



## AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

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# Monthly News November 2020

*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*



Photo credit – Bees Neez Apiaries

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Photo credit – Bees Neez Apiaries

# AUSTRALIAN HONEYBEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC



ABN 63 939 614 424

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 (8)

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  
Almond Board of Australia

#### 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 (23)

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  
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)

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  
Targett, Stephen  
The House of Honey

### COPPER (24)

AB's Honey  
Ballarat Regional Beekeepers  
Berry, Jessica  
Bayside Beekeepers Assoc.  
Clarke, Michael  
Cooper, Barry  
Frost, Liz  
Geelong Beekeepers  
Gustare Honey Australia  
Honey in the Garden  
Hoskinson, HL & HM  
Hum Honey  
JBR Bees  
Jordan, Corinne  
Kennett Apiaries (SA) P/L  
MacGibbon, Kevin  
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 (24)

Australian Women in Beekeeping  
Australian Virtual Hobby  
Beekeepers Conference 2020  
Bec's BeeHive Beekeeping  
Supplies  
BeelInventive (Flow)  
Ecrotek  
Evans, Trevor & Faye  
Faithful, Mark  
Gibson, David lee  
Gilbert, Martin & Lorraine  
Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers  
Hampton, Tom  
Hivekeepers  
Leemon, Diana  
Lewis, Peter  
Matsen, Jeff  
McCormick Jenny  
Moggill Honey  
Mumford, Dave & Wendy  
Naicol Pty Ltd  
The Tasmanian Honey Company  
WA Pure Honey  
Watson, Jim

### ANONYMOUS (11)

Did you expect your name to be listed  
here?

Please check your emails for a message  
from AHBIC inviting you to renew your  
contribution (AHBIC emails often end up in  
spam) or feel free to email [Helen Goodall](mailto:Helen.Goodall@ahbic.org.au).



## NEWS FROM THE CHAIR, Trevor Weatherhead AM

1. This month we have had a round of Plant Health Australia (PHA) meetings plus the AGM. As we have become accustomed to they were virtual meetings.

We still continue to discuss the Owner Reimbursement Cost (ORC) in the event of an incursion. I have been looking at these and I am suggesting our Biosecurity Sub-committee should get involved in this discussion. By doing this there are more in our industry who know how it will work in the event of that unwanted incursion.

I have been part of a PHA Issues Resolution Group (IRG) looking at some aspects of when ORC's start and what is included and what is not.

2. This past month we had our annual Biosecurity Roundtable. Normally it is held in Canberra but with the travel restrictions, as they were at the start of the month, it was a virtual one.

There were many presentations. Of great interest was the new technology being used to detect pest when they arrive in Australia.

3. A couple of the presentations at the Roundtable centred on trying to detect pests at the port of embarkation before they get to Australia. This is something that I have been raising with the Federal Agriculture Department for many years now and it looks like we may now be able to progress this.

4. Dr Andrew Tongue has taken over from Lyn O'Connell as the Deputy Secretary, Biosecurity and Compliance Group, in the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. Our CEO, Helen, and I had a virtual meeting with Andrew and the Chief Plant Protection Officer, Dr. Gabrielle Vivian-Smith, as Andrew wanted to introduce himself to the various industries that he will interact with in his new role.

We were able to fill in Andrew on the biosecurity issues affecting our industry and he said that he had not fully realised the role of the honey bees in pollination in Australia. I believe that we will have a very good relationship with Andrew.





### NOTE FROM CEO, Helen Goodall

In addition to our monthly newsletter you would have received news updates on 5<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of November on the recent interception of the red dwarf bee *Apis florea* nest on a container in Brisbane (please refer to page 10 of this newsletter if you have not seen the updates). Thank you to Trevor for working closely with the department and the team. This is a prime example of the importance of undertaking inspections at the port of embarkation, as the nest of florea was on the container while the container moved between ports overseas before arriving in Brisbane. We should not be relying on the pest being detected when it arrives at our Australian ports. We will keep you updated how this is progressed further with Government.

Still on the subject of biosecurity please see the link to a podcast developed by the National Varroa Mite Eradication Program (NVMEP) and Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in the interests of raising awareness of the issue among beekeepers and the broader Australian public for [eradicating-varroa-mites](#).

AHBIC continues to campaign for beekeepers and the Australian public not to buy imported beeswax. We have received the results from a testing that was undertaken on imported beeswax foundation and as suspected the beeswax was adulterated with paraffin wax. AHBIC will now progress this further with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and request them to investigate. If you have samples that you can supply to AHBIC, we will arrange for the testing. Please refer to page 6 for details. We urge beekeepers not to buy imported beeswax foundation.

