



Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Stephen Ware – Executive Director

JULY 2012

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(S) OR QUEENBEE SUPPLIER'S NAME APPEAR ON THIS LIST?
IF NOT, THEN ASK 'WHY NOT?' AHBIC WORKS FOR YOU!**

AB's Honey	Cugley, Kirsten	Land, K R	Rose, Doug
Argus, Andrew	Damokas, B	Langan, Margaret	Ruiter, J H
Australian Queen Bee Exporters	Daybreak Apiary	L'Estrange, Tony	Saxonbee Enterprises
Australian Queen Bee Breeders	Davey, Helen	Lever, Robert	Slattery, Anna
Australian Honey Products	Davis, Ernest	Locker, Judy	Smith, C & B
Barnes Apiaries P/L	Deane, A J & C M	MacFarlane, R H	Squire, Gary
Bates, Tiffane	Den Hollander, Jeroen	Marchant, R & S	Stanley, J & L
Beacham, V G	Dewar Corporation	Marti, Rod T/A	Stephens, R
Bee My Honey Apiaries	Dunlop, P G & R D	- Gagarra Honey	Stevens, Graeme
Beechworth Honey P/L	Ewington, P & M	McGurk, M L &	Stevens, Howard
Bees Neez Apiaries	Faithfull, Mark	Lockley, B A	Stirling, Graeme
Bell, Graham	Federal Council of Australian Apiarists	McLaren, Jane	Stokes, Peter
Billington, Steven	Fruet, F P	McInerney, Neville	Strout, Graham
Black, R G & M J	Gell's Honey	Meimetis, Steve	Tasmanian Beekeepers - NW Branch
Bowman Family	Georgiou, Athena	Milne, Howard	Tasmanian Crop
Bredenkamp, Don	Giles, G R & P M	Morgan, Trevor	Pollination Association
Bresland, Ian	Glenister, Susan	Mullen, Peter & Sylvia	Tasmanian Honey Company
Brock, Margaret	Goode, T W & M A	Myers, Terry	Thompson, N
Brooks, Graham	Griffiths, Milton	Naisbitt, A L	True Blue Honey
Bucktin, Brian	Griffin, Brian	Nevin, Denis	Upton, Ralph
Bush Honey - Rosalie Waters	Hadfield, Simon	Nitschke, C J	Valkenburg, Simeon
Buzz Honey	Honey Packers & Marketers Association	Norcic, John	Van Dongen, A J
Capilano Honey Ltd	Hooper, B A	Papworth, F & E	Vermeer, Peter
Ciphery, C & R	Hooper, R F & A J	Park, William F	Wallace, P
Clifford, D A & J J	Hooten, Keith	Paull, D M & G A	Warral Apiaries P/L
Codde, T J	Hoskinson, H L & H M	Phillips, Rupert	Watson, James
Cole, O F	Howard, O D	Pluschke, D & MS	Weatherhead, T & M
Coleman, R J	Howell, T & S	Pobke, Barry	Weerona Apiaries
Cotton, A J &	Howie, G D	Pollard, Nigel	Wescobee Limited
McDonald, M A	Hughston & Sons P/L	Pollination Assoc of WA	Wilson, Col
Craig, Athol	Ipswich/West Moreton Beekeepers Association	Rasmussen, Ivan	Wishart, Ron
Crop Pollination Association	Jones, C H	Ravi, David	Zadow Apiaries
	Jones, Daniel	Roberts, I J & J H	Zadow, Paul
	Kap J & E A	Roberts, Glenn	
		Robinson, Barry	
		Roden, Helen	

Thank you to all our beekeeper contributors some of whom have asked to remain anonymous.
AHBIC appreciates your ongoing support.

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The following provides a brief outline of AHBIC activities over the past month and matters of interest to industry, naturally if you should seek any further clarification please do not hesitate to contact the AHBIC office.

