit images
- rates of use
- withholding periods
- maximum residue limits
- export slaughter intervals
- information on managing pests resistant to chemicals
- tools to prepare your own reports about chemical uses.

[Infopest](#) is available free online to registered users

EU BAN ON NEONICOTINOIDS

Just happened. See http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-379_en.htm

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2012-2013 GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC (AHBIC)

ABN: 63 939 614 424

PO Box 4253
Raceview Qld 4305

Phone: (07) 5467 2265
Email: ahbic@honeybee.org.au

TAX INVOICE/RECEIPT

Yes I wish to support my industry

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

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone: Date:

Please circle

yes / no

Please publicise my name on the front of the AHBIC Newsletter

yes / no

I would like to receive the AHBIC Annual Report

yes / no

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

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

CHEQUE \$ Please include this form with your Cheque or Money Order.

DIRECT DEPOSIT:

Account Name: Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc

Bank: Commonwealth Bank, Maroubra Junction, NSW.

BSB: 062 198

Account No: 1022 2090

When paying by Direct Deposit

please * **quote your Company / Name as the Reference**
and * **email your details** (as above) to: ahbic@honeybee.org.au

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