Our monthly newsletter is how we keep you updated on the activities of AHBIC and the industry news. We frequently receive questions requesting information, that has more than often been reported in our newsletter. Please take the time to read the newsletter each month and thank you if you are reading this now. Remember you can access past copies of newsletter at <https://honeybee.org.au/category/news/>. We are always looking at expanding the reach of our monthly newsletter, so if you know people who would benefit from keeping up to date on what is happening in the industry, please encourage them to subscribe to our newsletter.

As you may be aware an industry stakeholder mapping exercise funded by AgriFutures was undertaken in the middle of the year which will now be used to shape an industry wide communication plan. AHBIC is working with AgriFutures to undertake the implementation of the communication plan that will promote the crucial role of the honey bee in food production. It is expected that this work will commence in early 2021.

Please note the 47<sup>th</sup> Apimondia Congress has been postponed until 2022. Please refer to page 6.

Again thank you to our 'Friends of AHBIC' for their continued support and welcome to our new friend this month, Ugis Lauberts. As you would be aware there are many issues that face the honey bee industry on a national basis and, as AHBIC is solely funded by voluntary contributions, we highly value the voluntary contributions of our 'Friends of AHBIC' to help us deal with these issues. With food industries dependent on pollination for crop production, the annual contribution to the Australian economy of our honey bees is estimated to be \$14.2 billion. This is in addition to the \$147 million in farm gate value (gross value of production) generated by honey and bees wax and an estimated \$77 million in additional hive products such as queen bees, packaged bees, propolis, paid pollination services and honey from small commercial producers. Your contribution as a 'Friend of AHBIC' means you are playing an important role in the protection and promotion of our honey bee industry.

## CONFERENCES

- Australasian Honey Bee 2021 Research Conference – Save the date - 29 June - 1 July 2021, Perth WA [Please click here](#)
- The 47<sup>th</sup> Apimondia Congress is postponed until [2022](#)
- [Back to basics](#) on 5th and 6th February 2021
- National Biosecurity Forum - [overview](#)

## GENERAL NEWS AND LINKS – AUSTRALIA

- Excellence recognised at the Australian Biosecurity Awards – [media-release](#)
- [Missionbiosecurity](#) - This national initiative aims to strengthen biosecurity awareness
- Queensland beekeepers' access to national parks to be extended for [20-years](#)
- Noosa council bans new beehives in [suburbia](#)
- Pollination [levy](#)
- AHBIC is campaigning to stop the use of imported beeswax. Australian beeswax is pure and needs to stay that way. The full article can be found [here](#). We have asked that you send samples of imported beeswax to AHBIC for testing. Please send your samples as per the below:

*Trevor Weatherhead  
Chair, Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc.  
1416 Middle Road  
Peak Crossing Qld 4306*

- *The sample size is about 100g. If foundation two sheets will be needed.*
- *Contact details of person submitting*
- *Where purchased, when*
- *How it was advertised, was it sold as pure beeswax or as Australian beeswax.*

## GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- Biosecurity Innovation Program - Applications for the 2020–21 financial year funding round opened on 9 November 2020 with submissions closing on 12 February 2021. Please visit: [research-innovation](#)
- 2021 AgriFutures Horizon Scholarship Program are now [open](#)

## HEAR FROM AHBIC's NEWEST MEMBER – BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Good day

I hope everyone in our industry is going ok. Here in WA, honey being very hard to find, fingers crossed for some powder bark and for the red gum to provide for us.

It's been a busy couple of months with a fair bit going on, albeit we have been getting our governance in order and have not been able to make any industry decisions over the past two months. We have sorted this issue now and are back in full swing.

In the past month we met with;

Steve Thomas, Shadow Minister for Finance; Agriculture and Food; Regional Development; The main points discussed were funds needed to establish a sustainable industry, resource access for beekeepers, tree planting and prescribed burning. Steve was very open and sympathetic to our industry and offered to help wherever he can.

Minister for Environment, Stephen Dawson's policy advisor; together with Forest Industries Federation WA (FIFWA) to discuss how to gain more access to land by getting back the sites that have been taken off us and how to get more native trees planted all over the southwest. They were very possessive. But more follow up is required.

CRC; Honey Assurance System, meetings include ChemCentre and Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. We attended the CRC AGM and heard great news with some research finding bee venom fighting breast cancer.

AHBIC; BICWA is an announced member of AHIBC since its meeting in October 2020. We look forward to a prosperous collaboration.

Honey industry promotion videos; Mickey Cernotta of Pemberton Honey has put forward some videos to help our industry and raise awareness. Well done Mickey!

