



AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL

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ABN 63 939 614 424

AUSTRALIAN HONEY INDUSTRY MONTHLY REVIEW

To: The Australian Honey Industry
From: Stephen Ware – Executive Director
Re: August/September 2009 Update

AB's Honey
Australian Honey Products
Beechworth Honey
Bees Neez Apiaries
Capilano Honey Limited
Dewar Apiaries
Honey DownUnder
H L & H M Hoskinson
I N & J E Mills
Pollination Association of WA

Saxonbee Enterprises
Spring Gully Foods Pty Ltd
Stephens, R
Tasmanian Crop Pollination Association
Tasmanian Honey Company
Walkabout Apiaries
T & M Weatherhead
Weerona Apiaries
Wescobee Limited

AHBIC acknowledges the **beekeeper suppliers** who contribute via their packer and queen bee supplier to AHBIC. We also urge beekeepers to support those packers/queen bee breeders who contribute to AHBIC.

**Does your honey buyer's or queen bee supplier's name appear on this list?
If not, then ask 'why not?'**

SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT YOUR INDUSTRY!

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NOTICE OF MEETING

Reconvened Annual General Meeting – 12 October 2009

1. Notice is hereby given that the a re-convened Annual General Meeting of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc is to be held on **Monday 12 October 2009** commencing at 11:00am.
2. The meeting is to be held at Quality Hotel, Melbourne Airport, 265 Mickleham Road, Tullamarine Victoria.
3. Enclosed is the Agenda for the above meeting.
4. The proposed changes to the Constitution are included. Also a Draft Constitution is now available for viewing on the AHBIC website www.honeybee.org.au. Delegates will be sent under separate cover their a copy of the Draft Constitution
5. In addition to the Constitutional changes there will also be a resolution pertaining to the ongoing funding of the organisation.
6. Should you seek any further information or require clarification on the issues raised please contact me.
7. Observers are welcome - please advise the AHBIC office if you wish to attend by Monday 28 September 2009 as we will need to cater for the event.

Stephen Ware
Executive Director

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

Re-convened Annual General Meeting

to be held at

Quality Hotel, Melbourne Airport, 265 Mickleham Road Tullamarine Victoria

on 12 October 2009 commencing at 11:00am

AGENDA

Attendees:

- 12 Delegates from Federal Council of Australian Apiarists Associations
- 3 Delegates from Honey Packers and Marketers Association
- 2 Delegates from National Council of Crop Pollination Associations
- 2 Delegates from Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association

1. Opening

2. Apologies

3. Consideration of Constitutional Changes

In accordance of Section 19 of the AHBIC Constitution notice is hereby given of the Association's intent to amend its constitution.

Member Associations should empower their delegate to vote on and /or amend any proposed constitutional changes that may be put forward.

Member Associations should formulate their views and make known their wishes to their elected AHBIC Delegates.

4. AHBIC Funding

5. Election of Office Bearers

Chairperson

Deputy Chairperson

6. Election of Executive Board Members

7. Operation and Appointment of Committees

- 7.1 Disease & Quarantine
- 7.2 Education
- 7.3 Resource
- 7.4 Food Safety and Prevention of Residues
- 7.5 Other committees as per conference decisions

8 Meeting Close

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

1. The Definition Section is altered to include the definition of a General Resolution and an Associate Member.
2. That Section 4.1, 4.2 & 4.3 of the AHBIC Constitution be amended to delete FCAAA and replace it with the six beekeeping associations.
3. That Section 4.1, 4.2 & 4.3 be amended to include an Associate member as defined in Section 3.1 and a representative of the non-commercial beekeeping sector.
4. Section 4.8 is amended to clarify the use of Proxies at Council meetings and to limit their use to one (1) per person.
5. That Section 4.9 is added to allow for the election of a non-commercial beekeeping sector representative (at the discretion of the AHBIC Executive) and Section 4.10 to allow for an Associate member.
6. That Section 5.1 is amended to allow for the Council from time to time to implement regulations and to suspend such standing orders to allow members of industry to move, second and debate resolutions.
7. A new Section 5.1.2 has been added to allow for member organisations to receive Agendas and to send, at their own expense, a representative to attend AHBIC Executive Committee meetings.
8. That Section 5.2 is amended to allow for the Chairperson of AHBIC to be elected for two (2) years at each bi-annual Annual General Meeting.
9. That Section 5.2.4 be amended to allow for any financial member (of two years standing) of a member association as named in the Constitution to be eligible for nomination and election to the AHBIC Executive Committee of Management, including the offices of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson. It also ensures that anyone sitting around the table is a full contributor to AHBIC as defined in Section 5.24 (b).
10. Section 5.3.1 is amended such that the Deputy Chairperson is elected from the floor for two (2) years in the alternate year to the election of the Chairperson.
11. That Section 5.4 be amended to allow for an Executive Committee of six (6) persons comprising the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and four (4) committee members appointed at the Annual General Meeting.
12. That Section 5.5 is amended to allow for the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson to be elected for a term of two (2) years running alternatively. The first year being the election of Chairperson and the next two Executive Members being determined by the highest recorded votes being for a bi-annual term.

