



Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Trevor Weatherhead – Executive Director

July 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 August 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

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

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LATEST ON HONEY LEVY REFORM AND INCREASE

The ballot for the levy reform process has been finalised. The final vote was 86% in favour of the levy increases and 92% in favour of lifting the threshold.

The process now moves on to the next phase where the Business Case is being finalised before submitting to the Department of Agriculture. After processing within the Department it moves on to other Departments such as Treasury and then onto the Minister.

Further drafts of the Biosecurity Plan and Code of Practice are currently being prepared. It is expected that these documents will be distributed to all of AHBIC's member bodies and state and commonwealth government representatives by the end of August. AHBIC is intending to hold a meeting in October to further discuss the development of the National Bee Biosecurity Program and the Code of Practice

AHBIC AGM

A very successful AGM was held in Melbourne on 9 July, 2014.

In the ballot for the two (2) Executive there were three (3) nominations. Trevor Morgan, Peter McDonald and Ken Gell. Elected were Peter McDonald and Trevor Morgan. Thanks to Ken Gell for his work on the Executive.

For Chairman there was only one nomination, Ian Zadow.

The Executive for 2014-15 is:-

Chairman – Ian Zadow
Deputy Chairman – Rod Pavy
Executive members – Neil Bingley
- Craig Klingner
- Peter McDonald
- Trevor Morgan

Trevor Weatherhead as appointed Executive Director, for another 12 months, by the Executive.

AHBIC AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

The 2014 AHBIC Award for Excellence was presented to Dr. Garry Levot at the dinner at the VAA Conference on 8 July, 2014. The citation is as follows:-

DR. GARRY LEVOT

The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc. (AHBIC) is pleased to award the 2014 Award of Excellence to Dr. Garry Levot, Principal Research Scientist with the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries.

Garry has been responsible for the development of the harbourage for the small hive beetle which was commercialised as the Apithor trap. It has been a boon to the beekeeping industry in keeping the small hive beetle under control.



Garry has always been willing to attend beekeeping conferences, field days and meetings to report on his work. The beekeeping industry has certainly gained a friend in Gary for his approachable style.

A time line of his research is as follows.

April 2003 – Commenced a 2 year RIRDC funded project '***Insecticidal control of Small Hive Beetle***' which aimed to: "*Identify the most appropriate insecticides and insecticide application method to control small hive beetles in hives*". The anticipated outcome was for bee keepers to have a registered insecticide for the control of small hive beetles.

March 2005 – Final report was submitted. This marked the completion of the '***feasibility***' stage of work aimed at producing a refuge trap based on fipronil-treated corrugated cardboard.

2005-07 – New RIRDC funded '***research and development***' project – '***Insecticidal control of small hive beetle – developing a ready-to-use product***' was undertaken. The aim of this project was to produce a final harbourage design and to field test it in commercial hives.

February 2007 – Called for ***Expressions of Interest*** from pest control companies interested in and able to commercialise the harbourage.

March 2007 – Received formal letter from BASF requesting that we withdraw from all activities involving fipronil.

September 2007 – final report submitted to RIRDC. Reported project results at **APIMONDIA 2007** (Melbourne).

January 2008 – New Zealand patent granted for the harbourage.

November 2008 – finalist in **NAB Agribusiness Awards for Excellence** for work to produce the harbourage.

May 2009 – Australian patent granted for harbourage.



July 2009 – Following the lapsing of certain fipronil patents a second call for **Expressions of Interest** was published in the national press in the hope of finding a commercial partner to develop and register the harbourage (with financial and technical backing from NSW DPI and RIRDC). Two companies were short-listed but one withdrew following threats of legal proceedings by BASF.

June 2009 - A new two year long RIRDC funded project – ‘**Commercialisation of the small hive beetle harbourage device**’ commenced and included funds to retain a regulatory affairs consultant to deal directly with the APVMA.

