



Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Trevor Weatherhead – Executive Director

December 2015

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 January 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
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

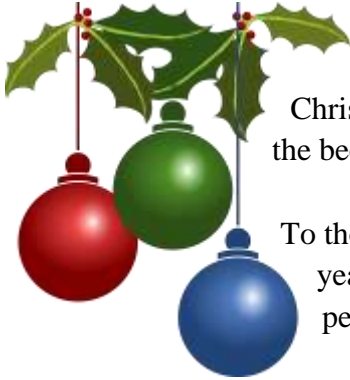
Pure Bendigo Gold Honey
R. Stephens
Roberts, I J & J H
Rotary Club of Caulfield Inc
Saxonbee Enterprises - Rod Pavy
Smith, Bruce & Carolyn
Squire, Garry
Stokes, Peter
Superbee Honey Factory
Trigg, Margaret
Watson, James
Weatherhead, T & M
Weerona Apiaries
Willemsen, Dale
Williams JW & MA
Witz, Ron
Zadow Apiaries

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

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GREETINGS

On behalf of AHBIC Executive and myself I hope that you will have a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



For the beekeepers here in Australia there have been some trying times this past year. I hope that you will be able to take a break over the Christmas period and spend time with your family and for a while forget about the bees. Let us hope for good honey flows in 2016.

To those Government Department staff we have had contact with over the past year I hope that you also will be able to take a break over the Christmas period and come back refreshed in the New Year.

To our Agriculture Ministers, Barnaby Joyce and Anne Ruston, and your hard working staff, all the best for Christmas and the New Year and we look forward to catching up with you in 2016.

Ian Zadow
AHBIC Chairperson



FINANCIAL COUNSELLING IN DROUGHT STRICKEN REGIONS

Farmers battling drought will continue to be supported by free financial counselling with an extra \$920,000 in funding for Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) providers in regional areas in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia.

See article at

http://getfarming.com.au/pages/farming/articles_view.php?fId=9200020151216115354&cId=1

INNOVATION HUB

Prime Minister Turnbull recently launched the new innovation hub for the National Farmers Federation. See <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-12-12/innovation-hub-launched-to-back-farmer-entrepreneurs/7010490>

So it got me thinking as to how the beekeeping industry can use innovation to increase profits.

What have been recent innovative developments? One that comes to mind is remote weighing of bee hives. One way of saving a trip out to the bees or going sooner if the flow starts early.

Other areas? Record keeping would be one area where beekeepers can start using today's technology to save time and have accurate records. I believe that some inventive beekeepers have already started developing their own programs.

STERILE FRUIT FLY PROGRAM

There is an interesting article on a program using sterile male fruit flies in Queensland. This is not new as this type of science has been used for a while now. See <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-12-16/fruit-fly-trial-gets-results/7033720>

The most interesting part for me was *"We've also seen significant amounts of beneficial (insects) with one of the growers actually commenting that he didn't have to spray for anything that bites, sucks or chews for the first time that he could recall."* This non use of pesticides would be a big boon for honey bees during the pollination phase.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELLING

I previously advised that the Country of Origin Labelling Taskforce put out a review paper. It can be found at <https://consult.industry.gov.au/cool-taskforce/cool>

They are now holding public consultation sessions. You can register to attend at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/country-of-origin-labelling-information-sessions-tickets-19919308187>

LEVIES

The amendment to increase the threshold for eligibility to apply for an exemption to lodging quarterly honey levy returns (from \$2,000 to \$4,000) was signed on 10 December 2015 by the Governor-General. The increase will officially take effect on 1 January 2016. See <https://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2015L02041>

The Minister had approved a transitional policy, so that no-one who normally lodged annually was expected to lodge a quarterly return during this past six months.

I have raised this before but it is important that, if you estimate that you will not pay more than \$4,000 in the honey levy in a year, you need to apply to pay the levy yearly instead of quarterly. This way it saves on the collection costs and that makes more of the levy available for our industry.

