



# Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Trevor Weatherhead – Executive Director

April 2015

## VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS to AHBIC are GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

AHBIC acknowledges the **beekeeper suppliers** who contribute via their packer/queen bee supplier to AHBIC.

We urge beekeepers to support those Packers/Queen Bee Breeders who contribute to AHBIC.

**Does your HONEY BUYER or QUEENBEE SUPPLIER appear on this list?  
If not, then ask “Why not?” AHBIC WORKS FOR YOU!**

**The following list recognises contributions received since 1 May 2014**

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

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

Gells Honey  
Hooper, Ben  
Ipswich/West Moreton  
Beekeepers Assoc  
Jones, Daniel  
Kennett, JL & KA  
Klingner, Craig  
Lees, Ian  
MacGibbon, Kevin  
McDonald, RG  
McLaren, Jane  
Magor, RR  
Masters, N & S  
Morgan, Trevor  
Naicol Pty Ltd  
Nairn, Mal  
Heritage Honey  
Panda Honey – honey buyers  
Pobke, Barry  
Pure Bendigo Gold Honey  
R. Stephens

Ringin, Bill  
Roberts, Glenn  
Roberts, I J & J H  
Rotary Club of Caulfield Inc  
Saxonbee Enterprises - Rod Pavy  
Squire, Gary  
Stokes, Peter  
Superbee Honey Factory  
Trigg, M  
Watson, James  
Weatherhead, T & M  
Weerona Apiaries  
Willemsen, Dale  
Williams JW & MA  
Witz, Ron  
Zadow Apiaries

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

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## **LATEST ON BEE BIOSECURITY PROGRAM AND CODE OF PRACTICE**

The Industry Working Group of Ian Zadow, Craig Klingner and Sam Malfroy have been attending or are to attend meetings of the Executives of the various State beekeeping associations plus beekeeper meetings over the coming months. Recent meetings included meeting with both industry and government in SA and VIC. Both were very positive.

The Industry Working Group has planned a range of activities and meetings over May and June, in the lead up to the AHBIC conference in early July. Each state industry conference will also include a presentation on the Code.

Numerous comments were received, close to 200, from all sectors of the industry in the latest round of industry consultation. Some of these comments were joint submissions from beekeeping associations or branches, therefore, reflecting many more than the 200 received. We thank everyone who took the time to provide this valuable feedback on what we are trying to establish. This feedback from industry was invaluable in considering changes to make to the next version of the Biosecurity Code of Practice.

The next version of the Code will be placed on the AHBIC website by the 5<sup>th</sup> of May. Additional documents to be uploaded on the AHBIC website will include a summary version of the Code, as well as a tracked changes version of the Code so people can see the changes we have made since the last version.

Please continue to read your AHBIC newsletter and state newsletters/journals for details about any upcoming meetings in your state and attend your state conference to hear the latest about the Biosecurity Code of Practice and the National Bee Biosecurity Program.

### **AHBIC WEBSITE AND EMAILS**

During April we have had problems with our website being suspended and emails not been received. In the end we changed web site host and hopefully everything is back on track.

If you sent an email to AHBIC during April and did not receive a reply, please send again.

### **PROPOSED AUCTION OF BEE SITES IN NSW**

The Forestry Corporation of New South Wales (FCNSW) has advertised bee sites on the south coast of New South Wales for auction in May. The sites are ones that have been held back by the FCNSW.

The New South Wales Apiarists Association (NSWAA) has been making representations to try to have the auctions not proceed as it is a departure from a tried and proven method of issuing bee sites in NSW.

AHBIC has sent a letter to the NSW Premier, Mike Baird, asking for this auction to be stop and further consultation to be undertaken with the NSWAA. If this auction goes ahead other States may look to move to this system which will severely disadvantage our industry.

There seems no real rationale to move away from a system of allocation of sites that has stood the test of time over the years and has served both Government and beekeepers well.

## NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS

**Application no.:** 62926  
**Product name:** Wellfarm Lambda-Cyhalothrin 250 CS Insecticide  
**Active constituent/s:** 250 g/L lambda-cyhalothrin  
**Applicant name:** Wellfarm Pty Ltd  
**Applicant ACN:** 158 518 551  
**Summary of use:** For the control of certain insect pests in cotton, barley, wheat and various field crops  
**Date of registration/approval:** 30 March 2015  
**Product registration no.:** 70282  
**Label approval no.:** 70282/62926

**Application no.:** 62856  
**Product name:** Wellfarm Chlorpyrifos 500 EC Insecticide  
**Active constituent/s:** 500 g/L chlorpyrifos (an anti-cholinesterase compound)  
**Applicant name:** Wellfarm Pty Ltd  
**Applicant ACN:** 158 518 551  
**Summary of use:** For use in fruit, vegetables, oilseeds, cotton, cereals, pasture, turf and other situations for the control of insect pests  
**Date of registration/approval:** 19 March 2015  
**Product registration no.:** 70266  
**Label approval no.:** 70266/62856

**Application no.:** 61442  
**Product name:** Vertimec Pro Insecticide / Miticide  
**Active constituent/s:** 18 g/L abamectin  
**Applicant name:** Syngenta Australia Pty Ltd  
**Applicant ACN:** 002 933 717  
**Summary of use:** For the control of certain mites and insect pests on apples, capsicums, citrus, hops, pears, tomatoes, strawberries and ornamentals  
**Date of registration/approval:** 19 March 2015  
**Product registration no.:** 69685  
**Label approval no.:** 69685/61442

**Application no.:** 59626  
**Active constituent/s:** Acetamiprid  
**Applicant name:** Nippon Soda Co., Ltd  
**Applicant ACN:** N/A  
**Summary of use:** For use in agricultural chemical products  
**Date of approval:** 26 March 2015  
**Approval no.:** 69006/59626

## COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELLING

I attended a presentation on Country of Origin Labelling in Brisbane on 22 April, 2015.

This is basically a preliminary information session. They were putting forward the House of Representatives Inquiry into Country of Origin Labelling recommendations. They also put forward another proposal which has been put forward by Ministers Joyce and Macfarlane using a pie chart or percentage lie showing the amount of Australian product verses imported product.

From recent news reports it would seem that any implementation of Country of Origin labelling would not happen for several years. AHBIC is a participant in this process so we will be included on any further consultation.

## ANNUAL MEETINGS

AHBIC will be holding its AGM on Saturday 4 July 2015 at the Penrith Panthers Leagues Club at 123 Mulgoa Road, Penrith. This will follow the NSWAA conference on 2 -3 July. 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 - Smithton
WA Farmers Federation - Beekeeping Section	2 May - Perth
South Australian Apiarists Association	18 & 19 June - Nuriootpa
Victorian Apiarists Association	10 & 11 June - Bairnsdale
Honey Packers and Marketers Association	TBA
National Council of Pollination Associations	2 July - Penrith
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association	TBA
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	4 July - Penrith

## CATEGORISATION

AHBIC has prepared three categorisation documents and they have been circulated to affected parties. They are:-

1. Varroa destructor
2. Varroa jacobsoni
3. Tropilaelaps clareae and T. mercedesae

Comments are due back early in May and then a categorisation meeting will be called by Plant Health Australia.

## ASIAN BEE DETECTION IN BRISBANE

Further to my report in the March newsletter I would advise that, upon further examination of the brood combs by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, they found some varroa mites. These have been identified as *Varroa jacobsoni*.

We are awaiting details on the bees themselves plus several other questions that were asked.

## CROP POLLINATION ASSOCIATION AGM/CONFERENCE

The Crop Pollination Association is having its AGM/conference at the Hunter Room, Penrith Leagues Club, 123 Mulgoa Road, Penrith, New South Wales on Tuesday 30 June, 2015. Registration is at 8.30am and commencing at 9am.

