



Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Stephen Ware – Executive Director

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

Thank you to all our beekeeper contributors some of whom have asked to remain anonymous. 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 purposes 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.

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. Asian Honey Bees

The containment program for Asian Honeybee continues to be a major priority for industry and in this regard industry meets on a monthly basis with State and Federal Departments to discuss ongoing developments.

The industry is also represented on the Scientific Advisory Committee whose role is to provide specific technical, scientific information to enable decision to be made. Industry has also agreed to fund a number of projects related to the containment program and these are being managed via RIRDC and HBRDC.

All of these projects are, of course important, however, two in particular will be of interest to industry. These include:

- (a) the research proposal for remote poisoning and in particular the re-designing and testing to measure variables such as concentration of Fipronil, how many foragers are present on the bait station and distance to the hive, etc. Also, experiments are going to be conducted on minimising the impact of Fipronil remote poison on non-target organisms with direct scientific input.
- (b) Industry is funding a project on the risk assessment of Asian Bees and bee viruses with the view of reassuring international trading partners that Australian bees should be allowed to be imported. This is particularly important to the Queen Bee industry and the continuation of live bee exports.

2. Re Registration of Apithor for Small Hive Beetle (SHB)

Industry will recall an application was made on behalf of the AHBIC in 2010 to use the fipronil SHB trap product Apithor Hive Beetle Harborage. As a result the permit PER12007 was issued. Ensystex have applied to register Apithor but it is not likely to be completed till at least August 2012. The permit expires on 30 June 2012 and accordingly AHBIC has requested from the APVMA to renew the permit.

3. NRS Survey

The National Residue Survey Results were recently released and of concern to industry was the fact that there are a number, albeit small PDP detections. The samples concerned originated from Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania (2 samples). The concentrations detected were low: 0.001, 0.003, 0.009 mg/Kg and were well below the ERL of 0.1 mg/kg. The detections are, however, a timely warning to producers that it is not in their own interested to use PDB for any purpose. The producers concerned will be contacted, however, industry is again reminded that the use of PDB in food stuffs is not acceptable and they should not use PDB in any form.

4. AHBIC Annual General Meeting

Members are advised that the AHBIC AGM this year is to be held in Tasmania on Friday, 6 July in Launceston. This is to be preceded by the Tasmanian Beekeepers' Association Conference and in this edition we provide the AHBIC draft program and agenda. Anyone seeking further information should not hesitate to contact the AHBIC office or the Tasmanian Beekeepers' Association.

5. AHBIC Business Plan

Following input from industry a re-drafted Business Plan has been considered by the AHBIC Executive and will be distributed to AHBIC delegates and all member bodies in the next week for further comment and input. It is then hoped to have the Plan approved by AHBIC delegates at the AGM in Tasmania.

6. Plant and Animal Health Meetings

During the last month, both Plant and Animal Health Australia held a series of meetings. AHBIC represented the industry at these meetings and we note that there have been a number of new initiatives announced by the Government in respect of biosecurity arrangements. Perhaps the most important being an inter-governmental agreement between the States and Federal Government regarding biosecurity responses. It is also noted that industry continues to work with the Varroa Preparedness Committee. Industry's representative is Mr Peter McDonald. Part of Peter's report to industry is reproduced below:

- There is a good representative coverage of all groups that need to be involved in preparation for Varroa with some that were missing being invited to join before the next meeting.
- There are many things being done and completed in many different areas that not everyone is aware of. So there is a lot of stocktaking to be undertaken to get that information together, which should be done by the next meeting.
- It is hard to find the right person to talk to in the different Government departments to get a definitive answer. The latest news on the shelf registration of the three (3) main chemicals for treatment of Varroa was that it still wasn't done at that time of the meeting.
- Having the many Government departments and pollination industry groups represented in the committee (PHA, DAFF, CSIRO, HAL, Almond Board of Aust) with beekeepers, makes getting information to the committee easier than it would be for us mainly beekeepers on the AHBIC Varroa Preparedness Committee.

It is extremely important that work on Varroa Preparedness Committee continues as it is the feeling amongst most professionals that it's not a matter of if, but when Varroa reaches our shores.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) will be held on Friday 6 July at the Grand Chancellor Hotel, 29 Cameron Street, Launceston, Tasmania 7250

The attached preliminary agenda provides details of the meeting times and content. Confirmation of speakers and presenters may vary according to their availability. Member organisations and delegates should consider the resolutions together with tabled motions so that they are in a position to vote on them at the meeting.

