



Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Trevor Weatherhead – Executive Director

January 2016

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 February 2015

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
Beechworth Honey
Bees Neez Apiaries
Beewise
Blue Hills Honey
Bluebees Producers
Bliss, Stephen
Bourke, Lindsay
Bush Honey - (Midgley Family)
Capilano Honey Ltd
Clifford, David
Clifford, Ray
Cotton, Allan & Michelle
Covey Bees
Dewar Apiaries
Enslin, Darren
Faithfull, Mark

Gells Honey
Glasby, Garry
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
MacGibbon, Kevin
McLaren, Jane
Masters, N & S
Morgan, Trevor
Naicol Pty Ltd
Nairn, Mal

Panda Honey – honey buyers
Pure Bendigo Gold Honey
R. Stephens
Roberts, I J & J H
Rotary Club of Caulfield Inc
Saxonbee Enterprises - Rod Pavy
Smith, Bruce & Carolyn
Squire, Gary
Stokes, Peter
Superbee Honey Factory
Trigg, Margaret
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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SENSATIONAL REPORTING

Most would have seen the recent article published by Fairfax Media which appeared in The Age and Sydney Morning Herald and several other papers. To say it was sensationalist would be to put it mildly.

To say that honey can make you sick is just poor journalism.

Industry and Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) recognises that honey produced from Paterson's Curse will contain these Pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PA's) as reported in the article and that consumers should not exclusively eat large quantities of this honey. In 2000, FSANZ set a tolerable daily intake of 1.0 µg/kg of body weight per day as a guide to industry and consumers when considering an appropriate food content of plant alkaloids.

Dr. Peter Brooks from the University of the Sunshine Coast estimated that the average 75 kg adult would need to consume 500g of this type of honey daily to reach the precautionary level.

It should be noted that there is not one single case anywhere in the world that documents human health being unfavourably affected as a consequence of the consumption of honey containing the extremely low levels of alkaloids being reported.

The Food Safety and Prevention of Residues Committee of AHBIC had three teleconferences and the media contacts were handled by AHBIC. Thank you to those beekeepers who referred media enquiries onto AHBIC. AHBIC handled 15 radio interviews, 3 TV appearances, several newspaper interviews plus enquiries from beekeepers.

Information has been put on the AHBIC website and an information sheet was prepared for sending to retail outlets and overseas customers. We need to be positive. The issue has currently died down in the media.

The effect was even felt overseas with various Government officials fielding enquiries which AHBIC has been able to help by providing the information sheet to reassure those markets.

It is hard to work out why honey is being singled out when other foods such as teas, herbal products, milk, meat, grains and cereals also contain PA's. Even photos of the effect of other foods on people are being shown in videos, but nothing to say what the food was, leaving people to link honey with those photos. One photo is from Afghanistan showing the effect of flour not honey. Quite misleading. To reiterate there have been no known cases of honey making people sick.

PA's in some honeys is an issue that our industry has been addressing for several years now and that work will continue. No doubt this will be raised at the upcoming State conferences and the AHBIC AGM.

REGULATION OF AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURE

Remember that the submission is due in by 12 February, 2016. If anyone has any comments they would like AHBIC to consider please let me know. Often beekeepers complain that there is too much red tape or there is too much regulation or in some cases not enough. Now is the opportunity to put those views forward.

A UNITED BEE INDUSTRY

The Western Australian Bee Industry has great pleasure in announcing the formation and incorporation of the Bee Industry Council of Western Australia (BICWA) in December 2015. BICWA is a non-profit company limited by guarantee.

BICWA brings together the four prime bee industry organisations in Western Australia. The purpose of the formation of BICWA is to foster, promote and enhance a sustainable bee industry in Western Australia and to protect the interest of producers and co-dependent industries and organisations. It is also a point of contact for bee industry matters.

These groups and their representatives are;

- WA Farmers Beekeepers Section - Leilani Leyland (Secretary) & Rod Pavy
- Agricultural Produce Commission,
Beekeepers Producers' Committee - Colin Fleay (Chairman) & Tiffane Bates
- WA Beekeepers Association - Wayne Ridley & Peter Detchon
- WA Apiarists Association - Geoff Defrenne & Gary Templeton

We look forward to a continuing positive relationship with all interested and supportive entities.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELLING

I attended a Country of Origin labelling seminar in Brisbane this month. Some pertinent points are:--

- There will now be no Country of Origin labelling within the Food Standards Code. It will now be under Australian Consumer Law.
- It is anticipated that details will be finalised by the middle of this year
- Proposed labelling requirements are on the Country of Origin website
- Clarification of "Made in" claims
- Closing loopholes for "Packed in" claims
- The kangaroo symbol will be used on all labels except for packed in
- Removing the 50% local cost claim for "Made in"
- When overseas content is included, but is seasonal, an average statement can be made
- Transitional arrangements are yet to be determined
- Website is <https://consult.industry.gov.au/cool-taskforce/cool>

NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE

The Kiwis have advised of their conference at Rotorua on 19 – 21 June, 2016. Details can be found at <http://apicultureconference2016.co.nz/>

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, Kangaroo Island
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

ACCOMMODATION AT TOWNSVILLE

For those who will be attending the AHBIC AGM in Townsville and also attending the Queensland Beekeepers Association conference, accommodation bookings can be made with the Mercure. The quoted rate is \$149 per room per night, room only. However if you wish to stay longer, either before or after the conferences, the Mercure will give you the same rate.

