



Monthly NEWS

To: The Australian Honey Industry

From: Stephen Ware – Executive Director

May 2011

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!**

SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT YOUR INDUSTRY!

AB's Honey
Australian Queen Bee
Exporters
Australian Queen Bee
Breeders Association
Australian Honey Products
Barnes Apiaries Pty Ltd
Beechworth Honey Pty Ltd
Bees Neez Apiaries
Black, R G & MJ
Bowman Family
Brooks, Graham
Capilano Honey Limited
Ciphery, C & R
Clifford, DA & JJ
Codde, T J
Cole, OF
Cotton, AJ & McDonald, MA
Craig, Athol
Dewar Corporation
Dunlop, PG & RD
FCAAA
Gell's Honey

Goode, TW & MA
Ipswich & West Moreton
Beekeepers Association
Honey Packers & Marketers
Association
Hooper, RF & AJ
Hoskinson, H L & H M
Howard, OD
L'Estrange, Tony
MacFarlane, R H
Marchant, R & S
Marti, Rod T/A Gagarra
Honey
McLaren, Jane
Midgley, John
Morgan, Trevor
Mullen, Peter & Sylvia
Nitschke, CJ
Papworth, F & E
Park, William F
Pollination Association of WA
Pobke, Barry
Rasmussen, Ivan

Roberts, IJ & JH
Saxonbee Enterprises
Smith, C & B
Spring Gully Foods Pty Ltd
Stephens, R
Stevens, Graeme
Stevens, Howard
Tasmanian Beekeepers
Association - NW Branch
Tasmanian Crop Pollination
Association
Tasmanian Honey Company
Thompson, N
Weatherhead, T & M
True Blue Honey
Valkenburg, Simeon
Warral Apiaries Pty Ltd
Weerona Apiaries
Wescobee Limited
Wilson, Col
Zadow Apiaries

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

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The Apiary Industry welcomes the Federal Government's commitment of \$2 Million as announced on 20 May 2011 by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig. We will shortly begin negotiations with the States to finalise plans for the containment program.

PRESS RELEASE

20 May 2011

DAFF11/131L

PILOT PROGRAMS TO MANAGE ASIAN HONEYBEES AND MYRTLE RUST

The Gillard Government will provide \$3.5 million to support national pilot programs aimed at creating an ongoing solution to the management of Asian honeybees and the plant disease, Myrtle rust.

“The funding will give greater certainty for efforts to manage these invasive pest species,” Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator Joe Ludwig said.

Earlier this year, two separate National Management Groups, comprising representatives from industry and federal and state governments concluded that eradication of Asian honeybees and Myrtle rust is no longer technically feasible.

“This funding means that important ongoing control activities against Myrtle rust and Asian honeybees can continue,” Minister Ludwig said.

The funds, \$2 million for Asian honeybees and \$1.5 million for Myrtle rust, are being provided to support a pilot of the national transitional containment principles developed by the National Biosecurity Committee in 2010.

“Funds for the pilot programs are in addition to the Budget allocation of \$15.4 million over two years for existing post-border plant and animal pest and disease eradication and control activities,” he said.

“These programs compliment the government's \$464 million Budget commitment to the ongoing reform of Australia's biosecurity system.”

Further information is available online at www.daff.gov.au

APIS CERANA UPDATE

Advice 95– 15 May, 2011

Detections since Advice 94 are:

IP378 was a swarm in Cairns on a tradesman Ute

IP379 was a nest at Stratford

IP380 was a swarm at north Cairns

IP381 was a swarm at Kewarra Beach

IP382 was a swarm at Portsmouth

IP383 was a nest at Malanda

IP384 was a nest at Westcourt

The Queensland Department program is still in place with limited numbers.

The National Management Group Asian Bee Co-ordination Group was due to have a telephone hook-up on Friday 13 May but it has been postponed till Friday 20 May to allow Queensland to process some late comments received on the proposed new program.

