



Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Trevor Weatherhead – Executive Director

August 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 September 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
Dunlop, PG & RD
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

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LATEST ON HONEY LEVY REFORM AND INCREASE

The next part of the levy reform was the submitting of the Business Case to Government. This has been done.

As part of this process, there is opportunity for objections to be lodged. The Business Case, media release and how objections can be lodged can be found on the AHBIC website at <http://honeybee.org.au/programs/honey-levy-reform-and-increase/>

AHBIC COUNCIL PHOTO

This photo was taken at the recent AHBIC AGM. Thanks to Barry Cooper for the photo and permission to include it in the newsletter.



Back row:- Ben Hooper SAAA, Casey Cooper NSWAA, Philip McHugh Associate membership, Peter Norris TBA, Robert McDonald VAA, Kevin MacGibbon VAA, Ken Gell Past Executive member

Third row:- Ian Roberts SAAA, Bryn Jones NCPA, John Covey QBA, Daniel Jones QBA,

Second row:- Laurie Dewar AQBBA, Warren Jones NCPA, Jodie Goldsworthy HPMAA, Paula Dewar AQBBA, Ian Stephens HPMAA, Lindsay Bourke TBA, Stephen Fewster WAFF Beekeepers Section

Front row:- Neil Bingley NSWAA and Executive member, Craig Klingner Executive member, Ian Zadow Chairman, Rod Pavy WAFF Beekeepers Section and Deputy Chairman, Trevor Morgan Associate membership and Executive member, Peter McDonald Executive member, Trevor Weatherhead Executive Director

SAAA South Australian Apiarists Assoc
NSWAA New South Wales Apiarists Assoc
AQBBA Aust Queen Bee Breeders Assoc
HPMAA Honey Packers & Marketers Assoc of Aust

TBA Tasmanian Beekeepers Assoc
VAA Victorian Apiarists Assoc
NCPA National Council of Pollination Associations

QBA Queensland Beekeepers Assoc
WAFF Western Aust Farmers Federation

BIOSECURITY FARMER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Lindsay Bourke for becoming a finalist in the Biosecurity Farmer of the Year. This is the third time that Lindsay has reached the finals. As an article from Tasmania said, let us hope it is third time lucky. Follows a press release on Lindsay's achievement.

Biosecurity plan an investment for award finalist

25 AUGUST 2014

According to Lindsay Burke, finalist in the 2014 Plant Biosecurity Farmer of the Year Award, a biosecurity plan is an investment in the future of a business and the community.



The beekeeper manages 3,600 hives for honey production and the pollination of over 80 crops.

The main product of his company Australian Honey Products is leatherwood honey, including certified organic honey, and manuka honey with anti-bacterial properties.

Lindsay works in the field as a beekeeper and manages the day-to-day operations, packs product for sale and is on industry panels and committees.

With hives distributed at sites up to 250 km from base, Lindsay has implemented a detailed hive site management plan.

"Remote sites and conditions provide challenges, requiring good planning, flexibility and waterproof paper," said Lindsay.

To ensure that pests and diseases are kept under control, each site is regularly visited by his beekeepers, recording environmental details, hive health and other observations.

Each individual site is recorded and logged into a data base and analysed by the office team.

"This can identify site specific problems, changes from previous visits or years, trends over time or a wider view across the state" he said.



Lindsay provided specific training for all of his beekeepers to ensure records are accurate.

"Beekeeping staff are required to inspect the brood 10 to 12 times per year against the national standard of 2 to 4," he said.

Taking actions to stop issues from spreading benefit not only his business but also the broader industry and the environment.

"Regular inspections result in very healthy hives with virtually no foulbrood disease and good income per hive," said Lindsay.

Signs are also used at the sites for others to report anything they might notice, clearly displaying the (company) name, site number and contact details.

This surveillance and reporting system enables the company to qualify for BQual, the national accreditation system for the industry.

According to Lindsay, there are many issues currently facing the beekeeping industry.

