



Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Trevor Weatherhead – Executive Director

February 2016

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 QUEEN BEE SUPPLIER appear on this list?
If not, then ask “Why not?” AHBIC WORKS FOR YOU!**

The following list recognises contributions received since 1 March 2015

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
Beechworth Honey
Bees Neez Apiaries
Beewise
Blue Hills Honey
Bluebees Producers
Bliss, Stephen
Bourke, Lindsay
Bush Honey - (Midgley Family)
Capilano Honey Ltd
Clifford, David
Clifford, Ray
Cotton, Allan & Michelle
Covey Bees
Dale's Honey Bees
Dewar Apiaries

Enslin, Darren
Gells Honey
Glasby, Garry
Gold Coast Amateur Beekeepers
Society Inc.
Green, Lionel
Heritage Honey
Honeylife Australia
Hooper, Ben
Hoskinson, HL & HM
Ipswich/West Moreton
Beekeepers Assoc
Jones, Daniel
Kennett, JL & KA
Klingner, Craig
MacGibbon, Kevin
McLaren, Jane
Masters, N & S
Morgan, Trevor
Naicol Pty Ltd

Nairn, Mal
Panda Honey – honey buyers
Pure Bendigo Gold Honey
R. Stephens
Roberts, I J & J H
Saxonbee Enterprises - Rod Pavy
Smith, Bruce & Carolyn
Squire, Gary
Stokes, Peter
Superbee Honey Factory
Trigg, Margaret
Watson, James
Weatherhead, T & M
Weerona Apiaries
Williams JW & MA
Witz, Ron
Zadow Apiaries

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

All rights reserved. This publication is copyright and may not be resold or reproduced in any manner (except excerpts for bona fide study purpose in accordance with the Copyright Act) without the prior consent of the Publisher. Every effort has been made to ensure that this newsletter is free from error or omissions. However, the Publisher, or its respective employees or agents, shall not accept responsibility for injuries, loss or damage occasioned to any person acting or referring from action as a result of the material in this newsletter whether or not such injury, loss or damage is in any way due to any negligent act or omission, breach of duty or default on the part of the Publisher, or its respective employees or agents.

SAM MALFROY SWAPS JOBS

Sam Malfroy has been working with our industry in his position at Plant Health Australia (PHA) for about four and half years. There have been many achievements that have been put in place to benefit our industry over that time.

Sam is now leaving PHA and shifting to a job in the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources. Sort of returning home. At the Department he will be working in the Trade and Market Access division. In this position he will be working on an Indonesia/Australia partnership program.

Sam finished with PHA on 9 February and started with the Department on 15 February.

We wish Sam all the best in his new job and thank him for all his work over the past four and half years.

LEARNING ABOUT COLLECTING SEMEN AT SENATE ESTIMATES

At least our politicians are being taught about semen collection from bees. See <https://twitter.com/deptagnews/status/697241611520991233>

For the full transcript go to

http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/committees/estimate/2ad2fdbd-b239-41d4-b5bb-ad282f50dc4e/toc_pdf/Rural%20and%20Regional%20Affairs%20and%20Transport%20Legislation%20Committee%202016%2002%2009%204112.pdf;fileType=application%2Fpdf and start at page 134 with the question by Senator Edwards.

ABARES SURVEY

The following has been received from ABARES re the survey of our industry. The information gathered will be crucial for making representation to Government and will also inform us of the state of our industry. AHBIC may follow up with yearly surveys but not on the same scale.

“The Australian Honeybee Industry Survey 2016 will commence in March and will run for two months. The survey is funded by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and is being run by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES). Commercial beekeepers chosen to participate in the survey have been selected from registration lists maintained by relevant state departments.

The survey will be conducted by face-to-face interviews and will cover physical and financial aspects of the business, and will also include questions on management practices and issues affecting the honeybee industry such as access to public land, value of pollination services and the impact of pests and diseases. AHBIC and other key stakeholders have provided input into the design of the questionnaire and the wording of the questions.

