



# Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Trevor Weatherhead – Executive Director

## November 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 December 2013**

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

AB'S Honey  
Australian Organic Honey Company  
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  
Dr Nicholas Chantler AM  
Clifford, Ray  
Cotton, A J & McDonald, MA  
Davey, Bob  
Dewar Apiaries  
Enslin, Darren  
Ewington, Peter and Maxine  
Faithfull, Mark

Gells Honey  
Hooper, Ben  
Hoskinson, HL & HM  
Ipswich/West Moreton  
Beekeepers Assoc  
Jones, Daniel  
Kennett, JL & KA  
Klingner, Craig  
Lees, Ian  
MacGibbon, Kevin  
McDonald, RG  
Magor, RR  
Masters, N & S  
Morgan, Trevor  
Naicol Pty Ltd  
Nairn, Mal  
Heritage Honey  
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 Honey Factory  
Trigg, M  
Watson, James  
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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## MINISTER JOYCE MEETS BEEKEEPERS

On the afternoon of Friday 28 November 2014, the Northern Tablelands Branch of the New South Wales Apiarists Association were able to entertain their local member, Barnaby Joyce, who happens to be the Minister for Agriculture in the Federal Parliament.

First up there was a reception at John Benfield's place where Barnaby immediately introduced himself individually to the 25 beekeepers present. There was a quick BBQ lunch and those present began discussing issues.



*Minister Joyce, in the bee suit, being shown inside a bee hive.*

The group then went to a very informal discussion with Barnaby. He gave us a brief rundown of where he wants to see agriculture heading and indeed our industry is very much a part of that.

The beekeepers then had a chance to ask Barnaby questions which everyone participated in. The key issues that beekeepers tried to impress on him were:-

- Turkish Honey – Our disappointment in the time that that issue has taken to be resolved and continues to be an issue.
- Asian Honey Bees – We spoke briefly of the previous governments ill informed decisions and Barnaby expressed his willingness to look at the situation and see what possibly could be done.

Once lunch was over there was an inspection of a hive prepared by Casey Cooper showing Barnaby the workings of a hive. During this process those present attempted to instill on him that the beekeeping industry is not just as simple as a beehive to a jar of honey. Once Barnaby removed his bee suit and stopped asking questions he was taken into John's extracting plant to show him a first rate extracting facility and describe the process further.

Once inside the fully operational plant the beekeepers talked Barnaby through the extracting process, along the way mentioning the pit falls and major issues facing the industry. By this time Barnaby could obviously see that the industry was not, as was commonly perceived, i.e. small, backyard operators, and that our industry was an extremely professional and both a financially and physically demanding occupation.

- The containment line at the latitude of Cardwell was discussed with the aim of reinstating trade.
- The business case for the levy reform and increase was raised and our frustration was aired with the time it has taken. It has now been 6 months that the Department has had this in front of them.
- Discussion was held around the possibility of accessing federal money to support the new national biosecurity program in particular Barnaby's new R & D fund. A firm commitment was given to our industry, that if we provide a good enough case to DAFF the industry should be able to access considerable funds through new funding opportunities.
- Questions were asked to Barnaby about our recent senate inquiry into the beekeeping industry and when a response was due from the government. The meeting impressed on him the need for this inquiry to deliver some real outcomes for our industry and not just be another white paper document that gets swept under the carpet.

Thanks should go to Brian Woolfe, Casey Cooper and John Benfield along with the Northern Tablelands Branch for holding such an informative and incredibly important meeting with our Agriculture Minister. The whole meeting went extremely well and has gone a long way to forging a healthier relationship with our Federal Agriculture Minister.

### **LATEST ON HONEY LEVY REFORM AND INCREASE**

The Industry Working Group have been working on incorporating all of the comments from the Industry meeting and the government meeting, held in Melbourne on 28 & 29 October, into the Program and the Code, as well as start developing the material surrounding the Program, such as the draft record keeping template.

Ian Zadow, Craig Klingner, Rob Rahaley and Sam Malfroy will be meeting in Sydney on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December to go through all of these documents and finalise these changes. We are hoping to have the next versions of these documents ready by the week of the 15<sup>th</sup> of December.