Australasian Honey Bee Conference - June/July 2021

Ticket sale and sponsorship opportunity have been launched. More info to be found on the BICWA webpage: <https://www.bicwa.com.au/copy-of-bicwa-conference-2020>

BICWA invites for a Christmas Lunch at Riverbank Estate Winery, Caversham on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and is looking forward to mingle and spend a relaxing time with beekeepers – families and friends!

I like to thank Christine Spycher for her amazing effort and work done over the past few trying months, thank you.

Before this year folds, the BICWA board holds another meeting, scheduled for mid-December. Until then, stay safe and cool.

With Regards,  
Brendon Fewster

## BEE BIOSECURITY OFFICER UPDATE

This update provides an overview Victorian Bee Biosecurity Officer (BBO) [Ally Driessen's](#) main activities since mid-2020.

### Almond pollination

With an estimated 140,000 hives attending Victoria's almond orchards for the 2020 pollination season, Ally was busy working with beekeepers, brokers, and orchard managers to ensure the season was a largely disease free and positive experience for all. She also worked with the Almond Board of Australia to create a video to promote bee biosecurity and the measures in place to ensure only healthy hives are used to pollinate almonds.

To view video please visit [here](#)

### Spring

In spring, Ally recommends beekeepers start conducting brood inspections.

"You should ensure you look for foulbrood prior to any splits, otherwise you risk spreading pests and diseases."

"During early spring, Ally says it is also a good time to start rotating old brood frames."

"Remove old, thick, heavily gnawed and broken combs from the hive as good combs are essential for maximum worker brood."

If you're catching or have caught a swarm Ally says it's important to know they may carry pests and diseases.

"It is best to place hived swarms in a separate apiary where the bees and brood can be regularly checked for signs of disease for at least three months."

"It is also a good idea to place the swarm in an old box until its health has been established."

With spring in the air, Ally says calls from local councils have increased. She has been supporting them and beekeepers via the Victorian [Apiary Code of Practice](#).

"Residential Victorian beekeepers should follow this code to ensure their bees don't become a nuisance to surrounding people, property and domestic animals."

"Open communication between you and your neighbours is vital to a harmonious relationship."

Ally has also received many calls from non-beekeepers regarding bee deaths.

"As we come out of winter, worker bees who have lived through the winter begin to die."

"Many of these calls have involved educating the public on the bee lifecycle, as well as gathering information about local flowering plants and potential chemical use in the area."

## BEE BIOSECURITY OFFICER UPDATE - continued

### Pests and disease notifications

Ally's work has also involved supporting and educating beekeepers who have notified Agriculture Victoria of suspected pests and diseases.

"They were mostly cases of suspected American foulbrood, however, as Victoria is experiencing a start-stop spring, nosema, chalkbrood and European foulbrood have also been on the rise."

If you suspect you have found a [notifiable pest or disease](#) you must notify an Agriculture Victoria Apiary Officer via the Customer Service Centre on 136 186 or by emailing [honeybee.biosecurity@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:honeybee.biosecurity@agriculture.vic.gov.au)

Victorian beekeepers should also update their sugar shake test results by logging in at [bees.agriculture.vic.gov.au](https://bees.agriculture.vic.gov.au)

### BeeMax enhancements

Ally has been supporting work to enhance Victoria's digital bee platform, BeeMax. Thanks to feedback collated at club meetings, she says this platform will evolve.

"It has improved measurement, analysis and reporting of Victorian honey bee health data."

"More importantly, the platform has enabled registered apiarists to log their compliance, surveillance and emergency preparedness activities."

### COVID-19 restrictions

Currently many Victorians are feeling fatigued, isolated or lonely. However, Victorian beekeepers have found ways to continue to get together, connect, share knowledge and offer support via online club meetings. Ally has enjoyed presenting at these meetings as it has been a great way to stay connected with the community, educate and gather feedback.

Stay up to date with Victoria's COVID-19 restrictions by visiting [dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](https://dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus)



Australian Honey Bee  
INDUSTRY COUNCIL



## **APIS FLOREA IN BRISBANE**

On Sunday 1 November, 2020 a container was unloaded from an international vessel at Brisbane port and there was an *Apis florea* (red dwarf honey bee or dwarf honey bee) nest on the container.

At this time the bees have been killed, a queen has been found. Further examination of these bees has taken place and no external mites were detected following an ethanol wash of the bees. Examination for tracheal mites is not planned.

With the capture of the queen, there is negligible risk that any absconding bees could establish a new colony.

Sweep netting is being carried out in the area but it is not expected that any more bees will be found.

