



Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Trevor Weatherhead – Executive Director

February 2017

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 March 2016

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)
Capilano Honey Ltd
Clifford, David
Clifford, Ray
Cooper, Barry
Cooper, Casey
Cotton, Allan & Michelle
Covey Bees
Davey, Robin
Davies Apiaries
Dewar Apiaries

Dewar, Robert
Dyer, Craig
Enslin, Darren
Faithfull, Mark
Gells Honey
Glasby, Garry
Gold Coast Amateur Beekeepers
Society
Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers Inc.
Green, Lionel
Gustare Honey Australia
Heritage Honey
Honeylife Australia
Hooper, Ben
Hoskinson, HL & HM
Ipswich/West Moreton
Beekeepers Assoc
Jones, Daniel
Kennett, JL & KA
Klingner, Craig
Le Feuvre, Danny
Lyneham, Matthew
Masters, Neil & Sharon

MacGibbon, Kevin
Morgan, Trevor
Naicol Pty Ltd
Nairn, Mal
Northside Beekeepers Association Inc.
Panda Honey – honey buyers
Pavy, Rodney & Gail
Pure Bendigo Gold Honey
Rotary Club of Caulfield
Ruge Honey
Shaw, Robert
Squire, Gary
Stokes, Peter
Superbee Honey Factory
Tasmanian Honey Company
Watson, James
Weatherhead, T & M
Weerona Apiaries
Western Honey Supplies Pty Ltd
Williams JW & MA
Zadow, Ian and Mel

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

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MEETING WITH COTTON AUSTRALIA

On 7 February, there was a meeting in Sydney between Cotton Australia and beekeeping industry representatives. Industry representatives were Casey Cooper and Trevor Weatherhead from AHBIC, Neil Bingley, New South Wales Apiarists Association President, Robert Dewar, Queensland Beekeepers Association President and Harold Saxvik from Darlington Point, NSW.

The purpose of the meeting was to follow up on a previous meeting with Cotton Australia to work out strategies so that beekeepers will not be affected by the spraying of cotton. One main area is in the communication field. Harold gave an account of how he has been communicating with growers in his area and this is having positive results.

The use of “softer” chemicals was another area discussed and this ties in with AHBIC’s conversation with the Crop Consultants Australia.

The cotton map and BeeConnected were other areas that were discussed as ways of being able to find out where cotton is grown and where bee hives are located.

The meeting was very constructive and there are a series of points to be actioned by the parties.

NEW INSECTICIDE FRIENDLY TO BEES

In the November AHBIC newsletter I reported on an application for the use of Sero-X as an insecticide application on cotton. This has come to fruition and there are several reports on its use and how it is bee friendly. See the links below.

<http://www.theland.com.au/story/4446274/butterfly-pea-bio-insecticide-registered-for-the-cotton-industry/>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-02-19/bee-friendly-bio-insecticide-secures-sero-x-funding-deal/8276856>

ALMOND BOARD OF AUSTRALIA POLLINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Almond Board of Australia (ABA) has established a Pollination Advisory Committee. AHBIC is represented by Ian Zadow, an almond pollinator from South Australia. Also on the Committee is Dr. Doug Somerville from New South Wales Department of Primary Industries. So beekeeping is well represented by Ian and Doug.

REPORT ON POLLINATOR DEFICIENCIES IN THE SHEPPARTON AREA

RIRDC has just published a paper titled “Regional Economic Multiplier Impacts, Potential Pollinator Deficits across Crops” by Michael Clarke, Dr Robert Gillespie and Dr Saul Cunningham. It can be found at <https://rirdc.infoservices.com.au/items/17-001>

This report quantifies the current impact of a shortfall in insect pollinators on the regional economy of Shepparton Victoria. While some data has been available on the loss of yield and crop quality as a result of a pollination deficit, this study is the first attempt at quantifying both the direct and indirect impact on a regional economy.

AUSTRALIA-CHINA AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT (ACACA) PROGRAMME 2017 FUNDING ROUND

I have received information from the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources re grants for the above programme.

To find out more, including how to apply, visit the department's website at agriculture.gov.au/market-access-trade/acaca Applications close on 10 March.

EXPORT OF LIVE BEES TO CANADA

I have been advised by Canberra that they have successfully completed negotiations with Canada for a new protocol for sending live bees to Canada. A new protocol was needed because of the *Varroa jacobsoni* incursion in Townsville. The new requirements will be published on the MICoR website. See <http://micor.agriculture.gov.au/live-animals/Pages/default.aspx> and enter Canada.