Further details are available at [www.aussiepollination.com.au](http://www.aussiepollination.com.au)

## APIMONDIA 2015 – KOREA

Apimondia is being held in Daejeon, Korea from 15-20 September, 2015. If you are interested in attending see <http://www.apimondia2015.com/2015/eng/main.jsp> I would encourage you if you have the opportunity to attend.

## ARTICLE FROM GET FARMING NEWSLETTER

### Killer bees double win for Aus honeybees

Article Date:22/04/15

A genetic test that can prevent the entry of 'killer' bees into Australia and worldwide spread has been created by researchers at the University of Sydney and their collaborators at York University in Canada.

The news is of critical importance to Australia, which produces an estimated \$4 to \$6 billion of farm and garden crops that rely on honeybee pollination.

Australia faces the paradoxical problem of needing to import bees resistant to a pest that threatens to devastate Australia's bee population but being unable to do so while the risk of introducing 'killer' bees still exists.

"Having a tool that can identify desirable and undesirable bee subspecies will be of value to breeding and conservation programs throughout the world," said Dr Nadine Chapman from the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Sydney.

She is lead author of an article on the research published in *Molecular Ecology Resources* today.

"Pollination of crops by honeybees adds many billions of dollars to the world economy, so any strategy that can prevent losses is an important contribution to food security."

Before publication the work won Dr Chapman a CSIRO Biosecurity Flagship Award.

The looming threat to Australian honeybees comes from the Varroa mite, present in all bee-keeping countries except Australia. It devastates colonies by sucking bees' blood and spreading blood-borne diseases.

School of Biological Sciences' researchers, working with the United States Department of Agriculture, have previously found that no Australian honeybees have resistance to the mite and it could destroy bee stocks within a couple of years.

"The answer is to import Varroa-resistant bee semen and queen bees so we can breed resistance into our bee stocks as a form of 'inoculation' that could protect our bees," said Dr Chapman.

"Until now this option has been restricted because Australian beekeepers are only able to import bees from the small number of countries that are free of 'killer bees', which originated in Africa.

"As the name implies, killer bees, (as Africanised bees are commonly called), are highly aggressive and are considered unacceptable for beekeeping. It is assumed that they would replace our current honeybee populations in the key beekeeping regions."

Dr Chapman worked with Professor Ben Oldroyd from the School of Biological Sciences and with researchers at York University in Canada, the US Department of Agriculture and the Agricultural Research Council in South Africa.

The researchers developed a test that identifies how much of three main ancestral lineages - Eastern European, Western European and African - are present. To lower the risk of killer bees coming to Australia, those with high African ancestry will be denied entry.

"Using this test Australia will be able to import honeybees, including Varroa resistant bees, from countries where killer bees are present, including the United States," Dr Chapman said.

Associate Professor Amro Zayed, a researcher from York University said, "Our genetic test is highly accurate, which is considerably better than the old tests that have a high tendency to misclassify hybrid bees."

Dr Chapman is now working on making the genetic test more affordable and plans to work with the United States Department of Agriculture to develop a protocol for the importation of Varroa-resistant bees.

Australia's bee importation regulations are currently being reviewed by the Department of Agriculture.

## HONEY MONTH

The following are activities that will be taking place during May for Honey Month. Please support them where you can.

# Honey Month 2015 in Queensland



During May, many community events and libraries in Queensland will **bee alive** with activities.

Right across our State, this year's major focus is on the involvement of local beekeepers, in partnership with their local communities, Libraries and Councils, with displays, activities and information talks.

This will involve many larger events as well as honey promotion at many smaller events such as meetings of

local Service Clubs and community groups, school class groups and play groups during National Honey Month.



