



# Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Trevor Weatherhead – Executive Director

## August 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 September 2016**

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

Abbott, Brian & Robin Proudford  
Amateur Beekeepers Asn of NSW Inc  
Anderson, Cedar  
Australian Organic Honey Company  
Badger Head Bees  
Bayside Beekeepers Association  
Beechworth Honey  
Bees Neez Apiaries  
Blair, Shona  
Blue Hills Honey  
Bliss, Stephen  
Bourke, Lindsay  
Brenton, Daryl  
Bush Honey - (Midgley Family)  
Capilano Honey Ltd  
Clifford, David  
Clifford, Ray  
Cooper, Barry  
Cooper, Casey  
Cotton, Allan & Michelle  
Covey Bees  
Davey, Robin  
Dewar, Robert & Melissa  
Dyer, Craig  
Enslin, Darren

Faithfull, Mark  
Flow Hive  
Gells Honey Maryborough  
Glasby, Garry  
Gold Coast Amateur Beekeepers  
Society  
Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers Inc.  
Green, Lionel  
Gustare Honey Australia  
Heritage Honey  
Honeylife Australia  
Honeyworks Pty Ltd  
Hooper, Ben  
Hoskinson, HL & HM  
Ipswich/West Moreton  
Beekeepers Assoc  
Jones, Bryn  
Jones, Daniel  
Kennett, Joshua  
Klingner, Craig  
Le Feuvre, Danny  
Masters, Neil & Sharon  
MacGibbon, Kevin  
Morgan, Trevor  
Naicol Pty Ltd

Nairn, Mal  
Northside Beekeepers Association Inc.  
NT Bees (Aust)  
Panda Honey – honey buyers  
Pure Bendigo Gold Honey  
R. Stephens  
Saxonbee Enterprises  
RL Dewar- Bee Build  
Rohrlach, T & A  
Rotary Club of Caulfield  
Ruge Honey  
Shaw, Robert  
Squire, Gary  
Stokes, Peter  
Superbee Honey Factory  
The House of Honey  
Valkenburg Apiaries  
Watson, James  
Weatherhead, T & M  
Weerona Apiaries  
Western Honey Supplies Pty Ltd  
Zadow, Ian and Mel

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

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## **THIRD AUSTRALIAN BEE CONGRESS**

Planning is well underway for the Third Australian Bee Congress to be held at Royal Pines on the Gold Coast from 27- 30 June 2018. Have you put it in your diary?

The sponsorship opportunities and the trade show bookings are now available. See <http://australianbeecongress.com.au/base/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Australian-Bee-Congress-Sponsorship-Prospectus.pdf>

Go to the website [www.australianbeecongress.com.au](http://www.australianbeecongress.com.au) to register your interest and receive updates.

### **CALL FOR GENETIC SAMPLES**

We are looking for two kinds of weird bees for a research project.

- 1) Gynandromorphs. These are bees that are half male (drone) and half female. Any part can be affected, but they are most easily detected when you see a strange worker with a drone eye.
- 2) Anarchist hives. These are colonies where the workers lay eggs even though there is a queen in the hive. You can recognise them when you have a booming colony with drone brood (but not worker brood) above the queen excluder.

If you see any colonies like this this spring, please contact me. Thanks in advance!

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### **MEETING TO FORM NATIONAL ENTITY FOR MANUKA**

A meeting is to be held in Melbourne at the Mantra Hotel Tullamarine on Monday 18 September 2017 to discuss forming a national honey industry entity for manuka and to discuss urgent trade mark considerations.

