



Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Trevor Weatherhead – Executive Director

March 2016

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS to AHBIC are GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

AHBIC acknowledges the **beekeeper suppliers** who contribute via their packer/queen bee supplier to AHBIC.

We urge beekeepers to support those Packers/Queen Bee Breeders who contribute to AHBIC.

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

The following list recognises contributions received since 1 April 2015

There are a few other contributors – some wishing to remain anonymous and some not indicating their wishes

AB's Honey
Anderson, Stuart
Australian Organic Honey Company
Australian Queen Bee Exporters
Badger Head Bees
Beechworth Honey
Bees Neez Apiaries
Beewise
Blue Hills Honey
Bliss, Stephen
Bourke, Lindsay
Bush Honey - (Midgley Family)
Capilano Honey Ltd
Clifford, David
Clifford, Ray
Cotton, Allan & Michelle
Covey Bees
Dale's Honey Bees
Dewar Apiaries
Dinsdale, Julie
Enslin, Darren

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

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

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

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2016 AUSTRALIAN BIOSECURITY AWARDS

I was honoured to receive the David Banks Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2016 ABARES Outlook dinner on 1 March, 2016.

David had been a good friend to me and was a great advocate for our industry and we achieved much in biosecurity through his great work. It will be 11 years this coming May since he was killed in the plane crash at Lockhart River on Cape York.



Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce, Trevor Weatherhead, Lyn O'Connell, Deputy Secretary DAWR
(Photo: Steve Keough Photography)



Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce, Andrew Shugg, Lyn O'Connell, Deputy Secretary DAWR
(Photo: Steve Keough Photography)

The beekeepers of the Northern Territory also received an award in the Industry Category. This was accepted by Andrew Shugg on behalf of the Northern Territory beekeepers.

For details of the awards see <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/australia/public-awareness/aba>

At the Biosecurity Awards in Canberra.

L. to R. Ian Zadow, AHBIC Chairperson, Trevor Weatherhead, Vicki Simlesa Northern Territory Apiary Officer, Andrew Shugg.



HONEY MONTH

Information on what is happening for Honey Month 2016 around Australia is starting to appear on the AHBIC website <http://honeybee.org.au/education/honey-month-2016/>

Make a point of checking the website on a regular basis to see what is happening in your State.

ELECTIONS AT THE AHBIC AGM

At the upcoming AHBIC AGM in July, there will be elections held for Chairperson and two Executive positions.

Ian Zadow is the current Chairperson and is eligible to renominate. However, Ian has indicated he will not be seeking nomination as Chairperson.

The two (2) Executive members whose terms are expiring are Trevor Morgan and Neil Bingley. Trevor Morgan is not eligible to renominate as he has served six (6) years continuously. See 5.7 of the AHBIC Constitution. Neil Bingley is eligible to renominate.

Please note that any nominations for Chairperson needs to be with the AHBIC Secretary 28 days prior to the meeting i.e. 16 June 2016. If no nominations are received then nominations will be taken from the floor. Nominations for the Executive can be made at any time up until the elections.

Also please note that any nominations need to have been a financial member of a member body of AHBIC for two consecutive years prior to the elections. See 5.2.4 (a). It also say in 5.2.4 (b) that the person must be a full contributor to AHBIC.

NEW CHINESE PROTOCOLS

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resource (DAWR) has received draft protocols from China in relation of the import of honey and royal jelly into China.

We have had a teleconference with DAWR to have a preliminary look at the documents supplied by China. Industry reps on the teleconference were Jodie Goldsworthy, Ben McKee, Ross Christiansen and Trevor Weatherhead. Ian Zadow was an apology.

After much discussion on the teleconference, industry is to provide comments on the health certificate to DAWR and the DAWR is to look at the questionnaire. Industry will help out with information for the questionnaire.

I am not aware of anyone who is exporting Australian produced royal jelly to China. If you are, please contact me so we can include you in our review of the proposed health certificate. Although we have 18 months to consider these documents, we need to start working on them now.

AGM

Annual conferences for 2016 as I have them are:-

Queensland Beekeepers Association	13 & 14 July, Townsville
New South Wales Apiarists Association	12 & 13 May, Albury
Tasmanian Beekeepers Association	27 – 28 May, St. Helens
WA Farmers Federation - Beekeeping Section	14 May, Perth
South Australian Apiarists Association	16 – 17 June, Kangaroo Island
Victorian Apiarists Association	8 – 9 June, Wangaratta
Honey Packers and Marketers Association	TBA
National Council of Pollination Associations	TBA
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association	TBA
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	15 July, Townsville

QBA CONFERENCE AND AHBIC AGM IN TOWNSVILLE

Details of the Queensland Beekeepers Association conference plus the AHBIC AGM will be in the next newsletter. They will include accommodation details and registration forms.

