



# Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Trevor Weatherhead – Executive Director

## September 2014

### 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 QUEENBEE SUPPLIER appear on this list?**

**If not, then ask “Why not?” AHBIC WORKS FOR YOU!**

**The following list recognises contributions received since 1 October 2013**

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

AB'S Honey  
Australian Queen Bee Exporters  
Barnes Apiaries  
Bayside Beekeepers Association Inc  
Beechworth Honey  
Bees Neez Apiaries  
Beswick Bees  
Bliss, Stephen  
Bourke, Lindsay  
Bush Honey - (Midgley Family)  
Capilano Honey Ltd  
Dr Nicholas Chantler AM  
Clifford, Ray  
Cotton, A J & McDonald, MA  
Davey, Bob  
Dewar Apiaries  
Enslin, Darren  
Ewington, Peter and Maxine  
Faithfull, Mark  
Gells Honey

Glasby, Garry  
Hooper, Ben  
Hoskinson, HL & HM  
Ipswich/West Moreton  
Beekeepers Assoc  
Jones, Daniel  
Kennett, JL & KA  
Klingner, Craig  
Lagoutatzis, Nikolaos  
Lees IP & LD  
MacGibbon, Kevin  
McDonald, RG  
Morgan, Trevor  
Naicol Pty Ltd  
Nairn, Mal  
Heritage Honey  
Panda Honey – honey buyers  
Papworth, F & E  
Pobke, Barry  
Pure Bendigo Gold Honey

R. Stephens  
Ringin, Bill  
Roberts, Glenn  
Roberts, I J & J H  
Rotary Club of Caulfield Inc  
Ruge, RJ & VA  
Saxonbee Enterprises - Rod Pavy  
Squire, Gary  
Stokes, Peter  
Superbee Honey Factory  
Triantafillopoulos, Stavros  
Watson, James  
Weatherhead, T & M  
Weerona Apiaries  
Williams JW & MA  
Zadow Apiaries

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

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## **LATEST ON HONEY LEVY REFORM AND INCREASE**

There are meetings coming up at the end of October to look at the draft copies of the National Biosecurity Plan and the Code of Practice. Looking at and examining these drafts are the member bodies of AHBIC and also the National Biosecurity Committee nominees.

There is planned to be a final meeting to look at these documents in April next year.

The Business Case is still with the Department and the period for any objections finished on 30 September. To date AHBIC has received no objections.

All going to plan things should be in place by 1 July, 2015.

## **SENATE INQUIRY INTO LEVY THE SYSTEM**

An Inquiry by the Senate Standing Committee on Rural Affairs and Transport has been announced.

Details can be found at

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary Business/Committees/Senate/Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport/Agriculture levies](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Rural_and_Regional_Affairs_and_Transport/Agriculture_levies)

AHBIC will be putting in a submission. If you have any points that you wish put forward please let me know.

## **SMALL HIVE BEETLE IN ITALY**

On September 11 2014, the Italian National Reference Centre for beekeeping confirmed the first detection of the presence of Small hive beetle (SHB) in South West Italy, in the port city of Gioia Tauro. The samples were taken from a bait trap belonging to the University of Gioia Tauro.

Since its discovery, urgent measures are underway to measure the extent of the outbreak, complete tracings (sales and movements of bees from the area) and eradicate and control its spread in line with EU legislation and safeguards. Measures include that in all apiaries where the beetle is found colonies are destroyed and all soil surrounding the land is ploughed in and treated with a soil drench.

It will be interesting to see the reaction within the EU to this find. Currently the eastern States of Australia are not able to send queen bees or packages to the EU because of their requirements on small hive beetle. AHBIC has been in contact with Canberra on this matter.

## **DISALLOWANCE MOTION**

News has come through that the disallowance motion proposed by Senator Leyonhjelm has been withdrawn for the Senate. This is good news.

The upshot of this discussion is that we now have the Senate Inquiry into the levy system which AHBIC is preparing a submission for.