August 2009 - **Ensystex Australasia Pty. Ltd.** entered into a commercial agreement with NSW DPI and RIRDC to produce, market and distribute the product. A royalty was to be paid to RIRDC.

September 2010 - The APVMA, acknowledging the favourable data that had been generated in the **feasibility** and **R&D projects** and knowing of the desperate need for an effective control strategy for the beetle, granted a **general use permit** that allowed bee keepers to use APITHOR™.

December 2009 – injection mould for the harbourage were delivered to Ensystex (Thailand) for branding and manufacture of APITHOR™.

July 2010 – USA patent granted for the harbourage.

In November 2010 following the commercial arrangement with Ensystex, APITHOR was named a finalist in the **NAB Agribusiness Awards for Excellence**.

In May 2011 **Minister for Agriculture Katrina Hodgkinson** launched APITHOR™ at the NSW Apiarists’ Association Annual Conference in Dubbo.

June 2012 -After a protracted assessment period APVMA announced its intention to refuse registration of APITHOR™ due to insufficient data on its ‘long-term’ effects on the bee health. A request for a small amount of supplementary funding was submitted to RIRDC to conduct a final field trial that would run for six months and which would be conducted according to the principles of **Good Laboratory Practice** and include residue analyses of honey and wax.

October 2012 - Honey and wax residue analyses and statistical analyses were completed and the whole trial written up and submitted to APVMA by 31st May 2013. Results demonstrated again that adult beetles were effectively controlled and that deployment of APITHOR™ according to label directions had no deleterious effects on bee health and did not leave any detectable residues in honey or wax even if the product is used continuously for six months.

11th December 2013 - The APVMA accepted the advice of an independent review and granted APITHOR® full product registration.

QUEEN BEE LEVY

In the June newsletter I had that the queen bee levy was to be set at zero on 1 August 2104. Thanks to Bill who picked it up. It should have been 2014

VISIT BY NEW ZEALAND MINISTRY OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

On Friday 25 July, two (2) officials from the New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industries came to Brisbane and I took them to see Steritech and Capilano.

They will be the ones who write the Import Health Standard (IHS) for honey going into New Zealand. Australia has been trying to have the Kiwi market opened for many years now. The obstacle has been the fact that New Zealand does not have European foulbrood (EFB). Australia has put forward the fact that honey goes from the eastern States to Western Australia but must be heat treated.

Another recent development is, will this heat treatment also kill Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus (IAPV)? New Zealand does not have IAPV and the fuss that the USA has made about IAPV in recent years has focused on this virus. There is work being done on this at the moment to find out if IAPV will be killed by the heat protocol for EFB.

At Steritech they saw how the beekeeping equipment is sterilised. At Capilano they saw how the process for heat treating is carried out and the QA process that goes with the treatment.

What they saw will be part of our Government to Government negotiations for having the IHS put in place. This then will give Australian packers the opportunity to export to New Zealand under the IHS. I suspect this will be a long process as it is expected that the New Zealand beekeepers will lodge objections to the IHS once it is published.

SENATE INQUIRY INTO BEEKEEPING

The report was tabled in the Senate on Wednesday 16 July, 2014. It can be found at http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Rural_and_Regional_Affairs_and_Transport/Beekeeping/Report/~/_media/Committees/Senate/committee/rrat_ctte/beekeeping/report/report.pdf

AHBIC Chairman, Ian Zadow, Executive member, Neil Bingley, and Executive Director, Trevor Weatherhead, were in Canberra that day and had planned to be in the Senate when the report was tabled. The tabling was brought on early so half of the speeches were missed.

Looking at the recommendations, there are several issues that AHBIC will now take forward and liaise with the Government and the Committee to have implemented. The Federal Government will make a formal response to the recommendations and AHBIC will be very interested to see how they respond.

INQUIRY INTO COUNTRY OF ORIGIN FOOD LABELLING

I appeared before the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Agriculture into Country of Origin Food Labelling. This was in Brisbane on Thursday 3 July 2014.