"There's the threat of a *Varroa destructor* incursion, the presence of Asian honey bees (*Varroa*'s host) in Queensland, and of small hive beetle on mainland Australia," advised Lindsay.

While chairman of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, Lindsay worked to improve the biosecurity preparedness of the industry, and awareness within the wider community of the role of pollination in improving the yield and quality of many fruit, vegetable and seeds.

More recently he has been promoting a doubling in the levy for honey sales to be used for increased biosecurity initiatives.

Sponsored by Plant Health Australia, the Plant Biosecurity Farmer of the Year award recognises the efforts of producers dedicated to keeping their operations free of diseases, pests and weeds.

The award is part of the Australian Farmer of the Year Awards, hosted by Kondinin Group and ABC Rural. Winners of all award categories will be announced at a ceremony in Melbourne on 10 September.

LEVIES DISALLOWANCE MOTION

Senator Leyonhjelm had a motion before the Senate to disallow the increases in levies for the mushrooms, onions and mangoes industries. These industries had gone through a process similar to what the beekeeping industry has done and the final motion was being put to the Senate.

There is an informal group called, Across Agriculture Group (AAG), which AHBIC is a member of. AAG has been active by teleconferences and also making representations to politicians to have this disallowance motion not passed. The motion was to be voted on, on Tuesday 26 August, 2014. The latest information from the group re the disallowance motion is:-

"Tuesday saw the disallowance motions against Mangoes, Onions, and Mushrooms split and a debate/vote postponed until 24 September (very frustrating); yesterday in Question Time in the Senate the Government agreed to support Senator Leyonhjelm in initiating a Senate RRAT Committee review of the ag levy system, and assist in writing the terms of reference."

Senator Heffernan has moved a motion in the Senate to refer the matter to the Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee. It is to report by 24 November, 2014, so we await the official announcement by the Committee. So looks like we will have another submission to prepare.

AHBIC sent a letter to all Senators asking them to vote against the disallowance motion and also outlining what this would do to the beekeeping industry. One of the ideas of Senator Leyonhjelm was to have a plebiscite every three (3) years on whether the industry wanted the levy to stay. This is done in the wool industry and is called Woolpoll. I believe the dairy industry is also to do this.

I have been advised that each Woolpoll cost around \$1million to conduct. You can imagine the effect this would have on our industry. A lot of valuable money that could be spent on research would be wasted on a poll. It would be OK if the Government was to pay for the poll but I cannot imagine that happening.

DRONE SEMEN IMPORTATION

There was a recent teleconference looking at re-instating the Import Risk Analysis (IRA) for drone semen. The first draft came out in 2002 and you will recall that one of the recommendations of the More Than Honey Report in 2008 was to have this IRA completed by the end of 2008.

Industry is now to answer questions by the Department of Agriculture and then can apply to have the IRA started. The Department then would look at the application and determine the order of priority. There are many IRA applications in the pipework. Industry will need to do some work on this.

Hopefully we will have some movement on the IRA soon.

NEW ZEALAND GUIDELINE FOR MANUKA

New Zealand has a guideline out for manuka honey. It can be found at <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/food/food-safety/manuka-honey>

NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS

Product Name:	Apparent Dimethoate 400 Insecticide
Active Constituent/s:	400 g/L dimethoate (an anticholinesterase compound).
Applicant Name:	Apparent Pty. Ltd
Applicant ACN:	143 724 136
Summary of Use:	For the control of a wide range of insect pests on fruit trees, certain vegetables, citrus, pastures, cotton, lucerne, peanuts and ornamentals
Date of Registration:	25 July 2014
Label Approval No:	70165/62662

Product Name:	Expedite FULL Insecticide
Active Constituent/s:	500 g/kg sulfoxaflor
Applicant Name:	Dow AgroSciences Australia Limited
Applicant ACN:	003 771 659
Summary of Use:	For the control of various insect pests in broadacre, vegetable and fruit crops
Date of Registration:	1 August 2014
Label Approval No:	65464/50988

