



AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

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AHBIC Monthly News September 2019

*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 at the end of this newsletter

Women in Beekeeping! Congratulations Claire Moore (Vic Finalist & Runner Up) and Natasha Roebig (Qld Finalist) on your wonderful achievements at the Agrifutures Rural Women's Award!

We relished being there in support of you!



At the Agrifutures Rural Women's Award Gala dinner at Australian Parliament House on 11th September 2019.

L to R: Sarah Paradise (AHBIC CEO), Natasha Roebig (Qld Finalist), Claire Moore (Vic finalist and runner up), Sarah Asls Sha'Non (Australian Parliament House beekeeper), Therese Kershaw (AHBIC Executive), Christine Joannides (Editor, ABK), Ann Ross (Hive Haven)



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2020 AGM DATES

Bee Industry Council of WA	15 May
New South Wales Apiarists Association	21-22 May, Tamworth
Tasmanian Beekeepers Association	29-30 May, Venue TBC
South Australian Apiarists Association	11-12 June
Queensland Beekeepers Association	18-20 June, Warwick
Victorian Apiarists Association	2-4 July, Bendigo
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association	
Honey Packers and Marketers Association	
National Council of Crop Pollination Associations	
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	VAA, 5 July, Bendigo

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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

PLATINUM

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

GOLD PLUS

Baker Beekeeping Pty Ltd
Australian Honey Products P/L
Sterling Kershaw & Co

GOLD

Amateur Beekeepers Assoc. NSW
Cotton, Allan & Michelle
Hampel, SJ & SM
NSW Apiarist Association
Weerona Apiaries
Woolfe, BD & CA
Zadow, IM & MJ

SILVER

Bees Neez Apiaries
BeeWise
Boyd Apiaries Pty Ltd
Cairns District Beekeeping Assoc
Cooper, Casey
Davies Apiaries
Eastburn, Murray & Sandy
Ecrotek
Gells' Honey Maryborough
Hampson, Terry (Daybreak Apiaries)
Hooper Honey (Ben Hooper)
Kuyan Apiaries
Le Feuvre, Danny
McDonald, Bob & Eileen
McDonald, Peter & Michelle
Mitchie, Robert & Raelene
Pavy, Rod
Porter, ML & DJ
R. Stephens Apiaries
Ruge Honey

BRONZE

Barnes Apiaries Pty Ltd
Cunial Beekeeping Pty Ltd
Heritage Honey (P. Norris)
Kennett Apiaries (SA) Pty Ltd
Masters, Neil
Mumford, Dave & Wendy
Targett, Stephen
Walkabout Apiaries

COPPER

AB's Honey
Ascot Veterinary Group
Ballarat Regional Beekeepers
Bee Scientifics (Jody Gerdts)
Berry, Jessica
Clifford, David
Cooper, Barry
Frost, Liz
Gold Coast Amateur Beekeepers
Society
Gustare Honey Australia
Hoskinson, HL & HM
Jordan, Corinne
MacGibbon, Kevin
Nairn, Mal
Northside Beekeepers Assoc.
Oldroyd, Ben & Madeleine
Beekman
Redpath's Beekeeping Supplies
Sedgwick, Peter (Honeyworks P/L)
Stokes, Peter
Trigg, Margaret
Weatherhead, Trevor & Marion
Westlands Honey Beverley WA

OTHER

Beechworth Honey Pty Ltd
(on behalf of some producer-suppliers)
Davey, Robin
Honeylife Australia
Shaw, Robert

NON-PUBLISHED Value

Bec's BeeHive Beekeeping
Supplies
BeelInventive (Flow)
Faithful, Mark
Geelong Beekeepers Club
Hibberd, GL & HK, HSH Apiary
Holscher, Luke
Leemon, Diana
Lewis, Peter
Matsen, Jeff
Moggill Honey
Naicol Pty Ltd
Warral Apiaries P/L
WA Pure Honey
Watson, Jim

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 [Sarah Paradise](#).

NOTE FROM CHAIR, PETER McDONALD

Is Australia prepared for *Varroa*?

What is the beekeeping industry doing to prepare for *Varroa* & other exotic pests and diseases?

These are questions that arise quite frequently amongst our beekeeping community as more beekeepers become attuned to the potential impact on their own business or hobby in honeybees. This is even more pronounced with the immense growth in beekeepers within Australia over the past 5-10 years. Many new beekeepers and even some established ones are voicing their concern. Many, many regional and state beekeeping conferences over this time (and longer) have focussed talks and presentations on exotic pests and will continue to do so.

Biosecurity has been and continues to be the major focus for AHBIC and its member organisations since its inception in 1998 and for the national beekeeping groups that represented the industry prior to AHBIC.

Recently AHBIC received a letter from a regional beekeeping group espousing these exact questions and voicing major concern that we as a national industry are not prepared. I disagree with these concerns and believe that Australia is well prepared and well placed to meet the challenges of exotic pest arrivals in Australia. I also believe we are the best prepared of any nation for *Varroa* because we are the last major beekeeping nation in the world to be free of it and we have all their experiences to learn from, which we have.

Remember also, Australia is already successful, showcasing these learnings and preparations. We are the only country in the world who has successfully eradicated *Varroa* that had become established away from the border. This happened with the 2016 *Varroa Jacobsoni* incursion in Townsville. A large amount of credit must go to the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QDAF) for their response and our ultimate success, ably assisted by the fantastic local Townsville beekeepers and general community and beekeepers from across Australia who volunteered to assist. Of course, QDAF and the Townsville community are again on the front line, with the response to the separate 2019 *Varroa Jacobsoni* detection currently underway. The preparedness of QDAF has been due to their diligent work and underpinned by a long history of co-operation and knowledge sharing between industry groups in AHBIC and the Queensland Beekeeper Association(QBA) and the other federal and state Agriculture departments.

Whilst I feel that we as a national industry are well prepared, there is always more we can do which we have been progressing. The National Bee Biosecurity Program, incorporating the Biosecurity Code of Practice and Bee Biosecurity Officers are a major part of this. We need everyone to get on board and do their bit, whether that be learning and preparing themselves, or even better, helping to spread the word among the whole beekeeping community and ensuring everyone is as prepared as possible.

This discussion brings to mind some simple advice myself and other beekeepers received back in 2007 when we were part of a study tour of New Zealand to learn about *Varroa* and bring those learnings back to Australia (see the report from it [here](#)).

The most critical thing suggested for Australia to do was to educate the beekeepers BEFORE *Varroa* arrived so they are as prepared as possible. It was also suggested to keep in mind, *Varroa* is NOT a problem if you have the following 3 things:

1. You are prepared to work harder to manage the health of the bees more closely.
2. You have money to cope with extra costs of honeybee husbandry and treatments.
3. There is no resistance to treatments.