AHBIC had put in a submission. In evidence the Committee asked about products being exported from Australia labelled Made in Australia when the main ingredient was imported.

ASIAN BEES FOUND ON HORN ISLAND

The Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (QDAFF) with the help of Dr. David Guez found two (2) nests of Asian bees on Horn Island after the initial finding of foraging bees back on 14 May, 2014. Examination of these nests have not revealed any mites either internal or external. This is good news. Not so good is the QDAFF's advice that they do not intend to do any more on Horn Island. AHBIC will be taking this up with QDAFF.

BEEAWARE WEBSITE

The BeeAware was launched at the Victorian Apiarists Association Conference on 8 July, 2014. The launch was performed by Dr. Tony Gregson, the Chairman of Plant Health Australia.

BeeAware can be found at <http://beeaware.org.au/> This is a living document and will be updated regularly. If you see something that needs changing or have suggestions on some information that needs to be included, please contact Plant Health Australia.

CHANGES AT RIRDC

The Honey Advisory Committee and the Pollination Advisory Committee have been combined into one Committee. This is in response to the Rural Industries Research and Development Committee (RIRDC) looking at full cost recovery for the running of the Advisory Groups.

The new Committee membership is:-

Dr. Michael Hornitzky – Chairman
Ben Hooper – beekeeper
James Kershaw – beekeeper
Ben Brown – Almonds Australia
Angus Crawford – Apple and Pear Australia Ltd
Dr. Saul Cunningham - researcher- CSIRO
Dr. Boris Baer – researcher – University of Western Australia
Peter Whittle or Greg Murdoch – HAL
Dave Alden - RIRDC

MISLABELLED HONEY

Most beekeepers would be aware of the ongoing problem with honey coming into Australia from Turkey that is not honey. There was the case of the Victoria Honey that was the subject of a recent ACCC fine. A corrective notice has been placed on the Basfoods website and I believe will also appear in bee journals. It can be found at http://www.basfoods.com.au/d_about.asp?id=34&t=Corrective+Notice

AHBIC has a further three (3) cases of imported honey from Turkey not being honey and recently added another one to the list. We have been told that there is more imports on the way.

We would urge beekeepers to keep a look out in fruit shops and service stations for any honey on sale, particularly if it comes from Turkey. The brands which we have complaints with ACCC are: - HiHoney, Sunshine Honey, Hecham Honey and Golden Honey. Despite the ACCC fine and the undertaken given to have all Victoria Honey removed off the shelves, a new appearance of Victoria Honey in Brisbane recently has been reported to the ACCC. So if you see Victoria Honey let the ACCC and AHBIC know. If you see other brands of honey, particularly from Turkey, on the shelves let AHBIC know.

AHBIC has been making representations to the Import Food Section at the Department of Agriculture to have 100% of honey from Turkey checked. Currently there is only 5% of all imported honey checked. AHBIC believes it has made a good enough case to warrant the 100% inspection of any honey from Turkey. They will let us know next week what action they propose.

AHBIC has also written to the Federal Minister for Health, Peter Dutton, asking him to agenda at the next meeting of Health Ministers the need to enforce the Australian and New Zealand Food Standard 2.8.2. AHBIC argues that it is not good enough to say that it is not a threat to public health therefore nothing will be done. The standard needs to be enforced.

AHBIC has also asked the Minister for Agriculture, Barnaby Joyce, for his assistance in this imported honey issue.

REFERENCES OF INTEREST

Here the references to two (2) articles on the current pesticide discussion which are in different veins.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/agribusiness/10263841/Study-confirms-serious-risk-to-bees-worms>

<http://pubs.acs.org/doi/pdf/10.1021/es501657w>

PASSING OF MARLA MCILVRIDE

Neil Bingley advised of the passing of Marla McIlvride, the late Keith's wife.

BACKYARD BEEKEEPING TALK

On 26 September, 2014 from 10am to 11am, the Woollahra Library and Information Service is holding a talk by Doug Purdie on Backyard Beekeeping.

