



Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Trevor Weatherhead – Executive Director

February 2015

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 March 2014

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

AB'S Honey
Anderson, Stuart
Australian Organic Honey Company
Australian Queen Bee Exporters
Barnes Apiaries
Bayside Beekeepers Association Inc
Beechworth Honey
Bees Neez Apiaries
Bliss, Stephen
Bourke, Lindsay
Buntine, Bob
Bush Honey - (Midgley Family)
Capilano Honey Ltd
Dr Nicholas Chantler AM
Clifford, Ray
Cotton, A J & McDonald, MA
Covey Bees
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
Pobke, Barry

Pure Bendigo Gold Honey
R. Stephens
Ringin, Bill
Roberts, Glenn
Roberts, I J & J H
Rotary Club of Caulfield Inc
Saxonbee Enterprises - Rod Pavy
Squire, Gary
Stokes, Peter
Superbee Honey Factory
Trigg, M
Watson, James
Weatherhead, T & M
Weerona Apiaries
Willemsen, Dale
Williams JW & MA
Zadow Apiaries

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

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LATEST ON BEE BIOSECURITY PROGRAM AND CODE OF PRACTICE

There has been feedback on the Code of Practice and the National Bee Biosecurity Program starting to come in. Please make sure you have a look at these two items and put your feedback in. They can be found at <http://honeybee.org.au/programs/code-of-practice-and-national-bee-biosecurity-program/>

The Industry Working Group of Ian Zadow, Craig Klingner and Sam Malfroy is planning to meet with State Executives and State Departments over the next few months to discuss the Code and the Program.

In some States, letters have been sent out to all beekeepers. The IWG intends to give a presentation at all State conferences this coming year.

LATEST ON HONEY LEVY REFORM AND INCREASE

AHBIC has been advised by the Department of Agriculture that the levy increase should commence on 1 July, 2015.

WINDING UP OF FCAAA

On Monday 16 February 2015 the final documentation to wind up the Federal Council of Australian Apiarists Associations Inc. (FCAAA) was submitted to the Western Australian Department of Commerce. FCAAA was incorporated in WA.

The funds were transferred into an account within AHBIC for the Producer Contingency Fund as had been requested by the FCAAA and agreed to by AHBIC. These funds are now overseen by the Producer Contingency Fund Committee which is made up of representatives of the State Associations who were the members of FCAAA.

If you have any links or references to the FCAAA in your websites or magazines can you please delete them.

AHBIC AGM

The AHBIC AGM will be held on 4 July, 2015 following the New South Wales Apiarists Association meeting at Penrith Panthers Leagues Club, 123 Mulgoa Road Penrith on 2&3 July, 2015.

First up there will be some media training for AHBIC delegates. This will be restricted to AHBIC delegates only. Following this the formal AGM will take place. More information on times in later Newsletters.

For accommodation, contact number is 02 4721 7700 <http://www.mercure.com/gb/hotel-9877-mercure-penrith/index.shtml> and quote the following code **NSW Apiarists' 444701** to have rooms released from our bulk booking. Some publicity has it as the Chifley Penrith but apparently it has changed name to Mercure but the arrangements are still in place.

We encourage those coming for the AHBIC AGM to also attend the NSW Apiarists Association conference on the two days before.

FOOD SECURITY SEMINAR – SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

Marie Murley alerted me to a seminar on Food Security that was being held at the Sydney University. Thanks Marie. She had heard about it on Australia All Over. I made enquiries and was able to secure a spot for a beekeeper. Bruce White kindly agreed to go on our behalf and his report follows. Thanks Bruce for making the time to go and providing this report.

If you hear about something you believe our industry should be involved in, please let me know.

Seminar on Food Security Sydney University 4th February 2015

Trevor was able to secure an invitation to this event after beekeepers heard about it on Australia All Over on ABC radio.

Another example of how difficult it is to raise the industry profile and be on the main invitation list.

Points raised

- Nutrition and Food Security is often a local issue particular for those who live in villages.
The University of Sydney is well placed to do research in this area as the school; of Veterinary Sciences has a number of farms.
- Global Agriculture Depends on Food Security and at the present time we are seeing increased prices paid to producers across a range of products (including honey)
- Opportunities
Population Growth 1% mainly in Africa.
Calories intake is increased as income increases by 1%
Diet changes as income increases 1%
So world demand for food has a 3% increase.
Land is a fixed asset
Production increases have slowed and producers are cost saving.
Producers need to spend a lot more time on business management to increase profits, and example was given of producers only spending 5% on business management in one industry.
(Would be of interest to know the time beekeepers spend on this aspect)

China and India don't have the land to feed themselves so will become important markets. Australia is well places with land and water but the average age of farmers is 55.

Bank funding for Agriculture is a serious constraint.

- Over and under nutrition is a serious issue both as important as each other.
Wheat, Rice, Maize prices have been kept low but, don't provide a balance diet that's where Australia can fit in with fruit, vegetables and meats.
The beef industry is looking at
Environmental Sustainability
Social Sustainability
Food Sustainability
Economic Sustainability

I was one of five who was able to ask a question to the Federal Member for Hume Angus Taylor so took the opportunity to outline since the introduction of bees in 1822 they have been so important to food security with examples and in the global

context with package bee exports to pollinate crops, overseas. He didn't mention in his address.

Angus took over from Alby Schultz so was aware of the importance of bees. Alby was a key supporter of the Senate Honey Inquiry.