HONEY EXPORTS TO SAUDI ARABIA

The Department is still negotiating with Saudi Arabia on access of Australian honey into their market. These negotiations will also have ramifications for other Gulf State markets.

LIVE BEE EXPORTS TO THE USA

The Department is still making representations to the USDA to have this market re-opened. A long and painful process.

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 - Hobart
Victorian Apiarists Association	7 & 8 June - Warrnambool
Honey Packers and Marketers Association of Aust.	23 June
Queensland Beekeepers Association	29 June – 1 July - Gympie
South Australian Apiarists Association	6 & 7 July- Adelaide
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	8 July - Adelaide
National Council of Crop Pollination Associations	TBA
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association	TBA

South Australia and AHBIC meetings are as originally shown.

NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS

Application no.: 102878
Product name: Genfarm Methomyl 225 L Insecticide
Active constituent/s: 225 g/L methomyl (an anti-cholinesterase compound)
Applicant name: Landmark Operations Limited
Applicant ACN: 008 743 217
Summary of use: For the control of insect pests in various crops
Date of registration/approval: 17 January 2017
Product registration no.: 81354
Label approval no.: 81354/102878

Application no.:	102266
Product name:	Sero-X Insecticide
Active constituent/s:	400 g/L clitoria ternatea extract
Applicant name:	Innovate Ag Pty Limited
Applicant ACN:	099 056 952
Summary of use	For control or suppression of green mirid, silver leaf whitefly (biotype b) and heliothis in cotton
Date of registration/approval:	30 January 2017
Product registration no.:	81070
Label approval no.:	81070/102266

Pyriproxyfen is a new chemical registered. Research shows it has negative results on both larval and adult honey bees.

CATEGORISATION

Still no word on what the Plant Health Australia Board has decided in relation to the categorisation of *Varroa destructor*.

NEGOTIATIONS FOR OPEN EXPORT MARKETS FOR LIVE BEES

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources are negotiating with the USA and the European Union to re-open these markets for live bees from Australia.

They are also looking at the Solomon Islands, the Philippines, Lebanon and Vanuatu as possible markets for live bees. If there are other countries you would like to export live bees to and have possible markets there let me know so we can talk with the Department on possible export opportunities.

QUEEN BEES IN THE POST

In the April, 2016 AHBIC newsletter there was information given as how to ensure safe delivery of your queen bees through the post. Just a follow up to see if anyone had problems after contacting Australia Post for the alternative delivery service.

BEE BIOSECURITY OFFICER IN NEW SOUTH WALES

New South Wales has advertised for the position of Bee Biosecurity Officer (BBO). Unfortunately, the previous BBO had to resign due to family reasons. If you know of someone who might be interested please pass on. <http://iworkfor.nsw.gov.au/job/nsw-bee-biosecurity-officer-61598>

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELLING FORUMS

The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, will be conducting information forums to educate businesses on the CoOL reforms for food. The forums will be held in capital cities and major regional centres during March 2017.

The forums will primarily target small and medium businesses that work in food production, wholesaling, retailing, importing and related industries such as printing and packaging. They are designed to help businesses understand the new labels, including the requirements that need to be met to make 'grown in'/'product of'/'made in' claims and how to determine the proportion of Australian ingredients. The forums will

also include a demonstration of the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science's online tool, which can be used to help identify appropriate labels for food products and can be accessed at <http://www.originlabeltool.business.gov.au/>.

The forums will be held in the following locations:

Capital Cities

Darwin	Wednesday 15 March (am)
Adelaide	Friday 17 March (am)
Perth	Thursday 16 March (am)
Brisbane	Wednesday 22 March (am)
Hobart	Wednesday 22 March (am)
Sydney	Friday 24 March (am)
Melbourne (CBD)	Tuesday 28 March (pm)
Melbourne (Dandenong)	Tuesday 28 March (am)

Regional Centres

Launceston	Tuesday 21 March (am)
Townsville	Tuesday 21 March (am)
Albury	Thursday 23 March (am)
Armidale	Thursday 23 March (am)
Shepparton	Thursday 23 March (am)
Toowoomba	Thursday 23 March (am)

Each forum will take approximately two hours followed by time for informal discussions. For further details and to register please visit www.business.gov.au/FoodLabellingForums.

We encourage you to advise your members and others who may be interested in the forums, inviting them to register their attendance at www.business.gov.au/FoodLabellingForums. The following text can be used to publicise the forums, as appropriate, in newsletters and emails:

BUSINESS FORUMS ON COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELLING FOR FOOD

The Australian Government is inviting businesses involved in the food industry to attend forums to learn more about the changes in country of origin labelling that started on 1 July 2016.