## **BIOSECURITY FARMER OF THE YEAR**

Unfortunately it was not third time lucky for Lindsay Bourke. Lindsay is to be congratulated for making the finals for three (3) years in a row. Will Lindsay submit for a fourth time?

## **DRONE SEMEN IMPORTATION**

There was a teleconference recently to discuss the Import Risk Analysis (IRA) for drone bee semen. This has been on the books now since 2002 and needs to be progressed. AHBIC is collating some data to send in to have this IRA reactivated.

Drone bee semen importation is a crucial part of making sure that Australia tries to develop stock that is “varroa resistant” before varroa gets here. If we do not, then the agricultural and horticultural industries that rely on honey bees for pollination will be the big losers. Recent studies show the high reliance of these industries on feral bees for pollination. Those feral bees will disappear when varroa gets here.

## **NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS**

There was a proposal to register a new active ingredient, fluensulfone. AHBIC wrote to APVMA on this asking what effect it would have on honey bees as nothing could be found in the literature.

The following reply was received:-

“At the present time we are only proposing to register an active constituent and not the associated product. When we assess an active, the active is assessed on toxicological, and chemistry and manufacture grounds only. To find out more details regarding the honey bee aspects, you will need to wait until we propose to register the associated product. When we get to this stage with a product you will see a similar gazette notice and a public release summary published on our website and you will be invited to provide comment.”

The APVMA published a notice to register a new active ingredient, Flonicamid. Details can be found at <http://archive.apvma.gov.au/registration/assessment/docs/prs-flonicamid-september-2014.pdf>

AHBIC is making a submission to the APVMA re the labelling.

## **TURKISH HONEY**

It has been reported to me that there are now two (2) new “honey” products from Turkey out there in the market place. One is Garden Honey the other is Forrest Honey.

For Garden Honey the ingredients on the label says “Glucose (60%), Fructose, Honey, Honey Flavour, Emulsifier (471), Colour (102)”. A complaint has been submitted to the ACCC as AHBIC would contend this is in contravention of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code 2.8.2 which has a definition for honey which this product does not conform to. Honey is a prescribed name.

AHBIC has also written to the Food Import Section at the Department of Agriculture complaining that this product has obviously either not been checked or was overlooked. AHBIC believes it has mounted a strong enough case for every product from Turkey to be inspected not just the 5% as honey is currently inspected.

Photos of the label for Forrest Honey have arrived and a further complaint has been lodged.

Thanks to those beekeepers who found these products and let me know. It is crucial that everyone keeps an eye out for these types of products and lets me know.

### **TASMANIAN WORKSHOP**

AHBIC asked Peter McDonald, as the AHBIC Quarantine Chair, to attend a workshop in Tasmania on behalf of AHBIC. Peter has sent the following report.

"I recently represented AHBIC at a workshop organised and run by the CSIRO and held in Campbell Town, Tasmania, 19 August 2014. The workshop was titled "Preparedness for arrival of Varroa in Tasmania".

The basis of the workshop was to explain and get feedback and ideas for the CSIRO to develop a project that aims to do a couple of things:

1. Use of microchips attached to bees to be able to track their movements and collect data on their behaviours.
2. Monitor the interactions of different chemicals on Honeybee health to identify the healthiest options for varroa treatment.

There was some media early in 2014 that you may have seen. It described their sensors that they are going to use in this project that is available here: <http://www.csiro.au/Portals/Media/Bee-sensors-take-flight-to-help-farmers.aspx>

What they are aiming to do is further develop their sensors so that they can generate their own power, store their power, capture data and wirelessly communicate this data back to a collection point. The scale with which they are working on is tiny but they are making good progress. They generate power with a little spring in the sensor that moves with the vibration of the bee when it is moving. They have a battery that is working. They have the CSIRO WiFi team going on the communication aspect. So they are getting close to a sensor to be able to track and collect useful data about bees.