The confidentiality and privacy of any information participants provide will be protected and data will be aggregated in such a way that individuals cannot be identified in any publication or release.

If you are contacted by an ABARES survey officer, please help as much as you can so that accurate data on our industry can be collected.”

REGULATION OF AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURE

AHBIC has put in a submission to this Inquiry. See <http://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/agriculture/submissions> We will need to wait and see if AHBIC gets a chance to appear at any public hearings.

PIRATE BEES

Catch the Buzz has an article on the pirate bee. See http://www.beeulture.com/catch-the-buzz-zimbabwe-pirate-bees-threaten-honey-industry/?utm_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm_campaign=1df8d0a677-Catch+The+Buzz+4+29+2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0272f190ab-1df8d0a677-256241481

Seems this is a wasp in The Palarus family. Mike Allsopp reports on *Palarus latifrons* called banded bee pirate predated on bees in South Africa and can do severe damage to colonies even to the stage of completely decimating colonies. Guess this is another one we need to keep an eye out for.

AGM

Note change of date for the WA conference. Venue details not yet available.

Annual conferences for 2016 as I have them are:-

Queensland Beekeepers Association	13 & 14 July, Townsville
New South Wales Apiarists Association	12 & 13 May, Albury
Tasmanian Beekeepers Association	27 – 28 May, St. Helens
WA Farmers Federation - Beekeeping Section	14 May
South Australian Apiarists Association	16 – 17 June, Kangaroo Island
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	15 July, Townsville

QBA CONFERENCE IN TOWNSVILLE

The Queensland Beekeepers Association (QBA) are looking at three options for day trips on Saturday 16 July, the day after the AHBIC AGM. QBA hope to have more details by the next AHBIC newsletter so I will pass on then. Just thought I should let you know in case you were looking to extend your stay in Townsville.

QBA will soon be issuing registration forms for their conference. AHBIC delegates are reminded that if they want to attend the QBA conference they will need to register with QBA. This will include the dinner on the Thursday night.

NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS

Application no.: 104045
Product name: Relyon Alphanex 100EC Insecticide
Active constituent/s: 100 g/L alpha-cypermethrin
Applicant name: Ruralco Holdings Limited
Applicant ACN: 009 660 879
Summary of use: For the control of certain insect pests, including *heliiothis* (*helioverpa* spp.) on various crops and red legged earth mite and blue oat mite on certain field crops and pastures and certain insect pests on fruit and vegetable crops
Date of registration/approval: 19 January 2016
Product registration no.: 81781
Label approval no.: 81781/104045

Application no.: 102007
Active constituent/s: Pyriproxyfen
Applicant name: FMC Australasia Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN: 095 326 891
Summary of use: For use in agricultural chemical products
Date of approval: 9 February 2016
Approval no.: 80958

Application no.: 102506
Active constituent/s: Fipronil
Applicant name: Agro-Alliance (Australia) Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN: 130 864 603
Summary of use: For use in agricultural chemical products
Date of approval: 16 February 2016
Approval no.: 81180

TASMANIAN FIRES

Reports out of Tasmania say that a couple of major beekeepers have been badly affected by the fires. In some cases they could not get hives onto the leatherwood and in other cases some of the leatherwood country has been burnt out.

One beekeeper has still to get to some of his hives to see if they survived the bushfire.

In at least one case, hives that were working leatherwood had to be moved out as fire was encroaching on the sites and it was better to make sure the hives survived and lose some leatherwood production rather than leave them there with the possibility that the hives would be lost to fire.

For those who have been able to place hives on the leatherwood there has been a reasonable crop.

See a recent report at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-02-21/tasmanian-beekeepers-prepare-for-massive-losses-after-bushfires/7183260>

SMALL HIVE BEETLE IN BRAZIL

Samples sent to Sao Paulo in May 2015 were identified in December 2015 as small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*). With the amount of time between submission and identification I would suspect that eradication is now impossible. Interesting to see what happens in South America with this find in Brazil.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FIRES

I checked with Leilani Leyland, President of the Western Australian Farmers Federation, Beekeepers Council, and she informed me that there were two beekeepers that lost approx. 100 hives in the Esperance Fires and about 3 beekeepers that lost approx. 60 hives in the Waroona fires.