On Monday 9 May I meet with Queensland staff in Cairns and Jodie Goldsworthy and Bill Weiss were also in attendance. We discussed the proposed volunteer program. The main point for consideration is the insurance angle. Hopefully this will be overcome. Jodie was looking at accommodation venues in Cairns although the volunteers may be used in Mareeba and Innisfail. That is to be determined later.

We will then need to await the outcome of the NMG Co-ordination meeting on 20 May. A positive outcome would mean that the volunteer program could be established. There is a small window of opportunity here with most commercial beekeepers from southern areas needing to back at home by the end of July to get hives to almond pollination.

There are positive signs that after representations to the Victorian and New South Wales Governments/Departments they are now willing to support this new program.

Advice 96– 21 May, 2011

The National Management Committee Asian honey bee co-ordination group had a telephone hook-up on Friday 20 May to discuss the latest plan for containment, surveillance and destruction of Asian bees in the Cairns area as prepared by the Queensland Department.

The money for the Asian bee program will be held and managed by Plant Health Australia. This is a very good first step.

The plan was discussed on the hook-up but has not yet been endorsed. It is to be the subject of a meeting in Cairns in June. There are still some sticking points to be sorted out. Be assured that your industry representatives are working hard to achieve a beneficial result for all Australians.

The program to use beekeeper volunteers in Cairns will hopefully get off the ground as soon as the paperwork is developed by the Queensland Department. The insurance issue has been resolved. The Department is working hard to put this in place ASAP as they are keen to utilise the beekeeper volunteers. The roster for the volunteers will be handled by Bill Weiss, so please register your desire to be a volunteer with Bill. Details will be provided to volunteers as soon as they are to hand.

Trevor Weatherhead

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

Annual General Meeting and Conference
to be held in conjunction with the South Australian Apiarists' Association Conference
at Rydges Southpark, 1 South Terrace, Adelaide South Australia 5000
on Friday 8 July 2011 at 9.45am

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

VARROA PREPAREDNESS

Items 1-6 To be chaired by Mr Peter McDonald the elected Chairman of the Varroa Treatment & Preparedness Committee

- 1. Varroa Preparedness**
- Mr Gerald Martin, Chairman of the Pollination R&D Advisory Committee
- 2. Varroa Research – Dr Denis Anderson - CSIRO**
- 3. Honey Bee Industry and Pollination Continuity Strategy for Australia**
- Dr Mike McDonald (DAFF)
- Secretariat - Honey bee industry and pollination continuity working group)
- 4. Cost Sharing – Dr Robyn Martin (DAFF)**
- 5. What we are funding - Honey Bee Research and Development Committee**
- Dr Dave Alden (RIRDC)
- 6. The cost of Varroa - Mr Terry Ryan**
- 7. Chairman's 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 2011 be adopted.”

14.1 Chairman & Director’s Financial Report

14.2 Goodacre Report

15. Sector 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

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

15. Australian Queen Bee Breeders’ Association

Recommendations:

16. National Council of Crop Pollination Associations

Recommendations:

17. Honey Packers’ and Marketers’ Association of Australia

Recommendations:

18. 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

Recommendations:

19. 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.

20. **General Business**

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:

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

FCAAA	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		
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council		

Should the meeting see fit it is proposed: “That the year 2012 Annual Meeting of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc. be held in”

22. **Election of Office Bearers**

22.1 Deputy Chairperson

22.2 Election of two (2) Executive Committee Members

(AHBIC Constitution)

5.5 *The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson shall be elected for a term of two (2) years running alternatively. The first year being the election of Chairperson and the next two Executive Members being determined by the highest recorded votes being for a bi-annual term.*

23. **Nominated Representative**

(AHBIC Constitution)

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.*

24. **Operation and Appointment of Committees**

Resolution from the AHBIC Executive – ***“The terms of reference of the AHBIC Committees be confirmed in accordance with the attached.”***

24.1 Disease & Quarantine

24.2 Education

24.3 Resource

24.4 Food Safety and Prevention of Residues

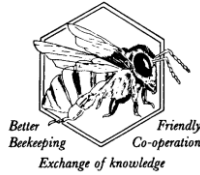
24.5 Other committees as per conference decisions

25. **Meeting Close**

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

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN APIARISTS ASSOCIATION INC.