If you are interested in attending contact Paul Callander at [pc@manukalife.net.au](mailto:pc@manukalife.net.au)

### **IGAB REVIEW**

A recent publication is “Priorities for Australia’s biosecurity system - AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE CAPACITY OF THE NATIONAL BIOSECURITY SYSTEM AND ITS UNDERPINNING INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT”. This can be found at <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/biosecurity/partnerships/nbc/priorities-for-aus-bio-system.pdf>

## AGM

Annual conferences for 2018, in chronological order, as I currently have them are:-

WA Farmers Federation – Beekeepers Section	4 May -
South Australian Apiarists Association	17 May -
Tasmanian Beekeepers Association	26 May -
Victorian Apiarists Association	31 May – 1 June -
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	1 July – Gold Coast
New South Wales Apiarists Association	TBA
Queensland Beekeepers Association	TBA
Honey and Packers Marketers Association	TBA
National Council of Crop Pollination Associations	TBA
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association	TBA

### NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS

<b>Application no.:</b>	108927
<b>Product name:</b>	Mitre 18 Insecticide
<b>Active constituent/s:</b>	18 g/L abamectin
<b>Applicant name:</b>	Adama Australia Pty Limited
<b>Applicant ACN:</b>	050 328 973
<b>Summary of use:</b>	For use on cotton, soybeans, tomatoes, apples, pears, citrus fruit, capsicums, strawberries and various ornamental plants and turfs for the control of pests
<b>Date of registration:</b>	2 August 2017
<b>Product registration no.:</b>	83751
<b>Label approval no.:</b>	83751/108927
<b>Application no.:</b>	110149
<b>Product name:</b>	Sharda Abamectin 18 Insecticide
<b>Active constituent/s:</b>	18 g/L abamectin
<b>Applicant name:</b>	Sharda Cropchem Espana S.L
<b>Applicant ACN:</b>	N/A
<b>Summary of use:</b>	For the control of pest mites and native budworm on cotton and for the control of pest mites on pears, apples, capsicums, tomatoes, strawberries and ornamentals
<b>Date of registration:</b>	8 August 2017
<b>Product registration no.:</b>	84339
<b>Label approval no.:</b>	84339/110149
<b>Application no.:</b>	105848
<b>Product name:</b>	Echem Indox 150 Insecticide
<b>Active constituent/s:</b>	150 g/L indoxacarb
<b>Applicant name:</b>	Echem (Aust) Pty Limited
<b>Applicant ACN:</b>	089 133 095
<b>Summary of use:</b>	For the control of various species of insect pests in azuki beans, chickpeas, cotton, faba beans, mungbeans and soybeans
<b>Date of registration:</b>	10 August 2017
<b>Product registration no.:</b>	82478
<b>Label approval no.:</b>	82478/105848
<b>Application no.:</b>	105292
<b>Product name:</b>	Dupont Exirel Insecticide
<b>Active constituent/s:</b>	100 g/L cyantraniliprole
<b>Applicant name:</b>	Du Pont (Australia) Pty Ltd
<b>Applicant ACN:</b>	000 716 469
<b>Summary of variation:</b>	To add control of kelly's citrus thrip and light brown apple moth and suppression of fuller's rose weevil, in citrus
<b>Date of variation:</b>	11 August 2017
<b>Product registration no.:</b>	64103
<b>Label approval no.:</b>	64103/105292

**Application no.:** 110851  
**Active constituent/s:** Prochloraz-manganese chloride  
**Applicant name:** FMC Australasia Pty Ltd  
**Applicant ACN:** 095 326 891  
**Summary of use:** For use in agricultural chemical products  
**Date of approval:** 7 August 2017  
**Approval no.:** 84576

**Application no.:** 108301  
**Active constituent/s:** Imiprothrin manufacturing concentrate  
**Applicant name:** Pascoe's Pty Ltd  
**Applicant ACN:** 055 220 463  
**Summary of use:** For use in agriculture chemical products  
**Date of approval:** 8 August 2017  
**Approval no.:** 83451

## **PLANT HEALTH AUSTRALIA DIRECTORS**

Plant Health Australia is calling for applications for four (4) Directors for their Board.

Details can be seen by going to their website <http://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/> and clicking on the "Directors vacancies" section.