CANOLA SEED TREATMENTS

This recent research on canola seed treatments may be of interest to beekeepers.

See http://getfarming.com.au/pages/farming/articles_view.php?fId=9200020151210162147&cId=4

TRADE MARK SQUATTING IN CHINA

With the advent of the increase in demand for Australian products in China, there is a down side.

See <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-12-13/australian-dairy-and-wine-brands-targeted-by-trademark-squatters/7022714>

NORFOLK ISLAND SURVEY

A comprehensive survey of Norfolk Island was carried out and the report can be found at http://regional.gov.au/territories/publications/files/Department_of_Agriculture_Pest_and_Diseases_survey_2015.pdf The honey bee survey tested for 25 target pests and pathogens; only three bee pests (lesser wax moth, *Nosema ceranae* and Lake Sinai 1 virus) were detected, and none appears to be affecting the health of the island's bees.

I know that there have been queens sent from mainland Australia to Norfolk Island. It is interesting to note the absence of diseases but the presence of *N. ceranae*. To my way of thinking this suggests that *N. ceranae* has been around a lot longer than we think.

DRAFT BIOSECURITY ACT REGULATIONS

The draft Biosecurity Act regulations are now out for comment. See <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/legislation/new-biosecurity-legislation/draft-regulations#approved-arrangements-consultation-open-until-10-february-2016>

You have until 10 February, 2016 to put in any comments you may have.

REGULATION OF AGRICULTURE

The Federal Government has announced an inquiry by the Productivity Commission into Regulation of Agriculture. Details can be found at <http://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/agriculture> The issues paper has just been released.

Note the closing date for submissions is 12 February, 2016. AHBIC will be putting in a submission.

FRENCH BEEKEEPER LOOKING FOR WORK

I have received the following request:-

“I'm a french beekeeper and i'm join to Australia the next year and i'm looking for some beekeepers to work and learn different thinks about beekeeping in Australia. I've got 200 hives in France but i want to change a place and see other things and learn a lot of thins with a lot of different people.

I leave you my Email: jonas.gaschaud@gmail.com”

JAPANESE HONEY QUOTA

I have been advised as at 24 December, 2015, of the 88 tonnes quota, 85.7 tonnes have been allocated. This means there is 2.3 tonnes available until 1 April, 2016 when a new quota of 96 tonnes will be available, also at a reduced tariff.

Any honey shipped, after the current quota of 88 tonnes is reached and before 1 April, 2016, will attract the full tariff.

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

NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS

Application no.: 101892
Product name: Binder Insecticide
Active constituent/s: 100 g/L bifenthrin
Applicant name: Rotam Agrochemical Co., Ltd
Applicant ACN: N/A
Summary of use: For the control of heliothis spp, certain species of mites, longtailed meal bugs, banana weevil, banana rust thrips, mirids, whitefly, redlegged earth mite, blue oat mite, bryobia mite, webworm, brown pasture looper, vegetable weevil, certain species of wireworms, fig longicorn and citrus leaf-eating weevil in various crops
Date of registration/approval: 10 November 2015
Product registration no.: 80901
Label approval no.: 80901/101892

Application no.: 101957
Product name: AC Brushlia 80 Insecticide/Miticide
Active constituent/s: 80 g/L bifenthrin
Applicant name: Axichem Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN: 131 628 594
Summary of use: For the control of apple dimpling bug and plague thrips in apples, scab moth and flower thrips in bananas, two spotted mites in pears and several pests in ornamentals
Date of registration/approval: 2 December 2015
Product registration no.: 80930
Label approval no.: 80930/101957

Application no.: 102327
Active constituent/s: Pyriproxyfen
Applicant name: Tagros Chemicals India Limited
Applicant ACN: N/A
Summary of use: For use in agricultural chemical products
Date of approval: 8 December 2015
Approval no.: 81104

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC (AHBIC)

ABN: 63 939 614 424



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Email: ahbic@honeybee.org.au

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.**