UPDATE AHBIC ACTIVITIES

1. The Annual General Meeting was successfully held in Launceston. AHBIC again puts on record its thanks to Maxine Ewington and the Tasmanian Association for their hospitality and efforts in running an exceptional conference.
2. The Federal Government has new Legislation for Biosecurity this reform is far reaching with some good and bad elements. We are still reviewing its implications for industry and intend to respond in due course.
3. The Federal Government has also announced its response to the productivity commission review of research organisations. A copy of the results is included in this edition.
4. On the subject of Federal Government action, Minister Ludwig has released a food plan for the Agricultural Industry, details of which are contained in this edition of the newsletter. AHBIC will also be providing a response to this document given its importance to future planning and importance to the honeybee industry.
5. The Food Safety and Prevention of Residue Committee has set its meeting dates for the next six months: Monday 13 August 2012, Monday 10 September 2012 and Tuesday 27 November 2012.
6. Likewise the AHBIC Executive Committee has set its physical dates for the next twelve months: Monday 17 September 2012, Monday 26 November 2012 and Monday 13 May 2013. In the intervening period between meetings, the Board will be in communication via email and telephone hook-up when required.
7. Members should note that we have published dates for the various Industry Conferences. If there are any changes please advise the AHBIC office so that members are made aware.

DATES FOR 2013 ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCES

New South Wales Apiarists' Association	22/23/24 May 2013
Tasmanian Beekeepers' Association	31 May/1 June 2013
Victorian Apiarists' Association	5/6 June 2013
Queensland Beekeepers' Association	TBA
South Australian Apiarists' Association	19/20 June 2013
WA Farmers Federation – Beekeeping Section	4 July 2013
AHBIC Annual General Meeting	5 July 2013

The Western Australian Farmers Federation will host the 2013 AHBIC Annual General Meeting in Perth on 4 July 2013.

AHBIC 2012 CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

1. “That the Chairman’s Report and AHBIC Reports for year ending 30 April 2012 be adopted.”
2. “That the minutes of the 14th Annual General Meeting held at Rydges Southpark, 1 South Terrace Adelaide, South Australia on Friday 8 July 2011 as circularised be confirmed as true and correct record.”
3. “That the meeting confirmed the changes to the Constitution as circularised and tabled.”
4. “That the membership of the AHBIC Council by the Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association be cancelled and that their vote not be issued to any entity.”
5. “That the Committee Reports be accepted.”
6. “That the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30 April 2012 be adopted.”
7. “That the Member reports be formally accepted.”
8. “That the Subsidiary Company Reports be taken as read.”
9. “That the AHBIC Council recommend to the Directors of the Honey Bee Contingency Fund the expenditure of \$75,000 per annum for 2014 and 2015 financial years to help fund the Honeybee Surveillance Program in conjunction with Horticultural Industries, to be administered by Plant Health Australia be made.”
10. “That the AHBIC Council support the introduction of a Biosecurity levy on all beekeepers.”
11. That AHBIC convene a meeting of major honey packers to discuss initiatives to market Australian Honey.”
12. That the 2012-2017 AHBIC Business Plan be adopted
13. That AHBIC consider a national approach to the control and management of AFB.
14. That AHBIC separately account for and administer the FCAAA Contingency Fund on the same basis and guidelines as previously agreed by member bodies of FCAAA.
15. “That AHBIC asks RIRDC to implement a trial to look at any possible effects of neonicotinoids on honey bees foraging on plants that have been seed coated prior to planting”
16. “That AHBIC recommends to RIRDC/HBRDC that RIRDC/HBRDC fund development of an external lure for small hive beetles.”
17. “That AHBIC requests, that other industries (e.g. Horticulture and Agriculture) and the Wheen Foundation be asked to assist with funding for an external Small Hive Beetle lure.”
18. “With the increasing spread of GM crops in Australia, AHBIC liaise with the Government Departments, who are approving the growing of GM crops, to alert them to the problems of Marketing GM honey not only overseas but also on the domestic level in Australia.

Also AHBIC is to bring this issue to the attention of the appropriate State and Federal Ministers

19. “That AHBIC investigate the use of QA programs as a basis of managing the National AFB control program.”

20. “That the following Executive Committee be confirmed.”