Once the next versions have been finalised, we are proposing to place them on the AHBIC website, along with a standard feedback form that we are developing. As agreed at the meeting, it is hoped that the secretary of each association can coordinate the comments from each of their respective state beekeepers.

In the meantime, we have been consulting with each state government about funding a state wide mail out to all registered beekeepers in mid-January to inform them of the Code and Program. This is an ongoing process and some are more willing to fund this entirely, while others require industry funding to conduct the mail out.

If the departmental mail out goes ahead, we are proposing to send out the following information to every registered beekeeper:

- Cover letter explaining what is being proposed and where they can go to get further information and comment on the Code and Program
- A 2-page document explaining bee biosecurity arrangements for the honey bee industry and how the surveillance program will work with the proposed Code and Program

If we can get everything out by these timelines, we will be hoping to 'close off' comments from industry by around mid-March so that we have time to prepare for the next Industry leaders meeting in early April.

If anyone has any questions please feel free to call Sam Malfroy, Ian Zadow or Craig Klingner.

## **FREE TRADE AGREEMENT – CHINA**

Good news for honey in the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China announced on 17 November, 2014.

Currently there is a 15% tariff on honey and up to 25% on honey related goods. These tariffs will be eliminated over five (5) years.

AHBIC has been making representations to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade over the past year or so to ask for honey to be included in this FTA. Our representations have been rewarded.

Whilst current conditions, in many parts of Australia, are not conducive to good honey production, this tariff elimination should mean better returns to beekeepers in the future.

AHBIC has written to the Trade Minister, Andrew Robb, thanking him for his efforts in the Free Trade Agreement with China. At the same time, AHBIC pointed out that in light of the Prime Ministers announcement that negotiations have commenced with India on a Free Trade Agreement, AHBIC would ask for the negotiations to include the elimination of the 60% tariff plus 8% costs on honey exported to India.

## **CHANGES AT B-QUAL**

Ken Gell has resigned as a Director B-Qual after many years of service as a Director and many years as Chairman. A letter has been sent to Ken on behalf of B-Qual thanking him for his service to B-Qual but I am sure that beekeepers Australia wide would also join in thanking Ken for his service.

The AHBIC Executive had written to B-Qual to ask if the Chairman, Ian Zadow, could be appointed as a Director. The Chairman of AHBIC usually attends the meetings of B-Qual and it was thought that seeing as how B-Qual is a company of AHBIC and the Chairman attends the meetings, it would be best to have the Chairman as a Director.

On 10 November, 2014 the Board appointed Ian Zadow as a Director and accepted the resignation of Ken Gell. So the Directors of B-Qual are:- Barry Pobke (Chairman), Bill Winner, Wayne Fuller and Ian Zadow. Trevor Weatherhead is the Secretary.

## **SENATE INQUIRY INTO THE LEVY SYSTEM**

AHBIC has put in a submission to the Inquiry. AHBIC is also part of a coalition called Across Agriculture Group which has also put in a submission.

AHBIC has offered to appear before the Committee in any public hearings they may hold.

## **GREEN PAPER ON AGRICULTURAL COMPETITIVENESS**

This is the next submission that AHBIC will be involved in. It is due in by 12 December, 2014.

## **INQUIRY INTO THE BEEKEEPING AND POLLINATION INDUSTRIES**

AHBIC is still awaiting the Government response to the recommendations of the Inquiry. When in Canberra last week, we were informed it should be out very soon. AHBIC look forward to this response so that AHBIC can then look to assist the Committee in having these recommendations implemented.

## SELF POLLINATING ALMONDS

The link below from ABC Rural news.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-11-03/sach-new-almond-varieties-offer-better-yields/5862368>

## EXPORTS OF HONEY TO JAPAN

With the Free Trade Agreement with Japan in place, there were quotas that come into play as well as the reduction in tariffs.