BUMBLE BEE INQUIRY

AHBIC and the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association have put in a submission to this Inquiry. All submissions can be seen at http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/Bumblebees/Submissions

TAXATION INQUIRY

AHBIC received advice of “An inquiry into the provisions of the Tax and Superannuation Laws Amendment (2016 Measures No. 1) Bill 2016” with only a few days to put in a submission. AHBIC did prepare a submission. All submission can be seen at http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Economics/TSLAB_measures_2016/Submissions

NEW CHEMICAL REGISTRATIONS

Application no.: 102775
Active constituent/s: Florasulam
Applicant name: Adama Australia Pty Limited
Applicant ACN: 050 328 973
Summary of use: For use in agricultural chemical products
Date of approval: 24 February 2016
Approval no.: 81303

TASMANIAN FIRES

Fortunately the loss of hives was not as great as was feared. It is estimated that around 100 hives were lost.

Of course the big loss was the inability to get into sites, the loss of the temperate rainforest where the leatherwood grows as an understorey and the manuka country. Also hives had to be moved off the honey flow due to the progress of the fires.

With the loss for the temperate rainforest, the hot fires mean that the leatherwood will not regenerate. In the manuka country, it will regenerate but will not yield for a few years.

There will be a shortage of leatherwood this year. The Tasmanian Beekeepers Association are meeting with the Government to look at what options there are.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FIRES

There have been no more losses of hives reported since the last newsletter.

There have been losses of many sites north of Perth in the wintering areas plus the other areas previously reported.

NEW RIRDC MANAGING DIRECTOR PLUS SHIFTING

RIRDC have advised that Mr. John Harvey has been appointed as the new Managing Director. He will take up the position as from 3 May, 2016. He takes over from Mr. Craig Burns. Craig Burns served as the Managing Director for six (6) years.

Also there have been moves to have RIRDC shift out of Canberra to a regional centre. Albury/Wodonga had been a suggestion but it now seems the shift will be to Wagga Wagga. For the sake of our industry we can only hope that there will be no staff losses as a result of the shift as industry has built up a good relationship with the RIRDC staff over the years.

ATO ADVICE

AHBIC has received the following advice from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Please consult your own accountant to discuss any ramifications for your business.

Please note there has been an update to the asset names for the proposed effective life determinations ('plant' has been replaced with assets):

<i>Agriculture</i> (01110 to 01990)			
ASSET	LIFE (YEARS)	REVIEWED	DATE OF APPLICATION
Bee farming assets:			
Beehives	13	*	1 Jul 2016
Processing assets	20	*	1 Jul 2016

RECENT EUROPEAN UNION REGULATIONS

AHBIC has been advised that the European Union (EU) has now set a Maximum Level (ML) for lead in honey. It is 0.1 mg/kg. This can be found at COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) 2015/1005 <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32015R1005&from=EN>

Australia does not currently have an MRL for lead but the National Residue Survey (NRS) staff have introduced a new Residue Action Limit (RAL), in effect a de facto MRL, for lead in honey of 0.1 mg/kg based on the new EU and existing NZ MLs. The NRS is in place so that Australia can export honey to the EU but is increasingly being used to supply data for other countries which we export to.

Australian beekeepers and packers can be confident, from past analysis, that our honey will have no problems meeting the new ML set by the EU. Sources of lead in the past, other than from natural sources, have been from the lead solder in older extractors and storage equipment, galvanised drums which industry is phasing out and any old lead paint used on boxes. So it is crucial that if you do have old extractors with lead solder that you take steps to replace that equipment or take steps to cover that solder with food grade paint and remove any boxes from your operation that have lead paint on them.

SEASONAL WORKERS

There has been a scheme in place where workers from certain Pacific Island nations can come to work in Australia for certain periods. It is called the Seasonal Worker Program and details can be found at <http://www.employment.gov.au/seasonal-worker-programme>

It has mainly applied to the horticulture industry but I have been advised that recent changes now allow workers to be employed in the beekeeping industry.

APIMONDIA 2017

Apimondia in 2017 is being held in Istanbul, Turkey. Their website has just been put up. It is www.apimondia2017.org

WORKING HOLIDAY MAKER VISA PROGRAMME

AHBIC has been advised the taxation arrangements for this scheme, also known as the back packer tax, are going to be reviewed.

I am not sure if any beekeepers use back packers as workers but if you do and you wish to have some comments made for this review please let me know so I can send the details of the review to you when I receive them.

SENATE INQUIRY

AHBIC has been advised of a Senate Inquiry into Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Amendment Bill 2016 See http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Rural_and_Regional_Affairs_and_Transport/Primary_industries_bill for more details.



Victorian Apiarists' Association Inc.

FOUNDED 1892 REG No. A8347 ABN 88 895 471 810

Victoria's Peak Beekeeping Body – "For the Advancement of Apiculture"
Publishers of *THE AUSTRALIAN BEE JOURNAL* (Monthly) since 1918

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PRESS RELEASE 29th March 2016

Crown Land Legislation (Canadian Regional Park and other matters) Bill 2015 Victorian Legislative Council

Mr. Kevin MacGibbon, president of the Victorian Apiarists' Association Inc. said today that passage of the amending Bill through the Legislative Council to provide uniform statutes within several Acts that authorise licensed access to much of Victoria's public land native forest estate has been received with much acclaim by the Victorian apiculture (beekeeping) industry.

