

Monthly NEWS



March 2019

To: The Australian Honey Bee Industry
www.honeybee.org.au

From: Sarah Paradise, CEO
ahbic@honeybee.org.au



Exercise Crown and Anchor was held on 25-28th March 2019 – a joint biosecurity emergency response exercise to build a national pool of trained people ready to respond when exotic pests arrive. Pictured are participants in the *Varroa destructor* exercise learning to respond to a hypothetical single Varroa mite detection in a managed beehive at a private residence in Jervis Bay Territory.

Photo Credit – [Animal Health Australia](#) Source: [Facebook post](#)



We have new contact details so please update your records:

PO Box 42, Jamison Centre, Macquarie ACT 2614

Ph: 0402 467 780

CONTENTS

Page 4	Note from Chair Peter McDonald
Page 5	AHBIC Media Release – Healthy Forests, Healthy Bees, Healthy People
Page 6	Note from CEO Sarah Paradise
Page 8	General News and Links - Australia
Page 10	Media Releases
Page 11	General News and Links – International
Page 12	B-QUAL
Page 13	AHBIC Letter to Ministers Littleproud and Birmingham – Manuka Honey
Page 15	Friends of AHBIC Voluntary Contribution Form

AGM DATES

New South Wales Apiarists Association	16 & 17 May - Bathurst
Bee Industry Council of WA	24-25 May - Perth
Queensland Beekeepers Association	30 May - 1 June – Bribie Island
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association - NEW	31 May - Bribie Island, 8am
Victorian Apiarists Association	4,5 & 6 June - Mildura
South Australian Apiarists Association	10-11 June – Adelaide (note change of dates)
Tasmanian Beekeepers Association	28 June - Launceston
Honey Packers and Marketers Association	TBA
National Council of Crop Pollination Associations	TBA
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	29 June - Launceston

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AUSTRALIAN HONEYBEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC

ABN 63 939 614 424



The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC)
is the **Peak Industry Body for the Australian Beekeeping Industry**
working for all within our industry including
honey producers, honey packers, pollinators, queen bee breeders, equipment manufacturers/suppliers.

We urge beekeepers to support those
Packers, Queen Bee Breeders, Equipment Manufacturers/Suppliers who contribute to AHBIC.

The following list recognises contributions received since

1 April 2018

A number of generous Contributors wish to remain anonymous

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

Friends of AHBIC - Voluntary Contributions

PLATINUM PLUS

PLATINUM

Hive & Wellness Australia Pty Ltd
Beechworth Honey Enterprises P/L
Wheen Bee Foundation

GOLD PLUS

Baker Beekeeping Pty Ltd
Sterling Kershaw & Co

GOLD

Australian Honey Products P/L
Aust Maunuka Honey Assoc Ltd
Clarke, RK & AM
Cotton, Allan & Michelle
Hampel, SJ & SM
Weerona Apiaries
Woolfe, BD & CA

SILVER

Arnts, Rob & Steff
Amateur Beekeepers Assn of NSW
Australian Quality Honey P/L (Blue Hills Honey)
Bee Services
Bees Neez Apiaries
BeeWise
Bowman, Phillip & Theresa
Boyd Apiaries Pty Ltd
Brenton, Daryl
Bush Honey (J & J Midgley)
Cairns District Beekeeping Assoc
Casey, Cooper
Davies Apiaries
Eastburn, Murray & Sandy
Gells' Honey Maryborough
Honey Producers of Australia P/L
Jensen, Rick
Kuyan Apiaries
Le Feuvre, Danny
Linklater-Steele, James
Manuka Life Pty Ltd
McDonald, Bob & Eileen
McDonald, Peter & Michelle
Mitchie, Robert & Raelene
Saxonbee Enterprises
Southern (Tas) Beekeepers Assoc
Zadow-IM & MJ Zadow Trust

BRONZE

Ballarat Regional Beekeepers
Cunial Beekeeping Pty Ltd
Desert Breeze Honey
Dewar, RJ & MJ
Kennett Apiaries (SA) Pty Ltd
Lutze, Brett & Lynda
Masters, Neil
Pure Peninsula Honey
Walkabout Apiaries