There have been several teleconferences with the Department of Agriculture on how these quotas will be managed. Taking part in the teleconference have been Jodie Goldsworthy, Ben McKee and Trevor Weatherhead. AHBIC has informed the Department that the allocation of quotas will be a “first come first served” basis. This is the only real option. If we wanted a system of tendering for quotas then honey would need to be a prescribed good and, if that was the case, there would be a lot more costs involved in exporting.

The Department is still to advise on the exact paperwork needed to receive the quota and the cost of these allocations. In the early stages of the implementation of the quotas, it may be that for small shipments, the cost of paying the extra tariff will be less than the cost of the paperwork.

Once the paperwork and costs have been worked out, those who have exported to Japan in recent times will be advised.

## NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS

<b>Application no.:</b>	61039
<b>Product name:</b>	Fyfanon Premium Insecticide
<b>Active constituent/s:</b>	320 g/L maldison (an anticholinesterase compound)
<b>Applicant name:</b>	Cheminova Australia Pty Limited
<b>Applicant ACN:</b>	110 199 169
<b>Summary of use:</b>	For the control of various insect and mite pests in apples
<b>Date of registration/approval:</b>	3 October 2014
<b>Product registration no.:</b>	69529
<b>Label approval no.:</b>	69529/61039

<b>Application no.:</b>	60850
<b>Product name:</b>	Warlock Insecticide
<b>Active constituent/s:</b>	17 g/L emamectin present as emamectin benzoate
<b>Applicant name:</b>	Adama Australia Pty Limited
<b>Applicant ACN:</b>	050 328 973
<b>Summary of use:</b>	For the control of heliothis in cotton, capsicum, lettuce, sweet corn and tomatoes; diamondback moth and cabbage white butterfly in brassica vegetables, light brown apple moth and grapevine moth in grapes, and suppression of mites and green mirids in cotton
<b>Date of registration/approval:</b>	15 October 2014
<b>Product registration no.:</b>	69459
<b>Label approval no.:</b>	69459/60850

**Application no.:** 54183  
**Product name:** Dupont Benevia Insecticide  
**Active constituent/s:** 100 g/L cyantraniliprole  
**Applicant name:** Du Pont (Australia) Pty Ltd  
**Applicant ACN:** 000 716 469  
**Summary of use:** For control of sucking and chewing insects in certain vegetable crops  
**Date of registration/approval:** 16 October 2014  
**Product registration no.:** 66684  
**Label approval no.:** 66684/51483

**Application No:** 61502  
**Product Name:** Aako Vitnam 225 SL Insecticide  
**Active Constituent/s:** 225 g/L methomyl  
**Applicant Name:** Aako Australia Pty Limited  
**Applicant ACN:** 122 279 109  
**Summary of Use:** For the control of certain pests of crops including cereals, fruit, legumes, cotton, oil seed crops, tobacco, hops, vegetables, pastures, peanuts, ginger and duboisia  
**Date of Registration/Approval:** 24 October 2014  
**Product Registration No:** 69721  
**Label Approval No.:** 69721/61502

**Application no.:** 62716  
**Active constituent/s:** Fenamiphos  
**Applicant name:** Amvac C.V  
**Applicant ACN:** N/A  
**Summary of use:** For use in agricultural chemical products  
**Date of approval:** 15 October 2014  
**Approval no.:** 70200

**Application no.:** 61997  
**Active constituent/s:** Hexaflumuron  
**Applicant name:** Dow Agrosciences Australia Limited  
**Applicant ACN:** 003 771 659  
**Summary of use:** For use in agricultural chemical products  
**Date of approval:** 16 October 2014  
**Approval no.:** 69897

## **TURKISH HONEY**

At the time of writing this, AHBIC is not aware of any action by ACCC on the recent complaints we have laid.

AHBIC has also sent a complaint to the New South Wales Department of Health complaining about the labelling of the Garden Honey. The State Departments of Health are the ones who are charged with enforcing the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code. Unfortunately the letter sent never got there and so a copy was emailed.

When in Canberra last week, the issue of the letter sent to Minister Dutton in July asking him to raise, with his State counterparts, this issue of non-enforcement of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code because they do not see it as a public health issue was raised with Minister Joyce's staff. They have made enquiries and a phone call has been received from Senator Nash's office, the Assistant Minister for Health, informing us AHBIC should have a reply within a week or so.

