



AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

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Monthly News April 2021

Enjoy reading this newsletter and learning about our work on behalf of your honey bee industry?
If you haven't already become a Friend of AHBIC, we welcome you coming on board to help us!

[CONTRIBUTE HERE](#)

Or use the form on the last page

Supporting Australia's national beekeeping industry that supports you



AHBIC continues to campaign to stop the use of imported beeswax. Australian beeswax is pure and needs to stay that way. Buy only Australian beeswax to protect our industry and use only Australian beeswax for your own wellbeing. Please see the Chairs report under item 8 for an update.

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MEMBERS CONFERENCES

New South Wales Apiarists Association (NSWAA) – Annual Conference and AGM, 20-21 May 2021, West Leagues Club, Tamworth NSW
Tasmanian Beekeepers Association (TBA) – Annual Conference and AGM, May 28 -29 2021, Tall Timbers Hotel, Smithton TAS
Queensland Beekeepers Association – Annual Conference and AGM, 3-4 June 2021, Mantra Sharks Event Centre, Southport, QLD
South Australian Apiarists Association (SAAA) – Annual Conference and AGM, 24 -25 June 2021 , Berri Hotel, Riverland, SA
Bee Industry Council of WA (BICWA) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Australasian Honey Bee 2021 Research Conference 29 June – 1 July 2021, Perth WA• AGM to be advised
Victorian Apiarists Association (VAA) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual Conference and AGM Sessions, 7 – 9 July 2021, Bendigo VIC
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) AGM, 11 July 2021, Bendigo VIC
Honey Packers and Marketers Association – TBA
National Council of Crop Pollination Association – TBA
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association -TBA
Amateur Beekeepers Association of NSW - TBA

AUSTRALIAN HONEYBEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC



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The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC)
is the peak industry body for the Australian beekeeping industry
working for all within our industry including
honey producers, honey packers, pollinators, queen bee breeders, equipment manufacturers/suppliers

The following list recognises contributions received for the last 12 months.
A number of generous contributors wish to remain anonymous. We encourage beekeepers to support those
packers, queen bee breeders, equipment manufacturers/suppliers who contribute to AHBIC.
Thank you to all our contributors & supporters. AHBIC appreciates your generous & ongoing support.

Friends of AHBIC – Voluntary Contributions

PLATINUM PLUS (0)

PLATINUM (2)

Beechworth Honey Enterprises P/L
Hive & Wellness Australia P/L

GOLD PLUS (9)

Almond Board of Australia
Australian Honey Products P/L
Baker Beekeeping P/L
Beekeeping Australia P/L
Bega Cheese Limited
Goldfield Honey Australia P/L
Lauberts, Ugis
Sterling Kershaw & Co
Woolworths

GOLD (9)

Australian Queen Bee Line P/L
Amateur Beekeepers Assoc. NSW
Browns Bees Australia P/L
Cotton, Allan & Michelle
Hampel, SJ & SM
McDonald Honey
Weerona Apiaries
Woolfe, BD & CA
Zadow, IM & MJ

SILVER (24)

Australian Manuka Honey
Association Ltd
Australian Quality Honey (Blue
Hills Honey)
Barnes Apiaries
Bees Neez Apiaries
Brenton, Daryl
Boyd Apiaries P/L
Cooper, Casey
Desert Breeze Honey
Eastburn, Murray & Sandy
Gells' Honey Maryborough
Hooper Honey (Ben Hooper)
Kuyan Apiaries
Le Feuvre, Danny
Manukalife Pty Ltd
McDonald, Eileen & Bob
Michie, Robert & Raelene
Pavy, Rod
Porter, ML & DJ
R. Stephens Apiaries
Ruge Honey
South Australian Apiarists
Association
Victorian Recreational Beekeepers
Association
Warral Apiaries P/L
Wilson, Colin

BRONZE (12)

Arkadijeff, Murray
Australian Honeybee P/L
Clarke, RK & KM
Cunial Beekeeping P/L
G&A Apiaries
Hampson, Terry (Daybreak Apiaries)
Heritage Honey (P. Norris)
Holscher, Luke
Ipswich & West Moreton
Beekeepers
Lutze, Brett & Lynda
Masters, Neil & Sharon
Targett, Stephen
The House of Honey

COPPER (23)