The forums will provide information for small and medium businesses that work in food production, wholesaling, retailing, importing and related industries such as printing and packaging.

At the forums you will receive an overview of the changes, including a demonstration of the online labelling tool, which can be used to help identify appropriate labels for food products.

The forums will be held in most capital cities and some major regional centres during March 2017.

For further detail and to register, please visit www.business.gov.au/FoodLabellingForums

For more information about the changes to country of origin labelling for food, please visit www.business.gov.au/foodlabels

Competition and Consumer Amendment (Country of Origin) Act 2017

The *Competition and Consumer Amendment (Country of Origin) Act 2017* has been passed by Parliament and come into effect. The Act simplifies the tests to justify a country of origin 'made in' claim by clarifying what substantial transformation means and removing the onerous 50 per cent production cost test. This means that businesses producing goods such as medicines, food, textiles, clothing and footwear will find the criteria for using a 'made in' claim clearer and simpler. Food businesses will only need to consider the proportion of local and imported ingredients by in-going weight, not value, when making origin statements. Other businesses will no longer have to recalculate the relative shares of imported and local content to support their origin claim. The Act also creates a new safe harbour defence for products labelled in accordance with Information Standards, such as the [Country of Origin Food Labelling Information Standard 2016](#). Complying with these defences will assure businesses that their country of origin claims are not false or misleading under the Australian Consumer Law.

For more information on the country of origin labelling for food, please visit: www.business.gov.au/foodlabels.

For specific queries about the requirements, you can contact us on 13 28 46 or via the online enquiry form at www.business.gov.au/Forms/Email-us

Australian first review of Large African Hive Beetle pest risk

Species of Large African Hive Beetle have the potential to become invasive and highly damaging to the worldwide beekeeping industry, according to Australian researchers.

Large African Hive Beetle (LAHB) can cause significant damage to honey bee colonies and is widespread in Africa.



Currently the pest is regarded as 'low risk', but the Australian first research review – led by Professor Ben Oldroyd from the University of Sydney – recommends that the current biosecurity risk assessment be changed to 'high'.

While the pest is yet to spread to Australia, the risk assessment has identified the potential danger of importation of eggs, larvae or pupae in dung should be considered 'medium, and that the likelihood of establishment after importation is high.

Chairman of the Honey Bee and Pollination Program Advisory Panel, Michael Hornitzky said the report also identifies the likely economic impact of LAHB as high.

"These are sobering research results but it also provides vital information and education to the Australian beekeeping industry on how to identify the pest should it ever be suspected locally," Dr Hornitzky said.

"Since 2002 we have experienced the incursion of Small Hive Beetle here in Australia, and prior to the threat, the industry was not prepared, or informed to deal with, for such a biosecurity breach," he said.

"This particular piece of research, funded by the Honey Bee & Pollination Program, highlights how beekeepers in Africa and Kenya have dealt with LAHB.

"The assessment also provides Australian beekeepers with information on how to prevent its introduction, as well as identify the pest should it arrive in the country."

"The safety and strength of our local beekeeping industry relies on the evaluation of risks of pests and diseases, and it is vital there is an awareness and understanding about

potential threats.”

For more information, read the project summary at:

<https://rirdc.infoservices.com.au/items/16-054>

AUSTRALIAN TRUSTED TRADER

Australian Border Force (ABF) have written to AHBIC re a program called Australian Trusted Trader (ATT). ABF had seen the news reports on our expected growth of exports of honey to China.

So what is ATT? The ATT program is a voluntary trade facilitation initiative. The program recognises businesses with a secure supply chain and compliant trade practices, rewarding accredited businesses with a range of trade facilitation benefits. It helps remove red tape and reduces administrative burdens.

ATT is part of a vision to create a seamless trade experience and an example of how the ABF is working with industry to respond to the evolving international trade environment. Through ATT, the ABF will support industry’s need for speed – to production and market, and greater certainty and visibility of their goods.

So what are the benefits? Trade facilitation benefits include:

- a dedicated Account Manager
- prioritised service when requesting advice or review on tariff, origin and valuation
- differentiated examinations at the border
- use of ATT logo
- option to defer payment (from the 2017-18 financial year)
- streamlined arrangements for reporting, movement and the clearance of cargo (from 2017-18 financial year)
- reduced examinations by overseas Customs administrations and increased access to international markets
- the opportunity to work in partnership with the ABF to test new trade facilitation initiatives

ATT is free to join and is open to all Australian businesses that are active in the international supply chain, have an Australian Business Number (ABN), two years trading history, and are financially solvent.

For more information the website is www.border.gov.au/trustedtrader

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC (AHBIC)

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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.**