Later in this newsletter I talk about in more detail work that has been undertaken and underway to prepare us all for the possibility that *Varroa* becomes established in Australia. Have a read and do not despair about the inevitability, focus on the positive actions that have been taken and examine how you as an individual or organisation can assist to improve our preparedness even further.

NOTE FROM CEO, SARAH PARADICE

Thanks to Agrifutures, the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council was provided the opportunity to host a promotional table at the recent Agrifutures Rural Women's Award Gala dinner in the Great Hall, Parliament House in support of the two women in beekeeping finalists Claire Moore (Victoria State finalist) and Natasha Roebig (Queensland State finalist). From Queensland, Natasha Roebig is a beekeeper and apiary innovator, who wants to establish an interactive training facility with the apiary industry in South-East Queensland, to promote innovative research and ethical beekeeping practices. From Victoria, Claire Moore aims to breed genetically diverse queen bees that are healthy and adaptable in a range of climates. A very big congratulations to both Claire and Natasha for being selected as State finalists and for Claire who took out the Runner Up prize! Agrifutures Chair Kay Hull opened the dinner and Senator the Hon. Bridget McKenzie, Minister for Agriculture, was guest speaker and presented the awards. Both Claire and Natasha have contributed enormously to raising the profile of the honey bee industry and general awareness within the community about the important role of bees. See link to Media Release by Minister McKenzie following the event encouraging women 'to emulate the winners and to be the change they wanted to see' Read more: [Media Release](#). Also Australian Farmers reported on 12th September [New South Wales remote work advocate, Jo Palmer, founder of Pointer Remote Roles, has been named the 2019 AgriFutures™ Rural Women's Award National Winner, with Victoria's Claire Moore the National Runner Up](#). I tweeted about the event afterwards and now have Minister McKenzie following AHBIC tweets.

I organised the AHBIC table and we were fortunate to have industry experts from both beekeeping and forestry. It was another great opportunity to showcase in front of over 500 people attending the dinner, the importance of the honey bee industry to forestry and resource security. Thank you again to Agrifutures for providing the opportunity for us to host a table in support of Claire and Natasha.

The following day, I met with Ann Ross of Hive Haven in addition to Agrifutures Senior Manager, Business Development Tom McCue, Food Agility board director and Chair & Co-Founder of FAN Jacqui Wilson-Smith, Andrew Wallace MP, and Paul Janseen, Australian Parliament House Head Gardener. We met to tour the possible sites for the native stingless bee as well as the honey bee hives at Parliament House. Thanks to Ann Ross of HiveHaven for including AHBIC in the meeting, it was interesting and informative.

A few photos from the event....



And then all of a sudden, there was Bob! L-R Sarah Paradise (AHBIC CEO), Natasha Roebig (Qld finalist), Bob Katter MP (Member for Kennedy, Qld), Claire Moore (Vic finalist & runner up), Ann Ross (Hive Haven), Therese Kershaw (AHBIC Executive), Sarah Asis Sha'Non (Parliament House beekeeper)



Agrifutures Chair Kay Hull opening speech



FSC CEO Sara Gipton (L) with AFPA Policy Manager Natalie Heazlewood



Cormac Farrell, APH Head Beekeeper (L) with Sarah Asis Sha'Non, APH beekeeper



Theresa Kershaw, AHBIC Executive (L) with ABK editor Christine Joannides



L-R Claire Ross, Sarah Paradise, Natasha Roebig



Helen Murray, (L) Ag & Forestry Consultant with FSC Policy & Standards Manager Stefan Jensen



Natasha Roebig's story being profiled



Claire Moore's story being profiled



Natasha Roebig with partner and Bob Katter MP



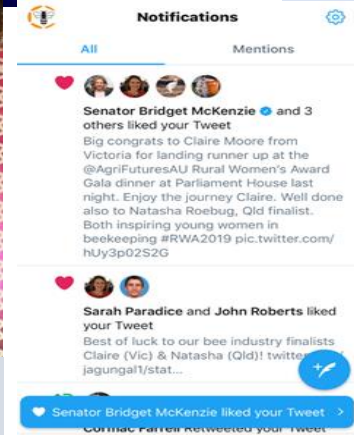
Minister for Agriculture Bridget McKenzie speech



Claire Moore's Runner Up speech as Minister McKenzie looks on



L-R Claire Moore, Sarah Paradise, Natasha Roebig, Theresa Kershaw



L-R At APH, Agrifutures Tom McCue, Sarah Paradise, Ann Ross (Hive Haven), Andrew Wallace MP, Jacqui Wilson-Smith (FAN)

Recent meetings attended by CEO and/or AHBIC Executive

- 11th Sept – Agrifutures Rural Women’s Award Gala Dinner, Great Hall, Parliament House to support Qld and Vic finalists in beekeeping industry
- 12th Sept – meeting at APH, Hive Haven MD Ann Ross, Andrew Wallace MP, Tom McCue Agrifutures
- 13th Sept - AHBIC Executive Meeting, teleconference, 10am – 12.15pm AEST
- 18th Sept - meeting with Sustainable Timber Tasmania, resource access & MOU
- 18th Sept - AFPA Quarterly Dinner
- 18th Sept – meet with IFA CEO re possible workshop – forest fire management and beekeeping
- 25th Sept – meet with PHA re National Bee Biosecurity Program review
- 26th Sept – meet with Therese Kershaw re AHBIC funding

Upcoming meetings for CEO and/or AHBIC Executive

- 10th October – NSW/ACT Biosecurity Roundtable with NSWAA Chair Stephen Targett, Sydney, 9am – 3.30pm
- 14th October - meet with PHA re National Bee Biosecurity Program review
- 14th October – NFF 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner on the invitation of Agrifutures
- 16th October - CropLife’s 2019 VIP Cocktail Reception for Agriculture and Rural Focus Week with the National Farmers’ Federation, Farmer of the Year Awards, Australian Rural Leadership Foundation and the Australian Farm Institute
- 18th October - Meeting QA/Standard – to be rescheduled to a new date - TBC
- 28th Oct - B-QUAL, Food Safety, Face to Face meeting, Melbourne
- 29th Oct – AHBIC Executive Face to Face meeting, Melbourne
- 19-20th Nov - PHA Member Meetings, Canberra
- 27th Nov - Dept of Ag. 2019 NBC National Biosecurity Forum, Canberra
- Date TBC – meet with Minister McKenzie advisor with honey bee industry responsibility, APH
- Date TBC – meeting with Responsible Wood, PEFC re resource security and forest certification

QUEENSLAND’S NEW BEE BIOSECURITY OFFICER



Exciting news! Congratulations to Dr Rebecca Laws who has been appointed to the Queensland Bee Biosecurity Officer (BBO) role.

Rebecca holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology, an Honours degree and PhD in Zoology, and a Graduate Certificate in Higher Education. During and following her studies, Rebecca has undertaken a number of research projects and postdoctoral fellowships in Australia and overseas.