COPPER

AB's Honey
Ascot Veterinary Group
Barnes Apiaries Pty Ltd
Bayside Beekeepers Assoc Inc
Bee Scientifics (Jody Gerdts)
Bec's BeeHive Beekeeping Supplies
Bricknell, Jack
Briggs, David
Clifford, David
Cooper, Barry
Curless, David
Dewar, Paula
Frost, Liz
Gold Coast Amateur Beekeepers Society Ltd
Gustare Honey Australia
Hampson, Terry (Daybreak Apiaries)
Hum Honey (Leisa Sams)
Ipswich & West Moreton Beekeepers Assoc Inc
Jordan, Corinne
McDonald, Robert
Northside Beekeepers Assoc
NT Bees (Aust) Pty Ltd

Oldroyd, Ben & Madeleine Beekman
Porter, ML & DJ Quality Beekeeping Supplies
Redpath's Beekeeping Supplies
Ridley Bee Products
Rudder, Janine (JBR Bees)
Ruge, Clinton
Stokes, Peter
Trigg, Margaret
Watson, James
Weatherhead, Trevor & Marion
Westlands Honey Beverley WA

OTHER

Beechworth Honey Pty Ltd
(on behalf of some producer-suppliers)
Davey, Robin
Honeylife Australia
Godman, Phil
Knox, Kathy
Verrenkamp, Leonard
West-Bee Honey

NON-PUBLISHED Value

Faithful, Mark
Hibberd, GL & HK, HSH Apiary
Moggill Honey

HONEY PRODUCERS

Abbott, B & Proudford, R
Active Medicinal Honey
Costa, Daniel (Costa Honey)
Harvey, Andrew
Hooper Honey (Ben Hooper)
Hoskinson, HL & HM

MacGibbon, Kevin
Naicol Pty Ltd
Ruge Honey
Shaw, Robert
Targett, Stephen

PRODUCER/PACKERS

Australia's Manuka P/L
Backyard Beekeeping Ballarat
Bee Happy Apiaries
Heritage Honey (P & T Norris)
Honey I'm Home (T. Campbell)
R.Stephens Apiarists

BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT

MANUFACTURER/SUPPLIER

Ecrotek
Schutz Australia Pty

NOTE FROM CHAIR, PETER McDONALD



Regional Forestry Agreements (RFA)

“Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) are 20-year plans for the sustainable management and conservation of Australia’s native forests. There are 10 RFAs in four states covering commercial native forestry regions – five in Victoria, three in New South Wales and one each in Western Australia and Tasmania.” (Source: [DAWR](#))

The impact of RFA’s for our industry is that they detail the multiple uses of forests and how they are to be managed. This includes beekeeping. The RFA’s are due for renewal now or in the near future.

Last week the Federal Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Minister Littleproud and President of NSWAA, Neil Bingley were interviewed on the topic of RFA’s where they spoke for our Honey Bee industry. ([ABC Radio National](#)). They both gave great support for our aim of achieving equitable access to healthy native forests in the national public land resource of Australia.

Minister Littleproud spoke about the need for the Honey Bee industry to be considered in any RFA negotiation process because of our importance to food production and our heavy reliance upon Australia’s native forests. He also spoke about how it was just common sense the Honey Bee industry needed to have a seat at the table.

AHBIC agrees wholeheartedly. It is what we and all the Honey Bee representative groups around Australia (the members of AHBIC) have been arguing about for many, many years, just the simple common sense that bees are required for pollination of our food and hence need access to native forest for honey and health. Our simple mantra,

Healthy Forests = Healthy Bees = Healthy People

So, I say thank you to Minister Littleproud for your support of our Honey Bee industry. Thank you for the acknowledgement of the importance of Honey Bees to agriculture and the need for us to be considered in RFA’s.

AHBIC and the Australian Forests Products Association (AFPA) have released statements. AHBIC’s is on the following page, AFPA’s is available [here](#). I welcome AFPA CEO Ross Hampton’s commitment to work with us.

“Australia’s native forest industry will continue to work with the Bee Industry to ensure better outcomes for both sectors,” Mr Hampton said.