Mr Lindsay Bourke	Chairman
Mr Eduard Planken	Deputy Chairman
Mr Ian Zadow	
Mr Rod Pavy	
Mr Trevor Morgan	
Mr Trevor Weatherhead	

APIS CERANA (ASIAN HONEYBEE) UPDATE

There was a Liaison Group phone hook-up on Friday 13 July 2012. Points to come out of it were:-

There was finding of a swarm of Asian bees at Port Douglas on 2 July 2012. This is just north of the RA area and north of the previous find at Wangetti Beach. There are beekeeper volunteers in Cairns this week and it will be their role to do surveillance in the Port Douglas area to try to find the nest and determine if there are other Asian bees in the area.

As part of the Transition to Management (T2M) there are several research projects being funded by our industry through RIRDC. These were reported on at the various beekeeping conferences these past few months and details can be found at <http://asianhoneybee.net.au/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Meeting-6-AHB-TMG.pdf> attachment A. Cairns is being visited by some of these researchers to start their projects.

Community Engagement is being conducted at the various shows in the area. The local beekeeping group is helping out and I imagine the volunteers will also get a chance to go to the show and help out.

The first stage of the remote poisoning trails, now called remote nest treatments, have been completed. The Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) has considered the preliminary results and will be making some recommendations.

When the Government withdraws from swarm and nest destruction, there is a question mark as to how beekeepers will be involved. If beekeepers were to give advice, they would leave themselves open to public liability claims if anything when wrong. As I see it, all beekeepers could do is collect samples, if called out to a swarm or nest, and send them in for identification and give the website address for people to glean information from.

As of 6 July 2012 they are up to IP664.

If anyone wants any other information, feel free to contact me at any time.

Trevor Weatherhead
17 July 2012

MAKING THE MOST OF OUR WORLD CLASS RURAL R&D

23 July 2012

DAFF12/362L

The Gillard Government today announced significant improvements to rural research, development and extension which will see greater collaboration on research, efforts to increase investment, and a drive to improve the adoption of innovation across the sector.

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator Joe Ludwig, who released the rural R&D policy statement at an AgForce breakfast in Brisbane, said the Government remained committed to partnering with industry to drive innovation and productivity.

“The current rural R&D model has proven results, with rural productivity in Australia increasing at more than twice the rate of other industries’ in this country in recent decades,” Minister Ludwig said.

“Successive Labor governments have a strong history of collaborating with our rural sector on research and development, contributing more than \$700 million annually through the Research and Development Corporations (RDC’s), Cooperative Research Centres, CSIRO and universities.

“This is a government committed to rural R&D, and committed to the RDC model as the fundamental way that we fund and deliver it.

“This policy statement builds on the strengths of the RDC model, including the strong partnership we have with industry in funding and setting priorities.”

The policy statement includes the government’s final response to the Productivity Commission’s inquiry report on Rural RDCs and the National Strategic Rural R&D Investment Plan.

The improvements will:

- increase transparency and accountability in the RDC model
- improve coordination and priority setting across the whole rural R&D system
- increase the pursuit of productivity growth; and
- increase operational efficiencies and value for money on investment.

Key changes include:

- measuring performance across the broader rural R&D system
- greater collaboration of RDCs on cross-sectoral research such as soils and climate change
- enabling RDCs to undertake marketing if requested by industry and funded by a dedicated levy
- matching government funding for private voluntary contributions where research findings are public; and
- moves to attract more private domestic and international investment.

“This statement goes hand in hand with work we’re already doing as part of the National Food Plan green paper which asks whether the best way to increase innovation and productivity over the medium to long term is to increase investment in rural R&D,” Minister Ludwig said.

“Research and development underpins future productivity and innovation within our rural industries. It drives growth, maintains our competitiveness internationally, and means rural Australia can make the most of opportunities and respond to challenges.

“Australian producers are some of the most innovative and productive in the world, and ongoing government and industry commitment to R&D will help keep us on the front foot.”