Since 2015, Rebecca has worked on several plant biosecurity projects in Biosecurity Queensland, within the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF). The most recent project was a federal Department of Agriculture funded project “National priority plant pests (NPPP) true host list and risk pathways” in which she collated and assessed information on hosts, risk pathways, management and treatment of the NPPP, including bee pests and exotic bees as threats.

Rebecca is an amateur beekeeper and has a sound understanding of the Australian honey bee industry, beekeeping practices and biosecurity.

She is very much looking forward to her role as the Queensland Bee Biosecurity Officer, learning more about the industry, and working with beekeepers, AHBIC and Plant Health Australia (PHA) to deliver the Queensland work plan and National Bee Biosecurity Program.

Rebecca commenced in the role on Tuesday 1 October 2019 and is based with the plant biosecurity team and other DAF staff located at the Ecosciences Precinct, Dutton Park in Brisbane. Rebecca's details are:

Dr Rebecca Laws
Queensland Bee Biosecurity Officer
Biosecurity Queensland
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

T 07 3708 8367 E Rebecca.Laws@daf.qld.gov.au W www.daf.qld.gov.au
Ecosciences Precinct, Floor 2CE, 41 Boggo Road, Dutton Park Qld 4102
GPO Box 267, Brisbane Qld 4001 Customer Service Centre 13 25 23

Thanks to Trevor Weatherhead for his time and role on the selection panel in recruiting for the position which attracted a larger number of applicants.

SUSPECTED VARROA MITE ON ASIAN HONEY BEE, TOWNSVILLE PORT – UPDATE

Response activities and heightened surveillance are continuing following the detection of varroa mites on an Asian honey bee nest at the Port of Townsville in May 2019. No further Asian honey bees and *Varroa jacobsoni* have been found.

Recently Queensland Biosecurity in conjunction with the Townsville Beekeepers Association, hosted a successful media opportunity to promote the 2019 Varroa Mite Eradication Program. Queensland Biosecurity issued the following media release – see below.

A new suite of collateral including brochures, AHB identification cards and posters have also been produced and are being distributed to targeted locations and distribution points around Townsville.

Media:

[9 News North Queensland](#)
[WinNews Townsville](#)

Port and transport workers are encouraged to be on the look-out and report suspect bees that may have come in on cargo via the *See. Secure. Report* hotline on **1800 798 636**.

The general public can report suspect Asian honey bee detections to the national Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on **1800 084 881**. Townsville bee keepers are asked to be especially vigilant in reporting any suspect Asian honey bee sightings and/or varroa mite detections.

Information about bee biosecurity and photos that will help identify varroa mite and Asian honey bee are available on the Bee Aware website at beeaware.org.au or the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries [website](#).



Media Release

03 October 2019

Townsville residents urged to be alert for Asian honey bees

Key points:

- Townsville residents are urged to join the hunt for any Asian honey bees following discovery of varroa mite in a nest of the feral bees at the Townsville port earlier this year.
- Varroa mites could significantly damage the Australian bee industry and agricultural sector, disrupting honey production and pollination services.
- We destroyed the nest at the port fairly swiftly but it's important to confirm there are no further nests in the Townsville area.

Main story:

Biosecurity Queensland is calling on Townsville residents to join the hunt for the Asian honey bee following discovery of varroa mite in a nest of the feral bees at the Townsville port earlier this year.

A small army of Biosecurity surveillance officers has already walked some 3,300 kilometres of Townsville parks, streets and other public land since the find in May, but we need residents to check their own surroundings and report any unusual bees, nests or swarms.

National Varroa Mite Eradication Program manager Stephen Anderson said early detection of varroa mite was essential to eradication and containment efforts.

"This pest could significantly damage the Australian bee industry and agricultural sector, disrupting honey production and pollination services," he said.

"We located and destroyed the nest at the port fairly swiftly, but it's important to confirm there are no further nests in the Townsville area.

"Varroa mite are the size of a pin head and extremely hard to spot. That's why we're asking Townsville residents to be on the lookout for any unusual bees, nests or swarms and report them to us.

"Like our European honey bee, the Asian honey bee will forage on flowers but are smaller, not as hairy and look darker and glossier. Look for bees clustered into a swarm or nests in small hollows like trees, eaves, letter boxes and compost bins. If you see them, report it."

Mr Anderson said ten surveillance officers, many with beekeeping experience, were undertaking daily patrols of Townsville suburbs, using catch boxes, feed stations, ballooning and bee lining techniques in their detection efforts.

"You can clearly identify members of the surveillance team by their high-visibility vests with "Biosecurity Queensland" on the back," he said.



"Local beekeepers have also stepped up to the plate and are conducting tests on backyard hives."

The National Varroa Mite Eradication Program is being funded through a partnership between industry and government and is expected to run until 2021.

For more information including pictures of the Asian honey bee, visit biosecurity.qld.gov.au or to report suspicious bee activity call 13 25 23.

Media contact: Deborah Rule 0436 916 667

The Queensland Beekeepers Association recently issued the following informative advice to their members. We continue to work with QBA and Queensland Biosecurity on this:

Biosecurity Update

QBA would like to advise members that an announcement has recently been made by Biosecurity Queensland that a new eradication program has been launched in Townsville after the detection of *Apis cerana* and *Varroa jacobsoni* was made earlier this year. The QBA continues to work closely with Biosecurity Queensland, AHBIC. We are involved in regular teleconferences with BQ and AHBIC and will provide updates to members where and when possible.



We are happy to advise that there have been no new detections within the area. If you are within the Townsville region and sight any irregularities within bee colonies or happen to sight an Asian Honey bee (*Apis cerana*) please contact the DAF hotline on 13 25 23 as a priority. You can also lodge an online report of suspected bee sightings using the link below:

<https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/animal-biosecurity-welfare/animal-health-pests-diseases/beekeeping-in-queensland/diseases-and-pests/asian-honey-bees/identify>



I have attached a photo of the Asian Honey bee and a comparison photo between an Asian Honey bee and a European Honey bee.

Left: Apis cerana, the Asian honey bee. Right: Apis mellifera, the European honey bee. (Image: Paul Zborowski) A comparison of an Asian honey bee and a European honey bee.

Beekeepers travelling to North Queensland.

Over the past few days I have received a few phone calls from beekeepers either already in Far North Queensland or planning to migrate bees to the area for pollination contracts.

There appears to be some confusion relating to the incursion zone, this prompted me to make contact with the Biosecurity Queensland team on the ground in Townsville and ask if a map could be provided to industry.

The following is a map that was provided to the QBA earlier. If you would like to download the image please use the link below.