The Timber and Honey Bee industries are both legitimate users of Australia’s native forest resource and both contribute greatly to social and economic outcomes of our nation.



Media Release

Healthy Forests, Healthy Bees, Healthy People

The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council has expressed concern over the misrepresentation of its views about sustainable forest management, which benefits the community at large.

Peter McDonald, Chair of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) said, 'Despite reports in The Guardian, the beekeeping industry wishes to work collaboratively with the forestry industry and state governments to ensure access to resources in state forests. ALL values and uses of the forests need to be recognised throughout Australia.

'We intend to educate members of various state governments that access to multi age and mixed species in well managed forests is vital for both honey production and bee health before the pollination season, which varies from crop to crop, where bees are essential for productive crops and food security.

'The beekeeping industry is open to discussion about ways to improve the management of forests for the benefit of all forest uses, including both forestry and beekeeping.

'Policy makers need to understand that about 70 per cent of our honey is produced from native eucalypts in our forests.

'The beekeeping industry appreciates being able to use current forestry infrastructure such as roads to access beekeeping sites.

'We support the comments made by Minister Littleproud in response to the misrepresentation by The Guardian and understand he has re-iterated the importance of the beekeeping industry being a part of the Regional Forest Agreement process. All values and uses need to be recognised in perpetuity through the RFA process.

'If you want a glimpse of the disaster that awaits our beekeeping industry and Australia's food security as a consequence, we only have to look at Queensland which is facing the potential loss of about 1,180 bee sites by 2024 as a result of excluding our legitimate forest use. This number will be far greater with further planned forestry conversion into National Parks.

Poor access and massive fuel loads to feed wildfires are unfortunately the hallmarks of unmanaged forests and none of these issues are conducive to healthy beekeeping.

'Well managed multi-use forests involving forestry, beekeeping, and recreation will always deliver the best conservation, economic and social outcomes', said Peter.

Media Contacts:

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www.honeybee.org.au/

The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council aims to ensure the long-term economic viability, security and prosperity of the Australian Honey Bee industry in Australia.

NOTE FROM CEO, SARAH PARADICE



March has been another busy month for AHBIC! I attended an informative 'Living with Varroa masterclass' on Friday 8th March in Canberra. Hosted by the well organised Canberra Region Beekeepers, we heard from guest speaker Mark Page, Bee Biosecurity Office (Surveillance) from NSW Department of Primary Industries. We learnt how to inspect hives for varroa mites and how to live with varroa. I appreciated this hands-on opportunity to learn more about monitoring and managing hives for pests and diseases and to meet Mark and others. Thanks to Christine Joannides for inviting me.

Each fortnight, Ian Zadow, Peter McDonald and I dial in for a half hour teleconference with Plant Health Australia (PHA) for the National Bee Biosecurity Program. Items discussed during March included the collection of Code Compliance Certificates by BBO's, an update on the Qld BBO, the cost of printing of Code of Practice for amateur beekeepers, bee pest app development, harmonisation sub-committee meeting, and the catchbox project. These fortnightly meetings are a great way for AHBIC and PHA to liaise closely. On 20th March, I also dialled in for a PHA Annual Operations Plan webinar which is now available for viewing [online](#) for those interested. This forms an important part of PHA's engagement with their members.

On 25th March, the AHBIC B-QUAL Board meeting was held in Melbourne. Chaired by Wayne Fuller, the meeting also included a presentation by [CRC for Honey Bee Products](#) Dr Liz Barbour and Professor Sharon Purchase along with Larry Hower of [AusNFC](#) regarding NFC technology and the potential benefits for the honey bee industry. The system has the potential to improve the ability for beekeepers and honey producers to meet the requirements of the B-QUAL program. Discussions centred around how to incorporate the B-QUAL system with the technology. In the afternoon on 25th March, the Food Safety and Prevention of Residues committee met. Chaired by Ben McKee, discussions centred around an adulterated honey standard and the 'readiness plans' which are currently being developed to address topical items within the industry to provide facts and clear information.