Addressing association executive personnel, the wider membership and others, he said that passage of the Bill will now enable public land managers to uniformly interpret relevant Act provisions and policy settings to regulate licensed beekeeping in various public land jurisdictions, which were developed during an intensive consultative process involving a range of stakeholders that included apiculture industry representation.

Mr. MacGibbon said that the State Government announcement in August 2013 of revised policy for apiculture in Victorian public lands broke new ground in Australia, whereas a State Government, adopting policy for improved access and the continuing usage of publicly owned state forests for the purpose of apiculture, based new policy fairly and squarely on recognition that enormous public benefit derives through the delivery of honey bee induced fertilisation services (pollination) to the growers of many horticultural and agricultural crops including pasture legumes, and that improved access to public land native forests is important for the maintenance of numerically strong and healthy managed honey bee populations for that purpose.

Mr. MacGibbon said that independent research conducted in 2008 under R.I.R.D.C. auspices identified 41 food and pasture crops that benefit from honey bee foraging activity (pollination), of which many are 100% dependent on foraging honey bees for crop yields. Further research in 2010 identifies 46 crops, nearly half of them 100% dependent, underscoring that till the end of time, honey bee foraging on flowering crops will remain an essential driver in the maintenance of food security for Victorians and others beyond our borders.

Mr. MacGibbon paid tribute to the bipartisan support and goodwill of successive governments and Ministries over the long journey of policy development, and the subsequent review of several Acts provisions, culminating in passage of the Bill in the Legislative Council today.

He also placed on record industry appreciation for the patience, forbearance at times, but above all, the capacity of respective senior departmental personnel engaged in consultation with the industry over the journey since 2011, to carefully listen and hear clearly the industry's petitions. The exercise became a triumph through the engendering of mutual respect and collaboration, producing outcomes with capacity to stand the test of time.

CLIMATE CHANGE COULD PUT EUCALYPTS AT RISK OF DEATH FROM AIR BUBBLES

A report on the ABC Rural website said:-

Extreme droughts could lead to widespread death of eucalypts from embolisms, researchers say.

Key points

- *Some trees can shrink the width of their water transport vessels in response to lack of water*
- *Eucalypts are not able to do this which puts them at risk of developing air bubbles in their vessels*
- *This would make them vulnerable to extreme heatwaves and drought due to climate change*

The trees cannot quickly adjust the size of their water transport vessels to cope with variability in water supply.

Their findings, published in this month's [Ecology Letters](#), show the ability of eucalypts to transport water to their leaves has been "hard-wired" over long periods of evolution.

"This places eucalypts — and possibly other tree species — at risk from anticipated rapid changes in climate," said the researchers, led by Dr Sebastian Pfautsch from Western Sydney University's Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment

To read the full article see <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-03-30/climate-change-could-put-eucalypts-at-risk-of-death-air-bubbles/7266230>

MEETING WITH APVMA

Representatives from AHBIC and the National Council of Pollination Associations (NCPA) met with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) in early March.

The main topic of discussion was the use and labelling of fipronil. AHBIC is to submit some more information to APVMA on fipronil. The issue of the lack of action by the Environmental Protection Agency in New South Wales to the complaints of beekeeper who have had hives poisoned was also discussed.

One thing that did come out is that there have been no “adverse experience reports” submitted to APVMA on poisoning of bees. Remember if it is not reported it did not happen. See <http://apvma.gov.au/node/1101>

BEECONNECTED

BeeConnected has now been introduced into Canada.

For Australian beekeepers there have been a couple of issue that have been sorted out. For more information on downloading the BeeConnected app see <http://www.croplife.org.au/industry-stewardship/ppi/beeconnected/> This program is a way of trying to ensure that beekeepers, farmers and pesticide applicators can know what is happening in an area. The more it is used the better the chances of not having hives sprayed.

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TAX INVOICE/RECEIPT

Name:

Address:

.....

Email: (Please PRINT clearly).....

Phone: Date:

Yes I wish to support my industry

Up to 50 hives = \$50.00 51 and over hives = \$1.00 per hive

Please indicate **YES** or **NO**

- 1. Please publicise my name (as a contributor) on the front of the AHBIC Newsletter
- 2. I would like to receive the AHBIC Annual Report
- 3. Please acknowledge this voluntary contribution with a receipt (email preferred)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Your contribution can be paid by **CHEQUE** (or Money Order) or **DIRECT DEPOSIT**

CHEQUE \$

DIRECT DEPOSIT: \$.....

**Please return this form to AHBIC - by post or email
so your contribution can be recorded correctly**

When paying by Direct Deposit please -

- ◆ quote your Name as the Reference
- ◆ email your details (as above) to ahbic@honeybee.org.au

Account Name: Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc
 Bank: Bendigo Bank
 BSB: 633 000
 Account No: 150 976 405



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