- [Varroa-Mite-Area-of-Interest-map.pdf](#)



We believe all beekeepers would agree that we are thankful that the latest detection occurred in an area where the team from BQ were already on the ground wrapping up the past program. Reports from the team on the group are that the community of Townsville have shown great enthusiasm, interest and engagement in the new program. If you have any questions about the program or migrating bees into North Queensland please feel free to contact me at any time.

Many thanks,
Jo Martin
QBA State Secretary.



PREPAREDNESS FOR *Varroa destructor*

By Peter McDonald

Below is an email that AHBIC received in July from a regional beekeeping club regarding the preparation of Australian beekeepers for the arrival and establishment of *Varroa destructor*. The concerns raised in the email are valid and real. Please read and then continue reading as the concerns are addressed with the programs and strategies that are in place to effectively prepare us as much as possible for this likely eventuality.

This letter also shows a need for improved communication of the work AHBIC and other industry groups do and the benefits this work provides to all beekeepers, whether they are members of clubs or not. AHBIC works on behalf of all, with the support of only a few. We all need greater support and help.

I am writing to you on behalf of the [REDACTED] Club which is based in [REDACTED].

Our club was formed in 2011 and since it's inception the membership has grown steadily every year with the count in 2019 being 117 individuals. Among our membership are beginner, experienced, amateur and commercial beekeepers.

[REDACTED] monthly meetings are attended well with an average of between 50 and 70 people. We are very proud of our club and it's achievements with the ongoing support and education of beekeepers new and old in the wide community of [REDACTED].

The reason for my letter is to enquire about an issue which is of concern to our members and one which our committee thinks needs to be addressed sooner rather than later. That issue is the matter of preparedness for the event of the varroa destructor mite becoming endemic to Australia.

I read, with great interest, the account in the March 2019 AHBIC newsletter of your attendance at two varroa workshops. I believe the first was 'Living with Varroa, Masterclass' and the second was 'Crown and Anchor'. The reason my interest was peaked was two-fold. Firstly a letter from our club was, at that time, being drafted on the **lack of training and direction for beekeepers on the subject of varroa preparedness** and secondly I was dying to know what had come out of your experiences. Unfortunately I can see nothing that has filtered through to us and addressed our need for knowledge and training on this unfortunate, yet inevitable subject.

As a club with an enthusiastic, bee-loving membership we need to know what our options are. We need to know that there is hope after varroa. We need to know that we are prepared for varroa. And, **at present, we are not prepared**.

Beekeepers are turning to YouTube and other internet sites to try to find out what they can do to be prepared. But the problem is .. **Where to look? Who to trust? Where to start?** This is too serious to get wrong. We want to be guided by the experiences of those overseas who have had years to deal with this terrible pest. We hope to be able to learn from their mistakes and take from their experiences to give us an advantage that none of them had when their bees were first under attack.

This information should not come at a cost to Australian beekeepers. I would like to see AHBIC providing Australian beekeepers with the knowledge, skills and tools necessary to take on varroa destructor using the **latest, proven treatments available & approved for us, in Australia**, to employ right from the beginning. Any time we have to wait, before implementing appropriate treatment, could spell the end of many apiaries around the country.

Beekeeping clubs in particular will be bombarded with questions and desperate calls for help from the minute it is confirmed that varroa destructor is endemic to Australia. If beekeepers are caught in the lurch, so to speak, there will be panic. And if there is no hint of what to do we are going to lose possibly thousands of amateur beekeepers as soon as they find themselves at the mercy of varroa destructor. This would indeed be a disastrous and, I believe, an avoidable outcome when all that is needed is the appropriate level of responsible education and guidance from AHBIC, a well respected source of information and education for Australian beekeepers.

I look forward to reading your response and hold out hope that I can pass on good news to our members that there is a plan in place to educate all Australian beekeepers on how to responsibly care for their bees and manage the varroa destructor mite once it is endemic.

The main points from this letter are highlighted in red and will be addressed below in the order they appear in the letter:

“...lack of training and direction for beekeepers on the subject of varroa preparedness...”

There is no lack. AHBIC has put in place the National Bee Biosecurity Program (NBBP), which incorporates the Bee Biosecurity Officers (BBO's) in every state. Each BBO is tasked with providing training and direction for beekeepers in pests and diseases. This includes exotic pests such as *Varroa destructor*. If it arrives here, there will be an even larger focus on it.

The NBBP also includes the Biosecurity Code of Practice. Within it is the requirement for all beekeepers managing more than 50 hives to complete mandatory training and assessment in pests and diseases through an approved course. There is an online training course available to everyone. The NBBP provides this free to those beekeepers and for those under the 50 hive threshold it costs only \$20.00. Even for \$20.00, this is the cheapest, most comprehensive pest and disease course you can get anywhere. The 50 hive threshold was created as a pragmatic level whereby the NBBP is paid for by levies generally paid by beekeepers with more than 50 hives.

There is the Bee Aware website (www.BeeAware.org.au) This website was created to be the best source of information regarding Honey Bee pests and diseases for Australia. It has regular updates and news items, videos, industry stats, details about pollination and much more, plenty about preparing for *Varroa destructor*.

Lastly, there have been numerous presentations at beekeeping conferences throughout Australia on the very topic of preparing for *Varroa destructor* for the past 20+ years. These talks have been from Australian and overseas scientists & beekeepers, giving both a technical and practical educational and awareness experience to many. Therefore, tapping your club into the beekeeping group network and being aware of upcoming events is vital. The best and most regular providers of this sort of information has been the well-established peak beekeeping association for each state.

“...at present, we are not prepared.”

As stated in my opening statement to this newsletter, I disagree. Overall, we as a national industry are prepared, well prepared. Good communication of this preparedness is vital to ensuring that every beekeeper knows this and can contribute in their own way to ensuring we stay safe from *Varroa destructor* for as long as possible and that any possible transition to living with the pest is seamless.

We must all remember the tools/programs we have in place:

1. A nationwide network of Bee Biosecurity Officers (BBO's), funded by a partnership of industry and state governments who are there to assist, educate and direct us. If *Varroa destructor* comes they will be directed to focus on supporting beekeepers and beekeeping groups to manage it effectively.
2. A national Biosecurity Code of Practice that mandates the minimum biosecurity practices for all beekeepers. This includes exotic pest management, training and record keeping, all vital to preparing for and managing *Varroa destructor* and other exotic pests and diseases.
3. An industry (AHBIC) owned quality assurance program, [B-QUAL](#). This not only provides the basis for protecting and promoting our quality honey but also provides the records that will be required in the event of any owner re-imbursement cost claims made during an emergency response to any exotic pest or disease outbreak.
4. Government departments that are getting better and better at emergency response for exotic pests of Honey Bees through plenty of practice recently, which includes working in partnership with industry groups.
5. [BeeAware](#) website for trustworthy, comprehensive and timely information about a whole range of pests and diseases and appropriate management in the Australian context.