When they released the media about what they were doing back in early 2014, they were flooded with public interest in the project, all of it positive. So heavy was the interest that it stopped work on the project for a while.

So that's the bee sensor bit. On the chemical side of the project they want to look at the interactions of common chemicals used for both varroa control and agricultural chemicals as well. They mentioned there was some research done by Nafi(?) in 2013 that suggested that a possible cause of honeybee mortality may be a combination of chemicals that in themselves was benign to the honeybee. It suggested that the varroa chemicals could also be involved.

So with good bee sensors and temperature of scales and constant checking of brood sizes etc. they hope to monitor the behaviour of the beehives and then introduce combinations of chemicals into different hives and check the results. This could then be used to determine what combination of chemicals could be detrimental to honeybee health. For example, they may find that treating varroa with Apistan and then later rotating to a different treatment, say ApiVar(a rotation process that is recommended to help reduce the incidence of resistance) may in fact be detrimental to the health of the hive. With information such as this available then a healthy rotation pattern could be suggested prior to us getting varroa.

I was quite excited with the potential of the project both from the direct target of their proposal (chemicals) but also from the side benefits that could come across.

They asked about what chemicals they should be including in the project and I indicated the Mite Away Quick Strips are a potential game saver for Australian beekeeping if their usage during honey production proves to be as they claim then they will be used often and widely throughout Australia, so knowing how the chemical treats bees would be very valuable. In addition I thought that if they got approval for MiteAway in their project we may be able to get good usage data to help with APVMA registration.

The use of their tracking devices I can see as being a great tool that could potentially be used elsewhere, specifically in exotic pest incursion to track and then destroy exotic bee swarms as and when they occur throughout Australia.

A way they are considering expanding the project is to roll out their sensor packages to many people/groups around the world because of the great interest already shown from their media release earlier in the year. Their concept was to give interested parties a sensor package to gather data in their area and in turn these people had to give that data back to CSIRO for the next 12 months before it went anywhere else. That way the whole project may become a world bee health project. The scope of that is huge. They have had some good corporate interest for sponsorship, the computer chip manufacturer Intel was mentioned. But this is not yet finalised and Dr Paulo de Souza mentioned that the CSIRO will be looking at the project closely and will be making some decisions about it around October. They may ask AHBIC for some support, at this stage not monetary but written support for the project.

I have asked for details about the Nafi research and copies of their presentations in Tassie to give you even more to read, but nothing has been forthcoming as yet, so you get this bit only.

So that's about it. I was convinced at the workshop as to the benefits of the proposal and as long as when more information comes out about it would recommend AHBIC support it. As I said, I was very excited about the possibilities of the whole project.

Peter”

## **ANNUAL MEETINGS**

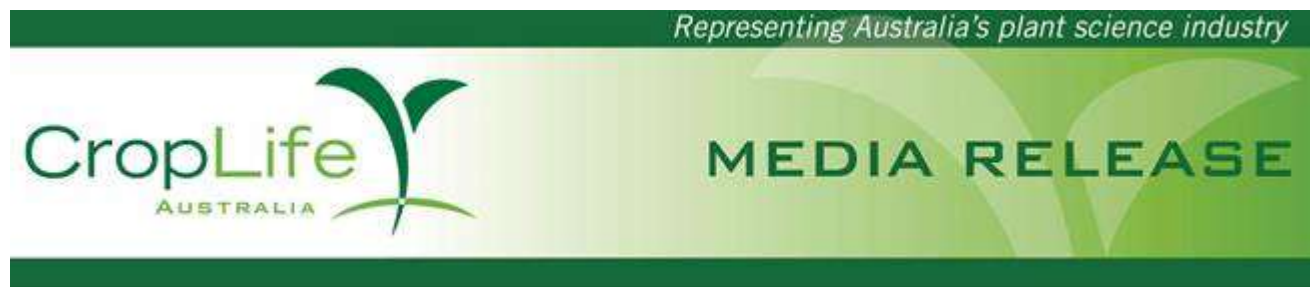
AHBIC will be holding its AGM on Saturday 4 July 2015 at the Penrith Panthers Leagues Club at Penrith. This will follow the NSWAA conference. More details on the AHBIC AGM later. Annual conferences for 2015 as I have them are:-