AB's Honey
Ballarat Regional Beekeepers
Bee all Natural
Bayside Beekeepers Assoc.
Clarke, Michael
Frost, Liz
Godman, Phil
Gustare Honey Australia
Honey in the Garden
Hoskinson, HL & HM
Hum Honey
JBR Bees
Jordan, Corinne
Kennett Apiaries (SA) P/L
Nairn, Mal
Northside Beekeepers Assoc.
Petratos, Aris
Sedgwick, Peter (Honeyworks P/L)
Stokes, Peter
Trigg, Margaret
Weatherhead, Trevor & Marion
Wilson, Luke

OTHER (3)

De Broun, Pauline
Honeylife Australia
Shaw, Robert

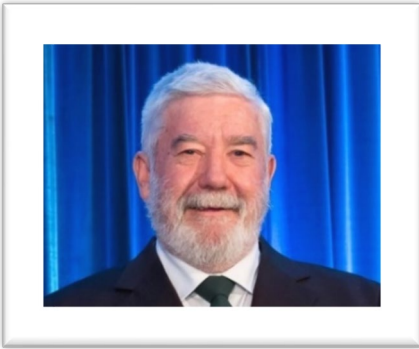
NON-PUBLISHED Value (21)

Australian Women in Beekeeping
Australian Virtual Hobby
Beekeepers Conference 2020
Bec's BeeHive Beekeeping
Supplies
Ecrotek
Evans, Trevor & Faye
Faithfull, Mark
Geelong Beekeepers
Gibson, David lee
Gilbert, Martin & Lorraine
Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers
Gold Amateur Beekeeping Society
Honey Australia P/L
Hampton, Tom
Hivekeepers
Lewis, Peter
Matsen, Jeff
McCormick Jenny
Moggill Honey
Mumford, Dave & Wendy
Naicol P/L
The Tasmanian Honey Company
WA Pure Honey
Watson, Jim

ANONYMOUS (10)

Did you expect your name to be
listed here?
Please check your emails for a
message from AHBIC inviting you
to renew your contribution

NEWS FROM THE CHAIR, Trevor Weatherhead AM



1. As of the end of this month (April), we will have completed the proof of freedom stage for the National Varroa Mite Eradication (NVMEP) program in Townsville, provided there are no more finds before then. It will now be up to the National Management Group to declare this proof of freedom.

This is very good news for our industry. I would like to thank all those staff in the Townsville, in particular Robert Stephens and Roger Winton, for the dedicated work they have put in over the years since the first incursion back in 2016.

There will be a winding up of the program till the end of June and procedures have been put in place in the unlikely event that more are found.

2. Doug Somerville has resigned, for personal reasons, as Chair of the Honey Bee and Pollination Advisory Panel at AgriFutures. It is sad to see Doug leave this position as he had so much knowledge to give to this position and was held in high regard by beekeepers. On behalf of the beekeepers of Australia I would thank Doug for his service as Chair and wish him all the best for the future.

In the meantime Dr. Diana Leemon is to be appointed as Acting Chair. Advertisements asking for interested people to apply for the position of Chair of the Advisory Panel will come out soon and industry will be advised when this happens.

3. For many years now Australia has been looking to gain access for Australian honey to the New Zealand market. AHBIC has been willing to participate in visits by the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) personnel from New Zealand to show them how we handle heat treatment of honey to go to Western Australia and how WA still does not have European foulbrood so the system must be working.

AHBIC has made representations to our own Department of Agriculture and Water and Environment (DAWE) re this access question but it seems New Zealand is still stone walling. AHBIC has been advised there is a bilateral meeting in June so we have asked that this issue be again raised at that forum with a view to having access for Australian honey put in place.

4. I attended a stakeholder briefing on the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations with the European Union. Following the update I asked where the negotiations on removing the tariff on honey were. I received the following reply. *"Market access offers are confidential between the negotiating Parties. Both sides are pursuing ambitious outcomes for all products including products, such as honey."*

There have been reports in the media about the possibility of the EU putting in place a carbon tax for countries that they feel are not meeting their expectation on tackling climate change. The reports have linked it to the FTA negotiations but that is not the case. The advice I have received is: - *"Various commentators have characterised the CBAM as a carbon levy. The name the EU gives the proposed policy is the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, rather than a 'levy'. In the briefing, the EU's Chief Negotiator Helena König said CBAM was an autonomous instrument and had no direct relationship with the FTA."*

This flags an issue that our industry will need to look at in the future.