6. A comprehensive network of beehives around Australia that acts as an early warning system for any exotic pest or disease. This is also used as a testing ground for treatments to gather information as to their effectiveness in Australian conditions.
7. An ever-increasing network of beekeeping groups to spread information far and wide. This network incorporates groups acting at local, regional, state and national levels and is funded and operated largely by beekeeper volunteers.
8. A number of treatments approved for use already for emergency and surveillance, speeding their approval for general use when required.
9. An awareness within all State and Federal governments and all the pollination dependent industries of the vital importance of Honey Bees to everyone. So aware in fact that they have all agreed to be a funding partner to any eradication attempt that is deemed a good chance of succeeding. They have all contributed twice already, 2016 Townsville & 2019 Townsville.
10. A government/industry partnership program started in Victoria called the Honey Bee State Quarantine Response Team. This team of volunteers are trained in emergency response to an exotic pest or disease such as *Varroa destructor*. They are called in to bolster the response ability and were used very effectively in the detection and subsequent surveillance around the Port of Melbourne in 2018. The training and experience is fantastic in preparing for managing *Varroa destructor*. Many other states are now looking to implement a similar program.

All of these tools/programs have been years in the implementation and are all in a state of constant maintenance and improvement. We are prepared.

“Where to look? Who to trust? Where to start?”

[BeeAware](#). Every beekeeper must be aware and on the lookout for exotic pests and diseases.

That is why AHBIC and its partners named the [BeeAware](#) website just that. This website was created to be the best source of information regarding Honey Bee pests and diseases for Australia. It has regular updates and news items, videos, industry stats, details about pollination and much more.

The search facility has also been filtered to gather data from reputable, reliable and accurate sources from around the world. This allows the beekeeper to focus on the tried, tested and approved methods of management, not the crazy, dangerous and illegal practices that abound on the internet.

Where to start & trust, I would suggest the [BeeAware](#) website. Where to also look is to the state government apiary teams, especially the BBO.

Also look towards other beekeeping groups. They abound and in joining the groups together in a network of cohesive, cooperating clubs good, valid and correct information and resources can be widely shared.

“This information should not come at a cost to Australian beekeepers.”

Nearly everything comes at the cost to the beekeeper, that is life.

AHBIC is the same as every beekeeper organisation throughout Australia, it gets its funds from members and any programs they run. AHBIC runs a “Friends of AHBIC” program to generate income, where people and organisation value the work that AHBIC does and contribute to its running costs as they can afford. Without this support from beekeepers and other industry organisations and individuals AHBIC would not exist.

Much of the biosecurity information and work around Australia is paid for through a few channels:

1. The national statutory honey levy, whereby **every beekeeper** who produces and sells more than 1,500kg of honey per year has a legal requirement to pay 4.6 cents per kilogram to the Levies department in the Federal government, who then distribute it to eligible organisations who use it on behalf of the Honey Bee industry. One of these is for biosecurity.
2. State based Apiary funds. These vary in size and where they get their money from but can include direct contributions by **beekeepers** or a portion of the **beekeeper** registration fees.
3. The state apiary teams in each state government Agriculture department
4. Pollination Dependent Industries (PDI's) also provide funds for some projects and for emergency responses. They are very aware of the importance of the Honey Bee to the production of their crop and so have been willing to fund biosecurity activities to protect us and hence themselves.
5. The federal government funds some projects where it is in the national interest to do so. Biosecurity has been the major focus for such projects in the recent past.

The vast bulk of the biosecurity work for Honey Bees comes from the levy. It funds our industry share of the surveillance program, the Biosecurity Code of Practice, the industry share of the BBO's, training for beekeepers to assist in emergency response control centres, printing of biosecurity educational materials, Bee Aware website maintenance and more. This is beekeepers paying through the sale of their honey. We need every beekeeper pay this levy to ensure these services can continue into the future.

“...latest, proven treatments available & approved for us, in Australia...”

AHBIC agrees. It must be understood however that the ONLY organisation who can approve treatments for use in beehives is the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). It is the Australian Government statutory agency responsible for the management and regulation of all agricultural and veterinary chemical products in Australia. Any treatment that is not approved by the APVMA is illegal in Australia. There are some treatments approved for use in other countries that will not be approved here.

What AHBIC has done to prepare for the latest, proven treatments available & approved for us, in Australia, is to work with APVMA to ensure that the pre-eminent treatments used around the world are known and understood already by the APVMA to speed the approval process once *Varroa destructor* is declared ineradicable.

Several treatments are already approved for emergency, surveillance and training use, which is what has been used for recent detections and incursions in Australia (2016 Townsville, 2018 Melbourne, 2019 Townsville). There may be a requirement from APVMA for further information regarding the use of the chemicals in Australian climate and conditions before approving for general use which is why AHBIC is also using these treatments in the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program (NBSP), our network of surveillance hives throughout Australian high risk entry points, mainly the ports. The surveillance hives are treated on a regular basis with treatments that are rotated. This allows the collection of usage data that will assist a speedy approval process with APVMA. This has been extremely valuable as it has already identified issues with some treatments in the varying climatic regions of Australia, meaning we will be able to better inform beekeepers from the tropics in the north to the south of Tasmania on best practice treatment application.

“Beekeeping clubs in particular will be bombarded with questions...”

AHBIC agrees, they will. This is what has traditionally happened whenever a new pest or disease establishes in Australia and that will continue in the future. Beekeeping organisations become awash with beekeepers striving to understand any new threat. It happened in the 1970's with European Foul Brood, the 90's with Chalkbrood, the 2000's with Small Hive Beetle, the Teens with *Apis cerana* and *Varroa jacobsoni*. It will happen

again; this is where people learn and it shows the real value of being part of a club. People learn best from people.

What has changed in all this time is that we have become better at communication and a large amount of resources will be put in place to communicate to the Honey Bee community the appropriate methods of treatment, management and control. This will be communicated through government, media and Honey Bee networks. It is why it is essential that all beekeeping groups connect into the networks of groups to allow information to flow and all beekeepers must be registered. Registration allows government to communicate to everyone, even those not associated with a group.

Hopefully this discussion on what AHBIC and other groups have done and are doing regarding Varroa preparedness better informs everyone. We will never be fully prepared, but we are I believe in a good state of readiness.

MANUKA HONEY

As you may be aware, New Zealand is attempting to trademark 'Manuka' so that Australian Manuka producers will be unable to market their legitimate product as Manuka. In New Zealand, there is one *Leptospermum* species *Leptospermum scoparium* from which Manuka honey is produced. Here in Australia, we also have *Leptospermum scoparium* from which Manuka honey is produced, in addition to 83 other species. Recently, the Australian Manuka Honey Association (AMHA) has increased awareness of the issue amongst Australian Government officials and politicians. This has led to several media reports and meetings with politicians including a meeting between Tasmanian Beekeeper Association and the Minister for Agriculture, Senator the Hon. Bridget McKenzie who also tweeted about the meeting – see image below.