13. That Section 5.6 is amended to allow for candidates for the election of positions on the AHBIC Executive Committee, including the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson be elected from the floor of the Annual General Meeting.
14. A new Section 5.7 has been added.
15. That Section 7.1 is amended to allow other sources of funding of the peak body.
16. That Section 8.2 is amended to allow for vacancies between Annual General Meetings to be filled by postal vote.
17. That Section 12.3 is amended to allow for the majority of votes to pass an ordinary resolution at Council Meetings and Executive Meetings.
18. That Section 19 be amended to allow the Constitution be changed by a two thirds majority instead of the existing three quarters.
19. That Annexure 1 and 2 be deleted.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

“That the above changes to the AHBIC Constitution be adopted in accordance with Section 19 of said Constitution.”

MOVED:

SECONDED:

EFFECT OF RESOLUTIONS

1. The effect of this change is to clarify the definition of an Ordinary and General Resolution and to add the new category of Associate Member.
2. FCAAA is replaced by six beekeeping associations this is consistent with the AHBIC Review.
3. The effect is to add the category of Associate member and the non-commercial beekeeping sector. This allows all members of industry to sit around the table.
4. The effect of this is to clarify the use of Proxies and to limit their use to one (1) per person.
5. That there is an election of a non-commercial beekeeping representative. This allows for the industry to pursue the introduction of a hive levy which will necessitate the non-commercial sector having the ability to put their views forward. It also allows for the introduction of an Associate member to ensure all voices are heard at AHBIC Council meetings.

6. This is to allow non members of council from time to time to move, second and debate resolutions should AHBIC wish to adopt a 'Conference' style structure in the future.
7. The effect of this is to allow member organisations to nominate a representative person to attend any AHBIC Executive meeting and to address it at the invitation of the Chair. It also has the effect of removing the suggestion that AHBIC is a closed shop.
8. This allows for the election of a Chairperson for two years at each bi-annual AGM again consistent with the Review's recommendation that AHBIC move towards two year terms for the Executive Committee.
9. This allows for any financial member (of 2 years standing) to be eligible for nomination and election. It also ensures that anyone sitting around the table is a full contributor to AHBIC and are paying their contributions in direct relationship to the volume/size of their enterprise.
10. This allows for the election of the Deputy Chairperson from the floor for two (2) years in the alternate year to the election of the Chairperson.
11. The Executive Committee to consist of six (6) persons. This reduces the existing Executive to six whilst allowing the direct election of Executive members.
12. This allows for the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson to be elected for two (2) years running alternatively. It also allows for the remaining two Executive members to be decided by the highest recorded votes.
13. All candidates for elections will be elected from the floor of the Annual General Meeting. This is a procedural resolution only.
14. This introduces a rule preventing an Executive Member for serving longer than six (6) consecutive years but does not prevent a member from seeking re-election by standing down.
15. This allows for other sources of funding for the peak body. This is a procedural resolution only.
16. This allows for vacancies between AGMs to be filled by postal vote. This is a procedural resolution only.
17. This allows for a majority of votes in favour to carry a resolution at Council Meetings and Executive Meetings.
18. This allows the Constitution to be changed by two thirds rather than three quarters.
19. Annexure 1 and 2 are deleted as they really served no useful purpose and this can be achieved by a resolution of Council and relevant contracts with appropriate parties.

AUSTRALIAN QUEEN BEE BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION

The season ahead for queen breeders is looking better and better. Good rains earlier in the year have set good budding in queen breeding areas.

Beekeepers are reminded that they need to get their orders in fast as spring is always the busiest time. Everyone wants queens at the same time. There are only so many queens that can be produced at any given moment.

Queen Breeders experienced increased orders with the USA earlier in the year. Local orders are usually filled before taking on export orders so the sooner your breeder knows your requirements the sooner you can go down in his order book.

Denis and Margaret Kidd have sold Denmar Apiaries to one of their experienced workers. We welcome Michael and Crystal Kiem into the Queen Breeding Industry.