### Will there be a Honey Month activity in your local area ?

BEE INVOLVED  
in  
Honey Month



For further information contact

Marion Weatherhead  
07 5467 2135  
queenbee50@bigpond.com



**Bee Week  
Field Days  
- AND HONEY FESTIVAL -  
2015**



**GET READY FOR THE ANNUAL  
Bee Week Field Days & Honey Festival  
May 22 & 23, 2015**

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to participate in the annual Bee Week Field Days & Honey Festival, which will be held at the Orange Showgrounds, Leeds Parade, Orange NSW.

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This event will be held in conjunction with national Honey Month & is a fun-filled opportunity for you to stay abreast of changes in the industry and to educate the general public.

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We're looking for any bee or honey-related stall holders to participate over the 2 days - with stalls starting at just \$55.  
Email [nswbeeweek@gmail.com](mailto:nswbeeweek@gmail.com) for an application form

Industry leaders  
speaking about  
topical issues

Fun activities  
for the kids + a  
jumping castle

Honey tasting  
competition &  
stall holders

**[WWW.NSWBEEWEEK.COM](http://WWW.NSWBEEWEEK.COM)**

**ARE YOU A  
BEEKEEPER?**

**We need your help!**

We're looking for beekeepers who have something they can display at the Field Days to promote our industry...  
Can you put together a frame building demonstration?  
Can you set up an extraction display?  
Do you have any ideas you think we'd be interested in?

**WE WANT  
YOUR HONEY!**

We'd love you to enter our honey competition!  
Enter your honey in our tasting competition. Register your interest by emailing [nswbeeweek@gmail.com](mailto:nswbeeweek@gmail.com) for more information

IT'S FREE, IT'S FUN AND IT'S FOR EVERYONE!

# HONEY FESTIVAL

SUNDAY • 3 MAY • 10AM - 4PM

867 GREAT NORTHERN HIGHWAY  
IN THE SWAN VALLEY

## For Everyone

See beekeepers loading their hives onto trucks, and join the beekeeper's smoker competition.

Learn how to get started in bee keeping, get a glimpse into a bee hive and chat with CIBER bee scientists.

Experience the different tastes of honey and learn about the benefits of beeswax candles. See how a bee box is made and "bee" in the draw to win a starter bee hive.

Taste different honeys for free.

Purchase food and drinks or bring a picnic.

## For Kids

Face-Painting

Kids Best Bee Outfit Competition

(Judging 12:00 noon)

Scitech stall

Waggle Dances for kids to dance to

## For Beekeepers

Bring your honey and win a prize at our first honey judging competition!

Ezyloader from New South Wales will be demonstrating their cranes, and Nuplas Plastic Bee Hives from Victoria will be displaying their range.

Best of all: There will be lots of other beekeepers to network with.

THIS EVENT IS PART OF

SWAN VALLEY  
HONEY FESTIVAL



A big thank you to our sponsors:



Gullfoyles  
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Future Bees Fund





## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Martin Gilbert in South Australia is doing the organising there. Martin would like to hear from you if you have something planned.

Some of Martin's suggestions are:-

- Write a letter or article for your local newspaper, community newsletter or magazine
- Offer to visit your local school
- Offer to host an information stall at an existing event e.g. farmers market or community event
- Invite a family to share a Sunday lunch with a honey theme
- If you are on facebook/twitter or other social media send a honey or pollination message each week.
- Offer to do a segment on the local community radio.
- Let people know what being a beekeeper involves

Kylie Pitt is in charge of the facebook page. Contact her if want to include something on the page. See <https://www.facebook.com/pages/National-Honey-Month-2015-South-Australia/829555260393792>



# 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
2. I would like to receive the AHBIC Annual Report
3. Please acknowledge this voluntary contribution with a receipt (email preferred)

1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____

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

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

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

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

**When paying by Direct Deposit please -**  
♦ quote your Name as the Reference  
♦ email your details (as above) to [ahbic@honeybee.org.au](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.**