Other media coverage included

['The deepest pockets ... win': The battle for manuka honey](#), by Harriet Alexander, SMH, 24 September

[Capilano Continues Fight For Australia's Manuka Honey Industry](#), 25 September

['It's a lie!': Honey producers irate over New Zealand's bid to stop Australian beekeepers from using term 'manuka'](#), 3AW Breakfast, 24th September

[New Zealand pushes to shut Australia out of manuka honey market in China](#), The Guardian, 24th September

[New Zealand renews battle to trademark Manuka honey](#), ABC AM with Sabra Lane and Thomas Oriti, 24th September

The AMHA is calling on increased support from the Australian Federal Government to assist further, in line with NZ recent promise of nearly \$6million to a campaign to stop Australian beekeepers marketing their

products as "mānuka" honey. See article in RNZ by Yvette McCullough on 25th September [here](#).

Contact AMHA for more information, website link [here](#).

If interested, some related media and publications:

- ABC Gardening Australia profiled Simon Williams, from the University of Sunshine Coast, who is undertaking a sticky study of Australian *Leptospermum* species, and their potential for use as medicinal honey. [Honey for Health](#), 12 Sept
- Agrifutures have a great publication to assist in the identification of members of the *Leptospermum* genus. Link here: [A Beekeeper's Guide to Australian Leptospermum Trees and Honey](#)

46th APIMONDIA HELD IN MONTREAL, CANADA

By Trevor Weatherhead AM

The 46th Apimondia was held in Montreal Canada from 8 – 13 September, 2019. It was hosted by the Canadian Honey Council. It proved to be a very successful meeting in a very good venue. Thanks to the Canadians.

From my calculations there were 35 Australians, including wives, attending Apimondia. Three Australians had stalls at the Apiexpo. There were over 5,300 delegates at the meeting.

For the World Beekeeping Awards there were three Australian who received prizes for the honey, mead and beer. Congratulations to Lindsay Bourke, David Gibson and Barbara Weber. Unfortunately nearly half of the honey entries were disqualified due to failing NMR testing. There were some queries as to why entries failed with the same honey in different sections failing for different reasons. Seems there needs to be more done with the NMR test.



Inside the room that will be emptied out to overwinter the hives

The program was full on for the four days plus the technical tours. The technical tour I went on was to a beekeeping operation, running around 6,000 hives that also had a meadery and distillery. Very impressive but it highlighted the difference between beekeeping in Canada and Australia. Firstly Canadians have access to Mexican labour. This operation wintered bees indoors so a massive shed has the hives put into singles, then the room is heated to 4 degrees centigrade.

Interestingly they still use barrels for honey storage. I guess their heating rooms are set up to handle barrels and not IBC's. The barrels have plastic liners inside.



Barrels of honey stored awaiting bottling or to be used in mead production.

Talking with the Canadians they have BeeConnected app operating in Canada. Here in Australia we have problems with beekeepers putting their sites on BeeConnected as they think that beekeepers will see their sites. This is no so. In Canada it is the reverse. Beekeepers put their sites on but farmers don't put their sites on or bother to look up BeeConnected before they spray. For further information on BeeConnected see <https://www.croplife.org.au/resources/programs/beeconnected/>

Some interesting presentations but it never ceases to amaze me how overseas people can get dates for Australia wrong. I went to two (2) presentation, by overseas researchers, on small hive beetle. One said small hive beetle was found in Australia in 2001 and the other said 2000 when it fact it was 2002.

I was pleased to see that when I came back into Australia that the Border Force staff wanted to check the honey I had in my luggage. On the entry form the question is asked as to whether you have any bee products. I had ticked yes, as I had purchased some honey from the beekeepers we went to see on the technical tour. They asked what the bee products were and when I said honey, they asked to see it.

Apimondia has a new President, Dr. Jeff Pettis from the USA. With Jeff at the helm Apimondia should now move forward in a positive way. Jodie Goldsworthy was elected as the Oceania President.

There were two countries bidding to hold Apimondia in 2023. They were Chile and Ethiopia. Chile was voted in as the venue for 2023. The 2021 Apimondia is being held in Ufa in Russia.

EXTENSIONAUS

Ensure you make the most of these informative [ExtensionAUS](#) resources! More have recently been uploaded so please utilise these free resources:

- [Propolis: an emerging market](#)
- [Honey Labelling](#)
- [Honey testing: more to the story](#)
- [Spring Management](#)
- [To feed or not to feed](#)

Find Nadine Chapman on LinkedIn to keep up to date with ExtensionAUS resources



GENERAL NEWS AND LINKS – AUSTRALIA

- Contrasting bird and insect pollination through use of novel camera and genetic technologies, a project by Michael Whitehead (University of Melbourne) that employs custom cameras designed for motion-capture data capture of insect visitors to flowers, in order to demonstrate contrasting bird versus insect visitation in pairs of closely related native shrubs. Fine-scale population genetic analysis in these plants is revealing evidence for systemic differences in the movement of pollen under these different pollinator regimes. More [here](#), 3 October 2019
- It's the time of year when the queen gets nasty! [Canberra is buzzing with assassins - but killers smoked in rooftop siege](#), Canberra Times by Steve Evans on 2 October 2019
- Held every October, **AFB Awareness Month** aims to highlight awareness of American foulbrood, its impacts and best management practices; encourage beekeepers to inspect their hives for signs of the disease; promote reporting of the disease to NSW DPI. The campaign targets beekeepers and is a joint initiative between NSW DPI and the Amateur Beekeepers Association NSW, the North Shore Beekeepers Association, NSW Apiarists' Association and Steritech. Read more on [NSWDPI website](#).
- Whether you are a large honey packer or you sell honey at your local markets, honey labelling laws apply to you. Honey sold at fund-raising events or given as gifts are exempt. The Food Standards Code has determined that certain information must appear on a label. Read more on [ExtensionAUS](#).
- [Beekeepers preparing for pollination keen to put shocker season behind them](#), reports that Australia's warmest summer on record earlier this year was a disaster for beekeepers and beekeepers have been hand-feeding their bees over winter. Bees are being sent out to pollinate fruit, nut, and vegetable crops ahead of honey collection. ABC News by Laurissa Smith, 1 Oct 2019
- With a shortage of labour in beekeeping at peak work periods, this article may be of interest to some readers. [Australian growers welcome increased backpacker numbers](#), Australian Tree Crop, 28 September 2019
- [The last golden age of the bee people](#). Listen to Joe Riordan - Senior Apiary Officer, Agriculture Victoria, Nic Dowse - Urban beekeeper and founder of the Honey Fingers Collective, Jody Gerds - Bee scientist and 4th generation beekeeper and Ian Cane - Commercial beekeeper and 3rd generation beekeeper being interviewed by ABC RN presenter Miyuki Jokiranta, 14th September 2019
- Accessing bee-related information has been challenging for Agriculture Victoria staff with bee health databases split between two systems: Bioweb2 and the ADMIS (Animal Disease Management Information System). The complex nature of undertaking honeybee health risk assessments requires all available beekeeper information to be readily accessible in order to turn this data into knowledge that will enable Ag Vic staff to more efficiently understand potential or actual threats to bee health and the honeybee industry. The soon to launch BeeMAX will bring together all bee-related information (including beekeeper registration information for almost 9,000 registered Victorian beekeepers, and the results of their honey culture tests) providing a 'single source of data truth'. [Read more](#).