5. May starts the round of beekeeping conferences in Australia. So far, touch wood, it seems they will be going ahead as face to face meetings. AHBIC will be presenting at all of the conferences this year and beekeepers will get a chance to meet our CEO, Helen.

6. With Australia Post banning, then rescinding, sending perishable goods through the post there was some speculation that queen bees would be included. AQBBA have checked and they have been informed that queen bees are not affected. Good news.

However it does show how vulnerable our industry is with the distribution of queen bees between the breeder and beekeeper. So it behoves all of us to make sure that we do the right thing when sending queen bees through the post. I know there are reports of late deliveries but there are, currently, no other methods other than the beekeeper going and personally picking them up.

7. There was a post on Facebook a while back about a sign at Taronga Zoo re native bees and making some comparisons with honey bees. They had the scientific name for the native stingless bee wrong and some of the comparisons were not quite right and obvious ones were not there.

Someone on Facebook challenged AHBIC to do something about it. Well we did. An email was sent to Taronga Zoo pointing out the mistake and suggesting the information should be updated. After several follow ups AHBIC has been advised that the sign has been taken down.

8. Another two (2) results back from samples of beeswax sent away for analysis and not surprisingly they came back as adulterated with paraffin. One sample as wax beads, the other foundation and both were from China.

AHBIC continues to follow up with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) re this issue plus we are also in contact with Minister Littleproud's office re having imported beeswax tested.

9. As many would know AHBIC has been seeking to have harmonisation of the movements of live bees and live products within Australia. AHBIC, and its predecessor the FCAAA, developed the five (5) zone policy of movements within Australia. The five (5) zones are:- Western Australia, Northern Territory, Kangaroo Island, Tasmania and the rest of Australia.

The first four (4) have unique requirements and as such it is recognised that they need to have stand-alone requirements. However, for the rest of Australia there is movement between these States and there should be able to be free movement with self-certification instead of having to obtain a health certificate.

The Sub-committee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access (SDQMA), see <https://www.interstatequarantine.org.au/producers/committees/> has been given the task of advancing this concept. Our CEO Helen and I attended a meeting of the SDQMA on 28 April 2021 and I can report that there is now progress on this issue.



NOTE FROM CEO, Helen Goodall

As part of the work to implement an industry wide communication plan, I am pleased to advise that AgriFutures have engaged [BlueHillpr](#) to work with AHBIC. AHBIC has had a kick off meeting with the team members at BlueHillpr to commence the delivery of effective and efficient industry communications that will highlight the presence and importance of the honey bee industry.

We know it is important for the success of your business to have access to education. AHBIC is committed to enhancing the development of all honey bee industry sectors through education. AHBIC's Education Sub-committee is chaired by Leilani Leyland and consists of representatives from each state beekeeping association who are AHBIC members. For information on how to access recognised courses such as the Certificate III in Beekeeping please visit <https://honeybee.org.au/education/> . Currently there are six [RTO's approved to deliver the Certificate III qualification](#) .

In July 2020 the Biosecurity Beekeepers online (BOLT) [course](#) became available as a free course for all beekeepers. The Biosecurity Beekeepers course is delivered by Plant Health Australia (PHA) through funding from state and territory governments and AHBIC. PHA and AHBIC developed the BOLT course.

To support your business and to provide opportunities for education and boost the skills of trainees, under the Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements program, there has been an extension to the program for any business that engages an apprentice/trainee between 5 October 2020 and 30 September 2021. You may be eligible for a subsidy of 50 per cent of wages paid to a new or recommencing apprentice or trainee for a 12-month period from the date of commencement, to a maximum of \$7,000 per quarter. For further information please visit: <https://www.dese.gov.au/boosting-apprenticeship-commencements> .

As Trevor mentioned in his report we are heading into Conference season which also includes holding the AHBIC AGM on Sunday 11 July 2021 in Bendigo Victoria. There will be three positions up for election as follows:

- The Deputy Chair. Stephen Fewster retires from this position and is eligible for re-election.
- Two (2) positions on the Executive. Leilani Leyland and Therese Kershaw retire and are eligible for re-election.