The statement and more information is available at: www.daff.gov.au

MESSAGE FROM MINISTER LUDWIG

Dear all,

Australia is fortunate to have some of the world’s most innovative and productive farmers. This is the result of a lot of hard work and significant investment in rural research and development. Since the 1930’s the Australian government has worked with industry to provide co investment in rural research, development and extension (RD&E) programs. The current rural research and development framework has been in place since the Hawke Labor Government which, in 1989, significantly funding increased and modernised the system by extended levy collections and matching funding to more industries.

As many of you are aware, there have been two significant reviews of the system undertaken recently. The Productivity Commission reviewed the research and development corporations (RDC) model, examining the rationale for government investment in RDCs. The Rural Research and Development Council produced an investment plan, which outlines a rationale for balancing Australian Government investment in rural R&D. The investment plan assessed and made recommendations on the wider rural R&D system, rather than focusing on the RDC model.

This morning I released the government’s [*Rural Research and Development Policy Statement*](#), responding to those two reviews.

The statement highlights the Australian Government’s enduring commitment to world-class rural RD&E and our strong partnership with industry.

Our rural research, development and extension system is unique and held in high regard both in Australia and internationally. The RDCs provide a strong link between government, industry and the research community, and the government will continue to support them. A key pillar of the RDC model is the government’s matching contributions, which again, we will continue.

The policy statement reflects four key themes for improvements to the RDC model which will optimise the outcomes for industry and the wider community. The themes are: increased transparency and accountability in the RDC model; improved coordination and priority setting across the rural RD&E system; an increased range of mechanisms for pursuing productivity growth; and increased operational efficiencies and value for money on RD&E investment.

I look forward to working with you on implementing the statement, and in doing so, further strengthening our rural R&D system and our joint investment in continuing future productivity growth.

Yours sincerely

Joe Ludwig

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

AHBIC AWARD OF EXCELLENCE - LAUNCESTON 2012 - 5 July 2012

A delighted audience at this year's Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) Annual Dinner applauded the Council's decision to make a dual presentation of the AHBIC Award of Excellence to John Bowland (JB Manufacturing) and Peter Cash (Bee Engineering) for their contributions as manufacturers of high quality honey extracting equipment.

The awards recognised the efforts of both recipients in encouraging the Australian honey industry to reach out and meet the challenge of HACCP based food production.

The recipients **Peter Cash** from Bee Engineering, Western Australia and **John Bowland**, JB Manufacturing, Maiden Valley, Bendigo Victoria, were both in attendance and proudly accepted their awards from Mr Lindsay Bourke, AHBIC Chairman.

In 1997 Capilano Honey embarked on its drive to introduce HACCP standards to suppliers, highlighted by the release of its landmark "Reference Manual – Honey Extracting Facilities & Food Safety Program" in 1999. **A lot of the success with the Manual and later the successful introduction of the B-QUAL Program (and others) was due to the efforts of both of these men.** Why? With the introduction of Stainless Steel Horizontal Radial Extracting systems across the landscape of Australian beekeeping, came the need to upgrade "sheds". In essence QA followed advances in extractor design.



John Bowland, Peter Cash, Lindsay Bourke & Bill Winner

A little of the history of both recipients

John Bowland: A common link exists between JB Manufacturing and Beequip, a link forged by personal respect and friendship between Peter and John and the use by the latter of Beequip uncapping machines on his extracting systems.

To a larger extent John concentrated his extracting systems on the smaller sized machines, it would no doubt have come as a pleasant surprise to find his extractors located in state of the art mobile and central extracting plants handling hundreds of drums of honey a year. JB extractors ranged in size from one 36 fr to 42fr and 54fr Horizontal Radials.

These mighty extracting units now grace small to large operations and in nearly every place they have found a home, they have moved into pristine facilities.

Now for a little history, John started manufacturing his 3 bank 43 fr HR extractors in early 2000, Ken Smith, from Newstead got the first one, Glen Watson No.2, Ray Hall No.3; John Stanley No.4 and yes he does have a list of all who have purchased his machines.

John recalls attending the **Tamworth NSWAA Field Day in 2000** and being laughed at and told to go back and build a bigger one. He has a photo of one those beekeepers with 3 of his extracting systems on his truck heading off to the Northern Tablelands of NSW. **AHBIC Chairman Lindsay Bourke** showed he is not one to play favourites; he now has one Beequip extracting system and a JB Manufacturing system.

