



Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Trevor Weatherhead – Executive Director

September 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 October 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
Ayrleigh Apiaries
Badger Head Bees
Beechworth Honey
Bees Neez Apiaries
Bejo Tasmania P/L
Bluebees Producers
Blue Hills Honey
Bliss, Stephen
Bourke, Lindsay
Bush Honey - (Midgley Family)
Buntine, Robert
Capilano Honey Ltd
Clifford, David
Clifford, Ray
Cooper, Barry
Cooper, Casey
Cotton, Allan & Michelle
Covey Bees
Dale's Honey Bees
Davies Apiaries
Dewar Apiaries

Dewar, Robert
Dinsdale, Julie
Enslin, Darren
Gells Honey
Glasby, Garry
Gold Coast Amateur Beekeepers
Society
Green, Lionel
Heritage Honey
Honeylife Australia
Hooper, Ben
Hoskinson, HL & HM
Ipswich/West Moreton
Beekeepers Assoc
Jones, Bryn and Warren
Jones, Daniel
Kennett, JL & KA
Klingner, Craig
Le Feuvre, Danny
Lyneham, Matthew
MacGibbon, Kevin
McLaren, Jane
Masters, N & S
Morgan, Trevor

Naicol Pty Ltd
Nairn, Mal
Northside Beekeepers Association Inc.
Panda Honey – honey buyers
Pavy, Rodney & Gail
Pure Bendigo Gold Honey
R. Stephens
Rotary Club of Caulfield
Ruge Honey
Smith, Bruce & Carolyn
Squire, Gary
Stokes, Peter
Superbee Honey Factory
Tasmanian Honey Company
Trigg, Margaret
Watson, James
Weatherhead, T & M
Weerona Apiaries
Williams JW & MA
Zadow, Ian and Mel

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

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ASIAN BEES AND VARROA JACOBSONI IN TOWNSVILLE

We have had industry representatives go to Townsville to help out with the incursion. The main role for our industry volunteers is to teach the local beekeepers how to carry out sugar shakes, alcohol washes and drone uncapping. They also get to see the beelining and the use of the helium balloon to catch drones. This has been very successful and thank you to those who have already volunteered and been to Townsville. We have achieved a lot.

I have taken over the rostering of beekeepers from Craig Klingner. We do have some on our list for future deployment and I have been in contact with them. However if there are other beekeepers who would like to volunteer please contact me. You would need to supply me with details such as how many hives you have, how long you have been keeping bees and also if you have had experience with sugar shakes, alcohol washes or drone uncapping. Email ahbic@honeybee.org.au or phone 07 5467 2265.

AHBIC pays the accommodation at Townsville plus refunds airfares up to \$600 except for Western Australia which can be greater on negotiation with AHBIC. You look after your meals whilst in Townsville. The accommodation has cooking facilities so you can cook for yourself. The funding for the volunteers is made available from the Producer Contingency Fund and we thank them for that contribution.

If you receive this newsletter you would have been receiving the updates on the progress in Townsville.

DROUGHTS AND FLOODING RAIN

When Dorothea Mackellar wrote about Australia being a land of droughts and flooding rain, I am sure there are beekeepers who will agree with her.

In recent months what were drought conditions have changed to flooding or boggy conditions.

Graham Beech has put on facebook his loss of hives on canola. Many photos there.

There are reports of hives still not being able to be shifted off almonds because of wet conditions.

Also in the far west of Queensland hives had to be lifted out by helicopter because of the water.

So far no report of losses of hives in South Australia but it is expected that there will be losses once beekeepers can get to where their hives are.

There are reports of flooding in Tasmania down around Hobart. No reports to date of any hive losses.

There are reports of more rain in the south over coming weeks. Not the news many beekeepers were hoping for. Maybe long term it will have benefits.

Also the low temperatures have not been favourable to honey production from canola in some areas of southern Australia.

BEE LOSSES DUE TO ZIKA VIRUS SPRAYING IN THE USA

There are reports of dramatic losses of honey bees in the USA due to spraying for mosquitoes to stop any spread of the zika virus.

See http://www.bee-culture.com/catch-buzz-south-carolina-county-inadvertently-kills-millions-honey-bees/?utm_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm_campaign=61c46c7ee0-Catch+The+Buzz+4+29+2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0272f190ab-61c46c7ee0-256241481

And <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/sep/04/zika-mosquito-neurotoxin-kills-bees-livelihoods-beekeepers>

HONEY MONTH COMMITTEE CHAIR

No volunteers, as yet, for the position of Chair of the Honey Month Committee. If you are interested please let me know.