The unfortunate part is that while no action has yet been taken, these products are still on sale to the public and the public could well be buying these products in good faith thinking they are buying honey. This is a highly unsatisfactory situation which AHBIC continues to push to have rectified.

There has been a recent development with HiHoney which AHBIC had lodged a complaint with the ACCC on 20 February, 2014. Whilst AHBIC welcomes the result, the problem still remains of the product being allowed to be on the shelves for sale whilst any investigation takes place and does the fine really affect the profit from the sales. The press release from the ACCC says:-

## **ACCC acts on 'Hi Honey'** **misrepresentations**

1 December 2014

Hume Import & Export (Australia) Pty Ltd trading as Bera Foods (Bera Foods) has paid a penalty of \$10,200 following the issue of an infringement notice by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

The ACCC considered that by using the word "Honey" and including a map of Australia on the "Hi Honey" label, Bera Foods had misrepresented the product was Australian honey when in fact the product was predominantly composed of plant sugars and was produced in Turkey.

The infringement notice was issued to Bera Foods because the ACCC had reasonable grounds to believe Bera Foods had made a false or misleading representation about the composition of Bera Foods' "Hi Honey" product, in contravention of the Australian Consumer Law.

"The ACCC was concerned in this case because although "Hi Honey" was labelled as honey, the product was not actually honey produced by honey bees. Honey suppliers must ensure any products they sell as "honey" are in fact produced entirely by honey bees," ACCC Commissioner Sarah Court said.

"Further, the inclusion of a prominent map of Australia on the Hi Honey label may have led consumers to conclude the product was produced in Australia when this was not the case. Credence claims such as this are a priority area for the ACCC, to ensure consumers are given accurate information about the content and origin of products," Ms Court said.

Earlier this year, the ACCC issued three Infringement Notices and accepted a court enforceable undertaking in relation to "Victoria Honey", which was not produced by honey bees and was not a product of Victoria, Australia.

Recently, the ACCC also took steps to ensure suppliers of "Sunshine Honey", "Hecham Honey", "Brezzo Italian Red Gum Honey", "Meg Myucku 100% natural honey" and "Golden Honey" ceased supply of the product and withdrew remaining stocks of the product from wholesale customers, because each of these products labelled as honey was not entirely produced by honey bees.

The infringement notice is listed on the [public register](#).

### **ANNUAL MEETINGS**

AHBIC will be holding its AGM on Saturday 4 July 2015 at the Penrith Panthers Leagues Club at Penrith. This will follow the NSWAA conference. More details on the AHBIC AGM later. Annual conferences for 2015 as I have them are:-

Queensland Beekeepers Association	11 & 12 June - Cleveland
New South Wales Apiarists Association	2 & 3 July - Penrith
Tasmanian Beekeepers Association	29 & 30 May
WA Farmers Federation - Beekeeping Section	February
South Australian Apiarists Association	18 & 19 June
Victorian Apiarists Association	10 & 11 June -
Honey Packers and Marketers Association	TBA
National Council of Pollination Associations	TBA
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association	TBA
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	4 July - Penrith

### **BIOSECURITY BILL**

In November, 2014 a Biosecurity Bill was introduced into Parliament and is now the subject of an Inquiry by the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee and it is to report by 17 March 2015. Submissions to the Committee have to be in by 16 January, 2015.

Details can be found at

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport/Biosecurity 2014](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Rural_and_Regional_Affairs_and_Transport/Biosecurity_2014)

I have been told that this Bill does have changes to the Bill that had been drafted by the previous government.

### **FUTURE BIOSECURITY**

AHBIC attended the launch of the Australia's Future Biosecurity report in Canberra on 25 November. See for more details.

<http://www.csiro.au/Organisation-Structure/Flagships/Biosecurity-Flagship/Biosecurity-Futures-Report.aspx>

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2014-2015 GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

# AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC (AHBIC)

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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 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](mailto:ahbic@honeybee.org.au)

Account Name: Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc

Bank: Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633 000

Account No: 150 976 405



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