- | | |
|--|--------|
| • AHBIC AGM & General Meeting | 6 July |
| • AHBIC/TBA Dinner | 5 July |
| • National Crop Pollination Association AGM | TBA |
| • Tasmanian Beekeepers' Association Conference | 5 July |
| • Federal Council of Australian Apiarists' Association AGM 8.00am - 9.30am | 6 July |

Stephen Ware
Executive Director

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE

To be held in conjunction with the Tasmanian Beekeepers' Association Conference at the Grand Chancellor Hotel, 29 Cameron Street, Launceston, Tasmania 7250 on Friday 6 July 2011 at 9.30am

DRAFT AGENDA

Attendees:

- 2 Delegates from New South Wales Apiarists' Association Inc. (NSWAA)
- 2 Delegates from Queensland Beekeepers' Association (QBA)
- 2 Delegates from South Australian Apiarists' Association (SAAA)
- 2 Delegates from Tasmanian Beekeepers Association (TBA)
- 2 Delegates from Victorian Apiarists Association Inc. (VAA)
- 2 Delegates from Western Australian Farmers Federation (WAFF) Beekeepers Section
- 3 Delegates from Honey Packers and Marketers Association
- 2 Delegates from National Council of Crop Pollination Associations
- 2 Delegates from Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association
- 1 Delegate from the Associate Members

-
- 1. Australian Honey Promotion** - Mr Ross Christiansen - Director, Superbee Honey Ltd
 - 2. Department of Environment Resource Management (DERM) - Sustainability Program**
Mr Bill Winner, Capilano Honey Limited
 - 3. Honey Bee Research and Development Committee Report** - Dr Dave Alden (RIRDC)
 - 4. Plant Health Report** - Mr Rod Turner - General Manager, Programs
 - 5. Coal Seam Gas** - Mr Chris Lawrence - Corporate Development Manager, Apex Energy NL
 - 6. Almond Industry** - Mr Ross Skinner- CEO, Australian Almond Board
 - 7. Chairman's Report and AHBIC Report**
 - 8. Minutes of Previous Meeting**
 - 9. Business Arising from Minutes**
 - 10. Education Committee**
 - 11. Food Safety and Prevention of Residues Committee**
 - 12. Disease & Quarantine Committee**
 - 13. Resource Committee**

14. Financial Reports

Following presentation of the Financial Statements it is proposed:

“That the audited financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2012 be adopted.”

14.1 Chairman & Director’s Financial Report

14.2 Budget

14.3 Subscriptions – meeting to discuss

14.4 Voluntary Contributions

14.5 Goodacre Report

15. Member Reports

New South Wales Apiarists’ Association Inc. (NSWAA)

Queensland Beekeepers’ Association (QBA)

South Australian Apiarists’ Association (SAAA)

Tasmanian Beekeepers Association (TBA)

Victorian Apiarists Association Inc. (VAA)

Western Australian Farmers Federation (WAFF) Beekeepers Section

Honey Packers’ and Marketers’ Association of Australia

National Council of Crop Pollination Associations

Australian Queen Bee Breeders’ Association

Associate Members

Following completion of reports it is proposed: *“That the Member Reports be formally accepted.”*

16. Subsidiary Company Reports

B-QUAL Australia Pty Limited

Australian Queen Bee Breeding Group

Honey Bee Disease Contingency Fund Trust - Financial Report

Please note: *These reports will be taken as read and only questions on specific items may be asked if so desired.*

17. General Business

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:

Business Plan 2012 2017

Australian Queen Bee Breeders’ Association

National Council of Crop Pollination Associations

Honey Packers’ and Marketers’ Association of Australia

New South Wales Apiarists’ Association Inc. (NSWAA)

Queensland Beekeepers’ Association (QBA)

South Australian Apiarists’ Association (SAAA)

Tasmanian Beekeepers Association (TBA)

Victorian Apiarists Association Inc. (VAA)

Western Australian Farmers Federation (WAFF) Beekeepers Section

18. Next Annual General Meeting and Sector/State Conferences – To be advised

Queensland Beekeepers Association	
New South Wales Apiarists Association	
Tasmanian Beekeepers Association	
WA Farmers Federation - Beekeeping Section	
South Australian Apiarists Association	
Victorian Apiarists Association	
Honey Packers and Marketers Association	
National Council of Crop Pollination Associations	
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association	
Federal Council of Australian Apiarists' Association	
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	

Should the meeting see fit it is proposed: "That the year 2013 Annual Meeting of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc. be held in "

19. Election of Office Bearers

- 19.1 Chairperson - Elected
- 19.2 Election of two (2) Executive Committee Members

Retiring Directors eligible for re-election:

Ken Gell

Trevor Morgan

Constitution 5.5 The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson shall be elected for a term of two (2) years running alternatively.

