



# Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Trevor Weatherhead – Executive Director

## NOVEMBER 2013

### VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS to AHBIC are GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

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 or QUEENBEE SUPPLIER appear on this list?  
If not, then ask “Why not?” AHBIC WORKS FOR YOU!**

**The following list recognises contributions received since 1 December 2012**

*There are a few other contributors – some wishing to remain anonymous and some not indicating their wishes*

AB'S Honey  
Adams, Richard  
Australian Queen Bee Exporters  
Barnes Apiaries  
Bayside Beekeepers Association Inc  
Blair-Hickman, R & R  
Bliss, Stephen  
Bourke, Lindsay  
Buntine, Robert  
Bush Honey - (Midgley Family)  
Capilano Honey Ltd  
Cotton, A J &  
Crabb, David  
Cutts, Neville  
Davey, RE  
Daybreak Apiaries  
Dewar Apiaries  
Doncaster Bee Club  
Doyle, Anthony  
Dunlop, PG & RD

Enslin, Darren  
Ewington, P & M  
Gells Honey  
Glasby, Garry  
Green, Lionel  
Hoskinson, HL& HM  
Ipswich/West Moreton  
Beekeepers Assoc  
Jones, Daniel  
Kennett, JL & KA  
Lagoutatzis, Nikolaos  
Lees IP & LD  
Leo, Victor  
MacGibbon, Kevin  
McDonald, RG  
Miller, Clem  
Morabito, Bruno  
Morgan, Trevor  
Nairn, Mal  
Papworth, F & E

Pobke, Barry  
R. Stephens  
Richter, Phil  
Ringin, Bill  
Roberts, I J & J H  
Saxonbee Enterprises - Rod Pavy  
Squire, Gary  
Stokes, Peter  
Superbee  
Triantafillopoulos, Stavros  
Watson, Maurice  
Weatherhead, T & M  
Weerona Apiaries  
Wescobee Limited  
Williams JW & MA  
Zadow Apiaries

**Thank you to all our contributors. AHBIC appreciates your ongoing support.**

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## HONEY LEVY REFORM AND INCREASE

The Industry Working Group (IWG) of Craig Klingner, Ian Zadow and Sam Malfroy have been working on the proposal for reform of the levy process and the increase in levy to fund a Code of Practice that will be part of the Biosecurity Strategy for the beekeeping industry.

The final touches are being made to an explanatory document which will be widely circulated within the industry. All beekeeping journals and beekeeping newsletters will have the opportunity to publish what is proposed. All beekeepers are urged to read these documents carefully and consider how they will help your industry in the long term.

The Code of Practice is currently being developed and will be available in the New Year for consideration. This comes out of the successful AFB workshop in Canberra earlier in the year.

All levy payers will have the opportunity to vote on these proposals at the round of conferences in the middle of next year. So there are plenty of opportunities to read, to consider and discuss the proposals before the vote is taken.

There has been a tremendous amount of work put into this process by the IWG but their job is not finished. What is proposed gives the industry what is seen as a final opportunity to be able to address the AFB issue in a way that will help beekeepers. So you are urged to give these proposals your careful consideration.

## CONFERENCE DATES

There has been a change to the dates for the New South Wales Apiarists Association conference and the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association conference.

These are the dates as I have them at present.

Queensland Beekeepers Association	12 – 13 June	Toowoomba
New South Wales Apiarists Association	8 - 9 May	Narrabri
Tasmanian Beekeepers Association	30 - 31 May	Launceston
WA Farmers Federation - Beekeeping Section	6 June	Perth
South Australian Apiarists Association	19-20 June	
Victorian Apiarists Association	7 – 8 July	Melbourne
Honey Packers and Marketers Association	TBA	
National Council of Crop Pollination Associations	TBA	
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association	TBA	
Federal Council of Australian Apiarists' Association	9 July	Melbourne
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	9 July	Melbourne

## AGM

The AHBIC AGM will be held on 9 July, 2014 at the Mantra Tullamarine Hotel, Cnr Melrose Drive & Trade Park Drive, Tullamarine VIC 3043. The phone number is (03) 9093 6500. For accommodation, this year the room rate is cheapest when you book early. When booking say it is for the beekeeping conference. You need to book your own accommodation.