Bookings can be made by phoning 07 4759 4900 or emailing at res2@mercuretownsville.com.au
Please quote reference number BEE070716.

NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS

Application no.: 103553

Product name: Ezycrop Alpha-Cypermethrin 100 Duo Insecticide

Active constituent/s: 100 g/L alpha-cypermethrin

Applicant name: Ezycrop Pty Ltd

Applicant ACN: 156 476 827

Summary of use For the control of insect pests including heliothis (*Helicoverpa* spp.) on various crops and red legged earth mite and blue oat mite on certain field crops and pastures and certain pests on fruit and vegetable crops as specified in the direction for use table

Date of registration/approval: 10 December 2015

Product registration no.: 81651

Label approval no.: 81651/103553

Application no.:

60731

Product name:

Starkle 200 SG Insecticide

Active constituent/s:

200 g/kg dinotefuran

Applicant name:

Agnova Technologies Pty Ltd

Applicant ACN:

097 705 158

Summary of use

For the control of silverleaf, whitefly and green mirid in cotton.

Date of registration/approval:

22 December 2015

Product registration no.:

69398

69398/60731

Label approval no.:
Application no.: 104335
Product name: Relyon Omethon 290 Insecticide
Active constituent/s: 290 g/L omethoate (an anticholinesterase compound)
Applicant name: Ruralco Holdings Limited
Applicant ACN: 009 660 879
Summary of use: For the control of redlegged earth mite, blue oat mite and lucerne flea on pastures, cereals, oilseed and legume crops, and bluegreen aphid and cowpea aphid on pasture legumes, lucerne, faba beans and vetch.
19 January 2016

Date of registration/approval:
Product registration no.: 81882
Label approval no.: 81882/104335
Application no.: 102726
Active constituent/s: Transfluthrin
Applicant name: Tagros Chemicals India, Ltd.
Applicant ACN: N/A
Summary of use: For use in agricultural chemical products.
Date of approval: 19 January 2016
Approval no.: 81276

TASMANIAN FIRES

I spoke with Lindsay Bourke, President of the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association, about the fires in Tasmania and the effect on beekeepers.

Good beekeeping territory has been lost, mainly good manuka country. Manuka will regenerate after the fires but leatherwood will not regenerate in ash and is very slow growing.

Some beekeepers were able to get hives into the leatherwood country and take a risk that they would not have their hives burnt whilst others were not allowed in.

There have been some hives burnt in the fires but the full picture has not yet emerged.

Hives that have been able to be positioned on the leatherwood are filling well and some have already extracted honey. It is expected that the leatherwood will yield for about another month and then a further month is required to get the honey off the hives. There was not much white honey produced earlier in the season so Tasmanian beekeepers are relying on a good leatherwood flow.

Let us hope that the fires are able to be contained and that there is suitable weather for the leatherwood to continue to yield.

To compound the problem there have been reports of vandalism of hives.



Exports Enhanced Traceability System Information Sessions

The Government is designing a modern and streamlined exports enhanced traceability system to support overseas market access for exports of agricultural product and to better verify and support overseas market access.

The project will include modernising the existing IT system platforms of EXDOC (Export Documentation system) and the export establishment registration database (ER).

Our aim is to improve our clients experience with government service delivery and minimise duplication of data requirements across the department through:

- modernising the existing internal support systems
- automation of remaining manual processes and certification to support improved product traceability
- introduction of interactive workflow processes for export clients
- supported decision making
- better responsiveness to changes in importing country requirements
- increased visibility across the export supply chain
- automation of review processes and billing
- reduced cost of service delivery
- improved reporting and accessibility to information to support market access and responsiveness in the event of an incursion or food safety incident

Project representatives are planning to run Information workshops at various locations around the country during February and March 2016.

Dates are yet to be finalised but at this stage we are looking at **Melbourne** in early February, **Perth, Adelaide** and **Sydney** during late February and **Brisbane** in March.

Additional sessions will be scheduled during March if they are required.

Dates, times & locations will be provided once numbers are confirmed.

Register your interest in attending one of the workshops by emailing the project contact by the end of January. **Contact: EnhancedTraceabilityProject@agriculture.gov.au**

Please provide your name, company details, preferred contact details and location.

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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
2. I would like to receive the AHBIC Annual Report
3. Please acknowledge this voluntary contribution with a receipt (email preferred)

1. _____
2. _____
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.