20. Nominated Representative

5.1.2 All member organisations through their nominated representative shall receive the Executive Committee Agendas and shall be entitled to nominate a representative person to attend meetings at their own expense by providing seven days notice or as soon as practical and be able to participate at the invitation of the Chair.

21. Operation and Appointment of Committees

- 21.1 Disease & Quarantine
- 21.2 Education
- 21.3 Resource
- 21.4 Food Safety and Prevention of Residues
- 21.5 Other committees as per conference decisions

22. Meeting Close

It is anticipated that the conference will close at approximately 6:00pm.

TASMANIAN BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION 2012 CONFERENCE

Please note the change of venue for the Tasmanian Conference and AHBIC conference 5 & 6 July, 2012. The venue will be at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Launceston. Accommodation costs are \$125 per room for Deluxe King Room or Deluxe Twin room or \$155 per room for Superior Refurbished king room or Superior Refurbished twin room. Please contact the hotel directly to book rooms phone (03) 63111055 or email reservations@hgclaunceston.com.au

Further details will follow shortly but any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Maxine Ewington, Secretary
Tasmanian Beekeepers' Association Inc. Ph: (03) 6442 3916

INDUSTRY WARNING – RECYCLED INTERMEDIATE BULK CONTAINERS (IBCS)

Numerous beekeepers have purchased IBCs from drum recyclers. All such containers should be identified as food grade. Even then they can pose a problem if the previous production taints the flavour of honey. Always check before purchasing and remove the caps and smell them. Beekeepers who purchase their own containers may save themselves some grief by purchasing either new IBCs or IBCs that have been fitted with new bottles. Never risk the integrity of your product.

APIS CERANA (ASIAN HONEYBEE) UPDATE

Since my last Advice 111, the checking in Townsville has been completed and no other Asian bees were found. Local beekeepers have been asked to keep a lookout and report any suspicious bees. This should be the case for all beekeepers anywhere.

With the Transition to Management Plan for the Asian bees (T2M) details of the plan, the minutes of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) and the Transition Management Group (TMG) can be found at <http://asianhoneybee.net.au/> So you can keep up to date at this site.

Within Queensland, the Department here has set up a group called “AHB T2M Bee Industry Liaison Committee”. Members are:

- Mark Cozens, Acting Director, Animal Biosecurity and Welfare, Biosecurity Queensland who is also the Chair
- Russell Gilmour, Program Manager, Asian Honey Bee Transition to Management Program, Cairns
- Max Whitten and myself. Others can be admitted, as required, with the prior approval of the Chair.

The Terms of reference are:

- a. To discuss/develop operational policy and procedure for Queensland that may also have a national application.
- b. To identify priorities for further work
- c. To share information regarding the current AHB situation

We had our first phone hook-up today, 22 March. Neil O'Brien, who is the Director, Biosecurity Queensland Control Centre, was also on the hook-up

We discussed putting in place a permit system so that beekeepers can move out of the RA. There would be a restriction that the movement could be no more than 200 kilometres from the boundary of the Restricted Area (RA). This provision would allow beekeepers to continue to make a living from beekeeping in the area (so far there has been great financial hardships on some) but the 200 kilometres would hopefully satisfy overseas countries, to which we have live bee exports to and those who have currently stopped imports, that there are still movement restrictions. The chances of moving Asian bees with the European bee hives are remote.

The Chair is to check with DAFF Biosecurity to see what their reaction would be and what those importing country's reactions might be.

We also discussed if there is still a need for permits to be issued for movements within the RA. Again this could not be necessary but checks with DAFF Biosecurity will also be made.

This also raises the question of what will happen post 30 June, 2013 when the T2M is scheduled to cease. It is assumed that the RA would be rescinded then. Do we need to look at some sort of protocol to keep export markets open? It comes down to shared responsibility but the beekeeping industry will need to be very proactive on this aspect.

The current situation is that the trap runs still continue and so far we are up to IP576. So far, no detections have been made outside the RA.