Venue is:-

Woollahra Council

536 New South Head Road

Double Bay

Free morning tea. Bookings are essential. You can book at <http://ttbees.eventbrite.com.au> There are limited numbers so book early.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF OPEN ENTRANCE BEEHIVES

At the recent AHBIC AGM, this document was adopted by the Council and will now be circulated within the beekeeping industry. AHBIC encourages all beekeepers to adhere to this practice.

If you are a newsletter editor for your club or office bearer in your club, can you please make sure that your members are made aware of this document and encourage them to adopt this practice.

Thanks to Neil Bingley who was the driving force being the compilation of this document. It will be placed on the AHBIC website at <http://honeybee.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Best-Management-Practice-for-the-Transportation-of-Open-Entrance-Beehives-April-2014.pdf>

NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS

At the recent Victorian Apiarists Association conference there was criticism raised about the information that I am presenting in this section. It was stated that there should also be information on LD50 and residual times.

From my point of view I am presenting this for information of beekeepers. It is mainly currently registered chemicals which are now registered under different brand names. I do this as it is usual for farmers to use the brand name when talking about chemicals and not the active ingredient. I do not have time to ferret out all the information of LD50's and residual effects. I would have thought that if a beekeeper thinks they will be affected they will do a bit of research on their own.

If the information is felt to not be of any use let me know and I will delete this section.

Product Name:	agVantage Bifenthrin 100 EC Insecticide/Miticide
Active Constituent/s:	100 g/L bifenthrin
Applicant Name:	Landmark Operations Limited
Applicant ACN:	008 743 217
Summary of Use:	For the control of <i>Helicoverpa</i> spp. in cotton, tomatoes, lucerne seed crops, navy beans; carpophilus beetle in stone fruit (except cherries); certain species of mites in bananas, cotton and tomatoes; longtailed mealy bug in pears; banana weevil borer and banana rust thrips in bananas; mirids in cotton; whitefly in tomatoes; and redlegged earth mite, blue oat mite, <i>Bryobia</i> mite, webworm and brown pasture looper in faba beans, subterranean clover, clover, canola, wheat, barley, field peas, lupins and lucerne; and certain species of wireworms in cotton and sugarcane; fig longicorn in grapes and citrus leaf eating weevil in citrus
Date of Registration:	24 June 2014
Label Approval No:	69995/62250
Product Name:	Aphinox Miticide/Insecticide
Active Constituent/s:	500 g/L diafenthiuron
Applicant Name:	Sumitomo Chemical Australia Pty Limited
Applicant ACN:	081 096 255
Summary of Use:	For the control of two-spotted mites and cotton aphids and for the suppression of silverleaf whitefly in cotton
Date of Registration:	26 June 2014
Label Approval No:	69407/60689

