



Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Trevor Weatherhead – Executive Director

May 2014

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 June 2013

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

AB'S Honey
Australian Queen Bee Exporters
Barnes Apiaries
Bayside Beekeepers Association Inc
Beechworth Honey
Bees Neez Apiaries
Beswick Bees
Bliss, Stephen
Bourke, Lindsay
Bush Honey - (Midgley Family)
Capilano Honey Ltd
Cotton, A J &
Davey, Bob
Daybreak Apiaries
Dewar Apiaries
Dunlop, PG & RD
Enslin, Darren
Faithfull, Mark
Gells Honey

Glasby, Garry
Hoskinson, HL & HM
Ipswich/West Moreton
Beekeepers Assoc
Jones, Daniel
Kennett, JL & KA
Klingner, Craig
Lagoutatzis, Nikolaos
Lees IP & LD
MacGibbon, Kevin
McDonald, RG
Morgan, Trevor
Naicol Pty Ltd
Nairn, Mal
Panda Honey – honey buyers
Papworth, F & E
Pobke, Barry
Pure Bendigo Gold Honey
R. Stephens

Ringin, Bill
Roberts, Glenn
Roberts, I J & J H
Rotary Club of Caulfield Inc
Ruge, RJ & VA
Saxonbee Enterprises - Rod Pavy
Squire, Gary
Stokes, Peter
Superbee
Triantafillopoulos, Stavros
Weatherhead, T & M
Weerona Apiaries
Williams JW & MA
Zadow Apiaries

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

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LATEST ON HONEY LEVY REFORM AND INCREASE

What changes to the honey levy are AHBIC proposing?

AHBIC is proposing to raise the honey levy from the current 2.3c/kg to 4.6c/kg on 1 July 2015. This will be a 2.3c/kg rise in biosecurity levies and will fund critical, on the ground biosecurity activities across Australia that will deliver direct benefits to beekeepers. This includes the development of the National Bee Biosecurity Program, as well as the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program.

AHBIC is also proposing to raise the threshold from which the levy applies for retail sales of honey from 600kg to 1,500kg per annum in an effort to make the honey levy more efficient to collect. AHBIC is also proposing to change the EADRA component to an Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD) component, as well as establish a Plant Health Australia (PHA) levy to pay PHA membership fees and for paying PHA to manage the industry contingency fund. This will be less than is currently paid to Animal Health Australia for membership fees and for running the industry contingency fund.

These changes to plant biosecurity are in recognition that bee biosecurity at a national and state and territory level is handled by plant biosecurity, not animal biosecurity. AHBIC have to change the honey levy to recognise that this is the case.

Changing to plant biosecurity is also critical in the event of an incursion of a bee pest, because it allows for pollinator-reliant plant industries to contribute to an eradication program, which was not possible before.

Why is there a need for the proposed increase to the honey levy?

The timing is right for industry to take a leadership role for bee biosecurity and to get the best outcome in partnership with governments. The proposed increase in the honey levy will fund established pest and disease management and provide industry's contribution to exotic pest and pest bee surveillance.

Governments and industry both recognise that the current systems need to change. What AHBIC are proposing has the support of governments, but we also need industry commitment for these activities. An industry-government partnership is needed to fund the proposed biosecurity activities that directly benefit beekeepers.

The proposed changes are urgently needed to improve bee biosecurity. If they are not successful, industry will not have this opportunity again and services and resources will continue to disappear.

What happens if I vote YES on the proposed changes?

- We will continue to have a world leading surveillance program for bee pests and pest bees, which will allow for the early detection and possible eradication or containment of exotic bee pests.
- The surveillance program will continue to provide invaluable trade support for exporting beekeepers.
- We will have an industry run National Bee Biosecurity Program, with additional government resources and support.

- Beekeepers across Australia will have greater confidence in the biosecurity of their own operations and neighbouring operations.
- The National Bee Biosecurity Program will be tailored to each state, for instance, in Tasmania it could work towards greater surveillance of exotic pests and SHB surveillance
- The National Bee Biosecurity Program would be a flexible program, able to respond immediately to any new threat (SHB, Varroa etc.)
- Both programs will improve the productivity and viability of the honey bee industry into the future.
- The honey levy is made more efficient to collect, allowing more industry funds raised from the honey levy to be spent on biosecurity work, research and development or to be placed in the industry contingency fund.

What happens if I vote NO on the proposed changes?