Meetings on the 25th March were followed by the AHBIC Executive meeting on Tuesday 26th March. It also included a presentation by Ben McKee and Joe Bains from the [Australian Manuka Honey Association](#) (AHMA) to discuss the recent patent issues with New Zealand. A letter was sent on 20th March 2019 to the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources and the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment in support of AMHA. AHBIC expressed serious concern regarding the implications for Australian Manuka honey. The letter sent to both Ministers was identical and the letter to Minister Birmingham has been included later in this newsletter for your information.

I'd like to thank Wayne Fuller and Lindsay Bourke for representing AHBIC at recent meetings:

- Wayne Fuller represented AHBIC at a Macadamia workshop held on Monday 18th March at the NSW DPI research station in Wollongbar NSW. Wayne provided key advice such as not to spray for pests like Lacebug when Macadamias are in flower to minimise damage to all pollinators. Discussions included:
 - basic beekeeping procedures regarding pollination including costs involved with moving hives
 - the view that macadamias produce a lot of honey being false; most honey is obtained from surrounding native vegetation
 - approx 20,000 hives used in pollination in the Wollongbar area however more last season due to failure of canola crop
 - growers will need to pay in the future due to almond industry needing more pollination services
 - more communication needed between neighbouring farms and with beekeepers
 - use of app "BeeConnected"

- Lindsay Bourke represented AHBIC at a roundtable discussion held on 25th March in Tasmania. It was hosted by The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, in conjunction with Horticulture Innovation Australia, about protected cropping in Australia. The roundtable had a national focus and was chaired by the Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Senator the Hon. Richard Colbeck. The roundtable provided an opportunity for the horticulture industry, researchers, and other stakeholders to discuss challenges and opportunities facing protected cropping and exchange information about their experiences of the sector.

Lastly, on 27th and 28th March I attended a National Biosecurity Response Team (NBRT) Exercise Crown and Anchor in Canberra with Ian Zadow. The aim of the exercise was to enhance the national ability to manage a response to a post-border biosecurity incident located in a Commonwealth place with operations extending into an adjoining jurisdiction. The exercise was a mixture of workshop activities and scenario-based discussions with some off-site visits. It provided an opportunity for NBRT members to practice their roles. There were two exercises, one of which was a hypothetical single Varroa mite detection in a managed beehive at a private residence in Jervis Bay Territory. The exercise involved a fully functional Local Control Centre (LCC) Incident Management Team (IMT) where Ian Zadow represented AHBIC as an Industry Liaison Officer (ILO) to the response which also enabled me to experience the workings of the IMT. The exercise was also valuable in showing participants the importance of engaging with industry early to provide critical information.



NBRT Exercise Crown and Anchor

Photo Credit – [Animal Health Australia](#) Source: [Facebook post](#)

Upcoming April meetings for AHBIC Exec and/or CEO

- Wednesday 3rd April, 7.15am-8.45am, CropLife Agricultural Industry Federal Budget Breakfast to be addressed by The Hon David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources at the National Press Club, Canberra
- Tuesday 16th April, 11.30am – 8.00pm Agrifutures Levied Industries Forum, Sydney
- Monday 29th April, 6.30pm, Riverina Branch AGM