In March so far there has been 789mm of rain in Cairns with rain on 19 days. The remote poisoning trials have commenced with six (6) initial nests and the results of the initial work are to be reported to the SAG. A seventh nest that was due to be worked on was lost due to the nest being taken out by green ants. Results of these trials will, I am sure, appear on the website after consideration by SAG and TMG.

Checks are still to be made on any nests and swarms destroyed for mites. So far no mites have been detected. Currently it is only passive destruction.

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

Trevor Weatherhead

22 March 2012

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ON BIOSECURITY

The Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity (IGAB) is now in the public arena and is available on the COAG website:

http://www.coag.gov.au/intergov_agreements/index.cfm

Also the National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement (NEBRA) is available on the above website. The NEBRA is the first deliverable of the IGAB, and sets out emergency response arrangements, including cost-sharing arrangements, for responding to biosecurity incidents that primarily impact the environment and/or social amenity and where the response is deemed to be for the public good.

2012 ANIMAL HEALTH AUSTRALIA RALPH HOOD AWARD

The AHA Chairman, Peter Milne, was pleased to officially open nominations for the 2012 Animal Health Australia Ralph Hood Award at the Members' Forum on Tuesday this week.

The award honours the memory of Ralph Hood, our former CEO, and facilitates a career enhancement opportunity for someone with leadership potential and a strong commitment to improve animal health in Australia.

We were impressed by both the number and calibre of the nominees for the inaugural award last year. The 2011 prize was awarded to Dr Deborah Finlaison, a veterinary virologist at the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, Camden, NSW. You can read about Deborah's achievements by visiting:

<http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/news/2011/inaugural-ralph-hood-award-winner-announced/>

More information on the award can be found on the AHA website:

(<http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/ralph-hood-award>) and in the brochure attached.

Nominations are due by 31 July 2012

Please direct any queries and nominations to Emma Rooke at: award@animalhealthaustralia.com.au

2012 APIMONDIA SYMPOSIUM ON QUEEN BREEDING, SELECTION & HONEYBEE HEALTH Québec City, Canada - 16 to 18 November 2012

I am pleased to inform you that the Canadian Honey Council, an Apimondia member association, and Apimondia, the International Federation of Beekeepers Associations, are organising the Apimondia Symposium on Queen Breeding, Selection and Honeybee Health² which is going to be held in Québec City, Canada, from 16 to 18 November 2012.

Here below you will find the main details for submitting an abstract and presenting your research work at the Apimondia Symposium.

KEY DATES:

Deadline to submit an abstract: 15 May 2012

Notice of acceptance or rejection of abstracts: 30 May 2012

Early bird registration: until 15 September 2012

For more information on the programme, registrations, submission of abstracts and accommodation please visit the official website of the event:

<http://www.craaq.qc.ca/le-calendrier-agricole/apimondia-symposium-2012/e/120>

Looking very much forward to welcoming you to Québec City in November, I remain,

Yours sincerely,
Riccardo Jannoni-Sebastianini
Apimondia Secretary-General

APIMONDIA 2013 - RUSSIA

Dear Beekeepers and colleagues from Beekeepers Associations!

Dear scientists and Researchers!

Dear equipment producers, exporters and importers!

Organizing Committee of the XXXXIII International Apimondia Congress announces the start of the registration of the full delegates for the XXXXIII International Apimondia Congress that will be held in Kyiv from September, 29 till October, 4, 2013. <http://apimondia2013.com.ua/registration>

Full delegate fee for super-early registration is 150 EURO. Super-early registration for the full delegate will last till June 2012.

Warmest regards,

Tetyana Vasylykivska

President

XXXXIII Apimondia International

Apicultural Congress

<http://www.apimondia2013.com/>

<http://www.apimondia2013.com.ua/>

<http://www.apimondia2013.org.ua/>

RURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R&D) UPDATE

The March 2012 edition of the *Rural Research and Development (R&D) Update* has been released.

The update presents recent policy and program developments in rural R&D and innovation. To view the update, please visit the DAFF website:

www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/innovation/council/rural-policy-update

Please feel free to circulate the website link to colleagues who may be interested in receiving updates on rural R&D matters.

Previous editions of the Update have been circulated by the Rural R&D Council. As the Council completed its three year term in December 2011, the Update is now being circulated by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).