- Industry will have no national early warning surveillance program for bee pests and pest bees, which opens Australia to every bee pest and disease and removes any chance of eradication or containment of an exotic pest.
- Without a national surveillance program, overseas markets for queen bees and packaged bees could be lost as we cannot provide critical trade support data.
- Problems associated with established pests and diseases will continue to escalate.
- Government support (state and federal) will continue to be withdrawn and potentially lost. This equals:
 - No bee expertise when making decisions that affect industry
 - Reduced apiary officers in state governments
 - Reduced education, inspection and extension services
 - Cost of collecting the honey levy will continue to increase, further taking money away from biosecurity work, research and development and the industry contingency fund.

How can I vote on these proposed changes?

Every beekeeper in Australia who is registered for more than 11 hives, and is therefore considered a levy payer is eligible to vote on the proposed levy changes. Because of the current retail sales levy threshold of 600kg, it is estimated that using the average production of 54kg from each hive (ABARES 2008), only beekeepers that are registered for 11 hives or more would be producing the current 600kg per year.

A formal ballot will be held at each of the six state beekeeping conferences held between May – July in 2014. The vote will be tallied on both a yes/no basis, as well as using a weighted production basis. Each state department of agriculture has nominated an independent voting scrutineer for the ballot. This representative will be responsible for the ballot forms and tallying the results.

Postal voting has closed in New South Wales, Tasmania, Western Australia and Queensland.

For more details about the proposed changes go to <http://honeybee.org.au/programs/honey-levy-reform-and-increase/>.

SUPPLY OF RAW PROPOLIS TO JAPAN- CALLS FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

1. Background:

The Australian Trade Commission in Fukuoka has been contacted by a Japanese Natural Health Foods company which manufactures to GMP standards to source raw propolis from Australia. The company has indicated that it would be interested in providing a long term contract to bee- keepers in Australia who are prepared to supply raw propolis to them.

Their initial requirement is 50kgs per annum and they are prepared to pay full market price but it is important to understand that they require propolis in its raw form and it must be produced entirely in Australia and not re-exported from Australia.

The company appreciates that the growth of propolis may be a new development for the Australian industry but is prepared to work with Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Members to secure supply on a long term basis.

2. Expressions of Interest:

AHBIC members are invited to submit an expression of interest to the Australian Trade Commission in Fukuoka by e-mail and information should include:

- Full contact details of company including ABN number;
- Background of company, company profile and experience as a honey\propolis producer;
- Experience in exporting honey (if any) or honey related products;
- Interest in producing raw propolis and capacity to do so
- Year's membership of AHBIC

Expressions of interest are requested to be sent to the Australian Trade Commission in Fukuoka by no later than 30th June 2014 to:

Tom Yates
Consul General\Trade Commissioner
Australian Trade Commission, Fukuoka, Japan.
e-mail: tom.yates@ustrade.gov.au
Tel: +8190-734-5055

AHBIC AGM

As previously advised our AGM will be held at the Mantra Hotel at Melbourne Airport on Wednesday 9 July, 2014. This follows the Victorian Apiarists Association (VAA) conference on Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 July.

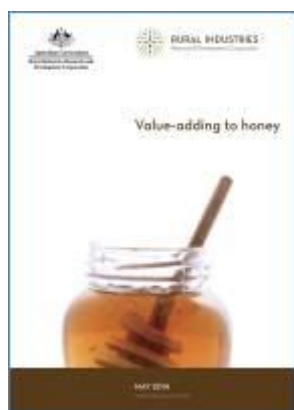
There is a vacancy for Chairman and two (2) Executive members. Nominations for Chairman need to be with the Executive Director by 11 June, 2014. Nominations for the Executive can be received up until the AGM.

It is usual for the delegates to the AGM to attend the VAA conference.

Please note that you will need to register for the AHBIC AGM but you will also need to register separately with the VAA for their conference and the conference dinner on the Tuesday night. The registration form for attendance at the AHBIC AGM is included in this newsletter. To register for the VAA conference contact the VAA at vaa@vicbeekeepers.com.au

VALUE ADDING TO HONEY REPORT

RIRDC HAS published the *Value-adding to honey* report (see details below). The link to the media release about the report is here: <http://www.rirdc.gov.au/news/2014/05/08/aussie-honey-good-for-gut-health-new-research-uncovers-prebiotic-qualities>



Value-adding to honey

[PDF DOWNLOAD](#)

71 pages

Code: 13-123

Published: 7 May 2014

Author(s): Dr Joan Dawes , Dr David Dall

ISBN: 978-1-74254-616-2

This RIRDC project examined three potential attributes of Australian eucalypt honeys: Glycaemic Index, prebiotic properties and therapeutic activity. Australian honey packers and beekeepers could benefit directly by using some of the results of the project to derive optimal returns for honey in an increasingly competitive market.