Paula Dewar
President

YOUNG AI QUEENS AVAILABLE FROM AQBBP

After several years of operations, the Australian Queen Bee Breeding program (AQBBP), run by the Australian Queen Bee Breeding Group (AQBBG) has been looking at the uptake of queen bees from the program. To date the number of evaluated queen bees sold has not been very high.

The AQBBG has asked questions of many queen bee breeders and beekeepers and the feedback has been that the evaluated queens that they purchased did not have a very long serviceable life. This is understandable as the queens, when purchased, are normally 12 months old and have been through a vigorous evaluation regime.

So, in response to the feedback, the AQBBP is offering AI queen bees for sale that have been inseminated from the top lines with pooled semen. These will be young queen bees which have not been evaluated. This will mean that they should live for a reasonable time. The AQBBP will have young AI queen bees available that you can choose the line that you wish and these will be inseminated with pooled semen.

The cost for these young unevaluated AI queen bees will be \$500. There is no GST on this amount as the AQBBG is not registered for GST. There is the possibility that you can have a particular line inseminated with the drones of your choice of lines but a price for this would need to be negotiated.

Performance data that has been gathered on the lines will be made available on the AHBIC website under Queen Breeding Program. It is hoped to have this in place shortly so you can consult this data to help in your selection of which line you would like to purchase.

Orders will need to be placed by 30 September, 2009. However, there will be some extra queen bees inseminated from some of the top lines and these will be available later if you do not get your order in by 30 September 2009.

If you have any questions re purchasing a young unevaluated AI queen, please contact the Secretary, Trevor Weatherhead, on 07 5467 2135 or email at queenbee50@bigpond.com

CANADIAN HONEY COUNCIL RESTRUCTURE

We have been through a restructure and Canadian Honey Council (CHC) is now an organization of organizations. Our members are the seven (7) provincial associations and the co-op packer, BeeMaid honey. There are nine (9) voting members because Alberta has two votes. One voting director is allowed for every 150,000 colonies so if any other provinces reach more than 150,000 colonies they can apply for a second voting director.

Our funding comes from the provincial associations, based on a formula that has been agreed to by them all. It is \$7,500 for the basic fee plus 0.12 cents per hive. The hive count is obtained from the official figures published by Statistics Canada for the previous year, so no-one can argue about the number.

We send an invoice to the associations and they have the flexibility of charging their members whatever amount in whatever way they choose, to raise the money. Each province is different. Some have commissions so only the commercial beekeepers pay. Others have a large number of hobbyists and they have kept the fee low for them but high for commercial members.

There is an annual budget shortfall of about \$50,000 which we make up with sponsorship and product sales. So far it has worked out well.

We have no levy on imported honey. It would be nice but our beekeepers are not ready to go with a mandatory levy inside Canada which would be required if we want to charge a levy on imported honey.

Heather Clay
Chief Executive Officer

APIS CERANA UPDATE

There has been plenty of action over the past fortnight. The phone hook-up occurred on Friday 21 August, 2009.

Since the last Advice, on 11 August bees were found foraging at the Cairns Golf Club. The next day the nest was found at the golf course. This was IP39.

On Monday 17 August, there was swarm of bees reported from Mareeba. They were killed and the next day they were identified as cerana. This was IP40. This is about 30 kilometres in a straight line from the nearest cerana in the Cairns area. Subsequent surveillance has found more foraging and they are beelining to find the nest.

On Tuesday 18 August, a report of bees at the Gordonvale State School turned out to be cerana and was killed. This was IP41.

On Friday 21 August, there was report of bees in a letterbox at Whitfield, a Cairns suburb. This turned out to be cerana and is IP42.

They are still beelining at Aloomba looking for a nest of cerana.

In light of the find at Mareeba, the RA is to be extended. Also there will need to be a meeting of the Consultative Committee on Asian Honey Bees due to the fact that there has been a find outside the original RA and that there has been 10 or more IP's since 1 July. This should take place in the week commencing 31 August.

The next phone hook-up is scheduled for Friday 28 August.

Trevor Weatherhead
23 August 2009

ASSESSMENT OF HIVE-BASED LEVY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN HONEYBEE INDUSTRY

The Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) has engaged independent consultants Garland Outcomes Pty Ltd to assess the feasibility of revising the levy arrangements for the honeybee industry.

The honeybee industry currently pays levies on sales of honey and queen bees, with levied funds being primarily used to support residue testing services for honey, and industry-supporting research and development investments. The project has arisen from a proposal by the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) that current levies might be replaced by a unified hive-based levy paid by all beekeepers in Australia on each managed beehive.