Please do not hesitate to contact us IF you require further information: ruralresearch@daff.gov.au

BEEKEEPER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN SOUTH AFRICA

We have a beekeeping project in South Africa www.africanhoneybee.co.za where we are setting up 120 family owned and operated beekeeping businesses each with 100 beehives. Ausaid – Africa have kindly helped us with some funding for equipment which we are very grateful for. On a recent site visit Anne Creux, Ausaid’s local programme officer told me about a volunteer programme where Ausaid will pay the expenses of selected Australian volunteers for 24 month stints. She also spoke about possible inter country cooperation in Agriculture etc. Not having any good beekeepers and a half-baked industry in South Africa we would be really grateful if you could pass the word around that we are looking for the following assistance:

Volunteers

We are looking for experienced beekeepers with knowledge on building honey bee colonies up, feeding, splitting, queen rearing, and production. Beekeepers who are comfortable with working many hives, mentoring development beekeepers and ensuring in 24 months that 12000 hives are populated with production swarms and are producing honey at capacity. Probably retired beekeepers with loads of experience, wanting a 2 year sabbatical in Africa, would be the best candidates for these positions. We will provide the beekeeper volunteers with a house near the Kruger National Park (they would be welcome to come with their families), a pick-up and a whole team of enthusiastic developmental beekeepers to assist. Ausaid would cover all expenses and a monthly stipend.

Queen rearing and packaged bee training in the Australia

Secondly we would like to send 3 beekeepers to Australia to learn how to rear queens and produce packaged bees.

Honey processing plant advice

Thirdly we would like to get advice from honey processing plant manufacturers/engineers on the best methods for processing and bottling our honey, beeswax, pollen and propolis according to organic standards.

I hope that you might know some beekeepers who might be interested, but if not please send this mail on to others who might be interested.



| beekeeping for sustainable development |

Guy Stubbs | Cell 082 454 1028 | africanhoney@mweb.co.za | www.africanhoneybee.co.za
PO Box 15 Irene 0062 South Africa | SABIO TA914

*My son, eat honey, for it is good, and the drippings of the honeycomb are sweet to your taste.
Know that wisdom is such to your soul; if you find it, there will be a future, and your hope will
not be cut off. Proverbs 24: 13 & 14*

HONEY BEE BIOSECURITY - Plant Health Australia (PHA)

PHA's Dr Sharyn Taylor and Sam Malfroy attended three meetings in Melbourne on 20 and 21 March that focussed on aspects of honey bee biosecurity.

The first meeting was with state apiary officers regarding the National Bee Pest Surveillance program which is used to detect potential exotic incursions of honey bee mites. The current program consists of hives at ports around Australia, which are managed by the states and volunteer beekeepers which use chemical strips to test for the early detection of exotic mites.

The second meeting was a preliminary discussion with the industry biosecurity group about high priority pests of the honey bee industry as the first step towards the development of an industry biosecurity plan and a biosecurity manual.

The third meeting was of the Varroa Continuity Strategy Management Committee, with industry, scientists and representatives from the horticultural industry preparing for a potential incursion of Varroa mite. Emergency permits for the control of Varroa in the event of an incursion, and the establishment of a PHA administered website for honey bee related biosecurity information were discussed.

NEWS 7 SUNDAY NIGHT PROGRAM – SWEET POISON

12 March 2012

You may have seen the above program which called sugar toxic and featured honey a number of times being poured from a Twist 'n Squeeze container.

We received a number of emails from concerned consumers and decided it was in everyone's interest to place a response on our web site and Facebook page so consumers had an opportunity to see other points of view.

Capilano Response to Channel 7 Sunday Night Program

Honey has been clinically tested to sustain blood sugar levels for much longer periods than other types of refined sugar, sports gels and 'carbo snacks'.

Honey is a good alternative natural sweetener for people with diabetes. Healthy eating for people with diabetes means focusing on eating lots of carbohydrate (particularly low GI foods) and high fibre foods, keeping fats low and enjoying moderate amounts of sugar and honey. People with diabetes can still enjoy moderate amounts of honey in their diet and it is best combined with low GI foods.

So you can also see The Heart Foundation statement, Nestlé's statement, The University of Sydney's GI Foundation statement and our own by going to the link provided. Below is the link to the response from Capilano: <http://capilano.com.au/response-to-sunday-night-program/>

Media monitoring shows that the issue has gone somewhat quiet, but it is something that will rare it's head again I am sure.

Roger Masters

Capilano Honey Limited