The Victorian Apiarists Association is holding their conference on Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 July with a welcome evening on Sunday 6 July. I would encourage all AHBIC delegates to attend the VAA conference. Registration details for VAA and AHBIC will come out in coming months.

### Accommodation at Mantra Tullamarine Hotel:

<b>Executive Studio</b> Single Share (1 person) including breakfast for 1	This modern hotel room has en-suite bathroom (shower only) with granite tiles from floor to ceiling. Bedding can be either a king bed or two single beds.	28 sqm	Book before 31 January 2014: \$145.00 Book before 31 March 2014: \$155.00 Bookings after 01 April 2014: \$165.00
<b>Executive Studio</b> Twin Share (2 people) including breakfast for 2	This modern hotel room has en-suite bathroom (shower only) with granite tiles from floor to ceiling. Bedding can be either a king bed or two single beds.	28 sqm	Book before 31 January 2014: \$155.00 Book before 31 March 2014: \$165.00 Bookings after 01 April 2014: \$175.00
<b>Melrose Suite</b> Single Share including breakfast for 1	Modern and stylish, the Melrose suites feature a separate lounge, private balcony, king size bed and an en-suite bathroom with a separate spa bath.	48 sqm	Book before 31 January 2014: \$210.00 Book before 31 March 2014: \$220.00 Bookings after 01 April 2014: \$230.00
<b>Melrose Suite</b> Twin Share (2 people) including breakfast for 2	Modern and stylish, the Melrose suites feature a separate lounge, private balcony, king size bed and an en-suite bathroom with a separate spa bath.	48 sqm	Book before 31 January 2014: \$220.00 Book before 31 March 2014: \$230.00 Bookings after 01 April 2014: \$240.00

## LATEST QUEEN BEE IMPORT INFORMATION

I reported in the last newsletter about the recent importation of queen bees through the quarantine station and how varroa was found in some escorts.

The queens, which did not have varroa on them, were put with the Australian escorts in cages as per the protocol. Examination of the Australian escorts after the allotted time showed no varroa. This was to be expected as this was the case back in 2001. The importation is now proceeding along the protocol lines.

I will again emphasize that this way of importing has shown that it will protect our industry from any possible importation of varroa mites. The finding of mites shows that our Departmental Entomologists have the expertise to find any mites that may come with the shipment. If the shipments were to be destroyed when varroa are found, it would most likely lead to any potential importers having second thoughts and looking at the illegal route.

This would be disastrous for our industry as it can be seen how easily varroa could come in with an illegal shipment. By not having the quarantine station route, the varroa would be immediately introduced into hives in Australia.

## NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS

The following chemicals have new product names registered in recent APVMA gazettes. Beekeepers will know the dangers of these chemicals but they are now sold with different brand names that you may not be familiar with. They are:-

**Product Name:** Vantal Upgrade Insecticide/Miticide  
**Active Constituent/s:** 36 g/L abamectin  
**Applicant Name:** Ospray Pty Ltd  
**Applicant ACN:** 110 199 169  
**Summary of Use:** For the control of certain mite and insect pests in various fruit and vegetable crops, cotton, hops and ornamentals  
**Date of Registration:** 23 October 2013  
**Label Approval No:** 67524/56279

**Product Name:** Sinochem Intersect 200SC Insecticide  
**Active Constituent/s:** 200 g/L imidacloprid  
**Applicant Name:** Sinochem Agro Co., Ltd  
**Applicant ACN:** N/A  
**Summary of Use:** For the control of various insect pests of cotton, fruit, vegetables and ornamentals  
**Date of Registration:** 6 November 2013  
**Label Approval No:** 68892/59319

