AUSTRALIAN HONEYBEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC
ABN 63 939 614 424

Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry **From: Trevor Weatherhead – Executive Director**

October 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 QUEEN BEE SUPPLIER appear on this list?
If not, then ask "Why not?" AHBIC WORKS FOR YOU!

The following list recognises contributions received since 1 November 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
Badger Head Bees
Bayside Beekeepers Association Inc
Beechworth Honey
Bees Neez Apiaries
Beewise
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
Faithfull, Mark
Gells Honey
Gold Coast Amateur Beekeepers Society Inc.
Green, Lionel
Heritage Honey
Honeylife Australia
Hooper, Ben
Hoskinson, HL & HM
Hum Honey
Ipswich/West Moreton Beekeepers Assoc
Jones, Daniel
Kennett, JL & KA
Klingner, Craig
Lees, Ian
MacGibbon, Kevin
McLaren, Jane
Magor, RR
Masters, N & S
Morgan, Trevor
Naicol Pty Ltd
Nairn, Mal
Panda Honey – honey buyers
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, Margaret
Watson, James
Weatherhead, T & M
Weerona Apiaries
Willemsen, Dale
Williams JW & MA
Witz, Ron
Zadow Apiaries

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

REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL BEE PEST SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

The following press release was received by AHBIC. If you are interested in commenting please forward your comments directly to Sam Malfroy at PHA at SMalfroy@phau.com.au.

"A comprehensive review is underway into the system protecting Australia's honey and pollination industries, to ensure it continues to employ the latest technology and place its resources in the most strategic way.

The National Bee Pest Surveillance Program (NBPSP) is a world-leading initiative designed to ensure early detection of a range of exotic pests and diseases, such as *Varroa* mite, that could devastate both managed and feral hives.

NBPSP facilitator Sam Malfroy, from Plant Health Australia, says regular, effective surveillance is vital.

"We need to have as many eyes, as often as possible, in the right places to provide reassurance that no new threats have arrived in the country, and to let us respond as quickly as possible if one is found," Mr Malfroy said.

"For eradication to work, we need to identify a new pest or disease close to where it has entered the country, before it has had a chance to spread into a large number of bee colonies.

"This review will look at different scenarios around an incursion, and investigate for each of them how long it would take us to detect a pest via various surveillance methods, how far it is likely to get from a port, and our chances of containing an outbreak.

"The final report will provide a cost:benefit analysis that outlines ideal methods, locations and frequency of surveillance, as well as the costs of not detecting something like *Varroa* early enough, so we can continue to adjust our procedures."

The NBPSP is a partnership between industry and government, with funding from the honey bee industry, pollination-reliant plant industries and the Federal Government, with in-kind support from State and Territory governments.

The Federal Department of Agriculture called for a review of its effectiveness ahead of a new funding agreement, after the 2014 Senate inquiry into the *Future of the beekeeping and pollination service industries in Australia* recommended the government 'confirm, and consider enlarging, its commitment' to the NBPSP.

For details on the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program, visit nbpsp.planthealthaustralia.com.au."

CHALKBROOD RESEARCH

Following the July AGM of AHBIC, in response to a motion, a letter was written to RIRDC to ask them "to fund research into chalkbrood in Australia – focusing on strain variants and control methods". From the information sent out by Jody Gerdts it would seem that RIRDC has acted on our motion. Jody has written as follows:-

Participating in Chalkbrood Research

Dear Fellow Beekeepers,

I am writing to you to request your participation and assistance with chalkbrood research that I am conducting as part of my PhD Studies with La Trobe University in partnership with the Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation (RIRDC) .

This letter details the problems associated with chalkbrood in *Apis mellifera* colonies and describes my proposed studies. In total I'm seeking support from 17 proactive industry beekeepers (1 to 3 beekeepers from each state).

WA	NT	SA	NSW	VIC	TAS	QLD
2	1	3	3	3	2	3
					Total	17

Please read through this information and contact me if you are interested in participating in this meaningful and valuable project. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

Jody Gerdts
Bee Scientifics

Introduction

Chalkbrood is caused by *Ascosphaera apis* which belongs to a genus of spore-cyst forming entomopathoniginic (causing disease in insects) fungi associated with the larvae of social and solitary bees of the superfamily Apoidea. The fungus' spores germinate in the gut of the developing larvae. The hyphae puncture the gut lining and form mycelia on the outer surface of the larvae. The dead larvae dries and hardens into chalky looking mummies, hence the name chalkbrood. There is evidence that *A. apis* may infect multiple bee species and there may be crossover from managed honey bee populations to native bee populations.

Historically, chalkbrood infection was regarded as a minor stress induced honey bee disease thriving in damp, cool spring conditions clearing up by summer. As there are no chemical treatments for chalkbrood, it was usually resolved through the best management practices of keeping dry, well ventilated, nutritionally resourced and populated colonies and to use hygienic lines of bees.

However, interestingly, Australian apiarists report that the prevalence and severity of chalkbrood infections has increased over the last four years and globally scientists are labeling it the most contagious and destructive disease that affects honey bee brood. Indications suggest that chalkbrood incidence may be on the rise. It has been estimated that up to 37% reduction in honey production is due to chalkbrood infections.

Project Design

This project is part of my PhD studies at La Trobe University investigating social and innate resistance to chalkbrood infections in Australia and is funded by a RIRDC grant.

I am looking for 1 to 3 beekeepers from each state to participate in this three-year study. Beekeepers will be given detailed sampling instructions along with sampling kits to collect infected larvae twice a year for three years.

In addition to sampling, beekeepers will be asked to participate in an online questionnaire to collect information about resource availability and management practices. The minimal time commitment for this project should be no more than 10 hours twice a year.