Nominations for these positions will be taken at the AGM. Also note section 7.6 of the AHBIC Constitution has the eligibility criteria for being on the Executive. This includes being a voluntary contributor as a 'Friend of AHBIC'. Please visit our website to see your current AHBIC Executive members who volunteer their time for the benefit of the industry <https://honeybee.org.au/organisation/executive-profiles/>.

I would like to acknowledge the support and commitment of our 'Friends of AHBIC' as seen on page 3 of this newsletter.

The Almond Board of Australia (ABA), a Gold plus Friend of AHBIC, has developed a pollination directory as a tool to help almond growers and pollination providers connect. If you provide pollination services and wish to be listed on the directory please visit [ABA pollination directory](#). In addition, in 2020 the ABA developed a honey bee best management practices (BMPs) for Australian almonds which can be found [here](#) . This document was modified from the Almond Board of California guide to suit Australian conditions. The ABA BMPs document was developed by the ABA Pollination Committee, which includes representation from the honey bee industry, as well as feedback provided by AHBIC and other industry bodies.

Remember World Bee Day is on the 20th May 2021, please page 9 of the newsletter for more information.

AUSTRALIAN MANUKA HONEY ASSOCIATION



- Call for help from the Australian Manuka Honey Association

The Australian Manuka Honey Association (AMHA) has spent the last three years actively fighting the Certification Trademark lodged by the New Zealand Manuka Honey Appellation Society to use the term 'manuka'. This legal battle could see Australian families and businesses who have been producing manuka for a long time lose their livelihood.

The first hearing of our submissions in NZ is anticipated to occur in mid-June and this will be followed closely by the Intellectual Property Office hearing in the UK. The AMHA are in the critical phase of this battle and have submitted over 5,000 pages of evidence through their legal counsels in both NZ and the UK. This evidence clearly shows Australia's right to be involved in the Manuka industry and addresses the history, geography, science and commerce with respect to Manuka Honey.

The AMHA has worked tirelessly to engage Federal Ministries and the media to support the industry. Whilst this work has been completely voluntary, the cost of engaging legal counsel is significant and the AMHA need your financial support to continue this fight. The aim is to raise \$50,000 in immediate funding and ask everyone involved in the Australian honey industry to rally behind this cause and contribute to the ongoing legal fees. Contributions can be made by visiting our GoFundMe page <https://gofund.me/14a59ed3>

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Paul Callander

Chairman

Australian Manuka Honey Association

- Manuka honey in the news
 - We just want to keep branding our [product](#) as we always have
 - Australian bee jobs at risk amid fight over [manuka honey](#) trademark rights.



Are you a beekeeper impacted by drought, bushfire or flood? Financial and practical support to professional beekeepers is available through HiveAid. For further information about the program please see [here](#) . All impacted beekeepers, listed as primary producers are encouraged to register for assistance. Please click [here](#) to apply. *Please remember all applications are treated with strict confidentiality by Rural Aid.*

GOVERNMENT UPDATE

- Update to the Manual of Importing Country Requirements

The Manual of Importing Country Requirements (Micor) is a Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment system that outlines trade conditions for agricultural exports to international markets. Micor has recently been updated to improve the user-experience, with a new interface, enhanced search function and compatibility with tablets and mobile devices.

To keep up to date, users are encouraged to subscribe to Micor to get email notification updates on importing country requirements. You can subscribe on [Micor](#) using the steps below.

1. Select the appropriate commodity type from the landing page menu.
2. Select the 'Subscribe' option at the top left of the menu.
3. Complete the relevant information to be added to the mailing list.

Further information on Micor can be found in the following links.

- **Manual of Importing Country Requirements webpage**
<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/export/micor>
- **Manual of Importing Country Requirements (Micor)**
<https://micor.agriculture.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>

For questions about the operation of Micor please contact micorproject@awe.gov.au. For questions about exporting non-prescribed goods please contact NPGExports@awe.gov.au.



If you have not already done so, please log onto the app and provide feedback if there are any issues in using it. [Updates to the BeeConnected app.](#)

Beekeepers are also reminded to submit an Adverse Experience Report (AER) into the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) should an incident occur. If you require assistance in submitting the report AHBIC can provide assistance. In addition, the Bee Biosecurity Officers have been briefed by APVMA and can also provide assistance in submitting a report. It is imperative that incidents are reported to government, as without this record of incidents it is harder to make changes.