Founded 1945



State President:
Mr Ian Roberts
Phone: 08 8821 3353
Email: robertsbees@bigpond.com

State Secretary:
Mrs Wendy Thiele
Phone: 08 8635 2257
Email: secretary@saaa.org.au

REGISTRATION FOR 67th ANNUAL CONFERENCE 7 July 2011 and AHBIC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 8 July 2011 to be held at Rydges Southpark, 1 South Tce ADELAIDE SA

Name(s)
Address P/Code
Telephone Email:

Due to conference package format, registrations are per person basis which means spouses and workers etc are required to pay as members for attendance at conference. A bus trip has been organised for ladies (and others) who don't wish to attend the day proceedings (see separate form)

Day proceedings on Thursday	number attending	@ \$70 per person	\$
Day proceedings on Friday	number attending	@ \$70 per person	\$
Annual Dinner - Thurs night	number attending	@ \$60 per person	\$ _____
<i>(Please specify if you require a vegetarian meal or have any food allergies)</i>			Total (incl GST) \$	=====

NB: Arrival coffee, Morning and Afternoon Teas and Lunch are included in Registration Fee

We apologise but Registration on Day of Conference is not an option due to AHBIC AGM and the package negotiated with Rydges Hotel. All Registrations and Annual Dinner bookings must be in by 24 June 2011

Forward application and cheque (made out to SA Apiarists Assoc.) to:
SAAA Treasurer, PO Box 1, Williamstown SA 5351 Fax: (08) 8524 6125 **OR:**
To pay by electronic transfer **THIS REGISTRATION FORM MUST BE FAXED OR EMAILED**
To Treasurer at Fax: (08) 8524 6125 or email: cldedyer@bigpond.com and

Payment to account - SA Apiarists Assoc: **** NB: MEMBER NAME MUST BE ADVISED ON EFT PAYMENT OR REGISTRATION CANNOT BE NOTED**
BSB: 105 030 ACCOUNT: 020697340

✂

KEEP THIS FOR YOUR RECORDS – receipts will not be issued unless requested

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN APIARISTS ASSOCIATION INC ABN: 70 114 388 350
1 Parma St Pt Broughton SA 5522 Email: secretary@saaa.org.au

TAX INVOICE

SAAA Annual Conference 7 July and AHBIC AGM 8 July 2011 at ADELAIDE

Member's Name
CONFERENCE FEES: AMOUNT PAID (incl GST) \$

SAAA Conference 2011



LADIES (and other interested persons) HUNTING & GATHERING TRIP

Karen Pobke and Jane Roberts have put together an interesting program for the Ladies' Trip this year. It looks like fun (we'll forget about the diet for a day – what happens on the bus, stays on the bus!).

The Central Market covers all our hunting and gathering needs from apples to aromatherapy, from books to bakeries, cucumbers to coffee, nuts to native foods, from confectionery to continental, and plants to pasta. We've allowed over an hour to browse the stalls, either by yourself or with company.

Haigh's Chocolates offer discounts for purchases over a certain amount... as if we need any more incentive!! We will have time to check out the chocolate making processes, have a taste and a complimentary tea or coffee and purchase any 'necessities' before we head off to Warrawong Wildlife Sanctuary.

Warrawong provides a chance to wander in the natural bush amongst the native animals in a protected habitat. Or take advantage of the all day coffee and cake at the Bilby Café where we'll stop for lunch (a la carte menu at your own cost) before leaving to visit the quaint town of Hahndorf. Entry into the Sanctuary is free.

Hahndorf is an historic town with a strong German influence. The main street offers arts and crafts, souvenirs, restaurants and cafés specialising in German cuisine, gourmet foods, and much more, which you'll encounter simply by walking from one end of the street to the other. Some shopkeepers have generously offered discounts for our tour.