Project Aims

The aim of this study is to:

- Identify factors that contribute to increased chalkbrood outbreaks
- Investigate if there are different strains of *Ascosphaera apis* in Australia
- Identify strains that may be more virulent than others

Participant Requirements

Participating beekeepers are requested to meet the following criteria:

- Current registration with their relevant state DPI (if applicable);
- Owning 50+ colonies;
- Kept bees for at least 10 years;
- Move colonies less than 150 km radius (negotiable);
- Can identify early stages of chalkbrood infection (training provided);
- Has knowledge of local flowering habits;
- Can keep detailed notes;
- Can complete online surveys;
- Can commit to sending samples twice a year for three years.

Contact Information

If you are interested in participating in this study, please contact me at 0427075662 or by email at beescientifics@gmail.com**. I look forward to hearing from you.**

NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS

Application no:	101835
Product name:	Movento 240 SC Insecticide
Active constituent/s:	240 g/L spirotetramat
Applicant name:	Bayer Cropscience Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN:	000 226 022
Summary of variation:	To add a range of pack sizes, extend pest claims for crops already approved and to include several additional minor crops/crop groups
Date of variation:	16 September 2015
Product registration no.:	61864
Label approval no.:	61864/101835

Application no.:	102695
Product name:	Kenso Agcare Savage 350 SC Insecticide
Active constituent/s:	350 g/L imidacloprid
Applicant name:	Kenso Corporation (M) SDN. BHD
Applicant ACN:	N/A
Summary of use	For the control of greyback and childers canegrub in sugarcane and silverleaf whitefly in various vegetable crops
Date of registration/approval:	29 September 2015
Product registration no.:	81258
Label approval no.:	81258/102695

Application no.:	101335
Product name:	Sundew TaserPRO 800 WP Insecticide
Active constituent/s:	800 g/kg bendiocarb (an anti-cholinesterase compound)
Applicant name:	Sundew Solutions Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN:	135 400 261
Summary of use	For control of a range of insect pests in pasture seed, turf, in and around domestic, industrial, commercial and public service buildings
Date of registration/approval:	30 September 2015
Product registration no.:	80649
Label approval no.:	80649/101335

Application no.:	63402
Product name:	Pyrigran Insecticide
Active constituent/s:	750 g/kg chlorpyrifos (and anticholinesterase compound)
Applicant name:	Sulphur Mills Australia Pty Limited
Applicant ACN:	102 382 203
Summary of use	For the control of insect pests in fruit and other situations
Date of registration/approval:	30 September 2015
Product registration no.:	70410
Label approval no.:	70410/63402

QBA - AGCONNECT

Photo courtesy of Agforce

Over the years the Queensland Beekeepers Association (QBA) have been invited to participate by Agforce in many educational events.

This year there was AgConnect at Brisbane Boys College in Brisbane, where this photo was taken. AgConnect talks have also been given at Beaudesert and Toowoomba this year.

AgConnect is where many primary industry groups have displays and talk to various groups of school children about where our food comes from. As well as honey the pollination story is told and often it is the accompanying teachers and parents that get more out of the talk than the students.

Marion Weatherhead and Bill Winner gave talks to 7 groups of students during the day at Brisbane Boys College.

When secondary students are involved with AgConnect it presents an opportunity to be able to talk to them about a career working with honey bees.

AGM

Annual conferences for 2016 as I have them are:-

Queensland Beekeepers Association	13 & 14 July, Townsville
New South Wales Apiarists Association	12 & 13 May, Albury
Tasmanian Beekeepers Association	27 – 28 May, St. Helens
WA Farmers Federation - Beekeeping Section	6 May
South Australian Apiarists Association	16 – 17 June,
Victorian Apiarists Association	8 – 9 June, Wangaratta
Honey Packers and Marketers Association	TBA
National Council of Pollination Associations	TBA
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association	TBA
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	15 July, Townsville

CATEGORISATION

At this stage the categorisation of the two Varroas and the two Tropilaelaps is still under consideration.

BALLARAT SHOW

I have received a flyer requesting entries for the honey competition at the Ballarat Show. Judging is by that world renowned honey judge, Ron Rich. Entries need to be in by 2 November, 2015. If you want a copy of the flyer let me know.

CHANGES TO THE NATIONAL BEE PEST SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

AHBIC has received word from PHA that the APVMA have approved changes to the time that the acaracide strips are left in the hives as part of the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program.

The strips can now be left in for 1-6 days around 6-8 weeks apart but no more than 9 times a year. This should make it more effective and is in line with discussions held at the 2014 AHBIC AGM.

DEFORMED WING VIRUS AND SURVIVAL OF HONEY BEES WITH VARROA

An interesting article has recently been published. See http://www.nature.com/ismej/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/ismej2015186a.html The abstract says:-

"*Over the past 50 years, many millions of European honey bee (Apis mellifera) colonies have died as the ectoparasitic mite, Varroa destructor, has spread around the world. Subsequent studies have indicated that the mite's association with a group of RNA viral pathogens (Deformed Wing Virus, DWV) correlates with colony death. Here, we propose a phenomenon known as superinfection exclusion that provides an explanation of how certain A. mellifera populations have survived, despite Varroa infestation and high DWV loads. Next-generation sequencing has shown that a non-lethal DWV variant 'type B' has become established in these colonies and that the lethal 'type A' DWV variant fails to persist in the bee population. We propose that this novel stable host-pathogen relationship prevents the accumulation of lethal variants, suggesting that this interaction could be exploited for the development of an effective treatment that minimises colony losses in the future.*"

This might explain why, when honey bees that are said to be "resistant" to varroa, are shifted to another area they then succumb to varroa. It is most likely the strain of DWV that is the problem.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2015-2016 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

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.