GENERAL NEWS AND LINKS – AUSTRALIA

- The drought and recent fires in Tasmania have been devastating with long lasting repercussions:
 - March 8th 2019 - [Tasmanian honey industry in crisis as bees starve to death](#), by Manika Dadson, ABC News. A story on Shirley Stephens about Tasmanian beekeepers experiencing their worst season in decades
 - March 12th 2019 - Report featuring Lindsay Bourke, President of Tasmanian Beekeepers Association (TAA) [Tasmanian beekeepers count the cost of 'disastrous' dry summer of bushfires with leatherwood honey decimated and crop pollination at risk](#) from the Examiner. Lindsay says 'Tasmania's bee and honey industry was decimated during the summer and it's difficult to see how it can recover'
 - April 1st 2019 - the full extent of Tasmania's disastrous honey season was revealed at beekeepers association meeting in Launceston on 29th March. The group held talks with the state government to discuss financial relief and strategies to sustain the industry and its vital pollination services. The Tasmanian Government put forward a suite of measures to help beekeepers, including waiving licence fees for the next 12 months. Listen to the [Beekeepers gather in Launceston to discuss honey crisis](#) report by Laurissa Smith on TAS Country Hour with Tony Briscoe
- La Trobe University doctoral student and fourth-generation beekeeper Jody Gerdt has researched why Australian honeybees are so susceptible to Chalkbrood fungal disease. Read more about her work from ABC Central Victoria News on 28th March [Chalkbrood fungal disease on the rise in Australian beehives – and poor nutrition could be to blame](#)
- Regarding the Aussie Farms Repository Map:
 - a Parliamentary petition has launched to shut down Aussie Farms website as reported by Joely Mitchell in the Stock and Land on 21st March 2019. [Read more](#)
 - It's time to strengthen the trespass laws - a petition calling for strengthening of trespass laws after a string of soft sentences for members of militant activist groups around the country. [Australian Farmers](#) are now calling for a national overhaul of trespass, biosecurity and privacy laws to address these incursions so click to add your [voice](#)
- Have you a unique signature honey that you're proud of? Or perhaps you just have a tasty honey? If so, World Bee Day in ACT needs you! World Bee Day activities being organised in ACT will include a session in the Great Hall, Parliament House where there will be honey tasting. Honey's from around the world will be available for tasting and we would love to have some local Australian honey too. For tasting, approximately 2 * 500g jars will be needed but spare what you can and post c/- AHBIC PO Box 42 Macquarie ACT 2614 NOW! We will need samples by 18th April to allow for Parliament House checks prior to the event. Need to know more about World Bee Day activities? Head over to the [World Bee Day Facebook](#) page and feel free to share your own World Bee Day events on this page if you're outside ACT. Plenty more information is scheduled to be posted on this site shortly.
- Are you a woman in agriculture with an ambition to shape the future of Australia's food and fibre industry? Then please apply for the National Farmers' Federation's 2019 Diversity in Agriculture Leadership Program! The Diversity in Agriculture Leadership Program provides successful applicants with a six-month one-on-one mentorship and the opportunity to be a part of an alumni of female agriculture leaders. [Click for more information](#)

- Plant Health Australia's Tendrils Newsletter March 2019 highlighted a news item from BeeAware - Bee pest surveillance in Canberra. Earlier this year ABC Summer Breakfast host Adrienne Francis spoke to Christine Joannides from the ACT Beekeepers' Association about the [National Bee Pest Surveillance Program](#). [Listen here](#)
- Are you a passionate and active Bee Advocate looking for new ideas and ways to stay motivated and inspired? Do you have an outstanding Bee Champion in your community and want to demonstrate your appreciation for their dedication and commitment? Do you have a great idea and want to share it and grow it beyond your existing community? [Wheen Bee Foundation](#) is holding a 3 day residential training program for leading Bee Champions who volunteer for a bee cause in their community. The 2019 program will be held in Victoria from Friday 21 June to Monday 24 June. [More information here](#). Apply by April 30 for early bird rates.
- Police have been stepping up patrols around the Toolangi State Forest near Kinglake after steel spikes were found hidden on bush tracks. [Steel spikes found hidden in Toolangi State Forest](#) as reported in Victoria's Weekly Times on March 14th, 2019
- February 28th saw the inaugural Oz Group Co-op and Department of Primary Industries Bee Pollination Expo held in Woolgoolga. Beekeepers and industry experts travelled from as far as Bathurst to network with and educate local farmers and berry growers at the C.E.X. The expo included presentations from the Department of Primary Industries, Bee Innovative, Bugs for Bugs, The Australian Native Bee Company and The University of New England. Oz Group Co-op and the DPI were incredibly pleased with the turnout; Gaius Leong, Oz Group's Chief Agronomist said, "the event was beneficial for the local industry, helping our local growers gain a better knowledge of best practice." He also acknowledged the benefits to the wider community, with "growers striving to ensure that local bee populations remain healthy." Melinda Simpson, DPI Officer in charge of blueberries saw the pollination expo as a great opportunity to educate growers: "Hive health and pollination is something the DPI sees as vital to sustainable farming practices. An event such as this allows growers to network with experts and learn from researchers about new technologies and best practice." It is hoped that the expo will become an annual event.
- Canberra Region Beekeepers recently held a successful major field day event at Jerrabomberra Wetlands Centre. The day was opened by Ambassador Zwahlen of Switzerland and Ambassador Ahlberger of Sweden. Both are keen beekeepers, with hives at their Embassies. The day included demonstrations of beekeeping (both native and honeybees) as well as honey sales and honey infused treats including ice-cream and mead. ACT for Bees held children's activities and promoted ways to have a Bee Friendly Garden. [Read more](#). The Canberra Region Beekeepers also recently installed a colony into a Slovenian AZ hive at the Embassy of Slovenia. The colony was installed onto special frames used in this hive style using a converted nucleus box. For some great pictures, click [here](#)
- Can you help a Uni student out with a survey? Luke McEvoy-Hughes is a University student currently studying Environmental Sciences at the University of Brighton (UK). As part of his final year he is carrying out an independent research project into beekeeping, aiming to explore the different issues encountered by beekeepers as well as the strategies and methods employed by beekeepers to ensure the health and prosperity of their colonies. If you have time to help, he would love you to complete the survey so click [here](#)