A great deal of the resource has been destroyed which in their opinion is due to poor fire management (to which industry are submitting a response to an Inquiry currently underway). A great deal of the Jarrah, Marri and Mallee crops will be lost now for some years.

HONEY MONTH

The Honey Month Committee have recently held a teleconference. So look for details of what is happening in your State during May. There should be something on the AHBIC website soon.

BIOSECURITY ACT 2015 REGULATIONS

A further round of draft regulations for the Biosecurity Act 2015 are now out for comment by 24 March, 2016. See <http://agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/legislation/new-biosecurity-legislation>

PROBLEMS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Interesting story out of the top end re beekeeping not remaining viable due to burning off. See <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-02-22/beekeeping-no-longer-viable-in-nt-because-of-bushfires/7169612>

BOLT COURSE

Within the Code of Practice for beekeeping, see <http://honeybee.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Aust-Honeybee-Industry-Biosecurity-Code-of-Practice-draft-1.13.pdf> under section 9 it is a requirement that “Beekeepers Must Demonstrate a Minimum Level of Knowledge of Pest and Disease Identification and Management”. This is required for those beekeepers with 50 or more hives.

Plant Health Australia (PHA) has a Biosecurity on Line Training (BOLT) component and within this AHBIC, with PHA, is developing a “*Beekeeper Biosecurity Training and Assessment Program*”. This will be free to those beekeepers with 50 or more hives. I will advise when it is available.

AHBIC has received feedback that some beekeepers, with less than 50 hives, may also want to complete this program so as to enhance their own knowledge. It has been decided that this will be also available to those beekeepers with less than 50 hives but a small fee will need to be charged to complete this program for those beekeepers.

BUMBLE BEES IN TASMANIA

The following has been received by AHBIC.

SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS REFERENCES COMMITTEE

Inquiry into the risks and opportunities associated with the use of the bumblebee population in Tasmania for commercial purposes

The following matter be referred to the Environment and Communications References Committee for inquiry and report by 22 June 2016:

The risks and opportunities associated with the use of the bumblebee population in Tasmania for commercial pollination purposes, including (a) the existing distribution and population density of exotic bumblebees;

- (b) productivity and economic benefits of the commercial use of bumblebees for agricultural producers;*
- (c) the potential environmental impacts associated with the commercial use of bumblebees, including whether their use is likely to:
 - (i) impact the conservation status of a species or ecological community,*
 - (ii) impact biodiversity,*
 - (iii) cause unintended ecological impacts, and*
 - (iv) contribute to a wider distribution of bumblebees;**
- (d) the implications for Australia's biosecurity regime of any approval to use bumblebees in Tasmania for commercial purposes;*
- (e) the potential economic outcomes;*
- (f) the effectiveness of alternative pollination options; and*
- (g) any other related matters.*

AHBIC will be putting in a submission as well as the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association. The submissions are due in by 3 March, 2016. If anyone has any thoughts they think should be in the submission, please let me know before 3 March, 2016.

MEETING WITH THE ALMOND BOARD OF AUSTRALIA

Following up on a motion from the 2015 AHBIC AGM, Ian Zadow, Craig Klingner and Peter McDonald from AHBIC met recently with representatives of the Almond Board of Australia to discuss strategic planning between the beekeeping industry and the almond industry.

This was the first meeting between the two groups and several issues were canvassed which affect both industries. These included how many hives will be needed for future pollination of almonds, the quality of hives provided for pollination, spraying during flowering and what industry's response will be when varroa arrives and is declared endemic.

The meeting was very productive and both groups are to go away and prepare information on many of the issues discussed and circulate them prior to the next meeting.

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC (AHBIC)

ABN: 63 939 614 424

PO Box 4253
Raceview Qld 4305

Phone: (07) 5467 2265
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



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