The most valuable finding from this project is that Australian eucalypt honey is a prebiotic food, stimulating the growth of gut bacteria that contribute to human health and reducing the growth of deleterious gut bacteria.

SENATE INQUIRY

The Senate Inquiry held its public hearing in Brisbane on 20 May, 2014. Trevor Weatherhead appeared at this hearing along with several other witnesses. A transcript can be seen at http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Rural_and_Regional_Affairs_and_Transport/Beekeeping/Public_Hearings As requested there was some extra documentation that has been supplied to the Committee. The Senators showed a great interest in what was presented and it was felt they have an appreciation of our industry.

This Committee is due to report by 19 June, 2014. As an industry we look forward to this report and as an industry we will need to follow up on the recommendations. This was probably one of the faults after the 2008 findings were published in that as an industry we did not pursue the recommendations as hard as we should have.

CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS

After the Federal elections last year, the Department of Agriculture replaced the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF). AHBIC has been advised as follows about the change of email address:-

From 24 May 2014 all email sent by Department of Agriculture users and group/shared mailboxes will be sent using a primary email address in the format: user.name@agriculture.gov.au.

- Individual user email addresses (e.g. user.name@daff.gov.au) will be decommissioned by 24 September 2014
- Group/shared mailbox email addresses (e.g. business.function@daff.gov.au) will be decommissioned by 24 November 2014

RENEWAL OF ALUMINIUM PHOSPHIDE

AHBIC has received the renewal for aluminium phosphide for the use against small hive beetle in stored bee supplies. The registration is until 30 June, 2024. Full details of the registration can be found at <http://permits.apvma.gov.au/PER14820.PDF>

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT - JAPAN

The Free Trade Agreement (FTA) recently completed with Japan had some good news for Australian honey producers. There will be a phasing out of the tariff, which currently stands at 22.5%, over 10 years. There will be a quota imposed starting at 80 tonnes which doubles to 160 tonnes over 10 years. Currently there is no quota and in 2013 we exported 99 tonnes to Japan. So we are starting from a smaller figure but in light of the scarcity of honey at present, the quota should not impact us this year.

AHBIC is still making representations on the upcoming FTA with China and still continues to have the EU tariffs removed.

HONEY MONTH –MAY

Well honey month has come and gone. What happened in your State?

Nationally AHBIC put out a press release and I know Chairman Ian was interviewed on radio several times. After the Committee gets together and does an analysis, I will put out a special newsletter with what happened in each State.

CHARGES FOR IMPORTING QUEEN BEES

The Department of Agriculture have advised that “...the department’s cost-recovery review process for government operated post-entry quarantine facilities; the department has determined that quarantine fees for imported bees will **not** be adjusted at this time..”

NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS

Product Name: Macro Protect Lambda-Cyhalothrin 250
CS Insecticide
Active Constituent/s: 250 g/L lambda-cyhalothrin
Applicant Name: Louis Dreyfus Commodities Australia
Pty. Ltd
Applicant ACN: 004 088 000
Summary of Use: For control of certain insects in various
crops
Date of Registration: 2 May 2014
Label Approval No: 69795/61750

Product Name: Sinochem Neptune 17 EC Insecticide
Active Constituent/s: 17 g/L emamectin present as emamectin benzoate
Applicant Name: Sinochem Agro Co., Ltd
Applicant ACN: N/A
Summary of Use: For the control of *Heliothis* spp. and suppression of
green mirids and mites in cotton
Date of Registration: 8 May 2014
Label Approval No: 69676/61418

CONFERENCE DATES

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	Old Reynella
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

Advice from the Crop Pollination Association that the CPA Annual Conference & AGM will be held on Monday 16th June 2014 at the Sandow Motor Inn, Mildura, Victoria. A tour of an almond cracking plant is planned for Tuesday 17th June 2014.

ASIAN BEES FOUND ON HORN ISLAND

Foraging Asian bees were found on Horn Island in Torres Strait on 14 May, 2014. No varroa were found on these bees but we will have to wait until they find a nest to see if there are varroa present.

The Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is to carry out some DNA testing to see if it can be determined where they originated from. Those results are not available as yet. Possibilities are Cairns, islands in the northern part of Torres Strait where the Asian bee has been present since 1993 or another source.

Horn Island is where a lot of freight comes by sea from Cairns and freight from the northern islands in Torres Strait also comes to. When more information is received it will be passed on.

HONEY IS NOT HONEY

Remember that ad which said “oils ain’t oils”. Well we have several cases in Australia where honey is not honey and AHBIC is having a problem getting action taken to remove it from the shelf. It is not an Australian product but honey which is labelled as being from Turkey.

We now have three different labelled products which we have complained about the labelling in the first place and then, after having analysis of the product conducted by a world renowned laboratory in Germany, we find it is not honey but most likely corn syrup.

State Health Departments, which enforce the Australia and New Zealand Standard, acknowledge it is not honey but won’t do anything as it is not a public health problem. ACCC say they are doing something but cannot tell us due to privacy provisions. What this space for further developments

EXPORT AND IMPORT FIGURES

AUSTRALIAN HONEY IMPORTS AND EXPORTS ANALYSIS UPDATE 2014

Period	Combined Imports Tonnes	Combined Exports Tonnes	Packed Exports Tonnes	Bulk Exports Tonnes	Packed Exports Tonnes	Packed Exports %	Bulk Exports Tonnes	Bulk Exports %
Mar-14	975	1,036	628	408				
Dec-13	485	1,075	621	454				
Sep-13	809	1,233	652	581				
Jun-13	766	1,251	760	491				
YTD	3035.3	4,595	2,661	1,934	2,661	58%	1,934	42%
Mar-13	414	1,165	574	591				
Dec-12	652	1,065	576	489				
Sep-12	1113	1,036	626	410				
Jun-12	1049	1,157	609	548				
Total	3,228	4,423	2,385	2,038	2,385	54%	2,038	46%
Mar-12	975	1,305	544	761				
Dec-11	782	1,501	543	957				
Sep-11	831	961	422	539				
Jun-11	658	1,104	529	575				
Total	3,246	4,871	2,038	2,832	2,038	42%	2,832	58%

- * The above data shows the balance between imports and exports remains constant over the three years shown.
- * Packed bulk honey decline is a result of poor crops and shows a declining trend over three years.
- * Overall exports up on last year but still remain below the 2011/12 period.
- * In close proportion, imports mainly remain from three main origins being - Argentina, China and New Zealand accounting for 90% of all imports which has been consistent over the three years.

Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc

ABN 63 939 614 424



P.O. Box 4253
Raceview Qld 4305

Phone: 07 5457 2265
Email: ahbic@honeybee.org.au

2014 Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 9th July 2014

Mantra Tullamarine Hotel
Cnr. Melrose & Trade Park Drive, Tullamarine Vic 3043

Registration Form

(for Wednesday 9th July ONLY)

Registration includes - Morning & Afternoon Tea and Lunch

Please circle

AHBIC Delegate	Cost: Free
Non Delegate	Cost: \$50.00 (includes GST)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone No: _____ Email: _____

**Please have AHBIC Registration and Payment to AHBIC
by 24th June 2014**

Payment by Cheque

(please include this form)

*Please make cheque payable to AHBIC
and post to:*

**P.O. Box 4253
Raceview Qld 4305**

Payment by Direct Deposit

(please post OR email this form to AHBIC)

**Bank: Bendigo Bank
Account Name: AHBIC
BSB No: 633 000
Account No: 150 976 405
Please use your NAME as REFERENCE**

Registration & Payment:

- **Victorian Apiarists Association AGM and Industry Dinner** (at above venue) on Monday and Tuesday 7 & 8th July requires a **VAA registration form & payment to:**
VAA – Phone: 03 5446 1455 Email: vaa@vicbeekeepers.com.au

- **AHBIC Meeting** on Wednesday 9th July, requires **this** registration & payment to AHBIC

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

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 indicate **YES** or **NO**

1. Please publicise my name (as a contributor) on the front of the AHBIC Newsletter

1. _____

2. I would like to receive the AHBIC Annual Report

2. _____

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

3. _____

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

CHEQUE \$

DIRECT DEPOSIT: \$.....

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

When paying by Direct Deposit please -

- ◆ quote your Name as the Reference
- ◆ email your details (as above) to ahbic@honeybee.org.au

Account Name: Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc

Bank: Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633 000

Account No: 150 976 405



**New Banking
Details**



Previous

Commonwealth Bank Account details
are still valid

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