Queensland Beekeepers Association	11 & 12 June - Cleveland
New South Wales Apiarists Association	2 & 3 July - Penrith
Tasmanian Beekeepers Association	29 & 30 May
WA Farmers Federation - Beekeeping Section	February
South Australian Apiarists Association	18 & 19 June
Victorian Apiarists Association	End of June
Honey Packers and Marketers Association	TBA
National Council of Pollination Associations	TBA
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association	TBA
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	4 July - Penrith

## NEW BEE APP

CropLife Australia has developed a new bee app called BeeConnected. It will serve beekeepers by improving the communication between beekeepers, farmers and spray applicators. The idea of the app is to be able to find out where possible spraying could take place and thus be able to protect your bees.

This will only work if beekeepers are prepared to go online and put in details. If you find any glitches please let CropLife Australia know. Below is the press release.



### WORLD FIRST APP FOR AUSTRALIAN FARMERS AND BEEKEEPERS TO ASSIST PROTECT POLLINATORS

**Thursday 25 September (Canberra)** – Australian farmers and beekeepers now have access to a world-first smart-phone application to help ensure the safety of bees during normal farming practices. CropLife Australia, the peak national organisation for the plant science sector, today launched BeeConnected, a first of its kind geomap based, user-driven communication and coordination tool to help protect Australia's honey bee population.

Chief Executive Officer of CropLife Australia, Matthew Cossey, said "Australia has one of the healthiest honey bee colonies in the world, responsible for the pollination of many of Australia's food crops and it's therefore essential we all assist in keeping it that way. CropLife Australia's consultation on new and world leading stewardship programs with both farmers and beekeepers identified an opportunity to enable easy and effective communication between the parties. For this reason, CropLife Australia, in partnership with the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, has today launched BeeConnected, a world-first innovative communication tool to enable collaboration between farmers and beekeepers."

The Executive Director of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, Mr Trevor Weatherhead, said BeeConnected enables two-way communication between farmers and beekeepers that will help protect pollinators while ensuring personal privacy.

"The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council is proud to partner with CropLife Australia in promoting the use of such an innovative tool that will help beekeepers and farmers work together to keep bees healthy," said Mr Weatherhead.

"It's easy to take for granted the importance of honey bees and pollination however, the financial value to



agricultural and horticultural crops is estimated at approximately \$4 to \$6 billion annually. Beekeepers and the cropping community working together will help to limit any potential damage to bees.”

Mr Cossey said improved communication between users of crop protection products and beekeepers using BeeConnected can further reduce the risk of unintended exposure of bees to any products that may have the potential to negatively impact bee health. BeeConnected uses latest technology to provide a convenient, efficient medium for this communication to take place.

“BeeConnected allows farmers to easily log the location of their properties through a Google Maps-based platform with GPS capability. Beekeepers can use the same functions to log the present or future locations of their beehives. When a beehive is logged nearby to a farmer's property, both users are sent automated notifications and are able to chat further about their activities via a secure internal messaging service.

“Farmers and agricultural service contractors can also use BeeConnected to log the time and location of a specific crop protection product application activity. They are then connected with beekeepers in the specific geographical area by the same alert and messaging system.

“CropLife Australia and our members have invested significant time, money and resources into the development of the app and are very proud to again be implementing and facilitating world-leading industry stewardship initiatives,” said Mr Cossey.