## **REPORTING ADVERSE CHEMICAL EFFECTS ON HONEY BEES**

At the AHBIC AGM in July a motion was passed asking AHBIC to lobby beekeepers to report chemical instances to APVMA.

In the past I have urged beekeepers to fill out an adverse experience report if honey bees are poisoned. The tag line I used before, which is still relevant today, is "If you don't report it, it did not happen".

Information can be found at <https://apvma.gov.au/node/310> with a link in the top left hand corner on how to report. The online form will have many fields that are not applicable to honey bees but preserve and fill it out.

We hear of reports of honey bees being poisoned, and in big numbers, but because they have not been reported they are not in the statistics which Governments turn to when we make representations to them. So to them, there is no problem.

## **POST CYCLONE DEBBIE**

Landline had a program last weekend on how the growers are faring post Cyclone Debbie. No mention of how beekeepers were going. So I checked with a beekeeper in Proserpine as to how things were for the beekeepers post Cyclone Debbie.

The beekeeper lost 250 hives. Mostly drowned. With the cyclone stripping most of the flora the big problem was nectar and pollen for the bees.

On top of this the small hive beetle had a ball making recovery more difficult.

With the rain from the cyclone there was some weed growth which did help to support the bees but with no rain since those weeds are no longer there.

So with planting being able to be carried out by farmers the need for hives for pollination is again there. Trying to replace those lost hives is not easy with the current conditions with regard to the lack of pollen and nectar bearing plants. The trees have grown leaves but after previous cyclones in the north the trees often put on growth but no buds for the first year. So prospects are grim at this time.

### **BEEKEEPING STATISTICS**

Recently I obtained the latest beekeeper registration details from the various States and Territories. Thank you to the staff for supplying the information. I asked for those with up to 50 hives and those with 50 or more hives. The latest data is:-

<b>State or Territory</b>	<b>No. of beekeepers with less than 50 hives</b>	<b>No. of hives owned by those with less than 50 hives</b>	<b>No. of beekeepers with 50 or more hives</b>	<b>No. of hives owned by those with 50 or more hives</b>
Queensland	4,187	24,077	320	88,571
New South Wales	5,179	26,151	552	270,782
Victoria	5,909	23,445	322	87,076
Tasmania	23	2,532	34	15,534
South Australia	1,585	8,197	187	59,987
Western Australia	2,023	10,639	127	26,897
Northern Territory	56	828	18	1629
Australian Capital Territory	278	695	1	50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19,240</b>	<b>96,564</b>	<b>1561</b>	<b>550,526</b>
Total no. of beekeepers	<b>20,801</b>			
Total no. of hives	<b>647,090</b>			

### **MICHAEL HOLMES LEAVING PHA**

Michael Holmes has left Plant Health Australia (PHA) and is now working in Dr. Ben Oldroyd's lab at the University of Sydney.

Michael had been running the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program on behalf of industry.

We thank Michael for his work and wish him all the best at Sydney University.

## NAME CHANGE FOR RIRDC

AHBIC has received the following information. The name change took effect on Tuesday 29 August, 2017.

*We have some important news.*

*To reflect our new direction and our commitment to the future of Australian agriculture, the Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation (RIRDC) is relaunching as AgriFutures Australia.*

*This is much more than a simple name change. This is a thoroughly considered, strategic decision for our organisation to remain relevant and at the forefront of agriculture for the stakeholders we serve. We have learned from all that has come before (RIRDC) and are now building on those strong foundations to forge a bold new direction.*

*We need to ensure the long-term prosperity of rural industries and communities. To do that we had to upend our thinking on how we operate. AgriFutures Australia is firmly focused on the future because it's our job to anticipate what is coming next and – through research, innovation, technology and collaborations – prepare our rural industries for what's ahead.*

*The needs of the sector moving forward are vastly different to when RIRDC first began. This relaunch reflects the changing face of agriculture – where technology is transforming the sector and there is a new breed of highly skilled young professionals who are dynamic, entrepreneurial, commercially savvy and strongly connected.*