**Product Name:** Kenso Agcare Methomyl 225 Insecticide  
**Active Constituent/s:** 225 g/L methomyl (an anti-cholinesterase compound)  
**Applicant Name:** Kenso Corporation (M) Sdn. Bhd.  
**Applicant ACN:** N/A  
**Summary of Use:** For the control of insect pests in various crops  
**Date of Registration:** 1 2 November 2013  
**Label Approval No:** 69507/60956

## QUEEN BEE LEVY

AHBIC has circulated a letter to all the queen bee levy payers to ask them to support a proposal to set the queen bee levy at zero. In 2012-13, according to figures supplied to AHBIC by the Department of Agriculture, the queen bee levy collected \$6,183.98 and the collection costs were \$10,445. This meant that over \$4,000 was taken out of the money available for research projects that the Honey Advisory Committee of RIRDC runs.

AHBIC could see no way that, in the immediate future, the situation would be reversed where the revenue raise from the levy would be greater than the collection. This has been brought about by the Government moving to full cost recovery for all levies collected. The question has been asked could someone else collect this levy? The answer is no. All statutory levies have to be collected by the Levies Collection Unit of the Department of Agriculture.

The rationale for setting the levy at zero is that at some time in the future, if it was deemed profitable to re-instate a levy, it could be done. To do this, the 12 levy principles would need to be adhered to and all persons who would be paying the levy would need to be consulted. By setting it at zero, there are no collection costs.

## Beekeeping Courses -2014

Course Name Provider, State.	Contact details – Name , Email, Phone No.	Date, Length and Location	Fee	Target Group
NSW- 1) Beekeeping Awareness- Sydney Foodwise P/L	Rosie Stern 0412 374 217 <a href="mailto:rosiest@bigpond.net.au">rosiest@bigpond.net.au</a>	Negotiable 2-3 days Run on demand	\$300per person for groups of 15 - 20. Run on demand.	The course is an introduction to basic Beekeeping skills and covers the competencies required to set up and manage hives, harvest honey and safely package honey. The course provides the basic skills to gain employment in the Beekeeping and Honey production industries.
NSW- 2) Beginning in Bees	Maryke Hession 02 4640 6333 / 0408 492 039 <a href="http://www.profarm.com.au">www.profarm.com.au</a>	2 days Elizabeth McCarthur Agricultural Institute Menangle	\$515	Introduction for new beekeepers.
NSW- 3) Backyard Beekeeping	Andrew Britton – Land Services Officer (Small Farms Network) 02 4232 3200 <a href="mailto:abritton@southerncouncils.nsw.gov.au">abritton@southerncouncils.nsw.gov.au</a>	2 days (Friday/Saturday) Berry Dates: Autumn & Spring (Workshops are run on demand with a minimum of 15 participants)	\$150.	
South Australia- Beekeeping for Beginners.	WEA South Australia Course number 36130E  Phone 08 8223 1979 South Australia  or contact <i>Wendy Thiele</i> Secretary SA Apiarists' Assoc Inc (08) 8635 2257	6 hours one day To be decided.	?	For beginners, equipment requirements and hive management techniques.
Victoria Beekeeping short course-  made up of the new AHC10 Beekeeping Skill Set and AHC32010 Certificate III in Beekeeping	Victoria-Bendigo TAFE- Castlemaine Campus <a href="mailto:iclark@bendigotafe.edu.au">iclark@bendigotafe.edu.au</a> 03 5434 1861  or Peter McDonald R&E McDonald 15 Sawmill Rd McKenzie Hill Victoria 3451 ph 03 5472 2161 mob 0427 722 167 <a href="http://www.mcdonaldhoney.com.au">www.mcdonaldhoney.com.au</a>	Seven weeks with class sessions one evening per week and two Saturdays.  Includes practical sessions at apiary sites and honey extraction plants. Castlemaine Campus  <a href="http://www.bendigotafe.edu.au/courses/pages/beekeeping.aspx">http://www.bendigotafe.edu.au/courses/pages/beekeeping.aspx</a>	\$99.84 (government concession),  \$299.20 (eligible for government funding),  \$700.00 (non-eligible).	For both new and existing beekeepers (both hobbyists and commercial).  Anyone wishing to either commence keeping honeybees as a hobby or gain employment within the honey industry.  This course covers the practical and theoretical knowledge required for the establishment, operation and maintenance of a beehive and how to responsibly manage European Honeybees ( <i>Apis mellifera</i> ) for honey production.