“CropLife is very pleased that all of Australia's state farmer organisations and a number of key agricultural producer groups have joined the initiative as official supporters and will be promoting use of the app amongst their members. BeeConnected is officially supported by the Aerial Agricultural Association of Australia, AgForce Queensland, Australian Seed Federation, AUSVEG, Grain Producers Australia, Grain Producers SA, NSW Farmers, Northern Territory Farmers Association, Queensland Farmers' Federation, Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association, Victorian Farmers Federation, and WAFarmers.

“A 2013 report by Deloitte Access Economics calculated that 76 per cent of Australian agricultural production can be attributed to the use of chemical crop protection products. At the same time, 65 percent of the species of crops grown in Australia since European settlement are dependent on honey bee pollination. When used responsibly and in accordance with approved label instructions, crop protection products do not pose a risk to honey bees.

“BeeConnected is a part of CropLife's Pollinator Protection Initiative (PPI), which also includes the recently released Seed Treatment Stewardship Strategy. The PPI is one component of CropLife Australia's Stewardship First program, which aims to foster the responsible and sustainable use of crop protection products throughout their lifecycle, helping to extend the life of these vital farming tools, and ensuring the protection of human and environmental health,” concluded Mr Cossey.

BeeConnected can be downloaded for free as an iPhone or Android App, or accessed on a desktop computer via a web browser. For more information, and to download, visit [www.croplife.org.au/beeconnected](http://www.croplife.org.au/beeconnected).

**Contact:** Jaelle Bajada (Manager – Public Affairs)      Ph: 02 6230 6399      Mob: 0410 491 261

#### **About CropLife Australia**

CropLife Australia (CropLife) is the peak industry organisation representing the agricultural chemical and biotechnology (plant science) sector in Australia. CropLife represents the innovators, developers, manufacturers and formulators of crop protection and agricultural biotechnology products. The plant science industry provides products to protect crops against pests, weeds and diseases, as well as developing crop biotechnologies that are key to the nation's agricultural productivity, sustainability and food security. The plant science industry is worth more than \$17.6 billion a year to the Australian economy and directly employs thousands of people across the country. CropLife and its members are committed to the stewardship of their products throughout their lifecycle and to ensuring that human health, environment and trade issues associated with agricultural chemical use in Australia are responsibly and sustainably managed. Our member companies contribute more than \$13 million a year to stewardship activities to ensure the safe and effective use of their products. CropLife ensures the responsible use of these products through its mandatory industry code of conduct and has set a benchmark for industry stewardship through programs such as **drumMUSTER**, ChemClear® and Agsafe Accreditation and Training. Our stewardship activities demonstrate our commitment to managing the impacts associated with container waste and unwanted chemicals.

**Website:** [www.croplife.org.au](http://www.croplife.org.au)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/croplifeoz](http://www.facebook.com/croplifeoz)

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/croplifeoz](http://www.twitter.com/croplifeoz)

## BIOSECURITY REGULATIONS IN QUEENSLAND

I have received the following from the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and they have asked me to include it in our newsletter.

### Biosecurity regulations to be reviewed

Queenslanders will soon be able to have their say on the future management of biosecurity.

Biosecurity Queensland General Manager of Strategy and Legislation Patrick Bell said biosecurity measures were being reviewed to better protect the economy, environment and community from pests and diseases.

“Biosecurity systems play an important role in safeguarding our agricultural industries and environment,” Mr Bell said.

“Protecting our farms against pests and diseases helps support profitable, resilient industries and maintains trade access.”

The Queensland Government introduced a new Biosecurity Act earlier this year that will change the way biosecurity is managed.

It is now time to consider the regulations that will sit under the Biosecurity Act.

Biosecurity Queensland has worked closely with industry to review all of the current regulations and determine which rules should be discontinued or maintained.

The outcomes of the review have been outlined in a Regulatory Impact Statement including options to address several key issues.

Mr Bell said the proposed regulations were being reviewed and would soon be open for public comment.

“We’ll primarily be seeking feedback on options for managing banana pests, mango pests, cattle ticks, bee pests and fees,” he said.

“We’re also seeking feedback on those regulations that we’re proposing to maintain and those that are proposed to be discontinued.