Trevor Weatherhead, AHBIC Chair and Robert Dewar, QBA President, have been down to the port and been briefed on what occurred.

As more information comes to hand it will be passed on.

Trevor Weatherhead AM  
AHBIC Chair  
5 November 2020

## **UPDATE ON APIS FLOREA INTERCEPTION IN BRISBANE**

Further to my previous advice of 5 November 2020, I can advise there were samples from the nest and the bees sent to the University of Sydney to see if they could carry out a DNA determination to ensure that the nest and bees were the same.

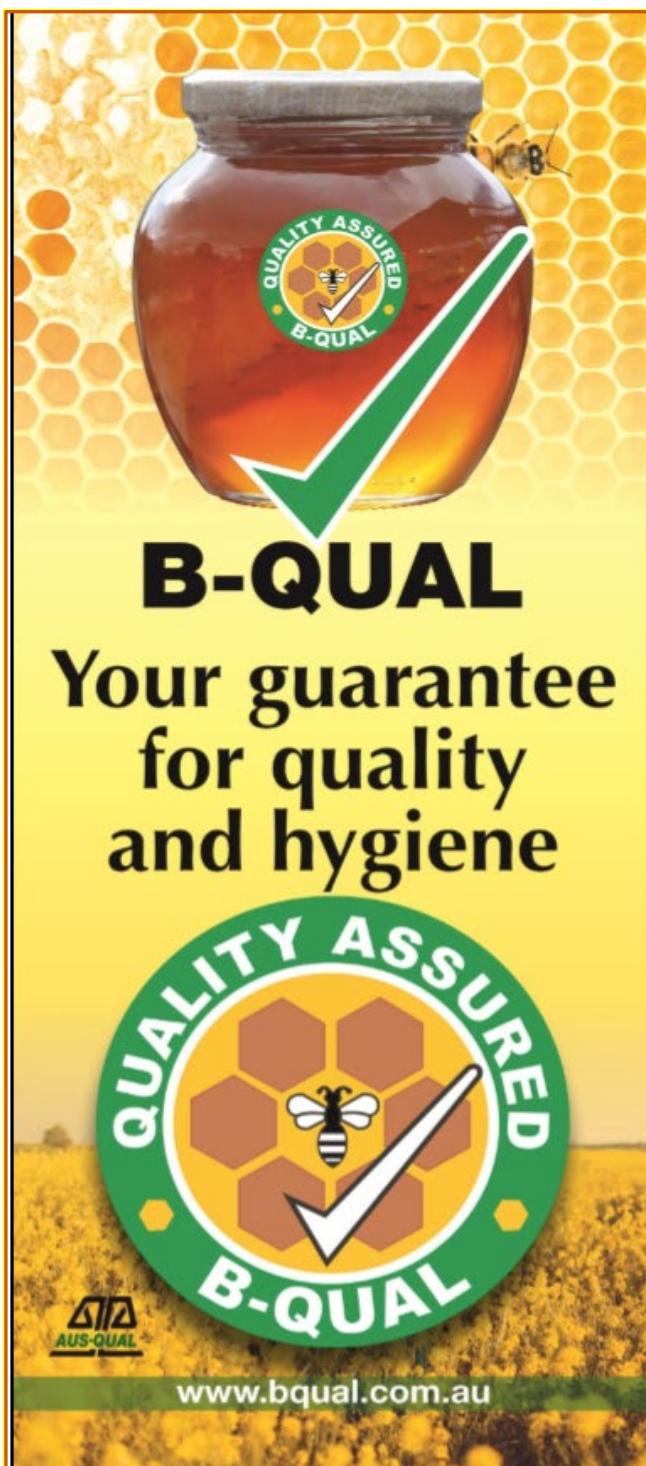
I can report that the data showed that *"The genotypes of the 1 pupa and eggs are consistent with being the progeny of the queen (as are all drones and workers)"*. A further comment from the University of Sydney was *"there is nothing from this data to suggest more than one colony was detected"*. It was originally thought that the nest and the bees were from the same source but it is reassuring to have this work done to confirm that.

Thanks to Dr. Ros Gloag at the University of Sydney. Industry appreciates the willingness of Ros and her team to use their knowledge and skills to help our industry.

Following this interception AHBIC is talking with the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment about having protocols in place to detect these bees at the port of embarkation. More on these discussions in the next AHBIC newsletter.

At this point I am confident that this interception has been successfully thwarted and that there is no chance of these red dwarf bees establishing in the port environment in Brisbane. Another good detection.

Trevor Weatherhead AM  
AHBIC Chair  
16 November 2020



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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](mailto: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

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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.**