The bus will deliver everyone back to the Rydges in time for a rest and/or preparation for the Annual Dinner that evening. Baby seats are available for the bus. The cost of the 20 seater bus for the trip is \$30/person (incidentals and lunch etc are at your own cost). If you have any queries, please contact Secretary on phone: (08) 8635 2257 or secretary@saaa.org.au

Des' Mini Bus will collect passengers from the Reception area of the Rydges Hotel (conference venue) at 8:45am and will depart at 9:00am (promptly). **BOOKINGS IN ADVANCE ARE NECESSARY TO KEEP COSTS TO A MINIMUM AND ENSURE A SEAT ON THE BUS (see tear-off slip below)**

- 9:30am Arrive at Adelaide Central Market for an hour of moseying around at your leisure
- 10:45am Depart Central Market
- 11:00am Arrive at Haigh's Chocolate Factory for browsing (and possibly tasting?) until ...
- 11:30am Tour of Haigh's
- 12:00noon Depart Haigh's for Warrawong Wildlife Sanctuary
- 12:30pm Lunch at Warrawong Sanctuary
- 1:45pm Depart Warrawong for Hahndorf
- 2:00pm Free time strolling the main street of Hahndorf (historical German town)
- 3:30pm Depart Hahndorf to return to Rydges Hotel

Check out these places of interest:

- www.warrawongwildlifesanctuary
- www.hahndorf.comwww.haighschocolates.com.au/factory_tour
- www.adelaidecentralmarket.com.au

If you wish to join the Ladies Trip, please complete the tear-off slip and return it, along with payment to *The Treasurer, SAAA, PO Box 1, Williamstown SA 5351 (cheques made out to South Australian Apiarists' Association) or alternatively, pay by electronic transfer to account's: 105 030 ACCOUNT: 020697340*

****** *If paying electronically, please fax the tear-off slip to The Treasurer on (08) 8524 6125 or email advice to cldedver@bigpond.com to ensure identification of payee.*



I WISH TO JOIN THE LADIES TRIP AT SAAA CONFERENCE on Thursday 7 July 2011

NAME: **ADDRESS:**

PHONE NO: **MOBILE:**

My payment of \$30 has been made by: **CHEQUE** **EFT PAYMENT**

INCLUDED WITH CONFERENCE PAYMENT IN THE NAMES OF

.....

TRANSPORT FROM ADELAIDE AIRPORT TO RYDGES HOTEL, ADELAIDE

SKYLINK - Airport shuttle bus

Bookings will assure you a seat on the bus when you want it (otherwise you may have to wait ½ - 1 hour for the next bus). Cost is \$10 one way or \$16 if you book a return ticket. Phone number for bookings is 1300 383 783.

TAXI - There are various taxis available at the airport without pre-booking. The approximate cost of taxi fare from airport to Rydges varies from around \$18 up to \$25 depending on times and companies.

2011 CONFERENCE DATES

FCAAA	New South Wales Apiarists' Association	19 & 20 May 2011
	Tasmanian Beekeepers' Association	3 & 4 June 2011
	Victorian Apiarists' Association	8 & 9 June 2011
	WA Farmers Federation - Beekeeping Section	17 June 2011
	Queensland Beekeepers' Association	30 June & 1 July 2011
	South Australian Apiarists' Association	7 July 2011
	Honey Packers and Marketers Association	10 June 2011
	National Council of Crop Pollination Associations	6 July 2011
	Australian Queen Bee Breeders' Association	TBA
	Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	8 July 2011
	Federal Council of Australian Apiarists' Associations	8 July 2011

AHBIC 2011 AGM

The 2011 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council will be held in South Australia in conjunction with the South Australian Apiarists' Association Conference on Friday, 8 July 2011 at Rydges South Park, 1 South Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN APIARISTS' ASSOCIATION (SAAA) HAS NEGOTIATED A PACKAGE DEAL WITH RYDGES SOUTH PARK. THE SECRETARY OF SAAA, WENDY THIELE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL ACCOMMODATION BOOKINGS. AS WELL, ALL ATTENDEES MUST REGISTER FOR THE MEETINGS DUE TO CATERING ARRANGEMENTS WITH RYDGES.