- As you may be aware, Capilano Honey Limited's name changed to "Hive & Wellness Australia Pty Ltd". Capilano Honey Limited (CHL) was party to a takeover, by way of a Scheme of Arrangement, in December 2018. As part of this arrangement, CHL was delisted from the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX) and applications submitted to convert to a proprietary company and change the company name. Capilano have informed that the official conversion and name change process has now been finalised.
- Applications are open for the 2020 Nuffield Scholarship program, and Nuffield Australia is urging young farmers with a desire to drive their knowledge and businesses forward to apply for a \$30,000 bursary. Applications close Friday 14th June. [More information](#).

MEDIA RELEASES

The following media releases have been issued that may be of interest to some readers

- 1 April – Senator the Hon. Richard Colbeck [Smart Farming grants now open](#). Round two of the Smart Farming Partnerships is now open, providing significant funding opportunities for Australia's fisheries, aquaculture, horticulture and forestry industries
- 1 April – The Hon. David Littleproud MP [Door open for Aussie almonds to Chile](#) Australian almonds growers can now export their produce to Chile following agreement of new market access arrangements
- 28 March – Tim Whetstone MP, South Australia, [Unregistered hives prompt reminder to be good](#) Beekeepers in South Australia are being reminded to register and brand their hives after a number of unregistered hives were discovered in the Lower South East. "It is concerning to hear there are South Australian beekeepers who aren't doing the right thing to uphold the state's strict biosecurity practices and are keeping unregistered hives," said Minister Whetstone.
- 28 March – The Hon. David Littleproud MP [Strengthening agricultural ties with China](#) \$100,000 in grants are now available through the 2019 Australia–China Agricultural Cooperation Agreement (ACACA) program for projects which grow agricultural trade between Australia and China
- 27 March – The Hon David Littleproud MP [Strengthening ag trade with Hong Kong](#) Farmers exporting to Hong Kong have zero per cent tariffs locked in, after the Australia-Hong Kong FTA was signed, providing certainty for farmers
- 23 March – The Hon David Littleproud MP [States must step up with trespass laws](#) Minister for Agriculture and Maranoa MP David Littleproud has demanded all state Governments increase trespass laws and penalties after another animal activist invasion, this time at Lemon Tree in Maranoa. Police were called when 100 animal activists invaded a feedlot and dairy, which is listed on the Aussie Farms activist attack map.
- 22 March – The Hon. David Littleproud MP [More funding to fight pests and weeds](#). A \$30.3 million investment to assist farmers and land managers manage pest animals and weeds
- 21 March – The Hon. David Littleproud MP/The Hon. Darren Chester MP [Bolstering the Rural Financial Counselling Service](#) There will be more helping hands for farmers facing hardship with a further investment of \$3.7 million in the Rural Financial Counselling Service
- 14 March – DAWR [Collaboration and innovation to strengthen biosecurity](#) - The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources is calling for innovative solutions to build Australia's biosecurity capabilities and better manage risks associated with hitchhiker pests and disease. Grants of up to \$1 million are available through the Australian Government's Business Research and Innovation Initiative (BRII)
- 4 March - The Hon Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister and Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment [Australia and Indonesia sign landmark Trade Agreement](#) This means 99 per cent of Australian goods (by value) will enter Indonesia duty-free or under significantly improved preferential arrangements by 2020. IA-CEPA text and associated documents can