There may be a larger event but no announcement was made at least all who attended about 70 now know about how important bees are for food Security thanks to Trevor being proactive.

Dr Shona Blair of the When Bee Foundation was after asking, invited to attend and actively networked in the morning tea break.

Bruce White OAM

EXPORTS OF HONEY TO JAPAN

The quota system is now in place for exporting honey to Japan. AHBIC has been advised the current quota up until 31 March, 2015 has already been allocated. There will be a new quota in place from 1 April, 2015 with a reduction in the tariff which is the start of the Japanese financial year.

Not being able to get a quota doesn't mean you cannot export to Japan. It means the tariff reduction is not available on that consignment.

INQUIRY INTO THE BEEKEEPING AND POLLINATION INDUSTRIES

To date there still is no reply from the Federal Government to the Inquiry report. This is very disappointing.

NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS

Application no.: 60630
Product name: Nufarm Tally 800WG Aphicide
Active constituent/s: 800 g/kg pirimicarb (an anticholinesterase compound)
Applicant name: Nufarm Australia Limited
Applicant ACN: 004 377 780
Summary of use For the control of certain aphids on crops and pastures
Date of registration/approval: 2 February 2015
Product registration no.: 69374
Label approval no.: 69374/60630

Application no: 101414
Product name: Protect-Us Array Insecticide
Active constituent/s: 10 g/L deltamethrin
Applicant name: Ensystem Australasia Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN: 102 221 965
Summary of variation: To change the product name from 'PROTECT-US PROFESSIONAL WATER-BASED INSECTICIDE' to 'PROTECT-US ARRAY INSECTICIDE'
Date of variation: 15 January 2015
Product registration no.: 67037
Label approval no.: 67037/101414

BEES AND HI-VIS CLOTHING

Thank you to those who sent in comments on the reaction of bees to Hi-Vis clothing. I will be passing these comments on.

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 - Smithton
WA Farmers Federation - Beekeeping Section	2 May - Perth
South Australian Apiarists Association	18 & 19 June - Nuriootpa
Victorian Apiarists Association	10 & 11 June - Bairnsdale
Honey Packers and Marketers Association	TBA
National Council of Pollination Associations	2 July - Penrith
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association	TBA
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	4 July - Penrith

HONEYED CHICKEN?

Thought some might be interested in this article out of the US. See <http://tinyurl.com/mwq97g6>

NEW BEE BOOK OUT

RIRDC have now published a new bee book by Russell Goodman. It can be found at <https://rirdc.infoservices.com.au/items/14-098>

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

This may be of interest to some in our industry.

THE HON. BRUCE BILLSON MP IMPROVING MARKET ACCESS FOR SMALL EXPORTERS

16 February 2015

I welcome the announcement by my colleague Minister Barnaby Joyce, of more than \$11 million in grants to improve market access for small exporters of dairy, meat, egg, fish, horticultural and grain products.

Small businesses stand to benefit the most from this funding programme. Small businesses and family enterprise are at the heart of the Australian agriculture sector. 82 per cent of the sector's output and 83 per cent of employment comes from small businesses.

The grants programme is seeking proposals for projects that will improve market access for small exporters and that will promote competitiveness and profitability.

As well as helping Australian small businesses to improve their competitiveness in the international marketplace, this funding announcement is a timely one. It has the potential to assist small businesses to make the most of the historic trade agreements the Abbott Government has signed with China, Japan and Korea.

The grants are one component of a four year \$15 million package to assist small exporters, announced last year. The other two components are a rebate for eligible small exporters to assist with export registration charges, and a review of export fees and charges.

Applications for the grants programme close 5 pm AEST, 30 April 2015. Programme guidelines, including selection criteria and application details, can be found on the Department of Agriculture website at agriculture.gov.au/package-assisting-small-exporters.

MYRTLE RUST FOUND IN TASMANIA

Myrtle rust has been found in Tasmania at Burnie and now in the southern part of the State. Myrtle rust attacks plants in the Myrtaceae family and these include the eucalypts, tea trees both *Leptospermum* and *Melaleuca* plus the bottlebrushes which had been in the *Callistemon* group.

Fortunately for Tasmanian beekeepers leatherwood is not in the family that myrtle rust attacks.

For further reading on myrtle rust see <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/plant/myrtle-rust> New South Wales was the first State to find myrtle rust. It is now also found in Queensland and Victoria.

The long term effect on trees that beekeepers work is yet to be realised.

HONEY BEES DID A GREAT JOB

Seems the almond industry is looking at a record crop. See <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-02-26/2015-record-almond-harvest-starts/6263424> It is expected that it will be the biggest crop ever of 75,000 tonnes. With the Australian dollar where it is the growers can expect record returns.

So it all goes back to August when beekeepers took all those hives, I heard around 180,000 hives, to pollinate almonds. Remember no bees no almonds.

So well done our honey bees. Guess you will be in big demand this August. Pity the bees don't get the accolades they deserve in these reports.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you to those beekeepers and packers who making voluntary contributions to AHBIC. AHBIC cannot function without these contributions.

Sometimes there is a direct deposit made and I cannot find out who made the contribution. Please let me know if you do, as a receipt is forwarded and I want to know if you wish to be acknowledged on the front page of the newsletter.

There also seems to be some confusion between the AHBIC voluntary contributions and the statutory Honey Levy. The Honey levy is split up between research, the Contingency Fund and the NRS (National Residue Survey). AHBIC does not received any money from this honey levy.

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



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