## **PASSING OF MURIEL CLEMSON**

Bruce White has reported the passing of Muriel Clemson, aged 88 years. Her husband, Alan Clemson, had passed away 27 years previously. Alan was a Beekeeping Officer with the New South Wales Department of Agriculture.

Muriel's funeral was well attended by beekeepers and friends.

### **Apimondia 2013 Kiev Ukraine**

Over 8,000 delegates attended from over 100 countries, with 22 Australians' attending. The largest number of beekeepers came from South Korea, Poland, Slovak Republic, Italy, China, Brazil and Turkey.

The scientific program Beyond the Beehive and Global Challenges, had over 1000 scientists involved from 85 participating countries. Four papers were presented involving Australians.

Api expo attracted 200 booths covering 10,000 square metres high lighting, products equipment tools and veterinary medications a major growth section of the industry in Europe.

The World Beekeeping Awards attracted 400 exhibits with gold medals winners coming from 34 countries.

The only Australian honey entry won a gold medal for granulated honey in the individual classes. Congratulation to Dr Nikolai Faizouline a member of the VAA from Victoria.

Twenty five international judges were appointed, I was lucky enough to be invited to judge the Commercial honey classes with the two other judges from USA and Slovakia.

I hope in Korea 2015 Australian Packers will exhibit.

The Best Honey of the World title was awarded to Tzive Company from Cyprus.

A comprehensive social program is always a highlight of Apimondia with opening and closing ceremonies' Ukraine night a special show of Beekeeping Fashion.

The Honey Queen Contest with the worthy winner Ms Burcu Daser from Turkey.

Two General Assemblies were conducted during the congress. I represented AHBIC at both meetings. The Turkish Beekeepers Association won the right to the 2017 congress other countries interested were Italy, Bulgaria and Sweden.

Maureen Maxwell was re-elected to represent Oceania

The President Gilles Ratia highlighted the following worldwide problems.

- 1 Abnormal bee mortality
- 2 A troubling increase in industrial adulteration of honey, royal jelly and even pollen.
- 3 Strict and Stricter regulations alkaloids, transgenic pollen.
- 4 Constant increase in production cost undermining beekeeping enterprises
- 5 Throughout the world there is a shortage of young beekeepers which presents a risk for the future of the whole beekeeping sector.

I appreciated being asked by AHBIC to represent the industry at the General Assembly. Minutes should soon be circulated

A downside was the chaotic scenario to get registered, it took the group of Australian and American beekeepers I was with four hours, other groups reported seven hours the day before even though we all were pre registered.

I'm sure it will be rectified for the 2015 Korean Apimondia, it was a major topic at the General Assemble

Before Apimondia I went to Russia and after toured the Ukraine. The message is colonies should be used by beekeepers as a factories to produce honey, pollen, comb honey, beeswax, package bees, queens, propolis, pollination' bee venom when conditions suit with an increased interest in using bees for healing health problems.

Bruce White.

*(Our thanks to Bruce for representing AHBIC at the meetings. Ed.)*

### **MEETING WITH BAYER**

On 27 November, 2013 following the Plant Health Australia (PHA) meetings, President Ian Zadow and Trevor Weatherhead took up an initiation to meet with Bayer representatives at Canberra airport. They were:-

Lisa Coen, Vice President, Head of Global Public & Government Affairs, Washington DC, USA

Annette Schurmann, Head of Bayer Bee Care Center, Monheim am Rhein, Germany

Richard Dickmann, Head of New Business Development – Melbourne

Guy Chapman, Market Manager, Farm Animals Products, Sydney

Dr. Warwick Smith, Product Development Veterinarian, Sydney

David Gregor, Regulatory Affairs Manager

Jeff Perkins, Regulatory

Discussions were on what chemicals are used in our industry, particularly those involved in surveillance work for varroa mites. It would seem that Bayer in Europe is working on new chemicals for varroa control. For our industry, one of the concerns is that varroa mites are now resistant to Bayvarol, a Bayer product. It has implications for our surveillance work in that any varroa arriving in Australia could already be resistant to Bayvarol, one of the registered surveillance strips.