- Re biosecurity and vegan extremists invading farms:
 - [Vegan activists face court after shutting down Melbourne streets for animal rights protest](#), Dozens of vegan activists have avoided criminal convictions after shutting down Melbourne streets for an animal rights protest, ABC News, 1 October 2019
 - As the new trespass laws hit NSW Parliament for debate, farmers have inundated Local Land Services offices seeking biosecurity warning signs to place on their properties. [Thousands of farmers rush to get 'trespass' warning signs up](#) by John Ellicott, The Land, 19 Sept
 - Member for Maranoa, David Littleproud has welcomed new laws that will protect farming families from extremist invasions. The Criminal Code Amendment (Agricultural Protection) 2019 introduces new offences for using the internet to incite trespass, theft or property damage on agricultural land. [Activists face jail](#), 13 Sept
 - [Vegan extremists face new farm invasion laws](#), Weekly Times, 12th Sept
 - [Farm trespass laws pass making it illegal to use websites, social media to incite others](#), by Kath Sullivan, ABC News, 13 Sept
 - [Joint Media Release: Morrison Government delivers farm trespass laws](#), 12 Sept
- [The threat of varroa mite is real. But these Australian beekeepers are ready to face it](#). ABC RN by Mei Sun 18th Sept. Read Joe Riordan, AQBBA Jody Gerds and urban beekeeper Nic Dowse being interviewed.
- Call for Master or PhD student for a nationwide bee breeding program at USyd. This project will help establish an economically sustainable national genetic improvement program using innovative breeding technologies to transform the performance of honey bees in Australia. It will focus simultaneously on traits of importance to beekeepers, and to the horticultural and broadacre industries that are dependent on honey bee pollination. The strength of this project lies in its ability to leverage benefits across multiple industries by creating a more profitable and sustainable beekeeping industry, improving crop pollination efficiencies and enabling industry expansion through enhanced pollination security. Link to more information: [here](#)
- Glyphosate (or RoundUp as it is commonly sold) has again been in the spotlight following claims it may cause cancer. AustralianFarmers busts the myths and explains why the science doesn't support this claim. Read more: [What you need to know about glyphosate](#). Also, registered products containing glyphosate are safe to use according to label directions as stated by the APVMA. See [APVMA response to 60 Minutes story on glyphosate](#), 9 Sept
- Use of bee smokers in total fire ban. Have you checked the current guidelines around the use of bee smokers during total fire bans in your state/territory? QBA recently circulated an email to members outlining the guidelines for Queensland. QBA secretary Jo Martin spoke with Queensland Rural Fire Service Regional Manager and he has advised that under a total fire ban, beekeepers are permitted to light bee smokers as they are considered to be a contained fire. He also stated that all beekeepers should use extreme caution when lighting smokers during the current fire bans, ensuring that they have access to either fire extinguishers or adequate water to extinguish the flame or any sparks created from the ignition. He also suggested that beekeepers observe local weather conditions and where possible avoid lighting smokers in during windy conditions similar to those experienced during total fire bans. QLD RFS have also asked that all beekeepers extinguish their smokers prior to leaving the bee site to mitigate any additional risk.
- Honey production is worth more than \$100 million annually, along with sales of beeswax, queen and packaged bees. This is dwarfed by the benefits of bee pollination services. Recently and in coming months around 200,000 beehives will be transported around growing regions in southern Australia for pollination, making effective biosecurity of bee hives more important than ever. All commercial and hobby beekeepers are urged to adopt the [Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice](#) to keep their bees healthy and to safeguard honey bee and pollination dependent

industries. Read more with quotes from PHA's Kath DeBoer: [Help at hand for growers and beekeepers](#), [FarmBiosecurity](#) Subscribe to [BeeAware newsletter](#) for more information.

- [From helping his studies to figuring out how to save the world, 17yo Luke loves his bees](#), ABC Breakfast with Nadia Mitsopoulos and Russell Woolf, 31 August
- The Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice (the Code) has been developed collaboratively by beekeepers and governments to provide a framework for Australian beekeepers to use best practice biosecurity. In support of the Australian honey bee industry and the national adoption of the Code, Agriculture Victoria undertook consultation with beekeepers in February and March 2019, about formally adopting all the requirements of the Code into Victoria's legislation. Feedback received from stakeholders indicated broad support for the legislative adoption of the Code. The new Livestock Disease Control Regulations 2017 incorporating the Code came into effect on 12 June 2019. The new Regulations cover activities that all beekeepers should already be undertaking to minimise the impact of pests and diseases on their own hives and those of their fellow beekeepers. Some of the new requirements apply to all beekeepers; others apply only to beekeepers with 50 or more hives because of the increased biosecurity risks that these beekeepers manage. Read more [here](#). 30 August

MEDIA RELEASES

- A thriving agricultural sector underpins the future success of our regional communities and national economy and depends on our farmers getting strong returns at the farm gate. A discussion paper recently launched is calling for ideas to modernise Australia's Research and Development Corporations (RDCs) to support the next wave of innovation for Australian farmers. [Modernising the Research and Development Corporation system: Discussion paper](#) is available for comment until 4 November, 2019. [Media release](#), 23 Sept 2019
- Opportunities and challenges in uncertain times. The value of farm production is forecast to fall by 5 per cent in 2019–20 to \$59 billion, according to the latest Agricultural Commodities report launched today. This was driven by the third consecutive decline in the volume of farm production since favourable seasonal conditions delivered the largest winter crop on record in 2016–17. ABARES [media release](#) (17 Sept) and link to ABARES Agriculture Commodities September quarter report [here](#)
- Affected by southern Queensland's recent fires? Disaster assistance has been extended to primary producers, small businesses and not for profits impacted by the southern Queensland bushfires. Assistance is being provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). Read more [here](#). Disaster assistance is also available for communities in the Armidale, Clarence Valley, Glen Innes, Inverell, Tenterfield, Uralla and Walcha Local Government Areas that have been affected by bushfires since 31 August 2019. Read more [here](#).
- A report to the Australian Government released by Minister for Agriculture on 10 Sept, Bridget McKenzie, highlights widespread support in ensuring that Australia's biosecurity system remains effective in protecting our agricultural industries against the threat of pests and diseases. Minister McKenzie said the steering committee has built on the 2017 Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity Review that recommended a broad based levy on containers," Minister McKenzie said. Link to report: [Biosecurity imports levy: a way forward](#)
- Australia's Agriculture Minister Bridget McKenzie has been in Vietnam to promote Australian farmers' strong credentials as reliable providers of high quality, safe and sustainable food and fibre. Minister McKenzie reiterated the desire of both countries to work together to facilitate market access for a range of aquatic and agricultural products. Through our trade agreements Australian goods exports to Vietnam will be 95 per cent tariff free by 2021. [Growing our agricultural partnership with Vietnam](#), 29 August