EVENTS

- World Bee Day – 20th May 2021

Let's celebrate together, raise awareness and do something good for bees.

The main purpose of World Bee Day events is to spread awareness of the significance of bees and other pollinators for our survival. Simply proclaiming World Bee Day does not do much for bees and other pollinators; the main work of safeguarding their existence still needs to be undertaken. World Bee Day is an excellent opportunity to put bees at the centre of the national conversation for a day and encourage actions that create more bee-friendly landscapes.

Beekeepers and nature conservationists are united in encouraging improved conditions for bees to build pollination security and to

safeguard our food security. To see events that are happening near you or to register an event please visit:

<https://www.worldbeeday.org.au/>



- Save the date for the 4th Australian Bee Congress from 8 – 11 June 2022, Rosehill Racecourse, Sydney

Save the date

4th Australian Bee Congress

8-11 June 2022

Rosehill Racecourse
Sydney NSW 2142
Australia

Sponsorship and Trade Exhibition
Prospectus being launched soon

- Australian Beekeepers Online Conference - 5 June 2021 10am – 2.30pm. 'Australian Virtual Hobby Beekeepers Conference' follow the link [Sweetness of the Land](#) . Our Chair, Trevor Weatherhead will be speaking at the event.

"Sweetness of the Land"

Australian Beekeepers Online Conference

Fri, 5 June 2021, 10 am to 2:30 pm AEST



- Join online from the comfort of your home!
- Learn how to be a better beekeeper
- Presentations by hive keepers & industry experts
- Honey-tasting kits and coupons
- Help support Australian beekeeping organizations

Tickets are \$50. To purchase: Visit EventBrite.com and search "Australian Virtual Hobby Beekeepers Conference"



- Australasian Honey Bee Conference - June 30 & 1 July 2021
Live Stream 50+ Presentations from the Cooperative Research Centre for Honey Bee Products



AUSTRALASIAN HONEY BEE
CONFERENCE 2021

Can't Travel?

Online Conference Tickets

The Cooperative Research Centre for Honey Bee Products is live streaming its 52 presentations. These talks cover all areas of honey bee research in Australia!

\$150 two-day live stream tickets (\$50 discount for students)

honeyresearch.com.au



EXTENSIONAUS

Ensure you make the most of these informative [extensionaus -professional beekeepers](#) resources.

PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

- AgriFutures Australia provides access to a wide range of publications designed to help inform decisions made by Australian rural industries, and to contribute to policy debate on rural issues of national and international significance. Please click [here](#) for recent publications for the honey bee and pollination industry. Including:
 - The honey bee and pollination industry: [A Hive of activity](#)
- Farmers, researchers and businesses can now see levy funded research from all the Research and Development Corporations in one location. Please visit [growAG.com](#).

B-QUAL

Make sure you sign up to B-QUAL – an important quality assurance system! Click [here](#) for more information.



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and hygiene



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Friends of AHBIC Voluntary Contribution

Please, help us help you and our industry!

Please complete this form and return by email to finance@honeybee.org.au or PO Box 42 Jamison Centre, Macquarie ACT 2614

Friend Category	Investment	Friend Category	Investment
Platinum Plus	\$60,000 & above	Silver	\$1,000 - \$1,999
Platinum	\$20,000 - \$59,999	Bronze	\$500 - \$999
Gold Plus	\$5,000 - \$19,999	Copper	\$100 - \$499
Gold	\$2,000 - \$4,999	Other	\$0 - \$99

Contribution Details

Name:

Address:

.....State.....Postcode.....

Email: (Please PRINT clearly).....

Phone: Date:

Payment Method

Amount: \$.....

1. EFT Deposit (preferred payment method)

Account Name: Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc

Bank: Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633 000

Account No: 150 976 405

Reference: Please include your NAME as the reference

2. CHEQUE: Please post cheque with this form to PO Box 42 Jamison Centre Macquarie ACT 2614

3. CREDIT CARD: Online at <https://honeybee.org.au/friends-of-ahbic-voluntary-contribution/>

Please circle YES/NO to the following:

1. The AHBIC newsletter lists contributors

i. Publish your name YES / NO

ii. Publish the contribution amount YES / NO

2. I would like to receive a copy of the monthly newsletter YES / NO

Your contribution is gratefully appreciated, thank you.