DRONE BEE SEMEN IMPORTATION

The latest negotiations with the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources seem to have achieved our industry's desired results. We are awaiting final confirmation.

HONEY EXPORTS TO SAUDI ARABIA

Still no joy with having honey accepted into Saudi Arabia.

LIVE BEE EXPORTS TO THE USA

Still no reply to the representations of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources to the United States Department of Agriculture.

AGM

Annual conferences for 2017, in chronological order, as I currently have them are:-

WA Farmers Federation – Beekeeping Section	13 May - Perth
New South Wales Apiarists Association	18 & 19 May - Ballina
Tasmanian Beekeepers Association	26 & 27 May
Victorian Apiarists Association	7 & 8 June
Honey Packers and Marketers Association of Aust.	23 June
Queensland Beekeepers Association	29 June – 1 July - Gympie
South Australian Apiarists Association	6 & 7 July
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	8 July
National Council of Crop Pollination Associations	TBA
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association	TBA

The AHBIC AGM will be held in South Australia in 2017.

NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS

Application no: 107504
Product name: Huilong Chlorpyrifos 500 EC Insecticide
Active constituent/s: 500 g/L chlorpyrifos (an anti-cholinesterase compound)
Applicant name: Huilong Agrochemicals Australia Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN: 165 921 031
Summary of variation: To change the distinguishing product name and the name that appears on the label from 'AGSPRAY CHLORPYRIFOS 500EC INSECTICIDE' to 'HUILONG CHLORPYRIFOS 500 EC INSECTICIDE'
Date of variation: 3 August 2016
Product registration no.: 60611
Label approval no.: 60611/107504

Application no.: 58116
Active constituent/s: Flupyradifurone
Applicant name: Bayer Cropscience Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN: 000 226 022
Summary of use: For use in agricultural chemical products
Date of approval: 30 August 2016
Approval no.: 68328

Application no.: 105435
Active constituent/s: Carbaryl
Applicant name: Agrinova New Zealand Ltd. t/a Gro-Chem
Applicant ACN: N/A
Summary of use: For use in agricultural chemical products
Date of approval: 8 September 2016
Approval no.: 82325

DEAD *APIS DORSATA* IN PERTH

AHBIC has received advice for the office of the Chief Plant Protection Officer in Canberra that 25 dead giant honey bees (*Apis dorsata*) were found in the cargo hold of a plane from Malaysia on 20 September, 2016. No live bees were found.

Examination of the bees found no mites on them. No further action is required.

Over the years there have been several instances of dead giant honey bees being found in cargo holds of planes out of Malaysia. It would seem the bees are attracted to the lights around the airport.

TOP 40 EXOTIC AND UNWANTED PLANT PESTS

The Plant Health Committee have put out a list of the Top 40 Exotic and Unwanted Plant Pests. See <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/pests-diseases-weeds/plant/pests-disease-list/>

For the beekeeping industry we have two (2) in the top 40. They are internal and external mites of bees and exotic bees.

Preparing live bees for export

Well-known Tasmanian apiarist Lindsay Bourke has shared his knowledge in preparing live bees for export in the first episode of a series of industry best practice videos.

Mr Bourke, who is also the President of the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association, said Australia exports an average of 17 pallets of bees at the end of each season to beekeepers in Canada where *Varroa destructor* is prevalent.

“Australian bees are very valuable to Canada as they urgently need them,” Mr Bourke said.

“Each pallet is worth around \$110,000 dollars, so it provides extra money for us at the end of our season from our excess bees, but most importantly it’s really good for our fellow beekeepers on the other side of the world,” he said.

This season, Mr Bourke supplied eight pallets for export.

In the best practice video, Mr Bourke explains the process he uses to package live bees, including excluding his queen bees in the initial extraction phase, keeping the bees cool throughout both the smoking process, weighing the bees for packaging, as well as the biosecurity measures necessary to export to Canada.

Chair of the Honey Bee and Pollination Program’s Advisory Panel, Michael Hornitzky, said the new series of videos will highlight the practices of some of the best apiarists in Australia.

“This is a great resource that will offer productive peer-to-peer advice,” Dr Hornitzky said.

“More best practice videos will be added to the RIRDC YouTube channel over the coming 12 months, including topics such as queen bee breeding, introducing queens in to hives, hygienic testing techniques and barrier systems for pest and disease management.”

To watch the video, go to: <https://youtu.be/6mGX6BwtS1s>

For more information, go to: www.rirdc.gov.au/honeybee-pollination

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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.**