GENERAL NEWS AND LINKS – INTERNATIONAL

- A scientist found nine new bee species in Fiji, but their unique habitat puts their population at risk. [These newly discovered iridescent bees are already at risk of extinction](#), Popular Science by Jess Romeo, 24 September 2019
- Bees are major pollinators of fruits, vegetables and nuts. Without these helpful buzzing insects, our food supply would be in trouble. But bees can help humans in another way. Researchers say the act of beekeeping may help people with mental health problems such as stress, anxiety and depression. Read more: [Beekeeping May Reduce Stress and Depression](#), Learning English, 23 September
- [From avocados to pumpkins, here are 28 foods we could lose if all the world's bees went extinct](#), Insider by Ariana DiValentino 24th September
- Three large insects found in the Nanaimo area in August have been confirmed by Canadian and international experts as Asian giant hornets (vespa mandarinia), the first time they have been found on Vancouver Island. Read more: [Three Asian giant hornets found in Nanaimo](#) BC Gov News, 11 Sept. Trevor Weatherhead states that “according to reports, up to 40 people a year are killed in Asia from stings from the Asian giant hornet.” Further to this, [Nest of invasive Asian giant hornets destroyed in Nanaimo](#) was reported by CBC on 19th Sept and [Nanaimo beekeepers take down nest of invasive giant hornets](#) was reported by Greg Sakaki from The Abbotsford News on 19th Sept. If the Asian giant hornet reaches Australia, it will have an impact on the community, not just beekeepers. See photo below.
- CR-7 is the first registered active ingredient for the Canadian-based company and the first active ingredient approved by the EPA for application via bees, known as “bee vectoring,” in which BVT is a specialist operator. Read more: [Commercially reared bees deliver active ingredient to protect crops](#), Australian TreeCrop, 6 Sept
- Paul Stamets — How Mushrooms Can Save You and (Perhaps) the World which includes an extract about bees: Colony collapse disorder is a euphemism created by the media. But it does speak to a very serious issue. In Oklahoma last year, 74 percent of the beehives died. Listen to the podcast [here](#). Or alternatively read about it in Nature Science, [Extracts of Polypore Mushroom Mycelia Reduce Viruses in Honey Bees](#), 4 Oct 2018



Image: Asian giant hornets are the largest of all hornet species. (CHEK News)



MARKET ACCESS ADVICE

Reference Number: MAA1923
Date of Issue: 1 Oct 2019
Date of Effect: Immediate

Turkey: New import pre-notification requirements for animals and animal by-products

Attention	Industries	Industry bodies – AHBIC, AHSLEA, AMIC, AUS-MEAT, ARA, FAWO, PFIAA Export Establishments Licensed exporters
	Department of Agriculture	Central and regional offices ATMs and FOMs OPVs and meat inspection staff Food Export Documentation Documentation, Registration and Licensing Unit Veterinary and Export Meat Services Audit Services Group SRAs
Affected Markets		Turkey
Further Information		Name: Robyn Schipp Email: Robyn.Schipp@agriculture.gov.au Phone: 02 6272 5058 Name: Ann Backhouse Email: Ann.Backhouse@agriculture.gov.au Phone: 02 6272 6336 OR Please contact exports@agriculture.gov.au if you have any queries.

This Market Access Advice is to inform exporters of new pre-notification requirements for animal products and animal by-products for import into or transit through Turkey.

This notice applies to all persons responsible for shipments for import into or transit through the Republic of Turkey. Exporters should confirm these arrangements with their importer prior to product leaving Australia.

The Republic of Turkey has recently notified the department that it has introduced a web-based system for preliminary notification of imports and will introduce a similar system for transit shipments. This requirement applies to all animal products and animal by-products which the Republic of Turkey consider to pose a risk of disease transmission.

All consignments must be notified via the web-based system by the importer or the person responsible for the shipment, to be eligible to be imported into or to transit through Turkey.

T +61 2 6272 3933
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18 Marcus Clarke Street
Canberra City ACT 2601

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agriculture.gov.au
ABN 24 113 085 695

Imports: The commencement date for all imports was 1 September 2019.

Transit: The commencement date for all shipments for transit will be 1 January 2020.

The notification system can be accessed from the <https://hbs.tarbil.gov.tr> web address.

FLASHBACK PHOTO!



Did you call me about these names? Someone has tried to call me twice regarding corrections to this list of names but has not left a return number and the number was not shown on my phone. If you are that person, please feel free to call again and leave your number in the voice message or preferably please email corrections to [Sarah Paradise](#)

Front row L-R: Geoff Manning (NSWAA), Glen Sunderland, Sandy Mathison (SAAA), ? (dairy industry rep who assisted in setting up AHBIC), Leigh Duffield (SAAA), John Milton (SAAA?), Harold Ayton (TBA), Shirley Stephens (TBA), Ian Stephens (HPMAA?)
Rear row L-R: Kevin Eastburn (NSWAA), John Ball (VAA), Stephen Fewster (WAFF), ?, Ray Phillips (VAA), Greg Roberts (NSWAA or FCAAA), Keith McIlvride (AQBBA?), Warren Jones (NCPA?), Laurie Dewar (FCAAA?), Winston Lamb (QBA), Duncan McMartin (partly obscured, QBA), Linton Briggs, Don Keith, ?

NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS

Please see link to the [APVMA website](#) to view all information from the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines (APVMA) Gazette which is published fortnightly and contains:

- details of the registration of agricultural and veterinary chemical products and other approvals granted by the APVMA
- notices as required by the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code (the Agvet Code) and related legislation
- a range of regulatory material issued by the APVMA.

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AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

ABN 63 939 614 424

PO Box 42, Jamison Centre, Macquarie ACT 2614

ahbic@honeybee.org.au

Ph: 0402 467 780

www.honeybee.org.au

Friends of AHBIC Voluntary Contribution Form

Supporting Australia's national beekeeping industry with a voluntary contribution

Please complete this form and return by email to ahbic@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/>

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Your contribution is gratefully appreciated, thank you.