The purpose of this project is to provide independent advice to the honeybee industry on the potential implications, costs and benefits of the proposed changes, and the required processes and activities that would be involved in the establishment of such a levy.

For any changes to levy arrangements, the Commonwealth's R & D levy principles, noted below, need to be considered and addressed:

- Is there a significant market failure in the industry to warrant a change to the existing levies structure?
- Does the proposed levy have majority support from potential levy payers?
- Has there been a reasonable attempt to inform all potential levy payers of the proposal and allow them to comment?
- Has the initiator of the levy proposal provided an analysis of any arguments opposing a levy?
- Is there an estimate of how much levy would be raised, a clear plan of how it would be utilised and the way(s) it would benefit levy payers?
- Is there majority support on the levy imposition and collection mechanism, or demonstration that the mechanism is equitable?
- Is the levy imposition equitable between levy payers?
- Is the levy imposition related to the inputs, outputs or value of production of the industry?
- Is the levy collection system efficient and practical, and does it impose minimal 'red tape' for business?
- Has the body that will manage levy monies been consulted, and is that body accountable to levy payers and Government?
- Does the industry have a plan to review the levy against the Levy Principles?

This project will examine and report on each of these principles with respect to the proposed changes.

The project will involve a number of stages including:

- data and information collection and review;
- consultation with key industry and government representatives (July-August);
- analysis and options development and industry discussions, and
- preparation of a report assessing the proposal against the criteria required to be met for implementation of such a levy.

The project will report to RIRDC in October 2009.

Garland Outcomes has extensive experience working with rural industries and government. The project will be led by Bob Granger, a widely respected board chairman with extensive experience in executive management, research and development, agri-marketing, advocacy, project management and corporate governance. Vicki Woodburn (nee Manson) will complement Bob's experience by bringing expertise in policy analysis and evaluation from across the rural sector.

- Bob is currently the Chairman of several industry research advisory groups including apples and pears, mushrooms, cherries, and avocados, and was previously the Chairman of the Sugar Research and Development Corporation, Wholesale Ornamental Nurseries Pty Ltd and the Banana Industry Protection Board. Bob was appointed by the Australian Government to be an Associate Commissioner for the Productivity Commission's National Drought Review, involving extensive consultation across the Australian agricultural sector.
- Vicki is the Managing Director of Garland Outcomes. She prides herself on achieving timely customised outcomes for clients and has demonstrated this through her 15 years experience in the private and public sector. She has led several high profile reviews including the Landcare Sustainable Industries Review, Review of the Produce and Grocery Industry Code of Conduct and the Evaluation of the Commonwealth Environment Research Facilities Program. She has worked with over 20 agricultural industries to assess their current performance and prospects.

People interest in obtaining more information of this project, or who would like to provide perspectives on the current or proposed honeybee levy arrangements are welcome to contact either Bob or Vicki until 31 August 2009.

Bob Granger – 0413 310 867 or by email rgranger11@optusnet.com.au

Vicki Woodburn – 0410 429 484 or by email vrv@grapevine.com.au

BEEKEEPING TRAINING

Bendigo TAFE (BRIT) is providing the opportunity for full qualifications in Beekeeping primarily through traineeship programs. We currently have more than 10 people working toward either their Certificate III or IV in Agriculture (specialising in Beekeeping) from businesses based in Mildura to the Mornington Peninsula. Please let your members know that we are keen to discuss with them their training requirements; some examples have been to date, how to gain formal recognition for the skills they have already developed or assisting in the training of new employees. Bendigo TAFE looks forward to hearing from more Beekeepers in the future.

Regards

Doug Baker

Program Manager Primary Industries

Land, Food and Manufacturing, Bendigo TAFE - Phone: 1300 554 248

HONEYBEE BLUES - DVD

This DVD tells the story of the world's disappearing European honeybees and the efforts of CSIRO scientist Dr Denis Anderson to save them from annihilation. From the native bush and orchards of Australia to the industrial farmlands of the United States and the highlands of Papua New Guinea, this new documentary portrays the battle by the last country on earth to remain free of the devastating Varroa Destructor mite.

The documentary is directed by Stefan Moore. It will be screened soon on SBS, although the broadcast date is not yet known. DVDs will be available to purchase from Screen Australia.

