



Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Trevor Weatherhead – Executive Director

Special - June 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 May 2014

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

Anderson, Stuart
Australian Organic Honey Company
Australian Queen Bee Exporters
Bayside Beekeepers Association Inc
Badger Head Bees
Beechworth Honey
Bees Neez Apiaries
Bliss, Stephen
Blue Hills Honey
Bluebees Producers
Bourke, Lindsay
Buntine, Bob
Bush Honey - (Midgley Family)
Capilano Honey Ltd
Clifford, Ray
Cotton, Allan & Michelle
Covey Bees
Dewar Apiaries
Enslin, Darren
Ewington, Peter and Maxine
Faithfull, Mark

Gells Honey
Heritage Honey
Hooper, Ben
Hoskinson, HL & HM
Hum Honey
Ipswich/West Moreton
Beekeepers Assoc
Jones, Daniel
Kennett, JL & KA
Klingner, Craig
Lees, Ian
MacGibbon, Kevin
McDonald, RG
McLaren, Jane
Magor, RR
Masters, N & S
Morgan, Trevor
Naicol Pty Ltd
Nairn, Mal
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
Willemssen, Dale
Williams JW & MA
Witz, Ron
Zadow Apiaries

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

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GREAT NEWS

NATIONAL BEE SURVEY

Agriculture Minister, Barnaby Joyce, has announced that the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) will be carrying out a national bee survey. His press release is included below.

Our industry representatives, Ian Zadow, AHBIC Chairperson, Neil Bingley, AHBIC Executive, and Jodie Goldsworthy, Chair of the Honey Packers and Marketers Association of Australia met with Minister Joyce at Parliament House on Tuesday 16 June, 2015.

Minister Joyce and his advisor spent about 20 minutes with our representatives and they were able to raise several issues with him including:-

- The NSW bee site auctions. Minister Joyce promised to raise this at the COAG meeting.
- The testing of imported honey and the problems we have had with mislabeling, substitution and possible testing of imported honey for C4 sugars.
- The attempts by industry to have a new honey standard put in place were also raised along with possible allergens that may be in imported honey if it is not labelled correctly.
- Country of Origin labelling is a current topic with AHBIC having put in a submission on this and the Minister now putting out possibilities for public submissions which AHBIC will do.
- The topic of levies on pollination fees was raised and we were advised to take this up again when the current Levy Inquiry is finished. This is an issue that AHBIC has been raising for many years and we have been previously advised that it will need changes to legislation but that is on the agenda.

With the raising of these issues, we have been told that the Minister's advisors will be preparing some correspondence and AHBIC will be checking back with the staff at a later date to see how things have progressed.

All in all it was a successful day.

The opportunity was also taken to have meetings with Animal Health Australia (AHA) and Plant Health Australia (PHA) on the winding up of the Contingency Fund and the transfer of money to PHA which will be managed under a Memorandum of Understanding.



Left to right:- **Neil Bingley**, AHBIC Executive member; **Jodie Goldsworthy**, Chair of the Honey Packers and Marketers Association of Australia; **Ian Zadow**, Chairperson AHBIC; **Minister Joyce**.



The Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP

MEDIA RELEASE

Minister for Agriculture

A hive of activity as Australia's commercial bee keepers are surveyed

An upcoming survey of the Australian honey bee industry will collect baseline data that will provide information on the current economic situation of Australian beekeepers.

Minister for Agriculture, Barnaby Joyce, said the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) survey would provide a thorough picture of changes to the national industry along with an up-to-date profile of the physical and financial characteristics of honey bee businesses.

“In addition to data on the demographic and socioeconomic circumstances of people in the industry, the survey will capture the adoption of research and development initiatives, the state of honey bee health and the size of the commercial pollination services sector,” Minister Joyce said.

Minister Joyce said the value of Australia’s bee industry extended far beyond the quality products produced to the valuable pollination services of honey bees.

“More than 12,000 registered beekeepers are tending to more than 520,000 hives across the country that produce about \$90 million worth of honey and beeswax each year,” Minister Joyce said.

“Bees are important not just because of the honey they produce. About 65 per cent of Australian agricultural crops respond to honey bee pollination. Among others, Australia’s \$346 million almond crop depends entirely on bees for pollination.

“It’s not just beekeepers and the honey industry that rely on bees, it’s Australia’s agriculture industry as a whole.”

The ABARES survey will allow for comparison with survey data collected from previous surveys in 2001 and 2008.

ABARES will consult with the Federal Department of Agriculture, State and Territory Government agriculture departments, RIRDC, Plant Health Australia and industry representative organisations, such as the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council in designing the industry survey.

A sample of commercial bee keepers, registered on state and territory lists, will be selected to participate in the survey with ABARES to conduct face-to-face interviews starting in late February 2016. The survey results are expected to be available in July 2016.