John has manufactured 150 extracting systems and the audience was informed of a comment John had made prior to accepting the award "...that on a warm sunny summers day when the flows are in full swing, my "little" units would be humming away each turning out 10 drums a day and thinks, "that's 1500 drums a day! Or almost \$1.4 million a day!" There is satisfaction in those thoughts.

John's association with the industry began when a friend introduced him to Roger Callaway from Bendigo. John was working in the Quarry and mining industry as a Sheet Metal worker/welder. He assisted Roger as he built his packing business. Like Peter Cash he started helping repair various pieces of equipment for beekeepers and began a business making metal lids for beehives, Bill Shay purchased that business from him. This was in the late 70's. He has also manufactured over 100 hand grip machines that can cut rebates for boxes and nearly 300 reducers.

He recalls older extracting sheds that were constructed with sheets of tin, had bare copper pipes and were far from food grade. He wondered if it was safe to eat honey! Then Ken Smith (Newstead Vic.) asked him to make an extractor because QA was coming to the beekeeping industry. Ken showed him the Capilano Manual and he recalls saying at the time that this was "**the best thing that had happened in his time with beekeepers.**" After 3 months urging he finally made Ken his extractor. The rest is history

Asked what his philosophy was, John replied "**to retire at 50!**" He is now 60. He thought a little longer and commented that his goal was to build an extracting system that would be virtually trouble free. A 4 bank extractor was too high and that was the reason for settling on a 3 bank machine.

Through much of his time developing and producing his extracting equipment, John endured a major health crisis and has drawn a huge amount of comfort from the goodwill shown by the beekeepers

with whom he has had dealings over the past years. John suggested that over 80% of those using his extracting system are now personal friends.

John has taken a year away from manufacturing and may sell his business in the near future.

Peter Cash. Bee Engineering or Beequip was registered on the 30th December 1980, in its early stages Peter spent most of his time repairing existing beekeeping equipment while he developed a de-boxer.

Perhaps not so well known is the fact that Peter, as a high school student assembled and wired frames for Ken Healey (a commercial apiarist) after school. He left high school at the end of third year and went to work for Ken. When Ken established Old Cottage Honey in 1971 Peter worked in the honey packing room. All up he spent 15 years working with Ken.

Peter recalled a Karri flow that began in January and ran through to June, they had 8 or 9 loads of bees and they worked long hours extracting 9 drums a day using a hand knife, cappings reducer and a Pender Galvanised 9 frame semi radial extractor. All powered by a 3hp Villiers motor. That flow produced 500 drums. He had 35 hives of his own that he worked on weekends. **Nice to have a hobby!**

His mechanical and sheet metal skills were picked up along the way. Developments in design often came from beekeepers, in 1998/99 Phil McHugh (Tamworth); Brad & Joel Johnston (Gunnedah) flew to WA and from the visit the high output twin extracting system fed by one uncapper was developed with the uncapper fitted to a rotating ring.

His son designed the 4 vaned stainless steel cappings pump that sold over 70 units. The design was unique in that it allowed for the outer housings to be removed and the direction of fitting could be adjusted to suit plant design without any engineering changes. With the exception of the inner portion of the pumps that are symmetrical.

Peter built his first Uncapping Machine on the 20th September 1982, a slide model based on the Cowen “Silver Queen”, by the 1990’s chain feed uncapper sales outnumbered the slide feed machines.

In total 1357 uncapping machines have been manufactured.

Recently a WA beekeeper approached Peter and asked if his machine was still under warranty as he needed new blades for the knives and chains. Peter checked his records and found that the machine was 29 years old and this was its first major service!

Approximately 150 complete extracting systems have been sold.

All of Peter’s machines have been stamped with serial numbers.

Beequip has also manufactured 94 capping’s reducers. Plus many de-boxers.

He well recalls the comment made by commercial beekeeper from Tamworth over a decade ago that he had “**revolutionised the beekeeping industry**”. That revolution was also exported overseas.