Please contact Wendy on:

Phone: (08) 8635 2257

Mobile: 0400 264 031

Email: secretary@saaa.org.au

FEDERAL COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN APIARISTS' ASSOCIATION (FCAAA) 2011 AGM

The FCAAA Annual General Meeting will be held at Rydges South Park, Adelaide on Friday 8 July 2011 from 8.00am till 9.45am (prior to the AHBIC meeting).

For more information contact:

President: Bill Weiss

Ph: (02) 6732 1263

Email: beeweiss@gmail.com

Secretary: Julie Lockhart

Ph: (02) 9863 4338

Email: nswaa@optusnet.com.au



FOOD SECURITY NEEDS BEE SECURITY

www.securefoodssavebees.com

Campaign Update – 23rd May 2011

- As a result of the Senate Inquiry into the Science underpinning the inability to eradicate the Asian bee the Asian bee containment group were asked to consider a new “containment” plan over a series of teleconferences even though the official position of the CCEPP has not changed at this point.
- The Qld Government in consultation with industry have been asked to develop the plan for the other states to consider. An updated version of the plan was put forward on the 19th of May for stakeholders to consider.
- A key factor in to getting to this point has been industries offer to co-ordinate volunteer beekeepers to assist with specific public engagement and reporting on the ground in Cairns.
- There will be a lot of work involved in coordinating this effort and getting things organized quickly to allow this to happen. It has sent a strong message to the states that the wider industry behind the AHBIC team involved in the teleconferences on our behalf is very serious about the importance of eradication.
- We were aware of two sticking points as put forward by some of the states with their support for the containment/eradication of Asian Honey Bee as: the level of industry contribution; effectiveness of containment/eradication efforts in Qld
- Taking the above into consideration on the 29th of April the Federal Council of Australian Apiarists Association (the peak body of all the State beekeeping Associations) moved to allocate \$200,000 from its contingency fund toward the program going forward. This funding was conditional on the AHBIC recommending that \$200,000 be allocated from the Animal Health Australia (statutory levy) fund.
- On the 2nd May the AHBIC Executive agreed to recommend \$200,000 be put forward from the Animal Health Australia Fund.
- These initiatives mean that combined the industry has been able to put forward a new cash contribution of \$400,000 combined with an in kind contribution of over \$100,000 which involves beekeepers volunteering in Cairns with the effort required in the areas of surveillance and community engagement. In addition to these amounts the industry has previously committed \$100,000 in the past.
- On the 5th of May representatives of the Victorian Apiarists Association and the Victorian Farmers Federation met with the Victorian Minister for Agriculture and Food Security the Hon Peter Walsh and his Parliamentary Secretary Bill Sykes. It was heartening to learn of Victoria’s intention to support the efforts of containment and eradication of the Asian bee. Victoria have been quite

proactive in developing a policy for Apiculture as part of its wider agricultural policies which recognises Apiculture and the resultant pollination benefit from this sector as a cornerstone of Victoria's agricultural success.