For further inquiries, please contact the producers:

Anna Cater
Mobile 0403 186 206
Email: anna@mitrafilms.com.au

Susan MacKinnon
Mobile 0407 484 451
Email: s.mackinnon@ozemail.com.au

INTERNATIONAL HONEY EXPORTERS ORGANISATION (IHEO)

The situation in the world market is reported as follows:

- The world composite average price reported by the 17 major export reporting countries is around USD\$2,471 per metric ton FOB. The price has remained steady over the last 12 weeks.
- The average value of the major "higher quality" exporters like Argentina, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Uruguay and Australia rests around the USD\$2,800 mark, giving a 13.3% premium over the composite world price.
- At a price level of USD\$3,000 for Australian honey – if attainable – the return for the beekeeper works out around AUD\$2.65 per kilo after costs which is below what the Australian market expects. This is mainly due to the high exchange rate to the USD\$
- Generally the European market remains low in demand at this time of the year. The USA demand is also quiet.
- The EU imported bigger volumes of Chinese honey than since 2004
- Overall there is not any huge surplus of honey available in the world market with a number of reporting countries noting lower or short supply on the back of reduced crops from poor weather conditions.
- The world conference – APIMONDIA - will see increased attention given to residues in honey and a specific focus on PA's in honey.

Eduard Planken, President IHEO

HONEY WANTED FOR EXPORT

I am the buyer for Breitsamer & Ulrich GMBH, one of the leading honey packers in Germany. We are constantly looking for honey and if any of your members have honey to sell and would like to contact us we shall be pleased to consider their offer. Following is some information about us and our terms and conditions for doing business with us. I hope to hear from your members in due course.

I would appreciate it if you can send me your reply by fax or by email with your letterhead paper, as we need this to register your company as a possible future honey supplier to Breitsamer & Ulrich. At the same time, please include details or a profile of your company's activities and what experience you have in the honey business. Also let us know if you have exported honey before and to which countries; can you give us any clients as reference etc.

Kindly communicate by email or if necessary by fax on: 44-1622-671349 or if you require any further information, you can phone me on: 44-1622-764929 or 44-1622-671350. My mobile number is: (0) 7860-115189. For your information, Sapimiel in England is the buying office of Breitsamer & Ulrich, who are one of the leading honey packers in Germany with a turnover exceeding 15,000 MT per annum. As such we have a constant demand for honey. We would be pleased to receive your firm offers for all the types of honey you produce but we have no interest in any other products, only honey in bulk. Providing you can supply us good quality honey at competitive prices, and prove yourself to be a reliable supplier, we certainly would be pleased to buy honey regularly from you.

Please send us your best-detailed offers for two Containers of each type of honey you produce (about 40 MT) with your delivery schedule and best prices on basis CFR Hamburg, Germany. All honey should be packed in new or used steel drums but these must be in perfect condition, clean inside and outside, with lacquer approved for honey. Not waxed! No plastic foils! No Zinc! The Drums must be suitable for foodstuff and of about 300kgs and shipped in 20'containers with capacity of max 20MT. With regard to specification, it should be in accordance to the German food Laws and honey regulations but in the main the quality are parameters should be as follows:

Moisture	max 18%
HMF	max 10 mg/kg
Diastase	min 15
Colour	as per agreement
Bee rappellent (Phénol, Benzaldéhyde etc.)	max 50 ppb
Antibiotics -	not detectable
Sulphonamide	not detectable
Tetracycline	not detectable
Trimethoprim	not detectable
Tylocin	not detectable
Fluoroquinolones	not detectable
Coumaphos	not detectable
Nitrofurane	not detectable
Streptomycin	max 10 ppb
Chloramphenicol	max 0,1ppb
Animal treatments (Coumaphos, Fluvalinat.)	max 10ppb
Glycerol	max 200ppm
Yeast	max 200.000/10gr honey
Starch content	max 10%
C-13 value	-23, 5 or more negative. Protein difference - 1,0
or more positive	

Unadulterated, not fermented, free of residues, taste and characteristics for pure honey from the country of origin and according to German Food laws and Honey Regulations.

Our payment terms are: 70% Cash against first presentation of full set original documents, preferably sent directly to our office in Munich so as to avoid unnecessary bank charges for both buyer and seller, if not through bank and the balance 30% to be paid separately and outside the collection by T/T (telegraphic Transfer), at any bank of your choice, within 30 days after arrival and approval of the goods at our warehouse.

Please advise if your honey is homogenized or if each drum can be different quality. If the former, what is the capacity of the homogenizing tank? Is one lot equal to 20 MT or 10 MT or maybe 5 MT or are the homogenizing tanks smaller? If the honey is not homogenised, do you have complete traceability with detailed information of each producer with each lot and corresponding drum numbers supplied? This is important information and we need to know this, in case we find quality problems on arrival.