be found [here](#). Impact will be reduced tariffs. See full [Schedule of Tariff Commitments – Indonesia](#)
Some examples of tariff changes provided below.

- Item 50, tariffs removed on bees
- Item 562, tariffs reducing to zero on honey over time
- Item 1252, tariffs removed on beeswax
- Item 7652, tariffs removed on beekeeping machinery

GENERAL NEWS AND LINKS – INTERNATIONAL

- Culprit found for honeybee deaths in almond groves in the US. Researchers and industry leaders are working to stop insecticide use during bloom. [Read more](#)
- The Apiculture New Zealand National Conference 2019 will be held in Rotorua from 27 to 29 June 2019. The conference theme is: Growing Value, Sharing Knowledge. For more information, check the [conference website](#)
- Representatives from the entire U.S. honey industry have formed a working group and pledged to cooperate on a range of strategies designed to ensure the purity of honey in the United States. The Honey Integrity Task Force is leading a comprehensive effort to reduce instances of economically motivated adulteration of honey reaching U.S. consumers, and to ensure that honey has the proper country of origin label. The industry watchdog group includes beekeepers, importers, packers, producers and marketing cooperative members along with an organization that specializes in honey supply chain management. [Read more](#)
- *'Substantial factor': US jury rules against Bayer in Roundup cancer case.* A US jury found Bayer's glyphosate-based weed killer to be a "substantial factor" in causing a man's non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, allowing the trial to proceed into a second phase on liability and damages. [Read more](#) by Jim Christie in the Sydney Morning Herald on 20th March.
- Bees, crucial to global food production, are under threat. Scientists in Kenya are trying a new approach to protect both local crops and bees. [Click for more information](#)

NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS

We're trialling a new format for this section but please do let us know if you prefer the original format which detailed new products by emailing Sarah on ahbic@honeybee.org.au. Please see link to the [APVMA website](#) to view all information from the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines (APVMA) Gazette which is published fortnightly and contains:

- details of the registration of agricultural and veterinary chemical products and other approvals granted by the APVMA
- notices as required by the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code (the Agvet Code) and related legislation
- a range of regulatory material issued by the APVMA.

If you would like to be notified by email when a new edition is published, please complete the [subscription form](#).

B-QUAL

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LETTER TO MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER FOR TRADE TOURISM AND INVESTMENT



AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC

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Web Site: www.honeybee.org.au

20 March 2019

Senator the Hon. Simon Birmingham
Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment
Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
senator.birmingham@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister

RE: MANUKA HONEY - FALSE CLAIMS BY NEW ZEALAND ORGANISATION - UNIQUE MANUKA FACTOR HONEY ASSOCIATION – SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON AUSTRALIAN MANUKA HONEY

We are writing to alert you to an urgent issue regarding Manuka honey, a premium honey produced in Australia of high value due to its antimicrobial properties and positive impacts on health.

The Issue and claim by New Zealand Unique Manuka Factor Honey Association

It has come to our attention that New Zealand based organisation Unique Manuka Factor Honey Association (hereafter UMFHA) is attempting to control through legal avenues, the use of the term Manuka in relation to this high value honey thus attempting to exclude Australian Manuka honey producers from marketing and selling their legitimate product as Manuka. In a patent, UMFHA claim that Manuka honey relates only to New Zealand honey produced from *Leptospermum scoparium*. UMFHA claim that Manuka honey is a honey unique to New Zealand, derived from the nectar of the flowers of manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*), which grows only in New Zealand. We believe the grounds for such a claim by UMFHA are seriously flawed, factually incorrect and will jeopardise the strong working relationship between our two nations.