- In preparation for the beekeeper volunteer effort required in Cairns, from the 7th to the 10th of May industry meetings were held between representatives from the Food Security needs Bee Security Campaign and the FCAAA President, Queensland Beekeepers Association President and Secretary and AHBIC Quarantine Chairman. Meetings took place outside Brisbane and in Cairns, and the groundwork was completed in preparation for the volunteer efforts that are being planned in Cairns as part of the program going forward. Meetings were held in Cairns between industry, Biosecurity Queensland, a representative councillor from the Cairns Shire Council, the local Cairns beekeepers association and the local branch of Agforce in Queensland.
- On the 12th of May representatives from the NSWAA and NSW Farmers met with Bruce Christie, the decision maker for NSW from NSW DPI via a phone hook up. The discussion updated Bruce Christie on the Food Security needs Bee Security Campaign and discussed the stumbling blocks to be overcome to gain the support of NSW going forward. The meeting was advised that NSW were keen to see the Asian bee program work for the benefit of beekeepers and the entire agricultural industry. The meeting was a very positive step forward in the relations between industry and the level at which Bruce sits within the department and opens the way for an ongoing relationship between industry and NSW DPI on this issue.
- In order to supplement and build the plan being developed by Biosecurity Queensland the National Management group meeting scheduled to meet on the 13th of May was postponed a week to the 20th of May.
- On the 20th of May the Asian Bee coordination committee met again and from this meeting there was general support for the program. It was heartening to be informed of the \$2million allocation for the Asian bee program to be provided by the commonwealth to support a pilot of the national transitional containment principles developed by the National Biosecurity Committee in 2010. At this meeting industry also put forward a cash contribution of \$400,000 to supplement the in kind support already offered which is expected to be in excess of \$100,000. This is in addition to the \$100,000 previously committed to date by industry and previous in kind support which has been ongoing over the last 4 years.
- The issue has achieved tri partisan political support to get it to here which is rather unique in the political space. This highlights the degree to which this issue cuts across traditional party politics and how the desired outcome of a nation free of Asian bees is fairly and squarely in the national interest.
- The industry stands ready to play a valuable role going forward in working through this plan with the aim of gathering enough scientific data to ask again, as soon as possible in the future the question "is the Asian bee eradicable?"
- Industry can be justifiably proud of the coordinated lobbying efforts of grass roots beekeepers combined with traditional industry structures which have spanned all major honey producing states and lead to the door at least still being open in being able to control and possibly eradicate this devastating pest which will have so many serious impacts on the environment, biosecurity, food security, public health and amenity.

Jodie Goldsworthy

BIOSECURITY REFORM

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry continues to progress reforms to deliver a modern biosecurity system that is responsive and targeted. It focuses efforts across the biosecurity continuum on activities that are based on risk, science and an effective regulatory framework. This approach will be supported by strong partnerships, a capable organisation, efficient operational systems and processes, and appropriately sourced sustainable funding.

The reform of Australia's biosecurity system is substantial and will occur over a number of years. Improvements will be completed in a staged manner and significant steps have already been taken. Key achievements to date include:

- the successful negotiation of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity and the National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement
- implementation of interim institutional arrangements, including:
 - the appointment of an Interim Inspector General of Biosecurity
 - the expansion of the Eminent Scientists Group to include an economist; and
 - the establishment of the Biosecurity Advisory Council
- implementation of the Export Certification Reform Package
- detailed scoping work to underpin significant upgrades of information and communication technology systems and future post-entry quarantine arrangements
- amendments to legislation for imported food, enabling DAFF to enter into compliance agreements with importers
- risk-based intervention trials at the border for passengers, cargo and mail
- introduction of a Post Graduate Curriculum in Plant Biosecurity.

Current significant work that is being progressed includes:

- the development of new biosecurity legislation which will that will underpin the management of biosecurity risks in a modern trading environment. An exposure draft of the Bill will be released for public comment before it is introduced into the Commonwealth Parliament
- developing a risk-based approach to biosecurity operations
- continuing to develop a decision-making framework for the allocation of resources by identifying levels of biosecurity risk and the associated controls while considering the potential consequences
- the continued scoping work to improve information and communication technology systems and progress work on future post-entry quarantine arrangements
- the redevelopment of the import conditions database (ICON) to improve its usability and the quality and consistency of information
- maintaining, and where possible, enhancing biosecurity operations offshore and onshore across the biosecurity continuum

- continuing to build a partnership approach to biosecurity with state and territory governments, industry and the community
- developing plans and strategies to ensure an efficient and effective transition for the organisation and for stakeholders as changes happen
- working with states and territories to implement priority areas of reform identified under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity

The government continues to give high priority to biosecurity reform with resourcing considered as part of the normal Budget processes.

