



Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Trevor Weatherhead – Executive Director

August 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 September 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
Badger Head Bees
Bayside Beekeepers Association Inc
Beechworth Honey
Bees Neez Apiaries
Bliss, Stephen
Blue Hills Honey
Bluebees Producers
Bourke, Lindsay
Buntine, Bob
Bush Honey - (Midgley Family)
Capilano Honey Ltd
Clifford, Ray
Cotton, Allan & Michelle
Covey Bees
Dewar Apiaries
Enslin, Darren
Faithfull, Mark
Gells Honey

Gold Coast Amateur Beekeepers
Society Inc.
Green, Lionel
Heritage Honey
Hooper, Ben
Hoskinson, HL & HM
Hum Honey
Ipswich/West Moreton
Beekeepers Assoc
Jones, Daniel
Kennett, JL & KA
Klingner, Craig
Lees, Ian
MacGibbon, Kevin
McLaren, Jane
Magor, RR
Masters, N & S
Morgan, Trevor
Naicol Pty Ltd
Nairn, Mal
Panda Honey – honey buyers
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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LEVY RETURNS

I have been asked by several queen bee breeders about the queen levy return for 2014-15. The queen bee levy was set at zero on 1 August 2014 so you will need to submit a return for the one month i.e. July 2014. For most it will be nil. After that there will be no more returns.

NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS

Nil.

AGM

Annual conferences for 2016 as I have them are:-

Queensland Beekeepers Association	Townsville
New South Wales Apiarists Association	12 & 13 May - Riverina
Tasmanian Beekeepers Association	27 – 28 May
WA Farmers Federation - Beekeeping Section	TBA
South Australian Apiarists Association	16 – 17 June
Victorian Apiarists Association	8 – 9 June, Wangaratta
Honey Packers and Marketers Association	TBA
National Council of Pollination Associations	TBA
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association	TBA
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	Townsville

CATEGORISATION

Categorisation meetings have been set down for early September.

BIOSECURITY COST RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION STATEMENT

AHBIC is still in conversation with the Department of Agriculture about this issue. A meeting was attended and a submission put forward from AHBIC.

AGRICULTURAL EXPORT REGULATION REVIEW

There is a review of the agricultural export regulations for Australia. Details can be found at <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/export/helps/export-regulation-review>

AHBIC has been invited to a meeting and AHBIC will also be putting in a submission.

ABARES SURVEY

AHBIC has been in contact with ABARES re the survey that Minister Joyce put up money for.

The actual survey questions have been decided and the survey will give us up to date information on our industry and where it is going.

The survey is due to commence early next year and will be a face to face survey. So if you are selected to be one of the selected participants, please help as much as you can so that we have accurate data on our industry.

RESEARCH PROJECT ON MEDICINAL AUSTRALIAN *Leptospermum* (jelly bush) HONEY

The University of Technology Sydney is leading a research project looking for more sources of medicinal Australian *Leptospermum* honey (aka jelly bush, or Australian manuka). The research team includes Dr Peter Brooks and Simon Williams (University of Sunshine Coast), Professor Dee Carter (University of Sydney), as well Dr Shona Blair, Professor Liz Harry and Nural Cokcetin (University of Technology Sydney). The project is being funded by RIRDC, with support from Capilano and Comvita, and will run over the next three years (until 2018).

We are asking beekeepers with access to *Leptospermum* (jelly bush / manuka) honeys from anywhere in the country to provide samples to include in this research project. We will test these honeys for antimicrobial activity and investigate the relationship between the activity and the plant source.

Providing honey samples for testing

If you have access to *Leptospermum* honeys and would like to include them in our survey, please get in touch with us. We'll be asking for 200 - 500 g, and some information about the location it was collected, as well as samples from the plants the bees visited to produce the honey. We will provide a sample information sheet containing clear instructions, an address to send your samples to and other important information for our study.

We will keep the results confidential, but we will provide anyone supplying samples with a report on the results from the testing of their honeys.

If you would like to provide samples, please contact:

Nural Cokcetin | Project Coordinator | 0405 284 718 | Nural.Cokcetin@uts.edu.au

Prof Liz Harry | Principle Investigator | 0404 643 181 or 02 9810 6461 | Elizabeth.Harry@uts.edu.au

Fieldwork to identify *Leptospermum* species and collect nectar samples

Simon Williams, PhD student under Dr Peter Brooks at the University of Sunshine Coast, is beginning to plan the fieldwork phase of the project. Simon will be travelling and meeting beekeepers to aid in identification of *Leptospermum* species and collecting nectar samples from trees to determine the potential non peroxide activity (NPA) of the various *Leptospermum* species.