It has been 5 years since Beequip ceased making honey extractors but the manufacture of uncappers and de-boxers continues.

Today his uncappers feature SS sprockets, pressure bars, nuts bolts and main frame. They are a work of art and have a following in Australia and overseas.

Peter was open to change and requests for QA improvements to his machines, such as SS square tubing for the frame, covers under drive belts to keep honey free of belt rubber; BSM fittings in place of clamps, were willingly carried out.

When asked for his philosophy towards his equipment and design, Peter's response was he didn't have one, he simply **strived for excellence**, and there you have his philosophy.

His greatest challenge was to educate beekeepers in how to care for their new equipment, they did learn and the equipment is still pumping out honey throughout Australia and Europe.

Peter would like to see R&D put into developing better technology but recognises that we are part of a small industry and often growth is made through the endeavours of a few individuals.

Conclusion:

Both men when asked if they would accept the award in person in Launceston, without hesitation agreed to make the trip. They were truly amazed that AHBIC would recognise their endeavours and honour them in this manner at the AHBIC Annual Dinner.

Men of vision honoured together on the evening was very special, their contributions to the improvement of honey extracting standards in Australia has now been recognised at the highest level by an appreciative industry.

Bill Winner

NATIONAL FOOD PLAN

You have been identified as a stakeholder who may be interested in receiving updates on the development of the National Food Plan.

The Australian Government is developing the National Food Plan to help ensure that the government's policies are right for the long term, supporting the sector's competitiveness and productivity into the future.

On 17 July 2012, Senator the Hon. Joe Ludwig, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, released the National Food Plan green paper on behalf of the Australian Government.

The green paper is the second stage in developing the National Food Plan and follows the release and subsequent stakeholder consultation last year on the *Issues paper to inform development of a national food plan*. The government has released the green paper to seek feedback on current government policies on food as well as obtain views on a number of possible options that are discussed. [Stakeholder consultation](#) on the green paper will comprise:

- a series of public meeting in all capital cities and a number of regional locations. You can find information about meeting dates and locations [here](#) as well as register to attend a meeting at [here](#)

- a call for [written submissions](#)
- online discussion on the [National Food Plan blog](#)
- use of social media (follow us [@NatFoodPlan](#))

On behalf of the government, we encourage you to contribute to the National Food Plan's development and forward this email to anyone who may also be interested in contributing.

For further information on the development of the National Food Plan or copies of the green paper, please visit www.daff.gov.au/nationalfoodplan

NEW BILL TO IMPROVE BIOSECURITY SYSTEM

Individuals, industry and community groups will have the chance to help shape Australia's new Biosecurity Act with the Gillard Government today releasing a draft Bill for comment.

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator Joe Ludwig, said the new Act will replace legislation that was first written in 1908.

"Australia's biosecurity system is world-class. We need to update our legislation and create a flexible operating environment to make sure that remains the case into the future," Minister Ludwig said.

"Our current Quarantine Act is a century old and while it's served us well, this new legislation is needed to support safe and seamless transition of goods and services across Australia's borders.

"The number of sea cargo containers arriving in Australia is predicted to grow from 3.1 million in 2011 to more than 5 million in 2020. International passenger movements are also expected to grow from around 14.7 million in 2011 to more than 18 million in 2015.

"Australia is changing with the times - so should our biosecurity system."

Minister Ludwig said this phase of consultation on of the Bill is open until 10 August 2012.

A dedicated interactive GovSpace website is available during the consultation period for interested parties to have their say on the new biosecurity Bill.

"The website includes the draft Bill, supporting documentation, information on the consultation process and how you can get involved," Minister Ludwig said.

"A blog gives any Australian with internet access the ability to join the conversation at a time that is convenient to them. People can also keep up-to-date with the latest news on Twitter by following #biosecurity.

"The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry will also host community meetings and engage with representative biosecurity user groups, and receive written submissions."

The Government expects final bills will be considered by a Parliamentary committee and debated in the spring 2012 sitting of the Australian Parliament.

For more information on the new biosecurity legislation or to have your say visit:
www.biosecurity.govspace.gov.