Product Name:	Canopy Insecticide
Applicant Name:	Caltex Australia Petroleum Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN:	000 032 128
Summary of Variation:	To extend use situation to include GM cotton varieties: sicut 71 RR; bollgard; and bollgard II RR Flex
Date of Variation:	22 July 2014
Label Approval No:	60215/61084

Product Name:	DuPont Altacor Insecticide
Applicant Name:	Du Pont (Australia) Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN:	000 716 469
Summary of Variation:	To extend the use to include the control of a range of lepidopterous pests on pulse crops and control of caterpillar on cotton
Date of Variation:	30 July 2014
Label Approval No:	61824/60085

Application No:	60085
Product Name:	DuPont Altacor Insecticide
Active Constituent/s:	350 g/kg chlorantraniliprole
Applicant Name:	Du Pont (Australia) Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN:	000 716 469
Summary of Variation:	To extend the use to include the control of a range of lepidopterous pests on pulse crops and control of cluster caterpillar on cotton
Date of Variation:	30 July 2014
Product registration no.:	61824
Label Approval No:	61824/60085

Application No:	60623
Product Name:	Movento 240 SC Insecticide
Active Constituent/s:	240 g/L siprotetramat
Applicant Name:	Bayer Cropscience Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN:	000 226 022
Summary of Variation:	Extension of use to include control and suppression of various sucking insect pests in table grapes, pome fruit and stone fruit
Date of Variation:	13 August 2014
Product registration no.:	61864
Label Approval No:	61864/60623

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS EXAMINATION

The Federal Department of Agriculture has put out a discussion paper on Import Risk Analysis. It can be found at <http://www.daff.gov.au/ba/ira/iraexamination/discussion-paper> AHBIC will be putting in a submission.

The government has announced that it intends to progress the Biosecurity Bill 2014 to replace the *Quarantine Act 1908* (for more information www.daff.gov.au/biosecuritylegislation).

SEED TREATMENT STEWARDSHIP STRATEGY

CropLife Australia has released a Seed Treatment Stewardship Strategy. This strategy can be found at <http://www.croplife.org.au/PPI/>

GROCERY CODE

AHBIC has received the following re consultation on a Grocery Code. It has been forwarded to the Honey Packers and Marketers Association of Australia (HPMAA) as it would be their members who would most likely be involved. It is put here in case there is anyone else interested.

“The Government has today commenced consultation on the draft *Food and Grocery Industry Code of Conduct* (the Grocery Code). This consultation is being undertaken to seek stakeholders’ views on the likely effectiveness of the proposed Grocery Code in resolving concerns about certain types of dealings in the food and grocery supply chain.

The Grocery Code, developed jointly by Coles, Woolworths and the Australian Food and Grocery Council has been put forward to Government as a ‘voluntary prescribed’ code. This would mean that once a retailer signs up and agrees to be bound by the code, the retailer would then need to deal with all of their suppliers in accordance with the Grocery Code, including ensuring that they offer suppliers a contract in the shape of a ‘grocery supply agreement’ that conforms with the Grocery Code.

Four documents have been released to assist stakeholders to fully engage in the consultation process across all the issues: a factsheet; a consultation paper; the exposure draft Grocery Code; and an explanatory statement for the draft Code. For further information, including copies of the documents, and details on how to make a submission, please visit www.treasury.gov.au/ConsultationsandReviews/Consultations.

The submission period will be open from 6 August 2014 and close on 12 September 2014

WANTING WORK

The following email has been received by AHBIC. If you are interested please reply directly.

“**From:** Una flood [mailto:una_flood@hotmail.com]

Sent: Friday, 15 August 2014 8:26 PM

To: ahbic@honeybee.org.au

Subject: FW: Regional Work Enquiry.

Hi there,

I am emailing to enquire if you might have any information on regional work opportunities that might exist in Australia amongst commercial beekeepers.

I am travelling to Australia at the start of October from Ireland and will need to begin my 3 months regional work immediately. I have bee's here and have completed a foundation course in bee keeping. It is an area I have huge interest in and would love to develop my knowledge further.