Simon is planning to visit as many sites as possible during the following time periods:

SA: for two weeks between **September 15th – October 20th**

VIC: for two weeks between **October 12th – November 9th**

TAS: for two weeks between **November 30th – December 22nd**

NSW and QLD: **November onward**

The time period will be dependent on weather, flowering of *Leptospermum* and the availability and feedback from beekeepers. If you would like Simon to visit your sites to identify and sample trees, please contact Simon with the information below.

Simon Williams | PhD student | 0459 336 779 | Simon.Williams@research.usc.edu.au

- The sites you would like us to test and their rough location
- If you would be happy for an aerial map to be taken of your sites for determining species distribution
- If known, the suspected *Leptospermum* species at the site

- An approximate flowering period if known, so we know when to plan to visit
- If you are able to provide any logistical help in terms of accommodation and transport
- Any restrictions on your time, e.g. if you're only free to show sites on the weekends.

Why are we doing this?

Manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*) honey from NZ is world famous, and it is sold at a much higher price than other honeys. However, although Australia is home to the largest diversity of *Leptospermum* plants in the world (we have more than 80 species compared to NZ's two!), most of our honeys do not enjoy the high prices of their NZ equivalents.

We already know that a handful of Australian *Leptospermum* honeys have similar levels of antibacterial activity to NZ manuka, but most of the other 80 plus Australian varieties have not been tested. We want to find more sources of active honey, which will help the Australian beekeeping industry by increasing the amount and value of medicinal Australian honey being produced.

The feedback we have received from the beekeepers so far has been great we thank you all for your support.

EUREKA PRIZE FINALISTS

Dr. Nadine Chapman and Professor Ben Oldroyd from the University of Sydney were finalists in the Australian Museum Rural Research and Development Corporation's Eureka Prize for Rural Innovation. Their nomination was in relation to their work on the fight against varroa mites.

Whilst not the eventual winners, congratulations to Nadine and Ben on being finalists in such a prestigious award.

FARMER OF THE YEAR

Lindsay Bourke has again made being named as a finalist in the Biosecurity Farmer of the Year (Plant) contest. Lindsay has been a finalist on three previous occasions so we wish him well for this year.

The announcement of the winner will be made at a dinner in Sydney on Wednesday 9 September, 2015. Let us hope that we can report next newsletter that Lindsay was the winner.

BEEAWARE WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER

I have brought this to your attention before but if you have not looked at the BeeAware website then you must. See <http://beeaware.org.au/>

Also there is a newsletter that you can subscribe to which gives updates on some of the latest news from the beekeeping sector from here and around the world.

APP FOR PLANT RECOGNITION

The ABC Rural has a report on a researcher at Edith Cowan University developing an App for plant recognition using a single leaf. So far he has 30 plants in the database. Maybe something for the future for beekeepers. No need for honey flora books.

For more information see <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-08-21/plant-recognition-technology/6715766>

NORTHERN CANOLA GROWNOTE

The Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) has issued a northern canola GrowNote. This is to help growers increase yields in canola in New South Wales and Queensland.

For more information see http://getfarming.com.au/pages/farming/articles_view.php?fId=9200020150819165933&cId=4

WHY ARE QUEEN BEES AND WORKERS DIFFERENT

A newly published paper "A dietary phytochemical alters caste-associated gene expression in honey bees" Mao, Schuler, Berenbaum *Sci. Adv.* 1, e1500795 (2015) shows that a phytochemical is responsible for making the worker bee.

See <http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/1/7/e1500795.full-text.pdf>

CONSULTATION STARTS ON NEW BIOSECURITY REGULATION

Public consultation has commenced for the draft Biosecurity (Biosecurity Import Risk Analyses) Regulation 2015.

The Australian Government through the Department of Agriculture has released the first draft regulation under the new *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

The release of the draft Biosecurity (Biosecurity Import Risk Analyses) Regulation 2015 (BIRA regulation) gives interested clients and stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback on how biosecurity import risk analyses will be conducted when the new Act takes effect in **June 2016**. The BIRA regulation sets out the key steps to the BIRA process. The BIRA regulation also includes specific timeframes, publications and consultation requirements, involvement of a scientific advisory group and the role of the Inspector-General of Biosecurity in the BIRA process.

The draft BIRA process under the new legislation was guided by the recommendations from the recently released examination of the import risk analysis (IRA) process report.

The exposure draft of the BIRA regulation has been published on the department's website for a three month consultation period and will close on **30 November 2015**.

More information, or to make a submission, please visit: www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecuritylegislation or contact the Biosecurity Legislation Implementation Section at newbiosecuritylegislation@agriculture.gov.au or call us on 1800 040 629.

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TAX INVOICE/RECEIPT

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.....

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

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

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2. _____
3. _____

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It is gratefully appreciated.**