We do not accept any pre-shipment samples. In case these are requested, samples must be sent with the appropriate sanitary certificate and invoice with no commercial value to the following address mentioning my name as reference. However, no samples are to be sent without specific instructions from me.

ATT: Laboratory Department
BREITSAMER & ULRICH GMBH & Co. KG
WEINGARTENWEG 10, 91459, MARKT ERLBACH GERMANY
FAX: 49-9106/6110

Please advise what quality control you have and which laboratory you use, as we must be sure that no Pesticide, Bee repellents (Phenol) or Animal treatments is in the honey.

Should you have any difficulties to analyse the honey in your country, I detail below the address of two laboratories in Germany, which I can recommend:

Bremen Institut
Flughafendamm 9a
D-28199, Bremen
Postfach 10 45 69 D-28045 Bremen
Tel: 0421- 59 47 70
Fax: 0421-594771
ATT: Gudrun Beckh / Dr C. Lullmann
Email: info@qsi-q3.de

APPLICA GMBH
Am Becketal 14
28755, Bremen, Germany
Tel: 0421-657271
Fax: 0421-657272
Contact: Dr. Kurt-Peter Raezke
internet: www.applika-analytik.de
Email: info@applika-analytik.de

I look forward to your reply and your offers for our consideration.

P.S. Please send me your Office and Mobile Number

Best Regards
Albert Sapiano
Buyer for Breitsamer & Ulrich GMBH
Tel: 44-1622-764929 / 671350 Fax: 44-1622-671349
Mobile: 44 7860 115189
Mail: albert@sapimiel.com or sapimiel@tiscali.co.uk
Web Page: www.sapimiel.co

CROP & STOCK REPORTS

NEW SOUTH WALES

Winter rain has given most areas of New South Wales a break from extreme drought with Winter-Spring crops (Canola - Patersons Curse) a good start. Forecast El Nino conditions are of concern, as many Southern areas do not have sub-soil moisture.

Spotted Gum on the South Coast will finish flowering in a few weeks, with a lower than expected yield due to bad weather in the early period of flowering.

Many hives (60,000) have been taken to Almond pollination.

Very little prospects of Eucalypt inland New South Wales till late summer - autumn. Very little honey gathered from Yapunyah.

Coastal areas, particularly the Northern regions had large falls of rain last autumn that have resulted in some bud on Mahogany, Grey Ironbark and no doubt pockets of other species, which should give some honey.

Hive beetle infestations are a great concern in these areas and some beekeepers will not work the Coastal areas due to these concerns.

Honey stocks held by beekeepers are very low at present with only a few beekeepers with honey in their yards. Packer stocks are also very low.

Bill Weiss

QUEENSLAND

Favourable conditions exist in the South East of Queensland with coastal beekeepers reporting an excellent start to spring. Honey has been able to be removed with Blue Gum contributing a small crop.

Ironbarks are also showing promise with Grey Ironbark expected to yield well in the coming months.

As usual the concern over this crop is how colonies will withstand this year's small hive beetle onslaught. Yapunyah yielded well on the back of earlier rains. If the area missed out on rain there was no honey production. Spotted Gum has given a good crop and continues to yield. Some movement has been reported into NSW onto Canola crops which are also yielding honey very early in the season. The season appears to be 2 weeks ahead of schedule.

Pollen sources are currently in good supply.

Close to zero rain over the last 40 days has brought the drought back into perspective; the Darling Downs are dry with few prospects. Hopefully early storms will improve conditions.

There is very little honey in beekeepers hands, with packers encouraging deliveries.

Bill Winner

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Riverland is a hive of activity at present with most beekeepers having already moved to almonds.

Most bees are on the Almonds which seem to be a little late at starting (or maybe they are actually on time this year). Most Almonds will flower quickly this year. Blue Gum, Big Cup and Stoney Mallee are budded lightly, but with all the rain Jane should be reliable this spring.

Generally, most of the State has had reasonable rain, leading to the potential of a good season. As most trees are not well budded this year, we're hoping that average to better rains will continue throughout the year.

Wendy Thiele

TASMANIA

July rainfall in Tasmania has been very good throughout the state. Rain & snow continues into August. Agriculture land looks very promising for the forthcoming ground flora honey. Some areas are extremely wet with vehicles getting bogged etc, this hasn't happened for many years.

The West Coast Leatherwood Honey is also getting its usual rains. Not a lot of snow yet and what does fall quickly disappears.

Beekeepers who pollinate are preparing to begin the early crops later this month.