We came away believing this was a good first up meeting and opens the door for future dialogue.

### **QUEEN BEES THROUGH THE POST**

For some unknown reason in recent times, Express Post delivery by Australia Post of queen bees in a lot of instances seems to be later than the guaranteed delivery times. Not sure why this is the case.

The queen bee breeders have been on to Australia Post with complaints about the late deliveries. On behalf of AHBIC, I have also been in consultation with Australia Post. As postage is the major way the beekeepers get their queen bees, it is important that in our dealings with Australia Post we do not antagonise them to a point where they no longer accept queen bees whilst at the same time pointing out how crucial it is to get these deliveries on time.

The following article appeared in the “Queensland Country Life” on 7 November, 2013. Not sure if it will apply to beekeepers with hives on properties that may go into receivership but you may want to follow up. The website for the Personal Properties Securities Register is [www.ppsr.gov.au](http://www.ppsr.gov.au)

# PROTECT ASSETS

Article by **Stan Wallace**

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**B**eware – in the drought conditions prevailing over much of northern Australia, and with the necessity for many producers to put cattle on agistment, there is also a requirement for producers to protect their interests.

If the property on which you have placed your stock on agistment goes into the hands of receivers, the following scenario is possible.

Imagine that you have 100 head of cattle on agistment on Joe’s property – and then Joe goes broke.

It’s possible that Joe’s bank could add your cattle to Joe’s pool of assets and sell the cattle to recoup Joe’s debt.

That is, unless you’ve taken the necessary steps to protect your interest in those cattle by

registering on the new Personal Properties Securities Register (PPSR).

It’s not just about registering livestock – it’s about any and all “personal property”, machinery and so on.

The Personal Properties Securities Act (PPSA) came into effect in late January 2012 and includes a register that replaces some 70 different state, territory and federal registers and laws. You’re now able to register your personal property interest in one national register, the Personal Properties Securities Register.

Registration is not compulsory, but if you don’t, you may not be able to enforce your interest in the event of an insolvency.

Similar laws exist in New Zealand and Canada.

Of course, as we know, with the prevailing conditions in the bush, plenty of properties could be sailing close to the wind, I must confess, all this was news to me, as I thought branding and tagging cattle ensured ownership.

I learnt of the pitfalls that could ensue at a SARCIS conference I recently attended at Clermont. When I discussed this with some pastoralists I know, they also knew nothing of the dangers unless they registered on PPSR.

My thanks to Detective Inspector Mick Dowie and his crew for passing on this information for myself and our readers.

The folders including all this information on PPSR can also be obtained from any Queensland SARCIS staff.

## SEASON GREETINGS

With the festive season almost upon us, I would take the opportunity on behalf of the AHBIC Executive to wish you and your families the best. May it be a happy time for you all and hopefully your bees will bring you presents.



VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2013-2014 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](mailto:ahbic@honeybee.org.au)

## TAX INVOICE/RECEIPT

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

Email: (Please PRINT clearly).....

Phone: ..... Date:.....

### Yes I wish to support my industry

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

**Please circle your preference**

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:** \$.....

**When paying by Direct Deposit** please -

- ♦ quote your Name as the **Reference**
- ♦ email your details (as above) to [ahbic@honeybee.org.au](mailto:ahbic@honeybee.org.au)

Account Name: Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc

Bank: Commonwealth Bank, Maroubra Junction, NSW

BSB: 062 198

Account No: 1022 2090

*Thank you for supporting AHBIC to continue supporting your industry at a national level.*

*It is gratefully appreciated.*

**Please return this form to AHBIC - by post or email - so your contribution can be recorded correctly**