Budget 2011-12

In the 2011-12 Budget, the government has reaffirmed its commitment to continuing biosecurity reform with the main focus on developing and implementing a risk-based approach to operations. It has also:

- continued funding for frontline border operations while new systems are developed
- approved the first pass business case for improved information and communication (ICT) systems
- invested in future post entry quarantine facilities; and
- committed to a number of eradication programs for nationally significant agricultural and environmental animal and plant pests and diseases.

The 2011-12 Budget confirms that biosecurity functions will continue to be delivered through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

The Budget provides \$425.4 million over four years for the continuation of the Quarantine Border Security Program to maintain frontline biosecurity services at airports and mail centres. This includes \$219.8 million for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and \$205.6 million for the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service.

The budget also includes \$4.2 million to support the development of an option to update information and communication technology systems; \$15.4 million over two years for existing post-border plant and animal pest and disease eradication and control activities; and funding for urgent capital works at post-entry quarantine stations and the acquisition of land for Australia's ongoing post-entry quarantine requirements.

AUSTRALIA POST

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANT INDUSTRIES FEATURED



Australia Post is featuring four of Australia's largest native plant industries – eucalyptus oil, honey, macadamia nuts and tea tree oil in a new stamp issue available on 17 May 2011.

“The importance of the Australian native plant industries featured in this stamp issue cannot be under estimated. All four commercially cultivated industries have significant export markets. We trust this stamp issue will be popular with the public with these industries reminding us of their significant contribution to the Australian economy,” said Australia Post Philatelic Manager, Michael Zsolt.

The Farming Australia – Native Plants stamp issue comprises four 60 cent stamps as well as a unique Australian Eucalyptus scented sheetlet pack. This special pack contains 10 stamps infused with the clean, fresh smell of Australian eucalyptus oil. Gently rubbing the stamps will release the oil's fragrance.

The Eucalyptus oil industry began in Victoria in 1852 and has been referred to as the first truly Australian industry. Australia produces around 3,000 tonnes of eucalyptus oil per annum and the business is worth around \$25 million a year. Eucalyptus oil has a wide range of industrial and medicinal uses and is distilled mainly in central Victoria and New South Wales.

The Australian honey industry is worth about \$50 million annually of which around 50 per cent is exported. The honey bee *Apis mellifera* was introduced to Australia in 1822 and whilst not native to Australia, 80 per cent of Australian honey derives from native flora. Bees are declining worldwide and consequently Australian honey is highly sought after.

Australia is the world's largest producer of macadamia nuts and is an industry worth around \$110 million annually, 75 per cent of which are exported. The macadamia tree is native to the rainforests of eastern Australia and was first planted commercially by Europeans in Lismore in 1882. They have the highest amount of beneficial monounsaturated fats of any known nut. New South Wales accounts for around 60 per cent of production with Queensland producing most of the remaining number. There is also a small industry in Tasmania.

Worth around \$30 million annually, tea tree oil is one of Australia's most successful native horticultural industries. Tea tree oil is a potent natural compound with antibacterial, anti-fungal, anti-inflammatory and antiviral properties.

The tea tree *Melaleuca alternifolia* is native to the northern rivers region of New South Wales. Main Camp in northern New South Wales is the world's largest tea tree plantation.

The Farming Australia – Native Plants stamps were designed by Melbourne-based designer, Wayne Rankin. Included among Wayne's other stamp designs are Rainforests (2003), Rainforest Butterflies (2004) and Micro Monsters (2009) stamp issues.

The Farming Australia – Native Plants stamp products include a first day cover, stamp pack, maxicard set of four, self-adhesive booklet of 10 x 60c stamps, self-adhesive roll of 100 x 60c stamps, decorative gutter strip of 10 x 60c stamps and a Eucalyptus scented sheetlet pack. The stamps and associated products are available from participating Australia Post retail outlets, via mail order on 1800 331 794 and online at: www.auspost.com.au/stamps from 17 May while stocks last.