Stocks of honey are holding well with good sales. Sufficient honey in the state until new season's December / January comes in.

Ian Stephens

VICTORIA

June and July rains have been very good across all of Victoria, but coming into August the weather has turned dry.

August can often be a dry and warm month in Victoria so this is not unusual, but the key to ongoing good spring conditions for bees will be reliant upon rains during September into October. These

spring rains have been severely lacking over the last three years. Bee-friendly spring flowering weeds are in good heart.

Canola is well advanced with crops starting to flower in northern Victoria and the southern Riverina of NSW. There is a big variation in the over-wintering strength of bee hives. Some beekeepers have suffered fairly big hive losses.

North West Victoria - Money to pay the almond pollination fees for the TimberCorp orchards became available at the last minute. The majority of commercial beekeepers in Victoria (plus many from elsewhere) would have all bee hives strong enough for a viable pollination unit in the almond orchards.

Wild Turnip is flowering heavily and providing good quality pollen, so all the bee hives in the north west of the State would have access to good breeding conditions, without prompt rainfall though the Turnip will fizzle out very quickly.

Elsewhere – Paterson’s Curse has the best strike for some time, but both Canola and Curse will need rain soon.

Yellow Gum (*Euc. leucoxylon*) is still carrying a reasonable crop of bud, with some blossom appearing lately. The budding is mostly a fringe budding with very little budding in the forests. However, many trees are not yet starting to flower and the blossom should last well into the spring, providing an opportunity for good bees to produce some choice honey.

There is not as much Canola sown in the Box-Iron Bark forest belt as in former years, but Cape Weed is well established and will help with good breeding conditions. This country is not under as much moisture stress as is further north.

Gippsland – is under some moisture stress. The season is starting early with some Canola crops in East Gippsland already flowering.

Markets – The market is still buoyant, with all indications that the prices will remain firm well into the season. \$3.50 per kg is about the top price for choice honey, with lower grades not much below.

Bob McDonald

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Good rain over the last two months has slowed the winter crops in the goldfields regions; however the south coast and northern coastal areas have continued to obtain a crop.

Canola is starting in some regions and should yield. Bees are building well in almost all areas and an average spring crop is expected. The rain has meant that prospects for the coming season are quite good in almost all areas.

Rod Pavy



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PRESS RELEASE - 17 August 2009

A Good Start – More Action Required

The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council is the peak body representing the Australian Apiary Industry in Australia representing: the Federal Council of Australian Apiarists' Associations, the Honey Packers and Marketers Association of Australia, the Australian Queen Bee Breeders' Association and the National Council of Crop Pollination Associations.

On 12 August 2009 the Federal Government released its response to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Primary Industries and Resources Inquiry Report "More than Honey – the future of the Australian Honey Bee and Pollination Industries". This report contained some 25 recommendations (*attached*) relating to the ongoing wellbeing and profitability of the Australian Honey Bee and Pollination Industries. Chairman of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, Mr Lindsay Bourke, called the Government's response to the Inquiry a good start but ongoing support and commitment by the Federal Government was essential to ensure the thrust of the report's recommendations were implemented.

Mr Bourke noted that of the 25 recommendations that had been put forward by the Primary Industries Standing Committee only 5 had been rejected outright (17, 18, 19, 20 & 21) whilst 6, 16 & 24 were noted but not supported by the Government. Mr Bourke also observed that 'noted' would seem to suggest that the Government at least recognised the importance of those recommendations. He also indicated that of the other Report's recommendations the Federal Government had agreed to further progress them with relevant government departments, States and other stakeholders. Mr Bourke said "that the proof of commitment was to ensure that the 17 recommendations that the Government had supported were progressed".

Mr Bourke said "I would like to put on record my thanks to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Primary Industries and Resources who put together the initial report and the Government through the Hon Tony Burke, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry and his department for their ongoing efforts to assist stakeholders address issues facing the Honey Bee and Pollination dependent industries".

Mr Bourke indicated that of the 25 recommendations there were certainly a large number of contentious issues and he noted that one of the important outcomes of the report was to highlight the array of issues that confronted the Australian Honey Bee and Pollination Industries. He indicated that he welcomed the Report and the Government's specific responses to:

1. Recognising the importance of the industry to greater Agricultural and Pastoral Industries of some \$4-6 billion a year.
2. Acting on the need to increase biosecurity resources and the Government's response included \$300,000 for the next 2 years for Sentinel Hive Program and also the maintenance of a quarantine facility at Eastern Creek or at another venue.