Why do we think the claims by UMFHA are false?

Manuka honey is produced both in Australia and New Zealand, solely from *Leptospermum scoparium* in New Zealand but in Australia Manuka honey is produced from *Leptospermum scoparium* and many other species that grow in Australia and not New Zealand. *Leptospermum scoparium* is native to Australia and has been recorded and recognised in Australia since the 1800's. On this basis, we strongly disagree with claims made by UMFHA that *Leptospermum scoparium* grows only in New Zealand, which forms the basis for their legal claims.

What we need from the Australian Government

Australia wishes to continue to work with New Zealand for the mutual benefit of Manuka honey production opportunities and industry. The Australian Manuka Honey Association (AMHA) has attempted to work hard with UMFHA to find a solution to no avail; UMFHA are now entering legal negotiations. We urgently seek your assistance where possible, in conjunction with the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, to engage with your New Zealand counterparts to encourage New Zealand's UMFHA to immediately cease legal activity and instead turn to working collaboratively with Australia to maintain the strong working relationship between our two nations for mutual benefit on Manuka honey industry. Currently, several New Zealand colleagues have also expressed embarrassment and severe disappointment in the actions of UMFHA; they also wish to see the mutually beneficial and collaborative relationship between New Zealand and Australia continue; they view the actions of UMFHA as also very harmful to the industry.

Facts and Figures:

- The word Manuka has been used in Australia since at least European settlement and refers to the name for places as well as the plant
- Australia has tested our *Leptospermum Scoparium* and it has exactly the same DNA and chemical markers as the NZ variety and has been identified in Australia as far back as 1840
- For the six months to 31 December 2018, New Zealand was Australia's second largest importer of honey with 661,207 kilograms imported to Australia at a customs value of \$A25,495,728. For the same period, Australia exported just 2 kilograms to New Zealand for testing and research purposes (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics). This represents a significant trade imbalance
- Australia exports no significant honey to New Zealand due to claims by New Zealand that it is free from European foulbrood, a brood disease caused by the bacterium *Melissococcus plutonius*. Australia has European foulbrood except in WA and NT. NZ agreed to allow imports of honey from Australia a number of years ago, following appropriate treatment protocols but has been very slow in developing these protocols to allow trade to commence, maintaining the significant trade imbalance. Recent correspondence from DAWR (15/3/2019) advises that New Zealand's Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) needs to release an import health standard (IHS) before exports of honey will be able to occur from Australia to New Zealand. The Department understands that the only disease for which further clarification was required, for honey imports from Australia, was for Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus (IAPV). Document's received by the Department indicate that this risk assessment is now complete, but that they are yet to receive confirmation from New Zealand
- As a result of not having Varroa mite, Australia has healthy bees and produces pure Manuka honey as miticides required to control Varroa are not used
- Should Australia be unable to market and sell its legitimate Manuka honey as Manuka, it is likely New Zealand will take advantage of this by importing Manuka honey from Australia at low value and remarket and sell at premium to Australia and other countries as New Zealand Manuka honey, further exacerbating the already large trade imbalance
- The Manuka honey industry is expected to reach Australian one billion dollars by 2027 and we hope the government will assist us to ensure that what is rightfully Australian is allowed to be marketed globally

For further information, please also see attachment providing a timeline of events with respect to this issue.

Need more information?

Should you require additional information, please feel free to contact:

- Mr Paul Callander, Chairman, Australian Manuka Honey Association, pc@manukalife.net.au Phone: 0438 990 426
- Mr Peter McDonald, Australian Manuka Honey Association Advisory Committee; Chair, Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, prmcDonald@hotmail.com Phone: 0427 722 167
- Mrs Sarah Paradice, CEO, Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, ahbic@honeybee.org.au Phone: 0402 467 780

We look forward to your response and assistance in this urgent matter which will have significant impact on Australian Manuka honey producers, trade and the relationship between New Zealand and Australia.

Yours faithfully
Peter McDonald
Chair

Sarah Paradice
Chief Executive Officer

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2018-2019 GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC



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