Product Name:	Mulligan Insect Growth Regulator
Active Constituent/s:	100 g/L pyriproxyfen
Applicant Name:	Proplan Plant Protection Company S.L
Applicant ACN:	N/A
Summary of Use:	For the prevention and control of scale and whitefly pests in various crops, including cotton, rockmelon, tomato, capsicum, citrus and olives
Date of Registration:	1 July 2014
Label Approval No:	69692/61455
Product Name:	Surefire Neemat Nematicide & Insecticide
Active Constituent/s:	400 g/L fenamiphos (an anticholinesterase compound)
Applicant Name:	PCT Holdings Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN:	099 023 962
Summary of Use:	For the control of nematodes and sucking insects in a variety of crops and turf
Date of Registration:	4 July 2014
Label Approval No:	70057/62403
Product Name:	Cheminova Pirimicarb WG Aphicide
Applicant Name:	Ospray Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN:	110 199 169
Summary of Variation:	To change product name from 'OSPRAY PIRIMICARB WG APHICIDE' to 'CHEMINOVA PIRIMICARB WG APHICIDE'
Date of Variation:	6 March 2014
Label Approval No:	63123/61833
Product Name:	AgVantage Alpha Cypermethrin Duo 100 Insecticide
Active Constituent/s:	100 g/L alpha-cypermethrin
Applicant Name:	Landmark Operations Limited
Applicant ACN:	008 743 217
Summary of Use:	For the control of certain insect pests, including heliothis (<i>Helicoverpa</i> spp.) on various crops, red legged earth mite and blue oat mite on certain field crops and pastures and control of certain insect pests on fruit and vegetable crops
Date of Registration:	9 July 2014
Label Approval No:	69987/62240
Product Name:	AgVantage Chlorpyrifos 500 EC Insecticide
Active Constituent/s:	500 g/L chlorpyrifos (an anticholinesterase compound)
Applicant Name:	Landmark Operations Limited
Applicant ACN:	008 743 217
Summary of Use:	For the control of certain insect pests of fruit, vegetables, field crops and pasture, other situations and for the post-construction management of subterranean termites
Date of Registration:	15 July 2014
Label Approval No:	69990/62243
Product Name:	Apparent Omethoate 290 Insecticide
Active Constituent/s:	290 g/L omethoate (an anticholinesterase compound).
Applicant Name:	Apparent Pty. Ltd.
Applicant ACN:	143 724 136
Summary of Use:	For the control of redlegged earth mite, blue oat mite and Lucerne flea on pastures, cereals, oilseed and legume crops, bluegreen aphid and cowpea aphid on pasture legumes, lucerne, faba beans and vetch
Date of Registration:	17 July 2014
Label Approval No:	70131/62585
Product Name:	Milbeknock Miticide
Applicant Name:	Sipcam Pacific Australia Pty Ltd
Applicant ACN:	073 176 888
Summary of Variation:	To extend label claims to include control of two-spotted mite on chilli pepper, tomatoes and eggplant
Date of Variation:	21 July 2014
Label Approval No:	61269/60135

RIRDC DIVERSITY WEBSITE

RIRDC has a new website called Farm Diversity.

To visit the website – www.farmdiversity.com.au

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).

LOOKING FOR HONEY

This enquiry has been received.

Name

Mahmud Okok

Email

mohokok@yahoo.com

Message

Dear Sir

We are a Libyan Company called Bait Algeeda Food Industry, our company is based in Tripoli, Libya. We are one of the biggest Honey importers in Libya, we import about 200 tons of honey from several countries such Argentina, India and Brazil.

We would like to start import from Australia since we have tasted the Australian honey in Apimondia expiation last year, we wish if you help us by sending us the best suppliers and producers of honey in Australia, also we would like to contact companies that have a good reputation in the field.

Thanks, and we appreciate your advise.

Best Regards

Mahmud Okok
+218912201878

STOP PRESS

AHBIC had a phone hook-up with ACCC yesterday and I can report the following:-

- ACCC have contacted those distributors of the imported honeys that AHBIC has complaints with ACCC about. Outstanding are four for Turkey, one from Italy and one from Serbia
- ACCC is happy with the responses from those distributors who have agreed to remove the products from the market place. This includes on supply customers as well as their own stock.
- The distributors have indicated they will not be ordering these products again.
- Re the complaint about the reappearance of Victoria Honey on the shelf in Brisbane after the fine and undertakings to remove it from the shelves, ACCC believe they are close to resolving this and AHBIC looks forward to hearing what action has been taken.

So from here on these products should disappear from the shelves. So if you see any of the brands, mentioned earlier in this newsletter, on the shelves let AHBIC know. Details would be brand, location and date. Also if you see any new products, particularly Product of Turkey, also let us know with the same details.

As been mentioned earlier in the newsletter, the focus of AHBIC now will be to have all Products of Turkey checked by the Food Import Section of the Department of Agriculture as this will stop these mislabelled products before they reach the shelves.

There will be another phone hook-up with ACCC at a later date to further inform as to what has happened.

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC (AHBIC)

ABN: 63 939 614 424



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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



**New Banking
Details**



Previous
Commonwealth Bank Account details
are still valid

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