“We’re expecting the Regulatory Impact Statement to remain open for feedback for six weeks.

“Interested parties can subscribe to be notified when it is released for public comment.”

To subscribe or for more information visit [daff.qld.gov.au](http://daff.qld.gov.au) or, call 13 25 23 or email [BiosecurityAct@daff.qld.gov.au](mailto:BiosecurityAct@daff.qld.gov.au)

### BEES TO REPLACE SPRAYING FOR CHERRY BROWN ROT

This article is from the ABC Rural website. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-09-26/bees-to-replace-spraying-for-cherry-brown-rot/5770926>

They say it sounds a bit far-fetched but back in 2002 there was a project funded by the then Honey Bee Research and Development Committee titled “The Use of Honeybees as a Transfer Vector for Core Rot in Apples” which showed it was possible to use bees to spread the bio control agent to the apple trees. This means that spraying was not necessary. You can read about it at <https://rirdc.infoservices.com.au/items/02-046>

There were also press reports recently about this method being used in Canada. Seems everything old is new again.



## IMPORT EXPORT DATA

### AUSTRALIAN HONEY IMPORTS AND EXPORTS ANALYSIS UPDATE 2014

Period	Combined Imports	Combined Exports	Packed Exports	Bulk Exports	Packed Exports	Packed Exports	Bulk Exports	Bulk Exports
	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes	%	Tonnes	%
Mar-15								
Dec-14								
Sep-14								
Jun-14	1451	910	520	390				
YTD	1451	910	520	390	520	57%	390	43%
Mar-14	975	1,036	628	408				
Dec-13	485	1,075	621	454				
Sep-13	809	1,233	652	581				
Jun-13	766	1,251	760	491				
YTD	3035.3	4,595	2,661	1,934	2,661	58%	1,934	42%
Mar-13	414	1,165	574	591				
Dec-12	652	1,065	576	489				
Sep-12	1113	1,036	626	410				
Jun-12	1049	1,157	609	548				
Total	3,228	4,423	2,385	2,038	2,385	54%	2,038	46%
Mar-12	975	1,305	544	761				
Dec-11	782	1,501	543	957				
Sep-11	831	961	422	539				
Jun-11	658	1,104	529	575				
Total	3,246	4,871	2,038	2,832	2,038	42%	2,832	58%

\* The above data shows increased imports due to crop shortages since March 2013.

\* Packed bulk honey data remains consistent over time.

\* In the last financial year 92% of imports were three main origins being - Argentina, China and New Zealand. Declared Chinese origin accounted for accounting for 44% of all imports which is up on previous years. It is suspected much more Chinese entered Australia under other origin labels due to the import values shown on official data.

## BANK ACCOUNT

AHBIC has closed its account at the Commonwealth Bank. Please make sure that if you make a payment to AHBIC you use the Bendigo Bank account which can be found at the bottom of the voluntary contribution form on the next page.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2014-2015 GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

# AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC (AHBIC)

ABN: 63 939 614 424



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Raceview Qld 4305

Phone: (07) 5467 2265  
Email: [ahbic@honeybee.org.au](mailto: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

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. I would like to receive the AHBIC Annual Report

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Please acknowledge this voluntary contribution with a receipt (email preferred)

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Your contribution can be paid by **CHEQUE** (or Money Order) or **DIRECT DEPOSIT**

**CHEQUE** \$ .....

**DIRECT DEPOSIT:** \$.....

**Please return this form to AHBIC - by post or email  
so your contribution can be recorded correctly**

### When paying by Direct Deposit please -

- ◆ quote your Name as the Reference
- ◆ email your details (as above) to [ahbic@honeybee.org.au](mailto:ahbic@honeybee.org.au)

Account Name: Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc

Bank: Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633 000

Account No: 150 976 405



**Thank you for supporting AHBIC to continue supporting your industry at a national level.  
It is gratefully appreciated.**