3. Pledging greater resources to pollination and recognising the nation's dependence on this important resource.

Industry looks forward to supporting the Government in the implementation of these recommendations.

Lindsay Bourke

Chairman

Phone: 0418 131 256

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“More Than Honey: the future of the Australian honey bee and pollination industries”

LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government provide the necessary leadership, funding and organisational resources to establish and run Pollination Australia.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government fund research and training in the provision of paid pollination services as part of its contribution to Pollination Australia.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government fund research into alternative pollinators as part of its contribution to Pollination Australia.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government alter labelling requirements for agricultural chemicals to reflect their impact on honey bees and other pollinating insects.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government, in conjunction with State and Territory governments, establish guidelines for beekeeper access to public lands and leasehold lands, including national parks, with a view to securing the floral resources of the Australian honey bee industry and pollination dependent industries.

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government provide incentives for the planting and conservation of melliferous flora under Commonwealth funded revegetation projects and carbon credit schemes.

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government fund research into the impact of fire management on the Australian honey bee industry with a view to establishing honey bee industry friendly fire management practices.

Recommendation 8

The committee recommends that the Australian Government maintain and enhance the National Sentinel Hive Program with a view to ensuring that:

- All major ports are covered by sentinel and bait hives;
- All beekeepers are brought under the program, with priority given to those operating in the vicinity of port facilities;
- Arrangements are made for an effective program of pre-border security; and
- Government provides funding adequate to achieving the above objectives.

Recommendation 9

The committee recommends that the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry request that the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority fast track the pre-registration of pesticides and other chemicals necessary to combat a Varroa incursion.

Recommendation 10

The committee recommends that the Australian Government improve the nation's incursion response capacity by providing for:

- Better education of those charged with border protection;
- Improved diagnostic capacity for pests and diseases;
- The establishment of national diagnostic protocols;
- The establishment of a national integrated pest and disease management protocol; and
- The establishment of a comprehensive biosecurity research program for the honey bee and pollination dependent industries.

Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends that the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry establish a new honey bee quarantine facility as a matter of urgency, this facility to be commissioned prior to the closure of the current facility at Eastern Creek, and that:

- This facility is integrated into a national honey bee and pollination research centre;
- This facility have a containment laboratory for research on honeybee genomics and biotechnology;
- The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry enter into immediate negotiations with his New South Wales counterpart to establish the new honey bee quarantine facility at the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, Camden, or some other suitable location.

Recommendation 12

The Committee recommends that the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry direct Biosecurity Australia to complete the import risk analysis for drone semen by the end of 2008.

Recommendation 13

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government, in conjunction with State and Territory governments, establish and fund a national endemic bee pest and diseases control program.

Recommendation 14

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government, in conjunction with State and Territory governments, establish bee biosecurity regions based on natural boundaries, being:

- Eastern Australia, including New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Australian Capital Territory and South Australia;
- Tasmania;
- Western Australia;
- Northern Territory; and
- Kangaroo Island.

Recommendation 15

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government, in conjunction with State and Territory governments, establish a national system of registration for beekeepers, bee hives and apiary sites.

Recommendation 16

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government commit \$50 million per annum in pursuit of biosecurity measures and research in support of the Australian honey bee industry and pollination dependent industries.

Recommendation 17

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government request the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to investigate pricing practices for honey within the honey bee industry and the retail sector.

Recommendation 18

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government request the Productivity Commission investigate the long term viability of the Australian honey bee industry in respect of industry organisation, marketing structures and the financial viability of producers and packers.

Recommendation 19

The Committee recommends that the Department of Immigration and Citizenship look at the skilled migration program with a view to further refining opportunities for the honey bee industry and the emerging pollination industry.

Recommendation 20

The committee recommends that the Australian Government develop product standards for honey and other bee products with regard to food standards and chemical contamination in line with those in force in the European Union, and that all imported honey products are tested against this standard.

Recommendation 21

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government develop labelling standards to more accurately reflect the place of origin and composition of honey and honey bee products.

Recommendation 22

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government pursue the development of a uniform international standard for the testing and labelling of honey bee products and the removal of all tariffs on honey bee products.

Recommendation 23

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government, in consultation with industry, reduce inspection charges, if possible, for queen and packaged bees to make the export of this product more cost effective to producers.

Recommendation 24

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government establish a national centre for honey bee and pollination industry research, training and extension, funded as per Recommendation 16.

Recommendation 25

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government alter research funding arrangements to allow for:

- Voluntary contributions to research funding to be matched by government funding; and
- A levy on pollination services to be allowed under law.