*We are confident about the future of Australian agriculture and that confidence is reflected in our relaunch as AgriFutures Australia.*

*The rebranding process started in December last year and has been a rigorous and extensive process for our team. It involved consultations with the Board and senior executive staff, and interviews with stakeholders at an individual and organisational level. We examined perceptions of the RIRDC brand and its values, considered our future brand values and brand aspirations and then developed the corporate renaming strategy. It was important to us that we consulted with the people and organisations that would be directly affected by these changes to ensure that we were making decisions that would ultimately serve their best interests.*

*Obviously, there will be a period of transition. Our first big event as AgriFutures Australia is the Rural Women's Award gala on 13 September at Parliament House. This event is extremely fitting for us as it's*

*focused on celebrating and recognising the incredible future leaders of agriculture, a characteristic core to our new strategic direction.*

*AgriFutures Australia is the new trading name for Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation. In practical terms, all new research, programs and publications will adopt the new name and reflect the new branding.*

*I encourage you to visit our website and to sign up to our newsletter to receive our latest information, you can find us at [www.agrifutures.com.au](http://www.agrifutures.com.au). Additionally, please follow us on Facebook and Twitter via @AgriFuturesAU*

## **AGRIFUTURES AUSTRALIA ADVISORY PANEL**

The new Honey Bee and Pollination Program Advisory Panel has just been announced.

It is as follows:-

Doug Somerville has been announced as the new Chair of the AgriFutures™ Honey Bee & Pollination Program's advisory panel.

A technical specialist in honey bees with the NSW Department of Primary Industries, Dr Somerville takes over the role from Dr Michael Hornitzky who served as Chair of the panel for the past six years.

Dr Somerville has more than 30-years' experience in the honey bee R&D sector and was recently appointed Adjunct Association Professor with Southern Cross University.

He said while there are numerous threats to the industry, the opportunities are bigger than ever.

"Pollination has entered the vocabulary of many of our plant industries and this has translated into a great deal of increased R&D in this area," Dr Somerville said.

"I hope to focus on what matters to beekeepers and utilise my experience in steering research and development into areas that make a difference – the future looks extremely promising."

The new advisory panel consists of:

Dr Doug Somerville (Chair) (NSW DPI), Sam Malfroy (Wheen Bee Foundation), Danny Le Feuvre (Australian Bee Services), Tiffane Bates (CRC for Honey Bee Products), Dr Diana Leemon, (QDAFF) and continuing members; Ashley Zamek (Hort Innovation), James Kershaw (NSW Beekeeper) and Dr Saul

Cunningham (ANU).

The Honey Bee and Pollination Program is a jointly funded partnership with AgriFutures Australia, Hort Innovation and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture.

AgriFutures Australia is the new trading name for Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation.

General Manager of Research and Innovation Dr Dave Alden said the rebranding reflects a new direction and ongoing commitment to the future of Australian agriculture.

“This is much more than a simple name change – this is a thoroughly considered, strategic decision for the organisation to remain relevant and at the forefront of agriculture for the stakeholders we serve,” Dr Alden said.

“We are confident about the future of Australian agriculture and that confidence is reflected in our relaunch as AgriFutures Australia.”

“All new research, programs and publications will adopt the new name and reflect the new branding.”

For more information, visit the new website ([www.agrifutures.com.au](http://www.agrifutures.com.au)) and to sign up to the newsletter to receive the latest news and updates. You can also follow AgriFutures Australia on Facebook and Twitter via @AgriFuturesAU.

For specific information on the Honey & Pollination Program visit [www.agrifutures.com.au/rural-industries/honey-bee-pollination/](http://www.agrifutures.com.au/rural-industries/honey-bee-pollination/)



# AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC (AHBIC)

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## CONTRIBUTION DETAILS

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](mailto: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.**