I'd so appreciate any idea's you may have to help me source work in this area.

Thanks so much,

Una “

RIRDC NEWSLETTER

The latest RIRDC newsletter covering news for the Honey Bee and Pollination Advisory Committee can be found at <http://www.rirdc.gov.au/news/2014/08/25/honey-bee-and-pollination-r-d-news>

OUR CHAIRMAN IS A DAD

Congratulations to Ian and Mel Zadow on the arrival of a son Joel Mark on 25 July, 2014. He was a bit keen to come into the world and came five (5) weeks early. Ian thought maybe he didn't want a birthday in August so decided to come in July. Joel weighed in at 5lbs 81/2ozs.

Being a premie baby he received some extra care in hospital but is now home and I am told is behaving himself.

TROPILAEELAPS MERCEDESAE

Information has been received that *Tropilaelaps mercedesae* has been found to be spreading in Papua New Guinea according to information put out by the Department of Agriculture.

“The recent numerous detections in Mt Hagan, that stretch as far east as Ku, indicate that *T. mercedesae* is spreading and the population is expanding along the Highlands highway. *T. mercedesae* is moving towards Papua New Guinea's trade centre of Lae; and primary honey bee production region in Goroka.”

FERRO-BEE®

This turned up in the inbox the other day. No doubt some may already have heard about this product as it has been the discussion on many beekeeping chat pages on the internet. It said:-

“Outbreaks of American foulbrood (AFB) are occurring again this year in **many places in Europe and elsewhere**. This is the major problem for beekeepers in New Zealand.

Eradicating this bacterium (*Paenibacillus larva*) is practically impossible because it is almost always present in bee colonies. It is therefore important that favourable circumstances for this bacterium do not arise. This can only be achieved **by making** the bees, the bee colonies and the bee system **stronger**.

In order to understand something about AFB it is important to know the characteristics of this bacterium. *Paenibacillus* is a facultative anaerobic bacterium, in other words, the bacterium can flourish both in the presence and absence of oxygen. In the presence of oxygen the bacterium is exposed to competition from other bacteria and the likelihood of a harmful infection among bee larvae is very low. In the absence of oxygen this competition is lacking. The bacterium generates an anaerobic environment itself by creating a certain type of biofilm, within which it experiences no competition from other microorganisms. In addition the bacterium uses a mechanism **whereby iron is extracted from the environment.**”

What is Ferro –Bee?

“Ferro-Bee® is a tool for the beekeeper. Ferro-Bee® is dissolved in sugar syrup and administered to the bees in the period between the honey collection and winter feeding. Ferro-Bee® can also be added to the winter feed. Supplementing the bees' diet in this way with iron helps prevent winter mortality and encourages bees to be more active. Ferro-Bee® makes treatments against Varroa unnecessary.”

On the chat pages there was some scepticism expressed so I asked Dr. Michael Hornitzky, one of our Australian scientists familiar with AFB, for a comment. He said:-

“I have been unable to find any scientifically validated data to indicate that Ferro-Bee, a ferrous formulation, is of any use for increasing the resistance of honey bee colonies to American foulbrood (AFB) or making colonies stronger.

A claim is made that Paenibacillus larvae (the cause of AFB) extracts iron from the environment and presumably makes colonies more susceptible to AFB. The only time Paenibacillus larvae extracts nutrients is when it is in a vegetative state and is growing in larvae. It extracts all its nutrients from these larvae and kills the larvae in the process. There is no loss of iron or any other metabolite in the rest of the colony; hence, adding an iron supplement is unlikely to increase resistance to AFB.

In terms of making bee colonies stronger, it may be that any benefits are simply due to the sugar syrup in which it is dissolved rather than the ferrous formulation.”

If anyone was thinking of trying this, the first question to ask is “is it registered for use in Australia”? Remember it is not legal to add anything to honey that is not naturally in the honey unless it has an MRL.

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC (AHBIC)

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Email: 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

Account Name: Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc

Bank: Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633 000

Account No: 150 976 405



Banking
Details

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